

August 18th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Tuesday, 19th August 2025 at 6:15 pm** in **Council Chamber, Downshire Civic Centre.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor O Magennis **Chairperson**

Councillor M Hearty **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Enright

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of the Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 June 2025

📎 *Action Sheet - 18.06.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

Page 1

For Discussion/Decision

4.0 Consultation Response to DAERA - New Rules for Selling and Supplying Puppies and Kittens

📎 *SE Committee Report - Consultation on proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland.pdf*

Page 22

📎 *Appendix 1 - Consultation Response on the proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens.pdf*

Page 25

Sustainability and Environment Directorate

5.0 Food Service Plan 2025/2026

📎 *SE Committee Report - Food Service Plan 2025- 2026.pdf*

Page 38

📎 *Appendix 1 - NMDDC FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2025-26.pdf*

Page 40

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

6.0 Sustainability Contracts

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 - Sustainability Contracts.pdf*

Not included

7.0 Cycle to Work Scheme

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 - Cycle to Work Scheme.pdf**

Not included

8.0 Variation to Fuel Card Contract

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 - Variation to Fuel Card Contract.pdf**

Not included

9.0 Fleet Fuel Verification Process

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 - Fleet Fuel Verification Process.pdf**

Not included

10.0 Waste Contracts

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.

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

11.0 Action Sheet from Sustainability and Environment Working Group on Wednesday 18 June 2025

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.

 *Action Sheet from S&E Working group 18 June 2025.pdf*

Not included

12.0 Arc 21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held on 26 June 2025 & Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes of Thursday 29 May 2025

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.

 *ARC21 - JC097-26June25-JC MembersBulletin.F.pdf*

Not included

 *ARC 21 - JC096-29May25-InCommMinutes-e-signed.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

13.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 29 May 2025

For Information

 *ARC21 - JC096-29May25-Minutes-e-signed.pdf*

Page 102

14.0 Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics for January to March 2025

For Information

 *lac-municipal-waste-q4-2024-25-report.pdf*

Page 108

15.0 Cleansing Review Update

For Information

 *SE Committee Report - Cleansing Review Update 19.08.25.pdf*

Page 124

Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Fionnuala Branagh

Cllr Jim Brennan

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

Cllr Pete Byrne

Cllr Philip Campbell

Cllr William Clarke

Cllr Laura Devlin

Cllr Cadogan Enright

Cllr Killian Feehan

Cllr Doire Finn

Cllr Conor Galbraith

Cllr Mark Gibbons

Cllr Oonagh Hanlon

Cllr Glyn Hanna

Cllr Valerie Harte

Cllr Martin Hearty

Cllr Roisin Howell

Cllr Tierna Howie

Cllr Jonathan Jackson

Joanne/Noelle Johnston

Cllr Geraldine Kearns

Miss Veronica Keegan

Mrs Josephine Kelly

Mrs Sheila Kieran

Cllr Cathal King

Cllr Mickey Larkin

Cllr David Lee-Surginor

Cllr Alan Lewis

Cllr Oonagh Magennis

Mr Conor Mallon

Cllr Aidan Mathers

Cllr Declan McAteer

Cllr Leeanne McEvoy

Cllr Selina Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy

Sinead Murphy

Cllr Kate Murphy

Cllr Siobhan O'Hare

Cllr Áine Quinn

Cllr Henry Reilly

Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Ms Sinead Trainor
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 22 JUNE 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/091/2022	Enforcement Improvement Plan Update	Agreed to note the content of this update report and to agree review of key actions from the Enforcement Improvement Plan to be incorporated into a timebound programme of work for 2022/23 and annually thereafter. Test case footpaths – small footpath leading to WIN – officers to examine this area for dog fouling.	S Trainor	In progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/143/2022	Notice of Motion – revenue from EV Charging Infrastructure	Agreed to endorse the recommendation 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 for the proposal as outlined in the Notice of Motion	C Sage	In progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion. It was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the outcome of the legal process was known.	S Trainor	On hold pending legal process	N

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

SE/128/2023	Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV	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.	C Sage	Update provided on Town Centre CCTV at September S&E Committee. Final costings received. Awaiting confirmation of programme Capital Proposal has been approved. FBC completed, to be presented at SPR in August 25.	N N
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 24 JANUARY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/004/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences	The following was agreed: - Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences - Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule.	S Murphy	In Progress	N

SE/005/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness	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	S Murphy	Complete In Progress In Progress	N N
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/018/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change	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.	C Sage	Development of Council Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy is progressing. Climate mitigation report due to be completed by October 25 in accordance with Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. This includes carbon copying baseline reporting.	N N

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

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 23 APRIL 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/046/2024	Notice of Motion – Newry Market	Officers continue their commitment to revitalise the market through engagement with traders, the business community and other potential stakeholders. It was also agreed that Officers reach out to other local councils with successful markets and explore additional uses to encourage footfall, including with arts and community groups	C Sage C Sage C Sage	A focussed social media campaign has been completed. Council Officers met with Belfast City Council colleagues to review St George's market.	N

		It was further agreed that a report be brought back to committee in 6 months to provide detail of any progress made.			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 MAY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/058/2024	Report on Treatment of Invasive Species on Council Estate	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.	C Sage	Update provided at June SE Committee	Y

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 JUNE 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/079/2024	Business case for EV Charging infrastructure	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.	C Sage	Procurement exercise underway	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 AUGUST 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/091/2024	Notice of Motion – Dog Fouling	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.	S Trainor	In progress	N
SE/093/2024	Proposed Installation of Height Restricting Barriers at Council Car Parks	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.	C Sage	Installation of barriers completed at Newcastle and Warrenpoint	Y

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 NOVEMBER 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/133/2024	Action Sheet item: NS/091/2022	it was agreed to submit a league table of other Councils' enforcement practices to the Strategic Finance Working Group	S Murphy	To refer through SFWG	N
SE/137/2024	Business Case for the Removal of Newcastle Sandbar	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	C Sage	Procurement for new contract in progress for 2026 to 2028 in conjunction with new 3 year Marine Licence application.	N
SE/139/2024	Business Case for Deep Cleaning Services	it was agreed to commence the procurement of contract for the provision of deep cleaning of public realm and other areas within the district for a period of up to three years	S Trainor	In progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/150/2024	NOM – Vaping	it was agreed that the Council recognised the 2024 Northern Ireland Audit Office report on tackling the public health impacts of smoking and vaping that showed an increase in 11-16 year olds vaping; that Council is concerned that children vaping in schools is detrimental to a child's health and educational outcomes; agrees that greater awareness must be raised with children in schools about the risks of vaping; acknowledges that teachers and school staff must have the support and resources they require to raise awareness and inform children on the risks of vaping; agree to write to both the Minister of Education and Health urging them to bring forward a plan to end vaping in school grounds, to reduce the number of young people vaping and to eradicate the sale of vapes to children. It was also agreed to write to all Councils in the North asking them for support in tackling this issue.	S Murphy	In progress	N
SE/151/2024	NOM – Newry Canal	it was agreed to request support from support from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the urgent establishment of a	S Murphy	In progress Initial meeting has taken place with ABC Council on 2 nd May 2025.	N

		multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas.			
SE/154/2024	Business case for arboricultural assessment and tree surgery	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	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/155/2024	Business case for mechanical building services contract	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress. Expression of interest completed on Framework. Tender documents to be issued.	N
SE/156/2024	Personal Protective Equipment	it was agreed to approve the recommendation to proceed with option 5 as detailed within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/157/2024	LANTRA national highway sector scheme training business case	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	S Trainor	Procurement in progress	N
SE/158/2024	Business case for replacement of skips and containers at HRCs	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	S Trainor	Procurement in progress	N
SE/159/2024	Economic appraisal – liquid fuel requirements	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Contract awarded	Y
SE/160/2024	Harbour Surveys	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement options being reviewed	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 29 JANUARY 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/005/2025	Business Case – Cameras in Council Vehicles	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.	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/018/2025	NOM – Vital Role of trees	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.	C Sage	Noted	N
		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 place to mitigate the loss of fallen trees.	C Sage	In progress	N

		Council will also write to other Councils request support in this regard.	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/020/2025	Application for bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry	It was agreed to the installation of a new bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry as per the recommendations stated in Appendix 1 of the officer's Report	G Kane	In progress	N
		It was also agreed that Council consider the repair of the bus shelter requested by Cllr Feehan, with a response to be provided to the Member.	G Kane	In progress	N
SE/022/2025	On Street Residential Charge Point (ORCS) Scheme update	It was agreed to continue to proceed with the ORCS EV charger project following successful appointment of a Charge Point operator	C Sage	Contractor appointed, awaiting programme.	N

**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING
19 MARCH 2025**

Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/034/2025	Officer Report on NOM – Street Lighting	It was agreed to write to DFI Roads to advise of concerns in relation to areas that have little of no street lighting and request that a scoping exercise is undertaken to identify areas that could avail of additional street lighting across the district.	S Murphy	In progress	N
		It was also agreed that Council owned green spaces would be reviewed to identify any areas that could avail of additional lighting across the District	S Murphy	In Progress	N

SE/036/2025	Home to Hospital update	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.	S Trainor	In progress	N
SE/038/2025	Business Case for monitoring and line rental of Council public space CCTV	it was agreed to approve the recommendations of the Business Cases as per section 2.2 of the Officer's Report	C Sage	In progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 29 APRIL 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/045/2025	Notice of Motion re Memorial Garden, Newcastle	It was agreed to approve the proposal to create a memorial garden to acknowledge the 180 th anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster	C Sage	Works on site	N
SE/047/2025	Technical Advice for Climate Mitigation Report	It was agreed to approve the procurement of a suitably 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	C Sage	Appointment completed	Y

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 MAY 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/056/2025	Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas	the following was agreed: •Members considered and approved the endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and agree to write to the Northern Ireland Executive urging them to support this initiative. •Members noted the current on-going review process on the effectiveness of the Council's Air Quality Management Areas in liaison with DAERA and the potential expansion of the number of air quality monitor stations throughout the District, subject to funding.	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/057/2025	Sustainable NI Annual Membership Subscription	it was agreed to approve the Accelerator Membership Level and signing of an SLA with Sustainable NI for 2025/26	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/058/2025	Keep NI Beautiful Annual Membership Subscription	it was agreed to approve the financial support as outlined in section 2.2 and an SLA for the period of 2025 – 2026 to support the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) Live Here Love Here campaign and Eco Schools Programme across the District.	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/060/2025	Request to approach DFI about transfer of ownership of Carparks	it was agreed to approve the request for Council Officers to formally approach DFI and research the feasibility of a land	C Sage	In Progress	N

		transfer of their portion of the site into Council ownership			
SE/062/2025	Award of Energy Contracts 2025 – 2027	it was agreed to approve the following: •That Council proceed with the process and note the appointment of the successful supplier to supply Electricity and Natural Gas following completion of the joint procurement exercise with the other NI Councils. •That Council opt for the “Green” Electricity Premium due to the significant reduction in the cost of the Green Electricity premium from the supplier named in the officer’s report to set an example and drive the market demand for green electricity.	C Sage	Contracts awarded	Y
SE/063/2025	Business Case for Maintenance of Council facilities CCTV systems	it was agreed to approve the procurement of CCTV monitoring and maintenance services in line with the recommendations of the business case as presented with the Officer’s Report.	C Sage	Procurement in Progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 JUNE 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/068/2025	Action Sheet: Sustainability and Environment Committee meeting held on 21 May 2025	It was agreed to note the action sheet.	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/069/2025	To agree start times of Sustainability & Environment Committee meetings, Working Group and Cleansing & Refuse Task Force Group 2025-26	Start Times of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meetings, Working Group and Cleansing & Refuse Task Force Group 2025 were agreed.	S Murphy	Agreed	Y
SE/070/2025	Directorate Business Plan	The Assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2024-2025 and the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 were agreed.	S Murphy	Agreed	Y
SE/071/2025	Invasive Species Management Update	It was agreed to note the report.	C Sage	Complete	Yes

SE/072/2025	Business Cases for 25/26 Fleet Replacement Programme	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the Business Cases / Full Economic Appraisals as detailed in Appendices: 2-8.	C Sage	In Progress	No
SE/073/2025	BT Line Rental for Town Centre CCTV Systems	It was agreed to approve the award of a contract for line rental of telecommunication lines for CCTV systems as noted in the report.	C Sage	In Progress	No
SE/074/2025	Sustainability Contracts	It was agreed to approve the award of contracts as listed in Appendix 1 of the report.	C Sage	In Progress	No
SE/075/2025	PPE Contracts	It was agreed to approve contents of report and award a 6-month contract for procurement of PPE via the Epso Framework.	C Sage	In Progress	No
SE/076/2025	Waste Contracts	It was agreed to approve: - The Direct Award Contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report. - The price uplift as set out in section 2.7 of the report.	S Murphy	Approved	Y

SE/077/2025	Extension for MDR Contract	It was agreed to approve: - The extension of the contract for the Receipt and Processing of Mixed Dry Recyclables from 30 September 2025 to 31 March 2026, subject to the approval of the Arc21 Joint Committee. - The extension of the current haulage contract with Natural World Products Ltd from 30 September 2025 to 31 March 2026, subject to approval of the Arc21 Joint Committee.	S Murphy	Approved	Y
SE/078/2025	Report from the Cleansing and Refuse Task Group on Wednesday 21 May 2025	It was agreed to note the report.	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/079/2025	Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 27 March 2025 & Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 29 May 2025.	It was agreed to note the documents.	S Murphy	Noted	Y

SE/080/2025	Arc21 Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 27 March 2025	It was agreed to note the document.	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/081/2025	Port Health Update	It was agreed to note the report.	S Murphy	Noted	Y

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 August 2025
Subject:	Consultation on proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland
Reporting Officer	Sinead Murphy, Director, Sustainability & Environment
Contact Officer	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment

For decision	x	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> The purpose this report is to seek Member approval on the response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation proposed "new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland".		
1.2	<u>Background</u> The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has launched a public consultation on proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland. The consultation outlines measures aimed at strengthening animal welfare protections by introducing a registration system for individuals who sell, give away, or otherwise transfer ownership of puppies and kittens under six months old.		
1.3	A key element of the proposals is the requirement for these individuals to register with their local council and comply with a set of statutory conditions, such as ensuring young animals are not separated prematurely from their mothers and restricting sales to the premises where the animals and their biological mothers are kept. The proposals also include an end to third-party sales, stricter advertising requirements, and the creation of a public register of sellers. The consultation reflects growing concerns around irresponsible breeding, illegal sales, and poor welfare conditions for young animals.		
2.0	Key issues		
2.1	While the proposals are intended to promote transparency and safeguard animal welfare, it is Officers' view that they raise significant practical and financial resource implications for councils, particularly in relation to enforcement, inspection, and administration. In the consultation response, Council wishes to remind DAERA that there were previous agreed positions between Councils and DAERA during the consultation and implementation phase leading up to of Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 which did not include adding additional responsibilities upon Councils in the future.		

2.2	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council continues to operate its Animal Welfare Service within a financially constrained environment, following the in-year withdrawal of funding by DAERA, a decision that is currently subject to legal challenge. The Council's Dog Control Service is staffed by four full-time equivalent (FTE) officers who cover the entire District. These officers are fully engaged in delivering existing statutory duties, which have recently expanded to include a new category of dangerous dogs, an area that has proven both complex and resource-intensive. The recent introduction of XL Bully legislation by DAERA has further increased the workload of Dog Control teams. This additional responsibility has been imposed without any corresponding increase in funding to support ongoing operational costs. It is essential to emphasise that any future proposals by DAERA to transfer further responsibilities under Animal Welfare legislation to councils, without the provision of adequate and sustained funding, will have serious financial implications for this Council.
2.3	The Consultation closes on 25 August 2025. Due to the consultation deadline a draft response will be submitted pending Council full approval. The Consultation response is attached as Appendix 1 for Members' consideration.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Members are asked to: Approve the DAERA consultation response in Appendix 1, on the proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are financial and resource implications associated with the proposals in this consultation which are not currently quantified.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes ☒ No ☐ If yes, please complete the following:

	The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened ☒ Consultation only - Department of Health have carried out an Equality Assessment. The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation – ☐
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale:</i> Consultation only by Department of Health.
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 ☒ Consultation only - Department of Health have carried out a Rural Needs Impact Assessment
7.0	Appendices
7.1	Appendix 1 – Consultation response on proposed new rules for the sale and supply of puppies and kittens in Northern Ireland
8.0	Background Documents
8.1	https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-proposed-new-rules-sale-and-supply-puppies-and-kittens-northern-ireland

**Consultation on New Rules for Selling and Supplying
Puppies and Kittens**

Written Response Template

About you

Q1. What is your name?

Q2. What is your email address?

Q3. Are the views and opinions in your response personal or expressed on behalf of an organisation?

Personal
Organisation ✓

If the views and opinions expressed are on behalf of an organisation, please provide the name of the organisation below.

Newry Mourne and Down District Council

Q4. Please indicate if you are happy for your response to be published.

Yes ✓

No

Q5. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation, please indicate if you are content for the name of the organisation to be associated with your response.

Yes ✓

No

Not Applicable

Proposed requirement to register with local council

Q6. Do you agree that any person who wishes to sell, give away, or otherwise transfer the ownership of puppies should be required to register with their local council?

Yes

No ✓

Comments

Newry Mourne and Down District Council notes that DAERA published an Animal Welfare Pathway document in May 2025. This sets out a range of animal welfare policy reforms, including a review of dog breeding regulations.

In addition, Council is aware that this is the first of a number of proposed changes to Animal Welfare (AW) legislation where The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has indicated additional responsibilities are likely to be allocated to Councils, including for premises and activities which are either unregulated or are currently dealt with by other agencies, including DAERA.

The Council is of the opinion that other reforms need to be addressed prior to the introduction of the proposed registration regime, and that the review of dog breeding legislation and the regulation of rescue and rehoming centres remain the priority.

Furthermore, as this consultation deals with transferring ownership of puppies, the Council is of the view that the proposals in this consultation dealing with dogs should be addressed within the review of dog breeding. Indeed, the consultation document on page 14 refers to dog breeding establishments and pet shops which this Council believes reinforces our response.

Whilst the Council welcomes actions to improve animal welfare, Newry Mourne and Down District Council does not agree that Councils should be required to take on this new legal requirement for puppies to be registered.

The Council recommends that other alternative stakeholder organisations be explored further to facilitate this new requirement. It also advocates that a centralised register is created and maintained for NI. It is noted that the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine are responsible for a registration scheme in ROI rather than at local level.

The consultation comments on page 7 that at previous engagement between DAERA and Councils, concerns were raised by Councils about resource implications and more fundamentally, the extension of enforcement responsibilities to include cats. This second point will be addressed more fully later in the consultation response.

Council believes that the consultation proposal that this new regulatory regime will be self-funding has not been sufficiently evidenced and is also of the view that there has not been sufficient engagement with all Councils, particularly on the Department's evidence about fees and full cost recovery should the Department continue with the assumed position that Councils will become the registration authority.

The consultation proposal reflects a concerning and growing trend whereby central government seeks to devolve enforcement responsibilities to local government without a corresponding

transfer of resources, powers, or legal protections. Councils cannot continue to absorb additional responsibilities by default, particularly where they fall outside our core remit and expertise.

Council wishes to remind DAERA that there were previous agreed positions between Councils and DAERA during the consultation and implementation phase leading up to the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 which did not include adding additional responsibilities upon Councils in the future.

This Council is already operating the existing Animal welfare service in a financial constrained environment.

The Council's Dog Control Service has 4 FTE staff covering the District – also fully employed fulfilling their current duties which has recently been extended to an additional category of dangerous dogs which has been challenging and complex.

DAERA recently introduced the XL Bully legislation which has already significantly added to the workload of Council Dog Control teams, again without any additional funding for ongoing costs.

It must be stressed that any further intentions by DAERA to make Councils responsible for future changes in Animal Welfare legislation, without adequate funding on an ongoing basis, will have significant financial implications for the Council.

In terms of business support and data/ process management in the functions of animal welfare and dog control, 2 completely separate standalone computer software systems are used. Therefore any proposed registration system would require procurement and need significant investment to allow for registration, annual renewal and management of payments. In addition, the system would need to be able to facilitate a public register. Council has concerns as to how this additional software system would be financed via the proposed self-funding model should the assumptions continue that Councils will be the registration body.

Although inspection of the sellers premises or carrying out 'checks' on the breeder/ seller is not anticipated as part of the scheme as consulted upon, it is inevitable that complaints from the public or other bodies, including the sharing of information will require inspections and associated follow up actions and enforcement to be carried out by suitably trained staff. The existence of such a register held by Councils will carry a high level of public and stakeholder expectation that Councils are verifying and monitoring those registered, therefore negating this assumption made by the consultation.

Initial direct costs would be required to implement a computer system for recording registration details for puppies, generate a publicly facing register and manage the fees associated with registration.

Additional staff resources would also be required i.e. Administrative Support and Enforcement Officer(s) and all associated costs including a vehicle(s), training, IT equipment, protective clothing etc.

Ongoing costs will be required to maintain the computer system, vehicle(s) and also staff salaries including employer costs.

Council reiterates that it does not agree that Councils should be required to take on this new legal requirement for the sale of puppies to be registered as a standalone requirement outside of a review of dog breeding as proposed.

Q7. Do you agree that any person who wishes to sell, give away, or otherwise transfer the ownership of kittens should be required to register with their local council?

Yes

No ✓

Comments

Council is aware that this is the first of a number of proposed changes to Animal Welfare (AW) legislation where the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has indicated additional responsibilities are likely to be allocated to Councils, including for premises and activities which are either unregulated or are currently dealt with by other agencies, including DAERA.

The Council is of the opinion that other reforms need to be addressed prior to the introduction of the proposed registration regime for kittens, and that the review of dog breeding legislation and the regulation of rescue and rehoming centres remain the priority.

Whilst the Council welcomes actions to improve animal welfare, Newry Mourne and Down District Council does not agree that Councils should be required to take on this new legal requirement for kittens to be registered

This view was communicated to DAERA at a workshop in February 2025 with the Northern Ireland Dogs Advisory Group on behalf of all 11 Councils.

The consultation proposal reflects a concerning and growing trend whereby central government seeks to devolve enforcement responsibilities to local government without a corresponding transfer of resources, powers, or legal protections. Councils cannot continue to absorb additional responsibilities by default, particularly where they fall outside our core remit and expertise.

The Council recommends that other alternative organisations be explored further to facilitate this new requirement. Councils strongly believe that the proposed legislative provisions in respect of cats would pose enforcement difficulties given the behaviour traits of many cats in roaming, establishing territories and moving between several 'owners' in many cases.

As cat microchipping is not yet mandatory in Northern Ireland, it is anticipated that any enforcement body would have difficulty proving ownership, in the absence of a valid microchip.

It is the view of Newry Mourne and Down District Council that cats should be either excluded from the proposals, or both the registration and microchipping of cats should be placed with an interested stakeholder. Such a stakeholder would be better placed to offer a wider 'wrap around' service and support to those who care for cats .

Council is of the view that enforcement should not be a main focus in relation to cats, rather an appropriate stakeholder could be supported and tasked to deliver guidance and education initiatives in schools and communities to promote responsible care of cats.

Furthermore Councils should not be viewed as an existing enforcement body for cats simply because they operate long standing and financially supported enforcement for dog control – which in itself is not self-funded, rather it is supported through the ratepayer.

It must be stressed that any further intentions by DAERA to make Councils responsible for future changes in Animal Welfare legislation, including this proposal for the sale of kittens, without adequate funding on an ongoing basis, would have significant financial implications for the Council.

In terms of business support and data/ process management in the functions of animal welfare and dog control, 2 completely separate standalone computer software systems are used. . The AW service is not linked to the dog control function and operates as an independent unit. The Dog Control software system for dog licensing and receipt of service requests has no connection with the AW software system.

Any proposed registration system would require procurement and need significant investment to allow for registration, annual renewal and management of payments. In addition, the system would need to be able to facilitate a public register. Council has concerns as to how this additional software system would be financed via the proposed self-funding model.

Although inspection of the sellers premises or carrying out 'checks' on the breeder/ seller is not anticipated as part of the scheme – is it inevitable that complaints from the public or other bodies, including the sharing of information will require inspections and associated follow up actions and enforcement to be carried out by suitably trained staff. The existence of such a register held by Councils would carry a high level of public and stakeholder expectation that Councils are verifying and monitoring those registered, therefore negating this assumption made by the consultation.

Initial direct costs would be required to implement a computer system for recording registration details for cats, generate a publicly facing register and manage the fees associated with registration.

Additional staff resources would also be required i.e. Administrative Support and Enforcement Officer(s) and all associated costs including a vehicle(s), training, IT equipment, protective clothing etc.

Ongoing costs would be required to maintain the computer system, vehicle(s) and also staff salaries including employer costs.

Council reiterates that it does not agree that Councils should be required to take on this new legal requirement for kittens to be registered.

Councils are particularly not in favour of the proposed requirement to register for the purpose of "giving away" kittens, as it is believed that this may lead to criminalising individuals who are simply offering their pets offspring to a friend or neighbour etc.

Proposed exemptions

Q8. Do you agree with the proposed list of exempted groups who will be exempt from the proposed new rules?

Yes

No ✓

If not, which groups do you believe should be exempted?

Newry Mourne and Down District Council agree in principal that certain groups may be exempted from the proposed new rules as being exempt from registration with the assigned body, the following comments should be considered -

Rescue and Rehoming Charities

Newry Mourne and Down District Council appreciates the role of rescue and rehoming charities in sourcing a new home for abandoned puppies or kittens and as such are of the opinion that those who are operating as legitimate rescue and rehoming charities should be exempted from the proposed requirements. We are however mindful of the potential for unscrupulous organisations posing as charities and therefore feel that this exemption would apply solely to those who are registered with the Charity Commission for Northern Ireland.

Council Operated Dog Pounds

We are satisfied that Council owned and operated pounds may be exempted from the proposed new rules, as existing controls are already in place in such premises and it is widely known and accepted that they will rehome puppies to other animal charities. We do however feel that where contractors are employed to provide kenneling services on behalf of Councils, that the requirements should apply to them.

Persons who give puppies/kittens to a rescue and rehoming organisation with charitable status.

We are satisfied that anyone giving puppies or kittens to an animal rescue or rehoming registered charity may be exempt from the requirement to register with the registration body. Equally, we agree that any person who has acquired a puppy or kitten either from a registered seller or supplier, from a Council dog pound, or from a registered rescue or rehoming charity, and then shortly thereafter, decides that they do not want to keep it, would not be required to register. In such circumstances, this person did not breed the animal themselves, and therefore could not meet the registration conditions.

We agree that it is necessary to restrict the options available to legally move a puppy or kitten under 6 months old, to prevent any loopholes for third party sellers.

Proposed registration fee

Q9. Do you agree that the first year of registration should be free of charge, except for businesses?

Yes

No ✓

Comments

The Council is of the opinion that a centralised register should be created and maintained for NI.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment makes various assumptions on the number of puppies and kittens being sold annually in NI and the potential income generated extrapolated from such figures.

The document states "The Department does not hold information on the numbers of people or pet shops that will become sellers/suppliers of puppies and kittens. Nor does it hold information on licensed Dog Breeding Establishments. The cost to these people and businesses of registering with their local council as sellers and suppliers of puppies and kittens, is unknown at this juncture"

While it is appreciated that a "first year free" approach for pet owners may encourage owners to take action to prevent further unplanned pregnancies by getting their pet neutered, the Council is of the opinion that implementation of the proposed registration scheme would require significant funding prior to being launched, and that this must be reflected in any proposed registration fee from the outset to ensure full cost recovery for the new registration organisation.

Fee setting must be balanced. The Council has concerns that where costs are too prohibitive, activity could be driven underground, hence any short fall in full cost recovery needs to be borne by DAERA in order to support any new registration body

It is considered that any fee must be set at a realistic level to ensure that all cost considerations are accounted for. The fee should be set in legislation and should be on a sliding scale based on the number of pets

In addition, it is essential that any fee associated with the registration scheme must be inflation linked and subject to a periodic review to account for any subsequent amendments.

Proposed application process (council role)

Q10. Do you agree that a person who sells, gives away, or otherwise transfers the ownership of puppies and kittens, should be required to do so at the address where the puppies and kittens, and the biological mother are kept?

Yes ✓

No

Comments

Council reiterates that whilst the Council welcomes actions to improve animal welfare, Newry Mourne and Down District Council does not agree that Councils should be allocated responsibility as a registration body for the sale puppies and kittens.

As a general welfare principle Council supports this requirement on owners promoting responsible purchasing and rehoming practices. However, any requirements need to deter different dogs/cats being presented as the biological mother of their offspring.

Proposed conditions for registration

Q11. Do you agree with the conditions of registration, as listed in the consultation document?

Yes ✓

No

Comments

Council reiterates that whilst the Council welcomes actions to improve animal welfare, Newry Mourne and Down District Council does not agree that Councils should be allocated responsibility as a registration body for the sale puppies and kittens.

As a general welfare principle Council supports the proposed conditions of registration in principal, however the following comments should be duly considered;

Condition 1 - The registered person cannot sell, give away or otherwise transfer the ownership of puppies or kittens which they did not breed at the registered address. AGREE

Condition 2 - the registered person cannot sell, give away or otherwise transfer the ownership of puppies or kittens that are unweaned, weaned at an age which they should not have been weaned, or aged under eight weeks old.

AGREE

Condition 3 - a puppy or kitten may only be shown to a prospective purchaser or new owner if it is together with it's biological mother. There will be an exemption if the biological mother has died.

AGREE

Condition 4 - the sale of, giving away of, or otherwise transfer of ownership of a puppy or kitten must take place in person and when the puppy or kitten is in the presence of its biological mother and must be completed in the presence of the potential purchaser or new owner at the registered address.

AGREE

Condition 5 - the purchaser or new owner must be provided with specified information on caring for a puppy or kitten and with information on dog licensing requirements.

AGREE - onus should not be on rehoming organisations/individuals to provide this information to new owners and DAERA should provide templates for this prescribed information .

Condition 6 - the registered person must keep and maintain a register for all the dogs and cats, including puppies and kittens, on the premises.

AGREE - we however feel that the word "register" should be changed to "record", as in reality in the majority of instances, this may simply relate to one litter.

The Council agree that the proposed conditions are the minimum necessary to allow for compliance to be assessed by any new registration body.

While it is appreciated that the proposals do not require mandatory inspection, and there will be no onus to visit every house/premises from which a person wishes to sell or supply puppies

or kittens, it is highly likely that the relevant registration organisation would have to carry out inspections.

The Council believes that this would be necessary to confirm and verify that the biological mother is present, and that the conditions, as listed, will always generate the requirement for a visit to the property/premises from which puppies/kittens are being sold or supplied to ensure confidence in welfare and husbandary standards for the public. Inevitably this will add additional responsibilities to the relevant registration organisation.

The Council believes that an additional condition relating to a cap on the number of puppies/kittens that can be sold/transferred/given away etc. in one 12-month period would be an effective and useful provision.

An education/promotional campaign should form part of the implementation plan, with a clear focus on educating the public on responsibly sourcing a pet, plus pet owners/businesses on the requirements for registration. This reinforces the Councils view that in relation to cats and kittens in particular, that the role of the registration authority should focus on education and engagement which is best carried out by a stakeholder/ charity/ third sector organisation.

Proposed conditions for advertising puppies and kittens

Q12. Do you agree that any advertisement for the sale of, giving away of, or other transfer of ownership of a puppy or kitten must include the information, as listed in the consultation document?

Yes ✓

No

Comments

Council reiterates that whilst the Council welcomes actions to improve animal welfare, Newry Mourne and Down District Council does not agree that Councils should be allocated responsibility as a registration body for the sale puppies and kittens.

As a general welfare principle, Council agrees with the requirements, as laid out in the consultation document however feel that point 7 should be reworded. Rather than the advertisement containing a "warning" about the life changing decision that buying/getting a new puppy or kitten is, it may be more appropriate to provide an informative for prospective new owners around their commitment/responsibilities.

This reinforces the Councils view, that the role of the registration authority should focus on education and engagement which is best carried out by a stakeholder/ charity/ third sector organisation.

Proposed online publication of Register of Sellers of Puppies and Kittens

Q13. Do you agree that an online, public register of sellers and suppliers of puppies and kittens should publish the detail, as listed in the consultation document?

Yes ✓

No

Comments

Council reiterates that whilst the Council welcomes actions to improve animal welfare, Newry Mourne and Down District Council does not agree that Councils should be allocated responsibility as a registration body for the sale puppies and kittens.

As a general welfare principle, Council agrees with the proposal that an online public register should include all information as listed in the consultation document and feel that this would be beneficial for prospective buyers in terms of providing assurance. The Council strongly advise that a central register should be created and maintained for NI and as referred to earlier and be administered by DAERA.

Council would, however, highlight that due consideration must be given to potential data governance issues, particularly around "hobby" or "accidental" breeders, and the publication of their home addresses. While we do not necessarily have concerns around disclosure of commercial addresses, we are mindful of potential health and safety risks associated with publishing private addresses.

It is understood that the requirement to register will automatically mean a person's details will be publicly available. Is this a legal requirement, or is there an option to "opt out" i.e. could the addition of names and addresses to a public register be voluntary?

Impact Assessments

Q14. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Regulatory Impact Assessment, and its conclusions, or any additional information regarding impacts/costs?

Yes ✓

No

Comments

The consultation proposal reflects a concerning and growing trend whereby central government seeks to devolve enforcement responsibilities to local government without a corresponding transfer of resources, powers, or legal protections. Councils cannot continue to absorb additional responsibilities by default, particularly where they fall outside our core remit and expertise.

Councils were represented at two events with DAERA officials on the proposals in this consultation and have highlighted significant concerns on the potential implications for Councils given that Animal Welfare funding was removed by DAERA in August 2024. DAERA have however continued to issue the first of a number of consultations with the intention of allocating new duties to Councils without clear funding being identified and without the support of Councils

to do so

The Council is of the opinion that additional reforms need to be addressed prior to the introduction of the proposed registration regime, and that the review of dog breeding legislation and the regulation of rescue and rehoming centres remain the priority.

We do not believe that Council should automatically be the registration organisation. The options for other organisations, e.g. charities to register puppies and kittens and maintain a register should be further explored, including a centralised register for NI. DAERA should also be considered as an option for maintaining such a register, in a similar manner to the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine in ROI.

The Regulatory Impact Assessment sets out the options for generating funding through a registration fee. The document states *"The Department does not hold information on the numbers of people or pet shops that will become sellers/suppliers of puppies and kittens. Nor does it hold information on licensed Dog Breeding Establishments. The cost to these people and businesses of registering with their local council as sellers and suppliers of puppies and kittens, is unknown at this juncture"*

Various assumptions have been made on the number of puppies and kittens being sold annually in Northern Ireland and the potential income generated, extrapolated from such figures. This is speculative, and given the fact that DAERA are proposing a zero fee in the first year of registration for non-businesses, it is hard to provide any assurance on the likely income that could be generated.

Initial direct costs will be required to implement a computer system for recording registration details for puppies & kittens, generate a publicly facing register and manage the fees associated with registration. DAERA is aware that the register in Republic of Ireland is updated with new applicants every two weeks.

Additional staff resource would also be required i.e. Administrative Support and Enforcement Officer(s) and all associated costs including a vehicle(s), training, IT equipment, protective clothing etc should the Department continue with the assumed position that Councils will become the registration authority

Ongoing costs would be required to maintain a computer system, vehicle(s) and also staff salaries including employer costs should the Department continue with the assumed position that Councils will become the registration authority.

The Council is not in favour of the proposal to include kittens, and is of the opinion that this would pose significant difficulties for practical enforcement. As advised during the Workshop held in February 2025, Councils highlighted how the roaming nature of cats may mean that they have several owners, or no known owner at all. As cat microchipping is not yet mandatory, any registration or enforcement body would have difficulty proving ownership of a cat without a valid microchip. Councils believe that cats should be excluded from the proposals/ placed with a charitable organisation/ stakeholder who are more suited to leading on education /engagement and support to cat owners.

Council appreciates that with the original "Option 4", a Licensing system would bring with it mandatory inspection. As provided via feedback at the DAERA Workshop in February 2025, Councils highlighted significant concerns around expectations around enforcement.

While we appreciate that moving from a licensing scheme to a registration scheme removes the mandatory inspection requirement, concerns remain that in practical terms, an inspection would likely still be required in the vast majority of cases, as it is considered the only means of checking compliance with the relevant conditions.

The Council is not in favour of the provision for a registration requirement for "giving away" puppies or kittens as it is believed that it may lead to criminalising individuals who are simply trying to give away their pets offspring to a friend or neighbour. It is, however, appreciated that the inclusion of "giving away" may avoid potential loopholes for unscrupulous owners/organisations.

There are concerns that the prosecution of individuals who were ignorant to the law could lead to negative press, particularly where no animal welfare offences have been committed.

Q15. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Rural Needs Impact Assessment, and its conclusions?

Yes ✓

No

Comments

Newry Mourne and Down District Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Rural Needs Impact Assessment and its conclusions. From the perspective of animal welfare and rural community life, it is important to highlight the significant role that kittens and puppies play in the social fabric and emotional well-being of rural residents.

Pets, particularly young animals like kittens and puppies, are not only beloved companions but also contribute to reducing rural isolation and supporting mental health. In many rural areas, where access to social infrastructure may be limited, these animals offer companionship to elderly residents, families, and children, fostering a sense of care and routine. Moreover, responsible breeding and rehoming practices for kittens and puppies are often supported by small rural businesses and community networks. Therefore, policies that impact veterinary services, transport, licensing, or animal welfare directly influence rural pet ownership and the local economy.

The Council encourages the assessment to give further consideration to the indirect but meaningful impact of any proposals on rural households that care for animals, particularly young pets. Ensuring accessible, affordable, and well-regulated services for pet owners is a rural need that should not be overlooked.

Q16. Do you have any comments to make in relation to the Equality and Disability Screening, and its conclusions?

Yes ✓

No

Comments

Councils deal with animal welfare complaints and enforcement in relation to offences under the 2011 Act as far as they relate to companion animals through the animal welfare service. This does not include proactive work such as education /engagement which will be a large part of the tasks to support this policy as proposed . In relation to the breeding of cats or the sale etc. of cats and kittens, Councils have no such remit. The current staff, financial and infrastructure resources do not have any capacity for additional roles outside of the current established enforcement role.

Council's deal with commercial dog breeding through its dog control service, where again the current staff, financial and infrastructure resources does not have any capacity for additional roles outside of the current established enforcement role. The service already operates on a prioritization basis given the additional duties and significant requirements brought in through the XL bully legislation in 2024/25.

Written responses should be sent to:

E-mail: Animal.Welfare@daera-ni.gov.uk

Postal address:

**Animal Welfare and Dog Control Policy Branch
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Jubilee House
11, Ballykelly Road, Ballykelly, Limavady, BT49 9HP**

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 August 2025
Subject:	Food Service Plan 2025/26
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sarah Davidson, Senior Environmental Health Officer and Graham Farthing, Senior Environmental Health Officer

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	The purpose of this report is for Committee Members to consider and agree to adopt the Food Service Plan 2025/26, in Appendix 1.				
	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council maintains a documented Food Service Plan, as required by the Food Standards Agency (FSA). This plan is regularly reviewed and made publicly accessible.				
2.0	Key Issues				
2.1	The Food Service Plan sets out how the Council enforces food law in accordance with the Food Law Code of Practice, including controls for imported food and low-risk establishments. The plan also reflects guidance from FSA (NI), collaborative work with other councils, and input from the NI Food Managers Group. The Council’s delivery of its statutory food safety responsibilities, under EC Regulations and national legislation, is supported by grant funding from the FSA.				
3.0	Recommendations				
3.1	Members are asked to note the report and agree to adopt the Food Service Plan 2025/26 attached in Appendix 1.				
4.0	Resource implications				
4.1	Within existing budgets.				
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)				
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> <i>n/a</i> ☒				
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> 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	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☐ Consultation period will be 12 weeks ☐ Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) ☐ <i>Rationale: n/a</i>
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 – Food Service Plan 2025/26
8.0	Background Documents
	n/a

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



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

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Health and Wellbeing Department
Food Service Plan**

2025/2026

CONTENTS	Page No
Introduction and Priorities for 2025 -26	3
1. Service Aims & Objectives	
1.1 Overview	4
1.2 Service Aims	4
1.3 Key Objectives	4
1.4 Strategic Alignment	4
1.5 Corporate Mission and Values	5
2. Background	
2.1 Organisational Structure	6
2.2 Scope of the Food Safety Service	6
2.3 Food Safety Service Profile	7
2.4 Enforcement Policy	9
3. Service Delivery	
3.1 Food Premises Inspections	10
3.1.1 Food Hygiene	11
3.1.2 Food Standards	12
3.2 Food Service Work Plan 2025 -26	13
3.3 Summary of Time spend required for Food Service Plan	15
4. Resources	
4.1 Staffing Allocation	16
5. Review	
5.1 Review against Service Plan	18
5.2 Identification of Variation from Service Plan	18
5.3 Areas for Improvement	18
5.4 Measuring Objectives	18
Appendices	
Appendix 1 – Planned and Reactive Work	19
Appendix 2 – Enforcement Policy	38

Introduction and Priorities for 2024–25

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have 2133 registered food businesses, including producers, manufacturers, distributors, caterers, retailers, and institutions. We have 57 EC-approved and 3 integrated premises, which is the highest number in Northern Ireland. Many of these premises are fishery related.

We manage a Border Control Post at Warrenpoint Port for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks on agri-food imports.

The district has a strong fishing industry. We provide support and conduct official controls, including fleet registration, premises approval under Regulation (EC) 853/2004, and issuing export and health certificates for trade between NI, GB, and third countries.

We continue to work in collaboration with the Food Standards Agency (NI), DAERA, other agencies and councils.

Section 1– Service Aims & Objectives

1.1 Overview

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council plays a vital role in ensuring food safety across the district. This plan outlines how the Council will meet its statutory duties in line with the Food Standards Agency’s (FSA) goal of effective, collaborative food law enforcement.

1.2 Service Aim

To protect public health by ensuring food produced, imported, or sold in the district is safe, accurately labelled, and of genuine quality.

1.3 Key Objectives

- Conduct food hygiene and standards inspections per the Food Law Code of Practice, based on risk assessment.
- Implement the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme across the district.
- Monitor compliance with allergen labelling requirements under the Food Information (NI) Regulations 2014.
- Carry out food sampling for microbiological and chemical analysis.
- Investigate food-related complaints and incidents of foodborne illness.
- Respond to national food safety alerts.
- Ensure imported food complies with UK and EU law.
- Act as Home Authority for local food manufacturers, providing regulatory advice.
- Offer clear, practical guidance to businesses and the public on food safety.

1.4 Strategic Alignment

The Food Control Service supports the Council’s Corporate Plan 2024–2027 and contributes to strategic goals including:

- Economic growth
- Health and wellbeing
- Environmental sustainability
- Tourism development
- Community empowerment
- District revitalisation

- Sustainable service delivery
- Regional representation

1.5 Corporate Mission & Values

The Council's vision is to foster strong, safe, and vibrant communities with access to high-quality, sustainable services.

Mission: *Deliver sustainable services and empower communities through transparent governance.*

Values: *Respect, Transparency, Excellence, Integrity, Accountability*

Section 2 – Background

2.1 Organisational Structure

The Food Service Team consists of 12.05 FTE officers (currently 10.95) due to redeployment and recruitment), including District Environmental Health Officers and a Technical Officer. The team reports to two Senior Environmental Health Officers (Food Safety and Imported/Exported Food & EC Approvals), who in turn report to the Head of Environmental Health (Commercial).

2.2 Scope of the Food Safety Service

The team enforces key food legislation including:

- The Food Hygiene Regulations (NI) 2006
- The Food Safety (NI) Order 1991
- The Food Law Code of Practice
- Relevant EU and UK regulations

Service delivery includes both planned and reactive activities, as well as sampling, management, and health promotion.

Summary of Activities

Activity Type	Examples
Planned Work	Food hygiene and standards inspections, HACCP visits, Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, compliance revisits, alternative enforcement, imported food checks at Warrenpoint Port
Response Work	Business advice, new premises inspections, FHRS appeals, food complaints, food poisoning investigations, infectious disease notifications, food alerts, export health certification
Sampling	Microbiological and chemical food/water testing, shellfish and wild fish sampling, radiation monitoring

Service Management	Supervision, legal proceedings, enforcement coordination, council reporting, planning, quality systems, stakeholder engagement
Health & Wellbeing Promotion	Training seminars, public education, research, community advice, student placements

2.3 Food Safety Service Profile

The Council has 2133 food premises currently registered as trading for which the authority has food enforcement responsibility. They fall into the following main usage categories:

Premises Type (Main Usage)	Number of Premises	Percentage (%)
Primary Producers	184	8.63
Manufacturers and Packers	139	6.52
Importers/Exporters	2	0.09
Distributors/Transporters	52	2.44
Retailers	439	61.74
Restaurants and Caterers	1317	61.74
TOTAL	2133	100%

Premises Requiring EC Approval

There are 58 premises approved to operate under the EC Regulations and 3 integrated premises. These premises are inspected in accordance with our risk-rating programme.

Establishment Approval Type	Number of Premises Approved
General Activities (Sec 0)	7
Meat Preparations (Sec V)	6
Meat Products (Sec VI)	6
Live Bivalve Molluscs (Sec VII)	5
Fishery Products (Sec VIII)	31
Dairy Products (Sec IX)	1
Treated Stomachs (Sec XIII)	2
Total Number of Premises	58

Fish and Shellfish Premises

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council oversees the highest number of fishery premises in Northern Ireland, including processing, freezing, depuration, shellfish beds, fishing vessels, and a fish market. These require specialist regulation.

Officers conduct early inspections and sampling at Kilkeel Fish Market and shellfish sites, driven by tidal conditions. The Council continues routine inspections of 143 vessels and collaborates with enforcement bodies in ROI and Scotland. Ongoing surveillance at Kilkeel and Ardglass supports FSA priorities due to the high volume of activity.

Food Imports

In partnership with DAERA, the Council operates an EU-designated Point of Entry at Warrenpoint Port for Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) checks. Under the Protocol, SPS goods must enter Northern Ireland through approved POEs.

Staff are stationed at Warrenpoint and inspect trailers on every CLdN sailing. In 2024–25, 1949 trailers were examined.

Food Exports

Export Health Certificates (EHCs) confirm food products meet UK/EU safety standards and destination country requirements. 237 EHCs were issued in 2024–25.

Support Health Attestations (SHAs) are provided by DAERA-authorised EHOs for fishery products, supporting trade between NI, GB, and the EU.

Although not a statutory duty, issuing EHCs supports economic growth and market access.

Food Standards

The Council provides guidance on food-related topics including nutrition, allergens, GM products, and salt/fat content.

Food Standards Delivery Model (FSDM)

The Food Standards Delivery Model (FSDM) was implemented from 1 April 2025 following changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (NI).

The model improves risk assessment using a new rating scheme, decision matrix, and intelligence. Implementation required extensive officer training and has increased intervention workload.

Data recording challenges with MIS providers persist.

2.4 Enforcement Policy

Officers apply proportionate enforcement measures to ensure compliance, aiming to collaborate with businesses and minimise unnecessary bureaucracy.

The Council's Enforcement Policy is detailed in Appendix 2.

SECTION 3 – SERVICE DELIVERY

3.1 Food Premises Inspections

A total of 2133 food premises are subject to programmed food hygiene and food standards inspection. The following diagram shows a breakdown of premises numbers by risk categories for both food hygiene and food standards.

Figure 1: Number of premises by risk category for Food Hygiene

Food hygiene premise risk category	
Category	Number of Premise
A	3
B	40
C	316
D	755
E	930
Outside the Programme	41
Unrated	48
Total Number of Premise	2133

Figure 2: Number of premises by risk category for Food Standards

Food Standards Premise Risk Category	
<u>Risk Category</u>	<u>Number of Premise</u>
2.3	2
2.5	2
3.1	1
3.2	11
3.3	596
3.4	114
3.5	102
4.2	1
4.3	398

4.4	356
4.5	289
5.3	2
5.4	145
5.5	8
FSD 1	0
FSD 2	11
FSD 3	5
Total Premise	2043

3.1.1 Food Hygiene

In order to prioritise resources and to work more efficiently, food hygiene interventions will be completed in premises according to their risk as follows:

Risk Rating	Type of intervention (Official Control)
New business	Inspection or audit within 28 days of opening
A or B	Inspection, Partial Inspection or Audit within 28 days
Non-broadly compliant C	Inspection, Partial Inspection or Audit
Broadly compliant C, D or E (included in FHRS)	Inspection, Partial Inspection, Audit or Verification Visit*
Category D (30/40 for type of food or method of handling)	Inspection, Partial Inspection or Audit
E (not included in FHRS)	Alternate between Inspection, Partial Inspection, Audit or Verification Visit and AES

* Verification visit is only appropriate where the business has achieved a FHRS of 5. The next intervention must be an Inspection, Partial Inspection or Audit

3.1.2 Food Standards

The introduction of the new Food Standards Delivery Model in 2025 has implemented a new scoring model and new frequencies for intervention to be completed. See the decision matrix below.

5	12 Months	24 Months	60 Months	72 Months	120 Months
4	Priority Intervention 6 Months	12 Months	36 Months	48 Months	72 Months
3	Priority Intervention 6 Months	12 Months	24 Months	36 Months	60 Months
2	Priority Intervention 3 Months	Priority Intervention 6 Months	12 Months	24 Months	36 Months
1	Priority Intervention 1 Month	Priority Intervention 3 Months	Priority Intervention 6 Months	12 Months	24 Months
	1	2	3	4	5
	Compliance Assessment				

Risk Rating	Type of intervention (Official Control)
New business	Initial desktop assessment of the inherent risk in respect of a new food business establishment within 28 days of registration
Priority Intervention	Inspection, Partial Inspection or Audit as specified in the decision matrix
All other Interventions	All other establishments must receive an official control at appropriate intervals in accordance with the prescribed frequencies specified in the decision matrix. Inspection, Audit , Sampling for analysis , Monitoring , Surveillance or Verification
Alternative Enforcement Strategy	a score of no less than 4 for both inherent risk and compliance assessment for food standards

3.2 Food Service Work Plan 2025-26

The total time (in hours) to complete the number of tasks required to meet the demands of the food service are outlined in the following table. The details of the number of interventions and actions required to complete the work are detailed in Appendix 2, including a breakdown of required tasks necessary to complete planned work, response work, sampling, service management and health and wellbeing promotion. Individual task times based on previous research are also outlined in Appendix 2 which when multiplied by number of tasks can give an indication on the number of hours, including administration required to meet the demands of the food service. This includes the planned work for 2024-25 and any backlog of inspections outstanding from the previous year.

Planned Work

Activity	2025-2026 hours
Planned Food Hygiene inspections	2335
Outstanding Planned Food Hygiene inspections	752
Planned Food Standards inspections	1701
Outstanding Planned Food Standards inspections	1866
FHRS Sticker Display Checks	263
EC approved Premises	2320
Home Authority Premises work (additional to planned inspections)	630
Hospitals	40
Fish Market	144
Export certificates	830
Port Health / BCP	3099
TOTAL	13,980

Responsive Work

Activity	2025-2026 hours
Revisits (food hygiene)	225
Revisits (food standards)	200
FHRS (Revisits, Appeals, Right to Reply)	52
Food Complaints	310
Food Premises Complaints	36
Home Authority Complaints	50
Advice to businesses	1355
Food related Infectious Disease	435
Food Safety Incidents	390
Food Alerts	210
Formal Action	450
FHRS Enforcement	120
TOTAL	3833

Sampling

Activity	Total Hours
Microbiological Sampling	763.5
Chemical Sampling	288
Shellfish Sampling	553
TOTAL	1604.5

Food Safety & Standards Promotion

Activity	2025-2026 hours
Food Safety & Standards Promotion	270
TOTAL	270

Service Management

Activity	2025-2026 hours
Food Service Planning, Monitoring & Review	496
Food meetings & procedures/policy development	864
Port Health Meetings	184
Trust Meetings	10
Food Safety & Standards Research, Personal Development & Competency Assessment	992
TOTAL	2546

3.3 Summary of Time spend required for Food Service Plan

Tasks	2025-2026 hours
Planned Work	13980
Responsive work	3833
Sampling	1604.5
Food Safety & Standards Promotion	270
Service Management	2546
TOTAL TIME REQUIRED	22233.5

SECTION 4. RESOURCES

4.1 Staffing Allocation

The structure of the food service and information on officers' roles was detailed in Section 3.2 of this plan. Detailed below is a list of officers working in Food Law enforcement and related matters.

Food Service Delivery Staff	Area	% Time	FTE Allocated	Currently in post
Head of EH (Commercial)	Going through recruitment	50	0.5	0
Senior EHO (Food Safety - General)	Area 3	90	1	1
EHO	Area 1	90	1	1
EHO	Area 7	90	1	1
EHO	Area 5	90	1	1
EHO	Area 8	90	1	1
EHO	Area 6	45	0.5	0.5
EHO	Area 6	45	0.5	0.5
EHO	Area 4	60	0.6	0.6
EHO (Redeployment)	Area 2		0.6	0
Senior EHO (Imports/Exports/Port Health)		90	1	1
EHO (Port Health)		75	0.85	0.85
EHO (Port Health)		90	1	1
EHO (Port Health)		45	0.5	0.5
Technical Officer		35	0.4	0.4
Technical Officer		55	0.6	0.6
	Total	--	12.05	10.95

All current staff are qualified and authorised under the Food Law Code of Practice (NI) to perform Council functions. With 1606 hours being the accepted annual hours available per officer, 13.84 equivalent officers are required to complete the work outlined in this plan.

The food safety section is allocated 12.05 FTE and currently only has 10.95 FTE occupied. Therefore the service requires an additional 2.89 FTE to complete all works detailed in this document. Without this additional resource the food safety section will be concentrating on completing the work required to meet our statutory obligations.

SECTION 5 REVIEW

5.1 Review Against Service Plan

Review processes include six-weekly team meetings, biannual management reviews aligned with FSA returns, and an annual report to the Council.

5.2 Identification of any variation from the Service Plan

Reviews aim to identify any variance from the Service Plan and determine the reasons behind it.

5.3 Areas of Improvement

The Assistant Director of Environment will report any necessary improvements or service developments to Council based on review findings.

5.4 Measuring Objectives

Objectives will be evaluated using the following measurable targets:

ACTIVITY	TARGET
Inspection of Food Premises to assess compliance with food hygiene legislation	100% of new businesses 100% of A and B risk rated premises inspected. 100% of non-broadly complaint C risk rated premises inspected
Inspection of Food Premises to assess compliance with Food Standards legislation	100% of new businesses 100% of priority interventions
Implement the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme	Issue Food Hygiene Rating Scheme certificates in accordance with the FSA's FHRS Guidance.
Issue of statutory Notices, except for emergency notices.	90% of notices issued within 5 working days of premises inspections

Issue of emergency notices	100% of notices within 1 working day of premises inspections
Complaints, requests for service, responses to queries, and food alerts for information	100% responded to within 3 working days
Food Alerts for action	100% responded to within 3 working days.
Chemical sampling	10 chemical foods per month
Microbiological samples	56 micro samples per month

APPENDIX 1

During the year 2025 -2026 the planned number of inspections is as follows: -

Food Hygiene

The work activity in respect to food hygiene inspections and an estimate of the time spend on inspections and associated administration is shown in the following table.

Planned inspections for 2025 –26

Risk Category	Frequency	No. of Tasks due 2025/26	Task Time	Total Hours
A	6 Mths	3	7	21
B	1 Yr.	35	6	210
C	18 Mths	170	4	680
D	2 Yrs.	290	3	870
E	3 Yrs.	151	2	302
Currently Unrated	as arising	63	4	252
Outside Program	–	-	–	
TOTAL		712		2335

Outstanding Food Hygiene Inspections 2024/25

Risk Category	Frequency	No. of Tasks due 2024/25	Task Time	Total Hours
A	6 Months	0	7	0
B	1 Year	0	6	0
C	18 Months	44	4	176
D	2 Years	82	3	246
E	3 Years	137	2	274
Currently unrated	as arising	14	4	56
TOTAL		277		752

Food Standards

The work activity in respect to food standards inspections and an estimate of the time spend on inspections and associated administration is shown in the table below. This report includes the inspections that were outstanding and planned for 2025/26 with the old food standards regime and what is required with the implementation of the new food standards delivery model to show the increase in workload.

FS Inspections Due 2025/26 - FSDM					
Category	Frequency	Number of premise	Inspections for 2025/26	Hours per inspection	Total Hours
1.1	1 month	0	0	8	0
1.2	3 months	0	0	8	0
1.3	6 months	0	0	8	0
1.4	12 months	0	0	6	0
1.5	24 months	0	0	6	0
2.1	3 months	0	0	8	0
2.2	6 months	0	0	8	0
2.3	12 months	2	1	6	6
2.4	24 months	0	0	6	0
2.5	36 months	2	0	4	0
3.1	6 months	1	1	8	8
3.2	12 months	11	8	6	48
3.3	24 months	596	182	6	1092
3.4	36 months	114	14	4	56
3.5	60 months	102	11	1.5	16.5
4.1	6 months	0	0	8	0
4.2	12 months	1	1	6	6
4.3	36 months	398	70	4	280

4.4	48 months	356	42	2.5	105
4.5	72 months	289	25	1	25
5.1	12 months	0	0	6	0
5.2	36 months	0	0	4	0
5.3	48 months	2	1	2.5	2.5
5.4	72 months	145	56	1	56
5.5	120 Months	8	0	1	0
FSD 1	1 month	0	0	3	
FSD 2	2 months	0	0	3	0
FSD 3	3 months	0	0	3	0
		Total Tasks	412	Total Hours	1701

FS Inspections Overdue 2025/26 - FSDM				
Category	Frequency	Inspections for 2024/25 and before	Hours per inspection	Total Hours
1.1	1 month	0	8	0
1.2	3 months	0	8	0
1.3	6 months	0	8	0
1.4	12 months	0	6	0
1.5	24 months	0	6	0
2.1	3 months	0	8	0
2.2	6 months	0	8	0
2.3	12 months	0	6	0
2.4	24 months	0	6	0
2.5	36 months	0	4	0
3.1	6 months	0	8	0

3.2	12 months	0	6	0
3.3	24 months	192	6	1152
3.4	36 months	40	4	160
3.5	60 months	14	1.5	21
4.1	6 months	0	8	0
4.2	12 months	0	6	0
4.3	36 months	115	4	460
4.4	48 months	26	2.5	65
4.5	72 months	8	1	8
5.1	12 months	0	6	0
5.2	36 months	0	4	0
5.3	48 months	0	2.5	0
5.4	72 months	0	1	0
5.5	120 Months	0	1	0
	TOTAL TASKS	291	TOTAL HOURS	1866

Estimated Revisits

Under the Food Law Code of Practice (NI), food hygiene revisits are required for establishments scoring:

- 15+ for hygiene and/or structure
- 20+ for confidence in management/control

Additional revisits may be conducted at the officer's discretion.

Food standards revisits are required for Priority Intervention premises, depending on the nature of non-compliance and timing of the next scheduled inspection. Remote follow-ups or revisits may also be carried out for other premises to verify that non-compliances have been resolved.

Estimated number of revisits and total time taken			
	Number expected 2025/26	Task Time	Total Time
Food Hygiene	150	1.5	225
Food Standards	100	2	200

FHRS Revisits and Appeals

There are **1595** premises included in Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.

	No of Tasks	Task Time (Hrs) Per Visit	Total Hours
Requested Revisit	15	3	45
Appeal	2	3	6
Right to Reply	2	0.5	1
TOTAL			52

1595 premises are included in the mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme within Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. We aim to visit and check compliance within 50% of these premises in 2025 - 26.

No. of visits planned	Task Time (Hrs)	Total Time (Hrs)
798	0.33	263

Non-compliance with the requirement to accurately display a valid rating, can, following a graduated enforcement approach, lead to the issuing of a warning letter and/or a Fixed Penalty Notice (FPN), the anticipated time spend including revisit for compliance checks for these tasks is outlined in the table below.

Task	No. of expected tasks	Task Time (Hrs)	Total Time
Warning letter	100	1	100
Fixed penalty notice	20	1	20
Total	120		120

Specialist/Complex Premises

Additional time spend for both hygiene and standards visits for more specialist/complex premises is detailed below.

Specialist Area	No. of Premises/ Tasks	Expected Time Spend	Total Hours
EC Approved premises	58	40hrs each	2320
Other Manufacturer (Home Authority)	63	10hrs each	630
Hospital	4	10hrs each	40
Fish Market Inspection	96 (8 x / Month)	1.5 hrs each	144
Issuing Export Certificates	237	3.5hrs each	830
Total			3964

Port Health / BCP Checks

Area	Number of Tasks	Expected Time Spend	Total Hours
Port Health including Manifest checks	11 per week (572)	4.5hrs	2574
Standby shift covered by Food EHO	115 per year	4.5	477
Ship Sanitation Certification	12 per year	4	48
Total			3099

Food complaints

All food complaints upon receipt and in circumstances where a need has been identified commence investigations in accordance with the NIFLG Food Complaints Investigation Procedure.

The likely demands on the service are based on trends in the past two years as detailed below.

No. of Food Complaints	Task Time	Total Hours
31	10.0	310

Complaints concerning alleged poor hygienic practices or standards within food premises will be investigated and appropriate action taken in accordance with the Council's enforcement policy.

Again, based on the last two years the likely demand will be as set out below.

No of Food Premises Complaints	Task time	Total hours
18	2.0	36

Home Authority Principle

The Council implement the approved Home Authority Policy and Procedure. It is estimated that for these premises additional resources will be required as set out below.

No. of Home Authority Premises (Informal)	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hrs
10	5.0	50

Formal Action

Legal actions including court proceedings can be initiated following both routine inspection-based activities and reactive visits following complaints or food incidents.

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Improvement Notices	15	2	30
Remedial Action Notices	5	2	10
Detention/Seizure of food	10	6	60
Voluntary Surrender of food	10	6	60
Emergency Closure	2	20	40
Voluntary Closure	2	5	10

Formal Caution	4	10	40
PACE interview	4	8	32
Prosecution	3	50	150
TARP Notices	3	2	6
Organic Notices	0	2	0
OFFC (HRFNAO)	4	2	8
Plastic Kitchenware (Conditions on Imports from China)	2	2	4
TOTAL			450

Sampling

Chemical and microbiological sampling policies and programmes are in place in accordance with NIFLG document – Food Sampling Policies and Associated Guidance

Microbiological Sampling Programme

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Food sampling	718	0.75	538.5
Water sampling (drinking & recreational)	300	0.75	225
TOTAL			763.5

NMDDC on behalf of the FSA undertake shellfish and water samples in Dundrum Bay and Killough.

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Coordinating and planning shellfish sampling with FSA / Labs	4	4	16
Flesh Sampling	42	10 (2 officer 6hrs / 4 hrs)	420
Water Sampling	26	4.5 (1 officer)	117
TOTAL			553

Chemical Sampling Programme

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Formal sampling	24	2.0	48
Informal sampling	150	1.0	150
Wild Caught Fish	60	1.5	90
TOTAL			288

Outbreak Investigation

The Council investigates all outbreaks, sporadic cases, and suspected food or water-related infectious diseases in line with Public Health Agency (PHA) procedures and national guidelines.

Investigation objectives:

- Contain infection spread
- Identify source and causative agent
- Trace carriers and cases
- Pinpoint infection focus
- Recommend preventive measures

Resource estimates:

- ~60 hours per outbreak
- ~3 hours per sporadic case
- Time demands may increase depending on outbreak scale or enforcement needs.

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Potential Outbreaks	1	60	60
Sporadic cases	125	3	375
TOTAL			435

Food Safety Incidents

The number of food safety incidents arising within the district area has increased significantly over the last number of years. Resources are required to react to incidents related to food fraud or criminality either immediately or through a pre-planned multi-agency approach. Predicted time spend for dealing with incidents is:

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Major incidents	4	60	240
Minor Incidents	15	10	150
TOTAL			390

Food Alerts for Action

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
FAFA	35	6	210
TOTAL			210

Advice to businesses

We work with businesses providing advice to help them comply with the law and to encourage the use of best practice.

The likely demand on the service is based on trends in the past two years and is detailed below:

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Advisory E mail	1000	0.25	200
Advisory visits	150	2	300
Advisory Telephone Calls	3000	0.25	750
Business Start-Up Advisory Programme	6	5.0	30
TOTAL			1355

Food Safety Training

Due to limited resources any request for training will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

In previous years we have delivered the following;

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Catering Students training	2	6	12
Secondary School Career Talks	10	3	30
TOTAL			42

Food Safety & Standards Promotion

The Council recognises the importance of promoting food safety and food standards. The following promotional activities will be undertaken:

Task	Total Hours
PPDS awareness/advice	50 hrs
Potential nutrition advice	50hrs
Council Web Site	20 hrs
Targeted Seminars due to new changes in legislation, risks or guidance.	150 hrs
TOTAL	270 hrs

Food Service Planning and Review

Food service delivery is guided by this plan and reviewed against actual performance, including unplanned priority work such as food incidents. Twice yearly returns are submitted to the FSA.

Sampling plans are regularly updated to reflect emerging issues. Internal monitoring ensures consistency in inspections and risk ratings, with accompanied visits and file

reviews tailored to officer experience and premises type. Monitoring also supports competency-based authorisations.

Data accuracy is essential for meaningful reporting, including fortnightly uploads to the FHRS portal. Freedom of Information requests are handled in line with Council policy.

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Food Service plan	1	60	60
Food sampling plan	2	10	20
End of year return to FSA	1	40	40
Mid – Year Return to FSA	1	40	40
FSA returns	10	3	30
Internal Monitoring File reviews	192	0.5	96
Internal Monitoring Accompanied visits	16	4	64
FHRS Upload	26	1	26
FOI Requests	12	10	120
TOTAL			496

Liaison with other organisations

To ensure enforcement aligns with the FSA’s Framework Agreement, Code of Practice, and FHRS Guidance—and remains consistent with neighbouring councils—Newry, Mourne and Down District Council actively participates in the Northern Ireland Food Managers Group (NIFMG). This group includes senior officers from each council and representatives from FSA (NI), CDSC (NI), and PHL. Sub-groups focus on key areas such as Food Standards, FHRS, FSS (sampling database), and Shellfish.

All-Ireland cooperation includes:

- Safefood – the Food Safety Promotion Board
- Communicable Disease Control – involving PHA, SHSCT, SEHSCT, other councils, and ROI agencies

Internally, consistency is maintained through:

- Regular meetings of Senior EHOs
- Bi-monthly team and Food Officer Group meetings (including consistency checks)
- Ongoing management meetings with the Assistant Director of Health & Wellbeing

General

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Senior Officers Meeting	12	4 (3 Officers to attend)	144
Food Officer Group	6	4 (15 Officers to attend)	360
Northern Ireland Food managers’ meetings and subgroup meetings	24	10	240

(NIFMG (6), FSFF, (6) Imports/Exports, UKFSS (6), FSA Approvals, FSDM (26)			
Management Team Meetings	12	3 (1 Officers to attend)	36
Policy & Procedure Review & Development	12	7	84
TOTAL			864

Associated with Port Health and Operating the BCP

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
FSA / DC Meeting	24	1	24
BCP Meeting	6	2 (8 officers to attend)	96
CHIP	12	0.75	9
DEFRA Organics	12	0.5	6
Infrastructure and Design	6	1	6
DEFRA / FSA / LA	12	1	12
Port Security	2	2	4
User Engagement	6	1	6

Port Welfare Committee	4	3	12
PHA (Cruise ships etc)	4	1.5	6
APHA NI Ports	2	1.5	3
TOTAL			184

Other meetings that are regularly attended by the food safety team are consistency meetings held with both Trusts.

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Trust meetings	5	2	10
TOTAL			10

Food Safety & Standards Research & Personal Development

Officers must stay current with industry developments and be familiar with the specific processes they inspect to maintain competency and authorisation. This includes attending relevant training throughout the year and completing competency assessments in line with the FSA's Food Law Code of Practice. Assessments are reviewed by line managers to ensure continued compliance and capability.

Task	No of Tasks	Task Time (hrs)	Total Hours
Food safety & standards research	16	10	160
Food safety training	16	40	640

Competency Assessments	16	12	192
TOTAL			992

APPENDIX 2

Council's Enforcement Policy

Enforcement policy Newry, Mourne and Down

Policy Title Generic Enforcement policy - Environmental Health Functions

Policy Summary This is a generic policy designed to allow the most appropriate enforcement option to be chosen based on principles that promote consistency and fairness. The appendices to this policy provide topic specific information which will assist in its application.

Requirement for policy The policy is required to determine the most appropriate action from a stated range of options in relation to breaches of legislation across the range of Environmental Health functions

Contents

Topic	See Page
Key Controls	2
General Principles	2
Criteria to determine most appropriate choice of enforcement action	3
Enforcement Actions	3
Application to Juveniles	3
Appendix 1. Additional information relating to enforcement of Food Safety and Food Standards	5
Appendix 2. Additional information relating to enforcement Health & Safety	11
Appendix 3. Additional information relating to enforcement of Consumer Protection.	12
Appendix 4. Additional information relating to enforcement of Environmental Protection, including noise	13
Appendix 5. Additional information relating to other enforcement work	14

Who/What does this policy apply to All staff who make enforcement decisions or recommendations on legislation that the Council enforces across all services and all departments.

What are the key controls

1. Enforcement principles from the European Enforcement Concordat, which are,
 - Proportionality
 - Consistency
 - Targeting
 - Transparency
2. Regulators Compliance Code and
3. The Code for Crown Prosecutors.
4. The council recognises the role of Primary Authorities established under the Regulatory Enforcement and Sanctions Act 2008 and will adhere to the arrangements within the memorandum of understanding agreed between CEHOG and the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO).

***General
Principles***

1. Council officers will assist businesses and individuals to understand their legal requirements and the obligations these impose
2. The Council (via its authorised officers) will endeavor to secure compliance with the law within its remit. This will entail officers using a range of enforcement actions, both formal and informal.
3. Enforcement actions will be informed by -
 - **Proportionality** in applying the law and securing compliance,
(Proportionality means relating enforcement action to the risks and costs).
 - **Consistency of approach**,
(Consistency means taking a similar approach in similar circumstances to achieve similar ends).
 - **Targeting of enforcement action**,
(Targeting means that actions are directed primarily to need - activities which give rise to the most serious risks or where hazards are least well controlled).
 - **Transparency** about how the Council operates and what its customers may expect.
(Transparency means helping duty holders and others to understand what it expected of them and of the Council. It also means making clear why an officer intends to, or has taken enforcement action.

***Criteria to
determine***

All the circumstances of an alleged offence will be taken into

- choice of enforcement action*** consideration when deciding the choice of enforcement action including -
- the seriousness of the alleged offence,
 - whether the alleged offence is fraudulent, intentional, negligent or persistent,
 - the threat posed,
 - the probable public benefit,
 - the strength of evidence,
 - the strength of any statutory defences,
 - the previous history of the party concerned,
 - the willingness of the party to prevent a recurrence of the problem, and
 - the appropriateness of alternative actions.

- Enforcement Actions*** Enforcement actions, if any, will be determined in accordance with the above principles, from the following informal and, where statute permits, formal options -
- oral advice
 - advisory or warning letter
 - enforcement notice
 - sampling/test purchase; seizure; rendering harmless;
 - formal caution
 - fixed penalty
 - prosecution

***Juveniles
(persons
under the
age of
eighteen)***

The rights and welfare of the child will always be of paramount importance when considering any course of action. This approach reflects the paramountcy principle enshrined in the Children (NI) Order 1995.

Where an offence as detailed within the legislation contained in appendix one, has been committed by a person under the age of eighteen the taking of formal enforcement action (enforcement notice, seizure, rendering harmless, formal caution, fixed penalty and prosecution) shall only be undertaken in exceptional circumstances, namely:-

The offender has committed similar previous offences

The offender acts in an abusive, aggressive and/or obstructive manner when approached by an officer of the council.

Where a person under eighteen is believed to have committed an offence under the relevant legislation (see appendix one) but formal enforcement action is not to be taken then the following steps shall be employed, where possible -

formally write to the young person outlining details of their actions, that an offence appears to have been committed and that further offences committed may result in action including, depending on the seriousness of the offence, the following:

Formal written warnings/caution

Acceptable Behaviour contracts

Anti-social Behaviour Orders

Fixed Penalty Notice

Prosecution

or a combination of two or more of the above, write, where the information is available, to the young person's parents or guardians

outlining details of the officer's contact with the young person and providing a copy of any correspondence sent to that young person in relation to the matter.

An officer when approaching a person but in particular when approaching a juvenile shall have regard to relevant operational arrangements and procedures.

Appendix 1.

Additional information relating to enforcement of Food Safety and Food Standards.

In deciding whether to prosecute, the Council accepts that it will be guided by the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland).

To achieve and maintain consistency, the Council will follow the guidance in statutory Codes of Practice, LACORS Circulars and advice offered in relation to BRDO principles in respect of Primary Authorities where appropriate.

Informal Action

The Council recognises informal action as one means to secure compliance with Food Law. In this context, informal action includes offering advice, verbal warnings and requests for action, the use of letters and the issue of food hygiene inspection reports, including those generated on a premises following an inspection. Informal action should be considered in any of the following circumstances:

the act or omission is not serious enough to warrant formal action

from the Food Business Operator's past history, it can be reasonably expected that informal action will achieve compliance

confidence in the Food Business Operator's management involved is high

the consequences of non-compliance will not pose a significant risk to public health

in all circumstances where the Food Law Code of Practice NI suggest that informal action may be an appropriate action.

The authorised officer will ensure that inspection reports will be issued following all programmed inspections even in those circumstances where conditions at the time of inspection are satisfactory. The content of such reports will be as directed in the Food Law Code of Practice NI.

The Council recognises the importance of clear differentiation between legal requirements and matters which are recommended as good hygiene practice in all written or verbal advice given to food businesses.

Hygiene Improvement Notices

The Council recognises that authorised officers of the Council may serve Hygiene Improvement Notices. The Council considers that Hygiene Improvement Notices are appropriate where one or more of the following criteria apply:

there are significant contraventions of legislation

there is a lack of confidence in the proprietor or enterprise to respond to an informal approach

there is a history of non-compliance with informal action

standards are generally poor with little management awareness of statutory requirements

the consequences of non-compliance could be potentially serious to public health although it is intended to prosecute, effective action also needs to be taken as quickly as possible to remedy conditions that are serious or deteriorating.

Hygiene Improvement Notices issued by officers of the Council should, in general, be related to risk to health. It is not, for example,

appropriate to issue Improvement Notices for minor technical contraventions.

Only officers specifically authorised to do so may serve Hygiene Improvement Notices on behalf of the Council. A/FC/POL/001/02

The Council accepts all relevant guidance in statutory Codes of Practice and LACORS Guidance Notes on the use of statutory notices.

The Council accepts that a Hygiene Improvement Notice is a legal document and as such it confirms that failure to comply with a Hygiene Improvement Notice will in general result in court proceedings. The Council accepts that other bodies such as primary, home and originating authorities will be advised of formal action taken by the Council and its outcome.

Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices

The Council accepts that from time to time the service of Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices may be necessary but only in one or more of the following circumstances:

the consequences of not taking immediate and decisive action to protect public health would be unacceptable

an imminent risk to injury to health can be demonstrated. This might include evidence from relevant experts, including a food analyst or food examiner

the guidance criteria, specified in the relevant statutory Code of Practice, concerning the conditions where prohibition may be appropriate, are fulfilled

there is no confidence in the integrity of an offer made by a proprietor voluntarily to close premises or cease the use of any equipment, process or treatment associated with the imminent risk

a proprietor is unwilling to confirm in writing his/her offer of a voluntary prohibition

Only officers specifically authorised to do so may serve Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices for the Council. The Council further recognises the need for such officers to have considerable experience in a variety of food safety enforcement situations. A/FC/POL/001/02

The Council accepts the guidance on Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices contained in the Food Law Code of Practice NI.

The Council recognises that other bodies such as home and originating authorities will require to be advised of formal action taken by the Council and its outcome.

Expert Advice will be sought where the process or treatment requires specialist knowledge or qualifications to establish that the health risk conditions above are met.

Remedial Action Notices.

The use of Remedial Action Notices in Northern Ireland was extended to all types of food businesses on 6th April 2012. Prior to that date they could only be used in respect of product specific establishments subject to approval under regulation 853/2004.

In addition to the other enforcement options available, the service of a Remedial Action Notice allows for prohibition of the use of equipment or any part of the establishment, the cessation or reduction of

activities, or the detention of food of animal origin for the purposes of examination.

Only a specifically authorised officer with detailed knowledge of enforcement will sign a Remedial Action Notice.

Circumstances which might lead to the issue of a Remedial Action Notice include:

the failure of any equipment or part of an establishment to comply with the requirements of the "Hygiene Regulations"

the need to impose conditions upon, or the prohibition of the carrying on of, any process breaching the requirements of the regulations or hampering adequate health inspection in accordance with the Regulations.

where the rate of operation of the business is detrimental to its ability to comply with the Regulations.

As soon as an officer is satisfied that the matters specified in the Remedial Action Notice have been complied with, they will issue a notice of withdrawal. A/FC/POL/001/02

Voluntary Closure.

There may be occasions where, although an authorised officer is satisfied that conditions within a premises merit the use of emergency prohibition procedures, the proprietor of the food business offers to close voluntarily until the health risk is removed.

These offers can be accepted in the following circumstances:

the authorised officer is satisfied that there is no likelihood of the premises being used as a food business, or of the use of equipment, or of a process without the express agreement of this authority during the time of voluntary closure;

the offer to close and its acceptance must be fully documented and signed by the proprietor of the food business and by specifically authorised officers;

in respect of a Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notice, the person making the offer of closure is aware that in closing voluntarily they are giving up their right to compensation for unjustified action contained in formal emergency prohibition notice procedure.

Revocation of Approvals under EC Reg. 853 and 854.

Food businesses that produce, process or export foods containing meat, poultry, dairy and egg products, which are not takeaway foods, for sale in a retail shop have to be officially approved before they can trade.

These premises are subject to the same enforcement procedures as outlined in this Policy but in addition will have their approval to trade withdrawn if they have been made the subject of a prohibition order or hygiene emergency prohibition order and have effectively ceased to trade.

Seizure or Detention of Food.

Circumstances which might lead to the issue of a Detention Notice include those where there are indications or suspicions that food is unsafe because of breaches of the requirements of the Hygiene Regulations.

If upon inspection of any food intended for human consumption an officer has reasonable grounds for suspecting that food does not satisfy food safety requirements for reasons of hygiene, or can certify

that it has not been produced, processed or distributed in compliance with the relevant regulations, they may detain and/or seize the food. Only specifically authorised environmental health officers will be able to seize or detain food and this will only happen, unless circumstances require immediate action, after discussion with the owner or person in charge of the food and if appropriate with the manufacturer. As soon as the officer is satisfied that the food has been found not to be unsafe, they will issue a notice of withdrawal.

Voluntary Surrender

In certain circumstances it may be appropriate in order to remove unsound, unfit or poor quality food from circulation to facilitate the use of voluntary surrender of food from a food business operator. In these cases an authorised officer from the Service will supervise the removal and destruction of the food and will issue a certificate confirming its disposal, subject to an administrative fee.

Prosecution

In general, the Council will restrict prosecution to those persons who blatantly disregard the law, refuse to achieve even the basic minimum legal requirements, often following previous contact with the Council, and who put the public at serious risk.

The circumstances which are likely to warrant prosecution may be characterised by one of the following:

where the alleged offence involves a flagrant breach of the law such that public health, safety or well-being is or has been put at risk

where the alleged offence involves a failure by the suspected offender to correct an identified serious potential risk to food safety having been given a reasonable opportunity to comply with the lawful

requirements of an authorised officer where the offence involves a failure to comply in full or in part with the requirements of a statutory notice

where there is a history of similar offences relating to risk to public health

where the previous use of informal action in relation to similar offences has not secured compliance.

Before proceeding with a prosecution, the Council must be satisfied that there is relevant, admissible, substantial and reliable evidence that an offence has been committed by an identifiable person or company. The Council must be satisfied that there is sufficient evidence to provide a realistic prospect of conviction. The Council must also be satisfied that it is in the public's interest to prosecute and in this context it will consider guidance contained in the Code for Crown Prosecutors.

In deciding on whether to prosecute, the Council will take into account all the factors in the Food Law Code of Practice NI.

The Council notes that a court must impose a Hygiene Prohibition Order following certain convictions if it is satisfied that there is a risk of injury to health. The authorised officers of the Council will be required to make available to the court all information necessary for the court to come to an appropriate decision regarding the existence of a risk of injury to health.

The Council recognises that other bodies such as primary, home and originating authorities will require to be advised of prosecutions taken by the Council and their outcome.

Formal Cautions

The Council notes that the Food Law Code of Practice NI advises that Councils should consider issuing a formal caution as an alternative to prosecution.

The Council notes the current Home Office advice which states that the purpose of the formal caution is to deal quickly and simply with less serious offences

to divert less serious offences away from the courts

to reduce the chances of repeat offences

In relation to food offences, the cautioning officers for the Council will be the Director, the Head of Health and Wellbeing, the Senior Food Officer and any other senior officer who may be so authorised by the Council on the recommendation of the Director.

The Council accepts that the following conditions should be fulfilled before a caution is administered:

there must be evidence of the suspected offender's guilt sufficient to give a realistic prospect of conviction

the suspected offender must admit the offence

the suspected offender must understand the significance of a formal caution and give an informed consent to being cautioned

Where a person declines the offer of a formal caution, the Council will consider taking alternative enforcement action. This will usually take the form of prosecution.

The Council recognises that other bodies such as primary, home and originating authorities will require to be advised of formal cautions taken by the Council and their outcome.

In relation to Food Standards Offences, the Office of Fair Trading shall be notified of any formal cautions issued as soon as possible using the notification procedure as detailed by the Home Office.

Council Owned Premises

Whilst it is not usually the case for enforcement agencies to inspect their own outlets, this could be the case in respect of food enforcement within Council owned premises. Inspection is undertaken by the Council's food safety officers and Council owned premises are required to be registered and meet the same standards as other premises. Where serious contraventions of the regulations are found relevant Director will be advised in writing without undue delay.

- Appendix 2.** (a) an **improvement notice** may be served in any or all of the following cases:-
- Additional information relating to enforcement of the Health & Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978**
- where there is a serious contravention which can be improved
 - where an enforcement letter or other previous advice has not been complied with
 - where the previous record of the company or the attitude of the employer would indicate that informal methods are not likely to be effective.
- (b) a **prohibition notice** may be served where there is a risk of serious personal injury. Where the risk is imminent the prohibition notice can have immediate effect or in other cases a prohibition notice can specify a date after which the activity in question must cease.

Prosecution is warranted when, for example:-

- there is serious and blatant disregard for the law which exposes persons to a risk of serious personal injury
- there is failure to comply with an improvement or prohibition notice
- an accident has resulted from a serious contravention of the law which was foreseeable
- there are grounds for believing that the offence is likely to be continued or repeated.
- the company has repeatedly breached legal requirements and it appears that management is not willing to deal adequately with these.
- there is a contravention and the company has received previous warnings about similar offences
- where a particular type of offence is prevalent in an activity or an area

Prosecution on Indictment - A recommendation for prosecution on indictment will only be made after taking legal advice, in cases where:-

- the gravity of the offence would warrant it
- there was blatant disregard for the law
- the powers of the summary court to punish the offence are inadequate
- the offender has a previous record of health and safety convictions
- the offender has not responded to previous warnings
- where there is great public alarm

Manslaughter- where there has been a work-related death, officers will liaise with the PSNI and if necessary the Coroner and Public Prosecution Service (PPS) to establish whether or not the PSNI is considering pursuing a case of manslaughter. It is however recognised that a manslaughter charge is only likely to be considered where the death appears to have resulted from reckless disregard for health and safety.

Appendix 3.

***Additional
information
relating to
enforcement
of
Consumer
Protection.***

Council officers will liaise with the home authority of a business where it has sites across a number of Council areas, and consider the opinion of that authority in making any decision about enforcement action that may be a formal caution or prosecution.

Appendix 4.

***Additional
information
relating to
enforcement
of
Environmental
Protection
including
Noise***

Working with other Regulators

Where the council and another enforcement body both have the power to prosecute, the council will liaise with that other body to ensure effective co-ordination, to avoid inconsistencies, and to ensure that any proceedings instituted are for the most appropriate offence. Other regulators will include the Department of the Environment, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

***Appendix 5
Additional
information
in relation
to other
areas of
enforcement***

A determination shall be made of what, if any, enforcement action is appropriate, in accordance with the general principles and taking into consideration the operational arrangements of the Council in relation to specific type offences. The type of enforcement action that may be taken shall either be from the following informal and formal options noted below:

Informal Action - informal action includes offering advice, verbal warnings and requests for action, the use of letters and the issue of inspection reports.

Informal action is appropriate in the following circumstances:

- The act or omission is not serious enough to warrant formal action;
- From the individual's/enterprise's past history, it can be reasonably expected that informal action will achieve compliance within a reasonable time;
- Confidence in the individual/enterprise's management involved is high;
- The consequences of non-compliance will not pose a significant risk to the community or individuals.

Formal Action –includes

- Verbal warning.
- Warning/enforcement letter.
- Relevant notice
- Seizure
- Fixed penalty
- Formal Caution
- Prosecution (including prosecution of individuals).

Formal Action may be taken in cases where informal action has failed to achieve the necessary outcome or where the breach is serious enough (taking into consideration operational guidance in relation to specific type offences) to warrant formal action in its own right.

The Council recognises that the initiation of a prosecution is a serious matter that should only be taken after full consideration of the implications and consequences. The Council will normally prosecute in any of the following circumstances (the list below is not exhaustive):-

- Where a fixed penalty has been issued, the period for which the notice may be paid has expired and the notice remains unpaid.
- Where the offence involves a failure to comply in full or in part with the requirement of a statutory notice; or there has been a repetition of a breach that was subject to a Formal Caution.
- Where there is a history of similar offences in relation to non-compliance with Notices.
- Excessive or persistent breaches of regulatory requirements.
- Obstruction of Council staff in carrying out their powers (*).
- The gravity of the alleged offence. Where the gravity of the alleged offence, taken together with the seriousness of any actual or potential harm, or the general record and or approach of the offender warrants it.

** Where an officer is assaulted, threatened or abused the Council will seek police assistance, with a view to seeking prosecution of offenders.*

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Meeting No 096
MINUTES
Thursday 29 May 2025
Using MS Teams

Members Present:

Councillor M Goodman (<i>Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor A Givan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor R Quigley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor G McKeen (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Alderman M Morrow	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor K Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor C Enright	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor R Lynch	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor H Cushinan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor E Thompson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor B Smyth	Belfast City Council
Councillor M Collins	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Councillor P Kennedy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman S Skillen	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
K Boal	arc21
J Green	arc21
M Lavery	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
J McConnell	Belfast City Council
W Muldrew, G Richardson	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
S Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

D Lindsay	Ards and North Down Borough Council
S Leonard	Belfast City Council
A McCann	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
S Morley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement

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

Action: Noted

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted. **Action: Noted**

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 095 held on 27 March 2025

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Cllr Murphy, seconded by Ald Morrow, and agreed by all. **Action: Agreed**

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Bring Banks at Braidwater Retail Park – Ms Boal advised that arc21 has been monitoring the area and the issues seemed to have alleviated, and the Council were also monitoring it. She noted that those banks are collected under the arc21 contract and that arc21 has been liaising with the contractor, as there seemed to have been access issues to the banks – these have been dealt with. She noted that engagement continues with the Council. **Action: Noted**

Any other specific matters were actioned or discussed under the main agenda items. **Action: Noted**

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move “*in committee*” which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Givan.

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

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

Item 5	Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 095 held on 27 March 2025 ‘in committee’ <i>(approved)</i>
Item 6	Matters Arising <i>(noted)</i>
Item 7	Residual Waste Treatment Project <i>(noted)</i>
Item 8	Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues <i>(noted)</i>
Item 9	Tender Report – Contract Provision of Services for The Receipt, Storage and Transfer of Municipal Waste <i>(approved)</i>
Item 10	Governance Report <i>(noted)</i>

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Enright and seconded by Ald Morrow.

Item 11 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

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

An overview of performance in the 2024/25 year was presented, including the service contracts, interim residual waste contracts, and bring bank contracts.

The arc21 contract highlights were presented and it was reported that the amount of waste managed by arc21 continued to increase and, due to the new interim residual waste contracts and the tonnage diverted from landfill to treatment facilities, tonnage was up by 17% on the previous year. It also highlighted the number of deliveries were up by 7%, tonnes delivered were up 5%, collections made from bring sites were down 5%, and deliveries by haulage contractors were up 10%.

She noted the importance of the contract monitoring posts to ensure that all these transactions are appropriately recorded and charged etc, as there was over £46m spent on these contracts during the year.

Service Status

Ms Boal reported that all services were operational, however some contingency arrangements continued to be used by RiverRidge during the month of April.

She also reported that there were some reported issues with the collection of WEEE which were being addressed with the various contractors.

Performance

The contractor performance in April was presented, detailed across the main service contracts, the residual waste treatment contracts, and the bring banks contracts, and some issues were highlighted where service credits would be applied and/or were still being investigated.

She advised that arc21 continues to have issues with the reporting documentation, and there was one issue with regards to capacity at one of the paper bring sites.

Health & Safety

An overview of the Health & Safety incidents/near misses in 2024/25 was presented and she reported that there had been quite a considerable reduction from the previous year.

The highest number of incidents presented included: not following site rules, collisions, traffic management etc and she noted that it was intended to run a session around September with councils to discuss these.

In terms of incidents in April, she advised that there had been two regarding collisions.

Audits

She reported that the Health & Safety consultant continues to undertake safety audits, and in April one had been conducted at Natural World Products (NWP) at their Glenside Organics facility and Transfer station. She advised that some minor recommendations and actions were identified and these reports were shared with NWP and arc21 was working with them to address these matters.

Rejected Loads

She noted that there were two rejected loads delivered to Bryson Recycling in April.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

Details of the tonnages delivered in April for the main contracts were provided, along with a comparison against the same period last year, and noted as follows:

MRF Contract – Lot 1 - a 2.7% increase;

MRF Contract – Lot 2 - an 7.4% decrease

Organics Contract: Type 1 – a 6.3% increase; and Type 2 – a decrease of 1.5%.

Compost Week – 4 - 10 May 2025

An update was provided in relation to Compost Week. She reported that this year, councils had ordered 206 x pallets of compost made from the waste collected through the organic waste treatment contract. Pallets were delivered to 24 x different delivery locations. Some examples of how this was promoted by arc21's councils were presented in the report.

Cllr Enright advised that in past years, pallets of compost had been provided to community allotments etc and inquired if this was something that could be looked at again? Ms Boal advised that NWP would be happy to provide free compost to councils or to groups that councils represent etc in their area, the only charge being the delivery costs.

She advised that one of the things that arc21 is looking to determine is if there is an opportunity to work more generally with NWP as it is the one aspect, in terms of the waste we manage, where true circularity can be demonstrated and there are good promotional opportunities to showcase this – conversations are continuing with NWP on this matter. She also noted that NWP had an interest in linking with community groups etc directly.

Supplies

A summary of orders and deliveries of supplies for April was included, and it was noted that there was one issue with a delivery of compost liners delivered to the wrong location.

She noted that councils continue to be reminded to place orders for supplies at the earliest opportunity as there may be delays in transportation, and increased demand for certain categories of containers etc. may occur as a result of new legislative drivers in England which may affect delivery timescales.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Cllr Enright and seconded by Cllr Givan.

Action: Noted

Item 12 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Ms Boal presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material received through arc21 contracts over the last four years. She highlighted the following:

- the first few charts show the DPS contracts and trends will start to emerge as the year progresses;
- Lot 3 residual waste contract can see a spike with A&NDBC and LCCC joining;
- Organics type 1 similar starting point to same period last year, and type 2 slightly lower but should start to rise with the recent good weather;

- MRF Lot 1 – similar starting position to last year; Lot 2 fell but may be due to the way the collections ran during the month;
- street sweepings same starting point similar to last year;
- glass down slightly and similar starting position as 2023/24 year;
- textiles – held up well and started slightly higher than same time last year, and will be starting to liaise with CTR in terms of the market and revenue share position.

She noted that decisions will have to be made regarding the future contract extensions for the MRF contracts and what arc21 is proposing to do in the near future in the absence of the outcome of the DAERA consultation on future recycling, and she noted that any future contracts will have to make options for provision for changes that have been fully explored.

The other smaller contract tonnages were also presented for information.

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

Action: Noted

Item 13 - Overview of Education and Awareness Activities 2024/25

Ms Boal presented the annual high-level overview of the activities of the Waste Promotion Officer (WPO) who works across the arc21 region providing support to councils in terms of messaging awareness about re use, recycling and composting.

She noted that over the course of the year, the arc21 WPO provided education and awareness sessions to schools, nurseries, community and youth groups and summer schemes, in addition to attending special events, offering a range of options covering a variety of topics and programmes tailored to the target audience.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Cllr Murphy and seconded by Cllr Givan.

Action: Noted

Item 14 - AOB

Annual Customer Survey – Ms Boal advised that she would be circulating the annual customer satisfaction survey online and encouraged Members to complete and return as soon as possible. She noted that, as part of the annual governance assurance process, the feedback from Members and Officers forms part of the Annual Report, and part of the ISO accreditation process. She advised that she anticipated presenting a report on the findings, combining all of the responses from arc21's various engagement with key stakeholders, to the June Joint Committee meeting.

Action: arc21/Members

Audit Committee Meeting 3 June – Cllr Enright inquired if he could be provided with a briefing, as Chair, in order to go through the papers in advance of the next Audit Committee scheduled for Tuesday 3 June. Mr Walker advised that he would contact him directly to arrange this.

Action: Mr Walker

Item 15 - Next Meeting Thursday 26 June 2025, hybrid meeting hosted by Belfast City Council

The Chair noted that the next meeting would take the form of a hybrid meeting and would be hosted by Belfast City Council in Belfast City Hall. He advised Members and Officers to confirm their attendance with Ms Heather Campbell at arc21 and, if wishing to attend in person, to provide their car details in advance including, model, colour and registration, to facilitate parking at Belfast City Hall.

Action: JC Members & Officers

The Chair noted that, as this was the last meeting before the Councils’ AGMs, he wished to thank all Members for their participation and support during the year and looked forward to welcoming all back to the Committee in due course.

Action: Noted

Date: 26 June 2025

Chairman: 

Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

Quarterly provisional estimates for January to March 2025



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

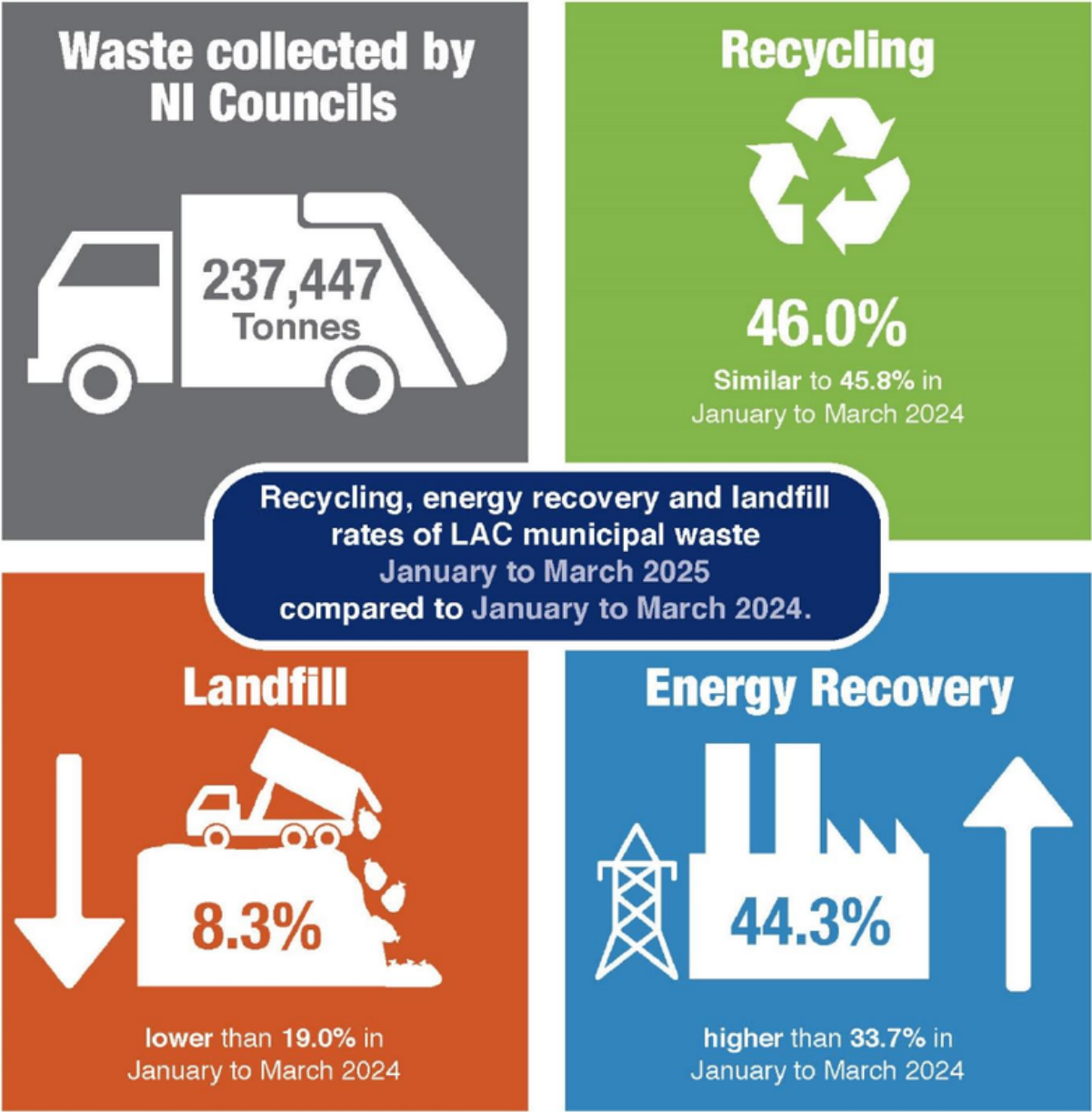
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Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

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Northern Ireland waste management statistics – January to March 2025



Key Points

- Northern Ireland's councils collected 237,447 tonnes of waste during January to March 2025, higher than the 234,224 tonnes collected during January to March 2024.
- During January to March 2025, 46.0 per cent of waste collected by councils was sent for recycling which was similar to the 45.8 per cent recycling rate recorded in the same quarter in 2024.
- The landfill rate for waste collected by councils was 8.3 per cent in January to March 2025 which was less than half the rate recorded during January to March 2024 (19.0 per cent). In the longer term, landfill rates decreased from 76.5 per cent recorded in January to March 2007.
- During January to March 2025, 44.3 per cent of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery which was higher than the 33.7 per cent reported in January to March 2024. In the longer term, energy recovery rates have increased from 1.2 per cent recorded during January to March 2010.
- Household waste accounted for 87.0 per cent of all Local Authority collected (LAC) waste during this period.
- The recycling rate for household waste only was 46.4 per cent during January to March 2025 similar to the rate recorded during January to March 2024. The landfill rate for household waste was 8.2 per cent, which was less than half the rate recorded in January to March 2024 (18.7 per cent).

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Theme: Agriculture and Environment

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1 January to 31 March 2025

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Contents

Overview	1
Waste arisings	2
Recycling	4
Energy recovery	6
Landfill	8
Accredited Official Statistics	11

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 [Appendix 2 – Glossary](#) 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 April to June 2025 are scheduled for publication in October 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-and-statistics

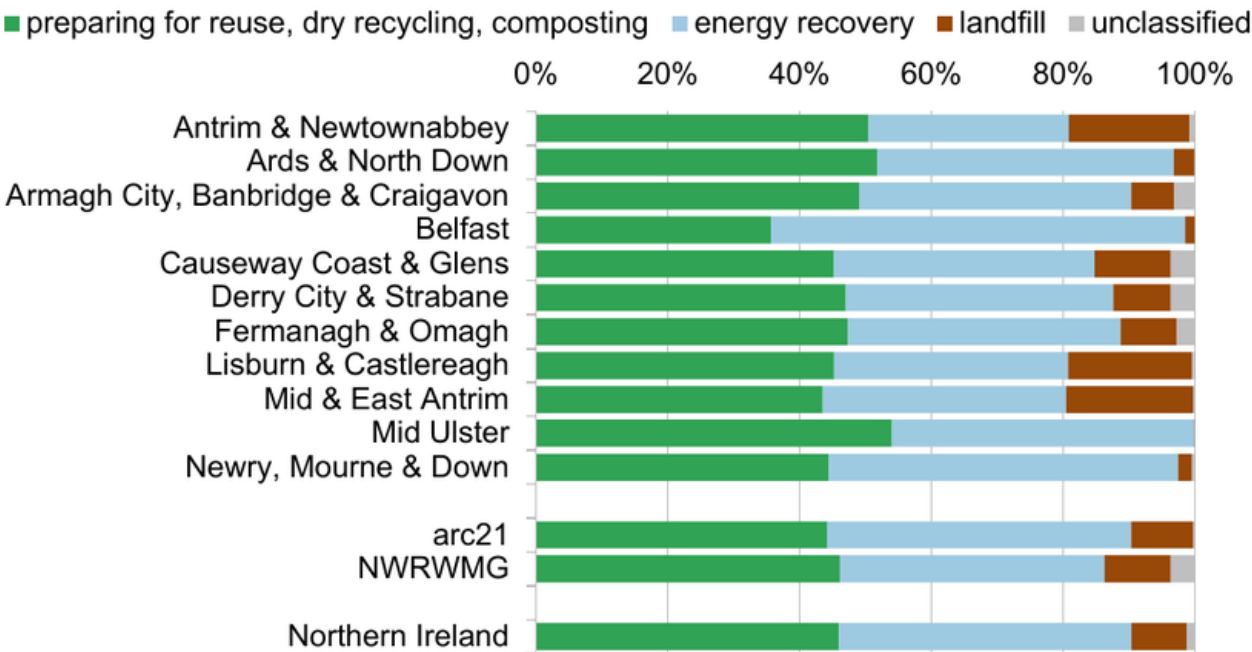
Overview

This report presents information on the quantities of Local Authority Collected (LAC) municipal waste managed in Northern Ireland between January and March 2025. 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

Northern Ireland, January to March 2025



At the Northern Ireland level, 46 per cent of waste collected by councils was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting between January to March 2025. Energy recovery accounted for 44.3 per cent and 8.3 per cent was landfilled. The remaining 1.3 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 similar to the rate reported in January to March 2024 (45.8 per cent). The landfill rate decreased by 10.7 percentage points whilst the energy recovery rate increased by 10.6 percentage points from January to March 2024. Household waste accounted for 87.0 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

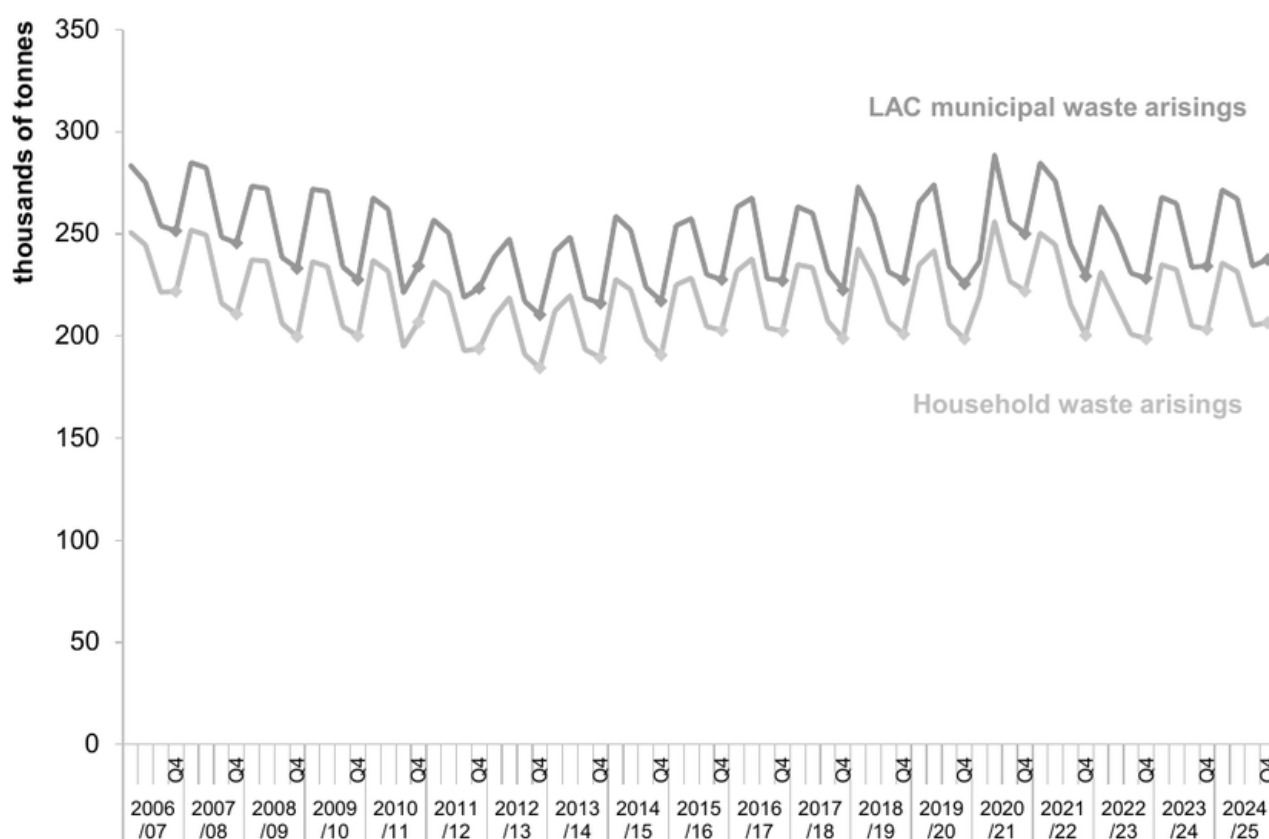
Northern Ireland's councils collected 237,447 tonnes of waste between January to March 2025. This was higher than the 234,224 tonnes collected during January to March 2024. Factors affecting LAC municipal waste arisings, the majority of which is household waste, include individual household behaviours, 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 usually 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 January to March 2025 household waste accounted for 87.0 per cent. The remaining 13.0 per cent was non-household waste such as rubble/soil and commercial/industrial waste.

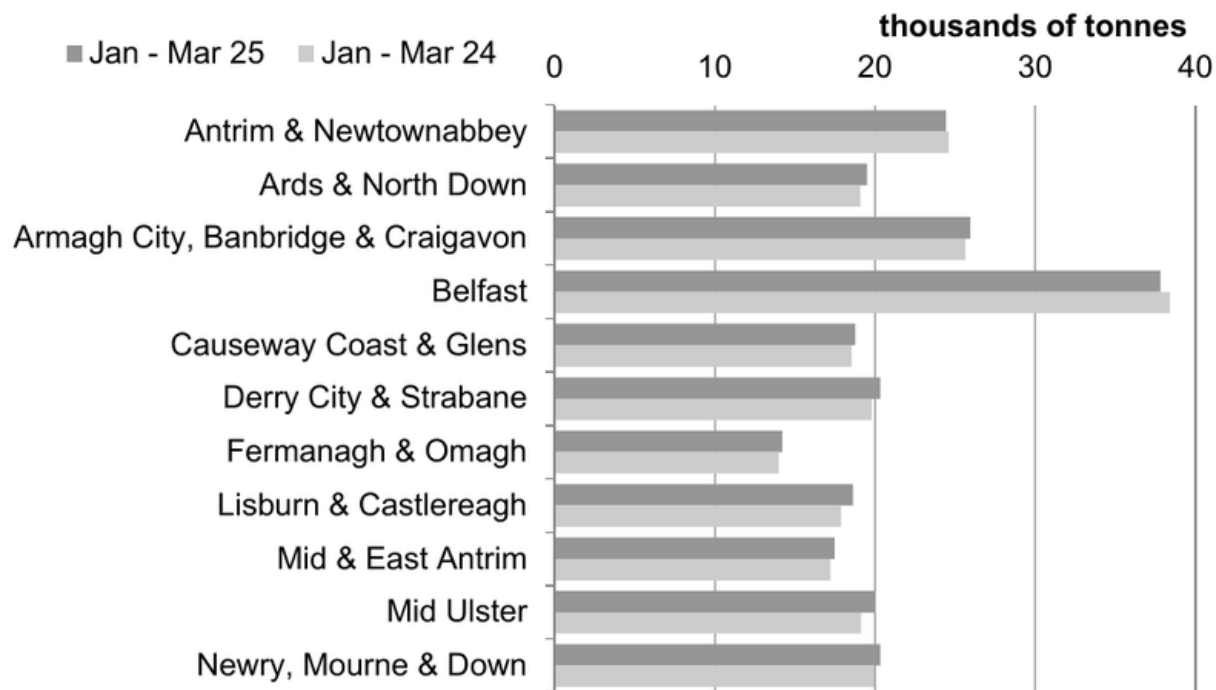
Figure 2: Waste arisings

Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2024/25 KPI (j)



The longer-term trend for January to March saw a gradual reduction in LAC municipal waste arisings of 16.3 per cent across six years, from 251,488 tonnes between January to March 2007 to a low of 210,459 tonnes between the same three months of 2013. From January to March 2013 waste arisings have increased with 237,447 tonnes collected in the latest quarter.

Figure 3: Waste arisings by council
Northern Ireland, January to March 2024 and January to March 2025, KPI (j)



The proportion of waste collected by each council broadly reflects the population within the councils. Belfast collected the most waste at 37,811 tonnes, whilst Fermanagh & Omagh collected the least at 14,210 tonnes.

Nine councils reported an increase in total arisings in January to March 2025 compared to the same period in 2024 with two councils reporting a decrease in total arisings.

Mid Ulster reported the largest increase in total arisings in January to March 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, rising by 4.5 per cent. Belfast reported decreases from January to March 2024 to January to March 2025 of 1.5 per cent.

The total quantity of waste collected at kerbside was slightly lower than the amount collected in January to March 2024 while the quantity of waste collected at civic amenity sites increased by 7.1 per cent.

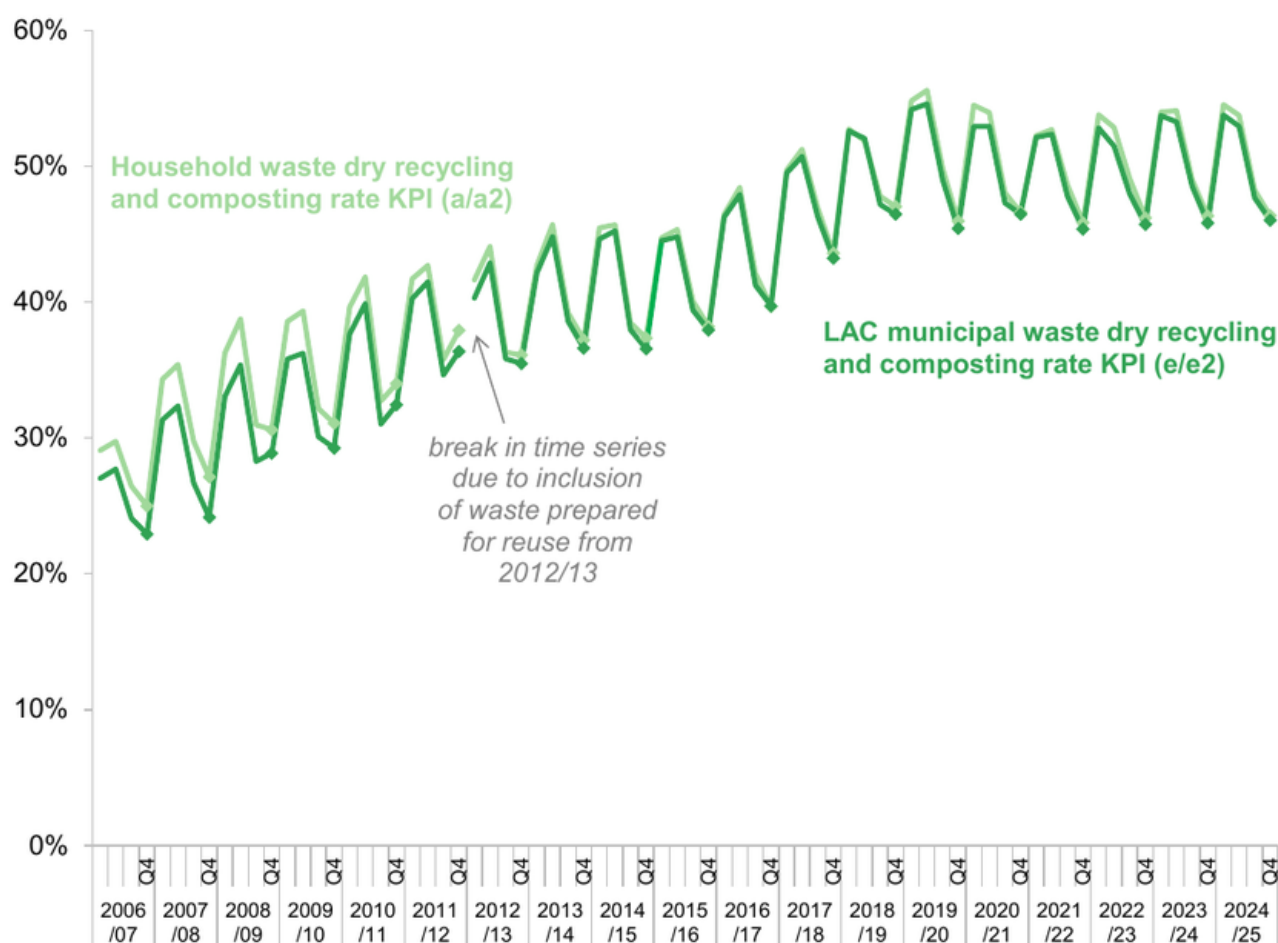
These statistics can be found in Table 1 and Table 2 of the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the [time series dataset](#).

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 109,281 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 January to March 2025. The waste recycling rate was 46.0 per cent, similar to the rate of waste sent for recycling during January to March 2024.

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)



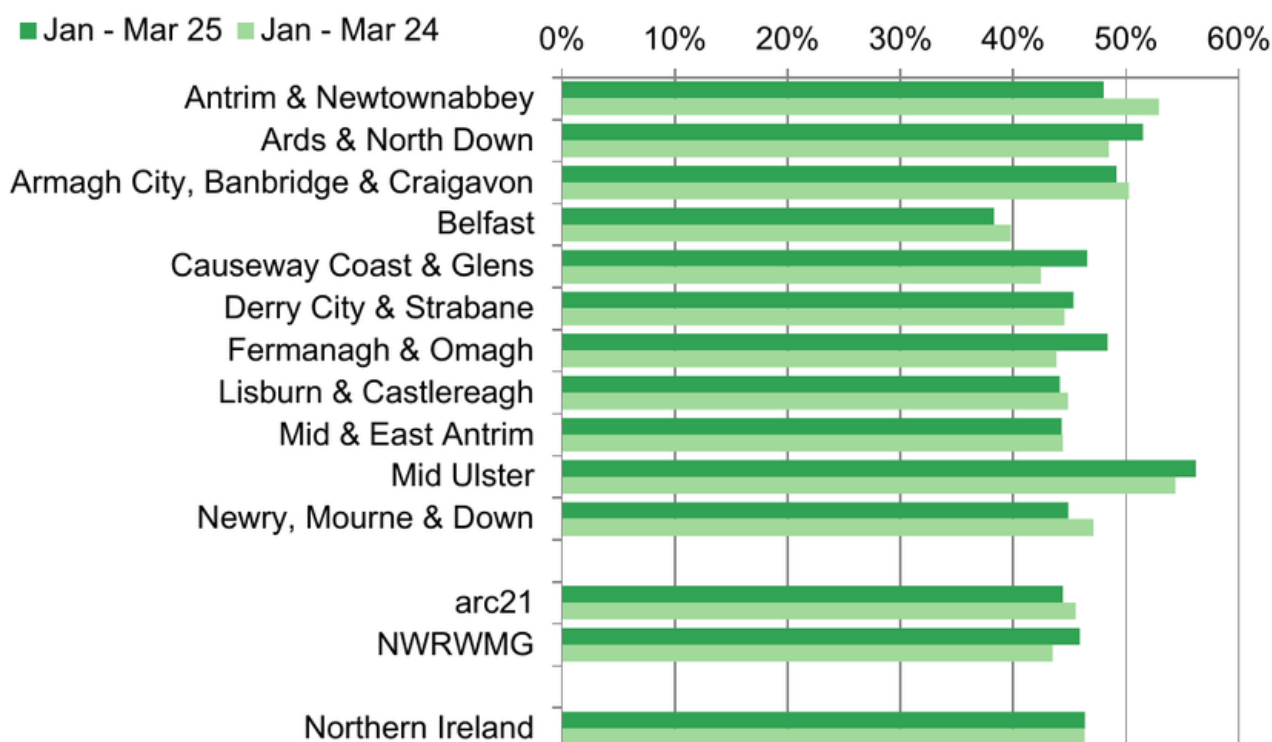
These statistics show seasonal variation which is driven by the quantities of garden waste sent for composting. Greater quantities of garden waste are collected and sent for composting during the spring and summer quarters, April to June and July to September.

The longer term trend for Local Authority Collected municipal waste recycling for the January to March quarter has been a general increase from 22.9 per cent in January to March 2007 to 46.5 per cent in January to March 2019. Since then the local authority collected municipal waste recycling rate has remained relatively similar with a recycling rate of 46.0 per cent recorded in January to March 2025. Waste sent for preparing for reuse (741 tonnes this quarter) has been included since 2012/13 and adds 0.3 percentage points to the overall LAC recycling rate in January to March 2025.

The recycling rate for household waste only was 46.4 per cent during January to March 2025 which is similar to the rate recorded during January to March 2024. The proportion of household waste sent for dry recycling made up 25.7 per cent, composting 20.3 per cent and preparing for reuse 0.4 per cent.

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

Northern Ireland, January to March 2024 and January to March 2025, KPI (a2)



Fermanagh & Omagh reported the largest increase in their household recycling rate compared to January to March 2024 at 4.5 percentage points followed by Causeway Coast & Glens with an increase of 4.1 percentage points. Three other councils recorded an increase in their household recycling rates in January to March 2025 compared to January to March 2024. The household recycling rate decreased in five councils with the largest decrease recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey¹.

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 [Programme for Government \(PfG\) 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](#).

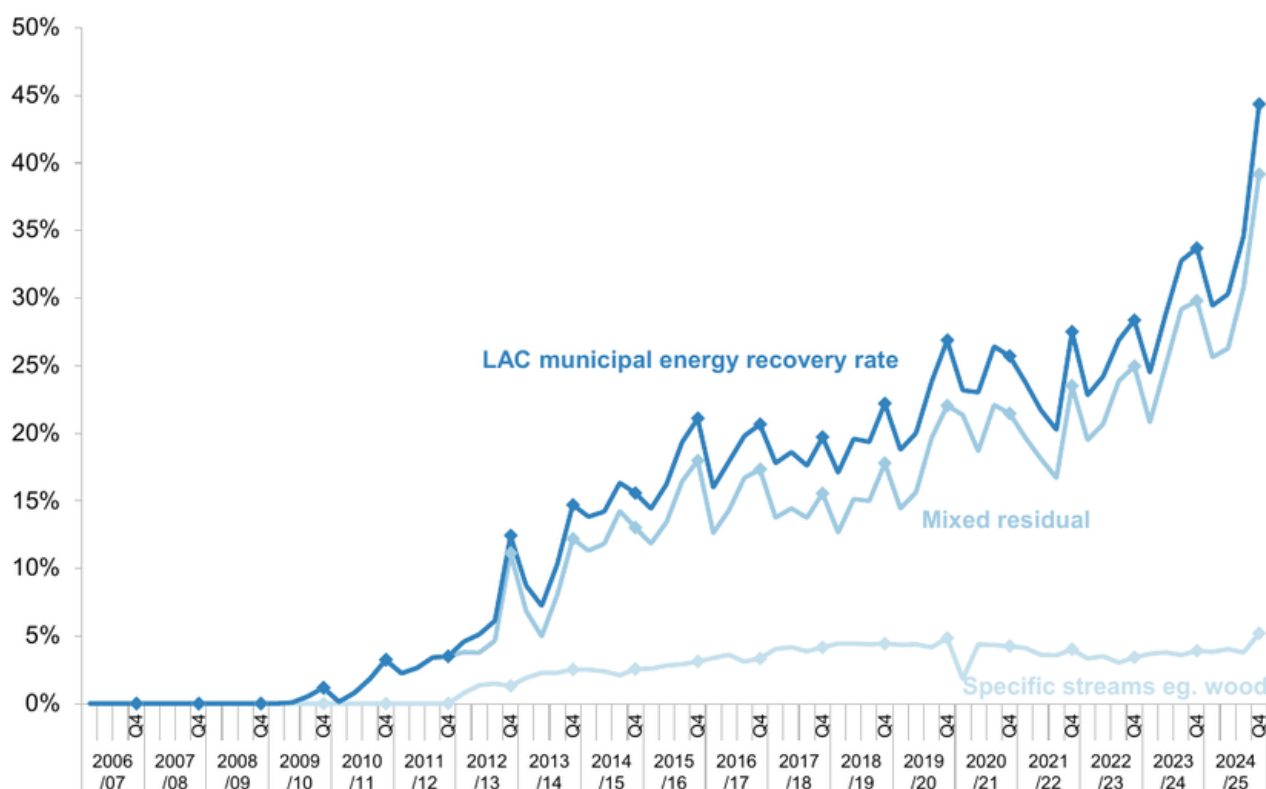
¹ Very small increases or decreases in figures (<0.5 per cent or <0.5 percentage points) are not highlighted in the commentary.

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 [Appendix 1 – Limitations of Data](#) of the latest Annual Report.

From January to March 2025, 105,292 tonnes of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery. This produced a waste energy recovery rate of 44.3 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

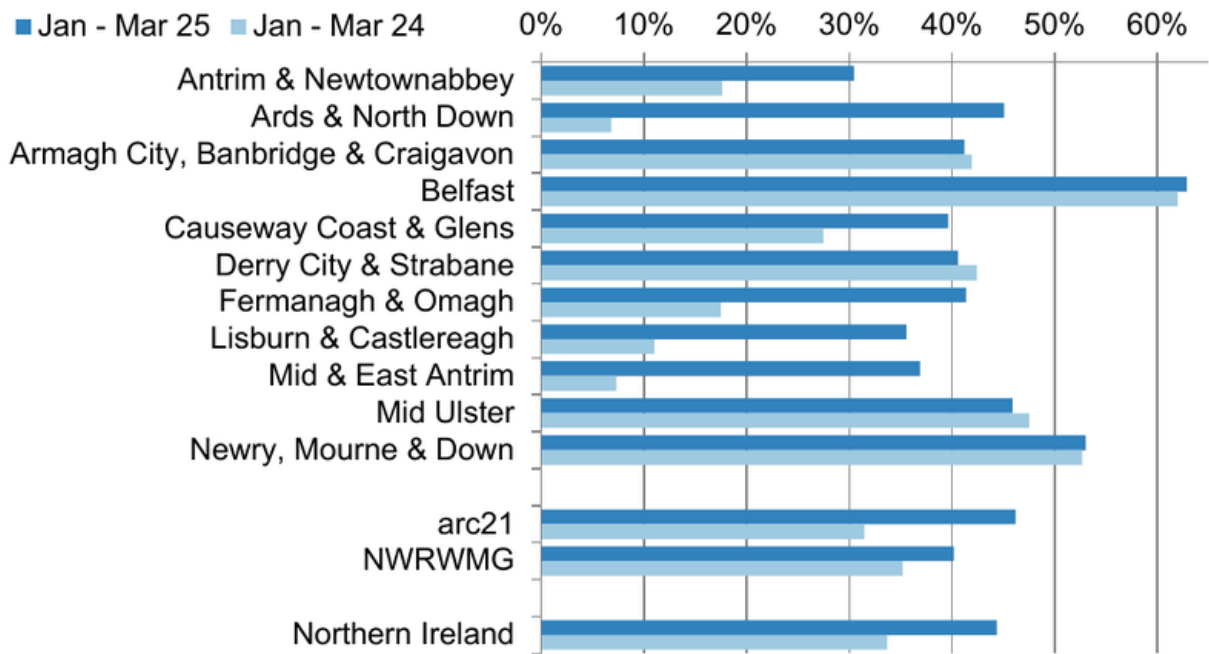


There was zero, or very small quantities, of waste sent for energy recovery before 2009/10. Strong growth began during 2009/10 with the energy recovery rate increasing from 1.2 per cent during January to March 2010 to 44.3 per cent for the same three months of 2025. Most of the growth since 2009/10 has been driven by mixed residual waste sent for energy recovery (from 1.2 per cent during January to March 2010 to 39.1 per cent in January to March 2025). The specific stream proportion was 5.2 per cent in January to March 2025.

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, January to March 2024 and January to March 2025



The highest waste energy recovery rate was recorded in Belfast at 62.9 per cent followed by Newry, Mourne & Down with 53.0 per cent. Seven councils recorded an increase in the waste energy recovery rate in January to March 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024 with the largest increase of 38.2 percentage points recorded in Ards & North Down followed by Mid & East Antrim reporting an increase of 29.6 percentage points. Lisburn & Castlereagh and Fermanagh & Omagh councils reported an increase of 24.5 and 23.9 percentage points respectively while Antrim & Newtownabbey and Causeway Coast & Glens reported an increase of 12.9 and 12.1 percentage points respectively.

Three councils recorded a decrease in their waste energy recovery rate in January to March 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024.

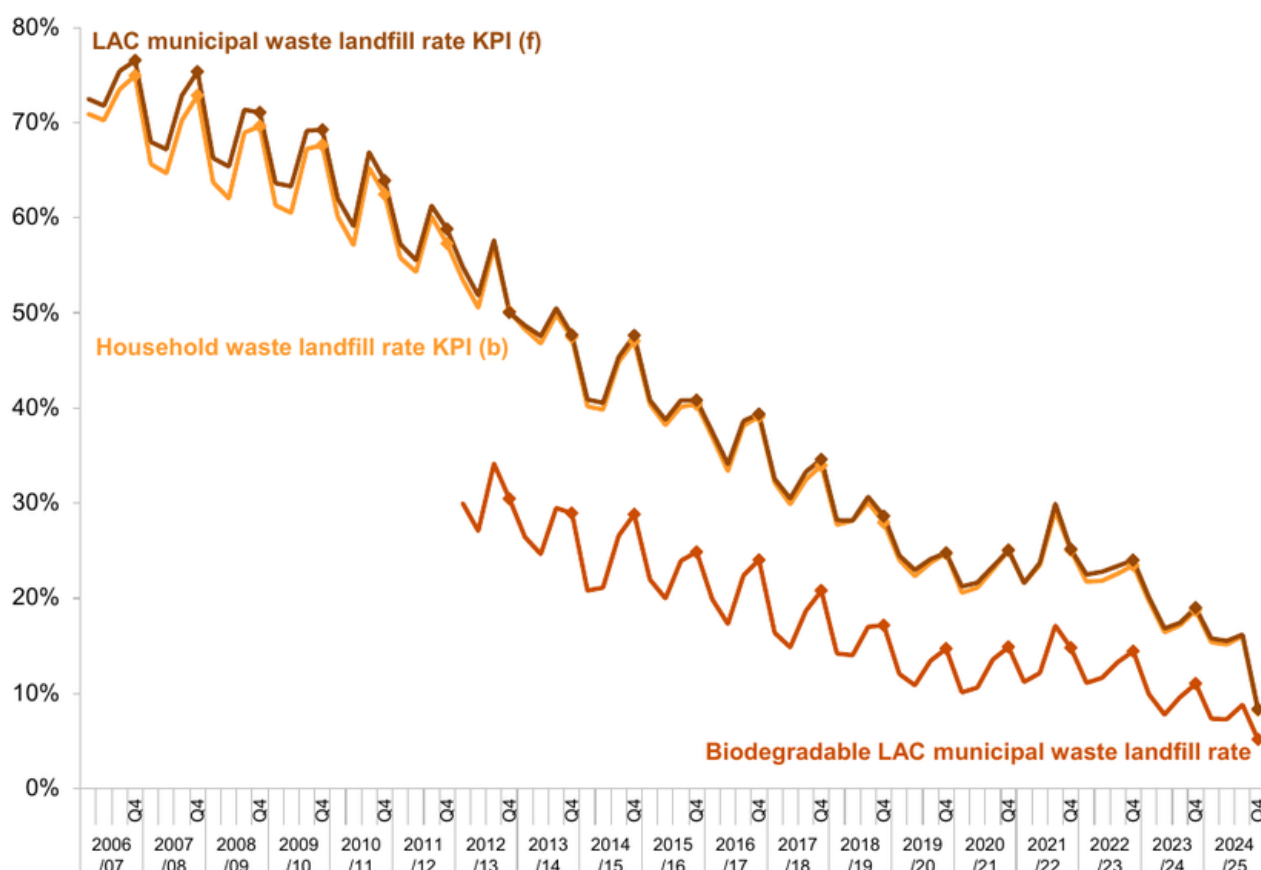
These statistics can be found in Tables 3 and 4 of the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and in the [time series dataset](#).

Landfill

The quantity of LAC municipal waste sent to landfill decreased by 55.5 per cent, from 44,510 tonnes during January to March 2024 to 19,793 tonnes during January to March 2025. The quarterly landfill rate for January to March 2025 is 8.3 per cent, lower than the 19.0 per cent recorded during the same quarter of 2024 and the lowest landfill rate recorded for Northern Ireland.

Figure 8: Waste sent to landfill

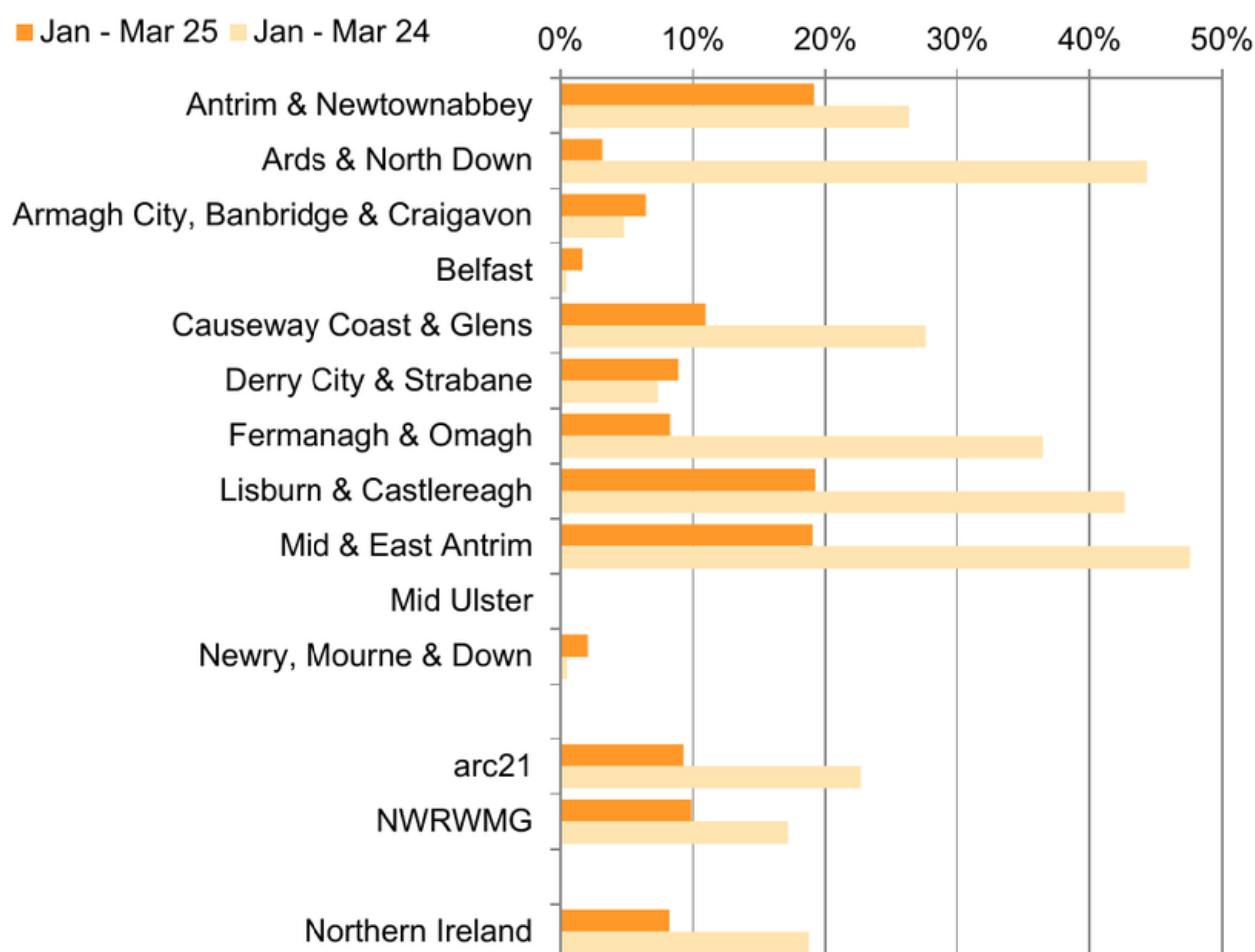
Northern Ireland, quarterly from 2006/07 to 2024/25, KPIs (b) and (f)



The longer term trend has seen the January to March LAC municipal waste landfill rate fall from 76.5 per cent in 2007 to a low of 8.3 per cent in 2025. 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 8.2 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, January to March 2024 and January to March 2025, KPI (b)



The highest household waste landfill rates were recorded in Lisburn & Castlereagh, Antrim & Newtownabbey and Mid & East Antrim at 19.2, 19.1 and 19.0 per cent respectively. In contrast, Mid Ulster recorded a close to zero landfill rate in January to March 2025.

The household waste landfill rate decreased in six district councils in January to March 2025 compared to the same three months in 2024, with the largest decrease recorded in Ards & North Down at 41.2 percentage points followed by Mid & East Antrim, Fermanagh & Omagh and Lisburn & Castlereagh with 28.5, 28.2 and 23.4 percentage points reduction respectively. The remaining two district councils that recorded a decrease in the waste landfill rate in January to March 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024 were Causeway Coast & Glens with a 16.6 percentage points reduction and Antrim & Newtownabbey with a 7.2 percentage points reduction. The large reductions in landfill recorded can be linked to the increase in waste sent for energy recovery in the January to March 2025 quarter.

Four councils recorded an increase in their landfill rates in January to March 2025 compared to the same quarter in 2024 but not to the same magnitude as the decreases described above.

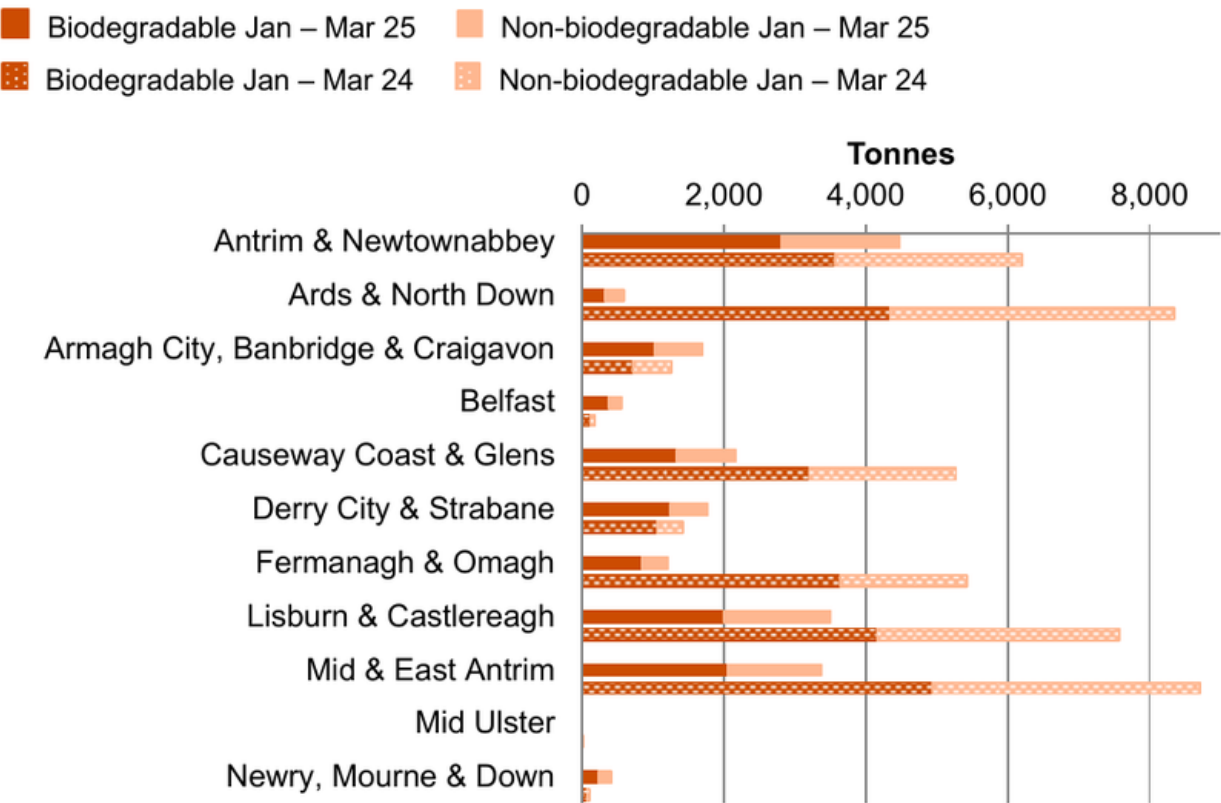
Biodegradable waste to landfill

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 12,223 tonnes of biodegradable waste to landfill during January to March 2025, which was 61.8 per cent of all LAC municipal waste sent to landfill. During the same quarter last year, 25,788 tonnes of biodegradable waste was sent to landfill which was 57.9 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, January to March 2024 and January to March 2025



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 Derry City & Strabane, 70.2 per cent (1,244 tonnes) of all LAC municipal waste sent to landfill was biodegradable, whilst in Ards & North Down, 53.7 per cent (320 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 statistics² 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 [compliance check](#) 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 [Statistics Charter](#) provides further details of how we apply the principles and practices of the Code in the production and publication of our official statistics.

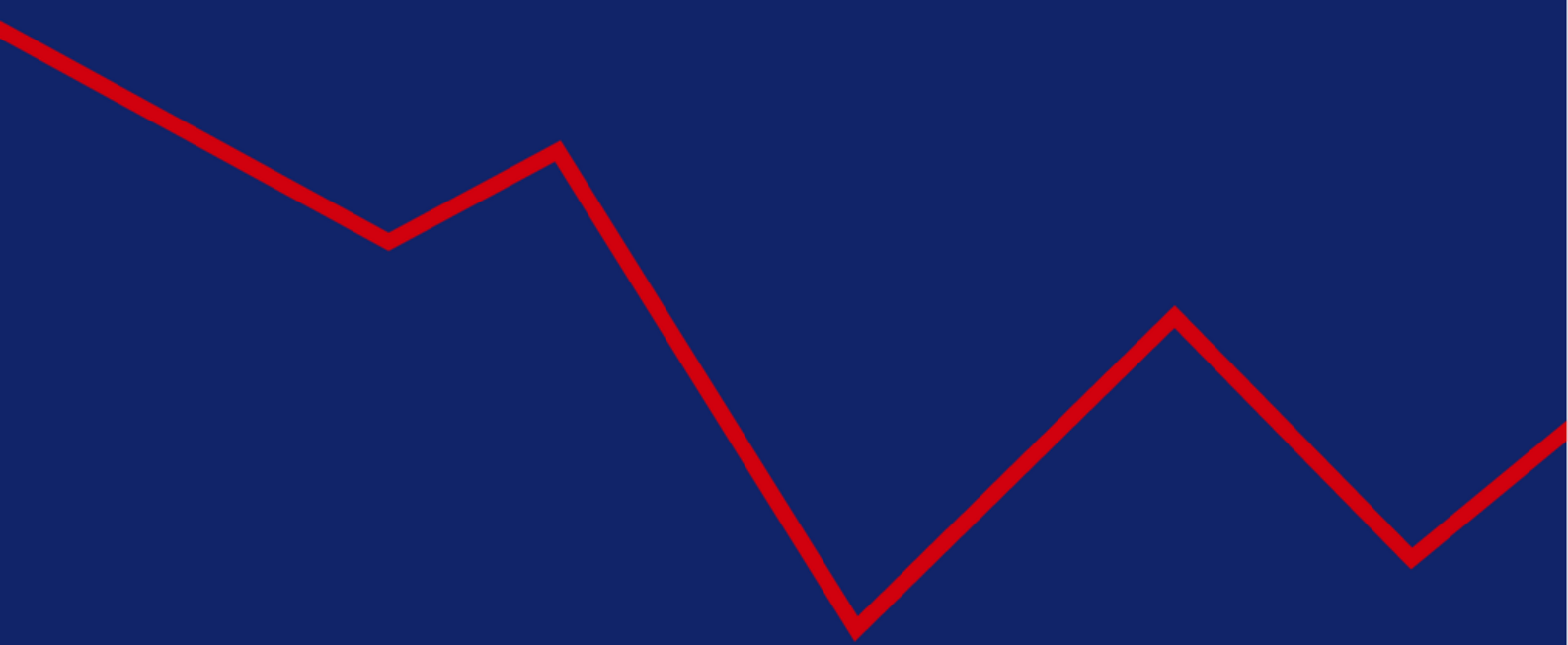
Our statistical practice is regulated by OSR. They set the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

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

Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the [OSR website](#).

² Accredited Official Statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

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Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 th August 2025
Subject:	Cleansing Review Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment

For decision		For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<u>Purpose</u> The purpose of this report is to provide a progress update to Committee Members on the implementation of the District Cleansing review.		
1.2	<u>Background</u> Following a number of Elected Member District Cleansing workshops in November 2021, February 2022, October 2022 and August 2024, the principles of the District Cleansing Review were approved as follows: • Common methodology (mechanical and manual) for cleansing services applied across the District to deliver an equitable standard of cleansing which would achieve compliance with legislative requirements. • The proposal for a 7-day week planned cleansing service delivered through ten Areas across the District and supported with Quick Response Teams and additional resources when required, e.g., seasonally • Staffing levels required to deliver the service, including the reprofiling and upskilling of existing staff resources, with associated revenue implications. • Arrangements for the routine deep cleansing of specific paved areas across the District. • Outline proposals for capital investment in additional cleansing vehicles • Implementation of a Litter bin audit, encompassing planned inspections and repair/replacement programme of the litter bin stock and policy on litter bin provision. At the October 2024 Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee, Members approved an investment of approximately £525k recurring revenue expenditure and £800k capital investment, to provide an additional 12.5 FTE cleansing staff and 7 vehicles (6 mechanical sweepers and 1 cage wagon) based at the Downpatrick depot to level up resources and provide an equitable cleansing service across the District to higher service standards.		
2.0	Key Issues		
2.1	<u>Recruitment and Training</u> Following consultation and negotiation with the Joint Trade Unions, an agreed work pattern has been successfully implemented. This collaborative approach ensured that operational requirements were balanced with staff welfare considerations, supporting the delivery of revised cleansing schedules while maintaining positive industrial relations. The new work pattern provides a stable framework for service delivery and will be kept under review to ensure it continues to meet both service and workforce needs.		

	A comprehensive and practical recruitment and selection process was undertaken to fill both newly created and existing vacant cleansing posts, totalling 44 positions across various driver and operational roles. The majority of these posts have been successfully recruited, with 17 remaining vacancies (including 4 seasonal posts), primarily in driver roles, scheduled to be addressed through a further recruitment campaign planned for Autumn 2025. To support the integration of new staff, a bespoke training and induction programme was delivered over a two-week period commencing 21 July 2025. Staff commenced in their new roles upon successful completion of the programme, ensuring they were equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to contribute effectively from day one.
2.2	<u>New cleansing vehicles</u> To support the implementation of the revised cleansing schedules and enhance operational efficiency, seven new cleansing vehicles have been procured. This additional fleet includes six mechanical sweepers and one cage wagon, all of which have been delivered and are now in service, with the exception of two 7.5-tonne sweepers which are scheduled for delivery during the week commencing 18 August. The introduction of these vehicles alongside existing cleansing fleet will significantly improve the Council's capacity to deliver high-quality cleansing services, particularly in high-demand areas, and will contribute to raising and maintaining environmental standards across the district.
2.3	<u>Phased implementation</u> Cleansing services will include both planned and reactive operations. Planned activities will include routine street sweeping, litter picking, and litter bin emptying, scheduled according to new cleansing frequencies. Reactive services will address issues such as fly-tipping and other environmental incidents, ensuring a timely response to maintain cleanliness and public satisfaction across the District. As part of the District Cleansing Review, existing cleansing schedules were comprehensively assessed to ensure coverage across all areas, including town centres, arterial routes, and housing developments. Each location was evaluated based on need, and a tailored cleansing frequency was allocated accordingly. These revised schedules are being introduced on a phased basis over the next 12 months, allowing for ongoing review and adjustment as required. It is anticipated that an initial period will be necessary to raise cleanliness standards across the district, after which efforts will focus on maintaining these standards at a consistently high level.
2.4	<u>Review and Benchmarking</u> To ensure that cleansing standards are consistently maintained and improved, a system of ongoing monitoring and review will be implemented. This will include the adoption of the Land Audit Management System (LAMS), developed by APSE, which enables objective inspection and benchmarking of environmental cleanliness standards. Through LAMS, the Council will be able to assess performance across different areas within the district and compare results with other local authorities across the UK. This will support evidence-based decision-making, highlight areas for improvement, and ensure that service delivery remains aligned with best practice and public expectations.
3.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the report.

4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Additional resources associated with this report include the cost of introducing the LAMS app. Which is approximately £800 and Officer time to introduce the tool.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> n/a ☒
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> 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	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves ☒ 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
	https://www.apse.org.uk/apse/index.cfm/performance-networks/inspection-apps/lams/ NS Committee Report - NS/188/2021: ELECTED MEMBER DISTRICT CLEANSING WORKSHOP NS Committee Report - NS/032/2022: ELECTED MEMBER DISTRICT CLEANSING WORKSHOP SE Committee Report - SE/142/2022: UPDATE ON CLEANSING WORKSHOP SE Committee Report - SE/116/2024: REPORT FROM CLEANSING AND REFUSE TASK GROUP SPR Committee Report - SPR/162/2024: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT – RESOURCES REPORT