

September 12th, 2025

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Tuesday, 16th September 2025** at **6:15 pm** in **Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall.**

**Committee Membership 2025-26**

Councillor O Magennis **Chairperson**

Councillor M Hearty **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Enright

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor H Young

# Agenda

## 1.0 Introduction and Apologies

## 2.0 Declarations of Interest

## 3.0 Action Sheet of the Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 19 August 2025

📎 *Action Sheet - 19.08.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

*Page 1*

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### *For Discussion/Decision*

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## 4.0 DAERA NACAAP Consultation Response

*For Decision*

📎 *SE Committee Report - NICCAP3 Consultation.pdf*

*Page 22*

📎 *Appendix 1 - NMDDC Response to DAERA Consultation on NICCAP3.pdf*

*Page 25*

## 5.0 Consultation on Grey Market Goods

*For Decision*

📎 *SE Committee Report - Grey Market Goods Consultation response.pdf*

*Page 56*

📎 *Appendix 1 Consultation on local authority and district council guidance on Grey Market goods in the United Kingdom.pdf*

*Page 59*

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

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## 6.0 Fleet Business Cases

*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 Business Cases.pdf*

*Not included*

📎 *Appendix 1 - Full Business Case Provision of Tools.pdf*

*Not included*

📎 *Appendix 2 - Full Business Case council vehicle recovery.pdf*

*Not included*

## 7.0 Asbestos Management Surveys Business Case

### *For Decision*

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

SE Committee Report - Business Cases for Asbestos Management Surveys.pdf

Not included

Appendix 1 Business Case - Appointment of Asbestos Consultant.pdf

Not included

## 8.0 Newry Canal Water Level Monitoring

### *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 - Automated Canal Water Level Monitoring.pdf

Not included

Appendix 1 - Business Case - Water Level Monitoring.pdf

Not included

## 9.0 Sustainability 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 -Sustainability Contract.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.

## 11.0 Deep Cleansing Business Case

### *For Decision*

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

## 12.0 Corporate Health & Safety Training

### *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**

## 13.0 Action Sheet and Presentation from the Cleansing and Refuse Task Group Meeting of 19 August 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.

## **14.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 28 August 2025 & Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 26 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.

 **ARC21 - JC098-28Aug25-JC MembersBulletin.F.pdf**

***Not included***

 **ARC21 - 28Aug25-Item5-JCInCommMinutes26June25.F.pdf**

***Not included***

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### ***For Noting***

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## **15.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Held on Thursday 26 June 2025**

*For Information*

 **ARC21 - JC097-28Aug25-Item3-JCMinutes26June25.F.pdf**

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## **16.0 Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report 2024/2025**

*For Information*

 **Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report 24 25.pdf**

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# Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews

Cllr Callum Bowsie

Cllr Jim Brennan

Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland

Mr Gerard Byrne

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

Sinead Murphy

Cllr Declan Murphy

Cllr Kate Murphy

Cllr Selina Murphy

Cllr Siobhan O'Hare

Mr Andy Patterson

Cllr Áine Quinn

Cllr Henry Reilly  
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Cllr Michael Rice  
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Cllr Michael Ruane  
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Mr Conor Sage  
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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  
.....  
Mrs Marie Ward  
.....  
Cllr Helena Young  
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**SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE****HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

| <b>NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>21 APRIL 2022</b> |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                     |                                                                                                                      |                                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Minute Ref</b>                                                 | <b>Subject</b>                                     | <b>Decision</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | <b>Lead Officer</b> | <b>Actions taken/<br/>Progress to date</b>                                                                           | <b>Remove<br/>from<br/>Action<br/>Sheet Y/N</b> |
| NS/052/2022                                                       | Compost Week 2022                                  | <p>Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste.</p> <p>Note and approve the launch of an application process, with set criteria, to establish demand for deploying brown bins to residents of high rise buildings who were not previously provided with these.</p> | S Trainor           | <b>In progress</b>                                                                                                   | <b>N</b>                                        |
| 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              | <b>Legal position and maintenance of the events being confirmed. Report to be brought back to S&amp;E Committee.</b> | <b>N</b>                                        |

| NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING<br>22 JUNE 2022 |                                     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |              |                                    |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                               | Subject                             | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>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.<br>Test case footpaths – small footpath leading to WIN – officers to examine this area for dog fouling. | S Trainor    | <b>In progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                              |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>18 OCTOBER 2022 |                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |              |                                    |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                          | Subject                                                    | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>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       | <b>In progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                              |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>17 OCTOBER 2023 |                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                 |              |                                      |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                          | Subject                              | Decision                                                                                                                                                                        | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date   | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| SE/107/2023                                                         | Notice of Motion –<br>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    | <b>On hold pending legal process</b> | <b>N</b>                              |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>22 NOVEMBER 2023 |                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |              |                                                                                    |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                           | Subject                                                      | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                                                 | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>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    | <b>In Progress</b>                                                                 | <b>N</b>                              |
| 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       | <b>Procurement to be progressed as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b> | <b>Y</b>                              |

| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</b><br><b>24 JANUARY 2024</b> |                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |                                                                     |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                                        | Subject                                         | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                                  | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| SE/004/2024                                                                       | Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences     | The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences</li> <li>- Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                             | S Murphy     | <b>In Progress</b>                                                  | <b>N</b>                              |
| SE/005/2024                                                                       | Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness | The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Liaise with local DEA forums to discuss and plan the set-up of Community Resilience Groups</li> <li>- Investigate the facilitation of sandbag availability and management through these Community Resilience Groups</li> <li>- Look into sharing information the website from the Regional Community Resilience Group</li> </ul> | S Murphy     | <b>Complete</b><br><br><b>In Progress</b><br><br><b>In Progress</b> | <br><br><b>N</b><br><br><b>N</b>      |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>21 FEBRUARY 2024 |         |          |              |                                    |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                           | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
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| SE/018/2024 | Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change | <p>It was agreed that this Council acknowledges the work done to date to help address the climate emergency; reaffirms previous motions regarding the degenerating global situation; and again, reiterates that the crisis is the biggest threat posed to our constituents, our district, and our planet.</p> <p>Further acknowledges, however, that recent data collated by Climate Emergency UK ranks NMDDC 8th out of the 11 Councils within NI; and thus, pledges to include ambitious targets in the forthcoming Sustainability and Climate Strategies and Action Plans to expedite implementation.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a benchmark report would be brought back to Committee regarding Council actions and progress to mitigating climate change impact.</p> | C Sage | <p><b>Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy to be presented at S&amp;E Working Group – September 25.</b></p> <p><b>Climate mitigation report in progress and due to be completed by October 25 in accordance with Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. This includes carbon copying baseline reporting.</b></p> | <p><b>N</b></p> <p><b>N</b></p> |
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| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>20 MARCH 2024 |         |          |              |                                    |                                 |
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| Minute Ref                                                        | Subject | Decision | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove from<br>Action Sheet Y/N |
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| SE/036/2024 | Former landfill site review – Aughnagun and Drumanakelly | <p>It was agreed that officers develop a Business Case for the installation of Solar Panels at the former landfill site Aughnagun for further consideration.</p> <p>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.</p> | <p>S Murphy</p> <p>S Murphy</p> | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>N</b> |
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| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</b><br><b>23 APRIL 2024</b> |                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                           |                                                                                                                                                                          |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                                      | Subject                         | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lead Officer                              | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                                                                                                                                       | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| SE/046/2024                                                                     | Notice of Motion – Newry Market | <p>Officers continue their commitment to revitalise the market through engagement with traders, the business community and other potential stakeholders.</p> <p>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</p> <p>It was further agreed that a report be brought back to committee in 6 months to provide detail of any progress made.</p> | <p>C Sage</p> <p>C Sage</p> <p>C Sage</p> | <p><b>A focussed social media campaign has been completed.</b></p> <p><b>Council Officers met with Belfast City Council colleagues to review St George's market.</b></p> | <b>N</b>                              |

| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING</b><br><b>19 JUNE 2024</b> |  |  |  |  |  |
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| Minute Ref  | Subject                                      | Decision                                                                                                                                                           | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                                                          | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
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| 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       | <b>Procurement exercise being progressed as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b> | <b>Y</b>                              |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>21 AUGUST 2024 |                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |              |                                    |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                         | Subject                        | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| SE/091/2024                                                        | Notice of Motion – Dog Fouling | <p>it was agreed to note the report and approve the following:<br/>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</p> <p>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.</p> | S Trainor    | <b>In progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                              |



| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>20 NOVEMBER 2024 |                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |              |                                                                                    |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                           | Subject                                            | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                                                 | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| SE/133/2024                                                          | Action Sheet item:<br>NS/091/2022                  | it was agreed to submit a league table of other Councils' enforcement practices to the Strategic Finance Working Group                                                                                                                                                                             | S Murphy     | <b>To refer through SFWG</b>                                                       | <b>N</b>                              |
| 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       | <b>Procurement being progressed as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b> | <b>Y</b>                              |
| 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    | <b>To be progressed as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b>             | <b>Y</b>                              |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>18 DECEMBER 2024 |                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |              |                                    |                                       |
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| Minute Ref                                                           | Subject           | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>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     | <b>In progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                              |
| 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                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | S Murphy     | <b>In progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                              |

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|             |                                                               | Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the urgent establishment of a multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas. |           | Initial meeting has taken place with ABC Council on 2 <sup>nd</sup> May 2025.<br><br>Newry Canal Regeneration Working Group meeting on 16 <sup>th</sup> September 25. |          |
| 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    | <b>Complete</b>                                                                                                                                                       | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/155/2024 | Business case for mechanical building services contract       | It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report                                                                                                                                                                                                        | C Sage    | <b>Procurement in progressing as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan.</b>                                                                                     | <b>Y</b> |
| 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    | <b>Procurement in progressing as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan.</b>                                                                                     | <b>Y</b> |
| 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 | <b>To be progressed as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b>                                                                                                | <b>Y</b> |
| 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 | <b>To be progressed as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b>                                                                                                | <b>Y</b> |

| SE/160/2024                                                                 | Harbour Surveys                             | It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report                                                                             | C Sage       | To be progressed as part of the S&E Procurement Action Plan | Y                                  |
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| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>29 JANUARY 2025</b> |                                             |                                                                                                                                                      |              |                                                             |                                    |
| Minute Ref                                                                  | Subject                                     | Decision                                                                                                                                             | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                          | Remove from<br>Action<br>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       | To be progressed as part of the S&E Procurement Action Plan | Y                                  |

| <b>SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br/>19 FEBRUARY 2025</b> |                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |              |                                    |                                    |
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| Minute Ref                                                                   | Subject                   | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| SE/018/2025                                                                  | NOM – Vital Role of trees | It was agreed to note the following:<br>-Council continues to implement actions within the Biodiversity Strategy and Tree Strategy<br>-Council continue to work with local community groups, businesses and new stakeholders on creations of new woodlands across the District | C Sage       | Noted                              | N                                  |

|             |                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                             |                                                     |                                 |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
|             |                                                         | <p>-Council continues to raise awareness of Sustainability and Biodiversity issues at Council events and workshops.</p> <p>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. Council will also write to other Councils request support in this regard.</p> | <p>C Sage</p> <p>C Sage</p> | <p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><b>In Progress</b></p> | <p><b>N</b></p> <p><b>N</b></p> |
| SE/020/2025 | Application for bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry     | <p>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</p> <p>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.</p>                                                                                                          | <p>G Kane</p> <p>G Kane</p> | <p><b>In progress</b></p> <p><b>Complete</b></p>    | <p><b>N</b></p> <p><b>Y</b></p> |
| 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                      | <b>Contractor appointed, awaiting programme.</b>    | <b>N</b>                        |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>19 MARCH 2025 |                                         |                                                                                     |              |                                    |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Minute Ref                                                        | Subject                                 | Decision                                                                            | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove from<br>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 | S Murphy     | <b>In progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                        |

|             |                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |           |                    |          |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------|----------|
|             |                                                                           | <p>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.</p> <p>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</p> | S Murphy  | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>N</b> |
| 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 | <b>In progress</b> | <b>N</b> |
| 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    | <b>Complete</b>    | <b>Y</b> |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>29 APRIL 2025 |                                                |                                                                                                                                                      |              |                                                    |                                 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|----------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Minute Ref                                                        | Subject                                        | Decision                                                                                                                                             | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                 | Remove from<br>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 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster | C Sage       | <b>Works delayed by NIW infrastructure project</b> | <b>N</b>                        |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>21 MAY 2025 |                                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |                                    |                                       |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Minute Ref                                                      | Subject                                                                                                  | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| SE/056/2025                                                     | Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas | <p>the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•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.</li> <li>•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.</li> </ul> | C Sage       | <b>In Progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                              |
| 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       | <b>Complete</b>                    | <b>Y</b>                              |

|             |                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |        |                                                                               |          |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| 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 | <b>Complete</b>                                                               | <b>Y</b> |
| SE/060/2025 | Request to approach DFI about transfer of ownership of Carparks  | it was agreed to approve the request for Council Officers to formally approach DFI and research the feasibility of a land transfer of their portion of the site into Council ownership                                                               | C Sage | <b>In Progress</b>                                                            | <b>N</b> |
| 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 | <b>Procurement in Progress as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b> | <b>Y</b> |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>18 JUNE 2025 |                                                      |                                                                                                                                      |              |                                                                               |                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Minute Ref                                                       | Subject                                              | Decision                                                                                                                             | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date                                            | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| 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       | <b>Procurement to progress as part of the S&amp;E Procurement Action Plan</b> | <b>Y</b>                              |
| 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       | <b>Complete</b>                                                               | <b>Y</b>                              |
| SE/074/2025                                                      | Sustainability Contracts                             | It was agreed to approve the award of contracts as listed in Appendix 1 of the report.                                               | C Sage       | <b>Complete</b>                                                               | <b>Y</b>                              |
| 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       | <b>Complete</b>                                                               | <b>Y</b>                              |

| SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING<br>19 AUGUST 2025 |                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |              |                                    |                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Minute Ref                                                         | Subject                                                                                              | Decision                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | Lead Officer | Actions taken/<br>Progress to date | Remove<br>from<br>Action<br>Sheet Y/N |
| <b>SE/084/2025</b>                                                 | Action Sheet:<br>Sustainability And<br>Environment<br>Committee Meeting<br>Held On 18 June 2025      | It was agreed to note the action sheet.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | S Murphy     | <b>Noted</b>                       | <b>Y</b>                              |
| <b>SE/085/2025</b>                                                 | Consultation<br>Response To DAERA -<br>New Rules For Selling<br>And Supplying<br>Puppies And Kittens | it was agreed to approve the DAERA<br>consultation response in appendix 1, on<br>the proposed new rules for the sale and<br>supply of puppies and kittens in Northern<br>Ireland.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | S Murphy     | <b>Approved</b>                    | <b>Y</b>                              |
| <b>SE/086/2025</b>                                                 | Food Service Plan<br>2025/26                                                                         | it was agreed to note the report and<br>agree to adopt the Food Service Plan<br>2025/26 attached in appendix 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | S Murphy     | <b>Approved</b>                    | <b>Y</b>                              |
| <b>SE/087/2025</b>                                                 | Sustainability<br>Contracts                                                                          | it was agreed to approve the awards of<br>contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of<br>the report.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | C Sage       | <b>Complete</b>                    | <b>Y</b>                              |
| <b>SE/088/2025</b>                                                 | Cycle To Work<br>Scheme                                                                              | The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To proceed with the appointment<br/>of a new Provider for the<br/>Council's Cycle to Work Scheme<br/>as detailed in section 2.2 of the<br/>report.</li> <li>To increase the upper limit for<br/>purchases via the Cycle to Work<br/>scheme and that the scheme<br/>remains open for applications all<br/>year round as detailed in section<br/>2.3 of the report.</li> </ul> | C Sage       | <b>In Progress</b>                 | <b>N</b>                              |

|                    |                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |          |                    |          |
|--------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>SE/089/2025</b> | Variation To Fuel Card Contract                                                                                                              | it was agreed to approve the extension of the Fuel Card Contract to the end of March 2026.                                                                                                                                                             | C Sage   | <b>Complete</b>    | <b>Y</b> |
| <b>SE/090/2025</b> | Fleet Fuel Verification Process                                                                                                              | it was agreed to approve the recommended fuel infrastructure changes, as detailed in table 2, to ensure that the Council's fuel stock counting procedure are consistent, robust and meet the recommendations highlighted in the Fuel Management Audit. | C Sage   | <b>In Progress</b> | <b>N</b> |
| <b>SE/091/2025</b> | Waste Contracts                                                                                                                              | it was agreed to approve the Direct Award Contract extensions as detailed in Appendix 1 of the report.                                                                                                                                                 | S Murphy | <b>Approved</b>    | <b>Y</b> |
| <b>SE/092/2025</b> | Action Sheet From Sustainability and Environment Working Group On Wednesday 18 June 2025                                                     | it was agreed to note the document.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b>       | <b>Y</b> |
| <b>SE/093/2025</b> | ARC 21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Held On 26 June 2025 & Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes Of Thursday 29 May 2025 | it was agreed to note the documents.                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b>       | <b>Y</b> |
| <b>SE/094/2025</b> | ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 29 MAY 2025                                                                                   | it was agreed to note the document.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b>       | <b>Y</b> |

|                    |                                                                                                            |                                   |          |              |          |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------|--------------|----------|
| <b>SE/095/2025</b> | Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics For January To March 2025 | it was agreed to note the report. | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b> | <b>Y</b> |
| <b>SE/096/2025</b> | Cleansing Review Update                                                                                    | it was agreed to note the report. | S Murphy | <b>Noted</b> | <b>Y</b> |

|                                                     |                                                                                                                         |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Sustainability and Environment Committee                                                                                |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | 16th September 2025                                                                                                     |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Consultation Response – DAERA Consultation on NICCAP3 (the Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme). |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Conor Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability                                                                          |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability                                                                                 |

|                                                                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                 |   |                 |  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | For decision    | X | For noting only |  |
| For decision                                                                             | X                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | For noting only |   |                 |  |
| 1.0                                                                                      | <b>Purpose and Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                 |   |                 |  |
| 1.1                                                                                      | The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval on the response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) consultation on NICCAP3 (the Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme), as attached in Appendix 1.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.0                                                                                      | <b>Key issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.1                                                                                      | The Climate Change Act 2008 places a statutory duty on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) to set out their objectives, policies, proposals and timelines for introducing programmes in response to the most recent UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.2                                                                                      | DAERA has led on the development of a series of coordinated Adaptation programmes, which are known as the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP). This consultation document seeks the views of stakeholders on the draft third iteration of these programmes (NICCAP3) which has been developed, with input from all Departments and a range of key stakeholders, in response to the latest Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3)1.                                                                                                                                                                      |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.3                                                                                      | There is extensive information and suggested actions and activities within the consultation document and its supporting appendices: (see link to online docs below for details)<br><br><a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations">http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations</a>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                 |   |                 |  |
| 2.4                                                                                      | <b>Part 1</b> provides information on the legislative context for NICCAP3 and details on the consultation itself including how to respond as well as a short introduction to the two main responses to climate change:<br><br><b>Mitigation</b><br>Climate change mitigation refers to actions or activities that limit emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from entering the atmosphere and/or reduce their levels in the atmosphere.<br><br><b>Adaptation</b><br>Climate change adaptation means taking action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change (flooding, increased storminess, etc.). |                 |   |                 |  |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 2.5        | <b>Part 2</b> covers <b>NICCAP3</b> itself including how DAERA has chosen to structure it and why. It provides detail on each of the Key Areas within NICCAP3 which cover the sectorial thematic areas of <b>Natural Capital; Food Security; Infrastructure Services; People and the Built Environment; and Disruption to Business and Supply Chains</b> . This chapter also provides details on the statutory and best practice impact assessments which were carried out on the draft NICCAP3.                         |
| 2.6        | Climate change is an issue that affects every one of us, from national to local government; international supply chains to local businesses; wider society to communities and individuals. This consultation seeks views on the draft third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3), so that everyone can play a role in shaping a resilient Northern Ireland that is well adapted to the impacts of climate change for today, and for the future.                                                |
| 2.7        | A response to the Consultation was submitted which is broadly supportive of the approach proposed by DAERA. However, we have suggested a number of areas where the approach could be strengthened and improved.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 2.8        | The Council discussed the consultation and DAERA's proposals and the key areas in the NICCAP3 programme with other Councils through the NI Sustainable Development Forum. We also received advice on additional recommendations and areas for improvement and best practice from Sustainable NI who support and advise Councils on sustainability issues.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 2.9        | SOLACE also carried out a number of workshops with DAERA to inform Councils and get further input in the consultation process. This provided information to support an informed and robust response to the consultation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 2.10       | These suggestions along with our own comments have been included in the response to the consultation submitted. An important issue highlighted was the need for additional resources to be provided to Councils from central government if they are to deliver best practice and effective interventions on climate change adaptation. This will be essential to prepare Councils, local communities and businesses to become more resilient in the face of climate impacts including flooding and increased storminess. |
| 2.11       | The consultation ran for an 8-week period over the summer months up to the 4th August 2025 deadline and the timing proved challenging for Councils to respond. A submission was provided to meet the deadline, as outlined in Appendix 1, with the caveat that it is subject to Council Approval, as such the response can be retracted or amended.                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 3.1        | Members are asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Approve the DAERA consultation response in Appendix 1, on NICCAP3 (the Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme).</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4.1        | There are no resource implications in relation to the consultation response.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4.2        | There are likely to be resource implications in meeting future climate change adaptation actions. Further resources and significant budget are expected to be required in order to deliver resilience to the impacts of climate change for both the council and the wider community.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| 5.1        | <p><b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 5.2        | <p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| 5.3        | <p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>                                                         |
| <b>6.0</b> | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 6.1        | <p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>7.0</b> | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|            | <b>Appendix 1: NMDDC Response to DAERA Consultation on NICCAP3</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>8.0</b> | <b>Background Documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|            | <p>Online link to the DAERA Consultation and information on NICCAP3:</p> <p><a href="http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations">http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

# Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3) Public Consultation

This pack is also available on the DAERA website at:

<http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations>

On request, we can arrange to provide other formats of the documents above, such as:

- **Paper Copy**
- **Large Print**
- **Braille**
- **Other Languages**

To request an alternative format, please contact us:

**Email:** [NICCAP3.Consultation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:NICCAP3.Consultation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

**Telephone:** 028 9037 8558 and talk to one of the Consultation Team.

If you have a hearing difficulty, you can contact the Department via **Text Relay**.

**Text Relay:** 18002 028 9037 8558

**Post:** NICCAP3 Consultation  
Climate Change Policy Division  
Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs  
1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
Clare House  
303 Airport Road West  
Sydenham Intake  
Belfast  
BT3 9ED

## Pack Contents

Thank you for your interest in responding to this consultation on the Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3).

This consultation pack contains the following documentation to assist you with your response:

- This Consultation document which includes the consultation details and the consultation questions
  - Annex I - Draft Third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3)
  - Annex II - Draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment
  - Annex III - Draft Equality & Disability Duties Screening Assessment
  - Annex IV - Draft Strategic Environmental Assessment Screening
  - Annex V - Draft Child's Rights Impact Assessment
  - Annex VI - Draft Regulatory Impact Assessment
  
  - Appendix I - Natural Capital - Key Area Consultation Booklet
  - Appendix II - Food Security - Key Area Consultation Booklet
  - Appendix III - Infrastructure Services - Key Area Consultation Booklet
  - Appendix IV - People and the Built Environment - Key Area Consultation Booklet
  - Appendix V - Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains - Key Area Consultation Booklet
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## Executive Summary

The Climate Change Act 2008 (the 2008 Act) places a statutory duty on Northern Ireland Executive Departments to lay programmes before the Northern Ireland Assembly, which set out their objectives, policies, proposals and timelines for introducing those policies and proposals in response to the most recent UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA). To fulfil this legal requirement the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has led on the development of a series of single coordinated adaptation programmes, which are known as the Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP), since the 2008 Act came into effect. This consultation document seeks the views of stakeholders on the draft third iteration of these programmes (NICCAP3) which has been developed, with input from all Departments and a range of key stakeholders, in response to the latest Third UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA3)<sup>1</sup>.

A brief overview of the content of the parts within this consultation document and its supporting appendices and annexes is provided as follows:

**Part 1** provides information on the legislative context for NICCAP3 and details on the consultation itself including how to respond as well as a short introduction to the two main responses to climate change:

- **Mitigation**

*Climate change mitigation refers to actions or activities that limit emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from entering the atmosphere and/or reduce their levels in the atmosphere.*

- **Adaptation**

*Climate adaptation means taking action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change.*

**Part 2** covers NICCAP3 itself including how DAERA has chosen to structure it and why. It provides detail on each of the Key Areas within NICCAP3 which cover the sectorial thematic areas of Natural Capital; Food Security; Infrastructure Services; People and the Built Environment; and Disruption to Business and Supply Chains. This chapter also provides details on the statutory and best practice impact assessments which were carried out on the draft NICCAP3.

**Part 3** provides details on the next steps, following the close of the consultation, including information on the confidentiality of responses to the consultation, as well as on Data Protection and Freedom of Information consideration.

**Part 4** provides a list of the acronyms and abbreviations used in this consultation document.

The **Annexes** contain the draft NICCAP3, and the Impact Assessment screening templates that have been carried out.

The **Appendices** contain the Key Area booklets which break the overall NICCAP3 parts and chapters into sectoral areas. These have been designed to allow for consultees to focus on areas of the NICCAP3 consultation of particular interest.

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<sup>1</sup> [CCRA-Evidence-Report-Northern-Ireland-Summary-Final.pdf \(ukclimaterisk.org\)](#)

## Part 1: Introduction

### 1.1. Why we are Consulting

Climate change is an issue that affects every one of us, from national to local government; international supply chains to local businesses; wider society to communities and individuals.

DAERA recognises that in creating a Northern Ireland that is well adapted and resilient to the impacts of climate change it needs to be informed by the views of all who live here. This consultation seeks your views on the draft third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme (NICCAP3), so that you may play a role in shaping a resilient Northern Ireland that is well adapted to the impacts of climate change for today, and for the future.

### 1.2. Duration

This consultation will run for an 8-week period from xx xxx 20xx to xx xx 20xx. We encourage early responses, and responses should be no later than 11 59pm on xx xx 20xx. All responses should be received by then to help ensure they can be fully considered. Responses received after the closing deadline will not be able to be considered.

### 1.3. How to Respond to this Consultation

The full draft NICCAP3 is available as **Annex I** to this document and includes detail on climate adaptation policy and action both within Government and across wider society. It also includes an assessment of progress made in the previous Adaptation Programme as required by the 2008 Act.

We recognise that the full draft NICCAP3 is a substantial document covering a wide range of sectors, not all of which will be of interest to every reader. While you are welcome to respond to all areas of the NICCAP3 consultation, in anticipation that you may only wish to respond to some areas of interest, we have prepared a series of Appendices to this consultation document which break the draft NICCAP3 into 5 key areas of sectoral impact as follows:

- **Appendix I – Natural Capital**
- **Appendix II – Food Security**
- **Appendix III – Infrastructure Services**
- **Appendix IV – People and the Built Environment**
- **Appendix V – Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains**

These provide information on the climate impacts on each key area, as well as the policies, plans, and proposals which relate to them, and will assist you in responding to the relevant questions from 8 to 27 depending on your specific area(s) of interest.

In addition to responding to your key area(s) of interest, we would please ask that some non-theme specific questions are responded to by all. The information required for these questions is contained within this consultation document for questions 1 to 7, and in the annexes containing the draft impact assessments for which question 28 relates.

**We would be grateful if responses could be provided for all the questions within a key area.**

An overview of the questions, where the supporting information may be found, and the level of requested engagement in responding is detailed below:

### *Questions 1 to 7 – Response requested from all*

**Information is contained within this consultation document and, if required, also the draft NICCAP3 at Annex I.**

**The information to respond to the following Optional Key Areas can be found in the full draft NICCAP3 document found at Annex I, and also in the Appendices indicated below.**

### *Questions 8 to 11 – Optional Key Area*

#### **Appendix I – Natural Capital**

- i. Nature
- ii. Working Lands & Seas

### *Questions 12 to 15 – Optional Key Area*

#### **Appendix II – Food Security**

- i. UK Food Security

### *Questions 16 to 19– Optional Key Area*

#### **Appendix III – Infrastructure Services**

- i. Water Supply
- ii. Energy
- iii. Telecommunications & ICT
- iv. Transport

### *Questions 20 to 23– Optional Key Area*

#### **Appendix IV – People and the Built Environment**

- i. Towns & Cities
- ii. Health
- iii. Buildings
- iv. Community Preparedness & Response

### *Questions 24 to 27– Optional Key Area*

#### **Appendix V – Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains**

- i. Business
- ii. Finance

### *Question 28 – Response requested from all*

**Information within Annexes II – VI, which relate to the NICCAP3 Impact Screening Assessments.**

## **Submitting your Response**

There are several ways in which you can provide your response, and these are outlined in the bullet points below. However, as there is a need to publish NICCAP3 in a timely manner, the preferable method of response is **through the online survey where it is possible to do so**. This approach allows for the most efficient analysis of responses and by limiting the use of paper and printing, minimising the environmental impact.

However, we understand that a paper-based response will be the preference for some. If this is the case, you are encouraged to respond as early as possible as our challenging timeline could be impacted by postage delivery times and the additional analytical processing required.

- **Online Survey**

The primary response method for this consultation is through the online survey on the **Citizen Space Hub**. You can also access the online survey from the DAERA consultation webpage.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations>

## By Email

You can obtain an electronic copy of the response template by emailing the consultation team at:

[NICCAP3.Consultation@daera-ni.gov.uk](mailto:NICCAP3.Consultation@daera-ni.gov.uk)

You can email your response to this email address, or alternatively by hard copy to the postal address below.

Similarly to responses by post, email responses will involve additional analytical processing when compared to online responses and so we encourage you to use the **Citizen Space Hub**.

- **By Post**

Please be aware that postal responses may take longer to process.

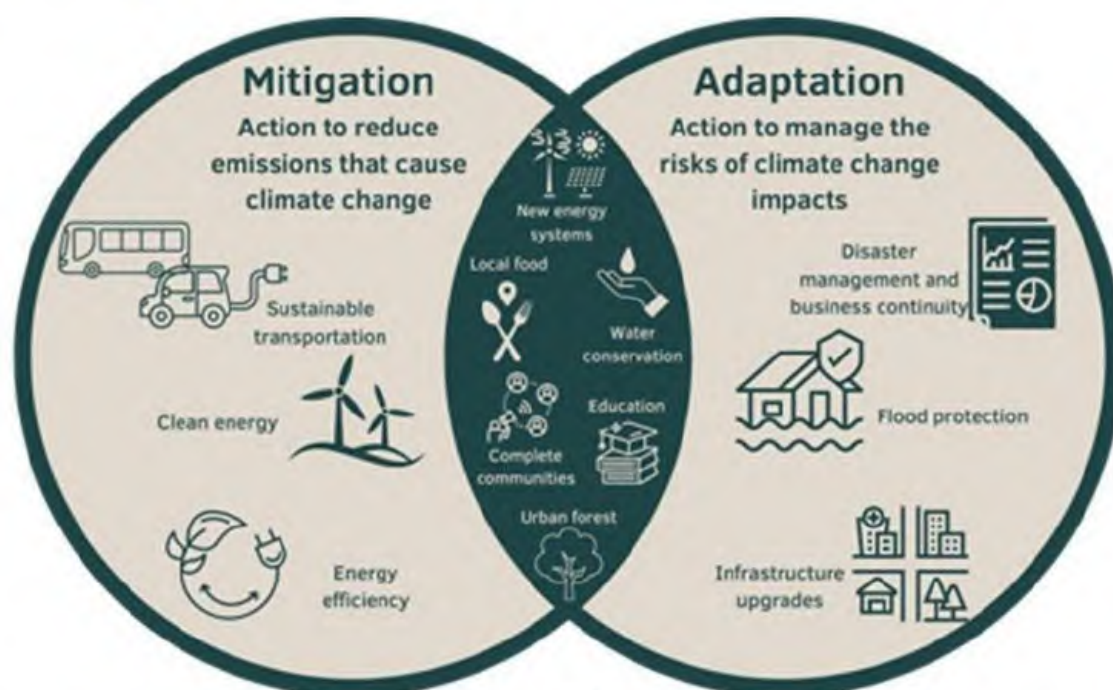
Responses can be posted to:

NICCAP3 Consultation  
 Climate Change Policy Division  
 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs  
 1<sup>st</sup> Floor  
 Clare House  
 303 Airport Road West  
 Sydenham Intake  
 Belfast  
 BT3 9ED

Guidance is provided on the 'Confidentiality' of responses under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, at Part 3: Next Steps for your reference. Also, if you require any further information, please contact a member of the consultation team on 028 9037 8558.

## 1.4. Climate Mitigation vs Climate Adaptation

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When it comes to the challenge of climate change, we instinctively think of the things that are causing it, and what must be done to stop and prevent worsening impacts. Things like reducing emissions by transitioning to renewable energy sources, to adopting more sustainable lifestyles and business practices. This approach is **Climate Change Mitigation** and is defined below by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change<sup>2</sup> (IPCC) as:

*‘Climate change mitigation refers to actions or activities that limit emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) from entering the atmosphere and/or reduce their levels in the atmosphere’.*

Climate Change Mitigation is extremely important if we are to prevent the very worst-case projections of climate change becoming a reality.

But action on climate change involves more than just mitigation efforts to reduce our emissions and the other side of addressing the climate change challenge in ensuring that we are well adapted to and resilient to its impacts is equally important. This other arm of climate action recognises the climate change impacts we are already experiencing, and those that are projected to occur which requires action to future proof and adjust (adapt) current infrastructure to ensure that it is resilient to both the current and projected impacts of climate change. This aspect of addressing climate change is **Climate Change Adaptation**, and is defined below by the Global Centre on Adaptation<sup>3</sup> as:

*‘Climate adaptation means taking action to prepare for and adjust to the current and projected impacts of climate change’*

In Northern Ireland, Climate Adaptation is concerned with preparing for the real-world impacts of changing weather patterns, hotter, drier summers and milder, wetter winters along with increasing severe and more frequent weather events resulting in flooding and storm damage as well as the impacts of rising sea levels to ensure that we are resilient.

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ipcc.ch/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://gca.org/>

We would be grateful if the following Questions 1 to 7 could be responded to by all consultees.

Question 1.

Were you aware of the two arms of climate change action before reading this introduction?

**Yes** No

Question 2.

How aware are you of climate mitigation actions being taken forward by government in NI?

Not aware Very aware

0 1 2 **3** 4 5

Question 3.

How aware are you of climate adaptation actions being taken forward by government in NI?

Not aware Very aware

0 1 2 **3** 4 5

## 1.5. Legislative Context

The need for climate action was recognised by the UK Parliament in 2008 when it passed the Climate Change Act 2008<sup>4</sup>. This Act was a landmark piece of legislation for the UK containing a number of provisions on climate mitigation and adaptation including the first legally binding climate mitigation targets set by a country.

A fundamental part of the Act was the establishment of the Climate Change Committee (CCC) with a remit to advise government on matters relating to climate change. As part of this advisory role, the CCC are obligated under section 57 of the Act to produce an Independent Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCCRA-IA) on a five yearly cycle, which is used to inform the development of the UK Climate Change Risk Assessment (CCRA) which must be laid in Parliament every five years under section 56.

Section 60 of the Act provides for Northern Ireland Departments to respond to each CCRA through an adaptation programme setting out:

- the objectives of the department in relation to adaptation to climate change,
- the department's proposals and policies for meeting those objectives, and
- the timescales for introducing those proposals and policies.

The department is defined in section 96 of the 2008 Act as the 'department with responsibility for the matter to which the provision relates'. In this context this means that each Government Department is responsible for setting out their proposals and policies which address the climate risks which impact on their areas of responsibility through an adaptation programme.

Effective climate change adaptation action requires a collaborative approach and so in recognition of this, DAERA has led on the development of a coordinated Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes (NICCAP) with the input of adaption responses from across each of the NI Executive departments. However, we also recognise the important role that key stakeholders including Local Government, academia, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) and businesses can play in creating a climate resilient Northern Ireland, and in

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2008/27/contents>

acknowledgement of this we have also included an extensive range of actions from outside of Departments in the NICCAP3 Adaptation Delivery Plan.

The most recent CCRA was the third iteration of this five-year cycle and was laid in Parliament in January 2022 and endorsed the CCC's earlier independent advice (CCRA3-IA). This independent assessment by the CCC identified 61 areas of risk and opportunity for the UK, as a result of climate change, and as part of the development of the risk assessment, national summaries were prepared for each of the administrations within the UK<sup>5</sup>.

The CCC have had further obligations, in relation to climate change adaptation, placed upon them under section 48 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022<sup>6</sup>. This requires the CCC to provide a report to the Assembly within 3 years of each NICCAP being published detailing their assessment of the progress made towards implementing the objectives, proposals and policies set out in the NICCAP, as well as their recommendations for the following NICCAP.

The CCC has similar reporting duties across each of the regions of the UK. To assist with the assessment process the CCC has developed an adaptation monitoring framework<sup>7</sup> which enables them to assess climate adaptation progress around 13 thematic areas. These themes use monitoring maps which describe good adaptation for the theme using measures such as the required outcomes, enabling factors to support delivery and policies and plans, and contextual factors such as global changes. This new monitoring framework will enable the CCC to assess adaptation across these themes in terms of underlying policies and enabling factors as well as how these are being delivered and implemented.

## 1.6. About you

Question 4.

Are you representing an organisation, or are these your personal views?

Personal Views

Organisation

Please tell us the name of your organisation if applicable.

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.ukclimaterisk.org/publications/type/national-summaries/>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ia/2022/31/contents/enacted>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theccc.org.uk/publication/ccc-adaptation-monitoring-framework/#intuaction>

## Part 2: The third Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programme

### 2.1. An Aligned Approach

DAERA recognises that the risks from climate change can impact sectors differently and that the Climate Change Committees (CCC's) approach to monitoring adaptation across a range of themes reflects and captures these differences. It is our view that these differences should be reflected in the NICCAP itself, and so we have structured NICCAP3 to align to the 13 thematic areas used by the CCC in their adaptation monitoring framework which will also assist with future assessments to be undertaken by the CCC.

To provide a level of consistency from NICCAP2, these 13 thematic areas have been grouped into 5 key areas using the broad areas used to structure NICCAP2. The 61 risks and opportunities identified in the CCRA3 apply across the thematic areas and so are addressed within NICCAP3 in the structure outlined in figure 1.

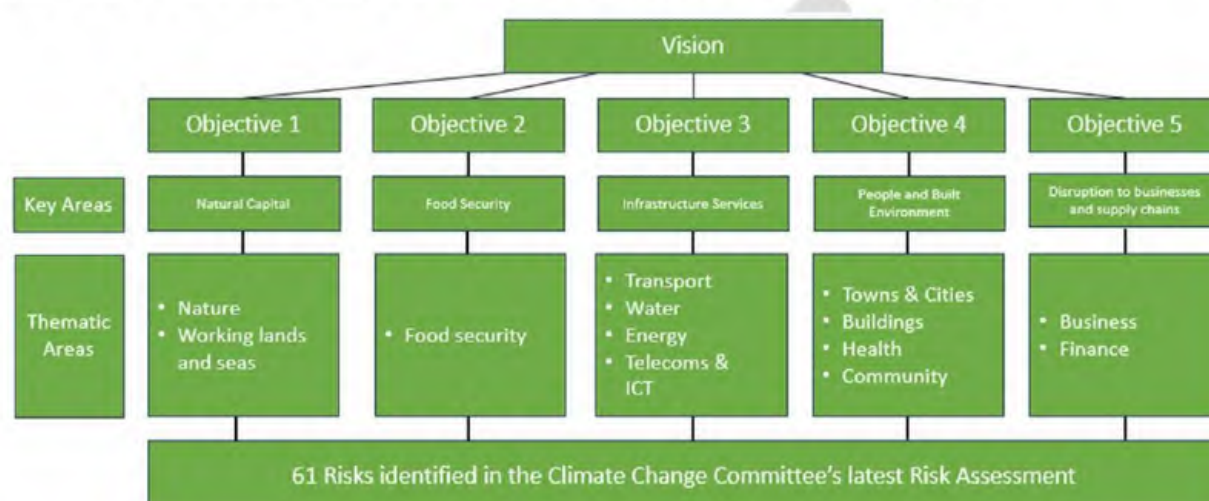


Figure 1 - Overview of thematic areas alignment to key areas

For each of the 5 key areas, we have developed an adaptation objective through a series of co-design workshops ran in partnership with a range of key stakeholders, with further development planned for during this consultation. These workshops looked at climate adaptation in terms of each of the 5 key areas and considered the projected climate impacts and those that were already being felt before designing aspirational outcomes which aimed to capture what effective climate adaptation looked like as well as the means to get there. This process was also applied to the development of an overall vision for a well-adapted Northern Ireland.

Question 5.

Do you agree with the approach taken to align the structure of NICCAP3 to the 13 thematic areas (covered above) used by the CCC to assist in the future monitoring of adaptation progress in NI?

**Yes** No

Additional comments to support your answer.

We support the proposal to align the structure of the NICCAP3 with the thematic areas currently used by the Climate Change Committee. This allows for a clear framework approach for monitoring adaptation progress in Northern Ireland. It also ensures consistency and comparability with the rest of the UK, making it easier to track progress, share best practice, and identify areas for improvement.

## 2.2. A Vision for a Well Adapted Northern Ireland

Our vision for a well-adapted Northern Ireland seeks to pull together the objectives for NICCAP3 into an overarching vision statement that encompasses the ambition to create a society, economy and environment that is resilient to climate change by being well adapted. Our vision can be seen below and within NICCAP3 where it can be found in the introduction section.

### VISION

*By working with partners across all aspects of Northern Ireland's environment, economy and communities we will take action to build upon and strengthen our resilience to our changing climate as we work towards creating a Northern Ireland which is well adapted and resilient to both our current and projected future impacts of climate change to protect our environment, economy and communities for both our current and future generations.*

Question 6.

Do you feel that the vision, for a well-adapted NI, represents the ambition required to build a well-adapted NI?

Yes **No**

Additional comments to support your answer.

The vision statement doesn't capture the opportunities climate change could bring, for example, in the tourism and food sectors, as NI will have a more temperate climate than other parts of the world. We suggest strengthening the vision statement as follows:

*By working collaboratively with partners across Northern Ireland's environment, economy, and communities, we will take action to strengthen our resilience to the impacts of a changing climate, while also recognising and embracing the opportunities it presents, as we work towards creating a Northern Ireland that is not only well adapted to current and future climate risks, but also equipped to thrive - protecting our environment, economy and communities for both current and future generations.*

Question 7.

Do you agree with the inclusion of actions in NICCAP3 from key stakeholders outside of Departments?

**Yes** No

Additional comments to support your answer.

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Including actions from key stakeholders outside of Government Departments is essential for delivering an effective and inclusive adaptation programme. Adaptation isn't solely the responsibility of central government. Engaging stakeholders outside of government supports democratic participation and alignment with wider commitments, such as those under the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. Ultimately, it ensures NICCAP3 provides a more accurate representation of climate resilience progress.

However while Local Government should play a key role in Climate Adaptation, Central Government needs to provide adequate funding and other resources to allow Councils to be involved in developing good practice and robust procedures locally.

## 2.3. Key Area: Natural Capital

Objective:

*We will use nature-based solutions where possible and encourage sustainable practices across the land and water use sectors to build ecologically healthy, well-connected habitats which support increased species abundance and diversity, and improved soil and water quality, which in turn create a climate resilient environment rich in the ecosystem services so important for human wellbeing and sustainable agricultural, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture sectors which are so important to the Northern Ireland economy.*

The Natural Capital key area combines the thematic areas of Nature and Working Lands & Seas. These themes cover the natural environment and the role it plays in supporting life in Northern Ireland both through the habitats it provides for nature and the important role it plays in our local economy. Chapters 4 and 5 in Part 2 of the NICCAP3 provides context for these themes, as well as the co-designed objective for the Natural Capital key area. Each chapter contains the CCRA3-IA risks associated with the thematic area and the actions relating to these from both government and civil society can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

***If Natural Capital is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section – Questions 8 to 11. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 15.***

Question 8.

Does the objective for Natural Capital provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes **No**

Additional comments to support your answer.

The objective fails to recognise that nature degradation caused by human activities in undermining the ability of natural ecosystems to cope with extreme weather conditions. For example, deforestation, intensive farming, land drainage and peat extraction makes these environments more susceptible to stress under drought or heavy rainfall conditions.

The objective should emphasise the **need to stop harming nature in the first place**, as a prerequisite for building long-term resilience.

Suggested alternative:

*We will halt and reverse the degradation of nature caused by human activities. By protecting existing natural assets and restoring ecological integrity through nature-based solutions, rewilding, increased tree cover and sustainable practices across land and water use sectors, we aim to create ecologically rich, connected habitats that support greater biodiversity, improved soil and water quality, and a more climate-resilient environment. This, in turn, underpins human wellbeing and supports sustainable agriculture, forestry, fisheries and aquaculture which are so important to the Northern Ireland economy.*

Question 9.

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Nature

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

II. Working Lands & Seas

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

Question 10.

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

III. Nature

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

IV. Working Lands & Seas

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

Question 11.

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

Whilst the consultation lists projects and programmes already underway to restore, revitalise and build resilience in the natural environment, it does not identify any *new actions* necessary to manage the risks identified in the CCRA3. NICCAP3 should respond to CCRA3 by identifying new and additional actions that should be taken forward in the delivery period, even if no activities are underway yet. This would highlight gaps and enable stakeholders to identify funding and work towards solutions that aim to bridge those gaps.

Actions not currently captured that are already underway:

The UPSURGE Project, listed under the Built Environment section (BE11) could also be listed in this key area.

## 2.4. Key Area: Food Security

### Objective:

*We will work with local industry stakeholders and producers to strengthen the resilience, sustainability and prosperity of our local agri-food and fisheries sectors in the creation of a sustainable food system that protects and enhances our natural environment, as well as supporting the sectors to invest in systems to assess climate risks and vulnerabilities and plan adaptation throughout their supply chains to ensure we continue to supply safe and sustainable food both at home and abroad.*

Part 3 of NICCAP3 contains the above co-designed objective for this key area and provides details on the theme of Food Security. This theme refers to the sustainable production and continued availability of food for Northern Ireland and how secure the processes for ensuring supply demand is met. The risks to this from climate change are such that they impact both at home and abroad, and the routes and infrastructure in place to transport food and ingredients from where it is sourced and produced to where it is utilised, bought, sold and ultimately consumed. The identified risks can be seen in Chapter 6 and again, the actions relating to these can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

***If Food Security is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section – Questions 12 to 15. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 17.***

### Question 12.

Does the objective for Food Security provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes **No**

Additional comments to support your answer.

We would like to see the emphasis of the objective shift toward **self-sufficiency in the local food system**, i.e. meeting the nutritional needs of people in Northern Ireland whilst reducing our dependency on food imports, recognising the importance of a sustainable, resilient and affordable food system.

### Suggestion:

*We will work with local industry stakeholders and producers to build a resilient, sustainable, and prosperous agri-food and fisheries sector that prioritises local food security, affordability and self-sufficiency. Our aim is to create a sustainable food system that protects and enhances the natural environment while supporting producers to assess climate risks, strengthen supply chain resilience, and embed climate adaptation, ensuring a reliable supply of safe, affordable and sustainable food for communities across Northern Ireland.*

Question 13.

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapter goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of Food Security:

Not at all To a Great Extent

0      1      2      3      4      **5**

Question 14.

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of Food Security:

Not at all To a Great Extent

0      1      2      **3**      4      5

Question 15.

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details:

The NI Food Strategy Framework Action Plan provides a set of comprehensive actions being taken forward by government to strengthen and reform the current food system, and many of the actions in this 2-year action plan promote food security in the face of a changing climate. Whilst NICCAP3 references this document, more detail could be provided on the specific actions being taken forward within the Plan in the NICCAP3.

There are many projects currently led by local government and the voluntary sector aimed at making local food systems more sustainable, reducing food waste and promoting the efficient distribution of surplus food. Examples include:

Nourish NI Sustainable Food Places Programme: UK-wide network that has established four sustainable food partnerships in Northern Ireland - Belfast City Council (this project is mentioned in NICCAP3), Derry City and Strabane District Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council. Each council has established a food partnership involving the council, public bodies, third sector organisations, businesses and academics that are collectively delivering a strategy and action plan to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of their cities, boroughs or districts.

Fair Share NI (and other food bank providers): Collects surplus, fresh, frozen, and ambient food from retailers, manufacturers, and farms, redistributing it to frontline charities across Northern Ireland.

Larder Food Bank in East Belfast: Originally a traditional food bank, this initiative transformed into a community food hub, moving away from emergency handouts toward a food trade model offering weekly seasonal produce via collective buying. It provides dignity, reduces stigma, and improves access to affordable, nutritious food.

SourceGrow: Supplying fresh, affordable produce grown in a sustainable and nature-friendly way direct to local cafes, restaurants and caterers across Northern Ireland.

## 2.5. Key Area: Infrastructure Services

Objective:

*Recognising the degree which infrastructure services rely upon each other to function effectively, we will collaborate across public sector organisations to identify vulnerabilities, manage these interdependencies and support the integration of climate adaptation into business operating models to ensure adaptation is delivered effectively and efficiently to ensure system level reliability, security and resilience across our infrastructure services and networks.*

The Infrastructure Services key area combines the thematic areas of Water Supply, Energy, Telecommunications and ICT, and Transport. A key component of this area is the interconnectedness of these themes, and the co- designed objective for the area seeks to recognise this and its role in successful climate adaptation. Part 4 of NICCAP3 provides the context to this key area with chapters 7 to 10 detailing the themes and the associated risks.

It is however important to recognise that aspects of this risk area such as Telecommunications and ICT fall within UK Government reserved policy area of responsibility which means many of the levers to implement a change of policy in this area are outside of the control of the NI Departments. However, with this caveat in mind, the actions relating to these risks that are within Northern Ireland's devolved government area of responsibility, can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

***If Infrastructure Services is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section – Questions 16 to 19. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 20.***

Question 16.

Does the objective for Infrastructure Services provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

**Yes** No

Additional comments to support your answer.

We note the objective states 'we will collaborate across public sector organisations to...' however given that many of Northern Ireland's infrastructure providers are privately owned and operated, perhaps the objective should be rephrased to also include private sector.

Question 17.

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Water Supply

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

II. Energy

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

III. Telecommunications and ICT, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

IV. Transport

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

Question 18.

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

I. Water Supply

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

II. Energy

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

III. Telecommunications and ICT, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

IV. Transport

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

Question 19.

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

### **Overheating of Energy Infrastructure**

Not only are power lines and sub-stations at risk from floods and high windspeeds, but extreme temperatures also cause energy demand to surge as people struggle to cool or heat their homes and workplaces which can lead to energy blackouts.

IS32 states: 'there is an intention to use the data to support energy policy development to ensure a reliable energy supply in the transition to net zero'. A more urgent and proactive approach is necessary to mitigate this risk. New public infrastructure investments should be required to take account of climate change and demonstrate climate resilience as an integral component of the proposal. The same should be required of new buildings and developments, which would require a more stringent national planning policy framework with specific policy measures on climate resilience. Details of specific proposals in this area should be included in NICCAP3.

### **Flooding and Coastal Erosion Risk to Infrastructure**

In the context of infrastructure planning, key strategic infrastructure at risk of flooding and coastal erosion should be mapped, and a resilience strategy developed for each asset. This strategy may consider a range of resilience measures, from strengthening the current infrastructure to cope with weather extremes or in some cases, it may be more appropriate to consider strategic relocation of infrastructure assets, a concept known as managed retreat.

### **Water Scarcity**

The increase in demand for water that occurs during extended periods of hot weather is a significant risk that will only increase in future. Curbing water demand will take sustained investment and effort to change public behaviours.

IS2 'Develop PC21 water efficiency campaign and work towards delivering it' in our view is not detailed enough. It should be a collaborative initiative between NI Water, Councils, DAERA, DfI and education providers as it will require a major shift in behaviour patterns. Policy measures should be developed to disincentivise water consumption both during and outside of periods of water scarcity. These should go beyond traditional hosepipe bans and aim to create more permanent behavioural changes, such as letters or text messages showing how your water use compares to neighbours, or market-based approaches for example, smart tariffs or dynamic water pricing (for customers who pay water charges).

## 2.6. Key Area: People and the Built Environment

### Objective:

*Recognising how dependent we are upon our built environment and the ability it has to shape and support our health and wellbeing, we will engage with community groups and organisations to increase community understanding of localised climate impacts, and its impact upon their health. By empowering communities to understand their risks and develop innovative solutions making use of local knowledge and resources, we will build upon their shared experiences to target and address the climate risks specific to them to improve their climate resilience.*

This key area combines 4 thematic areas due to the co-dependencies between them and links the themes of Towns & Cities, Buildings, Health, and Community Preparedness & Response which are covered in Part 5 under chapters 11 to 14. This key area is concerned with the impacts of climate change on our lived experiences and so looks at how the built and urban environment we live in interacts with our health and how climate change poses risks to these. It also recognises the importance of a community's ability to prepare for and respond to emergency situations such as extreme weather events linked to climate change. The chapters each lay out the identified risks and opportunities for each theme and the actions relating to these risks which can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

***If People and the Built Environment is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section – Questions 20 to 23. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the next Key Area section beginning on page 23.***

### Question 20.

Does the objective for People and the Built Environment provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

Yes **No**

Additional comments to support your answer.

This objective should be amended to shift the focus toward policies that will protect the public from climate-related health risks in the built environment, rather than placing the emphasis on community awareness and empowerment.

The objective should also highlight the need for targeted action within vulnerable groups / communities. There is also a need for adequate resourcing of support for local communities perhaps via funding from central government channeled through local Council both for practical infrastructure projects and support and training programmes. Existing resilience programmes and structures need to be more joined up and involving all interested parties to ensure a joined up and comprehensive and effective programme of adaptation and resilience for local communities and areas. In terms of buildings, for example housing both public housing and private owned housing needs adequate funding from central government delivered through well-coordinated and comprehensive programmes to ensure that all residents are supported adequately to retrofit or bring existing housing stock up to a standard which delivers net zero and provides adequate protection and resilience to future climate related impacts. A similar level of support needs to be provided to Councils to enable them to bring public buildings and other local authority buildings up to an acceptable level of resilience and achievement of net zero.

Question 21.

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Towns & Cities

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

II. Health

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

III. Buildings

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

IV. Community Preparedness & Response

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

Question 22.

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3 risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

I. Towns & Cities

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

II. Health

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

III. Buildings

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

IV. Community Preparedness & Response

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

## Question 23.

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

There are adaptation actions not captured in the existing list of actions in the Annex to NICCAP3 that could further address risks highlighted in the CCRA3 around overheating, flooding, health impacts, buildings and communities' resilience. These are set out below.

### **Mandatory Standards for Existing Buildings**

NICCAP3 mentions developing an overheating mitigation requirement under building regulations (BE13) but Northern Ireland currently lacks a national retrofit scheme to ensure existing homes and buildings meet a climate-appropriate standard of summer comfort. This could be a requirement of planning applications for renovations and extensions, enforced by local authorities. Furthermore, NICCAP3 includes general retrofit references, for example NIHE developing a Climate Adaptation Plan (BE17) but broader social housing resilience programmes are not explicitly listed. There also needs to be resources and support available for private house owners as well as social housing for retrofitting.

### **Urban Green Spaces Mandated in Planning Policy**

NICCAP3 mentions introduction of an overheating mitigation requirement under The Building Regulations for new dwellings and other residential building work (BE13). However, building regulations could stipulate that nature-based cooling and drainage should be a requirement in new developments and retrofits (e.g. mandatory urban street tree canopy coverage minimums, green roofs/walls, permeable surfaces) and this could be integrated into regional planning policy and LDPs.

### **Public Health Heatwave Preparedness and Alerting System**

There is no specific action to roll out a dedicated heat-health alert system or indeed national Heatwave Plan, although this may form part of Action BE26 (new health protection legislative framework for NI). This system should incorporate targeted outreach (government messaging), guidelines for building managers, and adaptation support measures such as shaded green infrastructure or cooling centres.

### **Resilience Rating for Properties**

Introduce a voluntary or mandatory **Adaptation Resilience Label** (comparable to EPCs) for buildings, indicating resilience to flooding, overheating, and indoor air quality.

### **Climate-responsible land-use within Local Development Planning**

While there is some mention of policy and legislation to support flood alleviation / SuDS in NICCAP3, more robust control to avoid risky urban expansion through regional and local planning frameworks is absent. Local Development Plan (LDP) policies could also be strengthened to restrict development in urban heat islands and flood-prone areas unless resilience measures are proven.

## 2.7. Key Area: Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains

Objective:

*We will support businesses to understand and embed climate adaptation into their strategies and practices, to identify climate risks and to make the most of existing and emerging opportunities. Through encouraging cost-effective early action to strengthen operating models to the risks and impacts of Northern Ireland's changing climate, we will ensure our supply chains have the resilience needed to support our rich network of businesses for our climate today, and tomorrow.*

The final key area looks to the impacts of climate change on businesses and their supply chains and encompasses the thematic areas of Business and Finance. Described in Part 6 of the NICCAP3, this area recognises the impacts of climate change on the local and wider UK economy and the role the financial sector has in supporting business and the economy in building resilience. Chapters 15 and 16 in Part 6 seeks to provide context for the thematic areas within this key area as well as the specific risks and opportunities identified for each.

It is however important to recognise that aspects of this risk area, such as international finance risks, fall within UK Government reserved policy area of responsibility which means many of the levers to implement a change of policy are outside the control of NI Departments. However, with this caveat in mind, the actions relating to these risks that are within Northern Ireland's devolved government area of responsibility, can be found in the Annex to NICCAP3.

***If Disruption to Businesses and Supply Chains is of interest to you and you wish to respond to this Key Area, we would ask that you provide a response to all the questions within this section – Questions 24 to 27. Otherwise, please feel free to advance to the section on Impact Assessments beginning on page 25.***

Question 24.

Does the objective for Disruption to Businesses & Supply Chains provide the level of ambition required to meet the challenge of climate adaptation in this area?

**Yes** No

Additional comments to support your answer.

Adequate integrated support networks need to be in place to support businesses including those in flood risk areas, or areas which will in future be at risk of flooding. Adequate compensatory schemes need to be available for businesses who suffer loss of business or damage to goods and premises and these schemes need to be swift and easy to access for businesses affected.

Advice and support for businesses to develop robust supply chains and future proof them against climate change impacts are also very important.

Question 25.

To what extent do you think the detail in the chapters goes towards providing context for the thematic area and its associated risks and opportunities in respect of:

I. Business

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

II. Finance, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

Question 26.

To what extent do you think the actions in response to the CCRA3-IA risks and opportunities go towards providing for a well-adapted Northern Ireland in respect of:

I. Business

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

II. Finance, noting that this is a reserved policy area.

Not at all

To a Great Extent

0

1

2

3

4

5

Question 27.

Are you aware of any actions not currently captured in the Annex to NICCAP3 that might be included in response to any of the risks or opportunities identified for this key area?

To provide details

No.

## 2.8. Impact Assessments

In developing NICCAP3, and in line with good practice for policy development, we have undertaken the following impact assessments:

1. **Rural Impact Assessment** - Section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016<sup>8</sup> places a statutory duty on the Department to have due regard to the social and economic needs of people in rural areas in the development, implementation, revision or adoption of policies, strategies and plans and in the design and delivery of public services. Where a public authority is engaged in any such activity a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) should be undertaken.
2. **Equality & Disability Duties Screening Assessment** - Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998<sup>9</sup> places a statutory requirement on Departments which requires business areas taking forward a set of measures; or introducing a new or amended strategy, policy, procedure, or legislation; to complete an Equality and Disability Screening Analysis form. Where a major impact is identified then a full Equality Impact Assessment must be carried out.
3. **Strategic Environmental Assessment** - Strategic Environmental Assessment is required by the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004.<sup>10</sup>
4. **Child's Rights Impact Assessment** - CRIA is an approach which embeds children's rights considerations at the outset of developing legislation, strategies and policies. Applying the CRIA Framework and Tool will help avoid / mitigate any negative impacts at the earliest possible stage. The Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) are keen to see this incorporated into practice and as such, despite there not being a statutory requirement for this impact assessment, we have followed the NICCY guidance published in 2022<sup>11</sup> and have carried out a preliminary screening assessment for NICCAP3.
5. **Regulatory Impact Assessment** – A regulatory impact assessment is used to determine the anticipated impacts of a policy or policy revision on the business, voluntary and community sectors. While not a statutory requirement to carry out such an assessment, it forms part of best practice for policy development.

Each of these assessments have been prepared in draft form and can be seen as Annexes to this consultation document. Following feedback from this consultation they will be updated as appropriate and finalised. Currently the findings of each assessment can be summarised as follows:

While NICCAP3 contains a wide range of policies and proposals which cut across multiple sectors of society, because NICCAP3 is a high-level programme which serves as a coordination document for these policies and proposals its creation and presentation to the Assembly does not in itself impact on any of the areas covered by the listed assessments. However, as policies and proposals contained within NICCAP3 may impact on each area to varying degrees, it will be the responsibility of the owners of such policies or proposals to ensure they are individually screened or assessed as part of their development as appropriate.

As a result of this determination, in each case we have either found there to be no impact from the laying of NICCAP3 at the Assembly or have screened NICCAP3 out from a full assessment.

<sup>8</sup> [Rural Needs Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Northern Ireland Act 1998 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>10</sup> [The Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2004 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](#)

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.niccy.org/what-we-do/training/cria/>

*We would be grateful if Question 28 could be responded to by all consultees.*

Question 28.

Do you agree with this decision:

**Yes**                      No

Additional comments to support your answer

Whilst a lack of ambition on climate change adaptation could negatively impact on children’s rights as their future resilience will be affected by the adaptation decisions made today, NICCAP3 is not a policy or proposal itself, therefore we agree with the summary of impact provided.

## Part 3: Next Steps

### 3.1. Publication of Responses and Confidentiality

The Department will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation may be disclosed on request. The Department can refuse to disclose information only in exceptional circumstances.

Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations as these provide guidance on the legal position of any information given by you in response to this consultation. Any confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system in e-mail responses will not be treated as such a request.

### 3.2. Data Protection

Section 8(e) of the Data Protection Act 2018 permits processing of personal data when necessary for an activity that supports or promotes democratic engagement. Information provided by respondents to this consultation exercise will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.

### 3.3. Freedom of Information

The Freedom of Information Act 2000 gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority (the Department in this case). This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Department cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity, should be made public or treated as confidential. This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances.

The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- the Department should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Department's functions and it would not otherwise be provided;
- the Department should not agree to hold information received from third parties 'in confidence' which is not confidential in nature;
- acceptance by the Department of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses, please contact the Information Commissioner's Office:

Telephone: 0303 123 1113

Email: [ni@ico.org.uk](mailto:ni@ico.org.uk)

Website: <https://ico.org.uk/>

## Part 4: Glossary & Abbreviations

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|                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| CCC                | The UK Climate Change Committee are the statutory, independent, expert advisors on climate change. Established under section 32 of the Climate Change Act 2008 (the 2008 Act), they provide advice to the UK government and the governments of the UK Devolved Governments (including Northern Ireland).                                                                                                               |
| CCRA-IA            | Climate Change Risk Assessment – Independent Assessment. These are 5 yearly reports carried out by the CCC under section 57 of the 2008 Act to inform the UK CCRA as laid in Parliament by the UK Government. They set out and assesses the current and projected risks and impacts of climate change to the UK, with detailed specific information for each of the Devolved Governments (including Northern Ireland). |
| CCRA               | UK Climate Change Risk Assessment – these are 5 yearly reports which set out the current and predicted risks and impacts of climate change to the UK (including Northern Ireland). These reports are required to be developed and laid in the UK Parliament by the UK Government as required by the UK Climate Change Act 2008 and are informed by the CCC's earlier independent assessment of risk (CCRA-IA).         |
| DAERA              | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| NICCAP2<br>NICCAP3 | Northern Ireland Climate Change Adaptation Programmes - this is a 5-year programme which sets out Northern Ireland Departments' response to the risks and opportunities identified for Northern Ireland in the most recent 5-year UK Climate Change Risk Assessment as required by the UK Climate Change Act 2008.<br><br>This consultation is on the third of these Programmes, NICCAP3.                              |
| The 2022 Act       | The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| The 2008 Act       | The Climate Change Act 2008                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| UK                 | United Kingdom                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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

|                                                     |                                                                                                          |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Report to:</b>                                   | Sustainability and Environment Committee                                                                 |
| <b>Date of Meeting:</b>                             | 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2025                                                                          |
| <b>Subject:</b>                                     | Consultation on local authority and district council guidance on Grey Market goods in the United Kingdom |
| <b>Reporting Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b> | Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment                                                          |
| <b>Contact Officer<br/>(Including Job Title):</b>   | Sarah Davidson, Senior Environmental Health Officer                                                      |

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | For decision | X | For noting only |  |
|------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|---|-----------------|--|
| <b>1.0</b> | <b>Purpose and Background</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |              |   |                 |  |
| 1.1        | <p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to seek Committee approval on the response to the Food Standards Agency's (FSA) consultation on Local Authority and District Council guidance on Grey Market goods in the United Kingdom, as attached in Appendix 1.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |              |   |                 |  |
| 1.2        | <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>The consultation on local authority and district council guidance on grey market goods in the United Kingdom seeks views, comments, and feedback in relation to guidance produced by the Food Standards Agency (FSA) to support enforcement authorities identifying and taking action on food not intended for the UK market.</p> <p>These foods, also known as 'Grey Market goods', can contain unauthorised or excessive additives and/or ingredients which do not meet requirements set out in UK food safety legislation. They may also fail to identify allergens in the prescribed format.</p> <p>In the United Kingdom, food additives must be authorised for use in food before they can be placed on the UK market. Authorised food additives may be subject to conditions of use, including restricting their use to certain foods and where necessary controlling their use in food to maximum, specified limits.</p> <p>Whilst additives may feature on other global lists, e.g. Codex, the requirements for the UK market are specific to the UK and must be complied with when placing products on the UK market.</p> <p>The FSA maintains a full register of Authorised Regulated Food and Feed Products for Great Britain. Relevant information for the authorised food additives in England and Wales is held on the GB register of regulated food and feed products under the food additive authorisation list.</p> |              |   |                 |  |

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

|            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|            | In Northern Ireland, relevant information for the authorised food additives can be found in EU Regulation (EC) No. 1333/2008 on Food Additives and the European Commission's Food and Feed Information Portal Database. Whilst additives and E numbers may be on the lists, restrictions may apply as to what purpose and to what degree some additives/numbers can be used in food.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>2.0</b> | <b>Key Issues</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 2.1        | <p>This consultation seeks the District Council's views on the enforcement guidance in relation to Grey Market Goods in the United Kingdom, by receiving responses to the following questions;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Does the guidance clearly set out how authorities can use food law to enforce instances of non-compliant Grey Market goods?</li> <li>• Is there anything missing from the guidance or that the guidance does not adequately cover?</li> <li>• Do you feel the enforcement options outlined (e.g., seizure, improvement notices, prosecution) are sufficient and proportionate? If not, what additional options should be considered?</li> <li>• Is the guidance on over-stickering and labelling breaches clear?</li> <li>• Are the provided specimen notices and example letters useful for your enforcement work? Would any other examples be useful?</li> <li>• Does the guidance give you greater confidence to take enforcement action when non-compliant Grey Market goods are found?</li> <li>• Are there any gaps in the guidance regarding cross-border enforcement or coordination with port health authorities?</li> <li>• For future consideration, what additional training or resources would be helpful to support in connection with this guidance?</li> <li>• Do you have any other feedback?</li> </ul> |
| 2.2        | The Council's proposed Consultation response is detailed within Appendix 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>3.0</b> | <b>Recommendations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| 3.1        | <p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Approve the FSA consultation response in Appendix 1, on Local Authority and District Council guidance on Grey Market goods in the United Kingdom.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>Resource implications</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| 4.1        | N/A                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>5.0</b> | <b>Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| 5.1        | <b><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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

|     |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                     |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
|     | <i>n/a</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| 5.2 | <p><b><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></b></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                     |
| 5.3 | <p><b><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></b></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale: The reason for the condensed consultation is due to it not being statutory guidance and the Food Standards Agency are seeking views from a specific set of stakeholders. The time period of 8 weeks provides sufficient time for stakeholders to respond.</i></p> |                                     |
| 6.0 | <b>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |                                     |
| 6.1 | <p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                     |
| 7.0 | <b>Appendices</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                     |
|     | Appendix 1 - Consultation response on local authority and district council guidance on Grey Market goods in the United Kingdom.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                     |
| 8.0 | <b>Background Documents</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                     |
|     | <p>Web link to the consultation</p> <p><a href="https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/consultation-on-local-authority-and-district-council-guidance-on-grey-market-goods-in-the-united-kingdom">https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/consultation-on-local-authority-and-district-council-guidance-on-grey-market-goods-in-the-united-kingdom</a></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                     |

## Consultation on local authority and district council guidance on Grey Market goods in the United Kingdom

### ➤ Does the guidance clearly set out how authorities can use food law to enforce instances of non-compliant Grey Market goods?

Newry Mourne and Down District Council welcomes the recent clarification regarding the enforcement tools available to local authorities for addressing non-compliant food products. The updated guidance provides direction on actions that can be taken to remove such products from the market or to require Food Business Operators (FBOs) to undertake corrective measures to ensure compliance.

While the guidance covers enforcement options for issues such as unauthorised additives and labelling offences, it does not currently address the enforcement approach for Grey Market goods that may fall under the scope of Novel Foods legislation.

### ➤ Is there anything missing from the guidance or that the guidance does not adequately cover?

While the guidance refers in Section 14.1(a) to the seizure of unsafe food, it omits reference to detention powers under Article 8 of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. The Food Law Code of Practice allows for the use of Detention Notices to prevent food use and movement. We request that the guidance be amended to include direction on the use of detention powers for food containing unauthorised ingredients.

Clarification is sought on enforcement action where products containing allergens are not labelled in English. In accordance with Article 14(4)(b) of Regulation 178/2002, such products may be deemed unsafe due to inadequate consumer information. Should these products be subject to seizure?

Section 14.1(b) of the guidance links to the list of authorised ingredients for England and Wales. For Northern Ireland, a link to the EU Union List of Novel Foods should be included to support enforcement under retained EU law

Section 14.1(e) on the condemnation procedure makes reference to Magistrates' Court is not applicable in Northern Ireland. Food seized must be presented to a Justice of the Peace for condemnation under Schedule 4 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002. The guidance should be amended to reflect this jurisdictional difference

Section 14.3 (d) refers to non- food legislation. Clarification is sought as to which body enforces this legislation in NI. Similarly, in Section 14.5 it refers to consumer protection legislation. Is this the same legislation listed in Section 14.3 (d)?

Section 15.3 refers to intelligence sharing and councils in Northern Ireland do not have access to IDB. Guidance should be provided on alternative mechanisms for intelligence sharing between NI District Councils, the FSA, UK authorities, and EU counterparts, including ports

Section 16.6 The term “immediate” in Regulation 178/2002 lacks definition. The FSA guidance should specify expected timeframes for FBOs to initiate withdrawals and provide traceability details (e.g., customer lists, Point of Sale Notices).

The Council is concerned that current enforcement tools are insufficient when dealing with importers/distributors who refuse or delay withdrawals/recalls of products posing imminent risks. A Permit to Trade system could empower local authorities to suspend trading until compliance is achieved

Section 16.6 should be expanded to include enforcement actions available to the FSA, such as issuing a Food Alert for Action (FAFA) where allergen risks exist and businesses fail to cooperate with withdrawal or traceability.

The template letter provided allows for limited amendments. We suggest adding an annex listing common unauthorised additives, such as Mineral Oil, Southampton Colours, and incorrect nutritional declarations, to support consistent enforcement.

➤ **Do you feel the enforcement options outlined (e.g., seizure, improvement notices, prosecution) are sufficient and proportionate? If not, what additional options should be considered?**

Although Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) are not currently available as an enforcement tool for food law breaches, Newry Mourne and Down District Council would welcome consideration by the FSA of introducing FPNs for specific offences, such as non-compliant or incorrect labelling, particularly where allergens are involved. This would provide a proportionate and efficient enforcement mechanism, especially in cases where prosecution may not be appropriate, but a formal sanction is warranted.

➤ **Is the guidance on over-stickering and labelling breaches clear?**

Section 14.3 refers to the use of Improvement or Compliance Notices to bring Food Business Operators (FBOs) into compliance. It is suggested that this section be split into two distinct enforcement pathways:

- Retailers who have been provided with overstickers but have failed to apply them.
- Importers who have failed to provide overstickers in the first instance.

This distinction would support more targeted enforcement and reflect the differing responsibilities of each party in the supply chain.

Clarification is requested regarding Grey Market products imported into the UK and sold to a distributor in Northern Ireland. Section 11.1 of the guidance states that the label must include a UK or EU address. Given that the NI distributor is effectively the importer into the EU market, is it required that their name and address appear on the label?

Section 16.7 was felt to be unclear. Clarification is sought on whether the offence described would be:

- Placing unsafe food on the market, under Regulation (EC) No 178/2002, or

- Providing misleading information, under the Food Information Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014.

Clear guidance on the appropriate legislative route would assist enforcement officers in determining the correct course of action.

➤ **Are the provided specimen notices and example letters useful for your enforcement work? Would any other examples be useful?**

Newry Mourne and Down District Council welcomes the inclusion of template notices and example wording in the guidance. However, the current examples are not sufficiently tailored to the types of offences commonly encountered with Grey Market products, such as:

- The presence of unauthorised additives.
- Non-English labelling, particularly where allergens are not clearly identified.
- Failure to provide overstickers or apply them correctly.

It is therefore suggested that the guidance be expanded to include:

- Example wording for Seizure Notices specifically addressing unauthorised ingredients and allergen labelling breaches.
- Additional Improvement Notice templates that reflect the typical contraventions associated with Grey Market goods.
- Clearer differentiation in notice wording between importers (who fail to provide compliant labelling) and retailers (who fail to apply corrective labelling provided).

This would support consistency in enforcement and ensure that notices are legally robust and proportionate to the offence.

➤ **Does the guidance give you greater confidence to take enforcement action when non-compliant Grey Market goods are found?**

Once clarification is provided on the points raised above, Food Safety Officers will be more confident in taking enforcement action against non-compliant Grey Market goods. Clear, jurisdiction-specific guidance will support consistent decision-making and ensure that public health risks are addressed effectively and proportionately.

➤ **Are there any gaps in the guidance regarding cross-border enforcement or coordination with port health authorities?**

Sections 12.1 and 14.4 mention powers to detain food at the border under Regulation 31 of the Official Feed and Food Controls Regulations (NI) 2009. These powers apply when food is non-compliant or poses a risk, as defined in Regulation 2017/625.

The definition of "risk" includes issues like food safety, fair trading, and protecting consumer information. Based on this, Newry Mourne and Down District Council believes that poorly labelled third-country products, especially those missing allergen information, could be detained at the port. We would welcome clear confirmation from the FSA that this interpretation is correct.

Section 16.6 of the enforcement guidance should include a direct link to the FSA’s Guidance on Food Traceability, Withdrawals and Recalls within the UK Food Industry.

➤ **For future consideration, what additional training or resources would be helpful to support in connection with this guidance?**

Newry Mourne and Down District Council appreciates the inclusion of template notices in the guidance. However, the current wording does not fully reflect the types of offences commonly seen with Grey Market goods. We would welcome the FSA providing additional model wording for Seizure Notices and Improvement Notices, to help ensure consistency across local authorities.

➤ **Do you have any other feedback?**

Once the final guidance is published, the Council would support a coordinated national or regional training initiative, led by the FSA, to help enforcement officers address the challenges of non-compliant Grey Market goods confidently and consistently.

**ITEM 3**  
**ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting No 097**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday 26 June 2025**  
**Hybrid meeting hosted by Belfast City Council**  
**In Belfast City Hall**

**Members Present:**

Councillor M Goodman (*Chair*)  
 Councillor A Bennington  
 Councillor J Cochrane  
 Alderman O Gawith  
 Alderman M Morrow  
 Councillor K Murphy  
 Councillor C Enright  
 Councillor T Andrews

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

**Members' Apologies:**

Councillor H Cushinan  
 Councillor E Thompson  
 Councillor C Blaney  
 Councillor B Smyth  
 Councillor M Collins  
 Councillor E McDonough-Brown  
 Councillor A Givan  
 Alderman S Skillen  
 Councillor R Quigley  
 Councillor G McKeen (*Deputy Chair*)

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council  
 Ards & North Down Borough Council  
 Ards & North Down Borough Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Belfast City Council  
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council  
 Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

**Officers Present:**

T Walker  
 H Campbell  
 K Boal  
 B McKeown  
 M Lavery  
 D Lindsay  
 G Bannister  
 J Frazer  
 B Murray  
 A McCann  
 G Richardson  
 S Morley  
 C Hunter  
 S Murphy

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

**Officers' Apologies:**

J Green  
 S Leonard

arc21  
 Belfast City Council

The Chair welcomed former Members, Alderman Gawith and Councillor Bennington, back to arc21, as the new representatives of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, respectively.

#### **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 096 held on 29 May 2025**

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Cllr Enright, seconded by Cllr Murphy, and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

#### **Item 4 - Matters Arising**

Any 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 Bennington and seconded by Ald Gawith.

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 seven matters discussed.

**Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 095 held on 27 March 2025 'in committee' (approved)**

**Item 6 - Matters Arising (noted)**

**Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project (approved)**

**Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues (approved)**

**Item 9 - Financial Report for the year to March 2025 (noted)**

**Item 10 - Draft Annual Report of the Audit Committee to the Joint Committee 2024/25 (noted)**

**Item 11 - Audit Committee Meeting 3 June 2025 Report (noted)**

## OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Bennington and seconded by Ald Gawith.

### Item 12 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

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

#### Service Status

She reported that RiverRidge continue to draw upon their contingency arrangements for the MEABC Call Off Contract B Lot 2, and all other contracts were operating as anticipated.

#### Performance

The contractor performance in May 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 reported that the overweight vehicles continued to be monitored, and noted that there had been a significant increase in the Organics contract compared to the last few months which was anticipated at this time of the year.

She noted that site visits were currently in abeyance due to resource issues and staff had been diverted elsewhere.

#### Health & Safety

The Health & Safety incidents during May were presented and she reported that there were three incidents in total including breakdown of vehicles and one driver incident. Ms Boal noted that, as previously advised to the Committee, it was intended to arrange a meeting with the relevant council officers in September/October to review the incidents and trends during the year, look at the work that had been done, and learnings obtained.

#### Audits

She reported that during May, the Health & Safety consultant had conducted an audit at Natural World Products (NWP) at the Antrim Transfer station. She noted that there had been no issues identified or actions recommended, and the consultant had stated that the company had maintained a high level of compliance on site.

#### Rejected Loads

She noted that there had been no rejected loads into either the material recovery delivery sites or organics delivery sites during May.

#### arc21 Contract Tonnages

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

MRF Contract – Lot 1 - a 4% decrease;

MRF Contract – Lot 2 - a 3.2% decrease;

Organics Contract: Type 1 – a 14.2% decrease; and Type 2 – a decrease of 14.8%.

Supplies

A summary of orders and deliveries of supplies for May was presented, and Ms Boal noted that there had been no non-compliances.

She advised that council officers continue to be reminded to place orders for supplies at the earliest opportunity as delays due to transportation and increased demand for certain categories of containers etc. may occur which may affect delivery timescales.

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

**Action: Noted**

**Item 13 - 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:

- all new residual contracts now shown in graph format, however too early to identify any trends;
- total residual tonnages showing spike in Dec as new contracts come on board and has levelled over the last two months around 20k tonnes;
- Organics type 1 – slightly lower than last 2 years but higher than 2022/23 year; Type 2 similar trajectory to 2022/23 year and lower than last two years;
- MRF combined annual tonnage for Lots 1 and 2 similar trajectory as 2022/23 and 2024/25;
- Bring glass tonnages at lowest in previous four years, possibly due to councils putting in their own separate glass collections;
- Bring textiles – market has changed little since last discussed and still receiving lower income than if market back to normal. CTR have assured us that there will be no affect to our collections and we keep in regular contact with them to monitor. Tonnage sitting above last three years during April and May.

The other smaller contract tonnages were also presented for information.

She reported that the second part of the report showed an analysis of current performance against future landfill and recycling targets using information from Waste Data Flow (2024/25 unvalidated) and highlighted the following:

- percentage of household waste to landfill - % was decreasing as new contracts have come on board, BCC and NMDDC sitting virtually at 0%. Total arc21 sitting at approx. 15% in comparison to over 30% 4 years ago and this is expected to drop further going forward due to the new residual contracts in place;
- percentage of household waste recycled and composted against a target of 70%, was fairly consistent across the councils over the past four years with the exception of A&NDBC who had seen a consistent step increase getting closer to 60%;
- local authority and household waste recycled and composted as a % of Local authority collected municipal and household waste arisings was fairly consistent at 50% for the past four years.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Cllr Bennington and seconded by Cllr Andrews.

**Action: Noted**

## Item 14 - Consultation on Reform of Landfill Tax in England and Northern Ireland

Ms Boal presented Members with the arc21 draft response to the consultation on reform of the landfill tax in England and Northern Ireland, currently out to public consultation.

She reported that the intention of the consultation was to seek views on Government's proposals to transition to a more circular economy, to simplify the tax and reduce opportunities for error and non-compliance, and to crack down on crime.

She noted that the draft, presented at the last Committee meeting, had been updated to take on board comments received, and also included wording which reflected upon developments arising from the Mobuoy court case and the recently published report from the NIAO on Waste Crime.

It was recommended that Members review the responses and subject to any further final comments being received from Members before 11 July, approve that the submission may be submitted prior to the close of the consultation on 21 July 2025.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to approve the recommendation. Proposed by Cllr Enright, seconded by Ald Gawith, and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

## Item 15 - arc21 Customer Surveys 2024/25

Ms Boal presented Members with a report on the annual results from the arc21 Customer Surveys and the workshop evaluation forms for 2024/25 in relation to work carried out by the arc21 Waste Promotion Officer. These were discussed as follows.

### (i) arc21 Questionnaire based Customer Survey – Officers

She noted that responses had been received from all councils and highlighted the following:

- satisfaction with information regularly provided – no respondents dissatisfied and generally very satisfied overall;
- performance across a number of aspects – around 70% in the 'excellent' category with a few general comments noted;
- engagement – around 80%-90% 'very satisfied' and no comments noted;
- overall satisfaction 57% 'very satisfied' and 43% 'satisfied';
- services provided by arc21 – all respondents expressed satisfaction rather than dissatisfaction;
- topic specific information – around 60% content with information and some other areas were identified by officers that would be beneficial including *Rethinking our Resources*, and NI legislation.

Some further questions were noted, and no responses received in relation to what aspects of arc21's work were least valued.

Overall, she noted that the feedback had been generally positive and that the next steps would be for the SMT to review and consider.

(ii) Feedback provided in person from the Chief Executives and Directors

She noted that as part of the internal audit review, it had been recommended that in addition to the customer surveys that arc21 should engage with Chief Executives and Directors as part of its regular quarterly meeting cycle to elicit further feedback. A summary of the feedback was provided in the report for information and again she advised that these would be considered by the SMT for any actions resulting.

(iii) Education and Awareness Programme Feedback

The results of the evaluation forms in terms of the education programme, were presented and she highlighted the following:

- 98% very satisfied with the visit;
- 100% agreed that the programme achieved the objective;
- 100% agreed that the programme was suitable for the age group/audience;
- 100% strongly agreed that the presenter gave clear and easy to follow instructions

Some of the comments noted in the forms were also noted which were very positive.

(iv) Questionnaire for Joint Committee Members

Ms Boal noted that a questionnaire had been circulated for Members to complete and encouraged all those who had sat on the Committee prior to June 2025 to complete the survey as it formed part of arc21's ISO accreditation process which would be subject to certification in September/October 2025.

Following discussion, the Chair encouraged the relevant Members to respond to the annual survey and to note the report. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Gawith.

**Action: arc21 Members / Noted**

**Item 16 - AOB**Consultation on the EU Emissions Trading System and the Market Stability Reserve

Ms Boal advised that arc21 had become aware at a recent meeting that the Department had received confirmation that energy from waste facilities in NI generating electricity would fall into the EU ETS. She noted that there was still questions over where they would fit if they generated both electricity and heat, and advised that arc21 would continue to follow this up with the Department.

She noted that arc21 had also been advised of a consultation which had been out for a couple of months and due to close on 8 July in terms of the EU ETS Call for Evidence. She advised that the majority of questions would not be relevant to ourselves, but one of the questions related to municipal waste incineration and accordingly it was felt that there was merit in drafting a response. She advised that arc21's response was unlikely to differ to the one submitted to the UK ETS consultation in 2024 and was related to the fact that councils do not have control over the waste tonnages and composition.

She advised that the EU were also considering other waste activities, such as landfill particularly as one of the aspects highlighted through the UK ETS consultation was that there could be a perverse incentive to landfill as it might be cheaper.

Following discussion, it was recommended that a draft response is prepared and discussed with the Chair and/or nominee to finalise in order to meet the 8 July deadline.

**Action: Mr Walker and Ms Boal**

**Item 17 - Next Meeting Thursday 28 August 2025, using MS Teams**

The Chair thanked Belfast City Council for hosting the meeting and wished everyone a pleasant summer break. As there was no meeting scheduled in July, he noted that the next meeting would be held on Thursday 28 August using MS Teams.

**Action: Noted**

**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chairman:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report 2024/25

KEEP  
NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
BEAUTIFUL

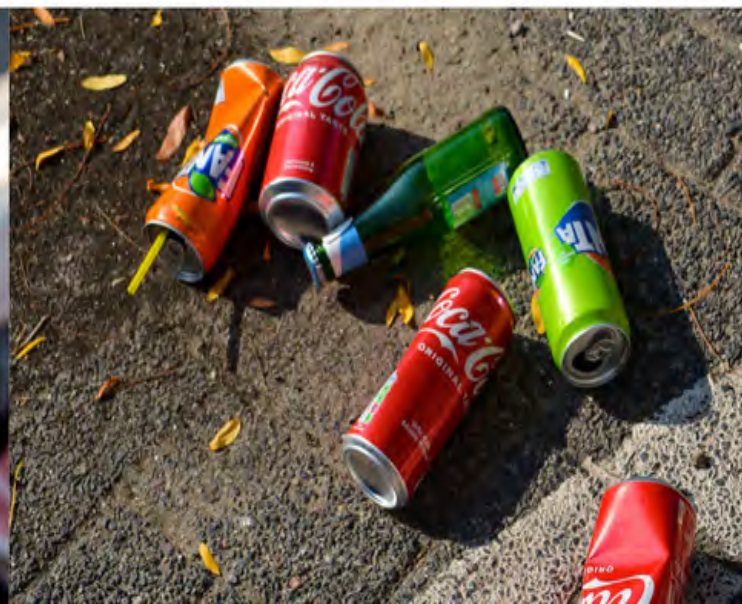


**CLEANER  
NEIGHBOURHOODS**

70

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# What is the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report?

## The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report provides a yearly analysis of Northern Ireland's local environmental quality.

The report sets out to give clear, unbiased information about anti-social behaviours, such as littering, dog fouling and graffiti. In total, the report is based on surveying Northern Ireland's cleanliness levels in the following areas:

- **Litter** – anything that is dropped, discarded or thrown down by a member of the public. It includes cigarettes, confectionery wrappers, crisp bags, bottles, cans, PPE and many more things, as well as dog fouling.

- **Detritus** – comprising small, broken down particles of synthetic and natural materials. This includes dust, mud, soil, rotted leaf and vegetable residues, and fragments of twigs, glass, plastic and other finely divided materials.

- **Graffiti** – writing or drawings scribbled, scratched, or sprayed illicitly on a wall or other surface in, or visible from, a public place. Murals and cultural artworks are not considered graffiti.

- **Flyposting** – the placing of unauthorised advertising or posters in a public place, and includes stickers, bills and large posters.

- **Staining** – all the substances that mark a pavement, and commonly includes chewing gum, oil, drinks stains and heavy discolouration.

All sites, or transects, are assessed to establish the extent to which they are degraded by the presence of each of the pollutants noted above. The transect is then given a pass or fail award and allocated a respective cleanliness score, both of which contribute to creating the overall picture of Northern Ireland's environmental health and performance.

To generate the most accurate and insightful analysis of pollution in Northern Ireland's different landscapes and communities, the Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report collects local environmental quality data from a diverse and standardised range of transects that extend to all parts of the country. The full set of land-use types surveyed are: Primary Retail, Secondary Retail, Rural Area, Main Road, High Obstruction Residential, Low Obstruction Residential, Recreational and Industry/

Retail Sheds. Finally, as well as providing a summary of the Northern Ireland Litter Survey, which looks at pollution indicators around the country, the report includes details on enforcement actions taken by councils, including the number of fixed penalties issued for littering and dog fouling, and the associated estimated cleansing spend costs for taxpayers.

## Methodology

The 2024 Northern Ireland litter surveys were carried out between the months of July and September. From this work we calculate two separate but related scores. The Litter Pollution Index is the percentage of transects that failed to reach an acceptable standard of cleanliness. The LEAMS approach of measuring litter assigns scores based on an assessment of litter presence, type and source. LEAMS scores record standards of cleanliness (Grades A to D). This year's report is based on 1,100 surveys conducted across NI (100 surveys per council area).



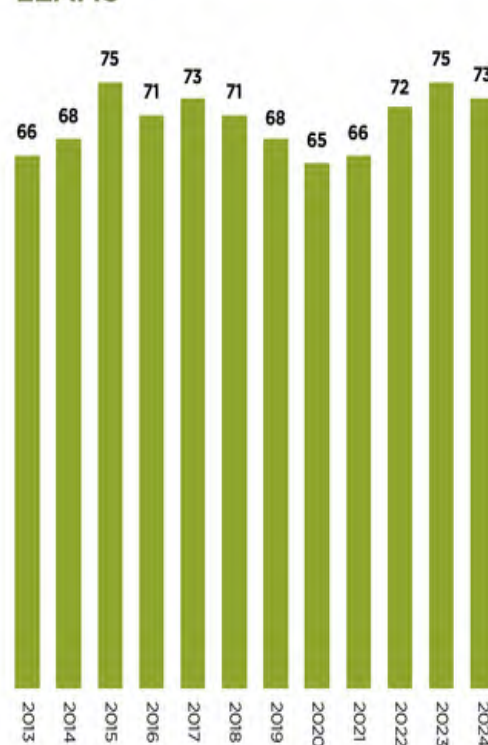
# Summary

## The Big Picture

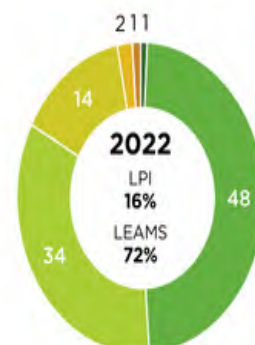
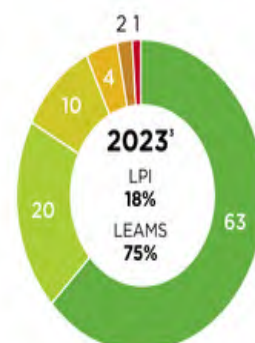
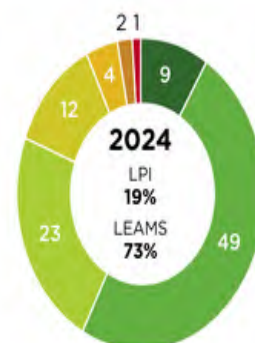
### Findings and insights

- **19% of transects** surveyed in 2024 failed to reach the acceptable standard for cleanliness (Grade A to B). This is a 1% deterioration on the 2023/24 results.<sup>1</sup>
- **The LEAMS score**, which reflects the average score out of 100 of all transects surveyed, decreased to 73%, a fall of 2% from 23/24.<sup>1</sup>
- **Dog fouling<sup>2</sup>** – fouling decreased in 2024 to 4%, down from 7% in 2023. A positive reduction towards the 2022 figure of 2%.

## LEAMS



LEAMS is an alternative method of measuring litter and other indicators which is used in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Unlike the pass/ fail 'Performance Indicator', LEAMS scores are generated by assigning a value to each grade (A=3 B=2 C=1 D=0), and then calculating the average value of all the grades assigned. This average is presented as a percentage of the total available points for the transects surveyed. It differs from the Performance Indicators, in that LEAMS scores take account of how clean or littered a transect is, rather than just whether it is a pass or fail. Scores closer to 100 indicate better performance. It is easier to set a target under the LEAMS system; 66 is the point at which performance is considered acceptable, as it equates with an average grade B.



### KEY

- Grade A (pass)**  
Completely free of indicator (litter.)
- Grade B+ (pass)**  
Predominantly free of indicator apart from some small items
- Grade B (pass)**  
Many small indicator items or one larger item
- Grade B- (fail)**  
A few larger indicator items
- Grade C (fail)**  
Many larger indicator items
- Grade C- (fail)**  
Accumulations of larger indicator items
- Grade D (fail)**  
Transect is heavily affected by indicator, both widespread and accumulated

The rings (left) show the percentage of transects surveyed that were allocated each of the seven grades available (see key above).

Litter Pollution Index (LPI) denotes the percentage of transects that failed to meet acceptable standards.

Totals may not equal 100 due to the rounding up or down of figures to make whole numbers.



<sup>1</sup> This year's report is based on 1,100 transects. Samples informing this report have been collected from all Northern Ireland councils. These 1,100 surveys give a good representation of Northern Ireland, with a margin of error of +/- 3%.

<sup>2</sup> The percentage reflects the number of transects surveyed where dog fouling was present.

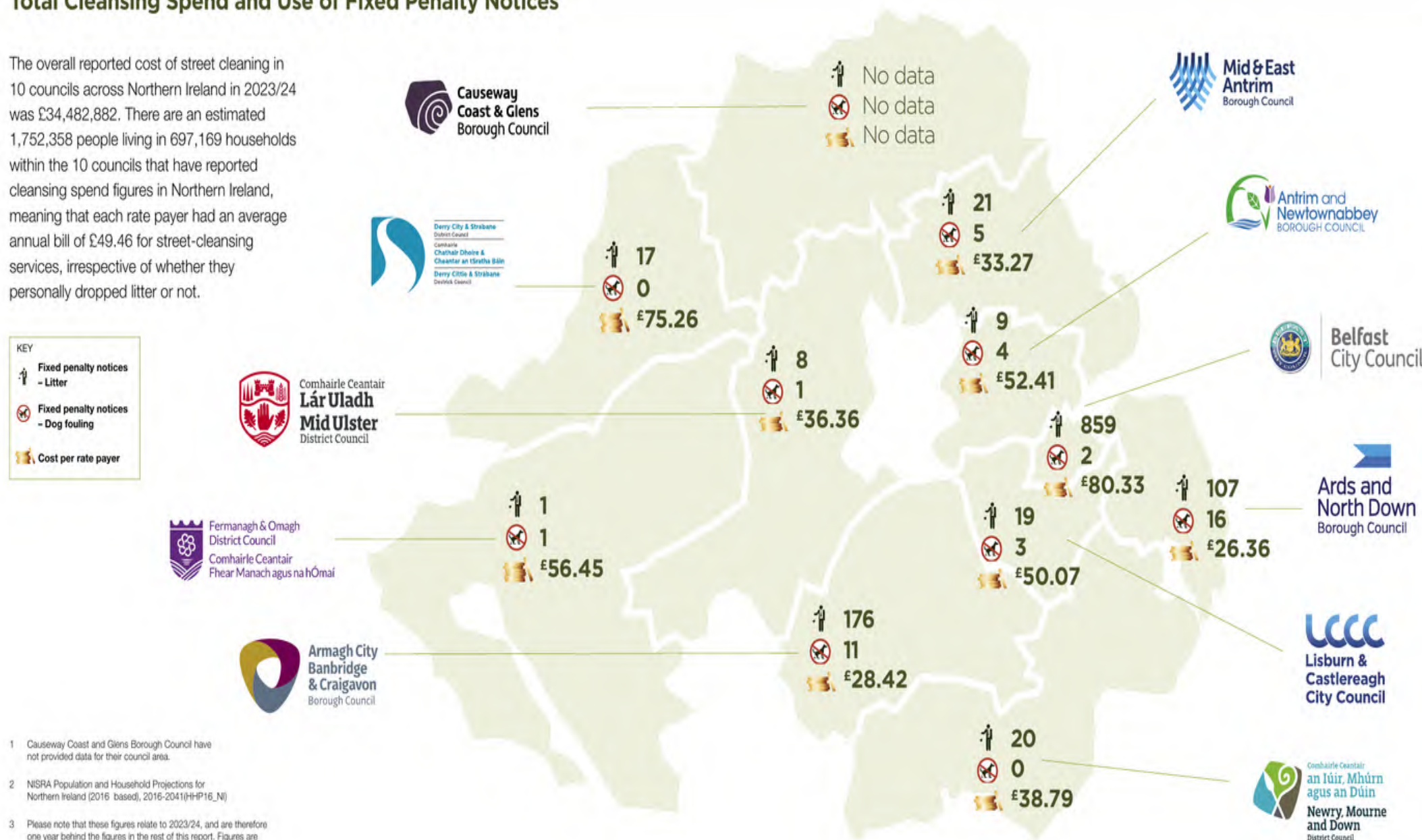
<sup>3</sup> For quality assurance purposes, in 2023, grades A and B+ (high passes) have been presented together.

## Total Cleansing Spend and Use of Fixed Penalty Notices

The overall reported cost of street cleaning in 10 councils across Northern Ireland in 2023/24 was £34,482,882. There are an estimated 1,752,358 people living in 697,169 households within the 10 councils that have reported cleansing spend figures in Northern Ireland, meaning that each rate payer had an average annual bill of £49.46 for street-cleansing services, irrespective of whether they personally dropped litter or not.

KEY

|  |                                     |
|--|-------------------------------------|
|  | Fixed penalty notices – Litter      |
|  | Fixed penalty notices – Dog fouling |
|  | Cost per rate payer                 |



1 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council have not provided data for their council area.

2 NISRA Population and Household Projections for Northern Ireland (2016 based), 2016-2041 (HP16\_NI)

3 Please note that these figures relate to 2023/24, and are therefore one year behind the figures in the rest of this report. Figures are only made available in autumn of the following year.

# The Deposit Return Scheme

**The Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is now just over a year old in the Republic of Ireland, where it came into operation in February 2024. The new initiative has delivered a real waste revolution with impressive results that Northern Ireland can take forward and should pay real attention to.**

It should give us all confidence that when governments ask the public to change their behaviours and embrace change, they will respond. In August 2024, 111 million containers were returned. In the first eight months of the scheme's operation, more than 630 million containers were returned. The scale of this success demonstrates the public's appetite for building a circular economy.

A Deposit Return Scheme has had more comprehensive environmental benefits, particularly in reducing litter and the amount of single-use plastics found. This is fast becoming an essential tool in fighting Ireland's litter problem. It is helping to reduce the amount of litter that is harmful to our wildlife and other ecosystems.

Our local Executive is committed to introducing a Deposit Return Scheme for drink containers from October 2027. The success of the Deposit Return Scheme in its first year in the Republic of Ireland should give us confidence that we can also enjoy similar results in Northern Ireland.

Working together, government, business, and the environment sector can achieve impressive results in a short period of time. That's the important lesson that Ireland's Deposit Return Scheme teaches us. Northern Ireland must be ambitious and collaborative in bringing the public along with us on this journey.

The Cleaner Neighbourhoods Report tells us much about Northern Ireland's litter problem, from the costs of

inaction on essential issues to the need to change how we, the public, deal with litter and waste. Sometimes, it is easy to wonder whether we can overcome this problem. A Deposit Return Scheme is a piece of the bigger picture to resolve litter issues in Northern Ireland.

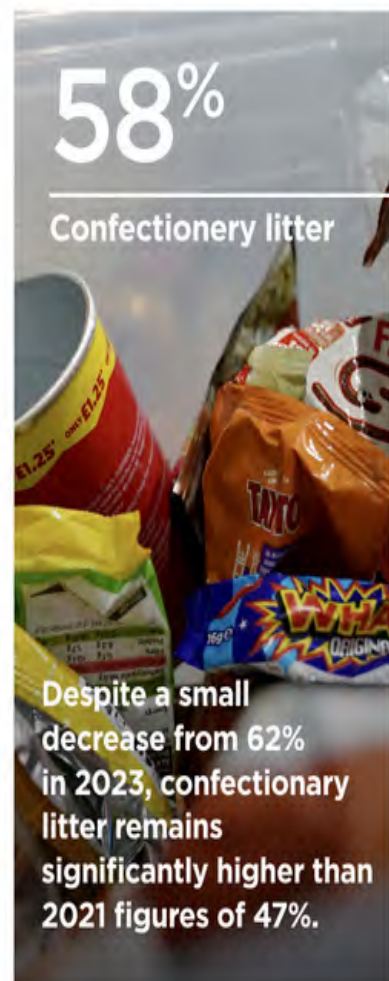
However, reading about the success of initiatives such as the Deposit Return Scheme reminds us that, through a series of practical steps, we can turn the tide on litter and improve our society.

As we embark on our journey with a Deposit Return Scheme, we can take heart from the Republic of Ireland's success and be confident in our approach to the future.



# Worst offenders 2024<sup>1</sup>

These are the four types of litter most frequently found on transects. These percentages represent the number of transects that were observed to have a certain type of litter. This is not reflective of the quantity of any litter type found within the transects, whereas LEAMS and LPI figures do reflect litter volumes.



<sup>1</sup> The percentage reflects the number of transects surveyed that had that particular litter present.

<sup>2</sup> Whilst dog fouling is not a 'worst offender', it is reported here as it carries its own unique enforcement penalties.

# Recommendations for Individuals, Government and Businesses

In February 2024, devolution was restored in Northern Ireland after two years of collapse. Having an Executive in place is critical in helping drive forward the policy measures needed for Northern Ireland to fight the climate emergency effectively. The issues raised in this report highlight the need for the full and speedy implementation of many of the measures in the Environmental Improvement Plan, particularly in litter and a circular economy. Below are the actions within the plan that should be particular focus areas during this mandate. Northern Ireland has no more time to waste when implementing further measures that reduce litter and improve our environment.

## 1. Publication of the Litter Strategy in 2027

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful has long called for a litter strategy and it is welcome that this is referenced in the plan. For this strategy to be effective, it must take a joined-up approach to tackling the causes of litter. That must include detailed approaches to educating the public about the true damage that littering causes. In addition, effective joined-up enforcement measures are needed. This must continue with public engagement that seeks to change behaviours.

## 2. By 2030, create cleaner communities with less litter and instil civic pride within communities.

This report has highlighted the distance that Northern Ireland needs to travel to meet this goal. We still face litter issues, particularly in confectionary litter and dog fouling. Our local councils are on the frontline in our battle against litter regarding enforcement and the cost of clean-ups. This is why we endorse the goal of less litter and improving civic pride across Northern Ireland. Our Live Here Love Here campaign works with most local councils to promote these important messages and support groups to build more civic pride in our communities.

## 3. By 2035, bring about a societal behavioural shift, where littering is socially unacceptable and the costs for clearing litter are significantly reduced in real terms.

This report has revealed that cleaning up litter is a problem worth over £34.4 million<sup>1</sup> in Northern Ireland. To achieve the goal, it is important to recognise that increasing spending on clean-up will not change behaviour. Funding can be reallocated to projects and campaigns that work towards changing the behaviour of individuals and corporations.

Our Eco-Schools programme is already working with our young people to instil the importance of looking after our environment, and in 2024, the Generation Nature pilot project was launched, which will help student teachers develop practical environmental skills to manage school grounds that support biodiversity and help fight the climate emergency.

## 4. From 2025, phase in new UK wide Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme for packaging.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) provides a real opportunity to change how we deal with waste; it will shift packaging waste costs from local taxpayers to those who produce it. This will encourage producers to reduce their overall packaging and adopt packaging that is easier to recycle. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful welcomes the adoption of EPR measures and we urge packaging producers to take this opportunity to minimise packaging waste, especially single-use plastic and improve recyclability by resolving difficult to recycle packaging such as pringles tubes, coffee cups and sandwich packets. This will achieve the desired environmental benefits and minimise potential price increases passed on to customers.

## 5. From 2027, introduce a Deposit Return Scheme for drink containers.

A Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) would see consumers paying an up-front deposit for specified drinks containers. Returning the empty packaging after use would allow the deposit to be redeemed. This practice would help incentivise the correct disposal of packaging, as it would now have a monetary value. DRS would also greatly reduce the number of plastic items reaching our seas. It would help Northern Ireland tackle marine plastic pollution, support the excellent work being done, and tackle some of the more commonly littered items we see in this report.

## 6. Prepare regulations to enable the Northern Ireland Assembly to restrict the sale or supply of ten common single-use plastic items.

Many of the items of litter highlighted in this report demonstrate the need to restrict the level of single-use plastic. The ban on single-use vapes which came into force in June 2025 is a welcome step towards reducing the amount of single-use plastics in Northern Ireland. Reducing the use of some single-use plastics can help towards driving down the amount of this type of litter we are finding.

<sup>1</sup> This figure excludes cleansing spend for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council.



To discuss how we can work together to tackle littering please contact:



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