

May 20th, 2025
Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Sustainability & Environment Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, 21st May 2025 at 6:15 pm in Council Chamber, O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row.

### **Committee Membership 2024-2025** Councillor G Kearns Chairperson Councillor C Enright Deputy Chairperson Councillor T Andrews Councillor J Brennan Councillor W Clarke Councillor K Feehan Councillor D Finn Councillor V Harte Councillor J Jackson Councillor M Larkin Councillor O Magennis Councillor H Reilly Councillor M Ruane Councillor D Taylor

Councillor H Young

### Agenda

1.0	Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks	
2.0	Declarations of Interest	
3.0	Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee meeting held on 29 April 2025  Action Sheet - 29.04.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf	Page 1
	For Consideration and/or Decision	
4.0	Update on Notice of Motion  For Decision  SE Committee Report - Update on Notice of Motion - Clean Air 21.05.25.pdf	Page 20
5.0	Officer Report on Notice of Motion - Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas  SE Committee Report on Nom FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION AQMA.pdf	Page 23
	Sustainability	
6.0	Sustainable NI Annual Membership Subscription For Decision	
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	Appendix 1 - SNI Letter.pdf	Page 31
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8.0	Newry Market Christmas Event	
	For Decision	
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9.0	Request to approach DFI about transfer of ownership of carparks.	
	For Decision	
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	Environment	
10.0	Consultation on proposed amendments to the Food Law Code	
. 0.0	of Practice and Practice Guidance	
	For Decision	D 100
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	ems deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the	Local

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

### 11.0 Award of Energy Contracts 2025 – 2027

For Decision

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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

### 12.0 Business Case for maintenance of Council Facilities CCTV systems

For Decision

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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

SE Committee Report - Business Case for maintenance and monitoring of Council Facilities CCTV Systems 21.05.25.pdf

Not included

App 1 - Business case for CCTV maintenance and monitoring 21.05.25.pdf

Not included

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

### 13.0 Fleet Update

For Information

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 the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

□ S&E Committee Report - Fleet Replacement Programme Update 21.05.25.pdf

Not included

### For Noting

### 14.0 Provisional Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, October to December 2024 publication released 1st May 2025

For Information

lac-municipal-waste-q3-2024-25-report.pdf

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lac-municipal-waste-q3-2024-25-infographic.pdf

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### **Invitees**

Cllr Kate Murphy
Cllr Selina Murphy
Sinead Murphy
Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
Mr Andy Patterson
Cllr Áine Quinn
Cllr Henry Reilly
Cllr Michael Rice
Cllr Michael Ruane
Mr Conor Sage
Cllr Gareth Sharvin
Donna Starkey
Nicola Stranney
Sarah Taggart
Cllr David Taylor
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
Ms Sinead Trainor
Cllr Jill Truesdale
Mrs Marie Ward
Clir Helena Young

# Agenda 3.0 / Action Sheet - 29.04.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf

## SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE

### HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	<b>Z</b>
Actions taken/ Progress to date	In progress
Lead Officer	S Trainor
Decision	Agreed to approve the report and recommendations:-  1. Alternate Weekly Commercial Waste Collection Service  Commercial refuse customers (shops and businesses) to be contacted and advised of the proposed move to an alternate weekly collection cycle of residual and dry recyclable waste, where this is achievable.  Commercial customers, (not including Caravan Operators) to be provided with appropriate bins to facilitate this change, so there is no cost burden to customers as
Subject	Trade Waste and Caravan Refuse Collection Services
Minute Ref	NS/004/2022

Back to Agenda

,	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z	z
	Actions taken/ Progress to date	In progress	Legal position and maintenance of the events being confirmed. Report to be brought back to S&E Committee.
	Lead Officer	S Trainor	C Sage
21 APRIL 2022	Decision	Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste.  Note and approve the launch of an application process, with set criteria, to establish demand for deploying brown bins to residents of high rise buildings who	were not previously provided with these.  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.
	Subject	Compost Week 2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel
	Minute Ref	NS/052/2022	NS/057/2022

	Remove
	Actions taken/ Progress to date
TEE MEETING	Lead Officer
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETIN 22 JUNE 2022	Decision
	Subject
	Minute Ref

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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2022	Lead Officer Actions taken/ Remove from Action Action Sheet Y/N	Agreed to endorse the recommendation C Sage In progress N made at the Strategic Finance Working Group Meeting of 16 June 2022 as set out in Section 2.2 of the report and that officers consider the most appropriate way forward in relation to identifying appropriate spaces that may be suitable
TAINABILITY AND	Decision	Agreed to endorse the made at the Strategic Group Meeting of 16 out in Section 2.2 of officers consider the way forward in relational appropriate spaces the first consider the section of the spaces the spaces of the section of the
SUS	Subject	Notice of Motion – revenue from EV Charging Infrastructure
	Minute Ref	SE/143/2022

### SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023

Agenda 3.0 / Action Sheet - 29.04.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf

from Action Sheet Y/N N		z	
Actions taken/ Progress to date	Report to be provided at S&E Committee in May 25.	On hold pending legal process	
Lead Officer	C Sage	S Trainor	
Decision	It was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion subject to including that before proceeding with any works, that officers obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire Civic Centre and the new civic centre in Newry and report same back to the Sustainable and Environment Committee for consideration in due course.	It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion.  It was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the outcome of the legal process was known.	
Subject	Notice of Motion – Clean Indoor Air	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	
Minute Ref SE/105/2023		SE/107/2023	

	n/ Remove date from Action Sheet Y/N	z
NG	Actions taken/ Progress to date	In Progress
COMMITTEE MEETING	Lead Officer	S Trainor
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023	Decision	It was agreed that a meeting be organised with relevant partners to discuss a way forward to produce a publicity campaign highlighting the importance of ensuring dogs are kept under control in the Moume Mountains.
ins	Subject	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock worrying
	Minute Ref	SE/125/2023

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Update provided on Town Centre CCTV at September S&E Committee. Awaiting programme of works from PSNI/BT.	Capital Proposal has been approved. FBC completed, to be presented at SPR.
e Sage	
It was agreed that members note the content of the report, and a business case be developed and brought to the committee with a number of options for a way forward for the proposed development of a new suite of digital CCTV systems for the Council's facilities.	
Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV	
SE/128/2023	

	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z
SNI	Actions taken/ Progress to date	In Progress
MMI I EE MEE I	Lead Officer	S Murphy
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 24 JANUARY 2024	Decision	The following was agreed:  - Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences  - Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule.
NS .	Subject	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences
	Minute Ref	SE/004/2024

z				
	Complete	In Progress	In Progress	
S Murphy				
The following was agreed:  Liaise with local DEA forums to	discuss and plan the set-up of Community Resilience Groups	Investigate the facilitation of sandbag availability and	management through these Community Resilience Groups Look into sharing information the website from the Regional Community Resilience Group	
Report on Notice of Motion - Flood	Preparedness			
SE/005/2024				

	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z	z
NG	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Development of Council Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy is progressing. Climate mitigation report due to be completd by October 25 in accordance with Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. This includes carbon copying baseline reporting.	
MITTEE MEETI	Lead Officer	C Sage	
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2024	Decision	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.  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.	It was also agreed that a benchmark report would be brought back to Committee regarding Council actions and progress to mitigating climate change impact.
sns	Subject	Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change	
	Minute Ref	SE/018/2024	

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

	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z		
NG	Actions taken/ Progress to date	A focussed social media campaign has been completed.	Council Officers met with Belfast City Council colleagues	to review St George's market.
MITTEE MEETI	Lead Officer	C Sage	C Sage	C Sage
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 23 APRIL 2024	Decision	Officers continue their commitment to revitalise the market through engagement with traders, the business community and other potential stakeholders.	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
ns	Subject	Notice of Motion – Newry Market		
	Minute Ref	SE/046/2024		

It was further agreed that a report be	brought back to committee in 6 months to	provide detail or any progress made.	
It was further agreed that a report	brought back to committee in 6 m	provide detail of any progress mad	

	from Action Sheet Y/N	Z
NG	Actions taken/ Progress to date	In Progress
MITTEE MEETI	Lead Officer	C Sage
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 MAY 2024	Decision	it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling invasive species at Albert Basin outside of the current allocation for normal weed control and the development of an Invasive Species Management Plan for the Council Estate.
SNS	Subject	Report on Treatment of Invasive Species on Council Estate
	Minute Ref	SE/058/2024

	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z
NG	Lead Officer Actions taken/ Progress to date	Procurement exercise underway
IMITTEE MEETI	Lead Officer	C Sage
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 JUNE 2024	Decision	It was agreed to approve the business case recommendation for the installation of 2 double electric chargers at each site as detailed within the officer's report.
sns	Subject	Business case for EV Charging infrastructure
	Minute Ref	SE/079/2024

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NG	Actions taken/ Progress to date	In progress		Installation of barriers completed at Newcastle. Design completed for barrier at Warrenpoint. Permanent installation to be completed in May 25.
MITTEE MEETI	Lead Officer	S Trainor		C Sage
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 AUGUST 2024	Decision	it was agreed to note the report and approve the following: The development of an online reporting form for Residents and Elected Members to report dog fouling issues to the Council while exploring alternative digital options for reporting dog fouling and other complaints to the department; and	A mapping exercise to be undertaken by Officers of identified hotspots or problem areas against litter bin provision data to determine if additional litter bins can be provided to assist with the disposal of dog fouling.	it was agreed to approve the proposal to reinstate height restricting barriers at the Square, Warrenpoint and installation of temporary height restricting barriers at Castle Park, Newcastle for the duration of the Amgen Irish Open.
sns	Subject	Notice of Motion – Dog Fouling		Proposed Installation of Height Restricting Barriers at Council Car Parks
	Minute Ref	SE/091/2024		SE/093/2024

Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z	z	z	z
Actions taken/ Progress to date	To refer through SFWG	Marine license application in progress. Procurement for new contract in progress.	In progress	In progress
Lead Officer	S Murphy	C Sage	C Sage	S Trainor
Decision	it was agreed to submit a league table of other Councils' enforcement practices to the Strategic Finance Working Group	it was agreed to note the contents of the report and associated business case and to approve the preferred option of the business case, to progress a tender for the sand bar removal at Newcastle Harbour for a 3-year period from 2025 – 2027 in accordance with the Marine Construction License	it was agreed to adopt the bus shelter at Corry's Corner, and to consider future proposals from Translink regarding the adoption of bus shelters	it was agreed to commence the provision of deep cleaning of public realm and other areas within the district for a period of up to three years.
Subject	Action Sheet Item: NS/091/2022	Business Case for the Removal of Newcastle Sandbar	Repair of Corry's Corner, Drumaness Bus Shelter and Adoption by Translink	Business Case for Deep Cleaning Services
Minute Ref	SE/133/2024	SE/137/2024	SE/138/2024	SE/139/2024

	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z	z
NG	Actions taken/ Progress to date	In progress	In progress At S&E meeting of 29 April it was agreed that
MITTEE MEETI	Lead Officer	S Murphy	S Murphy
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2024	Decision	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 risks of vaping; agree to write to both the Ninister 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.	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
SUS	Subject	NOM – Vaping	NOM – Newry Canal
	Minute Ref	SE/150/2024	SE/151/2024

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communication sent to date would be tabled at a future Committee date.	Procurement in progress	Procurement in progress	Procurement in progress	Procurement in progress	Procurement in progress	Procurement in progress	Procurement options being reviewed
	C Sage	C Sage	C Sage	S Trainor	S Trainor	C Sage	C Sage
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.	it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the business case to progress with a tender for two separate contractors as detailed within the officer's report	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	it was agreed to approve the recommendation to proceed with option 5 as detailed within the officer's report	it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a suitably qualified trainer to deliver essential LANTRA National Highway Sector Scheme Training for staff within the Sustainable and Environment Directorate	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report
	Business case for arboricultural assessment and tree surgery	Business case for mechanical building services contract	Personal Protective Equipment	LANTRA national highway sector scheme training business case	Business case for replacement of skips and containers at HRCs	Economic appraisal – liquid fuel requirements	Harbour Surveys
	SE/154/2024	SE/155/2024	SE/156/2024	SE/157/2024	SE/158/2024	SE/159/2024	SE/160/2024

Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	z	>	z	z
Actions taken/ Progress to date	Procurement in progress	Complete	Procurement in progress	Procurement in progress
Lead Officer	C Sage	C Sage	S Murphy	S Trainor
Decision	It was agreed to approve the business case to procure recordable camera systems for Council fleet as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.	It was agreed to proceed with a joint procurement exercise with other NI Councils for electricity and natural gas contracts commencing in May 2025	It was agreed to approve the procurement and appointment of an Economist to develop an Economic appraisal for a residual waste contract.	It was agreed to approve the following: -the extension of the contract for the receipt and processing of mixed dry recyclables with the organisation named in the officer's report -the extension of the current haulage contract with the organisation named in the officer's report Both extended from 1 April – 30 September 2025, subject to approval from arc21 Joint Committee.
Subject	Business Case – Cameras in Council Vehicles	Business Case – Energy Contracts	Residual Waste Contracts	Mixed dry recyclables contract
Minute Ref	SE/005/2025	SE/006/2025	SE/008/2025	SE/009/2025

Agenda 3.0 / Action Sheet - 29.04.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf

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ING	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Noted	In progress	In Progress	In progress	In progress
MITTEE MEET	Lead Officer	C Sage	C Sage	C Sage	G Kane	G Kane
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2025	Decision	It was agreed to note the following: -Council continues to implement actions within the Biodiversity Strategy and Tree Strategy -Council continue to work with local community groups, businesses and new stakeholders on creations of new woodlands across the District -Council continues to raise awareness of Sustainability and Biodiversity issues at Council events and workshops.	It was also agreed that Council write to the Minister for Agriculture to highlight the damage as a result of storm Éowyn and to request if any support was to be put in	council will also write to other Councils request support in this regard.	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	It was also agreed that Council consider the repair of the bus shelter requested by
ns	Subject	NOM – Vital Role of trees			Application for bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry	
	Minute Ref	SE/018/2025			SE/020/2025	

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	In Progress
	C Sage
Clir Feehan, with a response to be provided to the Member.	It was agreed to continue to proceed with the ORCS EV charger project following successful appointment of a Charge Point operator
	On Street Residential Charge Point (ORCS) Scheme update
	SE/022/2025

Back to Agenda

Remove	Action Sheet Y/N	z	z	z	z
Actions taken/ Progress to date		In progress	In Progress	In progress	In progress
Lead Officer		S Murphy	S Murphy	S Trainor	C Sage
Decision		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.	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	it was agreed to approve the continued funding for The Mournes and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital Volunteer driver schemes from 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, and that Council seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community and Voluntary Sector organisations to administer the schemes, subject to funding being identified.	it was agreed to approve the recommendations of the Business Cases as per section 2.2 of the Officer's Report
Subject		Officer Report on NOM - Street Lighting		Home to Hospital update	Business Case for monitoring and line rental of Council public space CCTV
Minute Ref		SE/034/2025		SE/036/2025	SE/038/2025

	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N	<b>&gt;</b>	z	<b>&gt;</b>	z	>	>
MG:	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Noted	In progress	Approved	In progress	Noted	Noted
MALLICE MEET	Lead Officer	S Murphy	C Sage	S Trainor	C Sage	S Murphy	S Murphy
29 APRIL 2025	Decision	It was agreed to note the action sheet	It was agreed to approve the proposal to create a memorial garden to acknowledge the 180th anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster	It was agreed to approve the DACs as detailed within Appendices 1 – 3 of the Officer's Report	It was agreed to approve the procurement of a sultably qualified advisor to assist with preparation of Council's Climate Mitigation Report in accordance with the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 and the associated Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024	It was agreed to note the minutes	It was agreed to note the documents
	Subject	Action sheet arising from S&E meeting of 19 March 2025	Notice of Motion re Memorial Garden, Newcastle	Waste Contract Extension	Technical Advice for Climate Mitigation Report	Sustainability & Environment Working Group Minutes of Meeting held 19 March 2025	ARC21 Joint Committee in committee minutes of 27 February 2025 and Members Monthly Bulletin of 27 March 2025
Ü-	Minute Ref	SE/044/2025	SE/045/2025	SE/046/2025	SE/047/2025	SE/048/2025	SE/049/2025

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1997 - 1997	SE/050/2025 ARC 21 Joint Committee meeting minutes of meeting held 27 February 2025	It was agreed to note the minutes	S Murphy	Noted	>
040	Carneyhaugh Business Park Abandonment Order 2025	It was agreed to note the Abandonment Order,	S Murphy	Noted	<b>&gt;</b>

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee	
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2025	
Subject:	Notice of motion – Clean indoor air	
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability	
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability	

101	decision	For noting only X
1.0		d Background
1.1		of this report is to provide an update to committee on actions agreed on Notice of ean Indoor Air following discussion at S&E committee in October 2023.
1.2	The following	g Motion was received from Councillor Truesdale:
	productivit all Council enable incl employees, Safety Pled council pre sites. To re indoor air of service use	arned the importance of ventilation and clean indoor air for health and y during Covid; and seeking to take all reasonable steps to enable use of facilities by all citizens, including the most vulnerable and so further usion. By seeking to care for the health and wellbeing of Council, this Council will commit to signing and implementing 'The COVID lge': to report on steps already taken to prioritise clean indoor air in all mises within the district starting with Downshire and Monaghan Row port on what further or additional steps could be taken to improve quality and information about indoor air quality for employees and ers, and to develop and promote advice that can be followed to provide or air at events supported by NMDDC ".
	The Motion	was seconded by Councillor McMurray
2.0		was seconded by Councillor McMurray.
_	The above 1 October 202	Notice of Motion was discussed at Sustainability and Environment Committee in
2.0 2.1 2.2	Key Issues The above 1 October 202 Civic Centre	Notice of Motion was discussed at Sustainability and Environment Committee in 3 and actions were agreed to obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire
2.1	Key Issues The above 1 October 202 Civic Centre  Downshire The Downsh	Notice of Motion was discussed at Sustainability and Environment Committee in 3 and actions were agreed to obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire and the new Civic Centre in Newry.
2.1	Key Issues The above 1 October 202 Civic Centre  Downshire The Downsh clean fresh a  Mech Mech	Notice of Motion was discussed at Sustainability and Environment Committee in 3 and actions were agreed to obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire and the new Civic Centre in Newry.  Civic Centre  ire Civic Centre has a mixed mode of mechanical ventilation and natural ventilation,
2.1	Key Issues The above 1 October 202 Civic Centre  Downshire The Downsh clean fresh a  Mech Mech Natur	Notice of Motion was discussed at Sustainability and Environment Committee in 3 and actions were agreed to obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire and the new Civic Centre in Newry.  Civic Centre  ire Civic Centre has a mixed mode of mechanical ventilation and natural ventilation, iir is supplied to areas within the facility by:  anical ventilation via central air handling units fitted with Grade F6 filters.  anical ventilation via heat recovery units utilising Grade F6 filters

time for groups to consult amongst themselves

### 2.3 **Newry Civic Centre** RIBA Stage 3 designs for the new Civic Centre in Newry has proposed a ventilation strategy where the majority of spaces are supplied with suitably filtered fresh air via centralised mechanical ventilation. The filtration systems within the centralised systems are specified to comply with BSEN ISO 16890-2016 "Air Filters for General Ventilation", with filter type F6 being specified for use in supply air systems. All costs for ventilation systems (including suitable filtration) are included within the specification and associated costings. **HSE Guidance** 2.4 Health and Safety Executive (NI) has provided additional information on Ventilation in workplace which is available at hse.gov.uk. This guidance on ventilation in the workplace emphasises the importance of ensuring an adequate supply of fresh air to enclosed spaces to reduce the risk of airborne transmission of viruses and maintain a healthy environment. 3.0 Recommendations Members are asked to consider the report and note the following: 3.1 Mechanical ventilation systems in Downshire Civic Centre are fitted with suitable levels of filtration that comply with the required guidance. The new Newry Civic Centre has been designed to include suitably filtered fresh air in accordance with the required standards. There are no additional costs associated with supply of suitably filtered fresh air in the above facilities. Resource implications 4.0 No additional resources associated with this report. 4.1 5.0 Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections) 5.1 General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes n/a 5.2 Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision Yes □ No 図 If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation 5.3 Proposal initiating consultation 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 $\times$

	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	
	Rationale: n/a	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service  Yes □ No ☒	
	If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	
7.0	Appendices	
	None	
8.0	Background Documents	
	None	

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2025
Subject:	NOTICE OF MOTION - FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY & AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability & Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability & Environment

For o	decision X For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1,1	The purpose of this report is to facilitate discission on the Notice of Motion received from Councillor Trusdale as deferred from the Council Meeting of 7 April 2025 concerning Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas.			
1.2	C/061/2025 NOTICE OF MOTION - FOSSIL FUEL NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY & AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT AREAS			
	The following Motion was received from Councillor Truesdale: "Recognising Northern Ireland's commitment to achieve net zero by 2050, and Newry Mourne and Down's previous motion recognising a climate emergency, Council will endorse the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty, an initiative to secure an international and legally binding treaty to phase out fossil fuels and will write to the Northern Ireland Executive urging them to support this initiative. In line with this commitment, it will also review the effectiveness of the council's Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA), and whether the number of air quality monitor stations can be expanded throughout the district".			
-	The Motion was seconded by Councillor Enright. Agreed: The Motion was referred to the Sustainability and Environment Committee in accordance with Standing Order 16.1.6.			
2.0	Key Issues			
2.1	There are two key elements to the Notice of Motion as follows:  1. The endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty  2. Review of the effectiveness of the Councils AQMAs			
2.2	Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty			
	The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is a global effort to foster international cooperation to accelerate a transition to Safe, Renewable & Affordable Energy for All. More information on the treaty can be found at <a href="https://fossilfueltreaty.org/">https://fossilfueltreaty.org/</a>			
	The treaty calls for an end to the expansion of coal, oil and gas, and to phase out existing production in keeping with what science shows is needed to address the climate crisis.			
	It builds on decades of calls and campaigns for a fossil fuel phase out and fair energy transition by governments, civil society, indigenous people, grassroots movements and other leaders.			

The campaign aims to compliment other movements tactics such as divestment from fossil fuels, debt relief and fossil fuel bans. It also compliments the work being advanced by the Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance and the Power Past Coal Alliance.

The Treaty is compatible with The Paris Agreement 2015 which is a legally binding international treaty on climate change. The Paris Agreement aims to limit global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius, and preferably to 1.5 degrees Celsius, compared to pre-industrial levels. supported by the majority of world governments

The Paris Agreement obligates all countries to reduce their emissions and work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change. The agreement aims for global peaking of greenhouse gas emissions as soon as possible, and for a climate-neutral world by midcentury.

However, many governments have continued to approve new coal, oil and gas projects. Continuing to exploit and burn the world's current fossil fuel reserves would result in seven times more emissions than what is compatible with keeping warming below 1.5°C.

2.3 The UK Climate Change Act 2008 has set a Target of achieving Net Zero by 2050 and this is further reinforced in The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 which sets specific targets for Northern Ireland. NI Councils are further mandated to Reduce their Carbon Emissions and report on actions under The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.

The Council has declared a Climate Emergency and is developing a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and Climate Action Plan which will set out a roadmap for reducing our carbon emissions by moving away from fossil fuel reliance.

This will increase our energy efficiency and our use of renewable and clean energy and reduce emissions from buildings, transport and other activities. As well as challenges there are opportunities in terms of gains in energy efficiency and cost savings in the long run as well improvements in clean air and health and well-being outcomes from active travel and healthier food.

The Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative would complement the Paris
Agreement by providing the global roadmap needed to halt the expansion of fossil fuel,
manage an equitable phase-out of coal, oil and gas, and lay the foundations for a true
just energy transition in which no worker, community or country is left behind.

Supporting the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty Initiative is in line with the Council's commitments, statutory requirements and responsibilities in reducing our reliance on fossil fuels and moving towards Net Zero.

135 cities and subnational governments, including local councils in the United Kingdom and Ireland, have either formally endorsed the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty in a city council resolution or signed a Mayor's declaration. The full list can be found at https://fossilfueltreaty.org/endorsements/#cities

### 2.3 Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA)

The Northern Ireland Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) process places an obligation on all local authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas, and to determine whether or not the air quality objectives are likely to be achieved.

The air quality objectives applicable to LAQM in Northern Ireland are set out in the Air Quality Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003. Where exceedances are considered likely, the local authority must then declare an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA). More information on AQMAs can be found at <a href="https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/lagm/aqma">https://www.airqualityni.co.uk/lagm/aqma</a>

2.3 Newry Mourne and Down District Council have declared 2 AQMAs, both in Newry City, one for Nitrogen Dioxide and the other for PM<sub>10</sub>. Environmental Health Officers carry out air pollutant monitoring by using two continuous monitors located at Market Street Downpatrick and Canal Street, Newry.

Levels of Nitrogen Dioxide and PM<sub>10</sub> are validated and reported to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) who publish the results and levels of pollution in real time on the website which can be accessed through the link above. The effectiveness of the AQMAs are routinely reviewed by analysing the monitoring information against the recognised air quality objectives.

Nitrogen dioxide diffusion tubes are also located in Newry City and the centre of Downpatrick. Recent monitoring results show no exceedances for PM<sub>10</sub> in Canal Street, Newry and it is proposed to revoke this AQMA if the results continue to be below the annual and daily mean objective for PM<sub>10</sub>.

2.4 PM<sub>2.5</sub> refers to particulate matter in the air that has a diameter of 2.5 micrometers or less. These tiny particles can be inhaled deeply into the lungs and bloodstream, causing various health problems. PM<sub>2.5</sub> is a common air pollutant found in both urban and rural areas and is not currently monitored in the District.

Following discussions with Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), who provide part funding for air monitoring to Council, Environmental Health are seeking additional funding for 2026/27 to extend the pollutant monitoring to include PM 25 by both static and mobile equipment, in the District. The need for further AQMAs in the District would be determined from the analysis of pollutant levels against the recognised air quality objectives.

### 3.0 Recommendations

Members are asked to consider the Motion and approve the endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and agree to write to the Northern Ireland Executive urging them to support this initiative.

Members are also asked to note 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.

4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	There are no additional resources associated with this report. However, additional investment by Council may be required in 2026/27 financial year relating to additional air monitoring.		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes		
	n/a	×	
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or pland / or sensitive or contentious decision  Yes □ No ☒  If yes, please complete the following:	ractice	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened		
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation		
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation  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	⊠	
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks		
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)		
	Rationale: n/a		
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)		
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes □ No □ If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed		
7.0		ш.	
7.0	Appendices None		
8.0	Background Documents		
	https://fossilfueltreaty.org/		
	https://www.airgualitynj.co.uk/lagm/agma		

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2025
Subject:	Request for support for Sustainable Northern Ireland (SNI)
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability

For decision X For noting only		
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	To consider and agree to provide financial support and signing of SLA with Sustainable NI for support to Council on Sustainability issues for 2025-26 year.	
1.2	Sustainable NI (SNI) is a charity set up to advance the pursuit of sustainable development by local authorities and others. Sustainable NI manages the Local Government Sustainable Development Forum which provides networking and advice to Council Officers engaged in the field of Sustainability.	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	Council have previously agreed to pay an annual subscription to Sustainable NI but last year SNI offered enhanced membership levels offering additional services to assist Councils to comply with the new Statutory Requirements on Climate Change.  • Basic Membership - £6,000  • Accelerator Membership - £10,000  • Accelerator Plus Membership - £15,000	
	Support available at each Membership Level is listed below with more detail in the attached Membership Support Packages in Appendix 3.	



2.2 SNI have been assisting Council to develop its Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan and has delivered Workshops and support to develop the Climate Action Plan.

SNI last year agreed to help Council with one of our priority areas: developing our Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy as part of Accelerator Membership Level support (£10,000) even though this support is normally only available at Accelerator Plus Membership level (£15,000).

As well as assisting Council with development of their Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy including delivering Workshops and Training events, SNI has also developed a new Sustainability Monitoring Tool and further expert Training events. The Enhanced Level of membership at Accelerator Plus will include free access to bespoke Training and Workshops, a Sustainability Audit and support with the Sustainability Audit Tool, as well as support to develop a Sustainability Report, Policy, Strategy or Action Plan.

The support given by SNI is substantially better value than Consultancy rates. SNI are experts on Sustainability and Climate Action and have worked with several Councils on developing Sustainability and Climate Change Strategies and related work areas.

This support will be vital to Council to help comply with Statutory requirements under the Climate Change (NI) Act 2022

A letter requesting support for continuing membership of the Forum is attached (Appendix 1)

SNI have provided a copy of their Annual Impact Report for 2023/2024 (Appendix 2)

A Draft SLA is also attached (Appendix 4)

2.3 Funding for SNI also allows them to develop additional support and expert advice and services to Councils. SNI are proposing the following general workplan for 2025/26:

	<ul> <li>Assisting public sector organisations to comply with new climate change reporting regulations introduced under Section 42 of the Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Providing timely and well researched policy consultation responses</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Acting as secretariat for the Sustainable Development Forum, which enables collaboration and coordination of climate action and net zero delivery by public bodies</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Acting as secretariat for the All Party Group on Climate Action, which provides a forum for discussion between politicians, NGOs, business leaders and academics, to drive progress on climate action</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Developing a web-based decision tool to help councils and public bodies screen strategies, decisions and investments for climate and environmental impacts</li> </ul>		
	<ul> <li>Promoting understanding and awareness of sustainability and climate change issues through presentations, webinars and attendance at relevant meetings and forums, when required</li> </ul>		
3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	Members are asked to:     Consider and approve Accelerator Membership Level and signing of an SLA with Sustainable NI for 2025-26 year.		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	Revenue funding up to Accelerator subscription level (£10,000) has been included as part of 25/26 rate setting process.		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes		
	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations		
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision		
	Yes □ No ⊠		
	If yes, please complete the following:		
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened		

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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	
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	
	Rationale:	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes □ No ⊠	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	
7.0	Appendices	
	Appendix 1 Letter request for support from SNI Appendix 2 SNI Annual Impact Report 2023/2024 Appendix 3 Membership Support Packages 2025/26 Appendix 4 SNI Draft SLA	
8.0	Background Documents	
	None	



Innovation Factory Belfast BTIZ 7DG

T. 028 9590 2500 385 Springfield Road E. Info@sustainableni.org sustainableni.org

Marie Ward Chief Executive Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

18 December 2024

Dear Marie

Re: Climate Change Compliance - Support Available

Thank you for your support for Sustainable NI this year. As you know, Sustainable NI is a charity that is dedicated to driving sustainability in Northern Ireland through the provision of education, advocacy and support services designed to empower organisations to adopt more sustainable practices, paving the way for a greener and more responsible future. Alongside this letter, I am pleased to attach a copy of our latest Annual Report summarising the work carried out in 2023/24. This work would not have been possible without your support.

How we can assist you

Your organisation has been tasked with reporting on climate change adaptation and mitigation as mandated by the new Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations, with an initial deadline of 31 October 2025 for the first comprehensive report on climate mitigation efforts.

We offer specialised expertise and support in sustainability and climate action training, strategy development and reporting. With over 25 years of local experience, we can support organisations like yours in navigating climate reporting regulations and enhancing internal capabilities, without the overhead of external hires.

We have supported the creation of several climate and sustainability strategies in the public sector to date and would be pleased to assist your team as well. Additionally, our Sustainable Development Forum promotes collaboration and exchange of best practice among Northern Ireland's public bodies, accelerating progress in the sector.

Support Packages 2025/26

We provide a critical shared service for local government and the wider public sector in Northern Ireland by:

- supporting compliance with new climate change reporting regulations
- auditing an organisation's sustainability performance
- providing a sustainability decision-making tool ('Sustainability Compass')
- providing timely and well-researched policy consultation responses
- managing the Sustainable Development Forum which facilitates information sharing, collaboration and exchange of good practice between public bodies
- facilitating meetings to troubleshoot common challenges and advance shared objectives
- promoting understanding and awareness of sustainability and climate change issues across your organisation through presentations and guidance documents
- providing training and education services
- providing impartial expert advice and support

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Overleaf (see Page 3) we have provided a summary of the three support packages available to public sector organisations next year based on popular support requests. We are pleased to say our rates have remained unchanged from last year.

## **Next Steps**

If you would like to partner with us next year, we would kindly request budget approval in Quarter 4 of 2024/25 so that we can invoice on 1 April 2025. This allows us to set a budget and have the necessary staff in place to support you next year. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate an upgrade in support after this date. Payment must be received 28 days after the invoice is sent. We will arrange a Service Level Arrangement (SLA) for support packages of £10,000 or more in value.

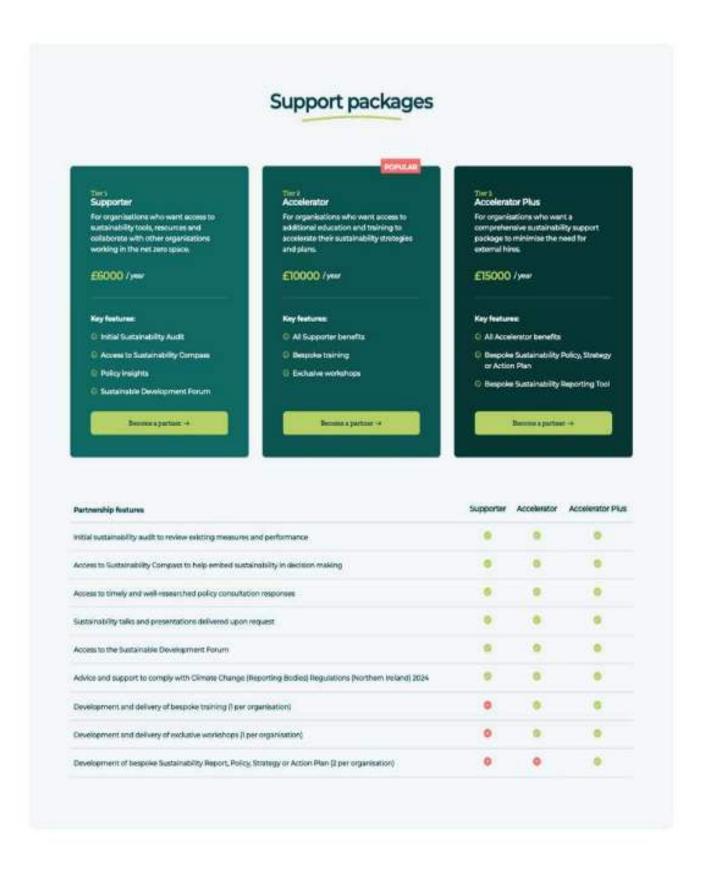
Please contact us by 20 January 2025 at the latest if you would like to discuss your support package.

I look forward to working with you this coming financial year.

Yours sincerely,

Nichola Hughes Executive Director

Wichela thighes





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## BEHIND THE COVER

The product of the found depote daily than mixes without and the foundation of the f



Sustainable Mills an independent charity driving sustainability in Northern Incland, Our mission is to inspire, influence and inform government and others to build a sustainable and restlient society.

We deliver our mission through education, advocacy and support services that empower organisations to adopt more sustainable practices, paving the way towards a greener and more responsible future.

Cur vision is a society that meets its needs from local, renewable resources, enabling people to live healthy, happy lives without compromising the planet. Annual Report 2022-24

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## OF DIRECTORS BOARD

## DR RACHAEL SINGLETON

Lecturer at Ulster Listwer Jity fluoriens School



innovation Lab where she applies psychology to the Rachael is currently the Chair of the Sosjamable Mi Board. She is an experienced behavioural scientist design and implementation of policy to solve log who works for the Northern beland God Service. societal challenges such as dimate charge.



NI Housing Executive

Northern helped Housing Executive, the largest social the team responsible for residential energy efficiency. housing provider in Northern Insland, where he leads Robert is Head of Sustainable Development at the decarbanisation and mitigating fuel powerty.

ALAN MCVICKER Head of Coopel Support Unit at Strategic Investment Board



delivery of their capital programmes, with a particular Countil Support Unit which supports countils in the Alan is Head of the Strategic Investment Beard's emphasis on waste and the circular ponomy.

## ANDREW BENFIELD Instant Country Managet at Ceres



organisation (RTD) and consultancy, specialising in independent, not-for-profit research technology Andrew is Regional Manager at Cerex, on zero emission transport and onergy.

## SUSANN POWER Lectures at Ultran University Business School

Tourism, She has recently been appointed the Chair of the University's Sustainability Committee. She is also a Susann is a lecturer in Inospitality Management at National Jury Member for Blue Flag International. Ulster University and holds a PhD in Sustainable

## Suscatoability & tengact Manager at Vieti Belforb JAC CALLAN



tourism stakeholders to help Belfast become a leading lac is Sustainability & Impact Manager for Visit Belfast. where she works alongside Belfast City Council and sustainable tourism and events destination.

KEITH PATTERSON Sector Specialist in Waster and Bacycling at WEAP Northarn treland

Saith is a waste and recycling specialist at WRAP where campaigns, tools, and resources aimed at maximising resource management strategies, behaviour change he uses an evidence-based approach to develop the value and use of materials.

## IAN GARNER Corsultant at Ulular Withtle



Ireland, a key resource efficiency delivery body for the public sector. He currently provides support to Utster lan served for 20 years as head of WRAP in Northern Wildlife on peatland restoration and its long-term management

Annual Report 2023-24

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## MEMBERS TEAM

## Executive Director NICHOLA HUGHES



Known for her tenacty and optimism, Nichola uses her others to act on the planetary emergency. Shors an communicator and is dedicated to channelling her skills in science and communication to empower experienced climate scientist, policy advisor and energy for environmental and social justice.



Services



Francesca's energy and passion motivate everyone sustainable development as an international level. to develop expertise and experience in a range of desire to merge academia with a hands-on career promoting positive behadour charge has led her bullt on enhancing environmental attitudes and ecologist focusing on natural carbon sinks. The Francesca is an environmental scientist and areas from conservation to education for around hir.

## CLARE BAILEY there in Esecutive Director



Clane was MLS for South Belfast from 2016-2022 and is a former leader of the Green Party in Narthern Ireland. Rill, Clare is experienced in strategic management and During this time, she warked with Climate Coalition NI with her extensive cross-sectoral networks is extited about building a climate-positive future for Northern to introduce Northern Ireland's first Climate Change Indiana





environments. See is passionate about supporting organisations to make positive environmental and

investigating carbon sequestration in practiand

Claime is a Ultimate scientist with a PhD

strategy development and endronmental impact

and being a catalyst for positive change.

social change and has gained experience with a

wide range of businesses, including supporting assessment. Claire erypys sharing her expertise

DR CLAIRE MCVEIGH Heart of Advanty Services.



year transacte UK-funded project to support Derry City and Strabane District Council in realising the Orsin is a Project Support Officer working on a 2ambition of a net zero climate resilient city and district by 2045. Okin holds an MSc in Global Sustainability and a 84 Hons in English from Strategy in Environmental Health and Ulster University

> DISIN FLEMING Project Support Officer



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OUR GOALS 2

4

EDUCATION & AWARENESS

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IMPROVING STANDARDS GOVERNANCE & 7

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS** œ

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Secretary by Agentage

## SUMMARY

**Agenda 6.0** / Appendix 2 SNI Annual report.pdf

In this report, we highlight how we are working to support Northern Ireland's transition to a green, not zero economy. We reflect on both highlights from the work we completed in 2023 and the ongoing projects and partnerships we're involved in that continue to bear fruits.

This year Sustamable NI has been incredibly busy growing the teath and expanding services. Supported by the National Lottery Dormant Accounts Fund NI and subscriptions from councils and public hodes, we've been working on becoming more resilient by pursuing activities that will increase our capacity to support the transform to Net Zero. With this goal in mind, cluring the year our Beard and Team carried out a strategic review of Suspaniable NI's brand, intestion, aims, services and volven. The outcomes of the review fed into a new brand identity, operations plan and website. A new strongs and website will be published at the end of Sucretain.

This year we added two new members to curricam. Clare Bally Repped in as interim Director covering conponed us on a fixed-term basis as part of a 2-year. Innovate UK-funded project to support Derry City and Strobane District Council to realise the ambition of a net sere almate resilient city and district by 2045. In concluding to facilitate the AL-Party Group on Climate Action we remain focused on ensuring climate action is a political priority so politicians can take decisive action, Daspite the political hatus, we have continued to respond to government consultations on policy issues themed entical to the Net Zero transition, including the thirt Carbon Budget and proposals for Public Body. Climate Change Reporting Duties. Our staff continue to perform exceptionally well, with a marked increase in educations outreach and support this year. The Sustainable Development Forum continues to be a critical support for local government and public bottles, utravity and supporting sustainability and dimate action across the region. We were delighted when staff member Francesco Di Palo, Head of Public Sector Services, won the presigious CBS Leading Sustainability Award during the year. A welcome accommendagement of all her skills and skadership on sustainability.

This year, we attended more events and reached a wider audience than ever before. From engaging with Chambers of Commerce to attending local school events, we continue to challenge fluiding and raise awareness about the need to be more sustainable and how to achieve 3.

We also experted four training offering, providing two new courses. Sustainable Design & Construction (for public serior officers working on capital projects and public resim schemes) and Carbon Lespay, Training. We hope to promote these training courses next year.

We continue to offer sustainability audits for businesses and organisations looking to establish a boseline to measure and evaluate progress on sustainability. We see this as an opportunity for proach. We also want to do more to support the third sector. We received a small grant to support the GAA Green Clubs Programme in Northern Ireland, whith we hope will be a colabyt for Sustainable MI to play a role in supporting the volumency and community server.

All of this activity exists in the context of a rapidly escalading climate and ecological crisis. Northern Indiand must achieve Net Zero emissions by 2050. This is a monumental challenge. Organisations are heginning to wake up to the challenge, but there is still a sizeable policy, knowledge and resource gap.

As we enter 2024/25, we will prioritise our resources to support and guide organisations to push the boundaries on climate action. With a Climate Change Act now in place and public body reporting duties booming it is an opportune time for Sustainable Mi to extend its role and reach to make a positive impact on policy and practice and help secure the sustainable internative we all want.

Deliverables this year:

Back to Agenda

1,745 People trained



CONSULTATION

2 BUSINESS AUDITS

STRATECIES & ACTION PLANS



WORKSHOPS OR EVENTS 26



LEARNING RESOURCES 8



## 3 COALS

Our purpose is to promote a more sustainable way of living and working to protect the planet and its resources, for the benefit of society, now and in the future. We deliver this objective through four strategic goals:

## 1. INFORM

Create positive environmental and social change through education and awareness.

## 2. REFORM

Advocate for regulatory and legislative change to advance climate action.

## 3. TRANSFORM

Provide practical support to help organisations achieve their sustainability

## 4. IMPROVE

Ensure excellent standards and continuous improvement to provide the best service to our members and clients.



## 4 & AWARENESS

mwareness activities, in 2023/24 these included: We work to create positive environmental and social change through our education and

## DIESEMINATING INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

We used a variety of platforms to inform and rithence others including

- Ogdal newsletter (reach: 600+ people)
  - Social media (reach; 3700+ people)
- Website (reach: 9,700+ people)

Resources developed this year

- Cloughlandan Ecovillage Case Study a model for sustainability and community restience
  - Killeavy Castle Case Study an example of sustainable tourism and hospitality.
- Lámh Dheang GAA Case Study a Green Sports
  - Springfield Meadows Case Study a Net Zero Passivhaus Development
    - 12 Blogs/Articles for the website
- (Northern Ireland) 2022 for Elected Members Briefing note on the Climate Change Act

Key presentations and take delivered this year to:

- Linarch of Competition & Markets Authority Net
- C03 Annual Conference
- Killeavy Castle Restoration Project Launch
  - Habitat for Humanity One World Festival
- Belfast Olmate Commission Roundtable on Priority Work streams
- SCUACUCO-Operation treland Conference
- Roundtable with Julie Harrison Permanent CCEA Climate Group - embedding climate Secretary NI Office
- Mid Ulszer District Council Climate Working education in the curriculum
  - Chamber of Commerce Festival of Business Group
- Ni Polymers Association Quarterly Meeting Nt Sports and Human Rights Forum
  - Translink Active Travel Awards
- Unier Quarter Sustiminable Business Event

## DIVIDES TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES PROVIDING HIGH QUALITY AND

We delivered the following workshops (training courses this year.

- Sustainable Design & Construction for Capital Projects freedwad by Armagh Banbridge and Cralgavon Borough Coursill
- businesses in Ards and North Down Borough Countill How to become a Sustainable Business (received by
  - How to develop a Climate Action Plan (received by Mid Dister District Council and Mid and East Anthim Borough Council)
- + Circet Ireland Graduate Workshop
- BBC Northern Ireland Climate Change Training

## PROVIDING THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM

briefings. They also benefit from expert insights from a dedicated Sustainable NI advisor, who coordinates the The mission of the Sustainable Development Forom a member, public bodies have year round access to an annual programme of meetings, webinars and policy Forum, The Chair is currently Emma Adair from Ards to co-ordinate and support local government and Membership is exclusive to the public sector. As a public bodies to lead transformative change and measurable dimate action across the region. and North Down Barough Council.

This year four meetings of the Forum were held:

- 15 june 2023 (Bangor Castle)
- 20 September 2023 (Eccs Hub, Ballymens)
- 23 November 2023 (Cookstown)
- + 13 December 2023 (Mrtua)
- 6 March 2023 (Virtual)

together to understand what is needed strategically for We led a Needs Analysis Workshop on 23 November in sustainability officers from across Northern ireland local authorities to fully miegrate sustainability and climate action into governance, management and delivery at the local level. The session highlighted policy and skills gaps and how Sustainable Ni can the Burnsson Arts and Cultural Centre bringing pages and bound soundly floring forward.





## 5 & ADVOCACY

regulatory change in support of our mission through our policy and advecacy work. In 2023/24 this We advocate for ambitious legislative and

FORMULATION, APPRAISAL AND ACTIVELY ENGACING IN POLICY LOBBYING As political appetite for the green economy continues shared to ensure we make the correct policy choices to achieve net zero by 2050. This year we fed into Ireland meeting its net zero aspiracions, including: to grow, knowledge needs to be cultivated and several policies that will be critical to Northern

- Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public
- Review of SPPS on the Issue of Climate Change Northern Ireland Carbon Bodget (2030 - 2040)
  - Circular Economy Strategy

and committees which shape policy and investment responses, we participated in government forums In addition to providing written consultation in energy and environment:

- NR Affairs Committee Inquiry into Investment in Northern Instand (sustainable and genderequitable investment)
  - Ni Ackroady Group on non-household recycling. provisions

highlighted five key issues that must be addressed to heland Assembly (See oppossed, in the document, we We also promoted our manifesto for the Nanthern put the economy on a more sustainable rocking whilst simultaneously tacking the citmate emergercy.

## ALL-PARTY GROUP ON CLIMATE ACTION PROVIDING THE SECRETARIAT FOR THE

for discussion between politicum, NGOL business eaders and academics, to advance dimate action The All-Party Group on Climate Action is a forum through legislative and regulatory change in the Assembly and Executive.

Donnelly MLA took over from Kate Nichol MLX as group. Membership is cross-party and includes Sustainable NI provides the secretariat for the representatives from the N. Assembly and MI councils. At the AGM in October 2023, Danny Char of the APG.

abreast of climate and environmental policy and for the 300 + observers, it is a great way to keep egislation and influence policymakers at the righest level in Northern Ireland.

The APG met five times in 2023/24, including

- 52 May 2028
- 6 Drtober 2023 (AGN)
- 3 November 2023
- December 2023
  - 1 March 2024

discussed, from examples of local aucharity climate remains excellent with: 11 elected members and 41 action to strengthering energy efficiency through A range of issues, projects and campagns were observers on average attending each meeting. changes to building regulations. Attendance

## PRIORITIES IN OUR MANIFESTO FOR THE NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY:

- Green zovernment agenda to ensure the government 'does as it says' in relation to protecting our climate and environment.
- calling for a simplification of local authority Improved planning for a green economy including better guidance on ways to and regional planning in support of renewable and low-carbon energy, achieve Nec-Zero. 'n
- End government support for fossil faels heating and low-carbon retrofit measures. efficiency measures, heat pumps, district and introduce incentives for energy

rh

infrastructure through a Clean Air Act and strategic review of public transport priking. More investment in sustainable travel availability and cycling infrastructure.

d

community energy so that community groups can explore the feasibility of More government support for community energy schemes. iń.



We provide practical support to help organisations achieve their sustainability goals. Our advisory services include strategy development, audits, training and communications.

## STRATEGIES AND ACTION PLANS

develop their sustainability and climate plans, each one arganisations to remain referant and competitive. Like digital transformation, driving sustainability requires organisations to (ransform every business division, making sustainability an integral part of corporate Sustainability has become increasingly critical for strategy. This year, we helped four organisations. tailored to the individual client's support needs:

- Apex Housing Association
  - Mid Ulster District Council
- Usburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Mid and East Annim Borough Council

consultancy support to co-design the strategies with The organisations received workshops as well as staff and decision-makers.

## SUSTAINABILITY ADDITS

Our Sustainability Audit measures sustainability in a business model, it identifies appartunities to rethink and environmental impact. This year, we carried but operations, and business models to maximise social inmpaty's day-to-day operations and its overall and improve upon product and service design. sustainability audits for two businesses:

- Oh Yeah Music Centre, Belfast
- Cascle Mat, Antrim

The output was a clear sustainability roadmap to guide the companies on how to embod sustainability within the core of the business.

## PARTNERSHIPS

allowing opportunities to exchange views, support mnovation and provide momentum to get things coordinating action between organisations and The power of partnership working carrior be understated. Partnerships build momentum. dene. Sustainable NI partnerships this year included:

- Sustainable Development Forum
- Circular Economy Coalition
- Northern Ireland EV Consorthum
  - Climate Coalition MI
- Environmental Justice Network Ireland

## STUTTER

We were a delivery partner in the following projects: this year.

- Green Clubs Programme Led by the GAA, the sustainability awareness and action in sports clubs and communities (see oppossed. programme was designed to promote
- Derry and Strabane Net Zero From Ambition to Action - Sustainable NI was a delivery partner on an innovate UK-funded project to realise the ambition of a net zero climate resilient City and sustainable procurement and massuring scope systems including SMART climate action plans collaboration and capacity building. We are District by 2045 through transformational underpinned by place-based insights. providing expertise and guidance on 3 emissions.
  - other expert groups supported CCEA to review CCEA Expert Group - Sustainable Nr alongside a Northern Ireland Key Stage 2 curriculum objective on sustainable development.

Back to Agenda

## GREEN CLUBS

grant from LFT Charloble Trust, the programme aimed communities across Northern Ireland, We assisted with the operations and activities of Gaelic clubs and their Green Clubs Programme in 2023, Enabled through a to build emirormental awareness and action across facilitated staff training and provided advice to help the recruitment of clubs and engaged councils and Sustainable NI was a delivery partner on the GAA other expert organisations to support clubs. We clubs identify and deliver green actions.

changing the behaviour of 6,080 people. Green Clubs s an excellent model of citizen-led sustainability and

hape to see it transferred to all sports clubs.

Case studies are available at:

supporting 32 clubs, training 128 people in green

The programme has been hugely successful.

skills, delivering 64 green actions and indirectly

## https://saching.gaa.st/SceenCharCaseStudies

## 2 INCREASING SKILLS

additional functing for measures, Green Team members have committed to passing these biodiversity and transport audits. They can Green Action Plan, and know where to get Club leaders were encouraged to shadow carry out a strategy session to develop a expert organisations and as a result can conduct simple evergy, waste, water, green skills on to other members.

environmental issues and can connect how

individus, and local actions contribute to

local and gobal emironmental issues.

As a result of training interventions. Green

LINGLEDSNE AWARENESS

Fearth members have an improved understanding and awareness of

## 3. CHANGING BEHAVIOURS

pollinator-friendly flowers, swapping sports Over 64 green actions in Northern freland consequence of the programme. Actions include onergy improvements, recycling planting trees and hedgerows, planting gear, cycling initiatives, carpooling, and points, eliminating single-use plastic, have been registered as a direct water saving measures.

## 4. IMPROVING WELLBEING

facilities, club members report feeling healthier. more active, and more connected to nature and We have been successful in promoting the links voluntary action can bring to consmunities and wellbeing, as well as the benefits collaborative ndw duals, Following the installation of green measures, such as trees, flowers and bicycle between the environment and health and the community. 6

## S GOVERNANCE & IMPROVING STANDARDS

improvement to provide the best service to We are continually striving to ensure excellent standards and continuous our members and clients.

## ENSURING GOOD COVETNANCE

governance training and completed a skills mainber, Ian Garner, who resigned on 12 This year we said goodbye to one board December 2023, All Trustees received assessment when they joined the organisation.

Four board meetings took place this year. including

- 13 june 2023
- 19 September 2323

- 12 December 2023 (AGM)
  - 12 March 2024

## SUPPLIENCE THE WORKFORCE

Project Support Officer for an Immovate UK funded project additional staff members including Clare Balley, treating Otrector and Cish Fleming, who joined in October as a workforce is a key priority. This year we recruited two Our staff are our primary assectand investing in the that Sustainable NI is delivering with Derry City and understanding and managing Scope 3 emissions. Strisbane District Council to assist the council in

our logo and brand identity. We also developed

a new website. We reviewed key services and Working with marketing experts we updated

developed a suite of training courses to

streams through a review of branding, and the

memberships and identify new revenue development of new tools and services.

strengthen the business plan, increase

strangthan our consultancy offering and attract new clients. We also trained our staff in Carbon

> Staff training was provided throughout the year in support of professional development, This indoded:

- Training for Trustees in the Third Sector, CO3
  - Interior Executive Training CO3
- New to Post Chief Erecutive's Forum, CO3
- ILM Level 3 Award in Leadership and Management, NW · Managing Staff Training NKVA Regional College

decisions for eropronmental and social impacts.

Dormant Accounts Ni funding was also used to to help public bodies streen their projects and support the development of a new digital tool

facilitate Carbon Literacy Training under the

Carbon Literacy Project.

Literacy, meaning we are now icensed to

Carbon Literacy Facilitator Training

## Public Body Reporting Duties, Introduced as part The tool will help public bodies comply with new of the Climate Chinge Act (Northern heland) Dormant Accounts No funding received in year

has helped strengthen financial resilience in

GROWING RESILIENCE

the organisation. The project aims were to

received mentoring and support through the To assist us with the tool's development, we Digital Surge Programme which supports businesses deemed to have digital transformation potential A web-based app has now been designed and will will help Sustainable NI grawits membership and he launched early next year. We believe the tool holp retain existing members.

## 8 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

funders. We also want to thank the many voluntseers who freely give their time to help the charity. Funders this support the work of the organisation. Cur work would not be possible without the support of our cleans and We would like to place on record our gratitude to all the organizations and individuals who confinue to year were:









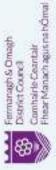




THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND Delivered by

















Ä

Financial Activities for the year ended 31 March 2024 Statement of Extracted

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and lesses in the

154,606

153,958

459

459 153,958

Investment income

Total income

from other activities

78,000 16,250 0000'09 386

72,449

21,050 000'09

神田-

Total 2024

3,129 7,998 1,682

1,319 21,899

21,899

General administration costs.

Programme costs

On other trems

Travel & training costs

on charitable activities Promotional casts

spury Busion up

Expenditure

Employee costs Premises costs 1372

9,625

4,080

(30,344)

150526

184,302

4,080

(30,344)

0

## Statement of Financial Activities (including income and Expenditure Account) Bearinged North for the year ended 31st March 2024. Sustainable Northern Ireland University 21050 72,449 000'09 PROTEC Business income and sponsorship from danations and legacies from charitable activities Other sources Donations Grants Income

75,973

45,629

0

77,693

75,973

4 9625	Q	# 4	The statement of financial activities includes all gains and lesses in the year.	
Legal & professional fees.     Other expenses.     Depreciation of assets.  Total expenditure.	Net income / (expenditure) for the year Transfers between funds Net movement in funds for the year	Reconciliation of funds  • Fund balances brought fwd at 1st April  • Fund balances carried fwd at 31st  March	The statement of financial activities	

## Statement of Financial Position as at 31 March 2024

The financial statements were approved by the Board of Directors on 10 December 2024 and signed on their behalf by.

Dr Rachael Singleton Chair of Directors

Kaith Patterson Treasurer

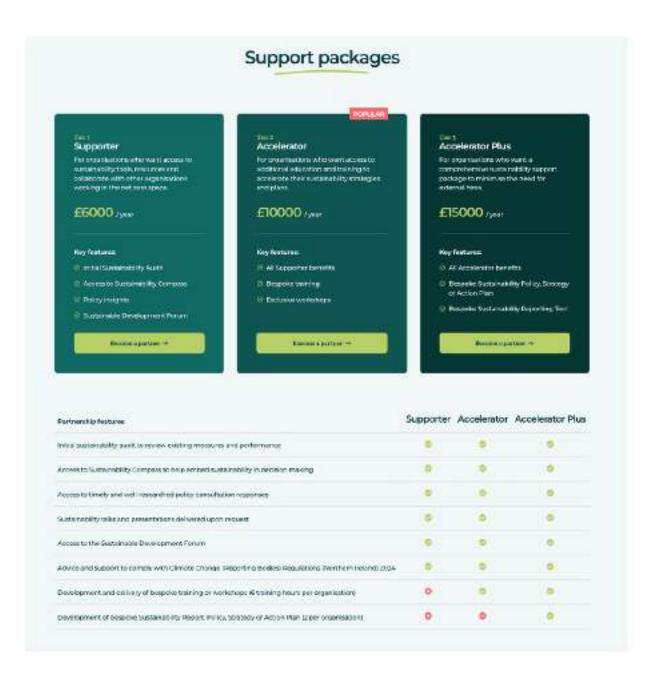


## Sustainable Northern Ireland Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet) as at 31st March 2024

	Notice	2024	2003
Fixed Assets			
<ul> <li>Tangible assets.</li> </ul>	F	9	*
		0	0
Current Assets			
Receivables	12	2,130	756
x and ir	8	59,888	79,784
		62,018	80,540
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	13	(16,389)	(4,567)
Not current assets	0014	45,629	75,973
TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES		45,629	75,973
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year			
Net assets		45,629	75,973
The funds of the charity			
Unrestricted income funds			
General funds	92	45,629	75,973
		45,629	75,973
Restricted income funds:			
<ul> <li>Single Use Plastic (SUP) Project</li> </ul>	里		2
Environmental Fund	H	٠	
Total funds	1	45,629	75,973



sustainableni.org



## Dated the 1st day of April 2025

## Service Level Agreement

## Between

Sustainable Northern Ireland

and

Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

charity, 385 Springfield Road, Belfast, BT12 7DG ("the Service Provider") of the one part, and NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL, O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row, Newry BT35 8DJ, ("the Customer") of the other part.

## BACKGROUND

Under the NI (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006 councils have a statutory duty to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Northern Ireland. This has been reinforced in the Community Planning component of the 2014 Local Government Act and the Strategic Planning Policy Statement, which provides councils with strategic direction for local development plans, is founded on the principles of sustainable development.

The Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 includes provisions for regulations in regard to climate change reporting by public bodies. This legislation provides a strong mandate for action on sustainability and climate action by the eleven councils, as well as their statutory partners.

Sustainable NI offers a range of technical and strategic support services to help councils and public bodies understand the scope of their legislative responsibilities on sustainable development and climate change and to put in place the structural arrangements needed to comply with these obligations. Sustainable NI supplies expert advice on sustainability issues, as well as signposting to policy research and case studies, in areas as diverse as renewable energy, spatial planning, sustainable food and climate change adaptation. It also provides tailored support through its use of specialised tools and services, such as the Sustainability Audit and Decision Making Tool.

Sustainable NI manages the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Forum, a network of officers responsible for sustainable development and climate action in Northern Ireland. It provides critical support for councils in environmental compliance, fostering an environment in which colleagues have been able to share experience and intelligence in an atmosphere of trust and mutual support. This support has helped to stimulate a healthy level of good practice on sustainable development among councils, especially important in the face of a diminished role undertaken by central government departments.

Sustainable NI also coordinates the All Party Group on Climate Action, which provodes a forum for discussion between MLAs, Councillors, Business Leaders, NGOs and Academics to drive forward the conversation on climate action in Northern Ireland.

## Agreement Overview

This agreement represents a Service Level Agreement (the Agreement) between Sustainable Northern Ireland (the Service Provider) and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (the Customer).

The Agreement covers the period 1st April 2025 to 31st March 2026. The agreement between the parties will be reviewed at the end of the term and may be renewed at that time.

The customer agrees to pay to the service provider the sum of £15,000.00 for the term of the agreement.

This Agreement outlines the parameters of all related activities by the Service Provider and the responsibilities of the Customer.

The purpose of this Agreement is to ensure that the proper commitments are in place to provide satisfactory service support and delivery between the Client and the Service Provider and to obtain mutual agreement on the services that will be provided to the Client in year.

The objectives of this Agreement are to:

- Clearly define ownership, accountability, roles and/or responsibilities
- Present a clear, concise and measurable description of service provision to the customer

## Service Agreement

The following detailed service parameters are the responsibility of the Service Provider in the ongoing support of this Agreement:

## Core Support:

- Disseminate research, information, policy guidance and best practice to help Council comply with sustainability and climate targets and obligations
- Provide advice and support to help Council comply with climate change reporting requirements under Section 42 of the Climate Change Act (2022)
- Provide secretariat support for the Sustainable Development Forum to facilitate coordination of climate action and net zero delivery by local authorities and public bodies in the region
- Provide secretariat support for the All Party Group on Climate Action to advance climate action in Northern Ireland through legislative and regulatory change in the Assembly and Executive
- Provide access to a decision screening tool to help Council screen strategies, decisions and investments for climate and environmental impacts
- Promote greater understanding and awareness of sustainability and climate issues within Council through the provision of presentations, webinars and attendace at meetings when required.

## Additional Support:

 Review Council's Sustainability Strategy and Action Plan, ingegrating outcomes of CAP workshop into the final Plan

- Prepare and deliver a workshop for Elected Members to agree objectives, actions, targets, and timeframes for the Action Plan
- Review final CAP before it goes out for consultation
- Co-present the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan to Committee for approval
- Access to 1 days' worth of Sustainable NI training (or equivalent) for staff and elected members

## Customer Responsibilities

Customer responsibilities in support of this Agreement include:

- Availability of a customer representative to liaise with the Service Provider
- On-going support for the initiatives developed by the Service Provider including the initial drafting of and ongoing feedback related to a Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan
- Appoint an Officer to represent Council at the Northern Ireland Sustainable Development Forum
- Appoint two Elected Members to represent Council at the Northern Ireland All Party Group on Climate Action
- Provide a level of financial support to assist with the running costs of Sustainable NI's office facility and the delivery of the services provided.

## Confidentiality and Data Protection

The Service Provider will treat as confidential all information acquired through its actions in delivery of the Agreement and will not disclose such information to any other party, directly or indirectly, except where disclosure is required by law or is with the customer's prior written consent.

The parties shall comply with all legislation and regulatory requirements in force from time to time relating to the use of personal data and the privacy of electronic communications, including, without limitation the General Data Protection Regulation (EU 2016/670) and any national implementing laws, regulations and secondary legislation, as amended or updated from time to time, in the UK and any successor legislation to the GDPR or the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Contractor shall ensure that it has in place appropriate technical and organisational measures, reviewed and approved by Council, to protect against unauthorised or unlawful processing of personal data and against accidental loss of personal data

## Variations

There may be circumstances during the duration of the Agreement which prevent the full discharge of each party's responsibilities through no fault of either party. Circumstances in which variations may occur during this period may include, but are not limited to:

- No-provision of responsibilities by the Service Provider or Customer
- Significant changes in the anticipated workload
- Changes in Government legislation

Each party will discuss the need for any variation to the Service Level Agreement at the earliest opportunity and will make any variation by mutual agreement

## Periodic Review

The Customer is responsible for facilitating regular reviews of this document. Contents of this document may be amended as required, provided mutual agreement is obtained from the Customer and the Service Provider. The Customer will inform the Document Owner of all subsequent revisions and obtain mutual agreement/approval as required.

IN AGREEMENT HEREOF the parties hereto have executed the agreement in the manner below appearing:

Director of Sustainability and Environment

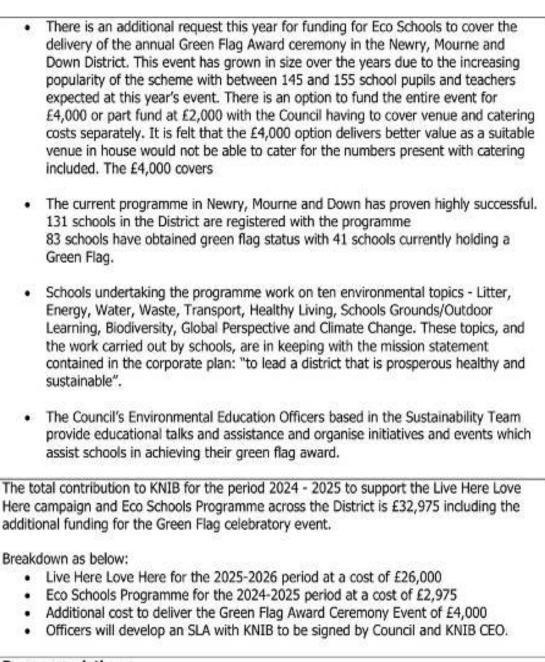
.........

Signed by a Director of Sustainable NI In the presence of:

Lachard Sighton
Chairperson
Viohola Hughes
Chief Executive

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment	
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2025	
Subject:	Request for support of Live Here Love Here initiative and Eco Schools programme from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful for period 2025 - 26	
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability	
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability	

For d	ecision X For noting only
1.0	Purpose and Background
1,1	To consider and agree to approve the financial support and the signing of an SLA for the period 2025 - 2026 to support the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) Live Here Love Here campaign and Eco Schools Programme across the District.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Live Here Love Here (LHLH)
	<ul> <li>LHLH has three main elements: a media campaign, a volunteering support programme and a small grants scheme. It is building a movement of enthusiastic local people who volunteer their time and expertise to promote Civic Pride, particularly by tackling littering, dilapidation of buildings and improvement of green space.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The LHLH media campaign has been instrumental in helping achieve these incremental gains using bespoke billboards in supporting council areas, television and radio advertising and increasingly, social media to reach specific audiences.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is requesting continued support for the programme in the Newry, Mourne and Down area (see letter Appendix I and Appendix II Impact Card. See also Appendix IV Report Presentation).</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>This would require an annual budget of £26,000 as in previous years.</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>It should be noted that half (£13,000) of the Council's funding goes straight back into supporting this area through the small grants programme which funds local community groups.</li> </ul>
	Eco Schools
	<ul> <li>Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is requesting a contribution from the Council for the period 2024 – 25 for delivery of the Eco Schools Programme in the District (see letter Appendix III).</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>The amount requested remains the same as last year for delivery of the Eco Schools Programme at £2,975.</li> </ul>



## 3.0 Recommendations

2.2

3.1 Members are requested to consider and approve:

 the financial support as outlined in section 2.2 and an SLA for the period 2025 -2026 to support the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) Live Here Love Here campaign and Eco Schools Programme across the District.

## 4.0 Resource implications

- 4.1 Costs associated with the campaign and programme is included in the budget estimates for 2025/26, with the exception of the Green Flag Award ceremony which will be funded through in year savings.
- 5.0 Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
- 5.1 General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes

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	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	$\boxtimes$
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision	ce
	Yes □ No ⊠	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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	
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	
	Rationale:	241-227
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes □ No ⊠	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	
7.0	Appendices	
	Appendix I Letter from KNIB Re LHLH Appendix II LHLH & Eco Schools Impact Card	
	Appendix III Letter from KNIB Re Eco Schools	
	Appendix IV KNIB Report Presentation Appendix V Draft SLA 2025/26	
8.0	Background Documents	

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Mono
None

## Dear Ms. Ward

I am writing to update you on the Live Here Love Here campaign and outline how we can work together in the years ahead. I'm delighted that Newry, Mourne & Down District Council has played an essential role in helping Northern Ireland's largest civic pride campaign grow and achieve exceptional results. This success demonstrates the power of collaboration - together we have made great strides in protecting our environment and building resilience in communities.

## Leading Behaviour Change Campaign in NI

Live Here Love Here has been established as the leading behaviour change campaign in Northern Ireland, focusing on reducing littering and waste—two areas directly impacting council resources. In its tenth year, Live Here Love Here continues to evolve and develop, expanding its impact. This year, alongside the Small Grants Scheme, we launched two additional grant schemes- the Marine Litter and Textile & Innovation grants, leveraging additional investment and increasing the support for tackling litter and waste in your Council area. With the support of our Field Officer team, we have also been able to offer direct, localised on the ground support to community groups, schools, parks and stations across your Council area, adding value to your financial investment, contributing to delivery of a range of the Council's Plans and Strategies and nurturing civic pride across Newry, Mourne and Down.

## Impact for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Area

I am pleased to report that Live Here Love Here has achieved impressive results in a tough financial year, benefiting the local economy and ratepayers. The attached impact card captures a snapshot of the impact of programmes delivered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful across Newry, Mourne & Down, including Live Here Love Here. Last year, your council invested £26,000 in Live Here Love Here, which allowed us to attract a further £37,742 of grant support into the local area. Taken together with the additional investment Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has attracted to its programmes, that's a return of £2.93 for every £1 you invested.

In addition, the very recent Live Here Love Here Connecting Communities event held in Newry Leisure Centre on the 28th August had 60 registrations indicating a growing grassroots appetite for Live Here Love Here across your Council area.

## Your Support In 2025/2026

We know that it's a challenging fiscal environment for Local Government and that is why we are not asking for any increase in financial support. In the next financial year 2025/2026, we are asking for the Live Here Love Here budget to remain at £26,000. The money you invest, which represents less than 0.5% of the Council budget, will offer vital support to local community groups, businesses and the broader economy. Our collaborative approach can make the money you invest go further by working with other funders and stakeholders to achieve great scale and impact.

## New Digital Platform Coming To Your Council 2025

I am excited to tell you that in the coming months, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful will launch the EARTH Hub, a new digital platform, which will elevate the profile of environmental engagement and education activities, including activities delivered by your Council, to new audiences and will enhance our digital engagement with your colleagues, allowing us to collaborate more effectively and share information with each other.

## Thank You

Working together, we have made a difference. This campaign is in the business of long-term change that can deliver real results and now is the time to build on progress. Its importance is reflected in the newly launched Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland which contains the following future vision: By 2030, create cleaner communities with less litter and instil communities with civic pride. By 2035, bring about a societal behavioural shift, where littering is socially unacceptable and the costs for clearing litter are significantly reduced in real terms.

In recognition of this and the demonstrable impact of the programme, I hope that you can agree to maintain the current budget for Live Here Love Here. Please take time to review the impact card attached so you can see for yourself what we have achieved together over the past year. Every pound invested in Live Here Love Here helps your communities and the environment to thrive.

Our new Chief Executive, Eric Randall, will take up his post in the coming weeks. Eric brings years of experience in this sector to this role. I know he will be keen to continue our partnership with this council and will look to build on our success together.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter and if you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact me. In the meantime, can I finally just thank you and your officers for their support over the past year.

Yours sincerely.

Aaron Ward

Chairperson, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

## **Celebrating Your Story** Capturing Our Impact

return on every £1 invested by the Council



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## NORTHERN BEAUTIFU IRELAND

## Castlewellan Regeneration

provided resources for the group to grow fresh produce. The initiative has provided a lifeline become involved in gardening projects, gain new transferable skills and build friendships, project by Castlewellan Regeneration Ltd to the local Men's Shed enabling them to proactively tackling loneliness and social solation

Small Grants Scheme Live Here Love Here

projects delivered

awarded by he Council amonnt

of Northern Ireland's 30 Under 30 Climate Change Makers taking positive action

space and places awarded for environmental excellence

Surveys to monitor and help tackle the litter problem hectares of land improved 4,494

## Other Grants

£37,742 amount awarded projects

Contributing to the Global SDG's

189 groups



3,299 volunteers supported

Green Flag Eco-Schools



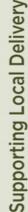












Young people getting a dose

of Vitamin Nature

School support visits and events

co-Schools

- Living Well Together: A Community Plan for Newry, Mourne & Down to 2030
- Regeneration & Economic Development Strategy 2020-2025
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Single Use Plastics Action Plan

Northern Ireland Beautiful in your Council area here.

supported by Keep Check out projects

Find out more



## Across Northern Ireland...

groups enabled with grant support to take pride in their place

339 events to support communities who love where they live





BiiG

Healthy Minds HEALTHY OCEANS

participants in Climate Change

Awareness Training with.... 6,847 estimated tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

partnerships to achieve a world where people and nature thrive

75% of public aware of Live Here Love Here

## NI Media Reach and Value

,165,102 £278,608

1,211,664 £230,597







Eco-Schools



## 16 May 2025

Dear Council,

## Council support request for the Eco-Schools Programme in Northern Ireland 2025/26.

This letter is a request for support for the Eco-Schools programme in your council area in 2025/2026 and to highlight the excellent value the Eco-Schools Programme brings to Northern Ireland in helping deliver a safe and sustainable future for our youth.

Your continued support both financially and with staff time is highly appreciated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and is critical to the success of the programme in educating young people on environmental issues and empowering them to make informed choices, take positive action and be the change needed to ensure a sustainable Northern Ireland. We seek to give young people a platform to make their voices heard and influence their peers, communities, policy and decision-makers.

## Support for Eco-Schools Going Forward

Over the past few years we have increased the amount of support we offer schools in your council area. The demand has grown exponentially since lockdown and our online resources and support offered during this time has increased in response. Through corporate partnerships we have been able to expand our Eco-Schools team to provide feet on the ground in your council area offering direct support to schools in the form of workshops, practical advice and support and online sessions. This corporate funding however is not secure and we can only hope your council continues to help us with its excellent and much needed support.

Currently your council contributes 3.5% of the overall Environmental Educational Team budget at a cost of £2,975 per annum (9 pence per pupil).

We would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you your investment in light of how the Eco-Schools programme has grown and developed in your Council area in the hope of sustaining the additional staff resource we have put in place to make this happen.

We understand the difficulties councils are facing at present with budget cuts and absorbing high inflationary rates and now is not an ideal time to request an increase in financial support. Therefore, we would hope, if possible you could join us at the higher offer however we understand remaining at your current offer of support with us may be more feasible.

We would invite you to review the following 2 options and take note of the awards ceremony plans.

## Option 1: Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful's preference.

Support of the Eco-Schools Programme at a cost of £10,942. This includes Wheelie Big Challenge and core running cost of the programme, which equates to an investment of approximately 32 pence per pupil in your council area and would continue to have your council in line with others.

Eco-Schools Northern reland is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and supported by the Department of Agriculature, Environment and Rural Affairs





## Option 2:

Support of the Eco-Schools Programme at a cost of £2,975 would equate to an investment of approximately 9 pence per pupil in your council area.

## Additional Eco-Schools Award Ceremony: £4000

After the huge success of our Eco-School Awards we hope for this to become an annual ceremony each year in each council.

Each year Eco-Schools have covered a significant cost out of KNIB reserves to get all 11 ceremonies over the line however; this cannot be sustained moving forward.

## Option 1: £4000

Organisation and promotion of Eco-School's Award Ceremony Invitations, rsvp, dietary requirements, comms	£850
Venue, Catering and refreshments	£2000
Photographer/videographer	£600
Guest speaker	£100
Host	£300
Sponsor an Award (award can be discussed: e.g. eco-School, Eco-teacher, Eco-Pupils etc)	£150

## Option 2: £2000

Your council organise the venue and catering.

I would stress we expect the award ceremonies to be larger this coming year with an increase in green flag applications and engagement

\*\*Please refer to the Matrix Grid to compare support\*\*







# Matrix for Council's Eco-Schools Support options

Deliverable	Option 1	Option 2
A pre-existing programme to assist council delivery of their waste and litter prevention programmes and to help councils meet waste prevention and landfill reduction targets.	×	×
Direct communication with all schools in your council and NI as a whole.	×	×
Support councils in educating and raising awareness on <b>litter, waste</b> and <b>avoidable single use plastics</b> that will be dealt with in forthcoming EU and Northern Ireland Executive Committee legislation.	×	×
The opportunity to be associated with this prestigious international environmental education programme.	×	×
Clear linkage to Council support for young people's environmental leadership development.	×	×
Free training for your staff to become Eco-Schools Green Flag Assessors.	×	×
Provision of assessments and flags	×	×
Organisation of 1 Cluster Group meeting and 1 Green Flag Clinic for teachers in the council area which deliver valuable information to schools progressing through the Eco-Schools programme and provide the council with opportunities to promote their own projects and build relationships with teachers.	×	×
Development of the Ambassador Eco-School network in your Council area - Ambassador Eco-Schools are flagship schools driving their environmental message further into the community and mentoring other schools in their area.	*	×
Providing reports and statistics on schools in your Council area which are involved in the Eco-Schools programme.  Annual report provided in July to supporting councils highlighting statistics for schools and information about the new incoming initiatives.	×	×
We provide support for council staff and elected representatives such as responding to ad hoc queries on the status of schools in the council area. However, further consultation on support of developing and delivering initiatives will <b>incur a consultancy fee charge</b> .	×	×

Eco-Schools Northern Ireland is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and supported by the Department of Agriculture. Environment and Rural Affairs





Agenda 7.0 / App 3 Eco-Schools Support Request 2025-26.pdf

Access to the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Data Hub, which puts information and statistics from Keep Northern	×	×
Ireland Beautiful programmes you support at your fingertips (www.keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org).		
Opportunities to promote your campaigns and activities through the monthly Eco-Schools newsletter and multiple	×	
social media channels and signposting schools to relevant council contacts on the Eco-Schools website (www.eco-		

Opportunity to promote campaigns, events and activities in the monthly Eco-Schools newsletter and two social		×
media posts annually. Posts and article must be provided in full.		
Desference along to others is equal association the economic for economic through audion	٨	

schoolsni.org)

Preference given to schools in council areas supporting the programme for promotion through media outlets.	X	
Allowing schools access to additional funding provided through Eco-Schools for projects such as the international	×	
Wrigley Litter Less campaign.		

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## Wheelie Big Challenge:

- contact school Eco-Coordinators to recruit schools to the project,
- manage all communications,
- Provide the toolkit for school and home
- provide workshops/webinars and support,
- ensure data is gathered and uploaded correctly
- gather competition entries,
- organise invitations to the final award event and
- generate PR around the project.
- Produce an end of project report to be included with your Eco-Schools report in July.



Eco. Schools Northern Iteland is operated by Keep Northern Yeard Beautiful and supported by the Department of Agriculture. Environment and Rural Attains

Enclosed is an Eco-Schools Support Request Form. I would be very grateful if you could provide the necessary Purchase Order number by the end of January 2025 to ensure access to the benefits listed above is maintained in 2025/26.

If you require any further information or clarification on anything above, please do not hesitate to contact me. I am happy to facilitate a meeting with councillors or council staff to talk them through the programme impact and the options.

Yours Sincerely

Charlene McKeown

1 Mkeeun

Environmental Education Manager

Charlene.mckeown@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Tel: 07845050890

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful

Eco-Schools Nomern Ireland is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and supported by the Department of Agriculature, Environment and Rural Affairs







### Eco-Schools Support 2025-2026 Request Form

Please tick your preferred option:
☐ Option 1: £10,942 at a rate of 32 pence per pupil
Option 2: £2,975 at a rate of 9 pence per pupil
Please tick your preferred option:
☐ Option 1: £4000 support for the award ceremony
☐ Option 2: £2000 support for the award ceremony
☐ Agrees to support the Eco-Schools Programme
OR
☐ Do not wish to support the Eco-Schools Programme
Council Purchase Order Number (required for invoicing)
Signed
Name
Position/job title
Date
Please return to:
Tracey McCreanor
Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful
Titantic Suites, 55-59 Adelaide Street, BT2 8FE
tracey.mccreanor@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org

Eco-Schools Northern Ireland is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and supported by the Department of Agriculature, Environment and Rural Affairs











March 2025





## Agenda

## Welcome

## LHLH Update

## Comms Update

## **MyEARTH**

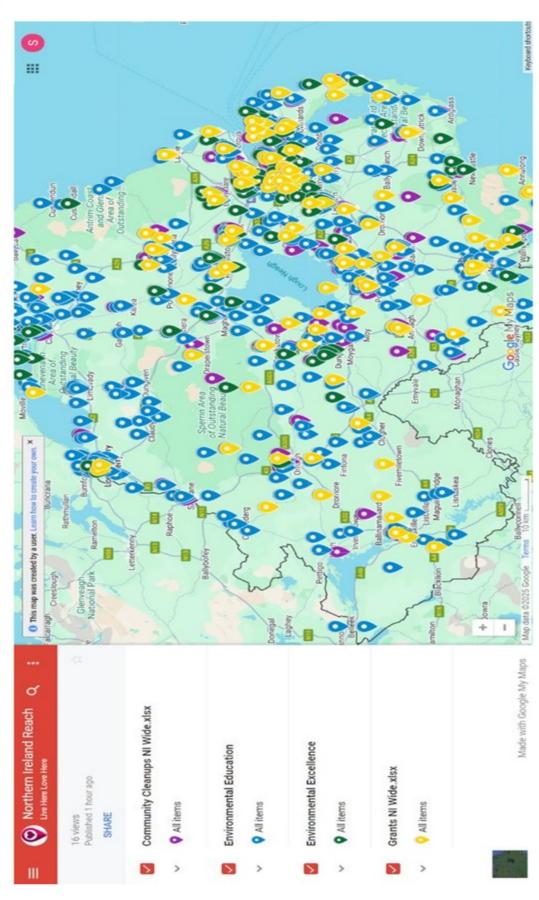
## **Funding Update**

### Future

### AOB







Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Impact 2024





## KNIB Staff Update

### NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL KEEP

Development Business Lead

Carla Tully

LHLH Project Officer

Alex Hall

Field Officers

David Scott (LCC/ AND)

Trevor Power (ABC/ NMD)



- 1300 groups actively involved in Adopt A Spot, including 23,600 volunteers
- Distributed 100 litter picking (DAERA in year)
- 2 AAS Hubs being trialed in ACBCBC and 2 community groups Hubs in NMD
- 50 wildlife packs offered to Adopt A Spot groups through the Nerve Centre's new engagement programme, Power Plants





## Community Awards 2025

- Sponsored by Power NI & DAERA
- 67 nominations submitted
- Ceremony in Belfast City Hall, hosted by Joe Mahon
- 158 attendees, including DAERA Minister Andrew Muir, Mayors/Chairs, partners, NGOs & volunteers
- Guest speakers were **Tony Macauley** & **Aine Murray** KNIB 30 under 30 cohort
- Overall PR reach in excess of 660,000 with 29 pieces secured across national & regional outlets









## Big Spring Clean 2025

- Sponsored by Helping Hand with provision of 100 clean up kits
- Week of launch events
- uptake from communities, individuals and First month of campaign has seen a good schools.
- Several large-scale community events with representation by Mayors & council reps
- Wide reaching press & social media campaign
- On target to hit 38,000 volunteer engagement



Spring Clean





# **Skills & Innovation Fund**

## Ards and North Down Borough

- Ballyhalbert & District Community Association
- Remakery Studio
- Make it Fab
- Seven Makes

# Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Angeline Murphy Design

## Mid Ulster District

Tully Meadow

## **Belfast City Council**

- Belfast Tool Library
- Glór na Mona

## **Derry City and Strabane**

- Repair & Share Foyle
- Waterside Women's Centre















# Small Grants Scheme 2024/25

Total Number of applications to Scheme: 378

Total Amount Requested: £1.2 Million

Total groups offered Funding: 122

· Total amount offered: £223,000

Full reports will be issued; April/ May 2025

Remaining funds will be carried into the new scheme 2025/26



### Back to Agenda

# Small Grants Scheme 2024/25

"The project has developed a sense of civic pride in our community giving the people a real focus on environmental improvements and how this can enhance the entire area. The project also helped improve the Health & Wellbeing of people with disabilities and other health issues in the community"

"we worked alongside volunteers, schoolchildren and a group of retired farmers (Plough On) to create an intergenerational community based food initiative that would supply fresh fruit and vegetables to our own community fridge and a local foodbank worked. The project, which is very much ongoing, has been very successful, we have managed to create an amazing outdoor space through tireless work from the farmers and the schoolchildren to plant and grow." Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership

"Our biodiversity and environmental stewardship efforts engaged 1,590 school pupils, exceeding outreach targets. We fostered civic pride by collaborating with schools and community groups, with strong volunteer participation in tree planting and habitat restoration. interactive workshops, events, and awareness campaigns strengthened engagement, and our work was recognised with a Beacon Award commendation." South West College



Northern Ireland community groups urged to apply for grant aimed at improving areas

















- Evaluation of current scheme
- Updated design for Small Grants Scheme 2025/26
- Funding
- Timeline
- · Continued communication
- Welcome partner feedback/input

# Upcoming Activity in 2025

- One in person event in each partner council area
- Online webinar
- June-September 2025
- Community opportunities
- Networking
- Sponsored by Belfast Harbour
- Over 60 events
- August 2025
- Connecting people to blue spaces
- Focus on positive mental health
- Protecting our environment













## Comms update

- Outdoor/ TV campaign.
- Market evaluation (Cognisense survey about to get underway).
- Comms Manager Claire Irwin is back from leave.
- Further opportunities for partner branding







**Environmental Action for Resilience, Transformation and Health** 

LHLH Steering Group Meeting 27<sup>th</sup> March 2025



Delivered by

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY
COMMUNITY FUND

# Quick Intro: What is myEARTH?

# More knowledge. More action. More change.

myEARTH is a collective platform which will empower everyone in Northern Ireland to take action towards tackling the climate and biodiversity crises. Bringing together resources and sector in one place, myEARTH is an innovative solution, leading opportunities from Delivery Partners across the environmental to real world change.

## **Delivery Partners**

currently offering environmental education Who? eNGOs, councils & organisations and action opportunities

events, programmes and encourage the public to organisation's activities, Promote your take action; Showcase your educational training, volunteering & job View and track the impact resources; Advertise your opportunities; made by your

organisation's Action

Cards.

**Action Cards** 

Impact

Resources

Opportunities

### Users

sports clubs; summer schemes; individuals; Who? Schools; youth groups; businesses; families; community groups who want to learn more and get involved

environmental education programmes and action; resources promoting Find out about local Learn from varied events, activities, and awareness;

volunteering & job Discover training, opportunities;

and monitor individual and Commit to taking actions & reporting back to view collective impact.



## **Timeline Update**





When?	End of April	Throughout May	June, July & August	September
What?	Website build completion and sign off	Delivery Partner Training and Upskilling Workshops	Summer impACT Challenge (Promotion through NB / Eco Schools Awards)	Business & Sectoral Networking Event



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

Sormant Assets NI

# What does this look like for you as a potential

## **Delivery Partner?**











your organisation has coming up from June Begin to think about onwards and which might benefit from the activities that promotion on myEARTH

Sign up for Delivery Partner **Upskilling Training** Equipping & in May

(Details on ESDF website)

Consider whether resource creation support that you might need with and if so, get in there is any touch.

colleagues in other benefit from using departments who myEARTH to get you think might amongst your Share widely colleagues. Encourage **involved!** 



# Equipping & Upskilling Workshops

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY ST

Delivery Partner Training: Equipping & **Upskilling Workshops** 

Where? NICVA, Duncairn Gardens

Choose **ONE** morning session & then as many external upskilling session(s) interest you Visit https://www.esdforum.org.uk/myearth 21st May -training-upskilling-days/for more info and to book!

6th May

AM: myEARTH Training

PM: Phone Photography (Neil Keery)

7<sup>th</sup> May

AM: myEARTH Training

PM: AI Skills (Jocelyn Burnham)

13th May

AM: myEARTH Training

PM: Canva Foundations (Kerry Hall)

AM: myEARTH Training

PM: Podcasting (Jason Burke)



THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

Sormant Assets NI

# We'd love to hear from you!



myEARTH Project Manager Rachael Thomas

<u>rachael.thomas@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org</u>



myEARTH Coordinator Claire Dundas

claire.dundas@keepnorthernirelandbeautiful.org



## Funding Update

## Celebrating Your Story Capturing Our Impact















### 30 Climate Change Makers Northern Ireland 30 Under Programme

Climate Change Makers. This growing network carbon reduction and spearhead the transition research and culture & communications. There makers operating across Northern Ireland and This programme supports a network of young of aspiring young leaders is equipped to drive influence across Northern Ireland, challenging people from a diverse range of backgrounds, is now an alumni of 60 young climate change agriculture & food production, technology & programme has been oversubscribed since conservation, central and local government common goal of becoming planet positive meaningful change within their spheres of construction, energy, academia, transport, cultures, industries & specialisms with the employers, colleagues and peers to drive t is alumni ambition to have a network of sectors involved including environmental its establishment with a broad range of to a more sustainable, just future. The governments, institutions, networks, 50 by 2028.



small Grants Scheme ive Here Love Here





98% of training attendees felt aware of the range of ways they can help

the range of ways they can help address the climate emergency

space and places awarded for environmental excellence

651

2221,000

amount awarded Additional investment projects delivered

83

£9,503

mount awarded

Other Grants

£214,332 amount awarded projects delivered



Find out more

supported by Keep Northern ireland Beautiful across Northern Ireland here. Check out projects

volunteers supported





369 Green Flag Eco-Schools

554 School support visits and events

Eco-Schools

339 events to support communities who love where they live



95,623 Young people getting a dose of Vitamin Nature

60 30 Under 30 Climate Change Makers taking positive action

taking positive action

















902 participants in Climate Change Awareness Training with....

5,847 estimated tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub>

partnerships to achieve a world where people and nature thrive 8

5% of public aware of Live Here Love Here

Media Reach and Value

12, 166 hectares of land improved

518 surveys to monitor and help tackle the litter problem

,211,664 ,165,102 278,608









Reporting Period - 1st April 2023- 31st March 2024.

### Back to Agenda

# **Next Steering Group Meeting**

- Online June 2025
- Media review Navigator Blue/ Cognisense survey update
- Feedback Survey:





KEEP NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL

### AGREEMENT

This service level agreement relates to the delivery of a Live Here Love Here programme and the Eco-Schools programme by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.

DATED6 <sup>th</sup> Ma	y 2025
-------------------------	--------

This Agreement is made between:

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Titanic Suites, 55-59 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8FE. HMRC Charity No XR36767, NI Charity No NIC 102973, Company No NI38848, VAT Reg No 860 203657.

And

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Oifig an Iúir, Newry Office, Monaghan Row, Newry, BT35 8DJ.

In consideration of the deliverables set out in Schedule 1 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council agrees to pay to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful the sum set out in Schedule 2 (the Fee), in accordance with the terms and conditions set out in this Agreement.

### APPOINTMENT

- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council hereby agrees with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful upon the following terms.
- Nothing in this Agreement shall be construed as constituting an Agency Agreement or a Partnership or a Joint Venture between the parties hereto.

### DURATION

3. This Agreement relates to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council involvement in the Live Here Love Here Programme and the Eco-Schools programme for an initial period of one year. Ongoing involvement in the programme is subject to satisfactory completion of deliverables. Any termination will be in accordance with Clause 7.

### CONSIDERATION

- 4. In consideration of the deliverables outlined in Schedule 1 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council shall pay to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful the Fee defined in Schedule 2. Such Fee will cover the costs of all obligations of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful set out in or resulting from this Agreement.
- In the event that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is unable to provide any of the deliverables the Fee shall be revised by agreement of both parties. If the parties

cannot reach agreement, then Newry, Mourne and Down District Council may terminate this agreement on 30 days' notice to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

In the event of termination by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful pursuant to Clause 7.2 any uncommitted Fees will be refunded in full.

### TERMINATION

- Either party shall have the right summarily to terminate this Agreement upon the happening of any of the following events:
  - 7.1. If Newry, Moume and Down District Council or Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is in material breach of its obligations hereunder and shall fail to remedy the same within thirty days of receiving written notice to do so.
  - 7.2. If the relationship between Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has irretrievably broken down or either party is conducting itself in a way which goes against the spirit of this agreement and all reasonable attempts to remedy the situation have failed.

### GENERAL

- 8. This Agreement shall be a full and binding Agreement, superseding all previous intentions of the parties and the parties acknowledge that this Agreement forms the whole of the Agreement between the parties and that neither party has relied on any warranty or representation whether oral or written expressed or implied made by or on behalf of the other in entering into the same.
- The Agreement will be managed on behalf of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful by Steve McCready Operations Manager, and on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council by......

### NOTICE

- 10. Any notice to be given under this Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed duly given if left at or sent by first class recorded delivery or registered post to the address shown herein or any substituted address of which one party has given at least ten days notice in writing to the other.
- 11. Any notice shall be deemed to have been duly served at the time when the same is left at the address of the party to be served or if served by post on the third day (excluding Sundays and public holidays) after the day of posting and in proving the giving of notice it shall be sufficient to prove that the notice was properly addressed and posted.

### VARIATION

12. The terms of this Agreement shall not be varied nor the Agreement terminated orally and none of the terms hereof shall be deemed to be waived or modified except by an express agreement in writing and signed by both parties.

### SCHEDULE 1: DELIVERABLES

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to deliver the following as part of the terms and conditions of this Agreement:

### Live Here Love Here:

- The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council brand logo to appear on Live Here Love Here Website and in relation to engagement in the Small Grants Programme
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be named as a partner in the Live Here Love Here Programme including acknowledgement in relevant press releases and photography in regard to the Small Grants Programme and any related programme activities
- Opportunities to provide Newry, Mourne and Down District Council quote for relevant Live Here Love Here press releases along with boilerplate text in notes to editors
- 4. The right to use the bespoke Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Live Here Love Here logo on any advertisement material to be used by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council for internal or external promotional purposes in connection with the Programme or related civic pride programmes - with prior approval by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful
- Develop opportunities for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council constituents
  across Northern Ireland to participate in actions that support the Programme
  including clean-ups, green ups and spruce ups, particularly through operation of
  a small grants programme, the latter to the value of £13,000
- Provision of a place on the judging panel for the Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council support covered regularly throughout the year across all Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful social media (Facebook and Twitter) and websites (Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, Live Here Love Here and Eco-Schools)
- Support of PR opportunities developed by Newry, Mourne and Down District
- Branding on print collateral (where space allows)
- Delivery of clean-up kits (funding dependent) to each newly registered group organising a clean-up including enhanced kits for groups registering for Adopt A Spot
- Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful attendance at one major local event during the year as selected by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (three months' notice required)
- Support for other clean-up events as available

- Production of annual summary/impact report to be submitted to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.
- 14. No persons under the age of sixteen years may be used in any photograph without parental/guardian permission in writing.

### Eco-Schools:

- 15. The Eco-Schools programme delivered in Newry, Mourne & Down Council area to assist council delivery of their waste and litter prevention programmes and to help meet waste prevention and landfill reduction targets.
- 16. Support councils in educating and raising awareness on litter and avoidable single use plastics that will be dealt with in forthcoming EU and (in the absence of an Assembly) UK legislation.
- 17. The opportunity to be associated with this prestigious international environmental education programme delivered in 60,000 schools in 74 countries worldwide.
- Clear linkage to Council support for young people's environmental leadership development.
- Free training for Council staff to become Eco-Schools Green Flag Assessors.
- Clear linkage to Council support for young people's environmental leadership development.
- Provision of assessments and flags.
- 22. Support of one Cluster Group meeting for teachers in the Newry, Mourne & Down Council area which deliver valuable information to schools progressing through the Eco-Schools programme and provide the council with opportunities to promote their own projects and build relationships with teachers.
- 23. Attending and promoting Green Flag award ceremonies hosted by the Council which are important to schools and pupils, re-enforcing the importance of their work and introducing pupils to their local council's involvement and relevance in what they are doing in school.
- 24. Development of the Ambassador Eco-School network in your Council area -Ambassador Eco-Schools are flagship schools driving their environmental message further into the community and mentoring other schools in their area.
- 25. Providing an annual report on schools in Newry, Mourne & Down Council area which are involved in the Eco-Schools programme. We provide support for council staff and elected representatives such as responding to ad hoc queries on the status of schools in the council area.

26. Opportunities to promote your campaigns and activities through the monthly Eco-Schools newsletter and 2 social media channels and signposting schools to relevant council contacts on the Eco-Schools website (www.eco-schoolsni.org).

### SCHEDULE 2: FEES

In consideration of the Deliverables listed in Schedule 1, the following Fee shall be made payable.

### Live Here Love Here:

[INSERT JOB TITLE]

Total Fee for April 2025 - March 2026: £26,000 (excluding VAT) payable in May 2025.

Eco-Schools:	
Total Fee for April 2025 - March 2026:	£2975 (excluding VAT) payable in May 2025.
SIGNED for and on behalf of Keep Nor	thern Ireland Beautiful
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Steve McCready Head of Operations	Date
SIGNED for and on behalf of Newry, M	ourne and Down District Council
INCEST NAME	B
[INSERT NAME]	Date

PART CONTRACTOR AND AN ALL STATES OF THE CONTRACTOR AND AN AREA OF THE CONTRACTOR AND AND AN AREA OF THE CONTRACTOR AND AN AREA OF THE CONTRACTOR AND AND AND AN AREA OF THE CONTRACTOR AND
21 May 2025
Newry Market Request to host Christmas Event
Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Gail Kane, Head of Facilities Management

For d	ecision X For noting only
1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of the report is to detail a request to host a Christmas Market Event at Newry Variety Market and provide options around charging.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	Christmas Market Council Facilities Management Team have been approached by an external party to request the use of Newry Market to host a Christmas Market for 2025.
	The proposal would be to launch an opening of the Christmas Market on the same date of the Christmas lights switch on in Newry City Centre.
	It is proposed that the Christmas Market would take place on Thursday through to Sunday each week from Christmas Lights switch on (mid November) through to Christmas (approx. 5 weeks in total).
	Newry Market has had a sharp decline in numbers of traders in recent years despite Councils effort with a promotional campaign which was competed in 2024.
	A well organised Christmas Market would have the potential to significantly increase footfall to the Newry Market area.
2.2	Event Charging Currently Council do not charge for use of Newry Market for events. However, this event is proposing to run on Market trading days (Thursdays & Saturdays), on which traders pay £29 per stall. Existing traders have been consulted and are keen to trade as part of the event.
	To ensure consistency and fairness for existing traders and the event organiser it is proposed to charge the event organiser £58 per week per stall booked into the Christmas Market. This would ensure Council are not at a loss of income and traders would be able to trade 4 days for the price of 2 as per existing charging.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	To proceed with Christmas Market Event with recommended charging as outlined in section 2.2 of the report.

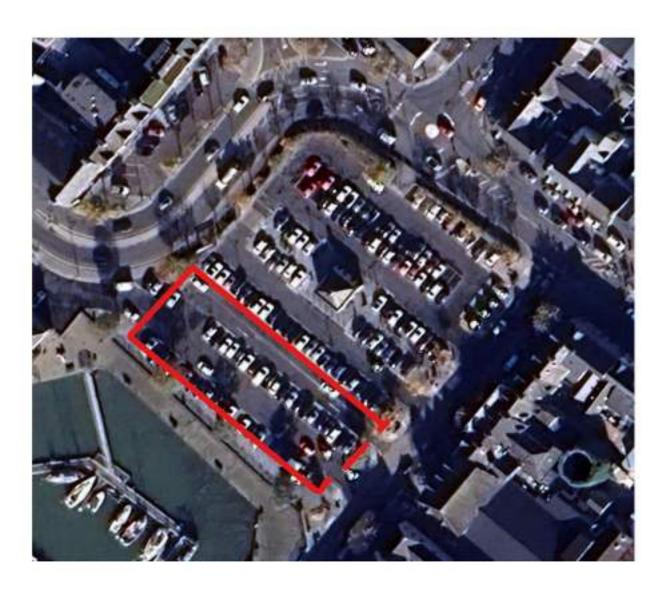
4.0	Resource implications	
4.1	Newry Market staff would be required to open and lock market facilities on each day of event.	of
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (comple the relevant sections)	te
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, spe equality and good relations outcomes	ecific
	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision  Yes  No	ce
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes □ No ⊠	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed	
7.0	Appendices	
	None	
8.0	Background Documents	
8.1	None	

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21 May 2025
Subject:	The Department for Infrastructure parking area at The Square, Warrenpoint.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Mr Conor Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Mr Gary McCurry, Duty Manager, Off-Street Parking Function

For d	ecision x For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background	
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Sustainability and Environment Committee to approach the Department for Infrastructure (DFI) to request their consideration to transfer ownership of the portion of the parking area at The Square, Warrenpoint under their ownership to Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.  Appendix 1 of the report shows the car parking area in The Square, Warrenpoint and the area under ownership of DFI is outlined.	
2.0	Key issues	
2.1	The Council controlled parking area provides 136 parking bays, with two entrance points either side of the public convenience block. In recent months, in order to minimise the likelihood of illegal trespass on the land, which severely impacts parking provision for the town, Council installed temporary Height Restriction Barriers at both Council controlled entrance points. Permanent Height Restriction Barriers are currently in the process of manufacture and will replace the temporary structures when complete.  This leaves circa 45 parking bays, with an additional two entrance points accessing the area under the control of DFI (along the dock wall), exposed to potential illegal trespass. DFI have indicated that presently, they have no plans to install any Height Restriction measures on their portion of the site.	
2.2	Members are asked to note the following possible constraints and considerations that may impact the transfer:  LEGISLATIVE: Possible legislative obstacles may exist as the roadway under DFI ownership is an adopted road.  TAXI RANK: The DFI portion of the Square incorporates a live taxi rank, which will require consideration.  COMMERCIAL PREMISES: The DFI owned roadway also provides access to commercial premises located close to Newry Street. Again, this may have a direct impact on any potential decision-making process.	
3.0	Recommendations	
3.1	Committee members to consider the content of the report and provide approval for Council officers to formally approach DFI and research the feasibility of a land transfer of their portion of the site into Council ownership.	

4.0	Resource implications	
4.1	Any resource implication involving the initial approach would be provided from within current Sustainability section structure.	the
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complet the relevant sections)	te
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, spe equality and good relations outcomes	ecific
	It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations	
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision	æ
	Yes No No	
	If yes, please complete the following:	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation	
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation	
	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	
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks	
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	
	Rationale:	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service	
	Yes No No	
	If yes, please complete the following:	

Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed
Appendices
Appendix 1 Mapping overview showing the area of DFI ownership within the Square, Warrenpoint.
Background Documents
None



Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	21st May 2025
Subject:	Consultation response on proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance (Northern Ireland)
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sarah Davidson, Senior Environmental Health Officer

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Sustainability & Environment Committee on the response to the Food Standards Agency's Consultation on the Proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) and Practice Guidance, attached in Appendix 1.
1.2	The Food Standards Agency has launched the Consultation on the Proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) and Practice Guidance which closes on 19 May 2025.
	The Code sets out instructions and criteria to which District Councils in Northern Ireland must have regard when discharging their duties in relation to the delivery of official food control activities.
2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<ul> <li>This consultation seeks stakeholders' views on proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Code and Practice Guidance. The key proposals include:</li> <li>an updated risk-based approach to the prioritisation and timescales for undertaking initial food hygiene official controls of new food establishments</li> <li>enabling, in certain circumstances, an establishment's food hygiene intervention risk rating to be amended following a wider range of official control methods and techniques, including those undertaken remotely</li> <li>extending the activities that officers who do not hold a specified qualification for food hygiene or standards, can, if competent, undertake</li> <li>a clarification in approach to interventions at food hygiene establishments that fall into risk category E for food hygiene.</li> <li>removal of a prescriptive number of hours required for continuing professional development.</li> <li>other amendments to reflect legislative change, provide clarity, improve consistency, and keep pace with current practices.</li> </ul>
2.2	Consultation response form on proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance (Northern Ireland) is attached in Appendix 1. Members should note that as the response is due by 19 May 2025, the response provided has been submitted to the Food Standard's Agency, subject to committee and Council approval.

3.0	Recommendations		
3.1	Members are asked to approve the submission on behalf of Council of the draft response to the Food Standards Agency's Consultation on the Proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) and Practice Guidance, as set out in Appendix 1.		
4.0	Resource implications		
4.1	N/A		
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)		
5.1	General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes		
	n/a	×	
5.2	Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice  / or sensitive or contentious decision  Yes □ No ☒  If yes, please complete the following:	and	
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened		
	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation		
5.3	Proposal initiating consultation  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		
	Consultation period will be 12 weeks		
	Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided)	п	
	Rationale: n/a		
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)		
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service  Yes □ No 図  If yes, please complete the following:		
	Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed		
7.0	Appendices		
	Appendix 1 – Consultation response form on proposed amendments to the Food Law C of Practice and Practice Guidance (Northern Ireland)	ode	
8.0	Background Documents		
	n/a		

# Consultation response form on proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance (Northern Ireland)

In relation to proposal 1, an updated risk-based approach to the prioritisation and timescales for undertaking initial official controls of new food establishments:

Question 1a. Do you consider that the approach will provide Competent Authorities with the ability to deploy current resources more effectively? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which requires further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council acknowledges the introduction of the flexibility regarding the timescales for initial official controls of new food businesses. Newry Mourne & Down District Council agrees that this will enable Councils to prioritise initial or due official controls of higher risk premises.

Although the Code provides for an initial official control for lower inherent risk businesses within 3 months of commencing operations the FSA should be aware that Councils will be pressured in providing businesses which are included in FHRS with a rating in a shorter time scale for commercial reasons. The FSA should be aware that Newry Mourne & Down District Council corporate objectives include the economic support of businesses.

The business types that Councils can avail of remote official controls would be limited to those that are low risk and exempt under the FHRS such as childminders, chemists, certain off licences and food brokers. Within the Newry Mourne & Down District Council area the number of these types of businesses are low and do not frequently change ownership, therefore it is limited as to officer time saved.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council would consider a 'competent person' to be one who meets the qualifications in the current FLCOP. While unqualified staff may be able to gather information a suitably qualified person, as per the FLCOP will be required to make the inherent risk assessment.

Currently the Councils MIS is not set up to accept an inherent risk assessment, therefore further development of the MIS system is required to input data and to extract data. Currently data in respect of the initial risk assessment would not be able to be retrieved or reported on.

Our current MIS defaults to 28 days for a planned initial official control on acceptance of a food registration's proposal to introduce an initial desktop assessment to provide an inherent risk will require additional administration time. Without the appropriate adaptations to the MIS clarity is sought on how this should be recorded.

Due to limited information being provided through RAFB at the time of registration, it will be necessary to contact businesses to clarify all three elements to accurately assess the "potential hazard". This will require additional staff resources.

The FSA should consider developing additional mandatory fields in RAFB to capture the necessary business information for both Food Hygiene and Food Standards. There is no confirmation in the consultation that the FSA will cover the costs of the necessary future development of the MIS.

Question 1b. It is proposed that, for food hygiene, timescales are provided for initial official controls of all establishments. For food standards, timescales are currently only provided for the highest risk establishments in the Code, with timescales for lower risk establishments provided in separate guidance. Would you agree or disagree with moving the food standards timescales into the Code in the future, so all timescales are in one document? Please describe the main reasons for your answer.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council disagree with moving the food standards low risk establishments timescales into the Code. Retaining the low-risk Food Standard timescales in the Practice guide will provide Councils with the flexibility to use their resources effectively and make their inspection programme more efficient. Where there may be different risks associated with food hygiene and food standards at the same premises then Councils will be better able to manage their inspection programmes based on highest risk and priority. Low risk Food standards inspections may be carried out at the time of the due food hygiene inspection.

Question 1c. Proposal 1 relates to the timescales for initial official controls. No changes to the timescales for due official controls are proposed as part of this consultation, these will remain, as currently, at 28 days for all establishments. However, to assist us in planning future policy in relation to the timescales for due official controls, do you agree or disagree with keeping the timescales at 28 days? Please describe the main reasons for your answer.

Newry Moume & Down District Council agree that 28 days should be retained but only for those premises where the greatest risk is identified i.e. A, B and non-compliant C 's. The timescale of three months should be extended to broadly compliant C, D and E categories. This flexibility would assist Councils to address in year activities such as food safety incidents, food poisoning outbreaks etc but still meet the requirements of the Code and ensure the integrity of the FHRS and consumer confidence in the scheme.

In relation to proposal 2, enabling, in certain circumstances, an establishments food hygiene intervention rating to be amended following a wider range of official control method and techniques including those undertaken remotely:

Question 2a. Do you consider that the proposal will enable Competent Authorities to deploy current resources more effectively? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council acknowledge the benefits to the proposed flexibilities for the undertaking of official controls however the mandatory FHRS in NI limits their use. In order to maintain consumer confidence in the integrity of the FHRS scheme it is not a viable option to make use of other official controls in broadly compliant C and D premises, an inspection is always required to revise the rating.

The proposal recognises that establishments within scope of the FHRS can avail of a non-official control which can be undertaken remotely, but the rating cannot be revised. Newry Mourne & Down District Council do not agree with this proposal as this would diminish the consumer confidence when it comes to light that premises are legitimately displaying ratings that were issued 3 or 4 years prior.

With lessons learnt during the Covid 19 pandemic, the lack of physical inspections by Food Safety Officers resulted in a decline in food safety standards, including in those premises previously deemed to be in a lower inherent risk category e.g. Category D premises. Newry Mourne & Down District Council found that remote assessments were not a suitable means for applying official controls and could only be used to assist a physical inspection rather a means to adequately risk rate the premises. The time required to set up a remote assessment with the FBO was found to be equivalent to carrying a physical official control.

Consumers have a view that a FHRS rating inspection is carried out at much shorter intervals between primary inspections, this is supported by FSA consumer research which indicates consumers would expect businesses to receive inspection regularly with expectations ranging from a few times a year to every two years. (https://www.food.gov.uk/research/value-of-fhrs-consumer-research-executive-summary)

There may be scope to develop the use of partial inspections by qualified officers. They are currently seldom used but may save time and still enable a revised risk rating and FHRS rating to be issued. In order to issue a revised rating all three elements of the FHRS scoring would need to be assessed therefore the feasibility of partial inspections would need to be explored further.

There may be inconsistency of approach to official controls between the 3 nations. England does not operate the mandatory FHRS scheme and has the flexibility to avail of a wider range of official controls, including remote assessment.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with the proposed approach to E Category establishments were currently an Alternative Enforcement Strategy can be utilised; the proposal enables Councils to alternate to non-official controls. This proposal would save officer time carrying out follow up activities on non-returned AES questionnaires.

The proposed flexibilities descriptors should be more concise.

Question 2b. If responding on behalf of a Competent Authorities, would you, if implemented, utilise the flexibility to undertake some methods and techniques remotely? If not, why not?

Newry Mourne & Down District Council do not agree to the use of remote inspections for C and D establishments. Previous experience of officers within Newry Mourne &

Down District Council found that remote assessments were not a suitable means for applying official controls and could only be used to assist a physical inspection rather than a means to adequately risk assess the premises.

As previously stated, Newry Mourne & Down District Council would only consider using an official control remotely for E category establishments.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council would also consider using remote assessments for the verification of work carried out by a business following a physical inspection.

In relation to proposal 3, extending the activities that officers, who do not hold a 'suitable qualification' for food hygiene or food standards, can, if competent, undertake:

Question 3a. Do you consider that the flexibilities will enable Competent Authorities to deploy resources more effectively? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council do not agree with the utilisation of officers not holding a suitable qualification to undertake official food hygiene and food standards controls in D and E premises and lower risk food standards premises. Official controls should remain with the remit of suitably qualified staff.

The oversight and supervision required by competent officers and lead officers would negate any advantage to the Council.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council do however make use of staff without suitable qualifications to carry out other food related duties. The use of such officers to take on administrative duties, informal sampling or low risk service requests allows resources to be used efficiently. Assistance in these areas enables qualified officers to spend more time in the district on physical inspections and carrying out enforcement actions.

Please also see response to question 1 of Questions in relation to future potential developments – Qualifications

The current MIS does not allow the extraction of data based on specific risk scores and it would therefore not be possible to determine which Cat D premises have a 5 or 10 for type of food/method of handling rendering this proposal impracticable.

Question 3b. If responding on behalf of a Competent Authorities, would you, if implemented, utilise this flexibility and authorise officers, if competent, to undertake additional activities, and if so, how many officers would you anticipate authorising? If not, why not?

Newry Mourne & Down District Council currently have one student EHO who is authorised as a Regulatory Support Officer and would not intend to extend their authorisation.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council may consider in the future the creation of further Regulatory Support Officer posts to undertake other food related duties such as administrative duties, informal sampling or low risk service requests. However the authorisation of these officers would not be extended.

Consideration needs to be given to the current role of regulatory officers and similar in that they have a full range of duties, so they may not have additional capacity to carry out other duties.

In relation to proposal 4, a clarification in approach to interventions at food business establishments that fall into risk category E for food hygiene:

Question 4. Do you consider that the proposed approach will provide clarity and consistency in the frequency of official controls at these establishments? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

In relation to proposal 5, removal of the prescriptive number of hours required for continuing professional development (CPD):

Question 5. Do you consider that the approach will provide Competent Authorities with greater flexibility to determine appropriate levels of CPD and training that officers undertake? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council disagree with this proposal. The Code of Practice should retain the requirement of a minimum 20 hours CPD with 10 core hours.

As professionally qualified officers there is an expectation that officers will maintain a level of continuing professional development. It is important that this element is protected in the Code.

It is imperative that officers receive regular training including refresher training to support their competency in food related matters. Food legislation and food technology is continually evolving, and regular training is necessary to ensure that officers have the most up to date knowledge. The FSA should recognise that competency and training are mutually inclusive. In court proceedings the officer's expertise may be questioned by the defence and proof of training can support an expert status.

If there is no incentive to provide training for staff, then there is the potential that training budgets may be affected.

In relation to proposal 6, other amendments to reflect legislative change, provide clarity, improve consistency and keep pace with current practices:

Question 6a. Do you consider that the examples of where the additional score of 22 for vulnerable risk groups would not be used, provides further clarity and will improve consistency in the application of the score? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Question 6b. Do you agree that the inclusion of additional descriptors, regarding food safety culture, in part 3 of the food hygiene intervention rating scheme, will provide clarification in the assessment of food safety culture? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Question 6c. Do you consider that the clarification within the food hygiene intervention rating scheme about how allergen cross-contamination is taken into account will improve consistency? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree that this clarification will improve consistency in the risk assessment process.

Question 6d. Do you consider that moving the guidance on parts two and three of the food hygiene intervention rating scheme from the FHRS Statutory Guidance to the Practice Guidance will improve clarity as to where the guidance can be found? If not, why not? (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Question 6e. Do you have any objections to the inclusion of the following qualifications within the Code:

- · Trading Standards Professional Apprenticeship with the food module as an appropriate qualification for food standards
- Degree in Environmental Health awarded by the Dublin Institute of Technology (awarded from June 2012 onwards)
- Degree in Environmental Health awarded by the Technological University Dublin

If you have any objections, please provide reasons for these. (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Question 6f. Do you consider that the amendments to the terminology in the Code and Practice Guidance has improved clarity and consistency between the documents? If not, why not? (Please specify which sections and any aspects of the proposal that require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Question 6g. Do you agree or disagree with the proposal to remove references to the Competency Framework from the Code but retain references to it in the Practice Guidance to enable the revised approach to competency assessment as set out in the draft Code? Please describe the main reasons for your answer. (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Question 6h. Do you agree or disagree with the removal of references to the Practice Guidance and Framework Agreement from the Code? Please describe the main reasons for your answer. (Please specify any aspects of the proposal which require further consideration, and why).

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Additional comments and suggestions

Question 7. Do you have any additional relevant comments or suggestions regarding the draft Code and Practice Guidance?

Newry Mourne and Down District Council would seek clarification of the following issues with the Food Standards Risk Assessment Descriptors

Scale of Supply & Distribution

 Definition – Low Hazard. The wording is not correct – it states -Establishments supplying/distributing food locally, with known local suppliers to the business (including small and local food establishments selling ready to eat food such as corner shops, cafes and restaurants)

This factor is in relation to food being supplied by the specific business and the number of their customers. The wording highlighted needs to be changed as the interpretation would indicate that it is food being received into the business from local suppliers.

Secondly why is the statement related to ready to eat food. For example, a local butcher supplies cooked ham to a local café it would be scored as low risk but if they supplied mince steak this activity would not meet the definition of low risk.

Could you please give a reason why the term "ready to eat "is specified.

It would read better as Establishments supplying/distributing food locally to small businesses such as corner shops, cafes and restaurants.

International, National and Regional

NI Councils would need a definition of international, national and regional supply, particularly in the context of NI on the Island of Ireland and physically separated from the UK.

Complexity of Supply Chain

The descriptors for Significant and Minor Hazard makes reference to the UK. For NI Councils this definition would need to be amended to consider the NI's unique position in regard to being in the EU Regulatory regime.

The descriptor for serious hazard references countries outside the UK equivalent regulatory oversight. Could more detail be provided as to what this means – is it 3rd Countries.

Question 8a. Do you agree or disagree with our assessment of the impacts on Competent Authorities and our assumptions on familiarisation and training resulting from the proposed changes to the Code? Please describe the main reasons for your answer.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree.

Question 8b. Do you agree or disagree with our assessment of the impacts on Competent Authorities in relation to changes to procedures? Please describe the main reasons for your answer.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council agree with this proposal.

Question 8c. If responding on behalf of a Competent Authority, how long would you estimate that it will take to update local policies and procedures if the proposals were implemented? If providing an estimate, please explain which proposal (or proposals) it relates to.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council would estimate that 1 hour to review and amend local policies and procedures.

Question 8d. Do you foresee any other impacts from the implementation of the main proposals detailed beyond those we have identified? Where possible, please explain your views, which proposal (or proposals) they relate to, and provide quantifiable evidence (for example, costs associated with updating your administration systems, existing procedures, the benefits of greater flexibility to allocate staff to activities.)

Newry Mourne & Down District Council would request confirmation that the FSA will cover the cost of any changes necessary to the Councils MIS.

Questions in relation to future potential developments - Qualifications

Question I. Do you consider that moving the list of FSA endorsed qualifications to the Practice Guidance could provide flexibility to recognise new qualifications more expediently without reducing the professional standards subject to an agreed and published governance procedure being in place? If not, please provide your reasons and evidence of the impact you think this will have.

Newry Mourne & Down District Council strongly disagree with the proposed moving of the FSA endorsed qualifications from the Code to the Practice Guidance.

Newry Moume & Down District Council are aware that District Councils are experiencing recruitment and retention challenges, particularly since Covid and support the FSA work stream in this area. However, the suggestion to remove the endorsed qualifications from the Code to the Practice Guidance is not a solution. There has already been a reduction in the length of experience required to be fully authorised. The removal of EHRB has also weakened the consistent approach to qualification and competence. Any further amendments to this would jeopardise the integrity of the profession. Public perception is that food safety officers have recognised qualifications and that they are overseen by an official body/competent authority.

We acknowledge that there are existing flexibilities within the Code that recognises equivalent qualifications and therefore this proposal is not necessary.

The move from the Code to PG downgrades the status of the listed qualification to an optional list. The FSA endorsed qualifications contained in the Code have to date provided a consistent benchmark for District Council's to ensure that officers responsible for food and public safety have received the appropriate initial training. To date these qualifications have maintained to a high standard of competence throughout the profession. The high level of food safety compliance in the Newry Mourne & Down District Council area is due to the quality of the EHO's that have attained these qualifications and been employed by the Council. Removing the need to attain these qualifications has the potential to affect the profession as a whole and Newry Mourne & Down District Council would argue that professional standards will be detrimentally affected.

In addition, this may create inconsistencies between Councils on qualification requirements for the recruitment of Food Safety officers, which in turn may create inconsistencies in competence of these officers and inconsistencies in the application of enforcement and regulation. We believe it would also make it more difficult for the FSA to assess officer competence during audits. To date there has never been any concerns raised by the FSA regarding officer competency at audit due to the qualifications.

The endorsed qualifications provide a consistent level that candidates have to achieve. Under the new proposals each individual will be submitting different evidence of qualification and assessed by differing Lead Food Officers. The qualifications are useful for both the profession and employers as it provides a recognised independent level of consistency and removes the burden from the employer to carry out assessments. Under this proposal lead food officers will potentially not be officers with a suitable qualification. This too will lead to inconsistencies in officer competence, enforcement and regulation. The lead officer role is essential in ensuring the appropriate oversight of the food safety function and should be protected.

Current EHO's have attained the qualifications through a desire to be become an EHO and take pride in the title and the profession. To move the need for a suitable qualification from essential to desirable downgrades their achievements and the work that they do. Removing the qualification has the potential to reduce the value of the EHO and may make the profession less attractive to work in. Jobs could be re-evaluated at lower salaries.

EHO's have for a long time been essential in ensuring food and public safety through proactive and reactive inspections and investigations, including many emergency situations, one such example being the Flicks E-coli outbreak, where through the diligent work of EHO's across many of the Councils, no deaths occurred. EHO's are vital in enforcing the food information regulations and preventing the sale of unsafe food. The number of high-profile cases that have been taken by EHO's in respect of allergen non-compliance is evidence of the need for suitably qualified officers to undertake the food safety function.

Any downgrading of the qualification status of officers carrying out official controls could leave officers open to legal challenge in respect of their competency. Any legal action that they may take could degrade the expert witness status of those officers in a court and severely impact effective regulation.

EHO's develop a wide skill set, due to the training they must undertake to achieve the appropriate qualification. They are not restricted to the function area they work in and can work across a number of public health functions while carrying out their role in food safety. This enables them to maximise the outcomes from any inspection, investigation or contact with business.

Food safety officers work alone and are required to be able to make the appropriate decision at the time of any visit. They must be able to work unsupervised and be competent to make decisions unaided and sometimes under pressurised or volatile situations. The wide skill set and knowledge gained under the current system of recognised qualifications enables them to make such decisions. While Councils do employ officers without the listed qualifications these officers do not work unsupervised or unaided. It is the EHO that makes the decision on the most appropriate course of action based on the information gathered by the technical assistant or officer. These officers allow DC's to use resources effectively but they do not replace the need for suitably qualified staff.

The move to the PG also removes the robust oversight by FSA and the EU on the qualification of the staff employed to carry out the Food Safety functions. The current oversight is maintaining the high quality of professionals within the food safety function and ensures consistency of recruitment. EU legislation sets standards for food safety officers, in that food safety units must have a sufficient number of suitably qualified, authorised and experienced staff i.e. have obtained a recognised qualification rather than just training for example the TARP Regs make the distinction between Official Fish Inspectors being qualified and assistants being trained. Current legislation also set standards for premises within the council area, this proposal could potentially affect premises approved under EU legislation if the EU deem officers in NI as not suitably qualified.

Without independent and consistent oversight, there is the potential for training bodies or private consultants to create training qualifications with no accreditation.

Under this proposal there is the potential for the food safety function to move to private contractors with their own auditors. District council EHO's are vital in providing a neutral and fair regulatory enforcement programme. They are required to undertake conflict of interest declarations to ensure an unbiased approach to regulation and are vital in providing impartial and fair advice, guidance and where necessary enforcement.

The strong working relationships between the district councils in the eleven Councils would be severely impacted by the introduction of private contractors and auditors. All eleven district councils currently work together to ensure consistency and effective regulation and enforcement across the districts. This close working relationship ensures that food and public safety is maintained across the country in areas such as food fraud, incidents and product recalls and withdrawals. Private contractors would have no such interest in joint working or the wider food safety remit of District Council officers.

Private contractors and auditors will charge a fee for their services and this removes their impartiality.

The removal of suitable qualifications has huge implications for human resource management within the district councils. This suggestion will result in a mix of staff with different qualifications potentially all able to do the same job but on differing pay grades. District Councils would not be able to manage the range of job descriptions, differing contracts and different grading structure. District Councils could potentially be in non-compliance with internal governance procedures in terms of staff recruitment, job descriptions, employee specifications and staff development and progression.

Rather than move the qualifications to an optional requirement it would be better to implement some of the other flexibilities suggested in this consultation and assess their effectiveness first.

District Councils would also welcome the progression of some of the previously suggested solutions that would make our work more efficient and enable district councils to manage their time and resources more effectively e.g. permit to trade, widening the scope of FPNs for other food safety offences.

Recruitment and retention workstreams within the FSA should also continue. Newry Mourne & Down District Council currently work with the University of Ulster, who provide the EH degree in NI, to encourage students to consider District Councils as

an employer. The Council also provides a student placement annually. Newry Mourne & Down District Council will continue to work with colleagues in other Local Authorities to provide lectures and bespoke training for the University. Newry Mourne & Down District Council are also working with schools and colleges to promote the profession. Support from the FSA in this regard would be appreciated to enable district councils to put adequate resources to these initiatives. Awareness raising of the important role of food safety officers in protecting food and public safety should be invested in.

Question II. What do you perceive to be the advantages, disadvantages and impacts if we move the list of qualifications from the Code to the Practice Guidance?

Newry Mourne & Down District Council would refer you to the answer in Question 1 above.

Question III. Is there an alternative way that we could more expediently update the list of FSA endorsed qualifications from the one presented?

Newry Mourne & Down District Council would propose that the FSA explore the viability of a shorter consultation timescale for any amendments to the FSA endorsed qualifications.

The FSA endorsed qualifications are not developed very often and to develop an equivalent would take time. This would give time to provide a consultation before implementation.

If the qualifications are removed from the Code and put in the PG then there is no opportunity for consultation on any amendments.

If qualifications are moved to the PG and qualifications are removed from the list, then there is the potential that existing staff may no longer meet the requirements of their role and the lack of consultation would mean FSA would be unaware of the potential impacts.





# Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

Quarterly provisional estimates for October to December 2024





An Roinn

Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Depairtment of

Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers

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# Northern Ireland waste management statistics – October to December 2024



# **Key Points**

- Northern Ireland's councils collected 234,229 tonnes of waste during October to December 2024, similar to the 233,694 tonnes collected during October to December 2023.
- During October to December 2024, 47.7 per cent of waste collected by councils was sent for recycling which was lower than the 48.5 per cent recycling rate recorded in the same quarter in 2023.
- The landfill rate for waste collected by councils was 16.2 per cent in October to December 2024, a fall from both 75.4 per cent in 2006 and 17.4 per cent during October to December 2023.
- During October to December 2024, 34.6 per cent of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery which was higher than the 32.8 per cent reported in October to December 2023. In the longer term, energy recovery rates have increased from 0.5 per cent recorded during October to December 2009.
- Household waste accounted for 87.6 per cent of all Local Authority collected (LAC) waste during this period.
- The recycling rate for household waste only was 48.2 per cent during October to December 2024 which is lower than 49.0 per cent recorded during October to December 2023. The landfill rate for household waste was 16.0 per cent, which was lower than the rate of 17.2 per cent recorded in October to December 2023.

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#### Reader Information

This document may be made available in alternative formats, please contact us to discuss your requirements. Definitions of key terms used in this publication are available in <a href="Appendix 2 - Glossary">Appendix 2 - Glossary</a> of the latest Annual Report.

#### Purpose

This is a quarterly publication which reports provisional statistics on the key measurements of local authority collected municipal waste for councils and waste management groups in Northern Ireland.

The data contained are used by local authorities, waste management groups, Devolved Administrations and UK Government to measure progress towards achieving targets from various waste strategies including:

- The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy
- The Waste Framework Directive

Data on household recycling was a population indicator for the previous Programme for Government (PfG) and has been included as an indicator in the current PfG 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most'.

The data are also used by media, the general public and special interest groups to inform policy and lifestyle choices related to the treatment of waste.

Further details are available in Appendix 1

– Main Uses of Data of the Annual Report.

#### **Next Updates**

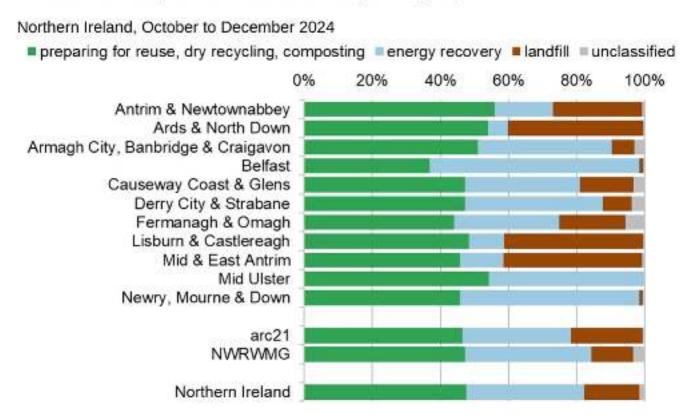
- Provisional statistics for January to March 2025 are scheduled for publication in July 2025.
- Finalised data for 2024/25 are scheduled to be published in November 2025 and will supersede previously published data from the four quarterly returns for that financial year.
- The scheduled dates for all upcoming publications are available from the GOV.UK statistics release calendar: www.gov.uk/search/research-andstatistics

#### Overview

This report presents information on the quantities of Local Authority Collected (LAC) municipal waste managed in Northern Ireland between October and December 2024. The report is split into four sections, each of which cover local authority collected municipal waste and, where appropriate, household waste:

- waste arisings (pages 2-3),
- · recycling (pages 4-5),
- energy recovery (pages 6-7),
- landfill (pages 8-10).

Figure 1: Waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfill rates by council and waste management group



At the Northern Ireland level, 47.7 per cent of waste collected by councils was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting between October to December 2024. Energy recovery accounted for 34.6 per cent and 16.2 per cent was landfilled. The remaining 1.6 per cent unaccounted for is likely to involve moisture and/or gaseous losses from the amount of waste collected. Each of the rates are discussed in detail in the appropriate section of the report.

The rate of waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting was lower than the rate reported in October to December 2023 (48.5 per cent). The landfill rate decreased by 1.2 percentage points whilst the energy recovery rate increased by 1.8 percentage points from October to December 2023. Household waste accounted for 87.6 per cent of total waste collected by councils. Household waste includes materials collected directly from households via kerbside collections, material taken to bring sites and civic amenity sites as well as several other smaller sources.

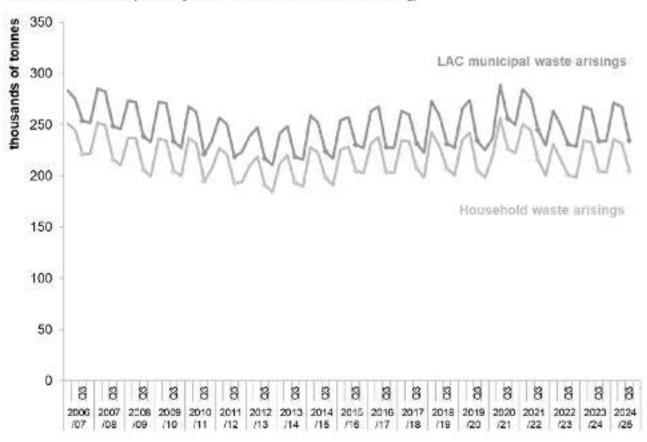
# Waste arisings

Northern Ireland's councils collected 234,229 tonnes of waste between October to December 2024 similar to the 233,694 tonnes collected during October to December 2023. Factors affecting LAC municipal waste arisings, the majority of which is household waste, include individual household behaviours, the advice and collection services provided by councils, the state of the economy and weather conditions during the specific quarter.

The total quantity of local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste arisings is a key performance indicator, KPI (j). This indicator is used to monitor performance under the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015.

Since 2006/07 household waste has accounted for 86-90 per cent of total waste collected by councils each quarter, apart from April to June 2020 when Covid-19 restrictions resulted in a larger than normal proportion of household waste being collected. During October to December 2024 household waste accounted for 87.6 per cent. The remaining 12.4 per cent was non-household waste such as rubble/soil and commercial/industrial waste.

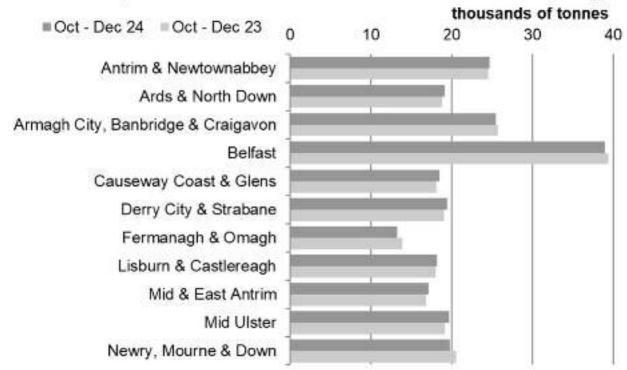
Figure 2: Waste arisings
Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2024/25 KPI (j)



The longer term trend for October to December saw a gradual reduction in LAC municipal waste arisings of 14.6 per cent across six years, from 253,956 tonnes between October to December 2006 to a low of 216,987 tonnes between the same three months of 2012. From October to December 2012 until a peak for the October to December quarter of 255,973 tonnes in 2020, arisings showed a generally increasing trend. From the October to December peak, arisings fell to 234,229 tonnes collected in the latest quarter.

Figure 3: Waste arisings by council

Northern Ireland, October to December 2023 and October to December 2024, KPI (j)



The proportion of waste collected by each council broadly reflects the population within the councils. Belfast collected the most waste at 39,003 tonnes, whilst Fermanagh & Omagh collected the least at 13,212 tonnes.

Seven councils reported an increase in total arisings in October to December 2024 compared to the same period in 2023 with four councils reporting a decrease in total arisings<sup>1</sup>.

Derry City & Strabane reported the largest increase in total arisings in October to December 2024 compared to the same period in 2023, rising by 2.7 per cent. Fermanagh & Omagh and Newry, Mourne & Down reported decreases from October to December 2023 to October to December 2024 of 4.4 and 4.0 per cent respectively.

The total quantity of waste collected at kerbside was similar to the amount collected in October to December 2023, while the quantity of waste collected at civic amenity sites increased by 1.4 per cent.

These statistics can be found in Table 1 and Table 2 of the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the <u>time series dataset</u>.

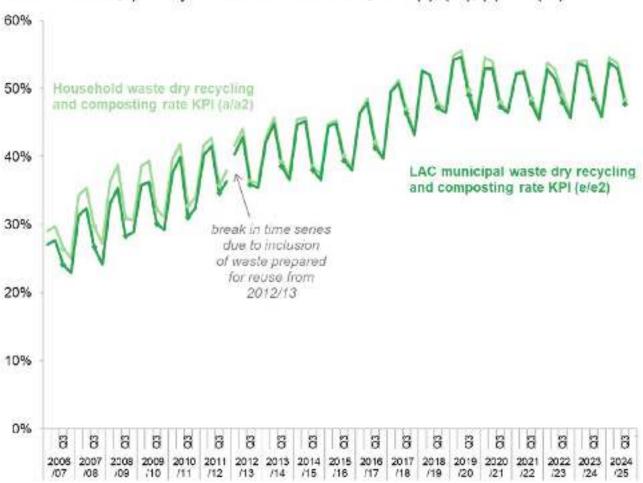
Very small increases or decreases in figures (<0.5 per cent or <0.5 percentage points) are not highlighted in the commentary.

# Recycling

This section of the report looks at local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste and household waste recycling rates, both of which include waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting.

There were 111,618 tonnes of LAC municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting (referred to as 'recycling' for the rest of this section) during October to December 2024. The waste recycling rate was 47.7 per cent, lower than the rate of waste sent for recycling during October to December 2023.

Figure 4: Waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2024/25, KPIs (a), (a2), (e) and (e2)



These statistics show seasonal variation which is driven by the quantities of garden waste sent for composting. Greater quantities of garden waste are collected and sent for composting during the spring and summer quarters, April to June and July to September.

The longer term trend for Local Authority Collected municipal waste recycling for the October to December quarter has been a steady increase from 24.1 per cent in October to December 2006 to 49.0 per cent in October to December 2019. Since October to December 2020 the local authority collected municipal waste recycling rate has remained relatively similar with a recycling rate of 47.7 per cent recorded in October to December 2024. Waste sent for preparing for reuse (612 tonnes this quarter) has been included since 2012/13 and adds 0.3 percentage points to the overall LAC recycling rate in October to December 2024.

The recycling rate for household waste only was 48.2 per cent during October to December 2024 which is lower than 49.0 per cent recorded during October to December 2023. The proportion of household waste sent for dry recycling made up 24.3 per cent, composting 23.6 per cent and preparing for reuse 0.3 per cent.

Figure 5: Household waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting rate by council and waste management group

Northern Ireland, October to December 2023 and October to December 2024, KPI (a2)



Mid & East Antrim reported the largest increase in their household recycling rate compared to October to December 2023 at 1.4 percentage points. The only other council to record an increase in their household recycling rates in October to December 2024 compared to October to December 2023 was Causeway Coast & Glens. The household recycling rate decreased in seven councils with the largest decrease recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey followed by Derry City & Strabane. The remaining councils reported similar household recycling rates in October to December 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023.

Waste sent for recycling is included in a number of key performance indicators, KPI (a), (a2), (e), and (e2). These indicators are used to monitor performance under the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015. The household waste annual recycling rate is included as an indicator for the current <a href="Programme for Government (PfG)">Programme for Government (PfG)</a> 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most'.

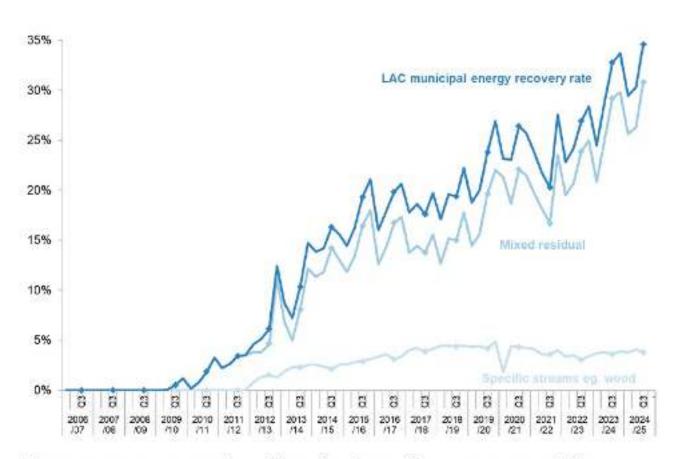
These statistics can be found in Tables 4 and 12 of the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the time series dataset.

# **Energy recovery**

This quarterly report includes statistics on energy recovery, which is the term used when value is gained from waste products by converting them into energy. All energy recovery statistics reported in this section are derived from material sent for energy recovery via incineration/gasification, although other technologies exist. Energy recovery via anaerobic digestion is not included in this section and is explained further in <a href="Appendix 1 - Limitations of Data">Appendix 1 - Limitations of Data</a> of the latest Annual Report.

From October to December 2024, 81,036 tonnes of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery. This produced a waste energy recovery rate of 34.6 per cent, the highest quarterly energy recovery rate ever recorded for Northern Ireland. The majority of energy recovery comes from mixed residual waste, with a smaller proportion from specific streams, e.g. wood.

Figure 6: Waste sent for energy recovery via incineration Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2024/25

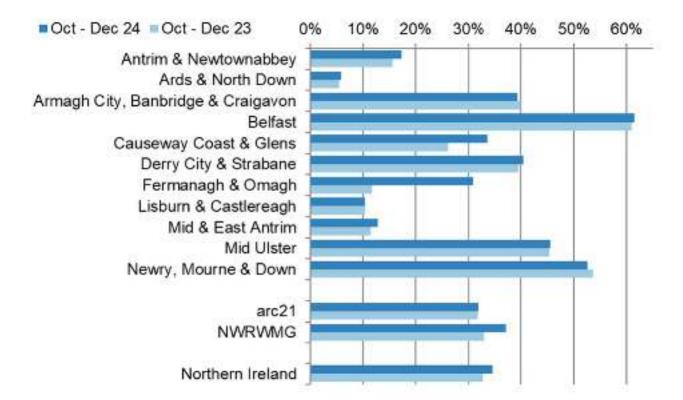


There was zero, or very small quantities, of waste sent for energy recovery before 2009/10. Strong growth began during 2009/10 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 0.5 per cent during October to December 2009 to 34.6 per cent for the same three months of 2024. Most of the growth since 2009/10 has been driven by mixed residual waste sent for energy recovery (from 0.5 per cent during October to December 2009 to 30.8 per cent in October to December 2024). The specific stream proportion was 3.8 per cent in October to December 2024.

Mixed residual waste sent for energy recovery is combustible residual waste collected from the kerbside and from civic amenity sites which is processed into refuse derived fuel

at material recovery facilities. The specific streams element of energy recovery is mostly wood but also includes furniture, carpets and mattresses, mostly collected from civic amenity sites.

Figure 7: Waste energy recovery rate by council and waste management group Northern Ireland, October to December 2023 and October to December 2024



The highest waste energy recovery rate was recorded in Belfast at 61.5 per cent followed by Newry, Mourne & Down with 52.6 per cent. Six councils recorded an increase in the waste energy recovery rate in October to December 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023 with the largest increase of 19.2 percentage points recorded in Fermanagh & Omagh followed by Causeway Coast & Glens reporting an increase of 7.6 percentage points.

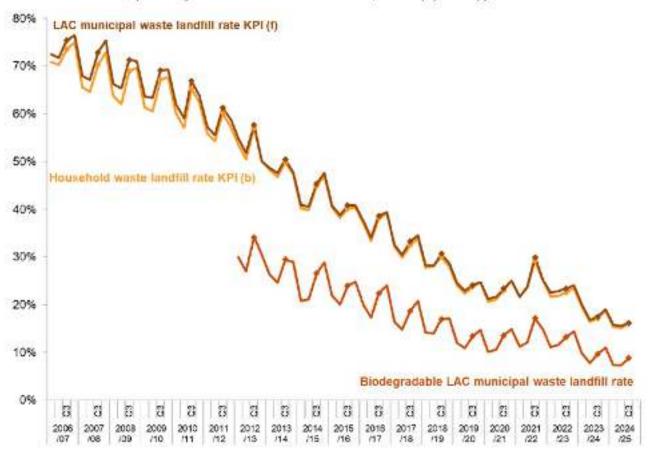
Only Newry, Mourne & Down and Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon recorded a decrease in their waste energy recovery rate in October to December 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023. The remaining councils reported similar energy recovery rates in 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023.

These statistics can be found in Tables 3 and 4 of the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the <u>time series dataset</u>.

# Landfill

The quantity of LAC municipal waste sent to landfill decreased by 6.9 per cent, from 40,712 tonnes during October to December 2023 to 37,898 tonnes during October to December 2024. The quarterly landfill rate for October to December 2024 is 16.2 per cent, lower than the 17.4 per cent recorded during the same quarter of 2023.

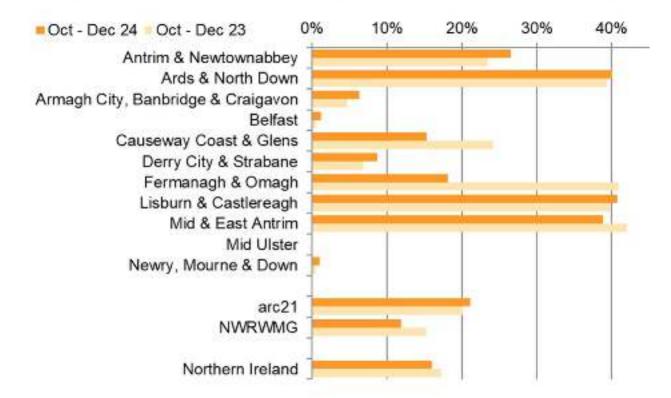
Figure 8: Waste sent to landfill Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2024/25, KPIs (b) and (f)



The longer term trend has seen the October to December LAC municipal waste landfill rate fall from 75.4 per cent in 2006 to a low of 16.2 per cent in 2024. Note that the landfill rate exhibits seasonality and the April to June and July to September quarters tend to have lower rates than October to December and January to March. The seasonality stems from the higher level of compostable garden waste arising during spring and summer. The latest quarterly landfill rate for household waste only is 16.0 per cent.

Increasing energy recovery rates, a tax on landfill and the statutory requirement for all councils in Northern Ireland to provide households with a container for food to enable its separate collection have all contributed to the long-term reduction in landfill rates.

Figure 9: Household waste landfilled by council and waste management group Northern Ireland, October to December 2023 and October to December 2024, KPI (b)



The highest household waste landfill rates were recorded in Lisburn & Castlereagh, Ards & North Down and Mid & East Antrim at 40.7, 40.0 and 38.9 per cent respectively. In contrast, Mid Ulster, Newry, Mourne & Down and Belfast recorded a close to zero landfill rate in October to December 2024. The household waste landfill rate decreased in three district councils in October to December 2024 compared to the same three months in 2023, with the largest decrease recorded in Fermanagh & Omagh at 22.7 percentage points followed by Causeway Coast & Glens with an 8.8 percentage points reduction. Seven district councils recorded an increase in the waste landfill rate in October to December 2024 compared to the same quarter in 2023 with the largest increase of 3.1 percentage points recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey.

#### Biodegradable waste to landfill

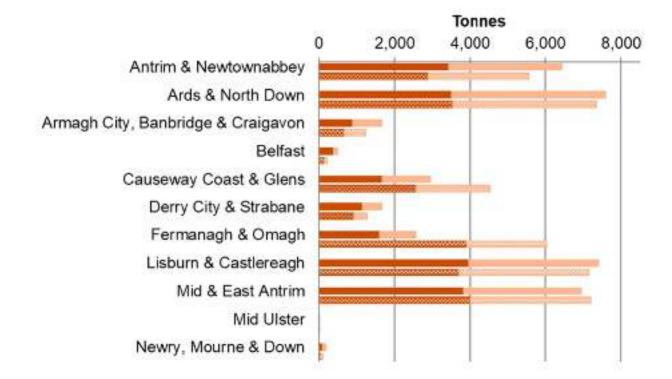
The Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 (as amended) placed a statutory responsibility on councils, in each scheme year, to landfill no more than the quantity of biodegradable waste for which they had allowances. The scheme concluded at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, however the continued monitoring of biodegradable waste is required for existing target commitments which specify that it must be reduced to 35 per cent of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995.

Northern Ireland's councils sent 20,589 tonnes of biodegradable waste to landfill during October to December 2024, which was 54.3 per cent of all LAC municipal waste sent to landfill. During the same quarter last year, 22,467 tonnes of biodegradable waste was sent to landfill which was 55.2 per cent of all LAC municipal waste sent to landfill.

Figure 10 displays the tonnages of LAC biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste sent to landfill by each council, comparing them with other councils and to the same quarter last year.

Figure 10: Biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste to landfill by council Northern Ireland, October to December 2023 and October to December 2024





There is considerable variation between councils in the quantities of biodegradable waste sent to landfill, as well as the proportion of biodegradable waste in total landfill. In Belfast, 78.9 per cent (386 tonnes) of all LAC municipal waste sent to landfill was biodegradable, whilst in Ards & North Down, 46.2 per cent (3,509 tonnes) of LAC municipal waste sent to landfill was biodegradable.

#### **Accredited Official Statistics**

Accredited Official Statistics are official statistics that have been independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) and confirmed to comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics. Producers of accredited official statistics<sup>2</sup> are legally required to ensure they maintain compliance with the Code.

These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by OSR in September 2013 in the Assessment Report 263 Statistics on the Environment and Waste Management in Northern Ireland, with accreditation confirmed in January 2014. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice and should be labelled National Statistics (or 'accredited official statistics').

In October 2020, a <a href="compliance check">compliance check</a> was completed for the waste statistics produced by each of the UK regions and confirmed that the designation (or 'accredited official statistics' labelling) should continue. The trustworthiness, quality and value of the statistics, including the coherence of the data source, methods and quality assurance (QA) arrangements, and the presentation of the statistics were reviewed with a final outcome that the statistics can continue to be designated as National Statistics (or 'accredited official statistics').

Our <u>Statistics Charter</u> provides further details of how we apply the principles and practices of the Code in the production and publication of our official statistics.

Our statistical practice is regulated by OSR. They set the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards.

Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing <a href="mailto:regulation@statistics.gov.uk">regulation@statistics.gov.uk</a> or via the <a href="mailto:OSR website">OSR website</a>.

Accredited Official Statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

Policy, Economics and Statistics Division Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Clare House 303 Airport Road West Sydenham Intake Belfast BT3 9ED





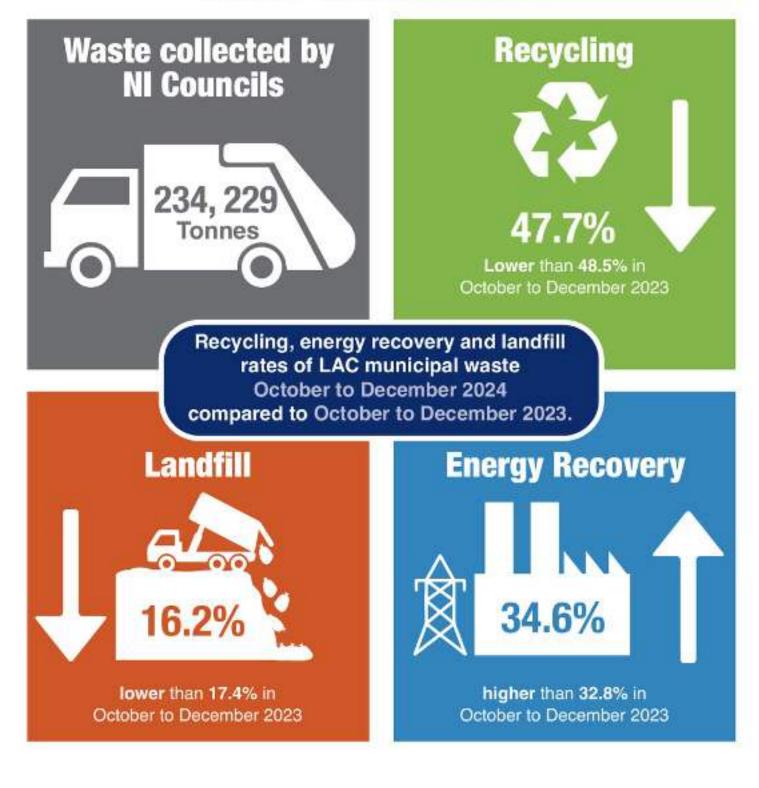
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25.26.016

# Waste Collections by NI Councils October to December 2024





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



Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers