

August 19th, 2026

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 19th August 2026** at **6:00 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 Introduction and Apologies

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet from Sustainability & Environment Committee Held 17 June 2026

*Attachment: Action Sheet - 17.06.2026 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

*Page 1*

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### *For Discussion/Decision*

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## 4.0 Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy

*Attachment: SE Committee Report - Sustainability Climate Change Strategy Update  
August 26.pdf*

*Page 14*

*Attachment: Appendix 1 NMD Sustainability Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030 v4  
(24835) scr Highlighted.pdf*

*Page 18*

*Attachment: Appendix 2 NMDDC Climate Action Plan 1 2026 27 Draft.pdf*

*Page 50*

## 5.0 Consultation on Proposals Under the Tobacco and Vapes Act

*Attachment: SE Committee Report Update on Consultation on proposals under the  
Tobacco and Vapes Act (002).pdf*

*Page 59*

*Attachment: Appendix 1 -Tob and Vape display consultation 11-08-2026.pdf*

*Page 63*

## 6.0 The Toy Safety Regulations: Call For Evidence

*Attachment: SE Committee report - Response to The Toy Safety Regulations call  
for evidence.pdf*

*Page 104*

*Attachment: Appendix 1 - Toy Safety Regulation Response 11-08-2026.pdf*

*Page 108*

## 7.0 DAERA consultation on the Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations

*Attachment: SE Committee Report - Consultation on Draft Air Quality  
Regulations.pdf*

*Page 114*

*Attachment: Appendix 1 Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations.pdf*

*Page 118*

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

## **8.0 Business Case - Vehicle and Grounds Maintenance Equipment Parts**

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: SE Committee Report - Business Case - Vehicle & Grounds Maintenance Equipment Parts.pdf**

**Not included**

**Attachment: Appendix 1 - Business Case Vehicle and Grounds Maintenance Parts v1.pdf**

**Not included**

## **9.0 Business Case - Forest Park Routeways and Associated Landscape Works**

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: SE Committee Report - Business Case - Forest Park Routeways and Associated Landscape Works.pdf**

**Not included**

**Attachment: Appendix 1 - Business Case Forest Park Routeway Maintenance.pdf**

**Not included**

## **10.0 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.

### **10.1 Contract Extensions**

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: SE Committee Report - Waste Contracts August 2026.pdf**

**Not included**

## 10.2 Mixed Dry Recyclables

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: SE Committee Report - Extension of Mixed Dry Recyclables Contracts 19.08.26.pdf* **Not included**

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

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## 11.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 28 May 2026 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 25 June 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: ARC21 -28May26-InCommMinutes-e-signed.pdf*

**Not included**

*Attachment: ARC21 -25June26-JC MembersBulletin.F.pdf*

**Not included**

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***For Noting***

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## 12.0 Arc21 Joint Committee meeting held on Thursday 28 May 2026.

*Attachment: ARC21 -28May26-Minutes-e-signed.pdf*

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**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

| <b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>21 APRIL 2022</b> |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                             |
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| <b>Minute Ref</b>                                                 | <b>Subject</b>                                     | <b>Decision</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Lead Officer</b> | <b>Actions taken /<br/>Progress to date</b>                                                                                                                                                                                        | <b>Remove<br/>from Action<br/>Sheet Y/N</b> |
| 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><b>Included within the Education and Enforcement Plan 2026-2029</b></p> <p><b>In progress</b></p>                                                                                                                               | <p><b>N</b></p> <p><b>N</b></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              | <p><b>Legal position and maintenance of the events space being confirmed. Report to be brought back to S&amp;E Committee.</b></p> <p><b>Meeting to take place with Kilkeel Community Association confirm current position.</b></p> | <b>N</b>                                    |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>17 OCTOBER 2023 |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |                                                                                                   |   |
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| SE/107/2023                                                         | Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare           | It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion.<br>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<br>24 JANUARY 2024 |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |           |                                                                                                   |   |
| SE/004/2024                                                         | Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences | The following was agreed:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences</li> <li>- Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule.</li> </ul> | S Murphy  | <p>In Progress</p> <p>Complete – DFI Rivers maintenance schedule for 26/27 has been received.</p> | N |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>21 FEBRUARY 2024 |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 |
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| 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><b>Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy Complete and ready for launch subject to final approval.</b></p> <p><b>Climate mitigation report completed and submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> October 25 in accordance with Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. This includes carbon copying baseline reporting.</b></p> | <p><b>Y</b></p> <p><b>Y</b></p> |
| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>20 MARCH 2024    |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                 |

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| 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.                                              | S Murphy | <b>In Progress</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            | <b>N</b> |
|                                                                           |                                                          | 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 | <b>In Progress</b>                                                                                                                                                                                            |          |
| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>23 APRIL 2024</b> |                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                               |          |
| 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   | <b>A focused social media campaign has been completed.</b>                                                                                                                                                    | <b>Y</b> |
|                                                                           |                                                          | 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   | <b>Council Officers met with Belfast City Council colleagues to review St George’s market.</b>                                                                                                                |          |
|                                                                           |                                                          | It was further agreed that a report be brought back to committee in 6 months to provide detail of any progress made.                                                                                   | C Sage   | <b>An update on Newry Market was provided at S&amp;E Working Group in February 2026.</b><br><br><b>Report presented at June SE Committee</b><br><br><b>EOI to be issued for Revitalisation of the market.</b> |          |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>18 DECEMBER 2024 |              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |          |
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| 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 | <b>In progress</b><br><br><b>Council has obtained funding from PHA to host events targeting those in Year 14 who are 10 times more likely to currently vape than those in Year 8 (46% and 4% respectively), based on PHA’s report ‘Behavioural Insights into Youth Vaping in Northern Ireland’.</b><br><br><b>The initial event will run in Quarter 3 of 2026/27.</b> | <b>N</b> |

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| 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 | <b>In progress</b><br><br><b>Newry Canal Regeneration Working Group has been established with ABC and meetings have taken place in September &amp; November 25 with representatives from ABC Council. A further meeting has been arranged for March 26.</b> | <b>N</b> |
| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>19 FEBRUARY 2025</b> |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
| SE/018/2025                                                                  | NOM – Vital Role of trees                           | Council will also write to other Councils request support of this motion                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | C Sage   | <b>In Progress</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>N</b> |
| 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   | <b>In progress</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>N</b> |
| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>19 MARCH 2025</b>    |                                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |          |
| 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   | <b>In progress</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>N</b> |

|                                                                           |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |                                             |          |
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|                                                                           |                                                                                                          | 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    | <b>In Progress</b>                          | <b>N</b> |
| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>29 APRIL 2025</b> |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |                                             |          |
| 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 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | C Sage    | <b>Works on site and nearing completion</b> | <b>N</b> |
| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>21 MAY 2025</b>   |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |           |                                             |          |
| SE/056/2025                                                               | Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas | the following was agreed:<br>•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.<br>•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    | <b>In Progress</b>                          | <b>N</b> |
|                                                                           |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | S Trainor | <b>In Progress</b>                          | <b>N</b> |
| 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    | <b>In Progress</b>                          | <b>N</b> |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>18 MARCH 2026 |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                              |          |
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| 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 | <b>In progress</b><br><br><b>Provider has commenced Mourne and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital for 2026/27.</b><br><br><b>Crotlieve Home to Hospital Expression of Interest in progress.</b> | <b>N</b> |
| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>29 APRIL 2026 |                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |           |                                                                                                                                                                                              |          |
| SE/044/2026                                                       | Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Lislea Men's Shed Proposed Wildfowl & Wildlife Preserve At Camlough Lake | It was agreed to note the report and approve 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.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | C Sage    | <b>Meeting took place on 22<sup>nd</sup> of May 2026.</b><br><br><b>Update report provided at June SE Committee.</b>                                                                         | <b>Y</b> |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>20 MAY 2026 |                     |                                                                                                                                                                                     |        |                    |                                                                                     |
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| 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 | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>N</b><br><br><b>NMDDC Parking Order is currently out for Public Consultation</b> |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>17 JUNE 2026 |                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                          |          |                    |          |
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| SE/071/2026                                                      | Action Sheet: Sustainability And Environment Committee Meeting Held On 20 May 2026                           | It was agreed to note the action sheet                                                                                                                                                   | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b>       | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/072/2026                                                      | To Agree Start Times for Sustainability And & Environment Committee and Working Group Meetings 2026-27       | The start times for Sustainability & Environment Committee & Working Group Meetings 2026-2027 were agreed.                                                                               | S Murphy | <b>Approved</b>    | <b>Y</b> |
| 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   | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>N</b> |
| SE/074/2026                                                      | Directorate Business Plans                                                                                   | The Assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2026-26 and the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2026-27 were agreed.             | S Murphy | <b>Approved</b>    | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/075/2026                                                      | Update Report On Notice Of Motion - Lislea Men's Shed Proposed Wildfowl & Wildlife Preserve At Camlough Lake | It was agreed that officers continue to engage with and support the Lislea Men's Shed where possible with the project and bring back a further report to S&E Committee when appropriate. | C Sage   | <b>Complete</b>    | <b>Y</b> |

|             |                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |           |                    |          |
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| 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    | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>N</b> |
| SE/077/2026 | Market Street Car Park, Downpatrick                                                                   | The request for use of Market Street car parks and associated spaces in Downpatrick for the Fleadh Cheoil An Dúin and Rallye Lecale in June and July 2026 respectively was agreed.                                                                                                                                                                                  | C Sage    | <b>Complete</b>    | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/078/2026 | Consultation From Waste To Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme                         | it was agreed to approve the consultation response as detailed at appendix 1 of the officers' report, on the DAERA "From Waste to Worth – Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme", and note the potential future operational and financial implications for local government arising from implementation of waste prevention and circular economy initiatives. | S Trainor | <b>Complete</b>    | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/079/2026 | Consultation Response on Proposed Animal Welfare Policy Reforms                                       | it was agreed to approve the Council's response to the DAERA Consultation on proposed animal welfare policy reforms and that the response as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officers report be submitted to the Department on behalf of NMDDC within the required timeframe, subject to ratification by Council.                                                     | S Trainor | <b>Complete</b>    | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/080/2026 | Service Level Agreement for Delivery of Services Between Councils and The Drinking Water Inspectorate | it was agreed to approve the Service Level Agreements between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and the Drinking Water Inspectorate for Northern Ireland in relation to services provided by the Council's Environmental Health Department as detailed in the officers' report.                                                                               | S Trainor | <b>Complete</b>    | <b>Y</b> |

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| SE/081/2026 | Education and Enforcement Plan 2026-2029      | It was agreed to approve implementation of the Education and Enforcement Plan 2026-2029 and the proposed programme of actions across enforcement, education, technology and partnership working as outlined within the Plan.                               | S Trainor | <b>Approved</b>                                             | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/082/2026 | Environmental Health Food Safety Plans        | It was agreed that Council adopt the Food Service Plan 2026/27, the Chemical Sampling Plan 2026/27 and The Food Sampling Policy.                                                                                                                           | S Trainor | <b>Approved</b>                                             | <b>Y</b> |
| 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    | <b>In Progress</b>                                          | <b>N</b> |
| SE/084/2026 | Business Case for Fleet Replacement Programme | It was agreed to approve the recommended options within the Fleet Replacement Business Cases as detailed in section 2.3 of the officers' report.                                                                                                           | C Sage    | <b>To be progressed as part of SE Procurement programme</b> | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/085/2026 | Sustainability Contracts                      | It was agreed to approve the award of contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 and 2 of the officers' report.                                                                                                                                                   | C Sage    | <b>To be progressed as part of SE Procurement programme</b> | <b>Y</b> |

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| SE/086/2026 | Business Case - Feminine Hygiene Contracts       | It was agreed to approve the recommendation of the business case as outlined in Section 2.3 of the officers' report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | C Sage    | <b>To be progressed as part of SE Procurement programme</b> | Y |
| SE/087/2026 | Business Case – Ventilation and Air Conditioning | It was agreed to approve the recommendation of the business case as outlined in Section 2.2 of the officers' report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | C Sage    | <b>To be progressed as part of SE Procurement programme</b> | Y |
| SE/088/2026 | Waste Management Contracts                       | It was agreed to approve the contract extensions as outlined in Appendix 1 of the officers' report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | S Trainor | <b>Approved</b>                                             | Y |
| SE/089/2026 | Local Authority Deeds For Closed Landfill Sites  | It was agreed to approve Council entering into Local Authority Performance Deeds with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency in respect of Drumanakelly and Aughnagun landfill sites and provide consent for the Deeds to be signed and sealed in accordance with Council standing orders. It was further agreed to note that this is a statutory requirement to ensure compliance with PPC permit conditions and to support the ongoing management and aftercare obligations associated with these closed landfill sites. | S Trainor | <b>Approved</b>                                             | Y |

|             |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                     |          |              |          |
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| SE/090/2026 | Action Sheet And Presentations From S&E Working Group On Wednesday 20 May 2026                                                               | It was agreed to note the documents.                                                                                                                                                | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b> | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/091/2026 | Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In-Committee Minutes Of Thursday 30 April 2026 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 28 May 2026 | It was agreed to note the documents.                                                                                                                                                | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b> | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/092/2026 | Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Held On Thursday 30 April 2026                                                                                 | It was agreed to note the document.                                                                                                                                                 | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b> | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/093/2026 | Scheme Of Delegation - Requests For Use Of Council Land - 1 March 2024 - 31 May 2026                                                         | It was agreed to note the decisions taken by the Sustainability and Environment Director from 1 March 2026 to 31 May 2026 in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation for Officers. | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b> | <b>Y</b> |

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| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Sustainability and Environment Committee                                                |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | 19 <sup>th</sup> August 2026                                                            |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Update on the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy following Public Consultation. |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Conor Sage, Assistant Director - Sustainability                                         |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability                                                 |

|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |   |                 |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>x</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | For decision    | x | For noting only |  |
| For decision                                                                             | x                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | For noting only |   |                 |  |
| 1.0                                                                                      | <b>Purpose and Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                 |   |                 |  |
| 1.1                                                                                      | <u>Purpose</u><br><br>To provide Members with an update on the final draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy following completion of the public consultation process and seek approval to publish and launch the final Strategy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |   |                 |  |
| 1.2                                                                                      | <u>Background</u><br><br>The Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy has been developed by the Sustainability Section, with support from Sustainable NI and input from officers across Council. The Strategy will provide the framework for Council's response to climate change and sustainability challenges and support compliance with the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024.                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                 |   |                 |  |
| 1.3                                                                                      | A draft Strategy was approved for public consultation by the Sustainability and Environment Committee in October 2025. Consultation was undertaken between December 2025 and March 2026 through a combination of online engagement, staff surveys and face-to-face consultation events.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                 |   |                 |  |
| 1.4                                                                                      | Feedback from elected members, Council staff, the public and stakeholders was presented to elected representatives at the Sustainability and Environment Working Group in May 2026 and has informed the final draft Strategy.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.0                                                                                      | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.1                                                                                      | <b>Consultation Feedback</b><br><br>Consultation responses demonstrated strong support from Council staff and participants in face-to-face engagement events. Staff engagement showed over 90% support for the proposed themes and objectives, while respondents at the Newry Market consultation expressed unanimous support for the Strategy's approach.<br><br>Feedback from the online public consultation was more mixed, with higher levels of disagreement across the proposed themes. Analysis of responses indicates that much of this opposition reflected broader scepticism towards net zero and decarbonisation policies rather than concerns with the Strategy itself. |                 |   |                 |  |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.2 | <p><b>Amendments to the Strategy</b></p> <p>A number of constructive suggestions received during consultation have been incorporated into the final draft Strategy (which are highlighted in Appendix 1), including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New objectives to support community climate action and strengthen carbon data monitoring and reporting.</li> <li>• Greater emphasis on sustainable transport measures, including car sharing, EV charging infrastructure, park-and-ride facilities and greenway development.</li> <li>• Development of case studies to promote best practice and encourage wider participation.</li> <li>• Increased focus on the links between environmental stewardship, green tourism and economic opportunities.</li> <li>• Additional support for local businesses to reduce carbon emissions while delivering cost savings.</li> </ul> <p>Additional narrative has also been included to highlight Council's commitment to sharing success stories, promoting innovation and collaborating with partners to identify and implement best-practice climate solutions.</p> |
| 2.3 | <p><b>Strategic Approach and Next Steps</b></p> <p>The Strategy will initially focus on reducing the environmental impact of Council's own estate, assets, services and operations, while also providing leadership, information and support to residents, communities and businesses across the district. Opportunities for partnership working, external funding and cross-border collaboration will continue to be explored to support delivery of climate action objectives.</p> <p>Subject to final approval and confirmation of Councillor sign off, a public launch is planned for September 2026, supported by a communications and awareness campaign. The accompanying Action Plan (Appendix 2) will provide a detailed programme of short, medium and long-term actions to reduce emissions, improve sustainability performance and deliver associated environmental and financial benefits.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 3.0 | <p><b>Recommendations</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.1 | <p>It is recommended that S&amp;E Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the contents of the report and the outcomes of the public consultation process.</li> <li>• Approve progression of the final draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for publication and launch.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| 4.0 | <p><b>Resource implications</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4.1 | <p>There is no additional cost proposed at this stage in order to finalise the strategy and action plan.</p> <p>However, in order to deliver action on Sustainability and Climate Change, the Council will need to review budgets and resources.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5.0 | <p><b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 5.1        | <p><b>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</b></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><b>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</b></p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                             |
| 5.3        | <p><b>Proposal initiating consultation</b></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><br/>Consultation is intended to be for 8-12 weeks as the Strategy will focus on NMDDC business operations. Further detail on the scope of the consultation will be considered.</p> |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>(A Rural Needs Impact Assessment will be completed as part of the process of developing our strategy)</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 | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                           |
|     | Appendix 1 Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy<br>Appendix 2 Draft Action Plan |
| 8.0 | <b>Background Documents</b>                                                                 |
|     | N/A                                                                                         |

# Straitéis Inbhuanaitheachta agus Athrú Aeráide 2026 – 2030

## Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026–2030



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin**  
**Newry, Mourne and Down**  
District Council

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

# Réamhrá



*An Comhairleoir Philip Campbell  
Cathaoirleach na Comhairle  
Cllr Philip Campbell  
Chairperson*

Cuireann sé áthas mór orainn Straitéis Inbhuanaitheachta agus Athrú Aeráide Chomhairle Ceantair an Lúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin 2026 - 2030 a thabhairt isteach. Leagann an straitéis amach an dóigh a ndéanfaimid gníomh dearfach chun aghaidh a thabhairt ar na dúshláin atá romhainn.

Is áit speisialta ár gceantar agus tá sé ríthábhachtach go gcaomhnóimid agus go gcuirfimid le háilleacht na háite agus lena timpeallacht leochaileach, chomh maith leis na tairbhí a sholáthraíonn sí do dhaoine atá ina gcónaí sa dúiche agus dóibh siúd thugann cuairt uirthi, do na glúnta atá anois ann agus na cinn atá le teacht.

bPleananna Gnó na Stiúrtóireachtaí. Tá príomhról le himirt ag gach ball foirne. Leanfaimid fosta ag déanamh teagmhála le pobail áitiúla, le saoránaigh, le gnólaigh agus le páirtithe leasmhara eile, lena n-áirítear ar bhonn trasteorann, chun cinntiú go mbeidh ceantar seasmhach, rathúil agus inbhuanaithe againn.



*Marie Ward  
Príomhfheidhmeannach  
Marie Ward  
Chief Executive*

Aithnímid go bhfuil freagracht ar ár gComhairle athruithe a dhéanamh ar ár gcleachtais agus ar ár n-oibríochtaí féin, ach ní mór dúinn ról ceannaireachta a ghlacadh fosta maidir le cultúr níos leithne inbhuanaitheachta a chothú ar fud ár gceantair.

Tá méadú ar an imní a léirítear faoi thionchar athraithe aeráide atá follasach cheana féin, lenár gceantar féin san áireamh. Lena chois sin, ní mór don Chomhairle plean gníomhaíochta soiléir a leagan amach síos tríd a cuid seirbhísí. Tá muid ag éirí níos eolaí ar thionchar áitiúil an athraithe aeráide, lena n-áirítear méadú ar mhinicíocht agus déine tuithe agus stoirmeacha inár gceantar.

Chun athrú ceart a bhaint amach, tá muid ag neadú na hinbhuanaitheachta i ngach réimse dár gcuid oibre. Cuireadh an inbhuanaitheacht agus an géarchéim athraithe aeráide san áireamh mar théamaí leithne sa Phlean Chorporáideach agus i

Agus an straitéis seo á cur i bhfeidhm againn, tá muid ag iarraidh go mbeidh muintir na háite ag tacú linn agus muid ag athrú an dóigh a ndéanaimid rudaí. Chomh maith leis sin, spreagaimid daoine athruithe a dhéanamh ar a stíleanna maireachtála, trí éirí níos éifeachtaí ó thaobh fuinnimh de, dramhaíl a laghdú agus úsáid níos mó a bhaint as cineálacha inbhuanaithe iompair.

Ba mhaith linn buíochas a ghabháil leo siúd a chuidigh linn an straitéis seo a fhorbairt, daoine a leanfaidh ar aghaidh ag obair i gcomhar linn chun cinntiú go gcuirfear an straitéis i bhfeidhm chun dul i ngleic leis na bagairtí agus chun leas a bhaint as na deiseanna a éiríonn as athrú aeráide. Le chéile is féidir linn áit shábháilte, inbhuanaithe agus rathúil a dhéanamh de cheantar an Lúir, Mhúrn agus an Dúin, áit a bhfuil muid bródúil as cónaí, obair agus imirt ann, anois agus sa todhchaí.

# Foreword

We have great pleasure in introducing Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy for 2026-2030 which outlines how we will take positive action to address the challenges we face.

Our district is a special place and it is vitally important that we preserve and enhance the beauty of the area and its fragile environment and the benefits it provides for those who live in and visit the region, for current and future generations.

We recognise that our Council has a responsibility to make changes to our own practices and operations, but we must also take a leading role in fostering a wider culture of sustainability across our district.

In the wake of mounting concerns about the already evident impacts of climate change including within our own district, the Council needs to set out a clear plan of action across its services. We are becoming increasingly aware of the localised impact of climate change, including increased frequency and severity of flooding and storms in our district.

In order to deliver real change, we are embedding sustainability across all areas of our work. Sustainability and the Climate Change Emergency have been included as cross-cutting themes in the Corporate Plan and Directorate Business Plans. Each member of staff has a key role to play. We will also continue to engage with local communities, citizens, businesses and other stakeholders including on a cross border basis to ensure we have a resilient, thriving and sustainable district.

In delivering this strategy we would seek the support of local people as we change the way we do things. We would also encourage people to make changes to their lifestyles, by becoming more energy efficient, reducing waste and making greater use of sustainable forms of transport.

We would like to thank those who have contributed to the development of this strategy and who will continue to work in cooperation to ensure it is implemented to counter the threats and take advantage of the opportunities arising from climate change. Together we can make Newry, Mourne and Down a safe, sustainable and prosperous place where we are proud to live, work and play, now and into the future.

**CLlr Philip Campbell**  
Chairperson

**Marie Ward**  
Chief Executive

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# Summary

This Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy sets out our plans to address climate change in Newry, Mourne and Down district over the next four years.

By identifying the current and projected impacts of climate change across the district, the plan looks at how the Council will act to reduce our carbon emissions and our impacts on climate change, meet our requirements under the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 and work in partnership to influence others to take positive action to reduce our emissions and our impacts on climate change to ensure that together we become a resilient and thriving zero carbon district and region.



# Who We Are

Newry, Mourne and Down district nestles in the south-east coastal area of Northern Ireland, encompassing large parts of Counties Down and Armagh.

The natural beauty and unique character of the area have been widely recognised, boasting no less than three Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs): Mourne, Ring of Gullion and Strangford and Lecale. In 2023 the unique landscape and geology of the area was also internationally recognised, through the award of UNESCO Global Geopark status.

Alongside the natural characteristics of the area, the district is strategically located on the important eastern A1/M1 economic corridor, within one hour travelling distance from Dublin and Belfast, with close proximity to two major airports, a deep-water port at Warrenpoint, and transport routes to the south of Ireland and UK.

The economic strengths, complemented by the environmental beauty and natural resources of the area, makes the district an attractive place to invest in, and also a popular place to live in, work in, and to visit.

We fully recognise that as a Council we have a statutory duty to promote the achievement of sustainable development in the exercise of our functions, which is evidenced in the significant work undertaken in recent years. A sustainability team has been operating in Council for several years, working on areas such as sustainability, environmental education, energy management, biodiversity, active travel and sustainable food. Developments in the areas of waste prevention, recycling and recovery have also helped lead us towards a circular economy approach.



# Our Commitment

“Newry, Mourne and Down District Council will work in partnership to influence others to take positive action to reduce our emissions and our impacts on climate change to ensure that together we become a resilient and thriving zero carbon district and region.”

## Key targets

- 1 Net Zero Council and district by 2050
- 2 Climate Resilient Council and district by 2050

These first two key targets are set at International, UK and NI level and therefore must be met.

- 3 Council’s scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions will be net zero by 2050
- 4 50% reduction in Council’s scope 1 and 2 emissions by 2040
- 5 Measure and reduce our scope 3 emissions by engaging with 80% of our supply chain by 2035
- 6 Transition our light fleet to 100% electric or zero emission vehicles by 2035
- 7 Increase recycling rates to 70% by 2030
- 8 Fully decarbonise our fleet (including medium and heavy duty vehicles) by 2050

# Additional areas for action

- 9 Energy efficiency and retrofitting of buildings
- 10 Invest in renewables
- 11 Promote and develop Active Travel
- 12 Align climate action with other key strategies, including our Biodiversity Strategy, Tourism Strategy, AONB Management Plans and our 10 Year Masterplan for our UNESCO Global Geopark
- 13 Engagement with community, businesses and schools to encourage climate action
- 14 Strategic leadership on climate action in the district
- 15 Cross border cooperation with Louth County Council to develop a net zero region



## Themes

The Council has a statutory duty to report its carbon emissions/carbon footprint and how it is taking action to reduce emissions.

The Council also has a key role as an enabler and influencer to encourage and work with government departments, statutory bodies, community and local organisations as well as the district's citizens to ensure the entire district moves towards being a net zero district by 2050.

Actions will therefore be included which will directly encourage action across the district as well as internally within the Council estate and services.

Actions have been identified across five general themes, outlined below, with a commitment to ensuring that appropriate resources and funding must be in place in order to deliver on our targets.



Figure 1: Policy Framework Themes and Objectives



DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

- Work in partnership with local businesses and communities to encourage sustainable practices.
- Review and implement necessary policy, strategy and programme changes.
- Produce a comprehensive climate evidence programme to inform future policies & plans.

The strategy will set specific key targets and actions across these five themes towards the achievement of net zero carbon by 2050 (which is an international, UK and NI level target). Actions will be reviewed annually and will be reported on every three years in accordance with Public Body Reporting legislation.

## Our Vision

“Our vision is a net zero, greener, healthier, sustainable district by 2050 — where people, communities, and businesses thrive and are resilient to the impacts of climate change.”

### Aims

- 1 To support a fair transition to net zero.
- 2 To build climate resilience.
- 3 To protect, restore and reconnect people with nature.
- 4 To champion a circular economy.



# What is Climate Change?

Climate change is the long-term shift in average weather patterns across the world and the increase in extreme weather events. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) highlight in its most recent report how human activities are extremely likely to have resulted in the unprecedented warming observed since the pre-industrial era via increased emission of greenhouse gases (IPCC, 2014).



*Flooding  
in Newry  
October 2023*

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Aerial Media

# The Greenhouse Effect

The earth is surrounded by a layer of gasses which retain some of the heat from the sun's rays and prevent it from radiating back into space. This is called the Greenhouse effect - a natural process without which earth would not be warm enough for life to survive. Human activity, mainly from burning of fossil fuels, releases greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and sulphur dioxide. This has resulted in an increase in this layer of gases around the earth, resulting in higher levels of heat being trapped and therefore a warmer world.

The IPCC has warned urgent action is needed to cut greenhouse gas emissions and limit warming to at least 2°C and preferably 1.5°C compared to pre-industrial values, to avoid catastrophic impacts of climate change. The most recent data from the IPCC confirms that human-induced climate change is already causing observable adverse impacts and damages to both people and nature, beyond typical variability of the climate (IPCC, 2022).

UK climate change projections, published in 2018 (UKCP18), set out a range of possible outcomes over the next century. They are based on different rates of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere. It is expected that Northern Ireland will have a greater chance of hotter, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters with more extreme weather and rising sea levels.

The highest predicted projections for Northern Ireland show that by 2070 winters could be up to 3.9°C warmer and 25 per cent wetter, whilst summers could be up to 4.9°C hotter and 38 per cent drier.<sup>1</sup>

In the last decade we have already seen examples of more extreme weather in our district, with major flooding incidents in Newry, Newcastle and Downpatrick in October 2023, storm damage from a number of named storms including Storm Eowyn in 2025, and the extent of our coastline means that we are also at risk from coastal erosion and rising sea levels.



Flooding in Newry and Downpatrick  
October 2023



<sup>1</sup> Footnote text to go here XXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

## Climate Mitigation and Adaptation

There are two aspects of climate change which the Council needs to take action on: Mitigation and Adaptation.

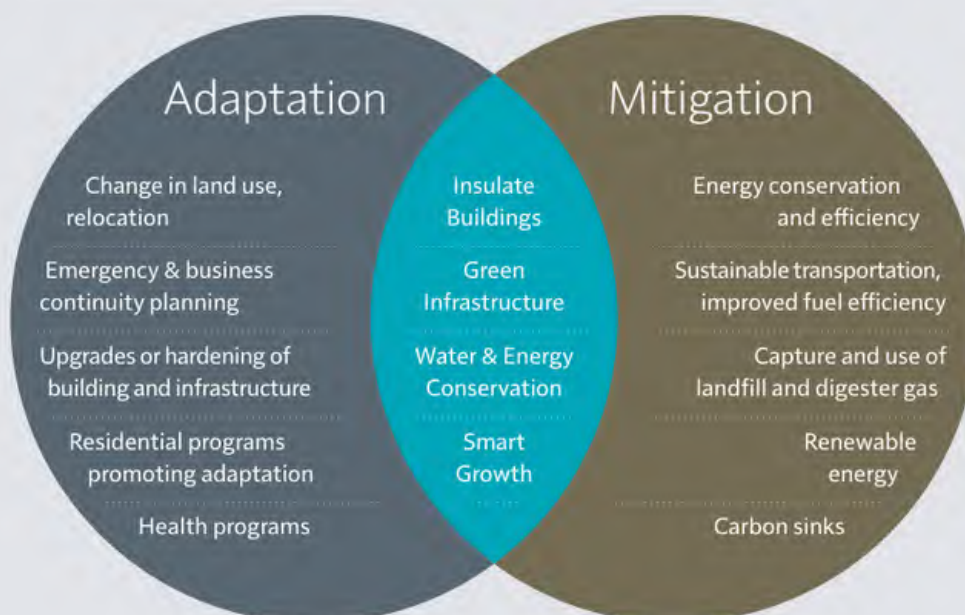
### Climate Change Mitigation

Climate Change Mitigation is taking actions to reduce our contribution to climate change by reducing our carbon emissions. This includes taking action to reduce our use of fossil fuels like gas, oil and diesel for heating cooling and powering our buildings and our fleet and switching to low or zero carbon alternatives like HVO, hydrogen, electric and renewable energy sources like solar and wind.

### Climate Change Adaptation

Climate Change Adaptation is preparing the Council to make its services, buildings and staff resilient and protected from the extremes of weather and climate which climate change will bring and is already causing across the globe.

**Figure 2:** Diagram Showing Climate Mitigation and Climate Adaptation Areas for Action and Crossover Activities



This strategy and action plan focusses on Climate Change Mitigation – taking action to reduce our carbon emissions and our contribution to the climate change problem.

Climate Change Adaptation actions are covered in the Council's Climate Adaptation Plan which is being developed to look in more detail at the impacts of climate change such as increased rainfall and flooding, increased storminess, extremes of heat and cold and rising sea levels, and how we will adapt to make our staff, services and buildings more resilient to these impacts.

# Strategic and Legislative Context

There are many reasons to respond to the challenges associated with sustainability and climate change. Fundamentally it is the right thing to do in order to protect and enhance what we value in the district, and to deliver positive outcomes for the Council, and those who invest, live and work locally.

Action will be taken across our five themes, which are informed by the challenges and opportunities of climate change, our corporate objectives, and which respond to regional and national legislation which is in turn driven by International Law, and a number of key international treaties and agreements.

## International

### The Kyoto Protocol

The Kyoto Protocol was the first major international climate change agreement adopted in 1997 aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions to combat climate change. It was a legally binding treaty that set emission reduction targets for developed countries, based on the scientific consensus that global warming is occurring due to human activities.



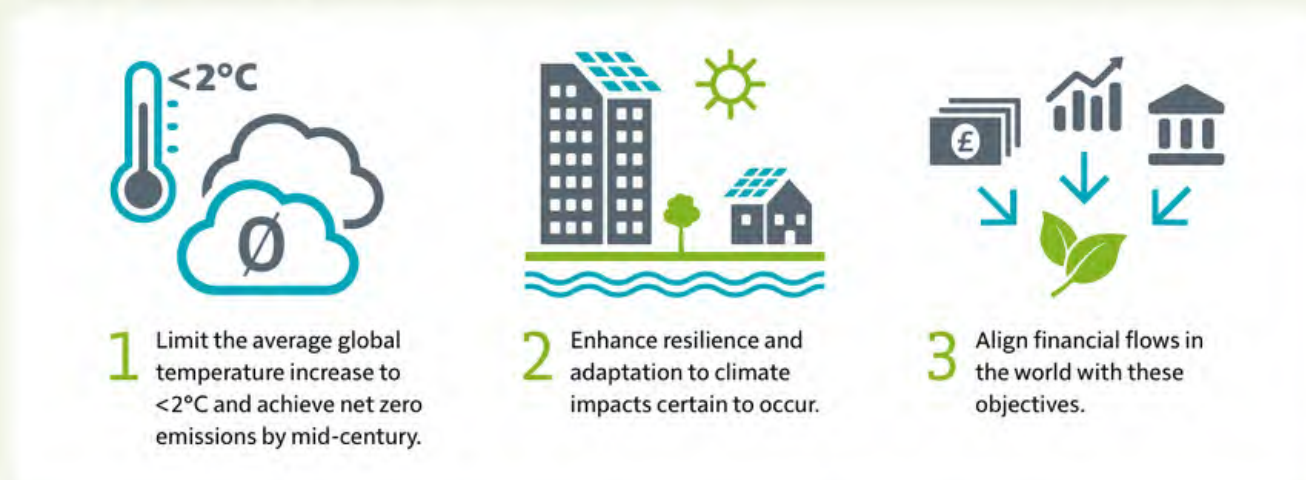
## The Paris Agreement COP21

Climate change became a priority for governments all over the world as they realised its impacts threatened livelihoods, the environment, security, and economic growth. In 2015 in Paris 195 states agreed to sign the COP21 Paris Agreement to take action to reduce carbon emissions to limit Global warming to 1.5°C. The agreement set up the IPCC as the lead global body to advise countries on climate action.

A recent IPCC Special Report 2018 underlined the need to meet and exceed the Paris Agreement and achieve meaningful emission reductions before 2030:

“Pathways limiting global warming to 1.5°C would require rapid and far-reaching transitions in energy, land, urban and infrastructure (including transport and buildings), and industrial systems... These systems transitions are unprecedented in terms of scale, but not necessarily in terms of speed, and imply deep emissions reductions in all sectors, a wide portfolio of mitigation options and a significant upscaling of investments in those options” (IPCC Special Report 2018).

**Figure 3: Paris Climate Agreement**



## The United Nations 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sustainable Development Goals underline the importance of climate change for an equal and equitable society. All 17 goals can be related to the impacts and opportunities of climate change, with Goal 7 'Affordable Clean Energy' and Goal 13 'Climate Action' being particularly relevant. The SDGs recognise that ending poverty and other deprivations must go hand-in-hand with strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth – all while tackling climate change and working to preserve our oceans and forests.



### The UK Climate Change Act 2008

The UK Climate Change Act 2008 establishes a framework for legally binding carbon emissions reduction targets and carbon budgeting. It was amended in 2019 to set a net-zero target by 2050.

### Northern Ireland Legislation

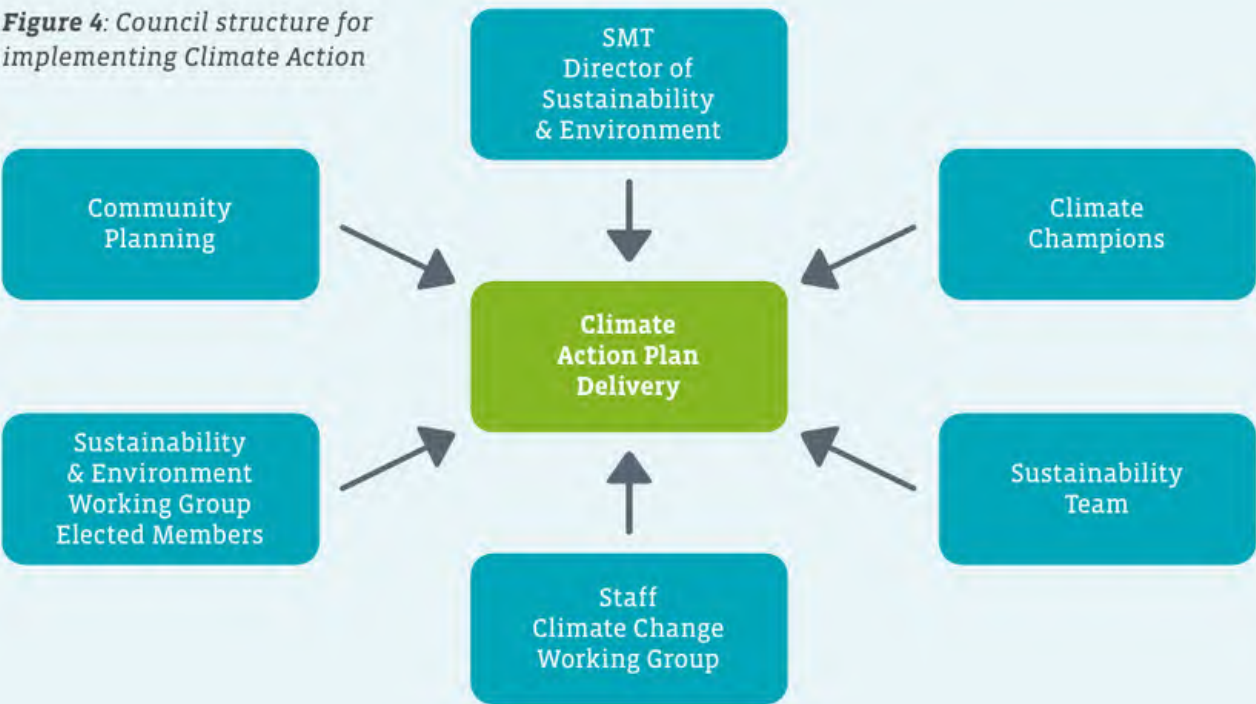
**The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022** is the main NI legislative driver which requires organisations here to take action to reduce their carbon emissions and their impact on climate change. Public bodies, such as local authorities, are also now required to report on their carbon footprint and initiatives that are being undertaken to mitigate against climate change. The recent **Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024** now requires the Council to report every three years with the initial baseline report due in October 2025. The Council has recently carried out work to measure its carbon footprint and has submitted the first report to government.

### Additional Climate Related Legislation is listed in Appendix 1

The Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy will lay out how we will respond to the legislation and to the imperative to take action now and over the next few decades to reduce our impacts on climate change as we move towards a zero carbon future.

# Implementing Climate Action

**Figure 4:** Council structure for implementing Climate Action



Implementation of the Climate Action Plan will be led by the Council's senior management team and elected members of the Sustainability and Environment Working Group, guided by the community planning process. The staff Climate Change Working Group will help deliver the strategy and action plan, coordinated by the Sustainability team. The Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan will feed into the Council's business planning process via the Community Plan and Corporate Plan. This in turn will inform the Directorate Business Plans and develop actions for inclusion in each Service Plan. This will ensure that each service will contribute to addressing the Council's climate change impacts and reduce their carbon emissions by taking action across all areas of the Council's work.

Sustainability and climate change are already cross cutting themes within the Corporate Plan and this will develop further as climate action becomes a key theme for action across all service areas. Climate champions will be identified and engaged across the Council to help coordinate and encourage action.

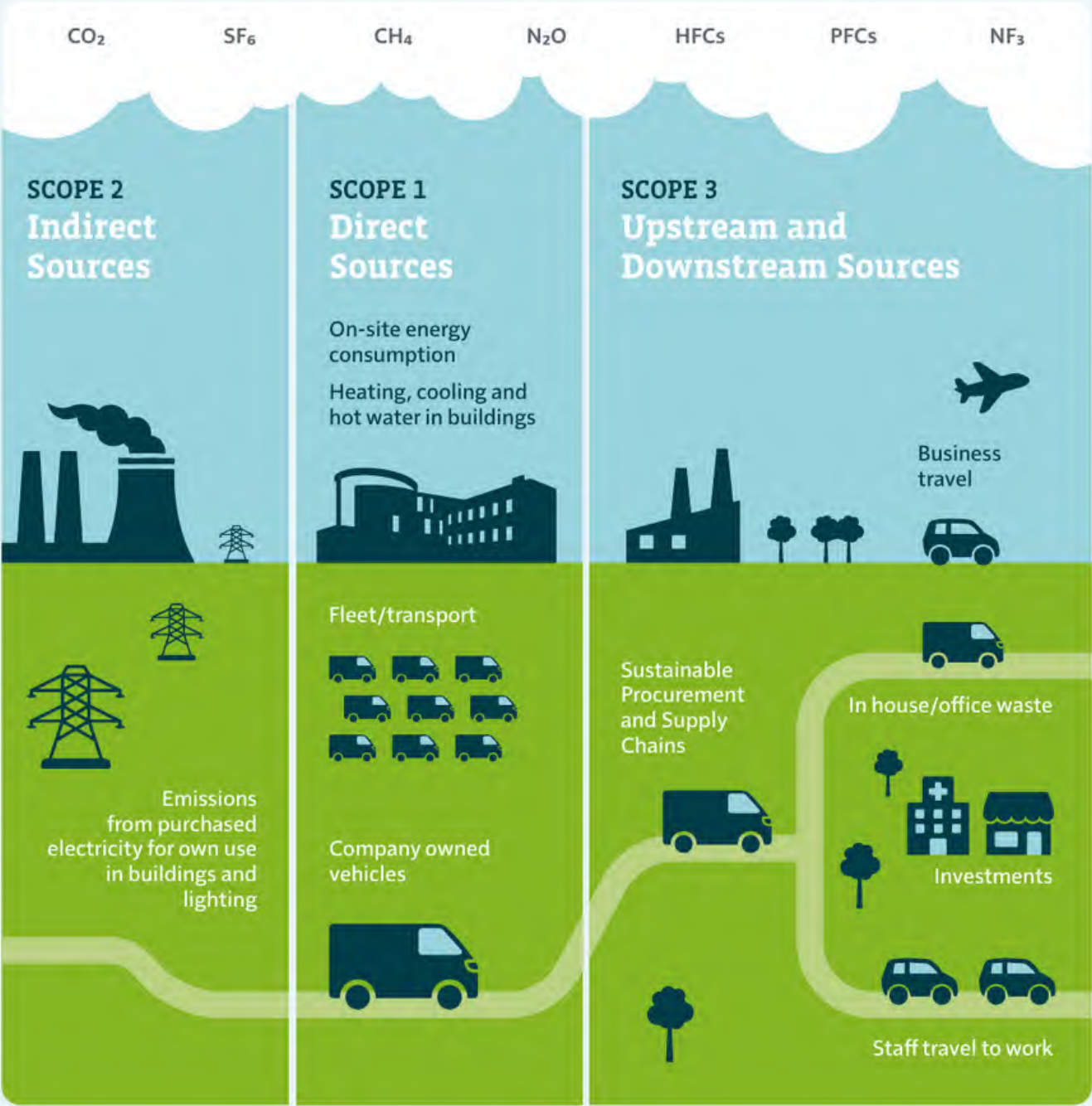
Areas for action will also develop as technology, legislation and the working environment evolves, for example a move towards electrification of heating and cooling as the electricity grid becomes decarbonised will ensure we reduce our emissions significantly. Measures such as switching our diesel fleet to running on HVO will reduce fleet carbon emissions in the interim, and boiler replacements in the short term from oil to gas will reduce those carbon emissions by about a third. In the longer term the move to net zero by 2050 will be delivered by further actions accessing technologies powered by fully decarbonised 'green' electricity and other renewable energy sources and technologies.

Getting to 100% net zero is a challenge and carbon offsetting will play a role in mitigating unavoidable carbon emissions to achieve net zero. This can partly be achieved through sustainable management of green spaces, wetlands and woodlands and other nature based assets within the Council's ownership and management.

# Carbon Emissions – Scope 1, 2 and 3

This strategy will initially focus on Council operations which include Scope 1 (emissions from heating and cooling buildings and fuelling fleet vehicles) and Scope 2 (emissions from electricity used in buildings) carbon emissions. Scope 3 emissions will be included as part of planned future work. This is another means of ensuring that the strategy and our future actions have a wider impact, including positively impacting our supply chains.

Figure 5: Scope 1, Scope 2 and Scope 3 Emissions Types



# Our Baseline Emissions

## Measuring and Reporting our Carbon Footprint

Public bodies, such as local authorities, are now required to report on their carbon footprint and initiatives that are being undertaken to mitigate against climate change. Under the recent ‘Climate Change (Public Bodies) Regulations NI 2024’ the Council is required to report every three years with the initial baseline report due in October 2025.

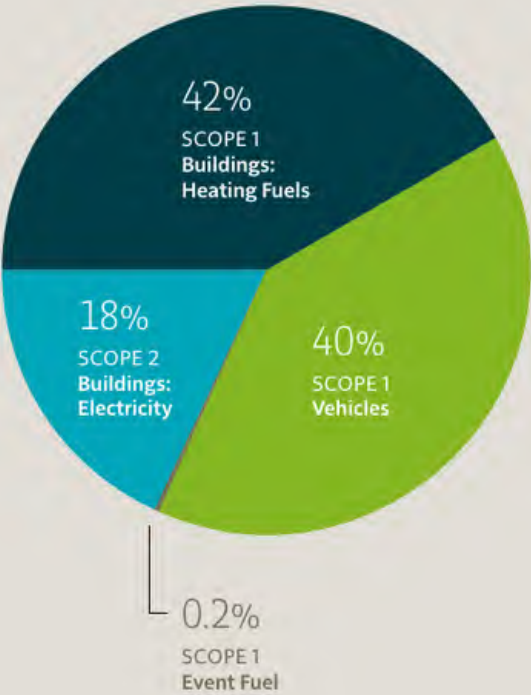
Council has established its Baseline Carbon Footprint for the year 2024/25 (set by government) by gathering and analysing data on Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions including electricity, gas and oil use in buildings as well as Transport/Fleet emissions.

The Council’s Carbon Footprint is 5,246 tCO<sub>2</sub>e (Tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent)

Table 1: Baseline Emissions Footprint for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

| Scope           | Emission Source           | Total (tCO <sub>2</sub> e) |
|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Scope 1         | Event Fuel (Gas Oil)      | 8                          |
|                 | Buildings — Heating Fuels | 2,173                      |
|                 | Kerosene                  | 1,142                      |
|                 | Natural Gas               | 1,013                      |
|                 | Gas Oil                   | 7                          |
|                 | LPG                       | 5                          |
|                 | Propane                   | 5                          |
|                 | Vehicles                  | 2,116                      |
|                 | Diesel                    | 2,105                      |
|                 | Unleaded                  | 10                         |
|                 | Gas Oil                   | 0                          |
| Scope 2         | Buildings - Electricity   | 949                        |
| Total Emissions |                           | 5,246                      |

**Figure 6:** Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Greenhouse Gas Emissions per Scope and Emission Source



The Council's Carbon Baseline report also looked at a breakdown of the various aspects of the emissions to identify key areas for action to reduce them.

- Scope 1 emissions make up the largest proportion of emissions (4,297 tCO<sub>2</sub>e), with buildings heating fuels contributing 42% of emissions and fleet vehicles emissions 40%.
- Scope 2 buildings electricity use makes up 18% of emissions.
- Lesser emissions were identified from fuel use for events (generators) 0.2% and use of F Gases in air conditioning less than 0.2% - both Scope 1 emissions.

Carbon emissions from different fuel type use are set out in Table 1 above showing that kerosene (heating oil) (1,142 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) and Natural Gas (1,013 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) along with diesel for vehicles (2,105 tCO<sub>2</sub>e) are the 3 largest carbon emission sources.

Further analysis shows that our biggest building energy users and carbon emitters are our leisure centres. This is to be expected as these buildings provide the community with activities which require a greater amount of heating (swimming pools) and electricity (lighting and equipment) during weekdays and weekends.

Further analysis and breakdown of the data from the carbon emissions baseline report will be used to identify target areas for actions to reduce our carbon emissions as well as ongoing monitoring of the effectiveness of actions.



# What Are We Doing Well?

In 2019, the Council declared a climate emergency and has continued to take steps to effect change in every area under its control, to mitigate against the impacts of climate change.

In 2020, the Council organised a climate symposium, bringing together a range of internationally renowned expert speakers as well as councils and community organisations from across Ireland and UK, who shared with us their achievements in climate action and practical case studies on carbon reductions.

A review of staff structure set up a new Directorate of Sustainability and Environment, led by a Director of Sustainability and Environment who is the Council's overall Sustainability and Climate Change

Champion. An Assistant Director of Sustainability is responsible for Sustainability as well as Estates, Facilities and Fleet Management and a Head of Sustainability heads up the Sustainability team who will lead on developing and delivering the strategy and wider sustainability and climate action.

Alongside the continued embedding of sustainability within Council policies and practices, a number of successful high-profile projects have been delivered in recent years. These include:



**The CANN Project** (Collaborative Action for the Natura Network), an INTERREG VA funded cross-border environment project to improve protected habitats and support priority species. A key part of CANN included the restoration of peatlands and wetlands which are known to be important carbon sinks which can offset climate impacts.



**A former Council landfill site** was used to improve biodiversity and help boost the population of the once endangered Irish Black Bees, an important pollinator species, by installing beehives on site, with this initiative winning a number of awards.



In 2023 the Council was also part of the **INTERREG VA supported FASTER project**, which installed high-speed public EV charging points for electric vehicles installed at prominent sites across the district. The Council is also a member of the Northern Ireland EV Consortium delivering additional EV charge points for residents as part of the On Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS project).

# What We Can Do Better

Achieving our collective net zero 2050 goal will require ambitious action within our own organisation and championing change across all sectors.

To ensure we can maximise our impact, we will prioritise actions that eliminate emissions, followed by those that reduce or substitute emissions. Offsetting will only be used where all other options have been explored first, in line with the principles of the carbon management hierarchy<sup>2</sup> set out below. We will prioritise nature-based solutions and solutions that help us adapt to climate impacts, where possible.

We will research and collaborate to develop best practice solutions to reducing our carbon emissions.

We will actively promote our successes by sharing case studies from Council, as well as local individuals, communities and businesses via social media and other innovative marketing.

Figure 7: XXXX XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX XX XXXX XXXXXXXXXXXX



## 1 Avoid/eliminate

Wherever possible, steps should be taken to avoid or eliminate the release of emissions at source and across the life cycle by:

- Influencing business planning and decision making
- Considering the need and purpose of any proposal
- Exploring alternative approaches that avoid the production of emissions



## 2 Reduce

Existing activity should seek to limit emissions at source by:

- Delivering real and relative reductions in carbon and energy use
- Promoting efficiency in operation, processes, fleet, or energy management
- Innovating and/or optimising new approaches to cut emissions



## 3 Substitute

Existing activities should seek to substitute carbon intensive activities with those that have a lower carbon impact by:

- Adopting renewable or low carbon technologies
- Reducing carbon intensity of use and purchased energy
- Prioritising products/services with lower embodied or embedded emissions



## 4 Offset

Where all other steps of the hierarchy have been explored, and only as a last resort, any unavoidable residual emissions should be offset by:

- Investment in carbon saving activities elsewhere to save an equivalent amount of emissions by way of compensation

2 Footnote text to go here XXXXXXXXXXX XXXXXX XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Source: Adapted from EMA Green House Gas Management Hierarchy (2020)

# Our Commitment to Sustainability

The Council recognises that environmental, social, and economic systems are interdependent. A thriving economy depends on a healthy society, which in turn relies on a stable and resilient natural environment.

Long-term economic success is only possible when the economy operates within environmental limits and contributes positively to society. That is why the Council has taken steps to embed sustainability into our Corporate Plan and Community Plan as a way of future-proofing our operations against regulatory changes, ratepayer expectations, and future risks.

## Embedding climate action into everything we do

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is committed to integrating climate action and sustainability into all aspects of its operations, decision-making, and policies. With a combined revenue and capital budget of approximately £60 million and a workforce of over 1,000 employees, the Council provides a wide range of services including Household Waste Collection, Births and Deaths Registration, Leisure, Community Engagement, Environmental Health, Building Control, Economic Development and Tourism. We also manage Planning and Community Planning functions that were transferred from central government to local authorities in Northern Ireland in 2015.

Our work is driven by collaboration with local communities and organisations across the public, voluntary, community and private sectors. Together, we aim to create a shared vision for our area, improving services and quality of life for all citizens.

While this strategy primarily focuses on reducing emissions and improving sustainability within Council operations, we are committed to working with relevant stakeholders, including government departments, on broader policies that affect

emissions in our district. These include areas such as planning policy, energy policy, green growth and transport infrastructure.

We will work closely with other local authorities, both north and south of the border, to maximise efficiency in delivering shared climate objectives. In particular we will work in partnership cross border with Louth County Council.

The Council also acknowledges the importance of supporting local communities, businesses, and households as they transition to a low-carbon future. By working closely with our partners, we will ensure Newry, Mourne and Down becomes a greener, healthier and more sustainable district by 2050.

In the short term, it is essential that we begin by improving our own operations. This will involve reducing energy consumption in our buildings through retrofitting, adopting passive design, and implementing efficiency measures. We will also invest in renewable energy and low-carbon vehicles. We will ensure that any new technologies we adopt are cost-effective, suitable for our needs and aligned with our service delivery objectives.

This strategy also recognises the importance of a fair transition for all. We will continue engaging with stakeholders, including government departments, to influence policy and deliver local programmes that drive meaningful change.

Additionally, we recognise the interconnected nature of sustainability challenges, including land and water use, waste reduction, recycling, pollution and plastic reduction and air quality improvement.

This strategy addresses these challenges with targeted actions to make our district more sustainable for future generations.

## Taking a long-term approach

The pursuit of sustainability requires a long-term perspective and the courage to make bold, decisive choices to address the climate crisis with urgency.

Many climate measures offer a return on investment, but some will require larger upfront investments with longer payback periods. In such cases, the Council will adopt a long-term approach, using whole-life costing to balance initial capital outlay against reduced operating costs and long-term value.

At the same time, the Council will work to ensure the district benefits from the growing green economy by positioning itself to attract investment, support the creation of new green jobs and equip people with the skills needed for a low-carbon future.

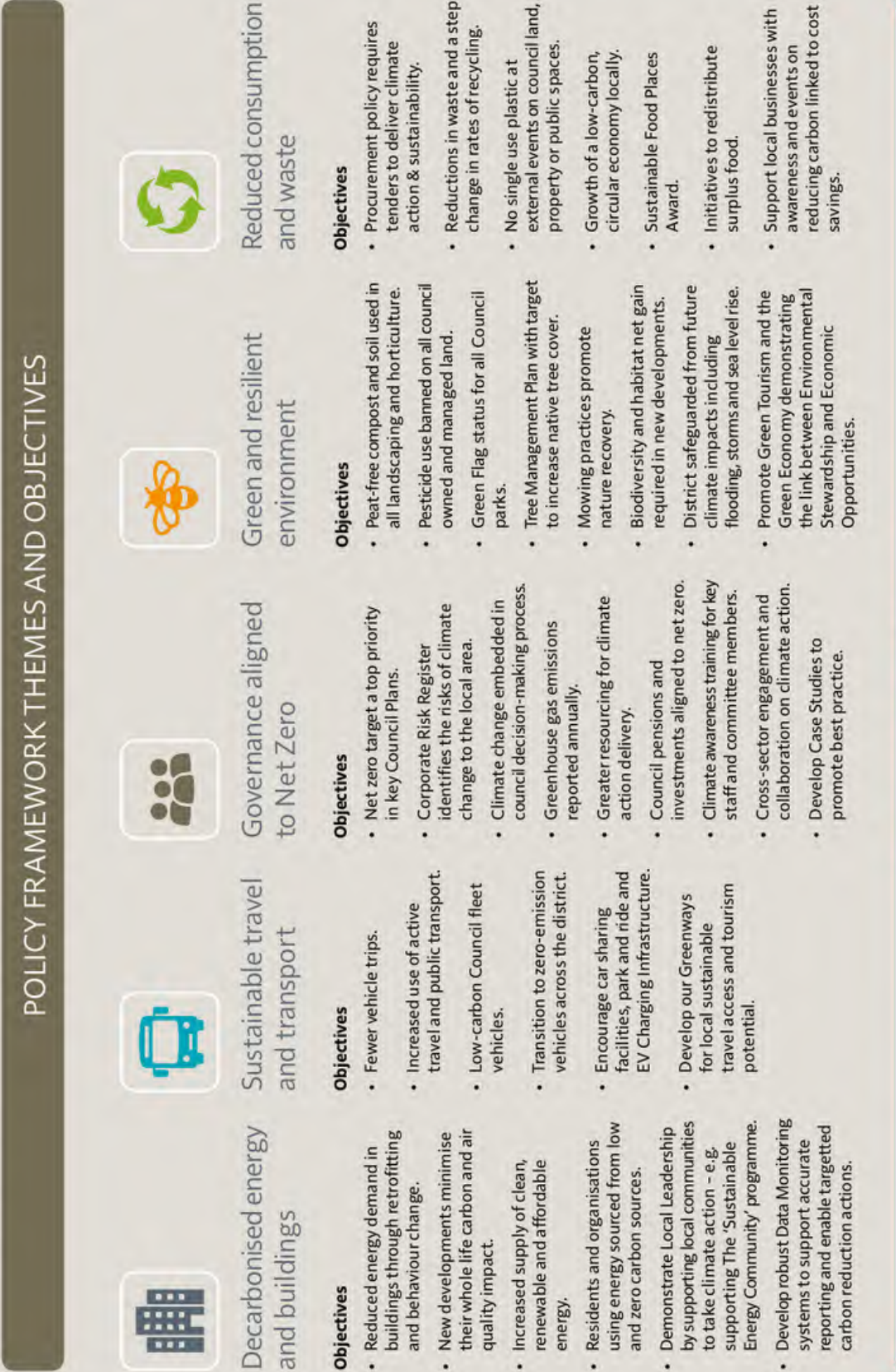
The evidence is clear: while the upfront investment in climate action is substantial, the economic and social benefits of action far outweigh the costs. Conversely, delaying action only increases future risks and expenses. As the Stern Review (2006) demonstrated, early and decisive action is both the most cost-effective and the most responsible course of action.



# Action Plan

Actions will be developed based on the Objectives in the Five Themes of the Strategy.

Figure 8: Policy Framework Themes and Objectives



DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

- Work in partnership with local businesses and communities to encourage sustainable practices.
  - Review and implement necessary policy, strategy and programme changes.
  - Produce a comprehensive climate evidence programme to inform future policies & plans.

# Monitoring and Reporting

## Methodology

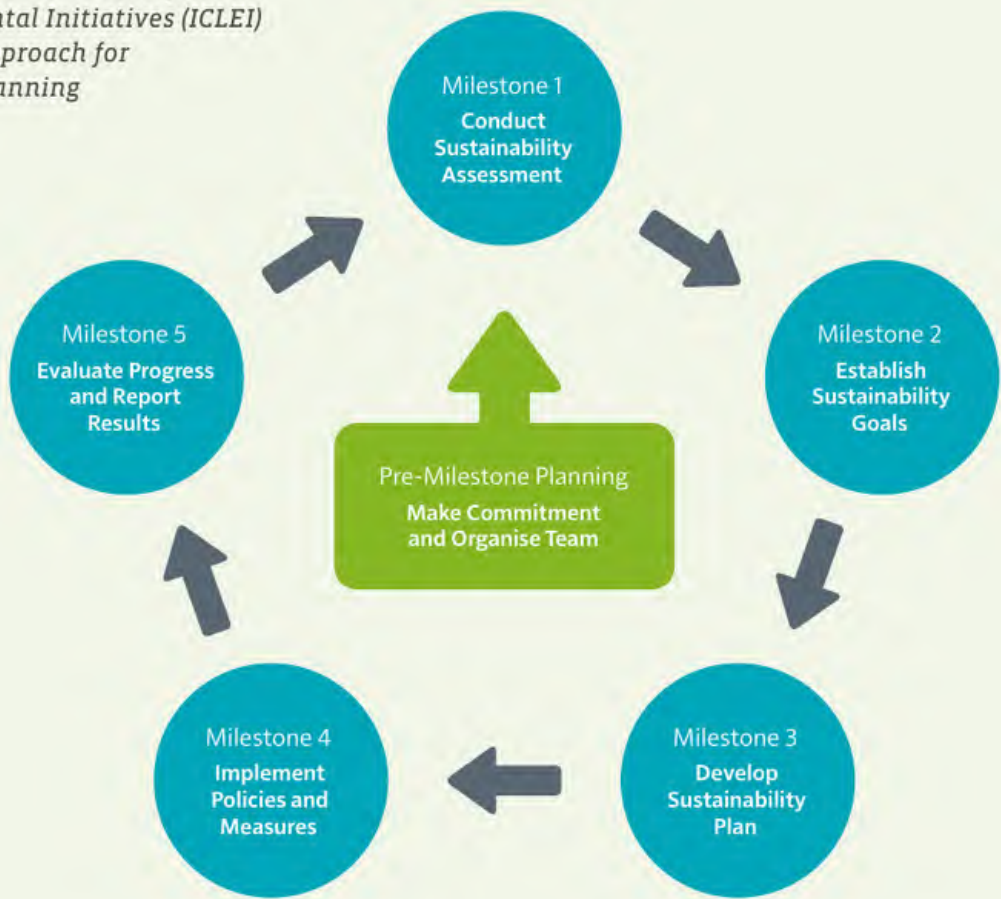
The strategy was developed using ICLEI’s Five Milestone Approach, a widely used framework for local authorities to plan, implement, and monitor climate action.

The Council applied this methodology by first drafting a framework of priorities and objectives, then identifying and screening actions through workshops with staff and elected members, ensuring actions were both ambitious and achievable within current policy and funding contexts.

Future iterations of the Plan will expand the process to include consultation with businesses and community stakeholders.

## International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Methodology Process

**Figure 9:** International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI) Five Milestone Approach for Climate Action Planning



## Monitoring and Review

Performance on the action plan will be monitored each year to track progress against agreed actions, and progress will be published on our website to ensure transparency. The strategy will be reviewed after five years.

## Resources and Funding

We recognise that delivering this strategy will require significant additional resources over its lifetime. While the full costs of achieving net zero emissions are not yet known, further detail will be developed as specific actions are designed and implemented.

A business case approach will be used to develop specific projects and investments linked to the actions. This will look at costs, carbon and energy savings, return on investment and payback periods. The payback and carbon savings generated will be monitored as part of the project management process. Our aim is to have a fully costed project pipeline in place as soon as possible, which will inform future revisions of this strategy.

Sustainability, climate change, and environmental and energy management require specialist expertise. Where appropriate, we will draw on consultancy support and engage with relevant stakeholders, businesses and partners to ensure the most effective delivery.

It is clear from estimates of the potential costs of meeting net zero in Northern Ireland that councils cannot absorb the financial burden of decarbonisation within existing budgets without placing undue pressure on ratepayers. As part of a just transition, there is therefore a need for additional financial support, to help us make the necessary investments to realise longer-term financial benefits associated with climate action. The Council will continue to plan and invest strategically to deliver emissions reductions in the most cost-effective way, while actively seeking opportunities to secure external funding and working closely with government departments and stakeholders on a cross border basis to unlock the resources required.



# Acknowledgments

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council wishes to acknowledge the support of Sustainable NI who facilitated staff workshops and reviewed the strategy and action plan.

Ongoing support, advice and engagement from the Council's Elected Members, Senior Management Team and individual staff members is also much appreciated.



# References



# Appendices

## Appendix 1 Additional Climate Change and Sustainability Legislation

### The Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006

Provision 25 outlines the Sustainable Development Statutory Duty on Departments and Councils.

### Northern Ireland's Green Growth Strategy (Draft)

This is the Northern Ireland Executive's multi-decade strategy, balancing climate, environment and the economy (including green jobs) in Northern Ireland. It sets out the long-term vision for tackling the climate crisis in the right way.

### The Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (as amended)

Section 5 requires those who exercise any function in relation to Local Development Plans to do so with the objective of furthering sustainable development

### Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022

This outlines minimum standards for new buildings and retrofit of existing buildings, with respect to carbon performance and energy conservation.

### Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

There is a legal requirement for Northern Ireland Departments to prepare an Adaptation Programme in response to the latest UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). A number of Councils, including Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have published or are working on Climate Adaptation Plans.

### The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022

This includes a target for net zero carbon emissions in Northern Ireland by 2050 alongside a target for 80% of electricity to be supplied from renewables by 2030.

### Northern Ireland's First Climate Action Plan (CAP)

Whilst still to be published at the time of drafting this strategy, Northern Ireland's first Climate Action Plan (2023-2027) is anticipated to include additional targets, such as Carbon Budgets, with reporting requirements on areas such as climate mitigation and adaptation.

### NI Regional Development Strategy 2035

This strategy refers to climate change as a key economic and environmental driver and includes strategic guidance on relevant areas, such as a sustainable and secure energy supply, sustainable development and reducing our carbon footprint and facilitating mitigation and adaptation etc.

### Energy Strategy for Northern Ireland – The Path to Net Zero

The Energy Strategy sets out a pathway for energy to 2030 that will mobilise the skills, technologies and behaviours needed to take Northern Ireland towards a vision of net zero carbon and affordable energy by 2050.

### The Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland (Draft)

This provides guidance on preserving, protecting and improving our environment for our children and grandchildren.

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# **Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-30**

## **Action Plan 1 2026/27**



Comhairle Ceantair  
**an Iúir, Mhúrn  
agus an Dúin**

**Newry, Mourne  
and Down**  
District Council

| Theme 1 Decarbonised energy and buildings                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |                            |      |        |                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Objective                                                                          | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Lead Service               | When | Status | Performance Measure                                                   |
| 1.1 Reduced energy demand in buildings through retrofitting and behavioural change | 1.1 Develop an energy consumption baseline and set future targets                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Sustainability             | 2026 |        | Tonnes CO2e,<br><br>% reduction in scope 1 emissions,<br><br>£s saved |
|                                                                                    | 1.2 Set renewable energy targets for council sites and facilities                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Sustainability             | 2026 |        |                                                                       |
|                                                                                    | 1.3 Carry out review of council heating systems, outlining decarbonisation options and recommendations                                                                                                                                                                  | Sustainability/<br>Estates | 2027 |        |                                                                       |
|                                                                                    | 1.4 Cut emissions from the corporate estate through a programme of asset rationalisation, energy efficiency improvements and behaviour change, targeting 20% emissions reductions by 2028                                                                               | Sustainability/<br>Estates | 2028 |        |                                                                       |
|                                                                                    | 1.5 Work with local organisations and homeowners to better understand the district’s built environment emissions, and in partnership with central government develop a programme of support, advice and guidance to drive large scale retrofitting across the district. | Sustainability             | 2028 |        | Tonnes CO2e<br>Average EPC/ SAP rating                                |

| Theme 1 Decarbonised energy and buildings                                     |                                                                                                                    |                  |      |         |                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|------|---------|----------------------------------------|
| Objective                                                                     | Action                                                                                                             | Lead Service     | When | Status  | Performance Measure                    |
| 1.2 New developments minimise their whole life carbon and air quality impacts | 2.1 Target Passivehaus, Zero Carbon or similar energy standards for all new council led developments, where viable | Capital Projects | 2035 | Ongoing | Tonnes CO2e<br>Average EPC/ SAP rating |

| Theme 2 Sustainable Travel and Transport            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                          |               |         |                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|---------------|---------|-----------------------------------------------|
| Objective                                           | Action                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Lead Service                             | When          | Status  | Performance Measure                           |
| <b>2.1 Increased sustainable and active travel.</b> | 1.1 Work with Dept for Infrastructure to deliver a rolling programme of active travel infrastructure improvements, including developing the greenway network to link urban centres and rural areas.               | Sustainability                           | 2027          | Ongoing | Km of active travel corridors                 |
|                                                     | 1.2 Increase the availability of secure cycle storage across the district                                                                                                                                         | Sustainability                           | 2027          | Ongoing | No. of bicycle parking and storage facilities |
|                                                     | 1.3 Work with Dept for Communities and Dept for Infrastructure on a Sustainable Place Making Programme to influence the design of town centres and streetscapes so that there are fewer barriers to active travel | Capital Projects, ERT and Sustainability | 2027          | Ongoing | No. of active travel friendly streets         |
| <b>2.2 Low carbon council fleet vehicles</b>        | 2.1 Commence decarbonisation of Council fleet by purchasing electric vehicles                                                                                                                                     | Fleet                                    | Commence 2026 | Ongoing | Tonnes of CO2 saved from fleet                |
|                                                     | 2.2 Switch diesel fleet vehicles to HVO                                                                                                                                                                           | Fleet                                    | 2027          | Ongoing | Tonnes CO2 saved                              |
|                                                     | 2.3 Facilitate Driver training to encourage behavioural change                                                                                                                                                    | Fleet                                    | 2027          | Ongoing | Tonnes CO2 saved                              |

| Theme 2 Sustainable Travel and Transport                |                                                                                                                          |                |      |         |                                |
|---------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|---------|--------------------------------|
| Objective                                               | Action                                                                                                                   | Lead Service   | When | Status  | Performance Measure            |
| 2.3 Transition to electric vehicles across the district | 3.1 Facilitate the rollout of EV Charging infrastructure, targeting 150 public charge points across the district by 2030 | Sustainability | 2030 | Ongoing | No. of public EV charge points |

| Theme 3 Governance aligned to Net Zero                                                      |                                                                                                                                                     |                    |      |         |                                          |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|------|---------|------------------------------------------|
| Objective                                                                                   | Action/Target                                                                                                                                       | Who                | When | Status  | Performance Measure                      |
| <b>3.1 Corporate Risk Register identifies the risks of climate change to the local area</b> | 1.1 Add Climate Change to the Council’s Risk Register and risk assessment and business planning framework.                                          | SMT Sustainability | 2026 | Ongoing | No. of Climate Actions in Business Plans |
| <b>3.2 Greenhouse Gas Emissions reported annually</b>                                       | 2.1 Publicly report carbon emissions, climate action and sustainability performance as part of our annual report and performance management system. | Sustainability     | 2026 | Ongoing | Annual reporting of emissions            |

| Theme 4 Green and Resilient Environment                                   |                                                                                                                                  |                                                                   |          |         |                                              |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------------------------------|
| Objective                                                                 | Action                                                                                                                           | Lead Service                                                      | When     | Status  | Performance Measure                          |
| <b>4.1 Green Flag Status for all Council Parks</b>                        | 1.1 Work towards Green Flag Status for all council managed woodlands and parks.                                                  | Parks                                                             | 2030     | Ongoing | % manged sites certified                     |
| <b>4.2 Mowing practices promote nature recovery</b>                       | 2.1 Reduce mowing and hedge cutting on the estate to protect local wildlife                                                      | Parks Grounds maintenance, Biodiversity Officer                   | Ongoing  | Ongoing | % reduction cutting across all managed sites |
| <b>4.3 Tree management plan with target to increase tree</b>              | 3.1 maintain, plant and protect trees on the council estate to support a long term increase in tree canopy cover in the district | Grounds Maintenance, Parks, Biodiversity Officer.                 | Ongoing  | Ongoing | No. Trees planted<br>% Tree Cover            |
| <b>4.4 Biodiversity and habitat net gain required in new developments</b> | 4.1 Meet targets outlined in our Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan                                                               | Biodiversity Officer, Parks, Grounds Maintenance Capital Projects | Annually | Ongoing | Targets met                                  |
|                                                                           | 4.2 Meet targets outlined in our AONB Action Plans                                                                               | AONB and Geoparks teams                                           | Annually | Ongoing | Targets met                                  |

| Theme 5 Reduced consumption and waste                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                |      |         |                                                             |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| Objective                                                                                       | Action                                                                                                                                                                             | Lead Service                   | When | Status  | Performance Measure                                         |
| <b>5.1 Reduction in waste and a step change in rates of recycling</b>                           | 1.1 Draft a new Waste and Recycling Strategy for Council                                                                                                                           | Waste management               | 2028 | Ongoing | Tonnes of Waste reduced<br>£s saved                         |
|                                                                                                 | 1.2 Trial and showcase innovative circular economy solutions including material exchange centres, tool libraries, repair cafes, deposit return schemes, industrial symbiosis, etc. | Sustainability and Waste teams | 2028 | Ongoing | No. of new projects,<br>Tonnes of Waste reduced<br>£s saved |
| <b>5.2 No single use plastics at external events on council land, property or public spaces</b> | 2.1 Update events policy to include a ban on single use plastics at community run events on council land and property.                                                             | Sustainability, Events         | 2027 | Ongoing | % reduction in single use plastics                          |
|                                                                                                 | 2.2 Carry out single use plastics audits and update SUPs Action Plan.                                                                                                              | Sustainability                 | 2027 | Ongoing | % reduction in single use plastics                          |
| <b>5.3 Sustainable Food Places Award</b>                                                        | 3.1 Adopt a Sustainable Food Plan to support nature friendly farming and develop a more sustainable local food system                                                              | Sustainability                 | 2028 | Ongoing | T CO2e saved<br>Sustainable Food Places Award               |

| Theme 5 Reduced consumption and waste               |                                                                                                                                            |                |      |         |                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|------|---------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Objective                                           | Action                                                                                                                                     | Lead Service   | When | Status  | Performance Measure                                       |
| <b>5.4 Initiatives to redistribute surplus food</b> | 4.1 Provide advice and training to help residents grow their own food, minimise food waste and maximise the redistribution of surplus food | Sustainability | 2027 | Ongoing | Tonnes of food waste reduced<br>% reduction in food waste |

|                                                     |                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Sustainability and Environment Committee                                             |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | 19 August 2026                                                                       |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Consultation on proposals under the Tobacco and Vapes Act.                           |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment                                      |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Geraldine O'Callaghan, SEHO (Health and Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control) |

| <b>For decision</b> | <b>X</b> | <b>For noting only</b> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------------------|----------|------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>1.0</b>          |          |                        | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 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 Department of Health and Social Care on regulatory proposals under Tobacco and Vapes Act.</p> <p>The consultation seeks views on proposals for regulating tobacco, vaping and nicotine product packaging, device appearance and retail displays, to implement the Tobacco and Vapes Act to the Department of Health and Social Care.</p> |
| <b>2.0</b>          |          |                        | <b>Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2.1                 |          |                        | Tobacco and Vapes Act (29 April 2026), delivers a historic step towards a smoke-free UK and protecting people from the harms of tobacco by making it illegal to sell tobacco to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 2.2                 |          |                        | This world-leading legislation means today's children will never legally be sold cigarettes, breaking the cycle of addiction and disadvantage that has persisted for decades.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 2.3                 |          |                        | The new law delivers a core manifesto commitment of this government and is a central pillar of the <a href="#">10 Year Health Plan</a> , supporting the shift from sickness to prevention and helping people live longer, healthier lives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 2.4                 |          |                        | It also helps tackles the challenge of youth vaping, protecting future generations from the risks of nicotine addiction, while still enabling vapes to be accessible and effective to adult smokers seeking to quit.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| 2.5                 |          |                        | The act includes measures to ban the advertising and sponsorship of vapes and nicotine products, as well as powers to restrict their packaging, branding and displays that are designed to appeal to children.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2.6                 |          |                        | It gives powers to strengthen smoke-free protections in certain public places, particularly to protect children and medically vulnerable people from second-hand smoke.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.1        | This consultation asks questions on 3 areas of proposed regulation across the UK.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 3.2        | <p><b>New packaging requirements</b></p> <p>Proposals to introduce new packaging requirements across the UK for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• tobacco products (other than cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco, which are already regulated)</li> <li>• cigarette papers</li> <li>• herbal smoking products</li> <li>• heated tobacco devices</li> <li>• vaping and nicotine products</li> </ul> <p>The consultation asks questions on how to restrict the packaging of these products to prevent use by different groups of people. It also seeks views on proposals to restrict flavour descriptors for vaping and other nicotine products.</p> |
| 3.3        | <p><b>New restrictions on vape and heated tobacco device appearance</b></p> <p>Proposals to introduce new restrictions on the appearance of heated tobacco devices and vapes across the UK, to reduce the appeal of these products to different groups.</p> <p>The consultation asks about the proposal to introduce new restrictions on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• colours, images and branding</li> <li>• digital screens on devices</li> <li>• devices imitating other products</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                  |
| 3.4        | <p><b>New restrictions on where products can be displayed in shops</b></p> <p>Proposals to restrict where shops across the UK can display:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• herbal smoking products</li> <li>• cigarette papers</li> <li>• heated and other tobacco-related devices</li> <li>• vaping and nicotine products</li> </ul> <p>The display proposals are intended to reduce the appeal of these products to different groups.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.5        | The consultation asks questions on which products should be covered by these restrictions and what the restrictions should include.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 3.1        | Members are asked to approve the submission of the Environmental Health Department's consultation response, detailed in Appendix 1, to the Department of Health and Social Care proposals for regulatory reform on packaging, appearance and display requirements.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 4.1        | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| 5.3        | <p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>                                                                                             |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | <i>Rationale:</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 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> |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 7.1        | Appendix 1 – Environmental Health Departments Consultation response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>8.0</b> | <b>Background Documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8.1        | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tobacco-and-vapes-packaging-appearance-and-display/tobacco-and-vapes-packaging-appearance-and-display">https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/tobacco-and-vapes-packaging-appearance-and-display/tobacco-and-vapes-packaging-appearance-and-display</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                |

## Tobacco and vapes: packaging, appearance and display – Consultation Response

### About you

#### Questions for everyone

In what capacity are you responding to this survey?

- An individual sharing my personal views and experiences
- An individual sharing my professional views
- **On behalf of an organisation**

Do you have any direct or indirect links to, or receive funding from, the tobacco industry?

- Yes
- **No**

#### Questions for people sharing their personal or professional views

What is your age? (Optional)

- Under 13
- 13 to 15
- 16 to 24
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 74
- 75 to 84
- 85 or above
- Prefer not to say

What is your sex? (Optional)

- Female
- Male
- Prefer not to say

Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth? (Optional)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

What is your ethnic group? (Optional)

- White - includes British, Northern Irish, Irish, Gypsy, Irish Traveller, Roma or any other White background
- Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups - includes White and Black Caribbean, White and Black African, White and Asian or any other Mixed or Multiple background
- Asian or Asian British - includes Indian, Pakistani, Bangladeshi, Chinese or any other Asian background
- Black, Black British, Caribbean or African - includes Black British, Caribbean, African or any other Black background
- Other ethnic group - includes Arab or any other ethnic group
- Prefer not to say

Do you have any physical or mental health conditions or illnesses lasting or expected to last 12 months or more? (Optional)

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

If you answered 'Yes', do any of your conditions or illnesses reduce your ability to carry out day-to-day activities? (Optional)

- Yes, a lot
- Yes, a little
- Not at all
- Prefer not to say

Where do you live in the UK? (Optional)

- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Northern Ireland
- I live outside the UK
- Prefer not to say

If you answered 'England', in which area of England do you live? (Optional)

- North East England
- North West England
- Yorkshire and the Humber

- East of England
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- London
- South East England
- South West England
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your smoking habits (including heated tobacco use)?

- I currently smoke at least once a week
- I smoke occasionally (less than once a week)
- I used to smoke but have now quit
- I have never smoked
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your vaping habits?

- I currently vape at least once a week
- I vape occasionally (less than once a week)
- I used to vape but have now quit
- I have never vaped
- Prefer not to say

Which of the following best describes your usage of other nicotine products? For example, nicotine pouches.

- I currently use nicotine products at least once a week
- I use nicotine products occasionally (less than once a week)
- I used to use nicotine products but have now quit
- I have never used nicotine products
- Prefer not to say

### **Questions for people responding on behalf of an organisation**

What is the size of your organisation? (Optional)

- Small (0 to 49 employees)
- Medium (50 to 249 employees)
- Large (250 or more employees)

Where does your organisation operate or provide services? Select all that apply.  
(Optional)

- England
- Wales
- Scotland
- Northern Ireland
- The whole of the UK
- Outside the UK

Please provide the name of the organisation you are responding on behalf of. (Optional)

**Questions for people sharing their professional views and those responding on behalf of an organisation**

What is the main area or focus of your work? (Optional)

- Academic
- Advocacy
- Distribution
- Education
- Emergency services
- Enforcement agencies
- Healthcare
- Hospitality
- Justice system
- Legal
- Local government
- National government
- Production or manufacturing
- Retail
- Social care
- Wholesale
- Other, please specify

Do you work for, or are you providing views on behalf of, any of the following? Select all that apply.

- Manufacturer or producer of a tobacco product
- Manufacturer or producer of a vape or nicotine product

- Importer of a tobacco product
- Importer of a vape or nicotine product
- Distributor of a tobacco product
- Distributor of a vape or nicotine product
- Retailer of a tobacco product
- Retailer of a vape or nicotine product

Or:

- None of the above

## **Tobacco packaging**

### **Proposals for further plain packaging requirements**

We propose to introduce plain packaging requirements for:

- all tobacco products (including but not limited to cigars, cigarillos, pipe tobacco, waterpipe tobacco, smokeless and heated tobacco)
- heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products
- cigarette papers

These requirements would broadly align with existing requirements for cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco.

An overview of the existing requirements for cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco is set out below.

### **Colour**

Pantone 448C (drab dark brown) colour with a matt finish.

### **Branding**

Brand name permitted once each on front, top and bottom of pack. It must:

- be in a centred position
- be in Pantone Cool Gray 2 C
- be in Helvetica font size 14 point or less
- have only the first letter capitalised

The variant name must follow the same requirements other than to be size 10 point or less and positioned immediately below the brand name.

No promotional images or logos, additional colours or markings are allowed.

### **Shape**

Specified packaging shapes. For cigarettes this is cuboid only and for hand-rolling tobacco this is cuboid, cylindrical or pouch.

### **Packaging materials**

Specified packaging materials. For cigarettes this is carton or soft material only.

### **Minimum size**

20 pack for cigarettes, 30 grams for hand-rolling tobacco.

Some products may require specific plain packaging requirements, for example hand-rolling tobacco pouches are permitted to have a re-sealable sticker and cigarette packets have a lining. If we proceed with the policy, we will engage further on the details of the plain packaging measures for specific products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for all tobacco products? This does not include cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco which already have strict plain packaging requirements.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for heated tobacco devices?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for herbal smoking products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the plain packaging requirements outlined above for cigarette papers?

- **Agree**

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing your views on which tobacco products plain packaging requirements should or should not be introduced for, or specific elements of our proposals which you agree or disagree with. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that all tobacco products should be subject to the same requirements as each poses a public health risk and aligning these requirements will reinforce the message that all tobacco products are harmful and should therefore be regulated consistently.

The plain packaging requirements should apply to all tobacco products, as this will help reduce their appeal to children and young people and those wanting to quit. It will also help ensure that the health warnings are clear and impactful while reducing opportunities for the industry to use packaging as a form of advertising.

Heated tobacco contains nicotine, which is highly addictive and has a range of harmful side effects. We therefore support measures that can reduce uptake and help those wanting to quit. In addition, plain packaging for heated tobacco devices may make the product safety information more visible and prominent to support compliance checks and safe user awareness.

Herbal smoking products are not a safe alternative to smoking tobacco. Applying plain packaging will help prevent any perception that they are less harmful and ensure that they cannot be promoted as such.

Cigarette papers should also be included as this will prevent tobacco companies from using these for marketing purposes.

### **Text health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices and cigarette papers**

We propose to introduce text health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices and cigarette papers. All tobacco products and herbal smoking products already have these warnings. The wording of warnings will reflect the harms of using each product.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce text health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce text health warnings on the packaging of cigarette papers?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that health warnings should be included on the packaging of heated tobacco as it is vital that users are aware the potential health risks linked to the use of these products. Given the increasing range of tobacco products on the market consumers may not fully understand the potential health risks with heated tobacco. Clear health warnings are therefore necessary to improve awareness and support informed decision making.

We agree that health warnings on cigarette papers should be introduced to ensure a consistent approach across all tobacco related products and to educate smokers about the risks, motivate them to quit and to help deter children and young people from starting to smoke.

Consideration should be given to ensuring that any health warnings on packaging are not to the detriment of the required safety warnings for electronic devices, including the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements for heated tobacco devices. Any requirements should therefore ensure that sufficient space remains for all essential regulatory information.

It would also be beneficial to provide clarity on the provision of Dual languages, particularly in Northern Ireland, where Irish and English are both recognised as official languages.

### **Picture health warnings on the packaging of more products and devices**

All smoked tobacco products currently require picture health warnings, excluding individually wrapped cigars and cigarillos, and packs of large cigars that weigh more than 3 grams each. These products only require text warnings on their packaging.

Smokeless tobacco products, heated tobacco devices and herbal smoking products currently do not have picture health warnings.

We propose to introduce picture warnings on the packaging of:

- all tobacco products (including all cigars and cigarillos, smokeless tobacco and heated tobacco)
- heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products

We do not propose including picture warnings for cigarette papers due to the typically smaller size of the packaging.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce picture health warnings on the packaging of all tobacco products? This builds on requirements that are already in place for most tobacco products.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce picture health warnings on the packaging of heated tobacco devices?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce picture health warnings on the packaging of herbal smoking products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that picture health warnings should not be required on the packaging of cigarette papers? We do not propose including picture health warnings on cigarette papers due to the small size of the packaging.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing your views on which tobacco products health warning requirements should or should not be introduced for. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

**We agree that picture health warnings should be introduced on the packaging of all tobacco products and herbal smoking products. Pictorial warnings are more likely to be noticed than text-only warning and are a cost-effective way to educate smokers about the health risks. Graphic visual warnings may also prevent children and young people from starting to smoke and help motivate those wanting to quit. Where possible combining**

picture health warnings, along with text is likely to strengthen the overall impact of the message.

Some promotion of herbal smoking has attempted to show these are a safer alternative to traditional smoking. Introducing picture health warnings would help ensure both current and potential future users are better informed about the health risks.

If health warnings are to be introduced they should not be to the detriment of the required safety warnings for electronic devices, including the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements on the packaging of heated tobacco devices. Any requirements should therefore ensure that sufficient space remains for all essential regulatory information.

### **Pack inserts in packaging for all tobacco and herbal smoking products and heated tobacco devices**

Quit themed pack inserts will soon be introduced for cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco following previous consultation. We propose to also include quit themed pack inserts in the packaging of:

- all tobacco products (including products such as such as cigars, cigarillos, pipe tobacco, waterpipe tobacco and smokeless and heated tobacco)
- heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products

We do not propose including pack inserts in cigarette papers due to the small size of the packaging.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce pack inserts for all tobacco products? This does not include cigarettes and hand-rolling tobacco which we are addressing separately to this consultation.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce pack inserts for heated tobacco devices?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce pack inserts for herbal smoking products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that pack inserts should not be required in the packaging of cigarette papers? We do not propose including pack inserts for cigarette papers due to the small size of the packaging.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on specific tobacco products for which you do or do not think pack inserts should apply. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that pack inserts should be introduced, where practical, for all tobacco products. They are a cost-effective way to highlight quit themed messages and promote cessation at a time when the product is about to be used. They have been introduced in several other countries, including Canada and Australia, and smoking rates have declined in this period

We also agree that pack inserts should be included in heated tobacco devices and herbal smoking products. These products are not risk free and it is important that users receive the same motivational quit messages and cessation advice as users of other tobacco products.

We agree that providing pack inserts for cigarette papers is impractical due to size constraints. Specific requirements may be required for the labelling of for separate components – i.e. electronic heating device hardware, tobacco / heat sticks or refills.

In addition, pack inserts may support consumer understanding and expectations regarding product risks, providing it is not to the detriment of the product information requirements in the required accompanying documentation for heated tobacco devices, that should include safety use and warnings, CE Markings and traceability information.

### **Time allowed to implement new packaging requirements**

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to update their packaging to comply. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for

example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean all products covered by our tobacco packaging proposals would need to comply with any new requirements by the end of a 12-month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree?
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that an implementation period of no longer than 12 months from the date requirements are introduced is necessary. This will allow manufacturers to adapt and sell through existing stock. Any extension beyond what is necessary should be carefully considered as prolonged implementation may undermine the importance of the new requirements and the public health benefits

With advances in technology, it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced, and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

Consideration could be given to an additional 6-month grace/transition period for retailers to allow them to sell through any lawful transitional stock.

## Heated tobacco device appearance

### Restricting the colour and finish of heated tobacco devices

We propose to restrict the colour of heated tobacco devices to Pantone 448C (drab dark brown) with an opaque matt finish. Pantone 448C is the same colour as cigarette and hand-rolling tobacco packaging.

Restricting the colour of the device in this way would also prevent certain aesthetic features on the device, such as the presence of cosmetic lights.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the colour of heated tobacco devices to Pantone 448C (drab dark brown) with an opaque matt finish?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that heated tobacco devices should be banned from having cosmetic lights? This will not apply to functional lights, like those that indicate charge level.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether restricting heated tobacco devices to an alternative colour may be more effective, or whether technical exemptions are required. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that the packaging of all tobacco products should be restricted and standardised to highlight that none of these products have been proven safe to use. The use of colours and lights should be restricted to reduce opportunities for marketing and minimise their appeal to children and young people. Clear and comprehensive guidance should be provided to ensure that manufacturers fully understand what is permitted, while supporting effective consistent interpretation, compliance and enforcement of the legislation.

We agree restricting the colour of heated tobacco devices aligns these to all tobacco products and may help raise consumer awareness about the product's risks. For these devices, the required product, safety and traceability information must be included. Therefore, the standardised colour of the device could potentially improve the visibility and consistency of safety markings and risk information, helping consumers recognise key information more easily.

We agree on a ban of cosmetic lights on these devices. Products must be compliant with EU General Product Safety regulations in that they do not imitate food. Legislation should prevent product endorsements that mislead consumers about the risks of using the product. The cosmetic lights features may imitate other consumer goods (games) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

### **Restricting branding, imagery and artwork on heated tobacco devices**

We propose to ban heated tobacco devices from having images or artwork on them, except for any image that is a regulatory requirement, such as required warnings.

We also propose to limit branding to a single brand name, which would be subject to a set font, size and colour on the device.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict all branding, imagery and artwork on heated tobacco devices?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on which of the proposed restrictions you do or do not think should apply. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the branding, imagery and artwork on heated tobacco devices should be restricted to reduce opportunities for marketing and, in particular, the appeal of the products to children and young people. Such measures could deliver public health benefits by preventing children and young people from starting to smoke and supporting those wanting to quit. Clear and comprehensive guidance should be provided to ensure that manufacturers fully understand what is permitted, while supporting effective consistent interpretation, compliance and enforcement of the legislation.

This could also simplify the appearance of the device, and subject to device size, may allow required safety warnings for electronic devices, and the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements to be more easily seen. However complicated artwork can be difficult to duplicate and counterfeit, and while this may assist with enforcement, restricted branding may make it more difficult for consumers to distinguish between devices and identify compatible consumables and accessories. A requirement for clear product identification of electrical devices helps to promote safer use.

### **Restricting digital screens on heated tobacco devices**

We propose that digital screens on heated tobacco devices are restricted to only display safety and status information, such as battery levels.

Do you agree or disagree that digital screens on heated tobacco devices should be restricted to only the display of safety and status information such as battery level, and be greyscale in colour (black, white and grey only)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the digital screens on heated tobacco devices should be restricted to prevent these being used for marketing purposes. This could help reduce the appeal to

both current users and children and young people, thereby supporting efforts to reduce their use and uptake.

Digital displays should be restricted to functional, safety and device status information and should not be used for promotional or branding purposes. Also, subject to the device size, a screen size could compete for space with mandatory product and safety information required on the device. However, for consumer safety, colour displays can provide important benefits by highlighting warnings, maintenance requirements, battery conditions and device faults more clearly than monochrome displays. The use of limited colours for these purposes may improve consumer understanding and support the safe operation of the device.

### **Stopping heated tobacco devices imitating other products**

We propose to limit the potential appeal of heated tobacco devices by stopping them from looking like other products, such as drink bottles and game devices.

This proposal aligns with the restrictions we are proposing for vape devices. It will ensure that heated tobacco devices do not appear more attractive than vapes.

Do you agree or disagree that heated tobacco devices should not be permitted to mimic the design of other products and items? The objective of this proposal is to limit the appeal or attractiveness of heated tobacco devices.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that heated tobacco devices should not mimic the design of other products. Products must be compliant with EU General Product Safety regulations in that they must not imitate food. Legislation should prevent product endorsements that mislead consumers about the risks of using products that imitate other consumer goods (games devices) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

From a consumer safety perspective, requirements that prevent products from being designed to resemble toys, food, cosmetics or other everyday consumer goods would help reduce confusion about the nature of the product and its associated risks. Such measures may also help prevent accidental handling or misuse, particularly by children and other vulnerable groups.

### **Time allowed to implement new device requirements**

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to ensure their devices are compliant. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean heated tobacco devices would need to comply with any new requirements by the end of a 12-month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that an implementation period of no longer than 12 months from the date requirements are introduced is necessary. This will allow manufacturers to adapt and sell through existing stock. Any extension beyond what is necessary should be carefully considered as prolonged implementation may undermine the importance of the new requirements and the public health benefits. With advances in technology, it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced, and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

Consideration could be given to an additional 6-month grace/transition period for retailers to allow them to sell through any lawful transitional stock.

## **Vaping and nicotine product packaging and flavour descriptors**

### **Definition of vaping products**

Throughout this section, we refer to 'vaping products'. This includes vapes, as well as other vape components and refill containers sold separately from the device.

### **Restricting the colour on packaging for all vaping and nicotine products**

We propose that the packaging for vaping and nicotine products should be white.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the colour of packaging of all vaping products to white?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the colour of packaging of all nicotine products to white?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the packaging for vapes and nicotine products should be plain and simple to reduce their attractiveness, particularly among image conscious children and young people. Introducing a uniform white packaging requirement would help ensure that manufacturers clearly understand the requirements and ensure that the legislation is easily enforceable.

Colour restrictions can help reduce the risk of packaging resembling sweets, confectionery or other consumer goods, while safety information and health warnings may be displayed more prominently. However, packaging of vape components (contains e-liquid), requires safety warnings and symbols under the Classification of Labelling and Packaging legislation must be considered to ensure warning symbols remain visible and compliant – i.e. in circumstances where warnings are specifically required to appear on a white or yellow background. Therefore, the standardised colour could potentially improve the visibility and consistency of safety markings and risk information, helping consumers recognise key information more easily.

### **Restricting imagery, branding, text and other promotional features**

We propose that the packaging for all vaping and nicotine products should not include imagery, and that all text on the packaging, including any branding or brand names, should be in a standard colour, font and typeface.

There should be no other promotional features on the outside or inside of packs or attached to the packaging, such as links to social media accounts or any feature that suggests a financial benefit, such as vouchers or discounts.

We recognise that there may be a case to allow packaging of vaping products to display a picture of the product contained inside (for example, a mouthpiece). We welcome views on whether any limited exemptions may be appropriate in the free text box.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the restrictions to imagery, branding, text and promotional features outlined above for the packaging of all vaping products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce the restrictions to imagery, branding, text and promotional features outlined above for the packaging of all nicotine products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, your views on whether there should be any exemptions or further restrictions. You may also indicate any elements of the proposal you disagree with and why, or elements you feel could be further strengthened. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that packaging for vape and nicotine products should be standardised in terms of size, colour and appearance, with all imagery removed and no marketing or promotional elements permitted. Such measures will help reduce the appeal and attractiveness of these products, particularly to children and young people and support those wanting to quit.

If any exemptions are permitted to allow pictures of the products on vape packaging the wording of the legislation should be clear to ensure that manufacturers are aware what is permitted and to support consistent and effective enforcement.

We agree in principle on the restrictions for vape and nicotine products packaging, providing this is not to the detriment of safety warnings for nicotine (as designated under the Classification, Labelling and Packaging legislation), electronic devices which are subject to CE Marking or traceability requirements as required under Market Surveillance Regulations (NI) 2021.

Harmonised packaging standards across the market should require clear and prominent product identification, safety information and user instructions. Also, include information such as nicotine strength, product compatibility, battery specifications and relevant safety warnings so that consumers can make informed purchasing and usage decisions. Simplifying the packaging should allow this safety information and warnings to be more visible. However, it is noted complicated artwork can be difficult to duplicate and counterfeit.

## **Restricting the shape, materials and safety features of packaging for all vaping and nicotine products**

We propose that packaging used for vaping and nicotine products should use uniform shapes. For example, the packaging for devices or coils should use a similar shape, such as a rectangular cuboid, depending on their dimensions.

We also propose that manufacturers should not use materials that enhance a product's appeal, such as:

- glossy plastics
- holographic foils
- other tactile features, for example fuzzy or velvety materials

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all vaping products should have uniform shapes, and that there should be restrictions on materials and finishes that can enhance appeal?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all nicotine products should have uniform shapes, and that there should be restrictions on materials and finishes that can enhance appeal?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Vapes are already required to have child-resistant and tamper-evident packaging. We propose to introduce this requirement for all vaping and nicotine products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all vaping products should be both child-resistant and tamper-evident?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that packaging for all nicotine products should be both child-resistant and tamper-evident?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, indicating any elements of the proposal that you disagree with and why, if there are elements that you feel could be further strengthened or other features that should be included. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree with any proposals such as restricting the shape, finish etc of any nicotine or vape product that will help reduce their attractiveness and appeal, particularly among children and young people. This could also provide a consistent approach that minimises consumer confusion and avoids potential misuse.

In addition, both nicotine and vape products should have child-resistant and tamper-evident packaging. This will help ensure the safety of the product and make counterfeit products more difficult to produce and easier to identify.

This would also support consumer protection, create clear user expectations and help ensure a consistent level of product safety across the market. A uniform approach may also reduce the likelihood of products being designed to resemble other consumer goods, helping to minimise consumer confusion and potential misuse. However, regulations should ensure that safety markings, warnings and user information remain clear and prominent so that consumers receive consistent risk information. Packaging should also include appropriate traceability information, such as serial numbers, batch numbers and manufacturer details, to support compliance checks.

### **Restricting flavour descriptions on vaping and nicotine products packaging**

#### **Single lead flavour**

We propose to restrict flavour descriptors on the packaging for vaping and nicotine products to a single, recognised flavour name, like apple or strawberry. This would include restricting hyphenated or combined flavour names, such as blueberry-apple.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict flavour descriptors on the packaging of all vaping products to a single lead flavour?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict flavour descriptors on the packaging of all nicotine products to a single lead flavour?

- Agree

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

### **Concept, sensory, food and drink categories**

We also propose restricting any concept or sensory words from being used to describe a flavour.

A concept name refers to any flavour name that does not directly describe a recognisable food, drink or natural flavour. Instead, the word conveys a mood, an idea, a brand or even a number or codename, rather than describing an actual flavour. This could include flavour names such as:

- 'Unicorn Dream'
- 'DC100'

A sensory name refers to a recognisable taste, smell or sensation experienced when using a vape or nicotine product, such as 'Mint Blast'.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that concept and sensory flavour descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all vaping products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that concept and sensory flavour descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all nicotine products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

We also propose restricting descriptor names of certain food and drink categories that appeal to children and young people. This includes flavours like:

- confectionery and sweets (such as 'Chocolate', 'Candy' and 'Bubblegum')
- desserts and cakes (such as 'Brownie' and 'Cheesecake')
- alcohol and other drinks (such as 'Cola')

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that confectionery, sweets, dessert and cake name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all vaping products?

- **Agree**

- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that confectionery, sweets, dessert and cake name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all nicotine products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that alcohol and drink name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all vaping products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal that alcohol and drink name descriptors should be restricted on the packaging of all nicotine products?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, your views on any elements of the proposal that you disagree with and why, or any flavour names that you believe should or should not be restricted. You may also wish to comment on whether there should be any differences in how these restrictions apply to vaping and nicotine products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We strongly support any measures that would reduce the appeal of vape and nicotine products to children and young people. Restricting both the name and packaging to prevent the use of descriptors that are designed to attract people to buy could help reduce uptake and support those wanting to quit. A single lead flavour should be permitted to identify the flavour while alcohol descriptors and other terms that may enhance appeal should be prohibited.

The wording of the legislation would need to be carefully considered to ensure that it is clear, comprehensive and not open to interpretation or exploitation. Manufacturers should not be able to circumvent the intent of the legislation through the use of alternative words or descriptors that could be used in marketing to appeal to children and young people.

Clear guidance should therefore be provided for both manufacturers and enforcement authorities to support consistent understanding, application and enforcement.

To avoid misleading the consumer the terminology needs to be clearly defined and there needs to be clear and consistent standards that can be understood by both the consumer and enforcement officers. While we appreciate this intention enforcement of such restrictions will be difficult without a clear mechanism for testing or analysis to compare flavours with those described. It is difficult to see how enforcement of this could be undertaken and by whom.

### **Product information on and inside vaping and nicotine products packaging**

We propose that the packaging of all vaping and nicotine products should have:

- a full list of ingredients, including flavour agents
- expiration details
- an age restriction symbol, for example a crossed-out 18 symbol
- a standardised display of nicotine strength, for example in milligrams, millilitres or as a percentage
- nicotine delivery per puff or pouch, where relevant

We also propose that relevant products should have a nicotine warning label on the front and back of the packaging. For example, this warning could say 'This product contains nicotine which is a highly addictive substance'. Packaging should also have clear instructions on appropriate waste disposal.

Where applicable, we propose that certain products have an instruction leaflet to inform users of any appropriate warnings and the adverse effects of nicotine.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to require the consumer information listed above on and inside the packaging of all vaping products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to require the consumer information listed above on and inside the packaging of all nicotine products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on any elements of the proposal that you disagree with and why, if there are areas that you feel

could be further strengthened or areas that have been missed and should be included. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree consumer information provided on and inside the packaging of vaping and nicotine products strengthens the current approach and supports consumer protection by helping consumers make informed purchasing decisions, understand product hazards, follow safe usage instructions and avoid misuse. Information requirements on and inside packaging should be clearly defined and applied consistently across the market.

Also, clear traceability information should remain prominent on packaging. Challenges arise where enforcement officers are required to open packaging or break seals to verify product information. This can result in additional burdens for retailers through damaged stock, increased handling requirements and potential product wastage.

### **Time allowed to implement new packaging requirements**

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to update their packaging to be compliant. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with the new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean all products in scope of our vaping and nicotine product packaging proposals would need to comply with any new regulatory requirements by the end of a 12 month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that an implementation period of no longer than 12 months from the date requirements are introduced is necessary. This will allow manufacturers to change

packaging and sell through existing stock. Any extension beyond what is necessary should be carefully considered as prolonged implementation may undermine the importance of the new requirements and the public health benefits. With advances in technology, it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced, and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

Consideration could be given to an additional 6-month grace/transition period for retailers to allow them to sell through lawful transitional stock.

Clear guidance, commencement dates and evidence requirements for enforcement officers is essential to distinguish lawful transitional stock from non-compliant products, and assure consistent enforcement of the legislation throughout the UK.

Appropriate resources are needed for enforcement officers to manage the transition and dedicated to give notice to business and consumers, then 12 months allows enforcement authorities time to prepare guidance, training and a compliance workplan.

## Vape device appearance

### Restricting the colour and finish of vapes

We propose restricting the colour of vape devices, including all visible parts, to:

- white, black or grey, with only one of those colours per device
- a matt finish
- no variation in shades or opacity

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to limit the colour of a vaping device (including all visible parts) to white, black or grey with a matt finish?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that vape devices should be banned from having cosmetic lights? This would not apply to functional lights, such as those that indicate charge level.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether you think no restrictions should apply, if you think only a subset of the proposed colours should be allowed or if you think alternative colours should be allowed. Equally, you may want to highlight technical exemptions that should be considered. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that vaping devices should be restricted to plain standardised colours with a matt finish. There is no functional need for devices to have brightly coloured designs and cosmetic lights. Restricting the appearance of these devices will help reduce their appeal to children and young people, helping to discourage uptake and supporting those wanting to quit.

Standardised colour and finish of vapes helps move the consumer's focus from aesthetics appeal and encourage purchasing decisions based on product information. Permitting only a subset of colours will reduce the likelihood of appearance undermining the health and safety information, by improving the visibility of regulatory markings and warnings.

Colour restrictions on these devices also reduce the risk of packaging resembling sweets, confectionery or other consumer goods, while safety information and health warnings may be displayed more prominently. Therefore, standardised colour of the device could potentially improve the visibility and consistency of safety markings and risk information, helping consumers recognise key information more easily.

We agree on a ban of cosmetic lights on these devices as the feature may imitate other consumer goods (games) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

### **Restricting branding, imagery, and artwork on vapes**

We propose that vapes are banned from having images or artwork, except for where these may be a legal requirement, such as warnings.

We also propose that branding should be limited to a single brand name, which would be subject to a set font, size and colour on the device. This aligns with the restrictions we are proposing for heated tobacco devices.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict all branding, imagery and artwork on vapes?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether you think none or only some of the proposed restrictions should apply. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that branding, imagery and artwork should not be permitted on vapes. Such features have been used by manufacturers to increase the attractiveness and to portray vaping as being cool, particularly to children and young people. Restricting these marketing elements will help reduce the appeal to both current users and children and young people, thereby supporting efforts to reduce their use and uptake.

From a consumer safety perspective a simplified device appearance, subject to the device size, may increase visibility of required safety warnings for electronic devices, and the mandatory CE Markings and traceability requirements. However complicated artwork can be difficult to duplicate and counterfeit. Also, restricted branding may make it more difficult for consumers to distinguish between devices and identify compatible consumables and accessories. A standardised requirement for clear product identification of electrical devices helps to promote safer use.

### **Restricting the digital screens on vapes**

We propose that digital screens on vapes are prohibited, except for screens which display safety and status information such as battery and liquid levels.

Do you agree or disagree that digital screens on vapes should be restricted to only the display of safety and status information such as battery level, and be greyscale in colour (black, white and grey only)? This would not include lights that indicate status information, such as when the device is being recharged.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the digital screens on vapes should be restricted to prevent these being used for marketing purposes. This could help reduce the appeal to both current users and children and young people, thereby supporting efforts to reduce their use and uptake.

Digital displays should be restricted to functional, safety and device status information and should not be used for promotional or branding purposes. Also, subject to the device size, a screen size could compete for space with mandatory product and safety information required on the device. However, for consumer safety, colour displays can provide important benefits by highlighting warnings, maintenance requirements, battery conditions and device faults more clearly than monochrome displays. The use of limited colours for these purposes may improve consumer understanding and support the safe operation of the device.

### **Stopping vapes imitating other products**

Currently vapes can and do copy the design of other products, such as highlighter pens, refillable water bottles and game devices.

We propose to limit the potential appeal of vapes by stopping them from looking like other products.

Do you agree or disagree that vapes should not be permitted to mimic the design of other products and items? The objective of this proposal is to limit the appeal or attractiveness of vapes.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments if you think there should be any exemptions to this proposal. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree prohibiting vapes from imitating other products aligns with the proposed restrictions for heated tobacco devices and helps ensure a consistent regulatory approach across the market.

Food imitation legislation currently exists under EU General Product Safety Regulation 2023/988. However, work needs to be carried out to ensure this can be applied to vapes and vaping products. Legislation should prevent product endorsements that mislead consumers about the risks of using products that imitate other consumer goods (games devices) and create confusion about the manufacturer, or undermines health warnings and consumer understanding of safe use and risks of the product.

From a consumer safety perspective, requirements that prevent products from being designed to resemble toys, food, cosmetics or other everyday consumer goods would help reduce confusion about the nature of the product and its associated risks. Such measures may also help prevent accidental handling or misuse, particularly by children and other vulnerable groups.

### **Time allowed to implement new device requirements**

If and when new requirements are introduced, manufacturers will need time to ensure their devices are compliant. Retailers may also need time to sell old stock that does not comply with new law.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 12 months would be enough. This would mean all vapes would need to comply with any new regulatory requirements by the end of a 12 month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposed implementation period of no less than 12 months (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have considered to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We believe that an implementation period of no longer than 12 months from the date the requirements are introduced is necessary. This will allow manufacturers to change packaging and sell through existing stock. Any extension beyond what is necessary should be carefully considered as prolonged implementation may undermine the importance of the new requirements and the public health benefits. With advances in technology, it should not take long for new production lines to be introduced and new packaging produced to meet the requirements.

Consideration could be given to an additional 6-month grace/transition period for retailers to allow them to sell through lawful transitional stock.

Clear guidance, commencement dates and evidence requirements for enforcement officers is essential to distinguish lawful transitional stock from non-compliant products and assure consistent enforcement of the legislation throughout the UK.

Appropriate resources are required for enforcement officers to manage the transition and dedicated to give notice to business and consumers, then 12 months allows enforcement authorities time to prepare guidance, training and a compliance workplan.

## **Retail display**

### **Requested temporary and incidental displays in England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

Under existing legislation, tobacco products cannot be displayed inside or outside most shops across the UK. However, tobacco products can be shown to a customer following a request. The request must be by a person who is of the legal age of sale in England, Wales and Northern Ireland. We call this a 'requested temporary display' in this consultation.

Requested temporary displays enable informed purchasing decisions. As a result of a requested temporary display, other people nearby may also incidentally see these products. Current legislation in England, Wales and Northern Ireland also makes allowances for:

- restocking
- staff training
- pricing
- display unit maintenance

We call this 'incidental display' in this consultation.

### **Restricting the retail display of cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

#### **Tobacco products**

We propose that the requested temporary display of all tobacco products should only be allowed from behind a sales counter, and not another location within a retail setting.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to introduce a legal requirement that the requested temporary display of all tobacco products must take place from behind a sales counter?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

### **Cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products**

We propose that most of the restrictions and allowances that apply to the display of tobacco products should apply to cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products too.

This includes:

- restricting the display of these products outside of all retail settings and inside the majority of retail settings
- providing allowances enabling display unit restocking, maintenance, pricing, staff training and requested temporary displays
- permitting the same maximum visible areas (1.5 square meters)

We also propose that the requested temporary display of these products should only be allowed from behind a sales counter, and not another location within a retail setting in the same way as we are proposing to make this a legal requirement for tobacco products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of cigarette papers? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of heated and other tobacco-related devices? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of herbal smoking products? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- Agree
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that it should be a legal requirement that all requested temporary displays of tobacco products are made behind a sales counter to help ensure this is controlled by retail staff and viewed only by the customer. It will also ensure that the rules around temporary display are clear and will assist with consistent enforcement. This may also help prevent retailers from trying to circumvent the restriction by creating promotional display stands containing these products in a different shop floor area uncontrolled by staff.

We believe that all tobacco products and accessories should be subject to the same display restrictions. Cigarette papers are widely sold, including in shops not selling cigarettes or tobacco. Restricting their visibility would help reduce their accessibility and appeal and potential for impulse purchases. This may support those wanting to quit smoking and preventing children and young people from starting.

We believe that herbal smoking products, heated tobacco devices and other tobacco-related devices should be subject to display restrictions and only sold from behind a counter. By introducing the same restrictions for all tobacco products this highlights and reinforces the message to the consumer that these products are not risk free. This will also help prevent the normalisation of smoking related behaviours and reduce the potential for such products to act as a gateway to smoking cigarettes.

It is vital that all such products are subject to the same restrictions to minimise opportunities for impulse purchases and reduce their accessibility and appeal, particularly to children and young people.

### **Retail display of prices for cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

Retailers can display prices for tobacco products in 3 formats:

- a single price list that can be permanently on display at each point of sale, but must be text-only and subject to size and font requirements
- a picture price list that can include product images and can only be shown in response to a request by a person who is of the legal age of sale
- small price labels that can be placed on the covered shelf or on the display unit where the product is kept, pending sale

We propose to apply the same price display principles to:

- cigarette papers
- all tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices
- herbal smoking products

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for cigarette papers?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for all tobacco-related devices including heated tobacco devices?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for herbal smoking products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree

- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that the display of price lists for cigarette papers should be restricted in line with the current requirements for tobacco products. We also support extending these restrictions to price lists for herbal smoking products and tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices to ensure a consistent approach for all smoking and tobacco related products

It is vital that size limits are not increased as price lists could easily become an alternative form of in store promotion.

In addition, we believe that there should be a restriction placed on retailers to ensure that price lists only show the current price and do not draw attention to price promotions or reductions.

### **Exemptions to display restrictions for tobacco products, cigarette papers, tobacco-related devices and herbal smoking products in England, Wales and Northern Ireland**

Across the UK, there are exemptions that allow for tobacco products and their prices to be on display inside certain premises. These premises include:

- relevant trade premises (those that are only accessible to people that work in the tobacco trade)
- specialist tobacconists
- bulk tobacconists (including duty-free tobacco areas)

In England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we propose to maintain current exemptions for tobacco products for relevant trade premises and specialist tobacconists.

If and when additional retail display restrictions are brought in, we also propose that relevant trade premises and specialist tobacconists will continue to be allowed to display the following products, and their prices:

- cigarette papers
- heated and other tobacco-related devices
- herbal smoking products

We propose to remove the bulk tobacconist exemption for tobacco products and to not replicate it for any other products in scope of this consultation, since it presents a situation where products may be visibly accessible to the public, including children and young people.

### Display exemptions for trade premises

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of cigarette papers and their prices in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices, and their prices in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of herbal smoking products and their prices in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, why you think certain exemptions should or should not be considered as well as any additional exemptions you think are necessary. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

**We agree that for the purpose of those working in the trade it is reasonable that cigarette papers, herbal smoking products and tobacco related devices, including heated tobacco devices and their prices are displayed in relevant trade premises, provided access is restricted to those over 18 years of age.**

**Any exemption should only apply where access is restricted to persons engaged in the tobacco trade and is not available to the general public.**

### Display exemptions for specialist tobacconists

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of cigarette papers and their prices inside specialist tobacconists?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco devices, and their prices inside specialist tobacconists?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of herbal smoking products and their prices inside specialist tobacconists?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think proposed exemptions should or should not be considered as well as any additional exemptions you think are necessary. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

**We agree that the display of cigarette papers, tobacco-related devices, including heated tobacco, herbal smoking products, and their prices can be displayed within specialist tobacconists, provided access is restricted to those over 18 years of age. They should not be able to have any advertisement visible from the outside of their premises. We believe that this should include price display lists as these could be used as a form of advertisement or to highlight promotions and be visible to children and young people.**

### **Display exemptions for bulk tobacconists**

We propose to remove the bulk tobacconist exemption for tobacco products and their prices and to not replicate it for any other products in scope of this consultation. Keeping the exemption would mean children and young people may still be able to see these products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to remove and not replicate this exemption for all products in scope of this consultation?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. Where possible please include any information on any costs to bulk tobacconists associated with removing this exemption for tobacco products,

including the number of businesses likely to be affected. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that bulk tobacconists should be subject to the same restrictions as other retail premises that sell tobacco products. It is important that these establishments do not become a loophole that undermines the spirit of the regulations. We also believe that the regulations should be extended to include a restriction on persons under the age of 18 being able to gain access to these areas. These areas should be subjected to age restriction and verification of age upon entrance.

### **Definition of vaping products**

Throughout this section, we refer to 'vaping products'. This includes vapes, as well as other vape components and refill containers sold separately from the device.

### **Restricting the display of vaping and nicotine products across the UK**

We propose that the display of vaping products and nicotine products is restricted.

We propose that the same allowances for temporary and incidental displays as we have proposed for most other products within scope of this consultation are applied across the UK. This includes a temporary requested display taking place behind a sales counter. This would make the maximum visible area permitted for a requested temporary display or incidental display:

- 1.5 square metres in England, Wales and Northern Ireland
- 0.1 square metres in Scotland

We also propose that a requested temporary or incidental display of vaping or nicotine products must not result in the display of:

- tobacco products (and smoking-related products in Scotland)
- cigarette papers
- heated and other tobacco-related devices
- herbal smoking products

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of vaping products? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of nicotine products? This would include the requirement that their requested temporary display must take place from behind a sales counter.

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree that the requested temporary or incidental display of vaping and nicotine products should not result in the display of tobacco products (and smoking-related products in Scotland), cigarette papers, heated and other tobacco devices or herbal smoking products?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

We agree that any display of vaping and nicotine products should not result in the display of any other product. Each product should be stored independently to ensure no deliberate or inadvertent display takes place during a request for one type of product.

We support the removal of the display of nicotine and vaping products as we believe this will reduce the attractiveness and availability to children and young people, and support those wanting to quit vaping or using nicotine products. In addition, ensuring that this display can only take place behind a sales counter will further strengthen these measures by ensuring products are managed and only visible to the requesting customer.

### **Display of prices of vaping and nicotine products across the UK**

Across the UK, we propose to apply the same principles for the display of prices of tobacco products to:

- vaping products
- nicotine products

We propose that the price lists for vaping and nicotine products are permitted to also include nicotine strength and ingredients. This will help consumers make informed purchases.

We propose that separate price lists must be used for vaping and nicotine products and for tobacco products, for both permanently displayed price lists and picture prices lists, given vaping and nicotine products carry lower levels of harm than tobacco products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for vaping products, and allow for additional information on nicotine strength and ingredients?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to restrict the display of prices for nicotine products and allow for additional information on nicotine strength and ingredients?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. This could include, for example, sharing comments on why you think our proposed restrictions should or should not apply to certain types of products. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

**We agree that price lists for vaping and nicotine products should be aligned with tobacco products and additional information on ingredients and strength permitted.**

### **Exemptions to display restrictions of vaping and nicotine products across the UK**

Across the UK, it is permitted to display tobacco products inside premises that are only accessible to people working in the tobacco trade as long as this is not visible to the public from the outside. We propose to have this exemption to allow for relevant trade premises to display vaping products and nicotine products.

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of vaping products in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to allow for the display of nicotine products in relevant trade premises?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answers. If you have comments on business exemptions to our display proposals, please include them here. This could include, for example, why you

think certain exemptions should or should not be considered as well as any additional exemptions you think are necessary. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

**We agree that for trade only premises the display of vaping and nicotine products should be permitted.**

### **Time allowed to implement all new display restrictions**

If and when new requirements are introduced, retailers will need time to update their shops to comply with the necessary changes.

There should be a long enough notice period before new requirements come into force. This period would start from when the details of the new requirements are made clear. We have not yet decided what is the best way to share those details, but it could be, for example, in a government response to this consultation or when regulations are presented to the relevant national Parliament.

We propose that a minimum notice period of 6 months would be enough. This would mean the display of products in scope would need to comply with any new requirements by the end of a 6-month implementation period. However, a longer or shorter notice period may be needed, and we welcome views on this.

Do you agree with our proposal that there should be a minimum of 6 months' notice (from when the detail of any new requirements is clear)?

- **Agree**
- Neither agree nor disagree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer. This could include, for example, sharing comments on whether the proposed implementation period should be shorter or longer, or on implications that the proposed implementation period could have for manufacturers, retailers or other groups. Please reference any evidence that you have taken into account to support your response. (Optional, maximum 600 words. Please do not include any personal information in your response.)

**We believe that 6 months is a reasonable time for retailers to implement the necessary changes to ensure the display restrictions are met. The introduction of the display ban for tobacco products highlighted that this could be achieved in a simple and cost-effective way.**

**We do not feel that any longer than 6 months is required. This balances the need for action, to remove promotional displays which may encourage children and young people from starting to use the relevant products and supporting those who wish to quit, with the time required for District Councils to prepare for advisory and enforcement activities and for retailers to comply.**

### **Consultation stage impact assessments**

We have published consultation stage impact assessments alongside this consultation. The Scottish government, Welsh government and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland have also published impact assessments for proposals relating to retail display.

We would like to hear about any measurable impacts we have not considered in these initial impact assessments.

The data and evidence used in the impact assessments reflects the best available at the time of their completion in October 2025 (May 2026 for the impact assessment for Scotland and June 2026 for the impact assessments for Wales and Northern Ireland). Following this consultation, we will update the impact assessments as appropriate, including in consideration of information we gather through responses and any new data and evidence made available since their publication.

For each impact assessment, you will be asked the following questions. You can respond to as many questions and impact assessments as you want to.

For the retail display impact assessment, you can also respond about the impact assessments for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Please make it clear which one you're responding to.

If you have any evidence or data to inform the assumptions or estimates in the consultation stage impact assessment, please enter it in the relevant free text box.

Please do not include any personal information in your response.

Provide any evidence to inform our estimates in the impact assessment of the benefits of the proposed policy. For example, information on the impact that options will have on the number of people using products in scope and/or health benefits associated with any reduction in usage. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Provide any evidence to inform our estimates in the impact assessment of the costs of the proposed policy. For example, information on profit margins for manufacturers, wholesalers and retailers, and/or costs and process of product redesign. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Specify any stakeholders that may be impacted by the proposed policy and/or costs and benefits that we have not identified in the impact assessment. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Outline any potential unintended consequences of the proposed policy that we have not identified in the impact assessment. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

Provide any other comments to inform our assumptions or analysis in the impact assessment. (Optional, maximum 600 words)

## **File upload**

If you would like to upload a document to support your submission, you will be able to do so. Please do not upload information that could identify you or another member of the public.

|                                                     |                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Sustainability and Environment Committee                                             |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | 19 August 2026                                                                       |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Response to The Toy Safety Regulations: call for evidence                            |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment                                      |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Geraldine O'Callaghan, SEHO (Health and Safety, Consumer Safety and Tobacco Control) |

|                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                        |  |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|--|
| <b>For decision</b> | <b>X</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <b>For noting only</b> |  |
| <b>1.0</b>          | <b>Purpose</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                        |  |
| 1.1                 | <p>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 Office for Product Safety &amp; Standards on regulatory proposals under The Toy (Safety Regulations) 2011.</p> <p>The consultation seeks views to implement the new EU Toys Regulation proposals to achieve a higher level of child protection and reduce the number of non-compliant and unsafe toys on the UK market to the Office for Product Safety &amp; Standards.</p> |                        |  |
| <b>2.0</b>          | <b>Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                        |  |
| 2.1                 | <p>The Toys (Safety Regulations) 2011 ('UK Toys Regulations') implemented the requirements of the EU Toy Safety Directive 2009/48/EC ('EU Toys Directive') in the UK. The EU Withdrawal Act 2018 preserved these Regulations and enabled them to be amended to continue to function effectively after the UK left the EU.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                        |  |
| 2.2                 | <p>The UK are reviewing the UK Toys Regulations to ensure they support economic growth and innovation whilst ensuring toys are safe for children. It is committed to reducing possible trade friction and simplifying cross-border transactions for suppliers, where it is in the interest of UK businesses and consumers.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                        |  |
| 2.3                 | <p>Under the Windsor Framework, certain EU product regulations apply in Northern Ireland (NI), including the EU Toys Regulation, to facilitate NI's dual access to the UK internal market and EU Single Market. The continued recognition of CE marking for toys in GB could complement the Windsor Framework arrangements by helping to smooth the flow of trade within the UK internal market. It would simplify processes for NI supply chains, supporting reduced compliance costs for business.</p>                                                                     |                        |  |
| 2.4                 | <p>There is an opportunity to tailor product safety and conformity assessment frameworks to our domestic priorities. There is a need to ensure that the UK's toys legislation supports this crucial sector, with regulation that is pragmatic, proportionate, and globally competitive. The UK Government aims to make sure that whatever approach is taken allows</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                        |  |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
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|            | the UK to respond flexibly to global market developments and promote growth, while ensuring child safety.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.1        | <p>The key objective of EU new Toy Safety Regulation is to achieve a higher level of child protection and reduce the number of non-compliant and unsafe toys on the EU market. Whilst some requirements remain the same, the EU Toys Regulation introduces some key changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stricter requirements for chemical substances</li> <li>• The use of digital product passports for toys</li> <li>• The regulation of toys which are internet connected, and toys which use AI</li> </ul>                                               |
| 3.2        | <p>The UK Government recognises that updating UK rules in a similar way to the EU Toy Safety Regulation may have unintended impacts, so this Call for Evidence will build an evidence base on potential changes and impacts to toys legislation to help understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The potential benefits and costs to businesses and consumers if similar changes to the EU regulation were implemented UK wide.</li> <li>• The potential benefits and costs of continuing recognition of EU toys requirements, including CE marking.</li> </ul> |
| 3.3        | <p>From a trade perspective, continuing to recognise EU product requirements would reduce friction for UK manufacturers selling into the EU and for those seeking to import products into GB. Taking a similar approach across the UK to the EU Toy Safety Regulation would also mean the rules for placing a product on the market in GB are aligned with those which apply to products in Northern Ireland.</p>                                                                                                                                                               |
| 3.4        | <p>Maintaining a high level of toy safety while supporting regulatory consistency across the UK should be a key consideration in the development of future toy safety legislation. Minimising unnecessary divergence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland would assist effective market surveillance, provide greater clarity for businesses and consumers, and support local authorities in fulfilling their advisory and statutory responsibilities.</p>                                                                                                                |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 3.1        | <p>Members are asked to approve the submission, detailed in Appendix 1, in response to the call for evidence from the Office for Product Safety &amp; Standards on considerations for recognition of new EU product requirements to The Toy (Safety Regulations) within UK.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4.1        | None                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks</p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>                                              |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
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| 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> |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 7.1        | Appendix 1 – Environmental Health Departments call for evidence response                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>8.0</b> | <b>Background Documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 8.1        | <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/toys-safety-regulations-call-for-evidence/toys-safety-regulations-call-for-evidence">https://www.gov.uk/government/calls-for-evidence/toys-safety-regulations-call-for-evidence/toys-safety-regulations-call-for-evidence</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

**Question 1: What factors should be considered if the UK were to continue its recognition of new EU product requirements for toys, including the CE marking?**

**1. What practicalities or wider issues might continued recognition of EU product requirements for toys involve?**

In the opinion of this District Council, continued recognition of EU product requirements would support greater consistency in toy safety requirements across Northern Ireland (NI) and Great Britain (GB) and help reduce some of the complexity associated with enforcing differing product safety regimes across the UK. This approach would minimise unnecessary regulatory divergence, making it easier to identify compliant products and determine applicable safety obligations.

It is our understanding that the EU Toy Safety Regulation is intended to strengthen toy safety standards through enhanced controls on harmful substances and the introduction of a Digital Product Passport (DPP). From this Council's perspective, these measures have the potential to improve consumer protection and support enforcement activity, particularly in relation to imported products and toys sold through online marketplaces. However, consideration needs to be given to the following:

- Providing clarity for enforcement authorities and economic operators regarding applicable requirements. Clear guidance and enforcement regulations must be provided by the Office of Product Safety & Standards (OPSS) to support effective enforcement and supporting consistency across different parts of the UK.
- Practical, detailed guidance outlining the new requirements should be developed for economic operators in all stages of the supply chain to assist with understanding and compliance.
- To avoid future divergence, OPSS must consider and communicate any future amendments to EU toy safety legislation in a timely manner that supports effective enforcement.
- The owners of online marketplaces must be more accountable to ensure that only compliant and safe toys are made available to consumers.
- Any new chemical safety requirements should complement existing REACH and CLP-related legislation, and the enforcement mechanism for these should be clear.
- The Council supports measures that contribute to the protection of public health and the environment from harmful chemicals, while encouraging the development of safer products.

## **2. What practicalities (including additional costs or cost savings, or administrative activities) might this involve for economic operators and traders?**

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.

## **3. Overall, would you be in favour of continued recognition of the EU's toys requirements?**

Yes. From the perspective of this District Council, continued recognition of EU toy safety requirements would help support regulatory consistency across the UK and minimise divergence between the arrangements applying in Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

## **4. What would you see as the benefits of this approach?**

In the opinion of this District Council, the potential benefits include:

- Consistent enforcement of toy safety requirements across the UK market through reduced regulatory divergence between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. This will assist enforcement authorities when assessing compliance.
- Improved opportunities for national coordinated market surveillance activity.
- Less confusion for consumers and economic operators regarding applicable conformity markings and safety requirements.
- Enhanced protection from harmful chemicals through closer alignment with REACH and CLP requirements.
- Improved product traceability and access to compliance information through the Digital Product Passport.
- A potential reduction in the availability of unsafe and non-compliant toys, particularly those sold through online marketplaces.

## **5. What would be the result if we were not to continue recognising EU product requirements in the new EU Toy Safety Regulation 2025/2509 for goods placed on the market in GB?**

In the opinion of this District Council, failure to continue recognition of the regulation will lead to increased divergence between the regulatory arrangements applicable in Northern Ireland and those in Great Britain.

In our view, if the Regulation were not recognised in Great Britain, some of the potential benefits relating to enhanced chemical safety requirements, Digital Product Passports, strengthened online marketplace obligations and improved market surveillance arrangements may not be realised.

Should the UK choose not to recognise the proposed Regulation, businesses may find themselves operating within arrangements that are not fully aligned with either the EU or GB market, creating additional complexity for businesses, consumers and enforcement authorities.

## Question 2

### **1. What practicalities or wider issues might these new toy safety measures involve if adopted across the UK?**

In the opinion of this District Council practical considerations for enforcement officers include:

- The need for an easily accessible, well-resourced testing laboratory, which is accredited to carry out all the required testing (including allergen and chemical analysis).
- The difficulties for Councils when accessing and sharing information due to concerns regarding potential breaches of GDPR. This will only be exacerbated with new online and AI requirements. However there is an essential need for collaborative working with all the relevant statutory bodies across the UK, with easy access required to systems that enable information sharing between District Councils, or a legislative provision included to permit the sharing of information within and between relevant statutory authorities.
- The provision of swift and relevant intelligence in an effort to be aware of and respond to technology and online systems, which tend to develop more rapidly than regulation can be updated.
- Being aware of managing expectations around competency and capacity, especially with advances in technology, allergen awareness, AI etc, given market surveillance activities are already limited by resource.
- A requirement for OPSS to remain aware of Northern Ireland's distinct regulatory and enforcement landscape, and the challenges faced in liaising with a competent authority that does not have a dedicated local resource or physical presence to address needs as they arise.

In the opinion of this district council, wider issues include:

- Ensuring consistent application of legislative requirements across all UK jurisdictions.
- Providing clear and appropriate guidance and transition arrangements for enforcement authorities and economic operators.
- Ensuring enforcement authorities have access to the information, training and resources necessary to carry out their functions effectively.

- Facilitating information-sharing arrangements that support product safety investigations and corrective actions.
- Implementing the Digital Product Passport framework in a manner that enables all relevant stakeholders to access and utilise compliance information effectively.
- Supporting compliance with enhanced chemical safety requirements that align with existing REACH and CLP frameworks.
- Ensuring online marketplaces understand and comply with any additional safety responsibilities and are accountable for the products they supply.

It is our understanding that the proposed legislation takes the form of a Regulation, allowing for direct and consistent application across EU Member States, including Northern Ireland. In our view, adoption of a comparable approach across the UK would promote greater consistency of requirements and enforcement practices.

## **2. What practicalities might this involve for economic operators and traders?**

As regulators within a market surveillance authority, we do not consider ourselves best placed to comment in detail on operational or financial impacts for businesses.

In our view, the main practical implication for economic operators will be understanding and complying with the revised requirements under the new framework, particularly the enhanced chemical safety provisions and Digital Product Passport obligations.

## **3. What additional costs or cost savings, or additional administrative activities, would be incurred from these changes?**

As regulators within a market surveillance authority, we do not consider ourselves best placed to comment in detail on operational or financial impacts for businesses.

## **4. Overall, would you be in favour of legislation to introduce similar measures?**

Yes. In principle, this District Council would support measures that maintain a high level of toy safety while promoting regulatory consistency across the UK and reducing unnecessary divergence between Northern Ireland and Great Britain.

## **5. What would you see as the benefits of introducing the same approach?**

In the opinion of this District Council, potential benefits include:

- A more consistent regulatory framework across the UK.
- Greater clarity for enforcement authorities.
- Simplified enforcement and compliance assessment.
- Reduced risk of regulatory divergence between Northern Ireland and Great Britain
- Consistent consumer protection standards.

- Improved cooperation and information-sharing between enforcement bodies.
- Better protection of children from harmful chemicals.
- Increased product traceability through Digital Product Passports.
- Improved controls relating to imported products and toys sold through online marketplaces.
- Enhanced consumer confidence in toy safety.

**6. Would there be an impact on your business operations or any unintended consequences if a similar approach was not introduced across the UK?**

From an enforcement perspective, we consider that differing regulatory requirements between Northern Ireland and Great Britain would increase complexity when determining the applicable legal requirements and assessing compliance. As a district council we need to consider the impact this will have on limited and competing resources.

In our opinion, failure to introduce a similar approach will also increase divergence from the regulatory framework applicable in Northern Ireland under the Windsor Framework, making enforcement activities, business compliance and consumer understanding more challenging.

**7. How might introducing the same approach in the UK impact on your organisation's innovation and growth prospects?**

As regulators within a market surveillance authority, we do not consider ourselves best placed to comment in detail on innovative and growth prospects.

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**Question 3**

**1. What opportunities are there to achieve lower administrative burdens or administrative savings?**

As regulators within a market surveillance authority, we are not in a position to quantify or assess administrative costs or savings incurred by businesses.

**2. Are there any other ways that regulation of toys in the UK could be improved to reduce the burden of regulation on businesses?**

While this authority is not best placed to comment directly on regulatory burdens experienced by businesses, from an enforcement perspective we consider that the introduction of a requirement for all economic operators to register with their Local Authority / District Council for Product Safety, similar to current legal requirements for food businesses, would assist with more effective businesses support and engagement.

It would also improve communication of new legislative requirements, and support more effective coordination and communication between regulatory authorities based on the Home Authority arrangements when offering advice and guidance to the relevant businesses.

**Overall, in the opinion of this authority, maintaining a high level of toy safety while supporting regulatory consistency across the UK should be a key consideration in the development of future toy safety legislation. From our enforcement perspective, minimising unnecessary divergence between Great Britain and Northern Ireland would assist effective market surveillance, provide greater clarity for businesses and consumers, and support local authorities in fulfilling their statutory enforcement responsibilities.**

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| <b>Report to:</b>        | Sustainability & Environment Committee                              |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>  | 19 August 2026                                                      |
| <b>Subject:</b>          | DAERA consultation on the Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations |
| <b>Reporting Officer</b> | Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment                     |
| <b>Contact Officer</b>   | James Campbell, Head of Environmental Health (Residential)          |

|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |   |                 |  |
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| <table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | For decision    | X | For noting only |  |
| For decision                                                                             | X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | For noting only |   |                 |  |
| 1.0                                                                                      | <b>Purpose and Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                 |   |                 |  |
| 1.1                                                                                      | 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 DAERA’s consultation on proposed legislative amendments to strengthen air quality standards for particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) in Northern Ireland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                 |   |                 |  |
| 1.2                                                                                      | The aim of the amendments is to reduce harmful air pollution, protect public health, and align more closely with international (WHO) guidance and emerging standards across the UK and Ireland. As part of the consultation process, DAERA have issued 14 questions for respondents to consider and respond to. Proposed responses to the 14 questions have been provided at Appendix 1 to this Committee report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.0                                                                                      | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.1                                                                                      | DAERA have highlighted that particulate matter is comprised of primary components (those directly emitted) and secondary components (those formed in the atmosphere), and that the potential adverse impacts of particulate matter upon human health are well established. PM2.5 (airborne particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 2.5 micrometres (µm) or less) and PM10 (airborne particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 micrometres (µm) or less) can both act directly as respiratory irritants in the airways. For PM2.5, in particular, the particles may cross from the lungs into the bloodstream, where they may have indirect systemic effects, such as increasing the risk of cardiovascular disease and stroke. |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.2                                                                                      | DAERA have additionally highlighted that The National Atmospheric Emissions Inventory, 2025 publication entitled, ‘Air Pollutant Inventories for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland: 2005-2023’ indicates that for primary PM2.5, key emission sources within Northern Ireland include domestic burning (26.1%); industrial combustion (9.1%); road transport (16.9%) and; solvent use and industrial processes (10.1%).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.3                                                                                      | For PM10, key emission sources include agriculture; industrial processes; residential, commercial and public sector combustion and; transport. Agriculture produces 97% of current ammonia (NH3) emissions, which can persist in the atmosphere, be transported for long distances and can react with other ambient pollutants, including nitrogen dioxide (NO2) and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                 |   |                 |  |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | <p>sulphur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), to form ammonium aerosols, which are precursors to particulate matter formation, including PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>. The Committee will be aware that particulate matter is regarded as a transboundary pollutant.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 2.4        | <p>The draft Regulations propose tighter annual average standards:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PM<sub>10</sub> o Limit value: reduced from 40 → 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup></li> <li>o Objective: reduced from 40 → 20 µg/m<sup>3</sup></li> <li>• PM<sub>2.5</sub> o Limit value: reduced from 25 → 10 µg/m<sup>3</sup></li> <li>o Target value: reduced from 25 → 8 µg/m<sup>3</sup></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 2.5        | <p>DAERA have advised that to ensure consistency and to provide a 'lead in' time, all the new annual average limits, targets and objectives will have an intended compliance date of 1st January 2028 and each calendar year thereafter.</p> <p>This date is considered an unrealistic compliance date, in terms of the various strategies and policies that will need to be developed and mitigation actions that may need to be taken by Departments and councils to achieve the newly proposed limits, targets and objectives for particulate matter.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 2.6        | <p>In summary, it is the Officer's recommendation that Newry Mourne and Down District Council should support DAERA's ambitions to improve ambient air quality across Northern Ireland through the proposed tightening of the various particulate matter standards. However, whilst the importance of good air quality and the associated benefits to human health are recognised, officers are strongly recommending that the current legislative framework underpinning the Local Air Quality Management regime within Northern Ireland urgently requires additional amendments and changes, alongside the introduction of a clear and ambitions policy direction from key government Departments, to include DAERA, in order to bring about the necessary positive changes.</p> |
| 2.7        | <p>Members are asked to note that upon Committee agreement, the consultation response will be provided to DAERA by 31st August 2026, indicating that the consultation response remains subject to ratification at a meeting of full Council on 7 September 2026, and that the consultation response may therefore be subject to amendment.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 3.1        | <p>Members are requested to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Note the contents of this report concerning DAERA proposals to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>) limits, targets, and objectives in Northern Ireland.</li> <li>• Approve the proposed consultation response, provided at Appendix 1 to this report, and agree that it is submitted to DAERA by the consultation deadline of 31st August 2026, subject to approval at Full Council.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| 4.1        | <p>There are no immediate financial or resource implications associated with the council's consultation response concerning DAERA's proposal to tighten annual average particulate matter (PM10 and PM2.5) limits, targets, and objectives in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Council officers do submit annual applications to the DAERA Local Air Quality Management grant process to support the council's delivery of its statutory local air quality management functions, including in connection with any necessary addition particulate matter monitoring.</p>                   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></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><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></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>                                                         |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6.1        | <p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|-----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | <div>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></div> <div>If yes, please complete the following:</div> <div>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></div> |
| 7.0 | Appendices                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 7.1 | Appendix 1 Draft consultation response                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 8.0 | Background Documents                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 8.1 | None                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## Appendix1.

*(note first 6 questions concern the respondent)*

**Proposed new annual average limits, targets and objectives for particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>).**

**7. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average limit value of 20 µgm<sup>-3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub>?**

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question. (1,500 character limit).

Newry Mourne and Down District Council notes that DAERA propose to adopt an annual mean limit value of 20 µgm<sup>-3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub> to be achieved by 1 January 2028; equivalent to interim target 4 of the *WHO global air quality guidelines*. The WHO annual mean AQG is 15 µgm<sup>-3</sup> and DAERA have advised that further policy interventions will be required before stricter PM<sub>10</sub> standards are introduced.

**8. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average objective of 20 µgm<sup>-3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub>?**

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share reason for views or any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1,500 character limit).

As in response to question 7. Council notes that DAERA are proposing to establish an annual average objective of 20 µgm<sup>-3</sup> for PM<sub>10</sub> to be achieved by 1 January 2028; equivalent to interim target 4 of the *2021 WHO global air quality guidelines*. Responsibility for pursuit of this PM<sub>10</sub> annual mean objective will fall to district councils and competent authorities. The WHO PM<sub>10</sub> annual mean AQG is 15 µgm<sup>-3</sup> but DAERA have advised that further policy interventions will be required before stricter PM<sub>10</sub> standards are introduced.

**9. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average limit value of 10  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ?**

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

The Council acknowledges the significant health disbenefits associated with  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and therefore welcomes the proposed tightening of the annual mean limit value to 10  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$ . Council notes that responsibility for achieving the annual mean limit value will fall to government Departments. Council further notes that the WHO annual average AQG is 5  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  but that DAERA have highlighted that further policy interventions will be needed before stricter PM standards can be introduced.

**10. To what extent do you agree with the proposed new annual average target value of 8  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ?**

- Strongly agree
- **Agree**
- Neutral
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

Newry Mourne and Down District Council acknowledges the significant human health disbenefits associated with  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  and therefore welcomes the proposed tightening of the  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  annual mean target value. Council notes that DAERA have proposed a new annual mean target value of 8  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ; a welcome and significant reduction of 17  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  from the previous annual mean target value of 25  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  and 2  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  less than the proposed 10  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  annual mean limit value; acknowledging that a '*target value*' is a level fixed with the aim of avoiding, preventing or reducing harmful effects on human health and / or the environment as a whole, to be attained where possible over a given period.

Council notes that the annual mean target value is to be achieved by government Departments. Additional policy and mitigation measures will be necessary in order to achieve the proposed annual mean target value of 8  $\mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ .

**11. To what extent do you agree with the proposed compliance date of 1 January 2028 for these new limit values, target values and objectives for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>?**

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- Neutral
- Disagree
- **Strongly disagree**

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

Council notes that the revised annual average objectives are to be achieved each calendar year, with a first compliance year of 2027. To ensure consistency and a lead in time, annual average standards are to have a compliance date of 1 January 2028. Proposed amendments to the existing particulate matter standards are to be made in late 2026.

As the first compliance year is 2027, with a compliance date of 1 January 2028, DAERA are advised that the first formal assessment of 2027 monitoring data will be via the 2028 Progress Report. It is unclear therefore why DAERA have indicated that a compliance date of 1 January 2028 provides an appropriate 'lead in' time. Moreover, the consultation document highlights that other administrations that have adopted strengthened PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards have adopted compliance dates of up to 2040.

In setting a PM<sub>2.5</sub> target for England, Defra published evidence reports that included trajectories for various target level scenarios. The trajectories were modelled for emission reduction scenarios and a target baseline to provide a timeline for 2025, 2030, 2040 & 2050, which was then used to inform the likely dates for target achievability. It is unclear if DAERA have undertaken a comparable particulate matter achievability assessment for NI. It is recommended, however, that dates for achieving strengthened NI particulate matter standards should be informed by an equivalently robust scientific trajectory assessment.

Council considers, therefore, that 1 January 2028 is an unrealistic compliance date, in terms of strategies and policies that will need to be developed and mitigation actions that may need to be taken by Departments and councils to achieve, or be in pursuit of new limit values, target values and objectives for PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>.

## Impact Assessments

### 12. Do you agree or disagree with the conclusions of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA)?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- **Neutral**
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

N/A

### 13. Do you agree or disagree with the conclusions of the Equality and Disability screening?

- Strongly agree
- Agree
- **Neutral**
- Disagree
- Strongly disagree

Please share any further views or suggestions you have in relation to this question (1500 character limit).

N/A

## Additional comments

### 14. Do you have any additional comments you wish to raise with regards to the draft Regulations or consultation documents? (1,500 character limit).

- Council notes that DAERA consulted on a NI *Clean Air Strategy* in 2020, but no Strategy has yet been published, despite consultation into tightened PM standards.
- In delivering LAQM functions, AQ officers will refer to LAQM.TG22. Assessment tools provided in TG22 may require revisions to reflect the new PM<sub>10</sub> annual mean objective.

# **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting No 106**

### **MINUTES**

**Thursday 28 May 2026**

**Using MS Teams**

#### **Members Present:**

Councillor A Bennington (*Chair*)  
Councillor M Goodman  
Councillor A Givan  
Councillor G McKeen (*Deputy Chair*)  
Alderman M Morrow  
Councillor R Quigley  
Councillor D Lee-Surginor

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

#### **Members' Apologies:**

Councillor H Cushinan  
Councillor C Blaney  
Councillor E Thompson  
Councillor J Cochrane  
Alderman S Copeland  
Councillor M Collins  
Councillor E McDonough-Brown  
Alderman S Skillen  
Alderman O Gawith  
Councillor T Andrews  
Councillor J Brennan

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

#### **Officers Present:**

T Walker  
H Campbell (*Secretary*)  
K Boal  
J Green  
M Lavery  
G Bannister  
K Patterson  
A McCann  
G Patterson  
C Hunter  
D Carey  
S Murphy

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

#### **Officers' Apologies:**

S Leonard  
R Moore

Belfast City Council  
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

**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**

Due to quorum issues, it was decided to move some reports to the beginning of the meeting in case some Members needed to leave the meeting and the quorum was lost.

**Item 14 - Minutes of Special Joint Committee Meeting 105 held on 8 May 2026 'in committee'**

The Joint Committee approved the minutes and there were no matters arising. Proposed by Ald Morrow, seconded by Cllr Givan, and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 15 - arc21 - Leadership Transition Briefing & Forward Plan**

The Chair provided an updated paper with a further recommendation for approval as follows:

- *Consider providing a structured mentoring arrangement for the incoming CEO upon commencement in post at arc21 in order to support effective transition, organisational continuity and strategic leadership development during the initial period of appointment of 6-12 months. The costs for the mentoring will be advised once we have ascertained costs and other information.*

The Chair advised that she was to speak to APSE regarding costs and would keep the Committee updated on this. The Joint Committee approved the recommendation, proposed by Cllr Givan, seconded by Ald Morrow, and agreed by all.

**Action: Cllr Bennington**

**Item 16 - CEX Induction Pack**

The Joint Committee noted the arc21 Induction Pack for the new Chief Executive. Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Ald Morrow.

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 104 held on 30 April 2026**

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

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 4 - Matters Arising**

Any matters arising were dealt with under the main agenda items.

**Action: Noted**

## IN COMMITTEE

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

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 four matters discussed.

**Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 104 held on 30 April 2026 'in committee' - approved**

**Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted**

**Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - noted**

**Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - noted**

## OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Cllr Goodman.

### **Item 9 - 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 performed well throughout April, with ReGen continuing to use their site at Derryboy Road to accept waste from several arc21 contracts. She noted that a number of the contracts had included the site as an alternative and arc21 would be liaising with ReGen to formalise this.

#### Performance

She provided an update on contractor performance across all the contracts in April 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 noted that for the residual contracts no service credits had been applied this month due to contractors putting in extra resources, and also turnaround times had been met for these contracts which was a good result.

#### Health & Safety

The health and safety (H&S) incidents during April were noted which included: a loading shovel reversing into a parked lorry, resulting in minor damage to trailer; and a fire / smouldering incident due to a laptop battery being struck whilst unloading.

She advised that council officers continue to be asked to liaise with their H&S officers and operational managers on H&S issues accordingly.

Ms Boal noted that at a recent conference it had been highlighted there was an amount of growing concern in the industry in terms of the increasing number of fires from batteries and issues had been noted on getting insurance cover.

### Audits

Ms Boal reported that the external H&S audit programme continued with recent visits to NWP facilities. No issues had been identified during this audit and it was noted that H&S was well managed on site with high levels of compliance in relation to documentation retained.

### Compost Week

Compost week was discussed and some of the promotions within councils were presented for information.

She reported that arc21 were currently investigating some possibilities with the recycling officers and NWP to enhance communications and advised that she would keep Members updated accordingly.

### Rejected Loads

She reported that in April there had been no rejected loads into Bryson Recycling or NWP Glenside.

### arc21 Contract Tonnages

Details of the tonnages delivered in April for the main contracts were provided, along with a comparison against the same period last year.

### Supplies

A summary of the orders and deliveries of supplies for April 2026 was included in Ms Boal's report and she noted that there had been no non-conformances. She reported that due to fuel pricing and the war, there have been a lot of price fluctuations and a lot of issues with regards to delivery times and she noted that 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 Morrow.

**Action: Noted**

## **Item 10 - Waste Tonnage Trends**

Ms Boal presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material received through the arc21 contracts. The data presented graphically highlighted the increases and decreases in the tonnage trends over these time periods.

She advised that the Waste Compositional Study was due for release and noted that this will give us an indication as to the amount of food waste which is still in the residual bins and that this may lead to targeted campaigns.

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

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 11 - Consultation - Waste Prevention Programme 2026 - From Waste to Worth- Overview**

Ms Boal presented a high-level overview of the key outcomes from the *2019 Waste Prevention Programme – Stopping Waste in Its Tracks* and she also discussed some high level observations arising from a review of the proposed actions in the current consultation *Waste Prevention Programme 2026 From Waste to Worth*.

She noted that Steering Group (SG) Officers had received a first arc21 draft response and comments had been invited back in order to present a final draft to the June SG meeting, following which the final draft response will be presented to the June Joint Committee meeting for consideration and approval.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 12 - AOB**

**Condolences** - the Chair advised that condolences had been sent on behalf of the Committee to Mr Walker on his recent bereavement and welcomed him back to the meeting. Mr Walker thanked the Committee accordingly.

**Action: Noted**

**Pay & Grading Review** - Mr Walker reported that in 2017, arc21 undertook a Pay and Grading exercise to amalgamate the organisation's posts under one regime as up to this point there were several different schemes in play. This work resulted in the Joint Committee approving the adoption of the GLPC (Greater London Provincial Council) scheme in January 2018 which provided a consistent job evaluation framework for arc21, and which is widely used in local government across Northern Ireland. The Director and Chief Executive posts were evaluated using the GLEA Scheme which is used as an extension to the GLPC.

He noted that as part of this exercise, arc21 introduced link-grade posts and that, following discussions with the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) in 2025, it was recognised that arc21 was not now aligned with councils regarding pay and grading as such an approach was no longer in use. In arc21's case, this should be replaced by single grade posts to mirror what is now good governance practice.

Consequently, a desk-top exercise was undertaken by STAHRS (a HR consultancy recommended by LGSC with particular expertise in local government job evaluation) which reviewed the duties and responsibilities of each post, resulting in the removal of the link grades so that each now consisted of a single grade. As the Directors were not in the GLPC scheme, this exercise excluded their posts.

He noted that he had progressed with this review in line with Section 2.2 of arc21's Scheme of Delegation which states that "*With respect to employees, appointing, promoting and regrading employees within the employment policies and practices adopted by the Joint Committee, subject to relevant statutory provisions*" and Members noted the information accordingly.

**Action: Noted**

**CIWM Conference Belfast** - the Chair advised that she had recently attended the CIWM conference in Belfast and found it informative and interesting and encouraged others to attend in the future. Ms Boal advised that she had also found it worthwhile as it had been quite a varied programme with its blend of recaps on policy etc, and also discussions on recent fire incidents which are currently impacting the industry.

**Action: Noted**

**New Chief Executive, Mark Kelly** - the Chair reminded Members of the invitation to the drop-in session at Belfast Castle on 1 June between 9.30 and 11.30am to meet Mr Mark Kelly, and encouraged all to pop-in to welcome him.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 13 - Next Meeting (Hybrid) Thursday 25 June 2026 at 10.30am, hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council in the Council Chamber, Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey**

The Chair advised that the next meeting was scheduled to be hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council on 25 June at Mossley Mill and encouraged all to attend in-person if possible, as it would also provide the opportunity to meet Mark Kelly. Members were asked to confirm their attendance with Ms Campbell in advance of the meeting.

**Action: ALL**

**Date: 25 June 2026**

**Chair:**

*A Bennington*