

November 18th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 19th November 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 and Environment Committee Meeting Held on 22 October 2025

📎 *Action Sheet - 22.10.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

Page 1

For Consideration and/or Decision

4.0 Climate Mitigation Report

📎 *SE Committee Report - NI Public Bodies Climate Change Mitigation report.pdf*

Page 14

📎 *Appendix 1 Climate Change Public Body Reporting NMDDC Submitted Report Oct 2025.pdf*

Page 17

5.0 Mid-Year Assessment of S&E Directorate Business Plan

📎 *SE Cover Report Mid Year Assessment of Business Plans 2025-26.pdf*

Page 119

📎 *Appendix 1 - SE Mid Year Assessment of Business Plan 2025-26.pdf*

Page 121

6.0 Health Forums

📎 *SE Committee Report - Health Fora 19.11.25.pdf*

Page 132

📎 *Appendix 1 SPR report on Consultation Arrangements for HSCTs (17.08.17).pdf*

Page 135

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

7.0 Waste Contracts

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

📎 *Committee Report - Waste Contracts 19 Nov 25.pdf*

Not included

8.0 CCTV Contract

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 *SE Committee Report - CCTV Contract.pdf*

Not included

9.0 Business Case for Driver Licence Training

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

 *SE Committee Report - Business Case for Driving Licence Training.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 1 - Business Case - C1 E Driving Licence Training.pdf*

Not included

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


10.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 30 October 2025 & Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 25 September 2025

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business

to follow

 *ARC21 - JC100-30Oct25-Item5-JCInCommMinutes 25Sept25.F.pdf*

Not included

 *ARC21 - JC100-30Oct25-JC MembersBulletin-F.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

11.0 Arc21 Joint Committee AGM and Meeting held on Thursday 25 September 2025


 *ARC21 - JC100-30Oct25-Item3-JCMinutes25Sept25.F.pdf*

Page 138

12.0 S&E Working Meeting Schedule

 *Revised Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026 incorporating S&E wking group & C&R*

Page 146

13.0	Taskgroup.pdf Christmas and New Year Arrangements - Refuse Collections and Household Recycling Centres	
	 SE Committee Report - Christmas arrangements for refuse collection and HRC's (1).pdf	Page 147

14.0	NI Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Annual Report	
	 lac-municipal-waste-q1-2025-26-infographic.pdf	Page 150

15.0	DAERA Consultation on NI Climate Adaptation Plan	
	 SE Committee Report - NI Climate Action Plan Consultation (Revised).pdf	Page 151
	 Appendix 1 - NICAP Consultation (Revised) November 2025.pdf	Page 154

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 Aurla King
.....
Cllr Mickey Larkin
.....
Cllr David Lee-Surginor
.....
Cllr Alan Lewis
.....
Cllr Oonagh Magennis
.....
Mr Conor Mallon
.....
Cllr Aidan Mathers
.....
Cllr Declan McAteer
.....
Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
.....
Cllr Kate Murphy
.....
Cllr Selina Murphy
.....
Cllr Declan Murphy
.....
Sinead Murphy
.....
Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
.....
Mr Andy Patterson
.....

Cllr Áine Quinn
.....
Cllr Henry Reilly
.....
Cllr Michael Rice
.....
Cllr Michael Ruane
.....
Mr Conor Sage
.....
Cllr David Taylor
.....
Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
.....
Ms Sinead Trainor
.....
Cllr Jill Truesdale
.....
Mrs Marie Ward
.....
Cllr Helena Young
.....

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

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 21 APRIL 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/052/2022	Compost Week 2022	Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste. Note and approve the launch of an application process, with set criteria, to establish demand for deploying brown bins to residents of high rise buildings who were not previously provided with these.	S Trainor	In progress	N
NS/057/2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel	Approve the Officers recommendation that the legal position of the Council regarding its maintenance of the events space, Kilkeel, is reviewed with a separate report to be provided to the Council once this has been considered further.	C Sage	Legal position and maintenance of the events space being confirmed. Report to be brought back to S&E Committee.	N
NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 22 JUNE 2022					
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	S Trainor	In progress	N

		Enforcement Improvement Plan to be incorporated into a timebound programme of work for 2022/23 and annually thereafter. Test case footpaths – small footpath leading to WIN – officers to examine this area for dog fouling.			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023					
SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion. It was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the outcome of the legal process was known.	S Trainor	On hold pending legal process	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023					
SE/125/2023	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock worrying	It was agreed that a meeting be organised with relevant partners to discuss a way forward to produce a publicity campaign highlighting the importance of ensuring dogs are kept under control in the Mourne Mountains.	S Trainor	In Progress	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 24 JANUARY 2024					
SE/004/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences - Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule. 	S Murphy	In Progress	N

SE/005/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness	<div>The following was agreed:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Liaise with local DEA forums to discuss and plan the set-up of Community Resilience Groups- Investigate the facilitation of sandbag availability and management through these Community Resilience Groups- Look into sharing information the website from the Regional Community Resilience Group</div>	S Murphy	<div>Complete</div> <div>In Progress</div> <div>In Progress</div>	<div>N</div> <div>N</div>
-------------	---	---	----------	---	---------------------------

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2024					
E/018/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change	<p>It was agreed that this Council acknowledges the work done to date to help address the climate emergency; reaffirms previous motions regarding the degenerating global situation; and again, reiterates that the crisis is the biggest threat posed to our constituents, our district, and our planet.</p> <p>Further acknowledges, however, that recent data collated by Climate Emergency UK ranks NMDDC 8th out of the 11 Councils within NI; and thus, pledges to include ambitious targets in the forthcoming Sustainability and Climate Strategies and Action Plans to expedite implementation.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a benchmark report would be brought back to Committee regarding Council actions and progress to mitigating climate change impact.</p>	C Sage	<p>Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy was presented at S&E Working Group – September 25. Draft Strategy to progress to public consultation – in November 25.</p> <p>Climate mitigation report completed and submitted on 31st October 25 in accordance with Climate Change Act (NI) 2022. This includes carbon copying baseline reporting.</p>	<p>N</p> <p>N</p>
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 MARCH 2024					

SE/036/2024	Former landfill site review – Aughnagun and Drumanakelly	It was agreed that officers develop a Business Case for the installation of Solar Panels at the former landfill site Aughnagun for further consideration.	S Murphy	In Progress	N
		It was agreed that Council further explore the benefits of installing reed beds at both sites in order to make the sites self-sustaining in terms of the management of the leachate generated on site.	S Murphy	In Progress	
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 23 APRIL 2024					
SE/046/2024	Notice of Motion – Newry Market	Officers continue their commitment to revitalise the market through engagement with traders, the business community and other potential stakeholders.	C Sage	A focussed social media campaign has been completed.	N
		It was also agreed that Officers reach out to other local councils with successful markets and explore additional uses to encourage footfall, including with arts and community groups	C Sage	Council Officers met with Belfast City Council colleagues to review St George’s market.	
		It was further agreed that a report be brought back to committee in 6 months to provide detail of any progress made.	C Sage	An update on Newry Market will be provided at S&E Working Group in February 2026	

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 AUGUST 2024					
SE/091/2024	Notice of Motion – Dog Fouling	it was agreed that a mapping exercise to be undertaken by Officers of identified hotspots or problem areas against litter bin provision data to determine if additional litter bins can be provided to assist with the disposal of dog fouling.	S Trainor	Enforcement officer patrols within hotspots are ongoing and once further data is obtained from the above a mapping exercise will be undertaken.	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 NOVEMBER 2024					
SE/133/2024	Action Sheet item: NS/091/2022	it was agreed to submit a league table of other Councils' enforcement practices to the Strategic Finance Working Group	S Murphy	To refer through SFWG	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2024					
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	S Murphy	In progress	N

		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.			
SE/151/2024	NOM – Newry Canal	it was agreed to request support from support from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the urgent establishment of a multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas.	S Murphy	In progress Initial meeting has taken place with ABC Council on 2 nd May 2025. Newry Canal Regeneration Working Group meeting took place in September 25. A further meeting to be arranged in October with representatives from ABC Council.	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING					
19 FEBRUARY 2025					
SE/018/2025	NOM – Vital Role of trees	It was agreed to note the following: -Council continues to implement actions within the Biodiversity Strategy and Tree Strategy	C Sage	Noted	Y

		<p>-Council continue to work with local community groups, businesses and new stakeholders on creations of new woodlands across the District</p> <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.</p>	C Sage	<p>Complete. The Minister for Communities activated the non-flooding Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance (SEFA) from 24 January 2025 and subsequently widened on 27 January 2025, to enable councils to meet the emerging need to support vulnerable people, and to support councils in the clean-up operation in the aftermath of Storm Éowyn.</p>	Y
		<p>Council will also write to other Councils request support in this regard.</p>	C Sage	<p>In Progress</p>	N
SE/020/2025	Application for bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry	It was agreed to the installation of a new bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry as per	G Kane	In progress	N

		the recommendations stated in Appendix 1 of the officer's Report			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 MARCH 2025					
SE/034/2025	Officer Report on NOM – Street Lighting	It was agreed to write to DFI Roads to advise of concerns in relation to areas that have little of no street lighting and request that a scoping exercise is undertaken to identify areas that could avail of additional street lighting across the district.	C Sage	In progress	N
		It was also agreed that Council owned green spaces would be reviewed to identify any areas that could avail of additional lighting across the District	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/036/2025	Home to Hospital update	it was agreed to approve the continued funding for The Mournes and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital Volunteer driver schemes from 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, and that Council seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community and Voluntary Sector organisations to administer the schemes, subject to funding being identified.	S Trainor	In progress	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 29 APRIL 2025					
SE/045/2025	Notice of Motion re Memorial Garden, Newcastle	It was agreed to approve the proposal to create a memorial garden to acknowledge the 180 th anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster	C Sage	NIW infrastructure project now complete. Works to be progressed as soon as possible.	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 MAY 2025					

SE/056/2025	Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas	the following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Members considered and approved the endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and agree to write to the Northern Ireland Executive urging them to support this initiative. •Members noted the current on-going review process on the effectiveness of the Council's Air Quality Management Areas in liaison with DAERA and the potential expansion of the number of air quality monitor stations throughout the District, subject to funding. 	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/060/2025	Request to approach DFI about transfer of ownership of Carparks	it was agreed to approve the request for Council Officers to formally approach DFI and research the feasibility of a land transfer of their portion of the site into Council ownership	C Sage	In Progress	N
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 AUGUST 2025					
SE/088/2025	Cycle To Work Scheme	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To proceed with the appointment of a new Provider for the Council's Cycle to Work Scheme as detailed in section 2.2 of the report. • To increase the upper limit for purchases via the Cycle to Work scheme and that the scheme remains open for applications all year round as detailed in section 2.3 of the report. 	C Sage	Contractual arrangements being finalised.	N
SE/090/2025	Fleet Fuel Verification Process	it was agreed to approve the recommended fuel infrastructure	C Sage	Complete	Y

		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.			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING					
22 OCTOBER 2025					
SE/115/2025	Action Sheet: Sustainability And Environment Committee Meeting Held On 16 September 2025	It was agreed to note the action sheet	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/117/2025	DAERA Public Consultation on Northern Ireland's Draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027	The submission of the consultation response including any comments or additions was agreed.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/118/2025	Depot Charging Funding Scheme	it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the submission of an application for grant funding under the Depot Charging Scheme.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/119/2025	Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy – Public Consultation	It was agreed to note the draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy in Appendix 1, the attached consultation questions on Appendix 2, and approve the launch of a 12-week public consultation.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/120/2025	Contract Modification – Fixed Wire Testing, Emergency Lighting and Small Electrical Works Contract	it was agreed to approve the contract modification as detailed in section 2 of the officer's report.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/121/2025	Appointment of Public Analyst	it was agreed to appoint the individuals identified in section 2.1 of	S Trainor	Complete	Y

		the officer's report to act as Public Analysts for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council.			
SE/122/2025	Health and Safety Partnership Officer Funding	it was agreed to approve the funding to support the Health and Safety Partnership Officer shared service between the 11 Councils and the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland until 31 March 2028.	S Trainor	Complete	Y
SE/123/2025	Business Case - Provision of Dog Kennelling Services	it was agreed to approve the business case to procure dog kennelling services.	S Trainor	In progress	Y
SE/124/2025	Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Update	it was agreed to note the report.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/125/2025	Action Sheet From the Sustainability and Environment Working Group Meeting Of 16 September 2025 and Presentation on Climate Change from Same Meeting	it was agreed to note the documents.	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/126/2025	Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting In Committee Minutes of Thursday 28 August 2025 & Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin Of 25 September 2025	it was agreed to note the documents.	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/127/2025	Arc21 Joint Committee	it was agreed to note the document.	S Murphy	Noted	Y

	Meeting Held On Thursday 28 August 2025				
SE/128/2025	Online Reporting of Dog Fouling Incidents	it was agreed to note the report and encourage residents to report dog fouling through the online tool where possible.	S Trainor	Noted	Y

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 th November 2025
Subject:	Submission of Climate Change Mitigation Report by the Council to DAERA as required by The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	X	For noting only	
---------------------	----------	------------------------	--

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	The purpose of this report is for members to consider and approve the submission of the attached Climate Change Mitigation Report. Suggested changes or additions can be added and will be passed on to DAERA to be included in the report.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 place climate change reporting duties on specified public bodies, as required under section 42 of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. The specified public bodies includes all 11 NI Councils.
2.2	<p>The 1st report on Climate Change Mitigation was submitted to meet the deadline of 31st October 2025. Reports are required to include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set a baseline year for greenhouse gas (GHG) or carbon emissions for April 2024 to March 2025. • Reports the amounts and sources of GHG or carbon emissions for that financial year. • Contains proposals and policies for reducing emissions and timescales for implementation. <p>Subsequent reporting will be required every 3 years.</p>
2.3	Council engaged the support of a consultant to assist them to identify, quantify, compile and report their baseline data on greenhouse gas emissions. This focussed on Scope 1 and Scope 2 Emissions as required by the regulations in Year 1.
2.4	<p>Scope 1 emissions are direct greenhouse gas or carbon emissions related to heating of buildings, for example oil or gas boilers, emissions from fleet transport, or from generators for events.</p> <p>Scope 2 emissions are indirect emissions from purchased grid electricity to power buildings and lighting.</p>

	Scope 3 emissions reporting is not required currently but Council will work with its suppliers to start to identify and measure its Scope 3 emissions for future reporting.
2.4	Information was also submitted in the report on policy and objectives relating to sustainability and climate action which are contained in the Council's Corporate Plan, Community Plan, Performance Improvement Plan. Several of the proposed targets, objectives and actions contained in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy (which is currently being prepared to go out to public consultation) were also included in the report. Any draft objectives, targets and actions submitted in the report which are taken from the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy are also subject to final confirmation by Committee and full Council when they approve the final Strategy. The Strategy will guide the Council's approach to tackling climate action over the coming years so it was important to include these draft objectives and targets now.
2.5	The Report also contains 5 short Case Studies of climate action related activities which the Council has delivered recently.
2.6	<p>There is scope within the reporting process to revise and update the Council's baseline carbon emissions data or other information submitted in the report should additional information or data become available. As this is the first year of the reporting process there is some flexibility with the accuracy of the data and information submitted. Councils and other public reporting bodies will work to improve their data and information gathering and develop their climate actions in future years.</p> <p>The Council's report was submitted on 31st October on DAERA's online Reporting Portal to meet the required deadline for reporting. A copy of the submitted report is available (Appendix 1) for Members to consider and to advise of any comments or suggested changes. Any agreed changes will be submitted to DAERA for addition to the report.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	It is recommended that members consider and approve submission of the report to DAERA and to allow DAERA to analyse and publish information from the submitted report as required by the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no resource implications in relation to submission of the report.
4.2	There are likely to be resource implications in meeting future climate action activities. Further resources and significant budget are expected to be required in order to deliver climate action for the council.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
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	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: Copy of the Council's Climate Change Mitigation Report submitted on the DAERA online Reporting Portal</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>None</p>

Climate Change Public Body Reporting

Summary

Report	Mitigation
Submission year	2025
Organisation	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Status	Started

Part 1 - Report setup and profile

Report set up

1.1 (a) - Is this a report for a single organisation, or more than one organisation (i.e. a joint report)?

Single organisation

Profile

1.2 (a) - Contact name

Eamonn Keaveney

Contact number

0330 137 4000 or 07735983172

Contact email address

eamonn.keaveney@nmandd.org

1.2 (b) - Name of the organisation

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

1.2 (c) - Is your organisation required to report under the Regulations, or is your organisation reporting voluntarily?

Required to report under the Regulations

1.2 (d) - Organisation type

Local government (Council)

1.2 (e) - Average number of full-time equivalent staff employed (in Northern Ireland) (Specify the average number of staff for the most recently completed financial year - 1st April to 31st March)

1000.00

1.2 (f) - For education organisations only – Number of students in the most recent academic year

No response

Part 2 - Governance, objectives and strategies

Climate change governance structures

2.1 (a) - Does the organisation currently have any climate change mitigation governance structures in place?

Yes

2.1 (b) - How is climate change mitigation governed within the organisation?

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is committed to meeting its responsibilities in terms of sustainable development and climate change (mitigation and adaption), according to national and regional climate legislation and ambitions. The Council is also actively participating in the DAERA Mitigation Public Body Reporting process. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Corporate Plan 2024–2027 contains the Organisation's Strategic Objectives and Key Actions. We have adopted eight strategic objectives. These are aligned to the five themes of the Community Plan and will be delivered in collaboration and partnership with a range of stakeholders. One of our 8 Key Strategic Objectives is "Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future" Some of the areas for Action in the Corporate Plan linked to this objective include: Develop and implement a: • Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy • Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan • Biodiversity Strategy • Tree Strategy. • Undertake a baseline assessment of the Council's carbon footprint and set targets to reduce our carbon emissions. • Support the implementation of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. • Keep under review the actions to address sustainability and the climate change emergency declared by Council. • Contribute to the delivery of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Action Plans and the Marine Protected Area Management Plans Sustainability and Climate Change feature prominently in the Council's Corporate Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Foreword includes the following lines: "Sustainability and the climate change emergency continues to be a key driver and we look forward to delivering on important benefits for our district and are confident that we will adapt to new opportunities and challenges as they emerge, all with the key objective of improving the lives and livelihoods of the people who live and work here." The Council has developed a Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030 which is going out to public consultation with publication of the final Strategy set for March 2026. The Strategy and Action Plan with its associated Themes and objectives will address and take action on sustainable development and climate change (mitigation and adaption) during the 2026 – 2030 period. The Council's governance structure and strategy will ensure accountability and is organised as follows: Full Council (Elected Members) • Sustainability and Environment Committee • Senior Management Team (SMT) • Director of Sustainability and Environment • Assistant Director of Sustainability - Head of Sustainability • Sustainability Team A copy of the governance structure for Climate Change Mitigation is attached.

2.1 (c) - Provide a summary of how the organisation monitors, reports on and manages its climate change mitigation decision-making at a senior staff level e.g. the responsibilities for the organisation's senior managers, departmental heads, etc.

NMDDC's Council Sustainability & Environment Department oversees Climate Change policy and action for both mitigation and adaptation. The Council has developed a Draft Sustainability Action Plan 2026– 2030'. Council has put in place processes for monitoring, reviewing, updating and reporting on their Sustainability and Climate Change Action Plan based on the governance structure discussed above and in the attached structure/plan. The Strategy and Action Plan interlinks with Councils Corporate Plan and Community Plan, and other Council strategies and sets out objectives and actions for the next five years, which will be embedded into relevant departmental business plans. Detailed below are The Action Plan themes and objectives as well as a number of actions. The Strategy and action plan will be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis and will be overseen by the Sustainability and Environment Committee. The Sustainability team will lead on the development and implementation of the Strategy and Action Plan and communicating with other teams cross departmental basis. The Director of Sustainability and Environment will have overall responsibility and oversight for Climate action, supported by the Assistant Director of Sustainability. The Head of Sustainability will manage the Sustainability team and the day to day implementation, monitoring and review of climate action. The team will also continue to collect data on carbon emissions and report on an annual basis to the Sustainability and Environment Committee and to Full Council on the Council's carbon emissions and progress on climate action. Actions from the Strategy and Action Plan will also be included in the Council's Performance Improvement Review process.

2.1 (d) - If available, provide a diagram/chart to outline the climate change mitigation governance and responsibilities within the organisation, including senior management, departmental heads, etc. (individual names are not required).

Climate Mitigation Governance NMDDC.pdf

Climate change objectives and strategies

2.2 (a) - Does the organisation currently have any high-level, strategic objectives (goals) for climate change mitigation? (e.g. in a climate change strategy or corporate plan or similar document)

Yes

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

NMDDC Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-30.pdf

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Community Plan Key Outcome 3: All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Community Planning is about creating a shared plan to make life better for everyone in our district. It means councils, public services, and local people working together to improve our area. The aim is to make the best use of money and resources and to help with the things that matter most — like health, education, jobs, safety and the environment. In short, Community Planning is everyone joining forces to make real improvements for local people. Newry, Mourne and Down District has published its Community Plan – Living Well Together (to 2030) Sustainability and Environment is included in one of our 4 key Outcomes from the Community Plan: Community Plan Key Outcome 3: All people in Newry, Mourne and Down benefit from a clean, quality and sustainable environment. The Environment and spatial Thematic Working Group is responsible for developing sustainable practices under the following 5 Themes: Level of connectivity; Level of sustainable energy; Level of quality housing; Level of quality living Environment; Level of rich, diverse, natural environment.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

Located in the Council's Community Plan published on the Council's website www.newrymournedown.org

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Corporate Plan Key Strategic Objective 3: "Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future"

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Corporate Plan 2024–2027 contains the Organisation's Strategic Objectives and Key Actions. We have adopted eight strategic objectives. These are aligned to the five themes of the Community Plan and will be delivered in collaboration and partnership with a range of stakeholders. One of our 8 Key Strategic Objectives is "Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future" Some of the areas for Action in the Corporate Plan linked to this objective include: Develop and implement a: • Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy • Local Climate Change Adaptation Plan • Biodiversity Strategy • Tree Strategy. • Undertake a baseline assessment of the Council's carbon footprint and set targets to reduce our carbon emissions. • Support the implementation of new Electric Vehicle (EV) charging points. • Keep under review the actions to address sustainability and the climate change emergency declared by Council. • Contribute to the delivery of the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB) Management Action Plans and the Marine Protected Area Management Plans Sustainability and Climate Change feature prominently in the Council's Corporate Plan. The Chairperson and Chief Executive Foreword includes the following lines: "Sustainability and the climate change emergency continues to be a key driver and we look forward to delivering on important benefits for our district and are confident that we will adapt to new opportunities and challenges as they emerge, all with the key objective of improving the lives and livelihoods of the people who live and work here."

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

Located in the Council's Corporate Plan 2024-2027 published on the Council's website
www.newrymournedown.org

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Council's Performance Improvement Plan 2025/26 Performance Improvement Objective 4: We will improve our sustainability and reduce our impacts in relation to climate change

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

This is one of 5 key Performance Improvement Objectives set by Council in its performance Improvement Plan 2025/26. Our climate is changing, and we need to prepare. Greenhouse gas emissions cause the Earth's atmosphere to hold more radiation from the sun which increases the overall temperature of the planet. This change in temperature is altering our climate and causing one of the greatest threats of our time. In October 2019 Newry, Mourne and Down District Council declared a 'Climate Emergency'. NMDDC is acutely aware of how intrinsic sustainability and care of our district is to its future. Within our new Council structure, a Sustainability Department has been created. This is led by a dedicated Assistant Director with responsibility for issues such as Energy, Council Fleet, Facilities Maintenance and Biodiversity. Environmental sustainability has become a key objective in the development of our capital projects, providing economic growth for the region in an inclusive and sustainable way. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council aims to embed the ethos of sustainability throughout its operations and to provide leadership for the community. The Council also forms part of the Local Government Climate Action Network which is helping to deliver the NI Climate Change Adaptation Programme. This network will enable us to collaborate with other Councils and relevant statutory partners to develop a strategic approach for climate action.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

Located in the Council's Performance Improvement Plan 2025/26 published on the Council's website www.newrymournedown.org

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Reduced energy demand in buildings through retrofitting and behaviour change

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will transform its heating and cooling of buildings, its water heating systems and its transport fleet to zero carbon emissions alternatives by 2050. This will include adopting energy efficiency measures in

buildings and services such as retrofitting existing buildings to improve insulation and energy performance, moving away from fossil fuel use, increased generation of renewable energy e.g. PV Solar, purchasing 'green' renewable grid electricity and switching to other suitable zero carbon technologies including electrification of heating and cooling systems. We will also look at heating and other controls, for example Building Management Systems for buildings to improve performance and reduce energy waste. A network of 'Energy Champions' will be established to implement energy saving measures and a major Energy awareness 'Switch and Turn Down' programme will be rolled out for staff to encourage engagement in using and wasting less energy. The Energy Champions will also assist with data collection and monitoring and reporting to ensure we can measure, manage and reduce our energy consumption and identify opportunities to reduce our carbon emissions and make savings.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

New developments minimise their whole life carbon and air quality impact

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We will introduce the latest standards for energy efficiency and low carbon design including whole life cycle approach to our future new buildings including adopting standards such as Passivehaus and Zero Carbon buildings standards where viable.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Increased supply of clean, renewable and affordable energy

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council already has a network of 22 Solar PV systems across the districts. The Council will look at upgrading its buildings and sites to move to low carbon and eventually zero carbon options for heating and cooling and for its fleet. This will include interim measures of oil to gas boiler replacements where feasible. We will also increase the amount of solar energy installations on our buildings and look at the possibility of Solar farms where they are viable. We will consider other renewable resources such as wind power where viable. We will purchase 'green' zero carbon electricity from the Grid and move towards electrification of heating and cooling in the future. We will gradually transform our fleet to zero carbon alternatives starting with electric vehicles to replace our smaller fleet vehicles and replacing our larger fleet as alternative technologies become available. In the interim we will switch our fleet to using HVO to reduce our carbon emissions.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Residents and organisations using energy sourced from low and zero carbon sources

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We will work with other external agencies and the local community to support residents and businesses to make the transition to low carbon and zero carbon energy supplies. While the Council does not have responsibility for this we are keen to influence and work in collaboration with other government departments and agencies as well as the local community to ensure this transition takes place. This could involve workshops and educational information and networking with communities and businesses as well as other councils.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Residents and organisations using energy sourced from low and zero carbon sources

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We will work with other external agencies and the local community to support residents and businesses to make the transition to low carbon and zero carbon energy supplies. While the Council does not have responsibility for this we are keen to influence and work in collaboration with other government departments and agencies as well as the local community to ensure this transition takes place. This could involve workshops and educational information and networking with communities and businesses as well as other councils.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Fewer vehicle trips.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will encourage staff to adopt sustainable transport options such as hybrid working from home where possible, use of online meeting technology, walking and cycling, and use of public transport.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Increased use of active travel and public transport.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will encourage staff to adopt sustainable transport options such as hybrid working from home where possible, use of online meeting technology, walking and cycling, and use of public transport. We will continue to work with Department for Infrastructure to develop active travel infrastructure including cycle paths, safer walking and wheeling routes and Greenways.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Low carbon Council fleet vehicles.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will put in place a Plan to transform our fleet to zero carbon emissions We will gradually transform our fleet to zero carbon alternatives starting with electric vehicles to replace our smaller fleet vehicles and replacing our larger fleet as alternative technologies become available. We will introduce a system of EV Charging for our electric fleet. In the interim we will switch our fleet to using HVO to reduce our carbon emissions.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Transition to zero emission vehicles across the district.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We have commenced our support for the transition to zero emission vehicles for local residents and the public by securing substantial funding and installing EV Chargepoints across the district through the FASTER Project and by enabling upgrades to the ESB Chargers network in our car parks. We will continue to look for opportunities to fund and install further EV Chargepoint infrastructure where viable including in the near future installing 18 dual chargers through the ORCS Project.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Net Zero Target a top priority in key Council plans.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Climate Change and Sustainability already feature prominently in the Council's Community and Corporate Plans and with the introduction of the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy later this year Net

Zero targets and actions will feature in business plans across the Council. This will be coordinated by the Sustainability team but each department will be responsible for adopting targets and actions to reduce their carbon emissions to enable the Council to achieve its overall Target of Net Zero by 2050.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Corporate Risk Register identifies the risks of climate change to the local area.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

It has been proposed and Senior Management and Council are considering including Climate Change and its impacts on the Corporate Risk Register. It is hoped this will be completed this year 2025/26. The local district has experienced considerable impacts in recent years from storms and flooding and climate change will contribute to increasing these impacts.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Climate Change embedded in Council decision-making process.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

This will involve climate change and sustainability being considered in Council policy and procedure development and in its service delivery and projects. The exact mechanism for achieving this is still to be determined by Council.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Greenhouse gas emissions reported annually.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council has established its Carbon Footprint baseline for the year 2024/25 and this is being reported under the Reporting Body Regulations. Moving forward the Council will be working to improve its data collection and reporting systems. This will allow us to report our carbon or greenhouse gas emissions annually. This is likely to be reported via the Council's Performance Improvement process but will also be reported via the Sustainability section's Climate Change webpage on the Council's website.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Greater resourcing for Climate Action delivery.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Significant Resources will be required to transform our energy infrastructure and other emission causing activities for example fleet. The Council is committed to working hard to identify resources and financing to support climate action across its services. It has recently several new posts in the Sustainability team to assist with climate action and carbon reporting. The Council will also look for funding opportunities to carry out specific projects including building retrofitting, heating and lighting systems, and upgrading our fleet vehicles. The Council will collaborate on a cross border basis in particular with Louth County Council, with the Government of ROI and other County Councils to identify cross border funding and resource opportunities to deliver climate action. The Council will work with others to lobby the Government for adequate funding and resourcing to local councils to enable them to deliver climate action.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Council pensions and investments aligned to Net Zero.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will work in partnership with other Councils and organisations including NILGOSC to ensure Local Government Pension scheme continues to divest and move away from investing in fossil fuels.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Climate awareness training for key staff and committee members.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will develop its own in house awareness courses and work in partnership with others including Sustainable NI to develop training and awareness courses for staff and elected members. We will publish a regular Staff Sustainability Newsletter and host regular competitions and attend events to highlight sustainability and climate awareness.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Cross-sector engagement and collaboration on climate action.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will work in partnership and collaborate with local and wider organisations, government departments, NGOs, Community groups, businesses and on a cross border basis to ensure we positively influence and make a positive impact on climate action both locally in our district across NI and cross border in particular with Louth County Council.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Peat free compost and soil used in landscaping and horticulture.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We will work with our Maintenance and Parks division to encourage the move to peat free compost. Some work has been achieved but we will continue to work to move towards peat free compost.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Transition to zero emission vehicles across the district.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We have commenced our support for the transition to zero emission vehicles for local residents and the public by securing substantial funding and installing EV Chargepoints across the district through the FASTER Project and by enabling upgrades to the ESB Chargers network in our car parks. We will continue to look for opportunities to fund and install further EV Chargepoint infrastructure where viable including in the near future installing 18 dual chargers through the ORCS Project.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Net Zero Target a top priority in key Council plans.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Climate Change and Sustainability already feature prominently in the Council's Community and Corporate Plans and with the introduction of the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy later this year Net Zero targets and actions will feature in business plans across the Council. This will be coordinated by the Sustainability team but each department will be responsible for adopting targets and actions to reduce their carbon emissions to enable the Council to achieve its overall Target of Net Zero by 2050.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Corporate Risk Register identifies the risks of climate change to the local area.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

It has been proposed and Senior Management and Council are considering including Climate Change and its impacts on the Corporate Risk Register. It is hoped this will be completed this year 2025/26. The local district

has experienced considerable impacts in recent years from storms and flooding and climate change will contribute to increasing these impacts.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Climate Change embedded in Council decision-making process.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

This will involve climate change and sustainability being considered in Council policy and procedure development and in its service delivery and projects. The exact mechanism for achieving this is still to be determined by Council.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Greenhouse gas emissions reported annually.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council has established its Carbon Footprint baseline for the year 2024/25 and this is being reported under the Reporting Body Regulations. Moving forward the Council will be working to improve its data collection and reporting systems. This will allow us to report our carbon or greenhouse gas emissions annually. This is likely to be reported via the Council's Performance Improvement process but will also be reported via the Sustainability section's Climate Change webpage on the Council's website.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Greater resourcing for Climate Action delivery.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Significant Resources will be required to transform our energy infrastructure and other emission causing activities for example fleet. The Council is committed to working hard to identify resources and financing to support climate action across its services. It has recently several new posts in the Sustainability team to assist with climate action and carbon reporting. The Council will also look for funding opportunities to carry out specific projects including building retrofitting, heating and lighting systems, and upgrading our fleet vehicles. The Council will collaborate on a cross border basis in particular with Louth County Council, with the Government of ROI and other County Councils to identify cross border funding and resource opportunities to

deliver climate action. The Council will work with others to lobby the Government for adequate funding and resourcing to local councils to enable them to deliver climate action.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Council pensions and investments aligned to Net Zero.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will work in partnership with other Councils and organisations including NILGOSC to ensure Local Government Pension scheme continues to divest and move away from investing in fossil fuels.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Climate awareness training for key staff and committee members.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will develop its own in house awareness courses and work in partnership with others including Sustainable NI to develop training and awareness courses for staff and elected members. We will publish a regular Staff Sustainability Newsletter and host regular competitions and attend events to highlight sustainability and climate awareness.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Cross-sector engagement and collaboration on climate action.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will work in partnership and collaborate with local and wider organisations, government departments, NGOs, Community groups, businesses and on a cross border basis to ensure we positively influence and make a positive impact on climate action both locally in our district across NI and cross border in particular with Louth County Council.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the

target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Peat free compost and soil used in landscaping and horticulture.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We will work with our Maintenance and Parks division to encourage the move to peat free compost. Some work has been achieved but we will continue to work to move towards peat free compost.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Pesticide use banned on all Council owned and managed land.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We will work with our maintenance and parks division to move away from any use of pesticides on council owned and managed land. We recognise there are challenges in some areas but will collaborate with other councils and organisations to identify alternative approaches.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Green Flag status for all Council Parks.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council already has a number of Parks achieving Green Flag status and the Council and its staff are well engaged in this programme. We will work with the Parks division to move towards all Council Parks achieving Green Flag status.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Tree Management Plan with Target to increase native tree cover.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council has established a Tree Management Plan which is now linked to our Biodiversity Strategy and adopted by our Parks and Maintenance division. We will continue to develop a tree planting plan over the coming years to increase our tree cover of indigenous tree species.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Mowing practices promote nature recovery.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Our Biodiversity Strategy has set actions for our Parks division to improve mowing practices across the district. We will continue to work with our Parks division to ensure our mowing practices at various sites promote recovery.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Biodiversity and habitat net gain required in new developments.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Our Biodiversity Strategy sets targets to achieve biodiversity and habitat net gain. We will work to identify opportunities to promote biodiversity and habitat protection and enhancement across our estate and district and work with other sections including the Council's Capital Projects team to promote biodiversity and habitat net gain in new developments.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Pesticide use banned on all Council owned and managed land.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We will work with our maintenance and parks division to move away from any use of pesticides on council owned and managed land. We recognise there are challenges in some areas but will collaborate with other councils and organisations to identify alternative approaches.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Green Flag status for all Council Parks.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council already has a number of Parks achieving Green Flag status and the Council and its staff are well engaged in this programme. We will work with the Parks division to move towards all Council Parks achieving Green Flag status.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Tree Management Plan with Target to increase native tree cover.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council has established a Tree Management Plan which is now linked to our Biodiversity Strategy and adopted by our Parks and Maintenance division. We will continue to develop a tree planting plan over the coming years to increase our tree cover of indigenous tree species.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Mowing practices promote nature recovery.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Our Biodiversity Strategy has set actions for our Parks division to improve mowing practices across the district. We will continue to work with our Parks division to ensure our mowing practices at various sites promote recovery.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Biodiversity and habitat net gain required in new developments.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

Our Biodiversity Strategy sets targets to achieve biodiversity and habitat net gain. We will work to identify opportunities to promote biodiversity and habitat protection and enhancement across our estate and district and work with other sections including the Council's Capital Projects team to promote biodiversity and habitat net gain in new developments.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

District safeguarded from future climate impacts including flooding, storms and sea level rise.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council is developing and reviewing its Climate Adaptation Plan which identifies the risks and impacts from climate change including increased storminess, flooding, extremes of heat and cold, and sea level rise. We will continue to develop this process to protect our own buildings, staff and services and ensure business continuity. We are also keen to work with other agencies and local communities and businesses to ensure local areas, homes and business are resilient and protected from these impacts also.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Procurement policy requires tenders to deliver climate action and sustainability.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Sustainability team will work with the Council's Procurement team to develop a Sustainable approach to Procurement looking at best practice from other Councils and organisations and with support from Sustainable NI. This will dovetail with our work on Scope 3 carbon emissions where we will be working with our suppliers to identify and reduce their carbon emissions.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Reductions in Waste and a step change in rates of recycling.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council is currently reviewing its structures related to waste and education and enforcement and this is timely as we move the next phase of preventing and reducing our waste throughout the district. Recycling systems are also subject to review and development and we will be looking at making our services zero carbon as well as reducing the carbon emissions from waste by increasing recycling rates in line with legislation.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

No single use plastic at external events on Council land, property or public spaces.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

We have initiated work with our Sustainability and Events Teams to reduce and ban single use plastics at our events throughout the year and across the district. Key work will include engaging with vendors at events, waste management and awareness at events.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Growth of a low-carbon circular economy locally.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council will ramp up its existing work on Circular Economy with the Sustainability and Waste teams working together to develop an effective set of event and services across the district including looking at Repair Workshops/Roadshows, promoting repair and reuse services and developing awareness among the community and businesses of opportunities arising from a circular economy approach. We will work closely with organisations such as DAERA, WRAP and NIRN.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Sustainable Food Places Award.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

The Council is a member of the Sustainable Food Places programme and currently holds a Bronze Award. We will continue to develop our sustainable food places programme and have recently made our SFP Coordinator officer into a permanent member of staff. They will coordinate action and partnership with organisations and community groups throughout the district and further afield.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

2.2 (b) - Provide details of the high level, strategic climate change mitigation objective(s) - its description, and where it can be found (e.g. strategy or corporate plan or similar documents)

No file uploaded

Title of the climate change mitigation objective

Initiatives to redistribute surplus food.

Description of the climate change mitigation objective

As part of our Sustainable Food Places Programme we will work in partnership with other to reduce food waste and develop robust networks and systems to redistribute surplus food to those who need it by building on the existing food banks and other operators in the area and looking at best practice from elsewhere.

Name of document and page number where the objective is located (e.g. climate change plan / strategy, corporate plan, etc.)

The 5 Themes and all of the Objectives linked to each Theme can be found in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Draft Strategy is currently out for public consultation and the target date for publication of the final Strategy is March 2026. See Draft Strategy uploaded.

Part 3 - Setting a reporting boundary**How is the reporting boundary defined**

3.1 (a) - Which approach has been used to define the 'organisational boundary' in the organisation's reporting?

Control Approach - Operational

3.1 (b) - Provide a diagram or table showing where the organisation's reporting boundary has been set

Reporting Boundary Carbon Emissions NMDDC 202425.pdf

Part 4 - Emissions statement

4.1 - Scope 1: Direct GHG emissions - Scope 1 accounts for direct GHG emissions that occur from sources that are owned or controlled by the organisation.

Direct GHG emissions totals

Title	Total
Total scope 1 emissions (tCO ₂ e)	4297.072764
Total outside of scopes emissions (tCO ₂ e)	190.915813

Direct GHG emissions added

4.1 (a) Enter the organisation's activity data for Scope 1 - based on the embedded DESNZ emission conversion factors

Fuels - Gaseous fuels - Natural gas	2024/2025
-------------------------------------	-----------

Activity data	4996992.000000 kWh (Net CV)
Emission conversion factor	0.202640 kg CO ₂ e/kWh (Net CV)
Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1012.590459
Type of activity data collected	Primary data
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Provided by Gas Supplier via Bills
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	No uncertainties or caveats
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	No response

Fuels - Liquid fuels - Burning oil	2024/2025
Activity data	452925.000000 litres
Emission conversion factor	2.540150 kg CO ₂ e/litres

Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	1150.497439
Type of activity data collected	Primary data
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Collected from Invoices from supplier.
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	No uncertainties or caveats
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	No response

Fuels - Liquid fuels - Diesel (average biofuel blend)	2024/2025
Activity data	837901.000000 litres
Emission conversion factor	2.512790 kg CO ₂ e/litres
Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	2105.469254
Outside of scopes (tCO ₂ e)	134.064161
Type of activity data collected	Primary data

Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Data from Jigsaw Fuel Management System provided by Council Fleet Manager
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	No uncertainties or caveats
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	No response

Fuels - Liquid fuels - Petrol (average biofuel blend)		2024/2025
Activity data	4995.000000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	2.084400 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	10.411578	
Outside of scopes (tCO₂e)	0.649350	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Data from Jigsaw Fuel Management System provided by Council Fleet Manager	

Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	No uncertainties or caveats
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	No response

Fuels - Liquid fuels - Gas oil		2024/2025
Activity data	1199.000000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	2.755410 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	3.303737	
Type of activity data collected	Estimated data (based on similarities)	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Based on Fuel Invoices	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	Estimated - based on previous fuel invoices	

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	Estimated - Based on previous fuel invoices. The Council was in the process of moving out of this building and selling it to the Health Trust so gas oil invoices were not available for this period and so were based on previous usage.
--	---

Fuels - Gaseous fuels - LPG		2024/2025
Activity data	3264.000000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	1.557130 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO₂e)	5.082473	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Data from fuel bills	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	No uncertainties or caveats	
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	No response	

Fuels - Liquid fuels - Gas oil		2024/2025
Activity data	2866.000000 litres	
Emission conversion factor	2.755410 kg CO ₂ e/litres	
Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	7.897006	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Data from fuel bills	
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	No uncertainties or caveats	
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	Diesel use for Generators used by Council for Events	

Bioenergy - Biomass - Wood pellets		2024/2025
------------------------------------	--	-----------

Activity data	33.510000 tonnes
Emission conversion factor	54.336540 kg CO ₂ e/tonnes
Emissions (tCO₂e)	1.820818
Outside of scopes (tCO₂e)	56.202302
Type of activity data collected	Primary data
Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Data from fuel bills
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	No uncertainties or caveats
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	No response

4.1 (b) Enter the organisation's activity data for Scope 1 - for an alternative emission source and own-sourced emission conversion factors

No response

4.2 - Scope 2: Energy indirect GHG emissions - Scope 2 accounts for GHG emissions from the generation of purchased energy consumed by the organisation.

Energy indirect GHG emissions totals

Title	Total
Total Scope 2 Emissions (Location-based) (tCO ₂ e)	949.135628

4.2 (a) Enter the organisation's activity data for Scope 2 - based on the embedded DESNZ emission conversion factors (for electricity - this is called the location-based method)

Energy indirect GHG emissions added

UK Electricity - Electricity generated - Electricity: UK		2024/2025
Is this purchased green electricity	No	
Emissions (tCO ₂ e)	949.135628	
Emission conversion factor	0.207050	
Activity data	4584089.000000	
Units (activity data)	kWh	
Units (emission conversion factor)	kg CO ₂ e/kWh	
Type of activity data collected	Primary data	

Detail how the activity data was collected (i.e. what is the source of the data)	Data provided by Electricity Provider from electricity bills
Detail any uncertainties or caveats if known - please declare if unknown	There may be meters/bills which we have not included which are registered with other suppliers.
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	There may be meters/bills which we have not included which are registered with other suppliers. There is ongoing work within Council to improve our Data management and gathering process.

4.3 - Scope 3: Other indirect GHG emissions - Scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of the organisation, but occur from sources not owned or controlled by it.

4.3 (a) Enter the organisation's emissions data for Scope 3 - based on the DESNZ emission conversion factors

No response

4.3 (b) Enter the organisation's emissions data for scope 3 - for an alternative emission source and the own-sourced emission conversion factors

No response

Data gaps

4.4 (a) - If the organisation wishes to provide comments on any gaps in its data (i.e. excluded/unavailable emissions data) in relation to Scopes 1, 2 and 3, the detail can be provided here. (For example, details such as the scope, activity type, reason why excluded, plans to obtain the missing data for future reporting and when the data might become available - could be included in answer to this question)

There may be some Electricity Meters which we have not been able to identify or get data from which could be still registered with previous Electricity Suppliers. We will endeavour to identify these if there are any and collect this data for future reporting. We were unable to get data on F Gases and are aware we have several Air Con systems. We will endeavour to collect this data for future reporting. The Council is in the process of moving from one of its main buildings and constructing a new Civic Centre in Newry. This has had an impact on availability of some data and will also impact on future energy use. We engaged a Consultant to assist us with gathering the baseline data and hope to build on this approach to improve accuracy. We were unable to report on Scope 3 emissions this time around but have had some initial assistance from the Consultant engaged to assist us with future identification Scope 3 emissions.

Renewable energy

4.5 (a) - Has the reporting body generated its own renewable energy?

Yes

4.5 (b) - Provide details on whether the energy was used or exported by the organisation

Renewable

Renewable Energy Technology Solar

Renewable Electricity Total Used (kWh)	113,809.000000
Renewable Electricity Total Exported (kWh)	40,874.700000
Renewable Heat Total Used (kWh)	
Renewable Heat Total Exported (kWh)	
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here	This has been estimated based on actual figures from the previous year from Meter readings. We do not have the data for the baseline year 2024/25 so are using this estimate based on the previous year's figures.

District heating schemes

4.6 (a) - Has the organisation had any involvement in district heating schemes?
No

Part 5 - Emissions reduction actions

Targets

5.1 (a) - Does the organisation have any emissions reduction target(s) and/or energy efficiency target(s)?
--

Yes

5.1 (b) - Provide detail of the emissions reduction target(s) and/or energy efficiency target(s) which the organisation aims to achieve

Title of target	Description of target
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Zero Council and District by 2050 	<p>Net Zero Council and District by 2050 - This is one of the Council's Key Targets and will be achieved by working in partnership with external agencies, government departments, as well as local communities and businesses. It is an overall target to transform our district to a Net Zero region by 2050 and will involve significant action and transformation of our energy system, how we heat and light our buildings and our transport and active travel systems. We also will collaborate and work in partnership on a cross border basis with Councils and government departments in ROI in particular with Louth County Council with whom we have established a partnership approach to sharing best practice and sharing resources to take climate action.</p>
<p>Council's scope 1 and 2 GHG emissions will be net zero by 2050</p>	<p>The Council will transform its heating and cooling of buildings, its water heating systems and its transport fleet to zero carbon emissions alternatives by 2050. This will include adopting energy efficiency measures in buildings and services, increased generation of renewable energy e.g. PV Solar, purchasing 'green' renewable electricity and switching to zero carbon fleet vehicles including, EV vehicles, biofuels and other suitable zero carbon technologies.</p>
<p>50% reduction in Council's scope 1 & 2 emissions by 2040</p>	<p>This interim Target will focus the council's efforts towards achieving Net Zero by 2050. It will involve the Council transforming its heating and cooling of buildings, its water heating systems and its transport fleet to zero carbon emissions alternatives by 2040. This will include adopting energy efficiency measures in buildings and services, increased generation of renewable energy e.g. PV Solar, purchasing 'green'</p>

Title of target	Description of target
	renewable electricity and switching to zero carbon fleet vehicles including, EV vehicles, biofuels and other suitable zero carbon technologies.
Measure and reduce our scope 3 emissions by engaging with 80% of our supply chain by 2035	The Council has engaged a Consultant to look at options for measuring and reducing our Scope 3 emissions for future reporting and action. Through this target the Council will engage with its suppliers to capture the emissions linked to our supply companies and start to measure Scope 3 emissions and take action to reduce these emissions.
Transition our light fleet to 100% electric or zero emission vehicles by 2035	In order to reduce our carbon emissions we will focus on our smaller fleet vehicles replacing current petrol and diesel vehicles with suitable and available zero carbon alternatives including electric vehicles and other technologies which are suitable and make economic sense. We will ensure our light fleet is zero carbon emissions by 2035.
Fully decarbonise our fleet (including medium and heavy duty vehicles) by 2050	Linked to our light fleet target for 2035 we will work towards fully decarbonising the remainder of our fleet including our medium and heavy duty vehicles by 2050. We will research best available technology and look for best value and developments in technology as we select the best options to make our fleet zero carbon by 2050. As an interim option we plan to opt for 100% use of HVO in suitable fleet vehicles in the next year.

5.1 (c) - If the organisation has comments, which it considers relevant, further to the selected option under question 5.1(a), they can be provided here

The Targets listed in this report are Key Targets set in the Council's Draft Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy 2026-2030. The Strategy is currently out to Public Consultation and is planned to be published in March 2026.

Action plan

5.2 (a) - What actions is the organisation taking, or planning to take, to reduce its greenhouse gas emmisions?

Action plan	
Title of action	Develop an energy consumption baseline and set future targets.
Description of action	Develop an energy consumption baseline and set future targets.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	June 2025
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2026
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Tonnes of CO2e (corporate GHG emissions),
Any additional comments, which may be considered	N/A

relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

Action plan

Title of action	Set renewable energy targets for council sites and facilities
Description of action	Set renewable energy targets for council sites and facilities
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2027

Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Tonnes of CO2e (corporate GHG emissions),
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Carry out a review of council heating systems, outlining decarbonisation options and recommendations.
Description of action	Carry out a review of council heating systems, outlining decarbonisation options and recommendations.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be	April 2026

indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2027
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Tonnes of CO2e (corporate GHG emissions),
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan

Title of action	Cut emissions from the corporate estate through a programme of asset rationalisation, energy efficiency improvements and behaviour change, targeting 20% emissions reductions by 2028.
Description of action	Cut emissions from the corporate estate through a programme of asset rationalisation, energy efficiency improvements and behaviour change, targeting 20% emissions reductions by 2028.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2028
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Tonnes of CO2e (corporate GHG emissions),
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the	N/A

implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

Action plan

Title of action	Work with local organisations and homeowners to better understand the district's-built environment emissions, promoting the use of smart technologies and digital tools to understand energy saving opportunities and in partnership with central government, develop a comprehensive programme of support, advice and guidance to drive large-scale retrofitting across the district.
Description of action	Work with local organisations and homeowners to better understand the district's-built environment emissions, promoting the use of smart technologies and digital tools to understand energy saving opportunities and in partnership with central government, develop a comprehensive programme of support, advice and guidance to drive large-scale retrofitting across the district.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026

If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2028
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Work with the Department for Infrastructure to deliver a rolling programme of active travel infrastructure improvements, including developing the greenway network to link urban centres and rural areas.

Description of action	Work with the Department for Infrastructure to deliver a rolling programme of active travel infrastructure improvements, including developing the greenway network to link urban centres and rural areas.
Action status	Action started and ongoing
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	June 2025
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2035
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

N/A

Action plan

Title of action	Increase the availability of secure cycle storage across the district
Description of action	Increase the availability of secure cycle storage across the district
Action status	Action started and ongoing
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	June 2025

If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2035
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Number of cycle stands in district
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Work with Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure on a Sustainable Place-Making Programme, to influence the design of town centres and streetscapes so that there are fewer barriers to active travel.

Description of action	Work with Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure on a Sustainable Place-Making Programme, to influence the design of town centres and streetscapes so that there are fewer barriers to active travel.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2035
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

N/A

Action plan

Title of action	Commence decarbonisation of council fleet by purchasing electric vehicles.
Description of action	Commence decarbonisation of council fleet by purchasing electric vehicles.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026

If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2027
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Tonnes of CO2 from fleet
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Switch diesel Fleet vehicles to HVO
Description of action	Switch diesel Fleet vehicles to HVO

Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2027
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Tonnes of CO2 from fleet
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan

Title of action	Facilitate driver training to encourage behavioural change
------------------------	--

Description of action	Facilitate driver training to encourage behavioural change
------------------------------	--

Action status	Underdevelopment
----------------------	------------------

If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
--	------------

If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2030
--	------------

Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Tonnes of CO2 from fleet
--	--------------------------

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which	N/A
---	-----

the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

Action plan

Title of action	Facilitate the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure, targeting 18 additional public charge points across the district by 2026
Description of action	Facilitate the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure, targeting 18 additional public charge points across the district by 2026
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2027
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently	Number of EV Chargepoints across district

under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Add climate change to the council’s risk assessment and business planning framework.
Description of action	Add climate change to the council’s risk assessment and business planning framework.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026

If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2027
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Publicly report climate action and sustainability performance as part of our annual report and performance management system

Description of action	Publicly report climate action and sustainability performance as part of our annual report and performance management system
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2027
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan

Title of action	Work towards Green Flag Status for all council managed woodlands and parks
------------------------	--

Description of action	Work towards Green Flag Status for all council managed woodlands and parks
------------------------------	--

Action status	Underdevelopment
----------------------	------------------

If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
--	------------

If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2030
--	------------

Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Number of Green Flag Awards for Parks
--	---------------------------------------

Any additional comments, which may be considered	N/A
---	-----

relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

Action plan

Title of action	Reduce mowing and hedge-cutting on the estate to protect local wildlife.
Description of action	Reduce mowing and hedge-cutting on the estate to protect local wildlife.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2030

Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Maintain, plant and protect trees on the corporate estate to support a long-term increase in tree canopy cover in the district.
Description of action	Maintain, plant and protect trees on the corporate estate to support a long-term increase in tree canopy cover in the district.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be	April 2026

indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2035
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Meet targets outlined in our Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan

Description of action	Meet targets outlined in our Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2035
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan

Title of action	Meet targets outlined in our AONB Action Plans
Description of action	Meet targets outlined in our AONB Action Plans
Action status	Action started and ongoing
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2035
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative,	N/A

or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

Action plan

Title of action	Draft a new Waste and Recycling Strategy for Council
Description of action	Draft a new Waste and Recycling Strategy for Council
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2029
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Action plan	
Title of action	Trial and showcase innovate circular economy solutions including material exchange centres, tool libraries, repair cafes, deposit return schemes, industrial symbiosis etc.
Description of action	Trial and showcase innovate circular economy solutions including material exchange centres, tool libraries, repair cafes, deposit return schemes, industrial symbiosis etc.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026

If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2029
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Update events policy to include ban on Single-Use-Plastic at community-run events on council land and property.

Description of action	Update events policy to include ban on Single-Use-Plastic at community-run events on council land and property.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2028
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Carry out Single-Use-Plastics (SUPs) audits and update our SUPs Action Plan.
Description of action	Carry out Single-Use-Plastics (SUPs) audits and update our SUPs Action Plan.
Action status	Underdevelopment
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2028
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered	N/A

relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')

Action plan

Title of action	Adopt a Sustainable Food Plan to support nature friendly farming and develop a more sustainable local food system.
Description of action	Adopt a Sustainable Food Plan to support nature friendly farming and develop a more sustainable local food system.
Action status	Action started and ongoing
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	April 2026
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2028

Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	SFP Award
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Action plan	
Title of action	Provide advice and training to help residents grow their own food, minimise food waste and maximise the redistribution of surplus food.
Description of action	Provide advice and training to help residents grow their own food, minimise food waste and maximise the redistribution of surplus food.
Action status	Action started and ongoing
If available, implementation start date of the action (can be	April 2026

indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	
If available, completion date of the action (can be indicative) (if not applicable state 'N/A', if not available state 'unknown')	March 2028
Provide details of any related performance indicators for the action or if they are currently under development (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - provide them here (e.g.state if timelines for the implementation are indicative, or any other comments which the organisation thinks are important, etc.) (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Co-ordination of actions

5.3 (a) - For each of the organisation’s actions (provided under question 5.2(a)), select the appropriate option on the desirability to co-ordinate the action with corresponding proposals / policies / actions in other parts of the United Kingdom, in the Republic of Ireland or elsewhere. ('elsewhere' can include Northern Ireland)

Develop an energy consumption baseline and set future targets.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Set renewable energy targets for council sites and facilities

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Carry out a review of council heating systems, outlining decarbonisation options and recommendations.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Cut emissions from the corporate estate through a programme of asset rationalisation, energy efficiency improvements and behaviour change, targeting 20% emissions reductions by 2028.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Work with local organisations and homeowners to better understand the district’s-built environment emissions, promoting the use of smart technologies and digital tools to understand energy saving opportunities and in partnership with central government, develop a comprehensive programme of support, advice and guidance to drive large-scale retrofitting across the district.	
Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Work with the Department for Infrastructure to deliver a rolling programme of active travel infrastructure improvements, including developing the greenway network to link urban centres and rural areas.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable and co-ordinated
Name of the other organisation(s) the action is co-ordinated with	DfI
Geographical location of corresponding proposal / policy / action or other co-ordinating organisation(s)	Northern Ireland wide - DfI. NMDDC Active Travel Masterplan, Exercise-Explore-Enjoy: A Strategic Plan for Greenways and DfI's Draft NI Active Travel Plan
Detail how the organisation's action is co-ordinated	Council works closely with DfI to develop infrastructure based on the Strategies and Plans listed above.
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Increase the availability of secure cycle storage across the district

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Work with Department for Communities and Department for Infrastructure on a Sustainable Place-Making Programme, to influence the design of town centres and streetscapes so that there are fewer barriers to active travel.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	Will work with Dept for Communities and within Council across various Depts
--	---

Commence decarbonisation of council fleet by purchasing electric vehicles.	
Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Switch diesel Fleet vehicles to HVO	
Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')

N/A

Facilitate driver training to encourage behavioural change

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action

Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')

N/A

Facilitate the roll-out of EV charging infrastructure, targeting 18 additional public charge points across the district by 2026

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-

Yes - desirable and co-ordinated

ordinating the action

Name of the other organisation(s) the action is co-ordinated with	Other NI Councils
Geographical location of corresponding proposal / policy / action or other co-ordinating organisation(s)	NI wide
Detail how the organisation's action is co-ordinated	Member of the NI EV Consortium of Councils who network together on EV Charging
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Add climate change to the council's risk assessment and business planning framework.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
Any additional comments, which may be considered	N/A

**relevant by the organisation -
to support the selected option,
provide them here (if not
applicable state 'N/A')**

**Publicly report climate action and sustainability performance as part of our annual report and
performance management system**

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co- ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
--	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Work towards Green Flag Status for all council managed woodlands and parks

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co- ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
--	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Reduce mowing and hedge-cutting on the estate to protect local wildlife.	
Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Maintain, plant and protect trees on the corporate estate to support a long-term increase in tree canopy cover in the district.	
Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development

ordinating the action

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Meet targets outlined in our Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Meet targets outlined in our AONB Action Plans

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
--	--

ordinating the action

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Draft a new Waste and Recycling Strategy for Council

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Trial and showcase innovate circular economy solutions including material exchange centres, tool libraries, repair cafes, deposit return schemes, industrial symbiosis etc.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
<hr/>	
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Update events policy to include ban on Single-Use-Plastic at community-run events on council land and property.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
<hr/>	
Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A

Carry out Single-Use-Plastics (SUPs) audits and update our SUPs Action Plan.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Adopt a Sustainable Food Plan to support nature friendly farming and develop a more sustainable local food system.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Provide advice and training to help residents grow their own food, minimise food waste and maximise the redistribution of surplus food.

Select appropriate option relating to desirability of co-ordinating the action	Yes - desirable but not co-ordinated or co-ordination is under development
---	--

Any additional comments, which may be considered relevant by the organisation - to support the selected option, provide them here (if not applicable state 'N/A')	N/A
--	-----

Part 6 - Emissions reduction case studies

Case studies

6.1 (a) - Does the reporting organisation wish to provide any case studies which illustrate its best practice that it is undertaking / has undertaken in relation to mitigation actions?

Yes

6.1 (b) - Provide details of the reporting organisation's case studies, up to a maximum of five, which illustrate its best practice that it is undertaking / has undertaken in relation to mitigation actions?

NMDDC Case Studies X 5.pdf

Title of case study

Council Solar Panels

Description of case study (e.g. aim / objective, timescale, location, key lessons learned, etc.)

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council have installed photovoltaic (PV) solar panels, to generate renewable electricity, at 21 of our sites. These solar PV systems range in size from a few domestic sized installations up to a 50kWp system at one of our leisure centres. Based on data collected in 2022/23, we estimate that the Council has been able to generate around 155,000kWh of renewable electricity, with around 75% of this used within council buildings and the remainder exported onto the electricity grid. This collectively will have reduced the Council's annual carbon footprint by around 35 Tonnes CO₂e. The financial savings from these systems has reduced the running costs of some of our leisure centres, community buildings and offices, especially during the energy crisis in recent years. In 2026/27 Council will set appropriate renewable energy targets, aligned with energy and carbon reduction targets. This will include future plans to install further Solar PV systems in suitable locations, where there is appropriate electricity demand and grid infrastructure in place.

Provide generic contact details (e.g. the organisation's generic email address) for further information regarding the case study [N.B.: Contact details will be published]

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Email: besustainable@nmandd.org

6.1 (b) - Provide details of the reporting organisation's case studies, up to a maximum of five, which illustrate its best practice that it is undertaking / has undertaken in relation to mitigation actions?

No file uploaded

Title of case study

The FASTER project

Description of case study (e.g. aim / objective, timescale, location, key lessons learned, etc.)

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council were a partner in the FASTER project, which received €6.4m EU funding under the INTERREG VA programme. The project was led by East Border Region and supported by Ulster University. As part of the project high speed 50KW and 100KW Electric Vehicle (EV) dual chargers were installed to cover 18 parking spaces across the District, including Newry Leisure Centre, Downpatrick Leisure Centre, the Newcastle Centre, Downshire Civic Building and Ballymote Sports and Wellbeing Centre. This additional investment in public EV infrastructure on Council sites, will allow EV drivers to charge their vehicles quickly in convenient locations, with access to local services. Easygo were appointed as the successful

'Charge Point Operator' (CPO) to install the EV chargers and manage these on behalf of our Council for 7-10 years.

Provide generic contact details (e.g. the organisation's generic email address) for further information regarding the case study [N.B.: Contact details will be published]

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Email: besustainable@nmandd.org Tel: 0330 137 4000

6.1 (b) - Provide details of the reporting organisation's case studies, up to a maximum of five, which illustrate its best practice that it is undertaking / has undertaken in relation to mitigation actions?

No file uploaded

Title of case study

Irish Black Honey Bees project

Description of case study (e.g. aim / objective, timescale, location, key lessons learned, etc.)

Alongside a wide range of initiatives to support ecology and biodiversity improvements, such as local wildflower management and dune restoration, a number of high-profile projects have been progressed by our Council. This includes a project where Council worked with County Louth Beekeepers Association to place four beehives on our disused Aughnagun Landfill Site to support the native Irish black honeybees, which are endangered locally. Honey was collected and either donated to local food banks or sold to raise money for the Council Chairperson's chosen charities. The project won a number of high profile national awards and featured on BBC1's 'The One Show'. The project aligned with Council's commitment to the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan, bringing awareness of the importance of pollinators to a local and national audience.

Provide generic contact details (e.g. the organisation's generic email address) for further information regarding the case study [N.B.: Contact details will be published]

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Email: besustainable@nmandd.org Tel: 0330 137 4000

6.1 (b) - Provide details of the reporting organisation's case studies, up to a maximum of five, which illustrate its best practice that it is undertaking / has undertaken in relation to mitigation actions?

No file uploaded

Title of case study

The CANN Project

Description of case study (e.g. aim / objective, timescale, location, key lessons learned, etc.)

The CANN project is another example of a high-profile cross-border environmental project, which aimed to improve the condition of protected habitats and to support priority species found within Northern Ireland, the Border Region of Ireland and Western Scotland. Newry, Mourne and Down District Council were the lead partner for this project, which received around €9m of funding from the INTERREG VA programme, with match funding provided by the Department of Housing, Planning and Local Government in Ireland, by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland, and by Nature Scot in Scotland. This project included initiatives to restore peatland and so is particularly relevant given advice from the Climate Change Committee (CCC), that more than half of peatland in Northern Ireland should be under restoration by 2030, in addition to that already under sympathetic management.

Provide generic contact details (e.g. the organisation's generic email address) for further information regarding the case study [N.B.: Contact details will be published]

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Email: besustainable@nmandd.org Tel: 0330 137 4000

6.1 (b) - Provide details of the reporting organisation's case studies, up to a maximum of five, which illustrate its best practice that it is undertaking / has undertaken in relation to mitigation actions?

No file uploaded

Title of case study

UNESCO Global Geopark

Description of case study (e.g. aim / objective, timescale, location, key lessons learned, etc.)

In 2023, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's bid for full UNESCO Global Geopark status for Mourne Gullion Strangford was awarded, recognising this area's unique landscape and geology. This landscape is varied and beautiful, shaped over aeons by the collision of continents, the appearance and disappearance of oceans, through tumultuous volcanic events, and the rough treatment of ice ages. It has shaped a rich biodiversity and a vibrant cultural life, which the new Geopark will celebrate. This recognition reflects over a

decade of work carried out by the Geopark project team within Council, in partnership with the Geological Survey Northern Ireland (GSNI), with support and engagement from residents and stakeholders. A Geopark is a landscape that is managed holistically for the protection of its geology, the education of its people and visitors, and the sustainable development of its businesses. The Mourne Gullion Strangford UNESCO Global Geopark is about working together to make the most of our beautiful landscape through sustainable tourism, biodiversity improvements, geological education and sustainably managed outdoor recreation. Council will continue to progress these actions through our Geopark's 10-year Masterplan and consider options to develop further work in this area, including Geofood.

Provide generic contact details (e.g. the organisation's generic email address) for further information regarding the case study [N.B.: Contact details will be published]

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Email: besustainable@nmandd.org Tel: 0330 137 4000

Part 7 - Validation and authorisation

Validation of data

7.1 (a) - Has the organisation applied any validation process, to the contents of this report?

Yes

7.1 (b) - What was the type, or source of the validation?

External expert (i.e. independent third party such as a consultant or auditor)

7.1 (c) - Provide details of the validation which the organisation thinks is relevant, this could be for example which emissions data was validated, etc

Report and Emissions Data was validated by an external consultant.

7.1 (d) - If the organisation has any further comments which it considers important or relevant to its selected option under question 7.1(a), they can be provided here.

No response

118

Authorisation for submitting the report

7.2 (a) - Is the organisation, at the time of this submission, providing confirmation that they have obtained their own appropriate internal approval of the content of this report and the authorisation for it to be analysed and published by DAERA?

No

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2025
Subject:	Mid Year Assessment of Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment

For decision		X	For noting only		
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	Directorate Business Plans provide an overview of planned activity for the year ahead, and contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan, Corporate Plan and other key plans and strategies. They form an essential part of the Council’s Business Planning and Performance Management Framework, which demonstrates how corporate objectives are cascaded across the organisation and provides assurance that they are being delivered.				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	In order to improve transparency and accountability, and facilitate a performance led approach to business planning, each Directorate has undertaken an assessment of their Business Plan 2025-26, to provide an overview of progress between April-September 2025. This exercise forms an important part of the Council’s statutory responsibility to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported across the organisation.				
2.2	The Mid Year Assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan is outlined at Appendix 1.				
3.0	Recommendations				
3.1	To consider and agree the: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mid Year Assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26				
4.0	Resource implications				
4.1	There are no financial resource implications within this report.				
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)				
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations</p>				

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> Consultation not required.</p>
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appendix 1 – Mid Year Assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26
8.0	Background Documents
	Directorate Business Plans 2025-26

Sustainability and Environment

Mid-Year Assessment Business Plan 2025-26

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Sustainability and Environment Business Plan 2025-26, between April-September 2025, across the following service areas:

Environment

- **Resource Collection, Processing and Recycling**
- **District Cleansing**
- **Resource processing -procurement, contract and data management**
- **Education and Enforcement (including dog control)**
- **Environmental Health**
- **Internal Health & Wellbeing**
- **Safety, Health and Emergency Planning**

Sustainability

- **Sustainability and climate action**
- **Grounds and Buildings Maintenance**
- **Facilities Management**
 - **Car parking facilities and Harbours**
 - **Cemeteries, Public Conveniences and Markets**
- **Fleet Management and Maintenance**

The delivery of the Sustainability and Environment Business Plan 2025-26 supports the achievement of the following corporate objectives, and performance has been tracked using the legend below.

Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future

Deliver sustainable services




Represent the voice of the District with our Partners

Develop and revitalise our District

Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district

Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life

Legend

Status	
	Target or objective achieved / on track to be achieved
	Target or objective partially achieved / likely to be achieved / subject to delay
	Target or objective not achieved / unlikely to be achieved

Directorate objectives, supporting actions and measures of success

Directorate Objectives
Sustainability and Environment Transformation: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Embed and align the new functions and services within the S&E Directorate structure and across Council. Review and transform current operational models to deliver efficient, effective and sustainable services that continue to meet our statutory obligations.
Sustainability: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Develop and implement key sustainability strategies and action plans and advocate internally and externally to work towards net zero carbon with an invest to save strategy in waste reduction, circular economy and green transportation programmes
Environment: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Deliver sustainable services that protect our natural and built environment, continue to meet our statutory obligations and further improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District.

Sustainability & Environment			
SE1 : Embed and align the new functions and services within the S&E Directorate structure and across Council. Review and transform current operational models to deliver efficient, effective and sustainable services that continue to meet our statutory obligations.			
Progress the implementation of the structure review of S&E Directorate including planning for the future, and service reviews as detailed in the joint Management / Trade Union workplan. (Q3)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>—</div>	
Progress recruitment of vacant posts and increase permanent Council employed staff in order to reduce reliance on agency staff and overtime to deliver frontline services. (CWB)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>—</div>	
	Notes:	1 Progress in relation to appointment of staff required as part of the cleansing review. Further phases of recruitment to be progressed.	
Continue the implementation of the Procurement action plan	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>—</div>	
	Notes:	1 Progress continues to implement the actions on the S&E procurement action plan	
Continue to improve compliance with all relevant statutory obligations	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>—</div>	
	Notes:	1 Good progress has been made on compliance with statutory requirements. Fixed electrical testing and remedial works programme well progressed. Legionella risk assessments and asbestos surveys to be completed in Q3 2025.	

Identify opportunities for digital transformation through review of service delivery		Target		
		Progress	Green ^ 1	—
	Notes:	1 A number of opportunities for digital transformation have been identified; including Fleet Technology, Land Asset Management System, Newry Canal Remote Water level monitoring		
Provide adequate emergency planning and response.		Target		
		Progress	Green ^ 1	—
	Notes:	1 Ongoing		
Procure the required insurance cover for all Council requirements		Target		
		Progress	Green ^ 1	—
	Notes:	1 Insurance arrangements are currently in place and process is ongoing for annual insurance renewal process which is due to be completed by end of 2025 FY.		
Number of compliant contracts completed in line with procurement action plan		Target		
		Progress	Green ^ 1	—
	Notes:	1 6No compliant SE contracts awarded in Q1/Q2 2025.		
Number of fully or partially implemented audit actions.		Target		
		Progress	Green ^ 1	—
	Notes:	1 a total of 38 audit actions have been implemented in Q1/Q2 2025. (36S / 2E)		

Number of fully or partially implemented audit actions.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 a total of 38 audit actions have been implemented in Q1/Q2 2025. (36S / 2E)			
Number of statutory & funding returns completed on time.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 The S&E Department had a total of 12 statutory and funding returns to complete by the mid year point (3 funding and 9 statutory) 11 were returned on time. 1 had an agreed extension from DEARA and was completed by the extension deadline and 1 was delayed due to an IT software issue			
Establish baseline customer satisfaction of the Household Recycling Centre Service users.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Red</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 Customer satisfaction baseline for HRCs not yet commenced.			
Number of vacant posts filled	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 8 vacant posts filled in the S&E Directorate excluding the cleansing review and 33 posts filled within the cleansing review.			

Number of agency staff reduced	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Red</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>—</div>
Notes:	1 The number of agency staff within the Directorate has increased from 34 in April to 50 by the end of September. However it is important to note that 17 staff were successful to permanent roles following cleansing review, some agency staff were seasonal and some are as a result of internal movement following recruitment process (cleansing). Further recruitment exercises are planned for Q3 and Q4 which should have a positive impact on these numbers.		
Percentage of statutory & funding returns completed on time.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>—</div>
Notes:	1 85% of all statutory and funding returns were completed on time.		
Complete the Health and wellbeing survey for staff and develop an action plan	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>—</div>
Notes:	1 In progress through H&WWG		

SE2 : Develop and implement key sustainability strategies and action plans and advocate internally and externally to work towards net zero carbon, with an invest to save strategy, waste reduction, circular economy and green transportation programmes.			
Advocate Sustainability agenda internally and externally within Council.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 Ongoing			
Develop and implement: (SCC) • Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy • Climate Change Mitigation Report • Climate Adaptation Report	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy completed in draft and to be approved by SE committee for public consultation in Q3. Climate Mitigation report being finalised, to be submitted by 31st October 2025. Work has commenced on Climate Adaptation Report, to be submitted by 31st March 2026.			
Implement Biodiversity / Tree Strategies	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 Actions ongoing.			
Research and develop options for a circular economy pilot project and explore funding opportunities (CWB) (Partner ERT)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes: 1 In process of recruiting a new Sustainability Officer to progress this action.			

Continued review and implementation of the Fleet Replacement Programme and decarbonization strategy.	Target		
	Progress	Green	—
	Notes:	1 In progress. Business cases approved and procurement underway for 2025 fleet replacement programme. this includes procurement of 13no battery electric vehicles.	
Review Active Travel Masterplan (CPP) (Partner with ERT) (Q4)	Target		
	Progress	—	
Develop an action plan to meet the requirements of new legislation and central government policy changes to ensure continuity of delivery of efficient and effective waste management services. (Q4)	Target		
	Progress	—	
Publication of Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and associated action plan	Target		
	Actual	—	
Completion and submission of Climate Change Mitigation Report in accordance with Climate Change Act.	Target		
	Actual	—	
Completion and submission of Climate Change Adaptation Report in accordance with Climate Change Act.	Target		
	Progress	—	
Progress decarbonisation of Council fleet	Target		
	Progress	Green	—
	Notes:	1 Fleet decarbonisation progressing. Procurement of 13No battery electric vehicles underway.	

SE3 : Deliver sustainable services that protect our natural and built environment, continue to meet our statutory obligations and further improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the District.			
Continue to deliver the Statutory Services of the functions within the Directorate	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes:		1 Ongoing	
Develop an Education, Awareness and Enforcement Improvement plan to address dog fouling, litter and fly tipping incidents across the District. (CPP)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Red</div> <div>1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes:		1 Development and implementation of Enforcement Improvement Plan is linked with the successful recruitment to the post of Education and Enforcement Manager. Further recruitment exercise to take place in Q3.	
Develop a strategy and action plan for the management and maintenance of Council facilities. (Q4)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>—</div>	
Finalise and launch the Age Friendly Action Plan with partners (CPP) (Q4)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>—</div>	
Support the development and review of Business continuity plans across Council	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Amber</div> <div>1</div>	<div>—</div>
Notes:		1 Business continuity review meeting planned for Q3	

Review and maintain the Council's compliance with health and safety legislative requirements.		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 Council's compliance with H&S legislative requirements is reviewed, including accident reporting and analysis, at quarterly Corporate H&S committee. H&S Compliance dashboard to be developed.</p>		
Introduction of APSEs Land Audit Management System LAMS to measure and benchmark levels of street cleanliness, grounds maintenance and cemeteries across the district		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 Introduction of LAMS app approved at ITPG, meeting with APSE for demonstration in November 25.</p>		
Develop an action plan to meet the requirements of new legislation and policy relating to waste management.		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>—</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 Still awaiting outworking of DAERA consultation 'Rethinking Resources' and publication of government policy relating to waste management.</p>		

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2025
Subject:	Health Fora
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment Eugene Reilly, Waste Contracts and Data Officer

<table><tr><td>For decision</td><td>X</td><td>For noting only</td><td></td></tr></table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	The purpose of this report is for members of the Sustainability and Environment Committee to agree meeting schedule for the Southern and South Eastern Heath Working Groups.				
1.2	<p>Following a notice of motion to the Council, it was agreed at the Active and Healthy Communities Committee of 17 August 2017, that the Southern and South Eastern Heath Working Groups were formed to give opportunity for Elected Members to discuss issues relating to Health Service provision in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council twice yearly. In addition to the respective Trusts, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service will be invited to the meeting.</p> <p>The terms of reference were agreed, as set out in Appendix 1, and it was determined that the working groups would meet six weeks prior to a Council meeting with the Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts (HSCT) to discuss issues relation to health, twice yearly. Should a relevant issue arise which requires addressing on an urgent basis, additional meetings may be arranged on an ad hoc basis.</p>				
1.3					
2.0	Key Issues				
2.1	<p>Membership of the working group was agreed as follows:</p> <p>Each Working Group will contain members from all political parties on the basis below: Sinn Fein 3 SDLP 3 DUP 1 UUP 1 Alliance 1 Independent 1 Plus the Chair of Council who will chair the meetings.</p> <p>Political party membership will need to be updated in line with current elected representation.</p> <p>Also invited to the Working Group meetings: Downe Community Health Committee Daisy Hill Hospital Action Group Representatives of the Trades Union in Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals</p>				

	Nominations will also be sought for membership from constituted community organisations with an interest in Health Service matters across the District. This will be co-ordinated through the District Electoral Foras.
2.2	The last meetings of the working groups that were scheduled for February and March 2023 did not proceed. The Trusts attended Council meeting in November 2023.
2.3	It is proposed, subject to the availability of SHSCT, SEHSCT and NIAS, that the next working group meetings would be held in February 2026 and the Special Council meeting for Health would be scheduled for March 2026. Future meeting schedule to be agreed at working groups.
3.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the report and approve: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The membership update as set out in section 2.1 of the report. The meeting schedule as set out in section 2.3 of the report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Aside from officer time, this report does not entail any additional resource implications.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> n/a <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/> The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/> Rationale: n/a
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)

6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>
7.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 – SPR report on Consultation arrangements with Health and Social Care Trusts
8.0	Background Documents
	SPR/147/2017 CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS WITH HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUSTS SPR Committee 17 August 2017

Report to:	Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee
Date of Meeting:	Thursday 17 August 2017
Subject:	Consultation arrangements with Health and Social Care Trusts
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Liam Hannaway, Chief Executive
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Aisling Rennick, Investing for Health Officer

Decisions required:	
To decide the format of consultation arrangements with Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts	
1.0	Purpose and Background:
1.1	<p>The Council has approved the following Notice of Motion</p> <p>“That this Council recognises the continuous threats to Health Service provision in Newry, Mourne and Down District and in wishing to address these issues will establish a Health Committee inviting the Health Trusts to Council to discuss health related issues. This Council will also involve local health campaigners to explore health provision issues and concerns.”</p>
2.0	
2.1	<p>Following consideration by the Party Representatives Forum the following is proposed in respect of the consultation arrangements with Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts. Northern Ireland Ambulance Service will also be invited to attend.</p> <p>The Council hold a Council meeting with the Southern and South Eastern Trusts to discuss issues relating to Health Service provision in the Newry, Mourne and Down District twice yearly.</p> <p>Should a relevant issue arise which requires addressing on an urgent basis, additional meetings may be arranged on an ad hoc basis. The Trust may use these Fora as a means of consultation.</p> <p>Six weeks prior to the quarterly meeting the Southern and South Eastern Health Working Groups will meet to identify issues and concerns. These will be Chaired by the Chair of Council.</p> <p><u>Southern and South Eastern Health Working Group Terms of Reference</u></p> <p>Scope</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 To meet six weeks before the Council’s Health Consultation meeting to identify issues and concerns regarding Health Services and to formulate relevant questions to be provided to the Trusts three weeks in advance of the Council meeting.

- 2 To communicate the community's views to the Health sector and ensuring this does not conflict with community planning objectives and priorities.
- 3 To provide an environment for a facilitated conversation between the Community and Council in relation to key identified health issues and enable the Trust to consult local health interest groups.
- 4 To assist with the identification and prioritisation of health and wellbeing issues at a district and DEA level to ensure these are fed through to the appropriate community planning structure to enable their inclusion in the area and thematic multiagency action plans.
- 5 To act as an ongoing means of engagement between the Trusts and The Council/community.

Membership

Each Working Group will contain members from all political parties on the basis below:

Sinn Fein	3
SDLP	3
DUP	1
UUP	1
Alliance	1
Independent	1

Plus the Chair of Council who will chair the meetings

Also invited to the Working Group meetings

Downe Community Health Committee

Daisy Hill Hospital Action Group

Representatives of the Trades Union in Daisy Hill and Downe Hospitals

Nominations will also be sought for membership from constituted community organisations with an interest in Health Service matters across the District.

The Working Group may also invite other representatives, on an ad hoc basis, where it believes they may have knowledge which may be of value in formulating questions.

These meetings will be supported by officers from Active and Healthy Communities and Community Planning Departments.

Decision Making and Voting

The Working Group should seek to make decisions by agreement and consensus and therefore no voting will take place or be recorded. The Working Group does not have decision making powers. Its purpose is to raise issues and formulate questions to be submitted to the Trusts for Council to raise at its Special Council Meetings with the Trusts.

	<p>Press</p> <p>Invitations to the press shall not be extended to working group meetings but press will be present at the Council Meetings.</p>
3.0	Recommendations:
3.1	Recommend: The Council approve the proposed arrangements for consultation with Southern and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trusts as set out in 2.0 above.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	Cost to the Council of quarterly meetings
5.0	Equality and good relations implications:
5.1	None if statutory guidance is followed.
6.0	Appendices
	None

ITEM 3
ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
AGM and Meeting No 099
MINUTES
Thursday 25 September 2025
Hosted by Ards and North Down Borough Council
in The Signal Centre, Bangor

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington (<i>Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor E Thompson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor A Givan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor G McKeen (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor K Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor M Goodman	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor H Cushinan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor M Collins	Belfast City Council
Councillor A Groogan	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Alderman O Gawith	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman S Skillen	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman M Morrow	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor R Quigley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
H Campbell (<i>Secretary</i>)	arc21
K Boal	arc21
J Green	arc21
B McKeown	arc21
L Daly	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards and North Down Borough Council
G Bannister	Ards and North Down Borough Council
J McConnell	Belfast City Council
A McCann	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
G Richardson	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
W Muldrew	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
S Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

M Lavery	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
S Leonard	Belfast City Council
S Morely	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Item 1 - AGM

Procedures

Mr Walker referred to the procedures for the election of a Chair and Deputy Chair for the forthcoming year.

Election of Chair

Nominations were sought for the position of Chair to serve the Joint Committee for the forthcoming year.

Nominated: Councillor Alison Bennington
Seconded by: Councillor Kate Murphy

It was resolved that Councillor Bennington be elected as Chair of the Joint Committee for the incoming year [2025/26].

(Councillor Bennington in the Chair)

Election of Deputy Chair

Nominations were then invited for the position of Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee.

Nominated: Councillor Gregg McKeen
Seconded by: Councillor Alan Givan

It was resolved that Councillor McKeen be re-elected as Deputy Chair of the Joint Committee for the incoming year [2025/26].

Nominations were then invited for the replacement of Cllr Enright on the Audit Committee and Cllr Thompson nominated himself, and this was agreed by all.

The Chair welcomed Cllr Lee-Surginor, who replaced Cllr Enright from Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, to his first meeting of the Joint Committee, and thanked Cllr Enright for his service to the Joint Committee.

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 098 held on 28 August 2025

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

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Any matters arising were dealt with under the main agenda.

Action: Noted

Mr Walker advised that due to the August meeting becoming inquorate towards the end of the meeting, the outstanding items would be discussed under the main agenda, including the Consultations and Annual Report.

Action: Noted

IN COMMITTEE

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

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 four matters discussed.

Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 098 held on 28 August 2025 'in committee' - approved

Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - noted

Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - approved

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by the Chair.

Item 9 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

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

Service Status

She reported that all services were operational and running well during the month of August 2025.

Performance

She provided an update on contractor performance across all the contracts and highlighted where service credits had been applied for turnaround times, the number of overweight vehicles, reporting issues by contractors, and the bring contracts rectification requests issued and serviced.

Health & Safety

i. Incidents

The two Health & Safety incidents in August were discussed and the actions taken.

She advised that there had been an increase in the number of fires reported, which was potentially due to the single use vapes, but noted that there was no evidence as yet. She advised that it was hoped to hold a workshop with council H&S officers or supervisors before Christmas, if possible, to look at the trends and good practice, and information gathering was currently underway.

ii. Audits

She reported that a site inspection of Belfast City Council's Transfer station at Dargan Road, used by ReGen Waste Limited to bulk and transfer residual waste, had been undertaken by the auditor. Some minor actions were identified and these were being actioned.

NIEA Enforcement Notices

An update was provided on a further Enforcement Notice issued by the NIEA in respect of the Greenacres Composting Facility. She noted that this was used as a contingency site by NWP, but they had used this facility since July 2025 when they were made aware of the first Notice.

She advised that she would be discussing this with NWP at the next contractor meeting.

Rejected Loads

Ms Boal reported that there had been two rejected loads in August, one was delivered to the MRF operated by Bryson Recycling and the other to a site operated by NWP.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

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

Supplies

A summary of orders and deliveries of supplies for August was presented and she noted that there were no non-compliances in respect of deliveries.

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

Action: Noted

Item 10 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Ms Boal presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material received through the arc21 contracts over the last four years and discussed the increases and decreases in the tonnage trends.

She also presented an analysis of current performance against future landfill and recycling targets using information from Waste Data Flow (2025/26 unvalidated). She noted that all arc21 councils were sending less than 10% to landfill in the first quarter of 2025/26.

Cllr Andrews noted that the reduction was good news and Ms Boal noted that this level was probably static now although there may be some further slight reduction where landfill plays part of a solution. She highlighted that there was a genuine question for NI PLC in terms of contingency, and the risks with no landfill as backup.

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

Action: Noted

Item 11 - Consultations: Public Consultation on the Plastic Pollution Plan for Northern Ireland; and Northern Ireland's draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027

Mr Walker presented Members with the proposed arc21 responses to two consultations: The *Plastic Pollution Plan for Northern Ireland*, and *Northern Ireland's draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027*.

He noted that there was a further consultation in train on the setting of Northern Ireland's Fourth Carbon Budget (2038-2042) in which he was considering a response.

He reported that the deadline for the *Plastic Pollution Plan for NI* was Wednesday 24 September, and a response was submitted in liaison with the Deputy Chair.

He noted that the deadline for the response to Northern Ireland's *draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027* consultation was 8 October and a proposed response was presented for Members' consideration.

Cllr Givan noted the fragility of Northern Ireland's waste disposal options and inquired if there were any facilities left in the arc21 area where landfill sites could be opened in the event of an emergency. Mr Walker advised that there were not at this time, but highlighted that previously when issues arose from introducing the Montreal Protocol which had ramifications for fridges, these were stockpiled in a number of quarries and other appropriate locations but, having found disposal points, this then took something in the order of four to five years to unwind.

In relation to residual waste, he advised that if there was a failing in the system it could be expected that there would have to be a temporary arrangement for baling waste and storage using existing licenced storage facilities, or exemptions or emergency licensed facilities being authorised and the waste stored in bales until there was an outlet.

The Chair suggested that it may be prudent for arc21 to consider undertaking a SWOT Analysis or risk assessment in the event of a catastrophic failure.

Mr Walker advised that he would bolster the response with the issues raised.

It was recommended that the Joint Committee:

- retrospectively approve the arc21 response to the *Plastic Pollution Plan for NI*; and
- consider and approve the arc21 response to Northern Ireland's draft *Climate Action Plan 2023-2027*, further to any final comments to him by Friday 3 October.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to approve the recommendations. Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Givan.

Action: Approved

Item 12 - Annual Report 2024/25

Mr Walker presented Members with the final arc21 *Annual Report* for the year to March 2025 reflecting the progress made in the first year of arc21's *Corporate Plan 2024-2028*. He noted that no comments had been received since August's Joint Committee meeting and therefore he was presenting again for approval.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to approve the Annual Report 2024/25. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Cllr Thompson.

Action: Approved

Item 13 - Impact of pEPR on Materials to Market

Ms Boal reported that, following a query raised at the last meeting, she had located some packaging data for the 2023 and 2024 noting however that these would not provide the up to date information that was being sought as it was not yet available.

Looking at the trends during this year she noted that the biggest change was that packaging had generally fallen by 8% in what's being reported as packaging data. There were big increases in fibre composites from 38%, but noted that the starting point was starting at a low base. 'Other' packaging was reported increasing from 17 thousand tonnes to 24 thousand tonnes but she noted that it was unclear from the data what materials were included in the category.

She noted that other trends included glass which seemed to have fallen to just under 5%; paper and cardboard to just under 8%; and plastic by just under 12%. Reusables were up by 63%, but again starting at a low base figure.

She advised that the definition of what counted as fibre composite had changed meaning it could be defined as that provided there was no more than 5% plastic content.

She noted that following discussions at a recent Engagement Forum on looking at this reported packaging information it was made clear by Defra that there were people not inputting to the data at all, referring to them as 'free riders', so unsure how valid the figures are.

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

Action: Noted

Item 14 - Schedule of Meetings 2026

Mr Walker presented the proposed schedule of meetings to be held in 2026 as follows, all commencing at 10am.

2026

Thursday 29 January - online using MS Teams

Thursday 26 February - online using MS Teams

Thursday 26 March - hybrid, to be hosted by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Thursday 30 April - online using MS Teams

Thursday 28 May - online using MS Teams

Thursday 25 June - hybrid, to be hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

July - no meeting

Thursday 27 August - online using MS Teams

Thursday 24 September – AGM and meeting, hybrid, to be hosted by Ards and North Down Borough Council

Thursday 29 October - online using MS Teams

Tuesday 1 December - hybrid to be hosted by Belfast City Council

It was recommended that the Joint Committee:

- approve the schedule of meetings presented and the format of meetings in order that arrangements can be confirmed with councils; and
- the dates are forwarded to Members Services of the constituent councils to help avoid meetings being scheduled in the Councils during these dates and times.

Mr Walker took the opportunity to raise the level of attendance, as highlighted in the Annual Report 24/25, and noted that it had been lower than ideal with the difficulties of achieving quorums at times.

He noted his thanks to the regular attenders, and appreciated the difficulties other Members may have in terms of other jobs/duties etc. However, given the level of monies, schedules, the pressures the organisation was under, and the decisions that needed to be taken, he re-emphasised that attendance was important and greatly appreciated.

Members were asked to consider both individually and through their Parties how best this issue of attendance can be alleviated.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to approve the recommendations.

Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Action: Noted

Item 15 - AOB

Financial Accounts to March 2025

Mr Walker reported that at the last Audit Committee meeting the Financial Accounts to March 2025 were presented and discussed with Internal Audit and the NIAO, and these required to be signed off and submitted by end September.

However, due to the former Audit Committee Chair, Cllr Enright, having stepped down, it was considered appropriate that Cllr McKeen in his role as the Deputy Chair and a member of the Audit Committee, sign off the Accounts. He noted that this had been discussed with NIAO and, under the circumstances, they had confirmed this as being an appropriate approach to adopt.

Members were asked to endorse this approach which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Andrews, seconded by the Chair, and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed.

Item 16 - Next Meeting Thursday 30 October 2025, using MS Teams

The Chair advised that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 30 October 2025 using MS Teams and Members were asked to confirm their attendance with Ms Campbell in advance of the meeting.

Action: ALL

Officers were asked to leave the meeting for the final report under Item 17. Given the timing of consideration of this item at the AGM and in the absence of the Chair having been briefed in advance of the meeting, Mr Walker presented the governance paper and then retired from the meeting prior to any discussion amongst the Members.

IN COMMITTEE

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

Matters of a confidential and commercially sensitive nature were discussed.

Following discussion on the commercially sensitive matter, the Chair recommended that the meeting would now close, which was approved, but whilst “*In Committee*” during this section of the meeting, there was one item discussed.

Item 17 - Governance Report - approved

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Cllr Murphy.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____

S&E Working Group incorporating Cleansing and Refuse Task Group Revised
Schedule of Meetings 2025 - 2026

Date	Time	Location
19 November 2025	5.00 pm – 6.15 pm	Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall
18 February 2026	5.00 pm – 6.15 pm	Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall
20 May 2026	5.00 pm – 6.15 pm	Boardroom, Warrenpoint Town Hall

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 November 2025
Subject:	Christmas Holiday Arrangements for Refuse collection and Household Recycling Centres.
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment

		For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide the Sustainability and Environment Committee with details of the alternative refuse collections over Christmas 2025 and the New Year period along with the opening and closing dates of all Household Recycling Centres (HRC) sites across both legacy areas, as outlined in Appendix 1.</p> <p>As previously approved by S&E committee in February 2025, Public Holidays applying to the 2025/25 financial year have been reviewed alongside operational provision for Refuse Collection services and HRC sites. Revised operational arrangements were agreed with staff and waste receipting centres to ensure operational arrangements are coordinated. These revised arrangements are communicated to Householders through their individual household Bin Collection Calendars and on print and social media.</p>			
2.0	Key Issues			
2.1	The refuse collection service will not operate on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. Alternative collection arrangements are outlined in Appendix 1.			
2.2	HRC sites will close at 3pm on Christmas Eve. HRC sites are closed on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day. See detail within Appendix 1. Members should note that due to increased usage of the HRC sites at this time and to accommodate servicing arrangements, restrictions may be placed on acceptance of waste streams on a site by site basis.			
2.3	Street Cleansing services will not operate on Christmas Day. All Public Conveniences will be closed on Christmas Day and will open as normal on Boxing Day and New Year's Day.			
2.4	<p>Marketing will publish a Public Notice to inform residents about Christmas and New Year bin collection schedules and Household Recycling Centre (HRC) opening hours. Updated collection calendars are also available on the Council website to advise residents of any changes to their usual collection days.</p> <p>Additionally, to ensure residents are fully aware of alternative collection arrangements, details will be printed on stickers and applied to the relevant receptacles (black, blue/green, and brown bins) prior to the festive period.</p>			
3.0	Recommendations			
	Members are asked to note the content of this report.			
4.0	Resource implications			

4.1	Costs associated with Refuse collection and information to residents are factored within budgets and there are no perceived resource implications relating to staffing on the alternative collection days.	
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)	
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> <i>n/a</i> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
5.2	<i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/> The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/>	
5.3	<i>Proposal initiating consultation</i> Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/> Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/> <i>Rationale: n/a</i>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If yes, please complete the following: Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/>	
7.0	Appendices	
	Appendix 1 –2025/26 Public Holiday Refuse Collection and Household Recycling Centres Arrangements.	
8.0	Background Documents	
	n/a	

Appendix 1 - Schedule of Public Holiday Arrangements

Public Holiday	Date of Public Holiday	Alternative Refuse Collection Day	Household Recycling Centre Arrangements
Easter Monday	Monday 21/04/2025	*No Collection in Down Normal Collection in Newry	Open 09:30 – 16:30
Easter Tuesday	Tuesday 22/04/2025	Normal Collection	Open 09:30 – 16:30
May Day	Monday 05/05/2025	*No Collection in Down Normal Collection in Newry	Open 09:30 – 16:30
Late May Bank Holiday	Monday 26/05/2025	*No Collection in Down Normal Collection in Newry	Open 09:30 – 16:30
12 July	Monday 14/07/2025	*No Collection in Down Normal Collection in Newry	Open 09:30 – 16:30
13 July	Tuesday 15/07/2025	Normal Collection	Open 09:30 – 16:30
August Bank Holiday	Monday 25/08/2025	*No Collection in Down Normal Collection in Newry	Open 09:30 – 16:30
Christmas Eve	Wednesday 24/12/2025	Normal Collection	Open 09:30 – 15:00
Christmas Day	Thursday 25/12/2025	Newry – Saturday 20 December 2025 Downpatrick – Monday 22 December 2025	CLOSED
St Stephens Day	Friday 26/12/2025	Newry – Saturday 27 December 2025 Downpatrick – Monday 29 December 2025	CLOSED
Statutory Day	Monday 29/12/2025	*No Collection in Down Normal Collection in Newry	Open 09:30 – 16:30
New Years Day	Thursday 01/01/2026	Newry – Saturday 03 January 2026 Downpatrick – Monday 05 January 2026	CLOSED
St Patricks Day	Tuesday 17/03/2026	Normal Collection	CLOSED

* Mondays are a normal nonservice day in Down.

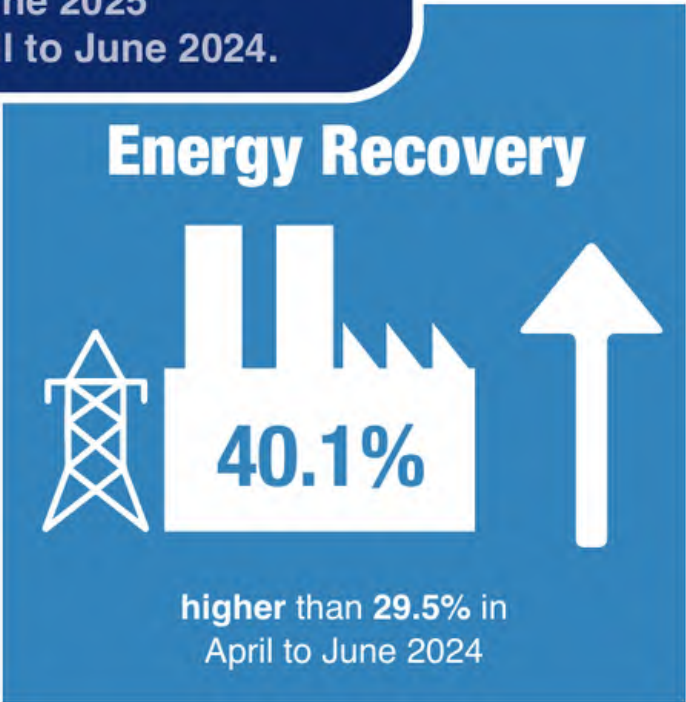
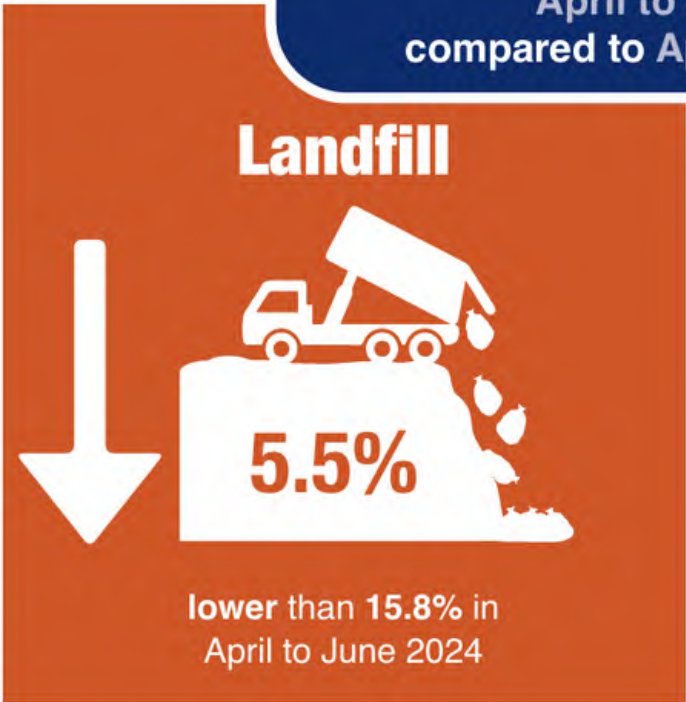
Waste Collections by NI Councils

April to June 2025

150



Recycling, energy recovery and landfill rates of LAC municipal waste
April to June 2025
compared to April to June 2024.



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



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**
www.daera-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

**Fairmin, Environment
an' Kintra Matthers**

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	19 th November 2025
Subject:	Revised Consultation Response – DAERA Public Consultation on Northern Ireland’s draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director, Sustainability
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Eamonn Keaveney, Head of Sustainability

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -

For decision	<input type="checkbox"/>	For noting only	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
---------------------	--------------------------	------------------------	-------------------------------------

1.0	Purpose and Background
1.1	That the Committee note the revised consultation response (attached). Following feedback from Members at the October S&E Committee the consultation response has been revised and will be submitted to DAERA.
2.0	Key issues
2.1	In 2022, Northern Ireland passed its first climate legislation - the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. The Act sets an ambitious target to reduce Northern Ireland’s greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to net zero by 2050. This means by 2050 that we must remove at least as many emissions from our atmosphere as we produce each year.
2.2	The Act requires DAERA to prepare and publish a Climate Action Plan every five years. The draft Climate Action Plan (2023-2027) is the first step on Northern Ireland’s journey to net zero. It sets out policies and proposals to achieve reductions in emissions and the actions which will enable this to happen. The focus of this draft plan is on meeting the first carbon budget.
2.3	A carbon budget sets a limit on the maximum amount of GHG emissions that can be produced over a five-year period. Keeping emissions within the limit set for each carbon budget period is important as it will set us on the right pathway to meet 2030, 2040 and 2050 targets, in line with the requirements of the legislation.
2.4	In December 2024, the Executive agreed that for the period of this plan, 2023-2027, greenhouse gas emissions need to be reduced by 33% on average, to set us on the right path to net zero and contribute to global climate targets.
2.5	Innovation and creative solutions to existing challenges will have an important role to play in this Climate Action Plan. Without which we will not achieve our goals. New ideas and technologies will help us achieve our climate ambition and create opportunities along the way.
2.6	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has co-ordinated the publication of this draft Climate Action Plan with each Northern Ireland department identifying policies and proposals to reduce emissions in line with the carbon budget. This first draft Climate Action Plan sets out 52 policies and proposals to reduce

	emissions across nine sectors: energy production and supply; transport; business and industrial processes; residential buildings; public buildings; waste management; agriculture; land use, land use change and forestry; and fisheries.
2.7	A Copy of The draft Climate Action Plan is available to access on the DAERA website along with alternative formats on request. There have been a series of stakeholder engagement events during the consultation period. Details and Documents are available on the DAERA website https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/climate-action-plan-consultation
2.8	Organisations are asked to respond and comment on whether they support the proposed Policies and Proposals in the Climate Action Plan. A response has been prepared and submitted to meet the deadline which was 8 th October 2025 stipulating that the Draft response is subject to Council approval.
2.9	The Council discussed the consultation and DAERA's proposals 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. SOLACE also carried out a number of workshops with DAERA to inform Councils more and facilitate further input in the consultation process. This enabled us to give 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 allow Councils to deliver Climate Action.
2.11	The revised consultation response is provided in Appendix 1 which includes comments from members at the October S&E Committee added and this will be passed on to DAERA.
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	That the Committee note the revised consultation response (attached - see Appendix 1) which includes comments from members at the October S&E Committee.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There are no resource implications in relation to the consultation response. There are likely to be resource implications in meeting future actions in the climate change plan. Further resources and significant budget are expected to be required in order to deliver climate action for the council.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i> It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>
5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
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	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>Appendix 1: NICAP Consultation (Revised) November 2025</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
	<p>Online link to the DAERA Public Consultation on NI's Draft Climate Action Plan 2023-2027: http://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations</p>

Consultation on Climate Action Plan 2023-2027 154

About You

First, please tell us a little 'About You' to help us analyse the responses.

A. What is your name?

Name (Required) Eamonn Keaveney

B. What is your email address?

Email (Required) eamonn.keaveney@nmandd.org

C. What is your postcode?

Postcode (Required) BT33 0GT

D. Are you responding as an individual or as part of an organisation?

(Required)

Organisation (Please tell us your organisation name or what sector you operate in)

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Local Authority (Council)

Important Note:

Please note this Draft Consultation Response on behalf of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council is subject to approval at Council Committee and ratification by Full Council. This response will be brought for consideration for approval by the Council's Sustainability and Environment Committee on 22nd October 2025 and then will be subject to further consideration and approval at the Council Meeting on the 3rd of November 2025. If there are any revisions or additions to the Consultation response we will forward these to DAERA after the Council meeting of 3rd November 2025.

Consultation Questions on the CAP

Relates to Chapter 5: Quantification Summary

Quantification of emissions reductions from policies and proposals

Each policy and proposal within the draft Climate Action Plan was assessed for its projected impact on GHG levels and the findings were combined into sectoral and overall analyses. Achieving these emissions projections would represent an annual average reduction of 33.1% over the years 2023 to 2027 and therefore the combination of quantified policies and proposals contained within the draft Climate Action Plan is expected to be sufficient for Northern Ireland to meet its first carbon budget.

Question 1.

To what extent do you agree with the quantification methodology used to calculate emissions reductions from policies and proposals?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

There is some variation in how the modelling of projected emissions was carried out and there is some confusion on which version of NI GHG Inventory 2022 or 2023 should be used. However we agree that using the standardised UK GHG Inventory Reporting Protocol and the latest GHG Inventory data will make the quantification methodology credible and robust.

Question 2.

Do you have any comments on the quantification methodology used to calculate emissions reductions from policies and proposals?

Yes

No

Additional comments to support your answer

We agree with selecting the Central Scenario of GHG emissions reductions associated with the proposed policies and proposals as the most realistic delivery scenario.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

Energy Sector Contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

Energy production and supply emissions are almost exclusively from burning fossil fuels for electricity generation at power stations.

Question 3.

To what extent do you agree or disagree that the proposed policies and proposals will effectively reduce emissions for the energy sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

The consultation acknowledges the critical role that a replacement renewable energy support scheme will have both in terms of meeting climate objectives and also the 80% of electricity consumption from renewable energy by 2030 target. We look forward to seeing more detail on the Renewable Electricity Support Scheme for Northern Ireland. The scheme will need to resolve barriers to renewable energy deployment, which include a lack of financial incentives and uncompetitive planning timelines. DfE must remove barriers, enabling new renewable projects to be delivered faster and at lower cost. **The Council would like to raise concerns that current Local Development Plans restrict renewable energy development in rural areas and recommends introducing climate emergency planning policies across councils.**

Another key barrier to renewable electricity generation has been managing the grid impacts of renewable technologies. **The Council would like to highlight grid connection uncertainty and its impact on farmers facing high planning costs and limited incentives for renewable energy.** The energy transition will require significant upgrades to the electricity network. NIE Networks has begun the initial phases of procurement as part of its planned £2.3 billion investment over the next six years to upgrade the electricity transmission and distribution network. Significantly more investment will be needed than is currently planned to meet rising electricity demand and increased supply of renewable electricity. Proposals need to set out how DfE will work with NI Electricity Networks to strengthen the grid, streamline planning approvals and remove policy uncertainty, all of which are currently hindering progress in this sector.

Question 4.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the energy sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Policies and proposals listed in the Energy Section consider the importance of consumer protection, affordability and fairness, all of which are Just Transition Principles. The document also cites the importance of upskilling the workforce in new green jobs that will be created through, for example, the Offshore Renewable Energy Action Plan.

As part of the Just Transition the Council would like to reference the Belfast energy efficiency database to support targeted retrofit funding.

We note that while the requirement for a Just Transition Commission exists in law, it was not operational in time to influence the drafting of the CAP or the Policies and Proposals referenced within it, undermining the Commission's ability to shape energy sector policies. This could result in a lack of equity-focus in energy policies.

There is also some ambiguity around funding to support communities most affected by the energy transition, for example in rural areas, or in areas where manufacturing industries are most prevalent. There is no detail or clarity on how success in achieving a just transition will be measured across energy policies. We also note there is an opportunity for greater worker participation in co-designing energy sector plans, to ensure voices from fossil fuel-dependent sectors and localities are heard.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

Transport sector contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

The transport sector includes emissions from surface road transport, domestic shipping and aviation, and aircraft support vehicles. It is the second largest contributor to emissions in Northern Ireland.

Question 5.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the transport sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

The CAP provides a robust strategic framework to align Northern Ireland's transport policies with the net zero emissions target by 2050. However, at present, the transport policies and proposals are too high-level to confidently assess their direct impact on emissions reductions. They lack detailed implementation plans or targets. Whilst the plan establishes the right guiding principles and signals strong intent, it doesn't describe delivery mechanisms to understand if transport decarbonisation will happen at the pace required.

Question 6.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the transport sector?

Strongly Agree
 Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

The Climate Action Plan lays down a good foundation for a just transition in the transport sector, which is significantly strengthened by the legal requirement for a minimum level of active travel funding. This investment will be critical for people in urban areas and for those without access to cars. The proposed expansion of EV charging infrastructure in public and workplace settings is also vital, especially in rural areas. If delivered well, it will avoid excluding rural communities from the low-carbon transition.

However, there is a particularly strong focus on private solutions like EV ownership which low-income households will not be able to afford in the short term. This could risk deepening transport inequality. Policies in this area should consider targeted financial support, such as grants, for low-income households and consider instruments to promote the used EV market as well as incentives for rural users **particularly those in poverty, to access electric vehicles.**

Northern Ireland has a large rural population where active travel is not feasible. Public transport should be the corner stone of a just transition in the transport sector. Yet, within the 'Shift' Policy listed, there is no dedicated programme to electrify buses or make public transport more affordable or accessible. Policy design in this area should consider pricing reform, rural service expansion, and modal shift strategies to reduce car dependence.

A network of Greenways needs to be built to join up urban areas and rural villages and rural communities, along with active travel cycle paths /walkways where possible in towns and along roads. This should be progressed by DfI as the highway agency in partnership with local councils.

Additionally, there is no mechanism for the co-design of transport plans with communities, local councils, or transport users, particularly marginalised or rural groups, which could risk leaving people behind. Like Scotland, Northern Ireland could develop a **Just Transition Transport Plan** to fully address job transitions in the transport sector including reskilling, manufacturing opportunities and logistics.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

Business and industrial processes sector contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

Business emissions from stationary combustion in industrial and commercial sectors including industrial off-road machinery, refrigeration and air conditioning, and the use of fluorinated gases for other applications.

Question 7.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the business and industrial processes sector?

Strongly Agree
Agree
 Neither agree nor disagree
 Disagree
 Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

UK and EU-led Regulation, Compliance and Reporting will undoubtedly do a lot of the heavy lifting in generating carbon reductions in this sector, however given that the NI economy has a higher composition of small and medium sized

enterprises than the rest of the UK, government support to enable small businesses to decarbonise will be critical. We have provided a short review of the Northern Ireland-led policies and proposals below:

Fuel Switching to Natural Gas

We are supportive of the acknowledgement in the draft CAP that gas is a transition fuel, rather than the long-term solution. It is important that this policy signals to the energy market that natural gas has an expiry date. The policy should oversee the phase out of gas, with clear timelines, rather than increase investment in gas infrastructure to the detriment of investment in other clean renewable fuels. **Also investment in electricity grid upgrades would deliver greater benefits, including reduced energy poverty.**

An example of this are gas price controls. The current natural gas price control period 2023-2028 has allowances for fuel switching to gas. The next gas price control period must initiate a reduction in these allowances to encourage fuel switching to electric forms of heating at scale. The Fuel Switching to Natural Gas policy is based on the idea that, over time, the gas network will transition away from natural gas to lower-carbon alternatives like biomethane and potentially hydrogen. The hope is that this shift will provide homes connected to the gas grid with cleaner heating and hot water options. However, this approach has significant weaknesses. In the United States, where biomethane is already widely in use, studies have shown that its production and distribution can result in methane leaks known as fugitive emissions. Since methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, these leaks can actually worsen climate change rather than reduce emissions, challenging the claim that biomethane is a climate-neutral fuel (see Wera et al., 2021, *Environmental Science & Technology*).

Additionally, scientific evidence suggests that hydrogen should only be used in situations where electrification is not possible. This is because converting electricity into hydrogen and then using it to produce heat is much less efficient than using electricity directly in heat pumps (see the UK's Climate Change Committee Seventh Carbon Budget report, 2025). Therefore, while gas, biomethane, and hydrogen might have a limited role in certain industrial applications, promoting these fuels across all sectors—including residential heating—could lead to higher emissions and inefficiencies if cleaner energy solutions like electrification are available. It's important that policies reflect this and avoid encouraging fuel switching in cases where better alternatives exist.

Biomethane

See comments above caveating the role of biomethane in the energy transition.

Uplifts to Building Regulations in Northern Ireland and Further Building Regulations Uplifts

Since 2022, all new buildings in Northern Ireland are required to achieve a 40% reduction in carbon emissions compared to previous standards, through a combination of improved energy efficiency standards for building fabric and the use of low-carbon heating systems. Whilst uplifts in building regulations are planned in 2026/27, Northern Ireland has not yet set concrete long-term regulatory targets for buildings beyond that. The Department of Finance should show a similar level of ambition to Scotland, aiming for a Passivhaus-level **and net zero** standard in all new builds with bans on new oil or gas boilers by 2028 at the latest. Developers that are currently building to Passivhaus standard in Northern Ireland have said that Passivhaus homes are not necessarily more expensive than traditional houses, the main challenge is upskilling the labour force. This may happen organically in response to rising demand for sustainable homes due to uplifts in building regulations. **There is also an incentive on the Department of Finance to adopt Passive House and net-zero standards due to the cost disparities between homes in Northern Ireland and the Republic.**

However, alongside the proposed uplifts in building regulations, government support should be provided to upskill the construction sector in Passivhaus (or equivalent) construction standards.

Invest NI Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme / Invest NI Industrial Decarbonisation for Northern Ireland Project

One of the current issues with the Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme is that the technical consultancy support is only available for businesses spending over £30k annually on energy and resources which precludes many small businesses. Given there are currently 80,000 registered SMEs in operation across Northern Ireland, more support is needed for smaller businesses with lower annual resource costs. Additionally, businesses supported by both of these programmes face challenges in implementing the measures recommended due to finance constraints, lengthy payback periods, and internal

capacity constraints. So, whilst advisory and financial support is available, impact is currently limited. These challenges must be addressed when redesigning the programmes.

Question 8.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the business and industrial processes sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

The Industrial Decarbonisation Programme and Energy and Resource Efficiency Programme led by Invest NI can help businesses reduce energy costs, which may protect jobs and competitiveness in the long term. If delivered well, this kind of support could help small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) adapt to change without bearing the full financial burden. Similarly, proposed updates to building regulations could drive new skills and job opportunities in construction and green technologies, supporting employment in a low-carbon economy. However, Invest NI's reach is currently limited with only about 6% of businesses actively engaged with its services. This limits its ability to support widespread change or ensure that all businesses, especially smaller ones, benefit equally from the transition.

Given manufacturing industries and construction represent 71.5% of emissions from this sector, there is little detail in the draft Climate Action Plan on how workers in these high-emitting industries will be retrained or supported as industries shift to cleaner technologies. Without clear funding, training programmes, or long-term workforce planning, there is a risk that these communities and sectors could be left behind.

More inclusive engagement, stronger worker protections, investment in skills, and better access for marginalised groups will need to be addressed in the policies and proposals mentioned in the draft CAP, if Northern Ireland is to ensure a just transition in the business and industrial processes sector.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

Residential buildings sector contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

Residential building emissions are primarily affected by fuel combustion for heating and the production of hot water.

Question 9.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the residential buildings sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

We welcome the range of policies and proposals to decarbonise the residential buildings sector listed, with a couple of caveats:

Affordable Warmth Scheme / Warm Healthy Homes Scheme

The government policy to replace older inefficient oil boilers with more efficient oil boilers should stop, as oil is not compatible with carbon reduction targets.

NISEP / Scale and Launch Energy Efficiency Programme

We welcome a radical scaling up of NISEP into a domestic Energy Efficiency Programme that mirrors the breadth of support currently offered by SEAI in the Republic of Ireland. In addition, stronger market incentives are necessary for private homeowners to renovate an existing property rather than demolish and build a new home. This will require collaboration with HM Treasury to review tax incentives in this area, as the current tax regime leans towards demolition.

Clean Heat Market Mechanism

Deployment of this policy must be carried out alongside energy efficiency improvements in the housing stock as heat pumps are more efficient and therefore effective in homes with an EPC of D or above. If they are installed in homes with lower SAP ratings the heat gradient may be too high for the technology to work effectively, resulting in cold homes, potentially leading to mould and damp, which would trigger scepticism in the technology. Policy safeguards must be in place to prevent this from happening.

Gas Network Connections General Determinations 2023-2028

As previously outlined, this policy is highly controversial as it incentivises fossil fuel use, bypassing heat pumps and geothermal energy for residential heating. The sector summary on P106 lists fuel switching to natural gas first before mentioning support for low carbon heating technologies. It is concerning that the short-term emphasis on a transition to natural gas will undermine efforts to transition to genuinely clean energy as the majority of funding is diverted to the gas network instead of geothermal heat networks, for example. As mentioned previously, there are valid concerns that biomethane and hydrogen are not sustainable fuels for heating therefore the assertion that efforts to scale up gas infrastructure will eventually lead to zero carbon heating is tenuous.

Biomethane

See comments above.

Further Building Regulations Uplifts in Northern Ireland

See previous comments recommending Northern Ireland to align to Scotland's ambition that require new developments to build to Passivhaus standard, or equivalent.

There is also an opportunity to strengthen building regulations to help increase tree cover and cut carbon emissions from land use. This can happen by encouraging the use of sustainably sourced timber, which is a low-carbon building material. By promoting low-carbon construction methods in new building regulations, government could boost demand for timber and support more tree planting.

Question 10.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the residential buildings sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

We support the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in this sector. There could be a risk of public backlash if people feel excluded from the benefits of the green transition, whether due to high costs or negative impacts like rising bills or mould/damp from poor-quality retrofits. We back means-tested grants to protect vulnerable households from unfair costs. Strong safeguards will be needed to ensure energy efficiency measures are installed to a high standard.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

Public buildings contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

Sector emissions primarily result from fuel combustion in public buildings for heating, cooling and hot water.

Question 11.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the public buildings sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Energy Management Strategy & Action Plan to 2030 & Energy Invest to Save Fund

Progress towards the 30% reduction target by 2030 is slow, with a reduction of only 12% in carbon emissions by 2022. We recommend that local councils are included in future government energy efficiency schemes. Although they do not represent a large proportion of emissions in this sector they have an important presence in communities and should be seen to be leading by example in terms of energy consumption and best practice.

Broadly speaking, the lack of progress in this sector may be attributed to four key barriers preventing the retrofit of public sector buildings happening at the required rate and scale:

- a lack of capacity and expertise within public sector organisations to identify and implement projects
- access to finance
- long and complex procurement processes
- risks associated with investing money with long term paybacks and no savings guarantees.

We therefore recommend that the Invest to Save Fund is either linked to complimentary support broadened to become a more holistic scheme which aims to support both specialist advisory costs (related to project appraisal and procurement of Energy Performance Contracts*) and the capital costs of energy upgrades. This scheme could be cross-sectoral, accepting applications from both public and private sector organisations, to reduce operational costs.

*Energy Performance Contracts (EPCs) are contracts where an Energy Service Company (ESCO) implements energy efficiency or renewable energy projects, and their payment is linked to the achieved energy cost savings, therefore de-risking the investment for the contracting authority.

2012 and 2022 Uplifts to Part F (Conservation of Fuel and Power) of the Building Regulations in Northern Ireland

We support further uplifts to Part F, but the current implementation timeline is extremely slow. Many public authorities are already choosing to go beyond current building regulations, specifying higher standards such as BREEAM Excellent or Passivhaus for new public buildings. As public buildings constructed over the next two years will likely be in use for 25+ years, and retrofitting is significantly more expensive than building to higher energy performance standards in the first place, it is crucial that the government speeds up planned uplifts to building regulations to ensure Northern Ireland meets its net zero by 2050 target.

Question 12.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the public buildings sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

There has been little engagement with local authorities in the development of policies and proposals to decarbonise the public building stock. Given their influence at local level, it is important that they are not left behind and are adequately supported to decarbonise their estates, given many councils have old traditional buildings that require specialist retrofit expertise. Councils also have financial constraints hampering their ability to leverage new finance for capital improvements. Councils should be encouraged and supported, starting with including local authority estate management representatives in policy design and implementation working groups to ensure their needs are met.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

Waste sector contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

Emissions in the waste management sector include those released from waste disposal at landfill sites, wastewater treatment and waste incineration. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 includes a requirement to recycle at least 70% of waste by 2030.

Question 13.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the waste sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Diverting Biodegradable Waste from Landfill

We fully support the introduction of a policy that requires all businesses to present biodegradable waste for separate collection.

Achieve a 65% municipal waste recycling rate whilst reducing waste to landfill to no more than 10% by 2035

The current approach to increasing recycling rates, which is largely focused on communicating the benefits of recycling to householders, may not be sufficient to achieve the next phase of recycling targets which are extremely challenging. As well as better recycling infrastructure, including a higher level of kerbside sorting, Northern Ireland should consider incentive-based policies to encourage hard to engage groups to recycle.

Introduction of Mandatory Recycling for Commercial and Industrial Sector

We fully support mandatory business recycling as it would help achieve the '70% by 2030' recycling requirement in the Climate Change (Northern Ireland) Act 2022 and reduce the amount of recyclable material entering landfill sites and the associated greenhouse gas emissions.

Increasing Household Recycling

164

We support approaches that aim to promote enhancements in the quality and quantity of recyclate to enable more local reprocessing, for example through a minimum service standard across all council areas, best practice guidance, and funding to improve collection systems. However, this will not be enough to meet Northern Ireland's challenging recycling targets. Northern Ireland should consider incentive based policies such as Pay As You Throw schemes (PAYT) which charge customers based on the amount of waste they throw away. Evidence from international examples shows that PAYT schemes can be extremely effective when accompanied by high profile awareness programmes and better recycling infrastructure. For example, cities such as San Francisco (77 per cent recycling rate) or the German town of Neustadt an der Weinstrasse (70 per cent) all use PAYT schemes. Local Authorities do not currently have the powers to introduce PAYT so this would need to be revisited by the UK government.

Question 14.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the waste sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Whilst retraining of the workforce and educating children and young people through the curriculum are welcome measures, proposals need to be developed to educate the broader adult population, particularly those from low income or minority ethnic backgrounds, who are less likely to practice sustainable behaviours like recycling. If stricter recycling rules are introduced, they must be implemented with equity in mind. For example, ensuring recycling information is accessible to all, ensuring fair enforcement, and providing additional support and infrastructure in low-income areas to avoid unintended harms (such as fly tipping) and ensure all communities benefit from the transition.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

165

Agriculture sector contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

In agriculture the two main greenhouse gases are methane and nitrous oxide rather than carbon dioxide. Livestock emissions dominate greenhouse gases in the agriculture sector. Other key sources are from manure management, soils and emissions from offroad vehicles and machinery.

Question 15.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the agriculture sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Farmers need to be supported financially if there is to be a fair and just transition for agriculture. Sustainable levels of livestock needs to be managed carefully alongside direct emission reduction measures (e.g. feed additives, manure management systems, alternative fertilisers, genetic improvement programmes etc). We support the provision of supplementary financial support to help sustain farm incomes in the short to medium term, to buffer the financial impact of these policies.

Government schemes that encourage farms to transition to alternative agricultural enterprises and techniques including agroforestry and tree planting, wetland restoration, agri-tourism, cover cropping, organic farming and conservation tillage under a 'public goods for public money' model could also be considered. Additionally, carbon can be 'farmed' as a commodity. Typically referred to as 'carbon farming', this innovative farming approach focuses on capturing or reducing greenhouse gas emissions in ways that can be measured, verified, and monetised through carbon credits or government incentives. These methods would turn climate-friendly practices into income streams for farmers. However, a long-term policy commitment from government would be necessary, as carbon farming often requires long-term changes in land management and constitutes a significant departure from livestock farming which is commonplace across Northern Ireland.

Anaerobic Digestion

We are supportive of the use of anaerobic digestion plants to capture and recycle nutrients from the digestate that would otherwise be land spread and capture and use the methane that would otherwise go into the atmosphere. However, there could be a number of unintended harms from this policy if it is not well designed. Risks include:

- AD digestate spread as a fertiliser can contribute to ammonia emissions and water pollution if applied in excess or poorly timed.
- The handling and spreading of digestate can produce strong odours and the operation of AD plants and compression units for injecting biomethane into the grid can be noisy and become a nuisance for local residents.
- If AD systems are poorly sealed, fugitive methane emissions can offset climate benefits. Studies from the U.S. and EU have shown that actual emissions from some biomethane supply chains can be significantly higher than reported.
- To feed AD plants, some farms could increase slurry production or grow dedicated energy crops like maize. This can lead to monocultures and competition with food production. Increased livestock numbers to supply slurry could worsen other environmental issues (e.g., ammonia, methane, habitat loss).

Question 16.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the agriculture sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Ensuring a just transition in the agriculture sector means recognising that not all farmers are equally positioned to adapt to climate policies. The Northern Ireland Integrated Farm Survey highlights that small farms often have older age profiles who may be nearing the end of their working lives. These farms may face the greatest challenges in adapting either due to limited financial capacity, lower uptake of new technologies, or reduced incentive to make long-term changes. Special provisions may be required in these instances, whether through tailored support, flexible timelines, or financial assistance, to ensure they are not left behind in the transition. We look forward to further detail on the Just Transition Fund for Agriculture and will reserve comment on this policy until the details of this scheme are published.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry sector contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from direct human-induced land use, land-use change, and forestry activities.

Question 17.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the LULUCF sector?

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Radical action will be needed in the LULUCF sector to reach net zero by 2050. Of the 1.4 million hectares of land in Northern Ireland, currently 1 million hectares is farmed. One radical proposal may be that government, alongside the existing Forests for our Future programme, seeks to acquire land from private landowners to create national parks, forests, and other protected areas through some form of compensation. This may be appealing to small farm owners approaching retirement with no succession plan. These lands would then become public land, managed for conservation, carbon sequestration, recreation, and other public purposes. We look forward to seeing this option explored in the land use policy for Northern Ireland, currently in development.

Question 18.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the LULUCF sector?

Strongly Agree
Agree
Neither agree nor disagree
Disagree
Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

We are broadly content with the proposed approach. We look forward to commenting on the just transition provisions in LULUCF policies and proposals which should incorporate relevant guidance from the Just Transition Commission.

Relates to Chapter 6: Sector Policies and Proposals

167

Fisheries sector contribution to Carbon Budget 2023-2027

Fisheries sector includes emissions from activities associated with sea fisheries, inland fisheries and aquaculture.

Question 19.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed policies and proposals to reduce emissions for the fisheries sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Initiatives are welcome that prepare for roll-out of electrification and low or zero emission fuels across the fishing fleet. R&D to drive innovation is essential for this challenging sector however it makes up a relatively small proportion (0.1%) of Northern Ireland's total GHG emissions.

Question 20.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to achieving a just transition in the fisheries sector?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

The considerations outlined are acceptable and we look forward to reviewing the financial assistance and incentive schemes that will provide support to workers in the sector who may be negatively affected by climate policies. It is critical that government ensures collaboration with the fisheries sector to co-design decarbonisation policies that ensure no one is left behind or disadvantaged by the transition.

Relates to Chapter 7: Impact Assessments

Impact Assessments of the Climate Action Plan

Several impact assessments have been undertaken as part of the development of the draft Climate Action Plan. Individual assessments have been carried out for the policies and proposals across all sectors, with each assessment proportionate to the scale and likely impact of the respective measure. In addition, overarching impact assessments have been conducted to consider the cumulative effects of the draft Plan as a whole. Where proposals are at an early stage of development, some impacts may not yet be fully identified, and these will be considered further as the proposals are refined.

Question 21.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the Financial, Social and Economic Impact Assessments that have been carried out on the policies and proposals within the draft Climate Action Plan?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

The findings note there are short-term financial costs associated with implementing policies and proposals in the draft Climate Action Plan which are generally balanced by long-term financial gains. The co-benefits of climate action have been somewhat underplayed in this section; however we note climate benefits are discussed later in the document.

Question 22.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the overarching Financial, Social and Economic Impact Assessment of the draft Climate Action Plan?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

The summary fails to frame climate action as cost avoidance, treating the short-term costs of climate action in isolation, without comparing them to the much higher economic, social, and environmental costs of climate inaction. Cost avoidance is critical to justifying upfront investment. Also, there is no mention of intergenerational equity, acknowledging that climate action today helps avoid passing greater costs and risks onto future generations.

Question 23.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the Equality Screening and Equality Impact Assessment?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

We have no comments on the findings.

Question 24.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the Rural Needs Impact Assessments that have been carried out on the policies and proposals in the draft Climate Action Plan?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

There is very little detail on the findings of the RNIA. The summary frames the impact on rural communities as largely positive but this depends on policies being well-designed so that they deliver new green employment in rural areas, improved sustainable transport opportunities, opportunities for rural communities to own renewable energy projects and opportunities for more sustainable agriculture practices all of which could lead to better economic prospects for rural communities. Climate policies must be designed so that they support rather than disadvantage rural communities. We look forward to reviewing the details of these policy proposals to ensure they deliver the opportunities promised.

Question 25.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the overarching Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the draft Climate Action Plan?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

We broadly agree with the findings of the overarching RNIA. We look forward to reviewing the mitigation measures mentioned to address adverse impacts on rural areas as part of the policies and proposals.

Question 26.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the Strategic Environmental Assessment?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

We echo the last paragraph of the summary, in which the SEA recommends close monitoring of policies and proposals set out within the draft Climate Action Plan are closely monitored to ensure that negative or unforeseen effects can be effectively responded to and managed. As previously mentioned, we have serious concerns that the strong focus on natural gas and biomethane, and associated processing technologies, may lead to unintended environmental harms that will

undermine the intended climate benefits. Mitigation measures should be included in these policies to prevent potential negative impacts from the outset.

Question 27.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the Habitats Regulations Assessment?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

Without further detail on the findings of this Assessment we are unable to provide comment.

Question 28.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of the Regulatory Impact Assessment?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

We agree the draft plan itself will not make any new regulations and therefore will not impose any costs, savings, additional compliance or administrative burdens on the wider business community.

Question 29.

To what extent do you agree with the key findings of Childs Rights Impact Assessment?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any comments on the findings:

We agree there is likely to be a net benefit to children and young people from the draft Climate Action Plan as it will deliver a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable environment whilst providing opportunities for the economy and job creation.

Question 30.

Can you provide any further information which will help to supplement the completion of these impact assessments?

No

Please details, identifying the assessment(s) to which the information relates:

N/A

Relates to Chapter 8: The Natural Environment and Climate Change

171

Soil quality, biodiversity and air quality targets

The Act requires us to set specific targets for soil quality, biodiversity and air quality in this draft Climate Action Plan. The Act also requires that, where practicable, the policies and proposals should support and use nature-based projects, either individually or as part of wider action.

Question 31.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed target for Soil Quality?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

We understand government is constrained in its ability to set targets for Soil Quality due to a lack of baseline data on soil health. We look forward to the development of indicators for soil health and the inclusion of meaningful targets on Soil Quality in the next iteration of the Climate Action Plan.

Question 32.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed target for Biodiversity?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

The proposed biodiversity target falls short of what is required. To align more closely with EU and global biodiversity frameworks, Northern Ireland needs to commit to the 30x30 target (30% of land and 30% of oceans to be conserved by 2030). The target must strengthen the clarity of conservation condition goals (i.e. refer to actual favourable condition rather than approaching favourable condition) and include strict biodiversity protection measures.

Question 33.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed target for Air Quality?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Whilst introducing regulations to meet WHO Interim Target 4 (10 µg/m³ for PM2.5 and 20 µg/m³ for PM10) is an improvement over existing standards, however, it should only be seen as a stepping stone toward full alignment with WHO 2021 guidelines. The WHO sets the guideline of 5 µg/m³ for PM2.5 because **no level** of exposure to PM2.5 is considered

safe. We expect full alignment with current UK and EU ambitions; therefore the final goal should be 5 µg/m³ and 15 µg/m³ targets for PM2.5 and PM10 respectively.

Relates to Chapter 8: The Natural Environment and Climate Change

Nature Based Solutions

Nature-based Solutions will create thriving habitats and ecosystems which reduce emissions, whilst also providing a landscape and marine environment which is more resilient to the impacts of climate change.

Question 34.

Can you provide any further information which will help us to incorporate Nature-based Solutions into our policies and proposals?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

Sustainable NI has developed a climate screening tool for projects and plans which acts as a 'stop, think, consider' checklist for measures such as Nature-based Solutions. This tool could be adapted for government policy and decision making to fulfil this legal requirement.

Relates to Chapter 9: Governance for Delivery

Climate Action Governance Arrangements

We will only meet our carbon budget if we can successfully deliver the policies and proposals we have identified. Achieving this will require ongoing commitment and prioritisation of this work, shared ownership and cross-departmental working, and appropriate levels of oversight and scrutiny to keep us on track. Managing this implementation process will mean establishing appropriate governance structures within government, creating new statutory oversight bodies and working in partnership with existing independent oversight bodies.

Question 35.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed governance arrangements to support the delivery of the Climate Action Plan?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Oversight

We broadly agree with the proposed governance arrangements, but we think one key part is fundamentally wrong: separating Climate Action from Green Growth. This has led to two very similar Programme Boards - one for Green Growth and one for Climate Action Plan delivery. While Green Growth focuses more on the economic opportunities of climate action, in practice, many of the same projects and actions will fall under both programmes. Having two separate boards adds extra work and complexity that could be avoided. It would make more sense to combine them into a single programme, as is already done in other countries. Our suggestion is to bring climate, economic, and just transition (social) dimensions together into a single Climate & Sustainability Programme, merging two programme boards into one.

Just Transition Commission

Ideally the Just Transition Commission would have been established in time to work with and advise departments to inform the development of the draft Climate Action Plan to ensure that proposals, policies, strategies and plans comply with the just transition principle. Instead, it will only be able to provide an oversight review of the first Climate Action Plan rather than actively shape its development.

Relates to Chapter 10: Monitoring and Reporting

Monitoring and reporting on policies and proposals

Monitoring and reporting on the implementation of policies and actions and the resulting impact on emissions reduction will be an essential element of tracking progress towards achieving the 2023-2027 carbon budget and meeting interim targets set for 2030 and 2040. We will ensure a robust monitoring framework is in place to keep us on our net zero pathway.

Question 36.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to monitoring and reporting on policies and proposals?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

We agree with the proposed monitoring and reporting approach and have no comments to add.

Relates to Chapter 11: Public Sector Leading by Example

Public Sector leading by example

The public sector is critical to the successful delivery of the draft Climate Action Plan - influencing and enabling positive behaviours, driving change and acting as a leader on climate action and low carbon innovation. We are committed to forging a net zero pathway by delivering vital public services in a way that reduces emissions, reduces waste and uses scarce resources more sustainably.

Question 37.

Do you have suggestions about other actions that we should be taking across the public sector?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

The Committee on Climate Change (CCC) report on 'Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget' states that local councils have powers or influence over roughly a third of emissions in their local areas. This means therefore that collectively the eleven councils have powers or influence over a third of emissions across all sectors in Northern Ireland. This is significant, yet there are few provisions in the draft Climate Action Plan to enable and support a coordinated approach to local government climate action.

Local Planning

The national planning framework could set minimum standards and requirements for local authorities in relation to sustainable residential development, new renewable energy generation and nature-based solutions. These standards could be further elaborated in climate change guidelines for planning authorities.

Local Government Co-ordination

In its report 'Local Authorities and the Sixth Carbon Budget' the CCC recommend four key things to achieve collaborative delivery with local government:

- Framework: An agreed framework for delivery for Net Zero incorporating local and national climate action
- Financing: Appropriate long-term financing to support local authorities in delivering Net Zero
- Flexibility: Local operational flexibility around how local areas address climate change
- Facilitation: coherent policy and powers for the facilitation of delivery.

Here are some practical ways that government and local authorities can work more seamlessly together:

- Link council and departmental climate units or climate coordinators up to share tools, ideas and collaborate, for example by extending the membership of existing forums such as the NI Sustainable Development Forum
- Extend the NICS staff training system (LInKS), known as 'Climate Smart for Civil Service', to Local Authorities
- Provide significantly more support that is currently available for public body reporting compliance including tools, further guidance, and a training programme tailored to the needs of local authorities including dedicated support to calculate scope 3 emissions.

Relates to Chapter 12: Enabling the Transition to Net Zero

Enabling the change to net zero

The draft Climate Action Plan sets out the importance of science and innovation, education and skills, infrastructure, planning, behaviour change and communication as enablers to delivering our pathway to net zero.

Question 38.

To what extent do you agree with the actions that we are taking to enable the transition to Net Zero?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Science and Innovation

P237 of the Climate Action Plan Consultation references the 2022 Matrix Report 'NI's Future Hydrogen Demand and Capability' highlighting '*it suggests Northern Ireland can be at the forefront of developing a hydrogen economy to heat our homes, fuel our transport and power our industry.*' However, contrary to what the draft Climate Action Plan states, the report does not recommend hydrogen for home heating, stating on two separate pages that '*the role of hydrogen in heating buildings is less certain*'. This is an important distinction. Government policy should not over emphasise the role of hydrogen in home heating if there is still scientific uncertainty on this, as it could send the wrong signal to the market. (Note: Use of hydrogen for heating is uncertain because converting electricity to hydrogen to then convert it back to heat is less efficient than converting electricity directly to heat in the first place. It only makes sense to do this in instances where

electric forms of heating are not feasible or in a situation where renewable electricity is extremely cheap and widely available).

Behaviour Change and Communication

There is a need for a national public awareness campaign for behaviour change for climate action that targets the adult population in Northern Ireland in the same way that previous high-profile campaigns led by other departments have led to widespread change, for example, the Executive's Coronavirus public information campaign, DfI Road Safety Campaigns, the Department of Justice's Ending the Harm campaign to highlight organised crime and paramilitary activity and the Health and Safety Executive campaigns "Stop and Think SAFE" targeting farm safety. As climate action is a cross-cutting executive level strategic issue, communication budgets from all departments could be pooled to increase resourcing and impact. As awareness campaigns and information are insufficient to bring about major change alone; they should be closely linked with other levers, including regulations, fiscal incentives and disincentives, and the development of sustainable infrastructure. Ultimately the sustainable behaviours must be **comparatively cheaper** and **easier** than unsustainable behaviours, in order to create lasting change.

Relates to Chapter 13: Investing in Climate Action

Cost of implementing the Climate Action Plan

Delivering a cost-effective path to decarbonisation in Northern Ireland requires action across all sectors of the economy and a joined-up approach. Funding our net zero transition will be a collaboration between the public and private sectors.

Question 39.

To what extent do you agree with the assessment of the costs of implementing this Climate Action Plan?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

Government spending

The costs are set out in gross terms, i.e. government expenditure, rather than net costs. We would like to see the CAP investment costs set out as net costs and also as a % of GDP to understand if planned government investment commitments align with the level of investment recommended by the Committee on Climate Change.

Leveraging private sector investment for nature and nature-based solutions

We would highlight a relatively new legal requirement in England for new developments to deliver a 10% net gain in biodiversity either on-site, off-site, or by purchasing biodiversity credits. The policy has sparked a growing market in private biodiversity units and habitat banks, where landowners and conservation groups create and sell habitat improvements to developers, helping leverage private sector investment for nature and nature-based solutions. This could be a statutory requirement in the national planning policy framework in Northern Ireland.

Question 40.

Do you have any other information to inform this cost assessment?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide details:

No further comment.

Relates to Chapter 13: Investing in Climate Action

Just Transition Fund for Agriculture

The purpose of this scheme is to provide advice and financial assistance to the agriculture sector to deliver its contribution to meeting the carbon budgets and emissions reduction targets by implementing proposals and policies to be included in Climate Action Plans.

Question 41.

To what extent do you agree with the proposed approach to establishing a Just Transition Fund for Agriculture?

Strongly Agree

Agree

Neither agree nor disagree

Disagree

Strongly disagree

Please provide your reasons and any alternatives:

We look forward to seeing the future Just Transition Fund for Agriculture. We support the shift to sustainable farming, but policies to reduce emissions in farming should be introduced gradually. It will take years, and in some cases decades, for farm management practices to change. If farmers are pushed to make too many changes too quickly, or if they feel unfairly impacted by the transition, it could lead to public opposition. While many farmers will be open to change, others may be hesitant to make large investments or significant changes to how they farm. This needs to be reflected in the support, compensation, and timelines for implementing these changes.