

June 17th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 18th June 2025 at 6:15 pm** in **Council Chamber, Monaghan Row, Newry.**

Committee Membership 2025-26

Councillor O Magennis **Chairperson**

Councillor M Hearty **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor W Clarke

Councillor C Enright

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor K Murphy

Councillor S O'Hare

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet of the Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 May 2025

 *Action Sheet - 21.05.2025 inc. historic actions updated.pdf*

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4.0 To Agree Start Times of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meetings, Working Group and Cleansing & Refuse Task Force Group 2025-26

 *S & E Committee Meeting Dates and Times 2025 - 2026.pdf*

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 *Sustainability and Environment Working Group Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026.pdf*

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For Discussion/Decision

5.0 Directorate Business Plan

For Decision

 *SE Committee Report - Directorate Business Plan June 2025.pdf*

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 *Appendix 1 - SE Directorate Annual Assessment of Business Plan 2024-25.pdf*

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 *Appendix 2 - Sustainability & Environment Business Plan 2025-26.pdf*

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Sustainability

6.0 Invasive Species Management Update

For Decision

 *SE Committee Report - Update on Control of Invasive Species.pdf*

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

7.0 Business Cases for 25/26 Fleet Replacement Programme

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act



(Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 SE Committee Report and app 1 - Fleet Procurement Programme 20256-26.pdf	Not included
 App 2 Full Economic Appraisal RCV.pdf	Not included
 App 3 Full Economic Appraisal Mechanical Sweepers.pdf	Not included
 App 4 Full Business Case Tractors.pdf	Not included
 App 5 Full Business Case Medium BEV Vans.pdf	Not included
 App 6 Short Form Business Case Digger.pdf	Not included
 App 7 Short Form Business Case - One ride-on mower.pdf	Not included
 App 8 Short Form Business Case BEV ATV vehicles.pdf	Not included

8.0 BT Line Rental for Town Centre CCTV Systems

For Decision

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

 SE Committee Report - DAC BT Redcare 5 yr line rental.pdf	Not included
 Appendix 1 - DAC BT Redcare 5 yr line rental.pdf	Not included

9.0 Sustainability Contracts

For Decision

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

 SE Committee Report - Sustainability Contracts.pdf	Not included
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10.0 PPE Contracts

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act

(Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding the information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

 **SE Committee Report - ESPO PPE 6 month Framework contract (1).pdf**

Not included

11.0 Waste Contracts

For Decision

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

 **SE Committee Report - Waste Contracts - 13.06.25.pdf**

Not included

12.0 Extension for MDR Contract

For Decision

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

 **SE Committee - Extension of Mixed Dry Recyclables Contracts.pdf**

Not included

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

13.0 Report from the Cleansing and Refuse Task Group on Wednesday 21 May 2025

For Information

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

 **Action Sheet arising from the Cleansing and Refuse Task Group held on Wednesday 21 May 2025.pdf**

Not included

14.0 Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting in Committee Minutes of Thursday 27 March 2025 & Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 29 May 2025

For Information

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

📎 *ARC 21 - JC095-27March25-InCommMinutes-e-signed.pdf*

Not included

📎 *ARC21 - JC096-29May25-JC MembersBulletin.F.pdf*

Not included

For Noting

15.0 Arc21 Joint Committee meeting held on Thursday 27 March 2025

📎 *ARC21 - JC095-27March25-Minutes-e-signed.pdf*

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16.0 Port Health Update

For Information

📎 *SE Committee - Port Health Update 16.06.25.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Fionnuala Branagh
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland
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Mr Gerard Byrne
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Ms Joanne Fleming
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Martin Hearty
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Ms Catherine Hughes
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Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Josephine Kelly
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Cathal King
.....
Cllr Mickey Larkin
.....
Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
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Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Conor Smyth
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Donna Starkey
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Sarah Taggart
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Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/004/2022	Trade Waste and Caravan Refuse Collection Services	<p>Agreed to approve the report and recommendations:-</p> <p>1. Alternate Weekly Commercial Waste Collection Service</p> <p>Commercial refuse customers (shops and businesses) to be contacted and advised of the proposed move to an alternate weekly collection cycle of residual and dry recyclable waste, where this is achievable.</p> <p>Commercial customers, (not including Caravan Operators) to be provided with appropriate bins to facilitate this change, so there is no cost burden to customers as a result of this change.</p>	S Trainor	<p>In progress</p> <p>Commercial customers have been contacted and advised of the benefits of recycling, both from an environmental and costs saving perspective, and offered the opportunity to avail of dry recyclable waste collections.</p>	Y

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	<p>Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste.</p> <p>Note and approve the launch of an application process, with set criteria, to establish demand for deploying brown bins to residents of high rise buildings who were not previously provided with these.</p>	S Trainor	In progress	N
NS/057/2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel	Approve the Officers recommendation that the legal position of the Council regarding its maintenance of the events space, Kilkeel, is reviewed with a separate report to be provided to the Council once this has been considered further.	C Sage	Legal position and maintenance of the events being confirmed. Report to be brought back to S&E Committee.	N

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/105/2023	Notice of Motion – Clean Indoor Air	It was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion subject to including that before proceeding with any works, that officers obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire Civic Centre and the new civic centre in Newry and report same back to the Sustainable and Environment Committee for consideration in due course.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion. It was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the outcome of the legal process was known.	S Trainor	On hold pending legal process	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/125/2023	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock worrying	It was agreed that a meeting be organised with relevant partners to discuss a way forward to produce a publicity campaign highlighting the importance of ensuring dogs are kept under control in the Mourne Mountains.	S Trainor	In Progress	N
SE/128/2023	Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV	It was agreed that members note the content of the report, and a business case be developed and brought to the committee with a number of options for a way forward for the proposed development of a new suite of digital CCTV systems for the Council's facilities.	C Sage	Update provided on Town Centre CCTV at September S&E Committee. Final costings received. Awaiting confirmation of programme Capital Proposal has been approved. FBC completed, to be presented at SPR.	N N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 24 JANUARY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/004/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences	The following was agreed: <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	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 	S Murphy	Complete In Progress In Progress	 N N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/018/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change	<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>Development of Council Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy is progressing.</p> <p>Climate mitigation report due to be completed by 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					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/036/2024	Former landfill site review – Aughnagun and Drumanakelly	<p>It was agreed that officers develop a Business Case for the installation of Solar Panels at the former landfill site Aughnagun for further consideration.</p> <p>It was agreed that Council further explore the benefits of installing reed beds at both sites in order to make the sites self-sustaining in terms of the management of the leachate generated on site.</p>	<p>S Murphy</p> <p>S Murphy</p>	In Progress	N

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

		It was further agreed that a report be brought back to committee in 6 months to provide detail of any progress made.			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 MAY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/058/2024	Report on Treatment of Invasive Species on Council Estate	it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling invasive species at Albert Basin outside of the current allocation for normal weed control and the development of an Invasive Species Management Plan for the Council Estate.	C Sage	Update to be provided at June Se Committee	N

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

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

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 NOVEMBER 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/133/2024	Action Sheet item: NS/091/2022	it was agreed to submit a league table of other Councils' enforcement practices to the Strategic Finance Working Group	S Murphy	To refer through SFWG	N
SE/137/2024	Business Case for the Removal of Newcastle Sandbar	it was agreed to note the contents of the report and associated business case and to approve the preferred option of the business case, to progress a tender for the sand bar removal at Newcastle Harbour for a 3-year period from 2025 – 2027 in accordance with the Marine Construction License	C Sage	Marine Licence granted for 1 year only (2025). Works complete. Procurement for new contract in progress for 2026 to 2028 in conjunction with new 3 year Marine Licence application.	Y N
SE/138/2024	Repair of Corry's Corner, Drumaness Bus Shelter and Adoption by Translink	it was agreed to adopt the bus shelter at Corry's Corner, and to consider future proposals from Translink regarding the adoption of bus shelters	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/139/2024	Business Case for Deep Cleaning Services	it was agreed to commence the procurement of contract for the provision of deep cleaning of public realm and other areas within the district for a period of up to three years	S Trainor	In progress	N

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

		multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas.			
SE/154/2024	Business case for arboricultural assessment and tree surgery	it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the business case to progress with a tender for two separate contractors as detailed within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/155/2024	Business case for mechanical building services contract	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress. Expression of interest issued on Framework.	N
SE/156/2024	Personal Protective Equipment	it was agreed to approve the recommendation to proceed with option 5 as detailed within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/157/2024	LANTRA national highway sector scheme training business case	it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a suitably qualified trainer to deliver essential LANTRA National Highway Sector Scheme Training for staff within the Sustainable and Environment Directorate	S Trainor	Procurement in progress	N
SE/158/2024	Business case for replacement of skips and containers at HRCs	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	S Trainor	Procurement in progress	N
SE/159/2024	Economic appraisal – liquid fuel requirements	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/160/2024	Harbour Surveys	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement options being reviewed	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 29 JANUARY 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/005/2025	Business Case – Cameras in Council Vehicles	It was agreed to approve the business case to procure recordable camera systems for Council fleet as outlined in Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/008/2025	Residual Waste Contracts	It was agreed to approve the procurement and appointment of an Economist to develop an Economic appraisal for a residual waste contract.	S Murphy	Complete	Y
SE/009/2025	Mixed dry recyclables contract	It was agreed to approve the following: -the extension of the contract for the receipt and processing of mixed dry recyclables with the organisation named in the officer's report -the extension of the current haulage contract with the organisation named in the officer's report Both extended from 1 April – 30 September 2025, subject to approval from arc21 Joint Committee.	S Trainor	Complete	Y

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 FEBRUARY 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken / Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/018/2025	NOM – Vital Role of trees	It was agreed to note the following: -Council continues to implement actions within the Biodiversity Strategy and Tree Strategy -Council continue to work with local community groups, businesses and new stakeholders on creations of new woodlands across the District -Council continues to raise awareness of Sustainability and Biodiversity issues at Council events and workshops.	C Sage	Noted	N
		It was also agreed that Council write to the Minister for Agriculture to highlight the damage as a result of storm Éowyn and to request if any support was to be put in place to mitigate the loss of fallen trees. Council will also write to other Councils request support in this regard.	C Sage	In progress	N
			C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/020/2025	Application for bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry	It was agreed to the installation of a new bus shelter at Hilltown Road, Newry as per the recommendations stated in Appendix 1 of the officer's Report	G Kane	In progress	N
		It was also agreed that Council consider the repair of the bus shelter requested by Cllr Feehan, with a response to be provided to the Member.	G Kane	In progress	N

SE/022/2025	On Street Residential Charge Point (ORCS) Scheme update	It was agreed to continue to proceed with the ORCS EV charger project following successful appointment of a Charge Point operator	C Sage	Contractor appointed, awaiting programme.	N
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 MARCH 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/034/2025	Officer Report on NOM – Street Lighting	It was agreed to write to DFI Roads to advise of concerns in relation to areas that have little of no street lighting and request that a scoping exercise is undertaken to identify areas that could avail of additional street lighting across the district.	S Murphy	In progress	N
		It was also agreed that Council owned green spaces would be reviewed to identify any areas that could avail of additional lighting across the District	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SE/036/2025	Home to Hospital update	it was agreed to approve the continued funding for The Mournes and Slieve Gullion Home to Hospital Volunteer driver schemes from 01 April 2025 – 31 March 2026, and that Council seek Expressions of Interest from suitable Community and Voluntary Sector organisations to administer the schemes, subject to funding being identified.	S Trainor	In progress	N
SE/038/2025	Business Case for monitoring and line	it was agreed to approve the recommendations of the Business Cases as per section 2.2 of the Officer's Report	C Sage	In progress	N

	rental of Council public space CCTV				
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 29 APRIL 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/045/2025	Notice of Motion re Memorial Garden, Newcastle	It was agreed to approve the proposal to create a memorial garden to acknowledge the 180 th anniversary of the Newcastle Fishing Disaster	C Sage	Works on site	N
SE/047/2025	Technical Advice for Climate Mitigation Report	It was agreed to approve the procurement of a suitably qualified advisor to assist with preparation of Council’s Climate Mitigation Report in accordance with the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 and the associated Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024	C Sage	Appointment in progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 MAY 2025					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/054/2025	Action Sheet of meeting held 29 April 2025	It was agreed to note the action sheet	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/055/2025	Update on notice of motion – Clean Air	<p>it was agreed to note the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Mechanical ventilation systems in Downshire Civic Centre are fitted with suitable levels of filtration that comply with the required guidance. •The Newry Civic Centre has been designed to include suitably filtered fresh air in accordance with the required standards. •The are no additional costs associated with supply of suitably filtered fresh air in the above facilities. 	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/056/2025	Officer Report on Notice of Motion – Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty & Air Quality Management Areas	<p>the following was agreed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Members considered and approved the endorsement of the Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and agree to write to the Northern Ireland Executive urging them to support this initiative. •Members noted the current on-going review process on the effectiveness of the Council's Air Quality Management Areas in liaison with DAERA and the potential expansion of the number of air quality monitor stations throughout the District, subject to funding. 	C Sage	In Progress	N

SE/057/2025	Sustainable NI Annual Membership Subscription	it was agreed to approve the Accelerator Membership Level and signing of an SLA with Sustainable NI for 2025/26	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/058/2025	Keep NI Beautiful Annual Membership Subscription	it was agreed to approve the financial support as outlined in section 2.2 and an SLA for the period of 2025 – 2026 to support the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) Live Here Love Here campaign and Eco Schools Programme across the District.	C Sage	In Progress	N
SE/059/2025	Newry Christmas Market Event	it was agreed to proceed with the Christmas Market Event with recommended charging as outlined in section 2.2 of the Officer's Report.	C Sage	Complete	Y
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
SE/061/2025	Consultation on proposed amendments to the food law code of practice and practice guidance	it was agreed to approve the submission on behalf of Council of the draft response to the Food Standards Agency Consultation on the proposed amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) and Practice Guidance, as set out in Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report	S Trainor	Complete	Y
SE/062/2025	Award of Energy Contracts 2025 – 2027	it was agreed to approve the following: •That Council proceed with the process and note the appointment of the successful supplier to supply Electricity and Natural Gas following completion of the joint procurement exercise with the other NI Councils.	C Sage	In Progress	N

		•That Council opt for the "Green" Electricity Premium due to the significant reduction in the cost of the Green Electricity premium from the supplier named in the officer's report to set an example and drive the market demand for green electricity.			
SE/063/2025	Business Case for Maintenance of Council facilities CCTV systems	it was agreed to approve the procurement of CCTV monitoring and maintenance services in line with the recommendations of the business case as presented with the Officer's Report.	C Sage	Procurement in Progress	N
SE/064/2025	Fleet Update	It was agreed to note the contents of the officers report	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/065/2025	Provisional Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics October – December 2024, released 1 May 2025	It was agreed to note the documents	S Murphy	Noted	Y

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

Date	Time	Location
18 June 2025	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
19 August 2025	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
16 September 2025	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
22 October 2025	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
19 November 2025	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
17 December 2025	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
28 January 2026	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
18 February 2026	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
18 March 2026	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
29 April 2026	6.00 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
20 May 2026	6.15 pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry

Sustainability and Environment Working Group Schedule of Meetings 2025-2026

Date	Time	Location
18 June 2025	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
16 September 2025	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
17 December 2025	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
18 March 2026	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry

Cleansing and Refuse Task Group Schedule of Meeting 2025 - 2026

Date	Time	Location
19 August 2025	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
19 November 2025	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
18 February 2026	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry
20 May 2026	5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Boardroom, Monaghan Row, Newry

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 June 2025
Subject:	Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment

For decision		X	For noting only	
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	<p>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.</p> <p>As Directorate Business Plans are directly aligned to the achievement of the Corporate Plan, they remain fairly high level, and do not necessarily capture the core, business as usual activity that is undertaken by individual departments. Alternatively, they provide an insight into the key, overarching objectives, supporting actions and measures of success for each Directorate in the year ahead, whilst setting the context for the development of departmental Service Plans which are operational in nature.</p>			
2.0	Key Issues			
2.1	<p>Assessment of Directorate Business Plans 2024-25</p> <p>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 2023-24. These assessments provide an overview of the performance of each Directorate and have been used to influence the development of the 2025-26 Business Plans. This exercise is an important part of the Council’s statutory responsibility to strengthen the way performance is monitored, reviewed and reported across the organisation.</p> <p>The assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2024-25 is attached at Appendix 1.</p>			
2.2	<p>Directorate Business Plans 2025-26</p> <p>Directorate Business Plans 2025-26 outline the key objectives, supporting actions and measures of success each Directorate will work towards, which are aligned to the strategic objectives within the draft Corporate Plan 2024-27. Directorate Business Plans 2025-26 are also now aligned to the new organisational structure following completion of the planning for the future process.</p> <p>The Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 is attached at Appendix 2.</p>			

2.3	<p>It should be noted that further improvements to the business planning process are underway across the Council, particularly in relation to cascading corporate objectives in a meaningful way to employees through the introduction and roll-out of Service Plans and People Perform Grow. This process seeks to improve the use of performance measures at all levels of the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework and create a clear 'line of sight' between the work of individuals, teams and departments, and how they contribute to the achievement of Directorate Business Plans and the Corporate Plan.</p>	
3.0	Recommendations	
	<p>Members are asked to consider and agree the:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2024-25 Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26 	
4.0	Resource implications	
4.1	There are no financial resources 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 <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> n/a</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 – Assessment of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2024-25• Appendix 2 – Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2025-26
8.0	Background Documents
	<p>Directorate Business Plans 2024-25</p> <p>Assessments of Directorate Business Plans 2023-24</p>

Sustainability and Environment

Annual Assessment Business Plan 2024-25

Introduction

This report provides an overview of progress in delivering the Sustainability and Environment Business Plan 2024-25 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 2024-25 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

Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district

Empowering our citizens to play an active part in civic life

Represent the voice of the district with our partners

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
<p>Sustainability and Environment Transformation:</p> <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.
<p>Environment:</p> <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.
<p>Sustainability:</p> <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 to realise savings and additional revenues through energy transformation, waste reduction, circular economy and green transportation programmes.

Sustainability & Environment Transformation			
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.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Deliver sustainable services		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
	Represent the voice of the District with our Partners		
	Develop and revitalise our District		
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 structure review of S&E Directorate including planning for the future Q3	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	
Notes:	1 S&E structure review agreed by SMT in June 2024. Additional resources approved by SPR in October 2024. Implementation progressing including planning for the future.		
Progress recruitment of vacant posts and increase permanent Council employed staff in order to reduce reliance on agency staff. (CWB)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 S&E structure review progressed, permissions granted, with new post recruitments required in Q4 of 2024/25 2 Prioritised recruitment schedule to be agreed with HR. Recruitment of vacant posts in progress, including over 50 vacant Refuse and Cleansing posts being recruited as part of District Cleansing review, reducing reliance on agency staff in this section.		

Continue the implementation of the Procurement action plan (CWB)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1 Ongoing - recruitment of two contract and data managers has progressed this significantly in Q2 of 2024/25.</div> <div>2 Two contract and data managers commenced employment in Q3 24/25, a number of contracts have been awarded and further work is ongoing on priority contracts from the PAP.</div>	
Continue to improve compliance with all relevant statutory obligations	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1 Work ongoing through S&E functions</div> <div>2 Work ongoing through S&E functions</div>	
Managing the actions arising from the Directorate Risk Register.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1 Progressing through both sections</div> <div>2 Progress has been made on compliance with statutory standards through setting up a data base for compliance records and delivering a programme of risk assessments, testing and remedial works through newly awarded contracts.</div>	

Conclude and implement review of Household Recycling Centre Services to ensure they meet Customer Demands into the future	Target Progress	Amber * 1	Amber * 2
Notes:	1 Some progress made - HRC Supervisor post now vacant 2 Some progress made - HRC Supervisor now in post		
Conclude and initiate the implementation of the new District Cleansing service model	Target Progress	Amber * 1	Amber * 2
Notes:	1 Work ongoing and will progress further in Q4 of 24/25 with appointment of Performance and Operations Manager. 2 Work undertaken in Q4 of 24/25, recruitment of vacant posts planned for April 2025		
Develop proposals for agreement for a new Refuse Collection service model	Target Progress	Amber * 1	Amber * 2
Notes:	1 Work ongoing - awaiting legislation and strategy direction 2 Work ongoing - awaiting legislation and strategy direction		
Identify opportunities for digital transformation through review of service delivery	Target Progress	Amber * 1	Amber * 2
Notes:	1 Work ongoing across functions 2 Work ongoing across functions		

Review Stress Audit actions, complete an updated staff Health and Wellbeing survey and, in collaboration with Human Resources, develop an action plan	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Review ongoing - progress further in Q4 24/25 and Q1 of 25/26 2 work ongoing - progress further in Q1 and Q2 2025/26		
Provide adequate emergency planning and response.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 SHEP plans in place and work ongoing 2 SHEP plans in place and work ongoing		
Provide adequate health and safety and insurance provision	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 High level of work ongoing in this area 2 High level of work ongoing in this area		
Number of compliant contracts completed in line with procurement action plan	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Progress made with further progress in Q4 of 24/25 2 Progressing through both sections		

Number of fully or partially implemented audit actions.		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1 Progress ongoing</div> <div>2 Progress has been made in the implementation of audit recommendations, as per most recent audit action plan update - April 2025.</div>		
Number of statutory & funding returns completed on time.		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1 Completed to date</div> <div>2 All statutory returns completed on time</div>		
Establish baseline customer satisfaction of the Household Recycling Centre Service users.		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1 Background data being gathered - further progress to be made in Q4 2024/25</div> <div>2 Progress to be made in Q2 and Q3 of 2025/26</div>		
Complete the Health and wellbeing survey for staff and develop an action plan – Link with HR		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1 data being gathered - plan to be developed in Q4 of 24/25</div> <div>2 Progress has been made and will continue in to 2025/26</div>		

Sustainability			
Develop and implement key sustainability strategies and action plans and advocate internally and externally to work towards net zero carbon to realise savings and additional revenues through energy transformation, waste reduction, circular economy and green transportation programmes.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Deliver sustainable services		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
	Represent the voice of the District with our Partners		
	Develop and revitalise our District		
SE2 : Develop and implement key sustainability strategies and action plans and advocate internally and externally to work towards net zero carbon through energy transformation, waste reduction, circular economy and green transportation programmes.			
Advocate Sustainability agenda internally and externally within Council.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Ongoing 2 Ongoing through the Sustainability team.		
Develop and implement: (Q3) (SCC) • Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy • Climate Change Adaptation Plan • Biodiversity Strategy • Tree Strategy	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	
Notes:	1 Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy is progressing, Climate Change Adaptation Plan will be completed inline with DAERA timeframe (April 2026), Biodiversity Strategy has now been approved and launched. Tree Strategy to be updated and formally presented at S&E Committee.		
Continued implementation of the current Fleet Replacement Programme	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 The Council continues to implement the Fleet Replacement Programme. Fleet modernisation is delivering a significant reduction in CO2 emissions. 2 2024/25 Fleet replacement programme completed. Fleet modernisation is delivering a significant reduction in CO2 emissions.		

Commence decarbonisation of Council Fleet, including establishment of EV Infrastructure and fleet depot requirements and trials of alternative fuel vehicles (SCC)		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 Approval has been granted for the replacement of a proportion of existing small and medium sized diesel vans with electric vehicles. Orders are now due to be placed for 10No small electric vans. The funding has been approved for charging infrastructure, procurement for this project is currently underway. 18 dual chargers are to be installed through the collaborative ORCs (On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme) project, which is currently being procured, with delivery expected by the end of Q4 2024-25.</p> <p>2 Approval has been granted for the replacement of a proportion of existing small and medium sized diesel vans with electric vehicles. Orders will be placed for 10No small electric vans on completion of charging infrastructure project, procurement for this project is currently underway. 18 dual chargers are to be installed through the collaborative ORCs (On-Street Residential Charge Point Scheme) project, regional contracts have now been awarded, Council awaiting installation programme from contractor.</p>		
Work with Stakeholders to implement Active Travel Masterplan (CPP)		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 Work ongoing in particular with Dfi</p> <p>2 Work ongoing, in particular with DFI on the Active Travel Delivery Plan.</p>		
Continue the implementation of the Sustainable Food Places Programme (CWB) (CPP)		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 Programme ongoing and SFP Officer has just been made permanent</p> <p>2 Programme ongoing and SFP Officer has now been made permanent</p>		

Develop and secure funding for a circular economy pilot project (CWB) (SCC)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div>	<div></div> <div>Red</div> <div>* 1</div>
Notes:	1 No progress with this project		
Develop and agree a new Waste Management Strategy taking into consideration new legislative requirements and central government policy/guidance.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Awaiting legislation and direction to progress 2 Awaiting legislation and direction to progress		
Publication of strategies: • Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy • Climate Change Adaptation Plan • Biodiversity Strategy • Tree Strategy	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Progress ongoing, plans and strategies to be brought to Committee for approval in Q4 2024-25 2 Development ongoing with the Sustainability & Climate Change Strategy. Climate Change Adaptation Plan to be returned in accordance with DAERA timeframe (Apr 26). Biodiversity Strategy launched in Jan 25. Tree Strategy previously approved at committee as a working document, to be revised and presented at committee as per Council process.		

Carbon Baseline established	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>1</div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1</div> The introduction of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 has set a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 came into effect on 3rd May 2024. These regulations require Council to provide the following reports: •Climate Mitigation – Report due by 31st October 2025 •Climate Adaptation – Report due by 31st March 2026 The requirement for carbon baseline reporting commences for financial year ending 31st of March 2025. <div>2</div> The introduction of the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 has set a target of Net Zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 came into effect on 3rd May 2024. These regulations require Council to provide the following reports: •Climate Mitigation – Report due by 31st October 2025 •Climate Adaptation – Report due by 31st March 2026 The requirement for carbon baseline reporting commences for financial year ending 31st of March 2025. 2 New Officers appointed and proposal in place to appoint consultants for support to deliver the above reports.	
Progress decarbonisation of Council fleet	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<div>1</div> Ongoing <div>2</div> Delivery of battery electric vans delayed until completion of EV infrastructure project at council depots. Vehicles to be delivered in Q2 2025/26. Options paper on HVO to be developed at presented at committee.	

Environment			
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.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Deliver sustainable services		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
	Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life		
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></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 All statutory services continue to be provided 2 Contracts now in place for electrical testing and water hygiene services. Contract to be awarded imminently for asbestos surveys. Progress has been made on completion of risk assessments, testing and remedial works.		
Develop an Education, Awareness and Enforcement Improvement plan to address dog fouling, litter and fly tipping incidents across the District.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Due to staffing this has not been progressed but should be in Q4 of 24/25 2 Due to staffing this has not been progressed but should be in Q4 of 24/25		
Develop a strategy and action plan for the management and maintenance of Council facilities.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Facilities Management and Maintenance Steering Group has been re-established and strategy and action plans are in progress 2 Facilities Management and Maintenance Steering Group has been re-established and strategy and action plans are in progress		

Develop a strategy for CCTV across Council to include both public space CCTV and Council facilities CCTV systems		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 In progress - CCTV upgrade in Legacy Newry Town centres completed. Proposals for Legacy Down Town Centres have been submitted for capital funding</p> <p>2 In progress - CCTV upgrade in Legacy Newry Town centres completed. Capital proposals for upgrade of CCTV in Down legacy town centres and for CCTV upgrades in Council facilities has been approved by SMT. Full business cases complete and due to be presented at SFWG.</p>		
Continue implementation of the Public Convenience Strategy		<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
	Notes:	<p>1 Newcastle Public Conveniences Project completed including installation of a changing places facility. Funding has also been received for an additional public conveniences facility to replace the current facility in Dundrum by end of 2024-25. Prioritisation of future public convenience projects will be considered at S&E working group in December 2024.</p> <p>2 Newcastle Public Conveniences Project completed including installation of a changing places facility. Dundrum public conveniences project complete. Prioritisation of future public convenience projects was considered at S&E working group in December 2024, with an agreed template approved for condition surveys of public conveniences. This will determine capital priorities for refurbishment/replacement works.</p>		

Review and launch the Age Friendly Action Plan with partners (CPP)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Progress ongoing 2 Progress ongoing		
Work with community planning partners to improve community resilience planning (CPP)	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Progress ongoing 2 Progress ongoing		
Support the development of Business continuity planning and emergency planning across Council	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Amber</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Progress slow due to resource but this will be further progressed in Q4 24/25 2 Training has now been undertaken by SMT/CMT and further progress on plans will be undertaken in Q1 25/26		
Support the development of Health and Safety requirements across Council	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 1</div>	<div></div> <div>Green</div> <div>* 2</div>
Notes:	1 Ongoing - focus on risk assessment and staff training at present 2 Ongoing - focus is now on the review and implementation of risk assessments and SSOW at departmental levels		

Level of street cleanliness across the district (LEAMS)	<div>Target</div> <div>Actual</div>	<div>65</div> <div>—</div> <div>* 1</div>
Notes:	1 LEAMS score has not yet been provided through the cleaner neighbourhoods report	
Develop and agree a new Waste Management Strategy taking into consideration new legislative requirements and central government policy/guidance.	<div>Target</div> <div>Progress</div>	<div><div>Amber</div><div>* 1</div></div> <div><div>Amber</div><div>* 2</div></div>
Notes:	1 Awaiting legislation and strategy to be produced 2 Awaiting legislation and strategy to be produced	

Sustainability & Environment Directorate

Annual Business Plan 2025-26



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

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1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Sustainability & Environment Directorate is responsible for the provision of a number of technical services, both internally to other council departments and externally to rate payers across the district. The Directorate is responsible for the primary waste management functions of Refuse Collection and District Cleansing along with the operational support to enable these services to be delivered. In addition, the Directorate has responsibility for the management and maintenance of the main corporate buildings (civic centres and depots) the maintenance of other buildings and grounds owned by Council as well as the Environmental Health, Emergency Planning and Health & Safety function of Council.
- 1.2 The Sustainability & Environment Directorate is seen as one of the key transformation projects for the Council. The Council has agreed to further develop this Directorate, as within this Directorate sits many of the services which affect the general environment of the district, some requiring significant improvement, such as bin collection, street cleansing and public conveniences.
- 1.3 The core responsibilities of the Directorate are:

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**

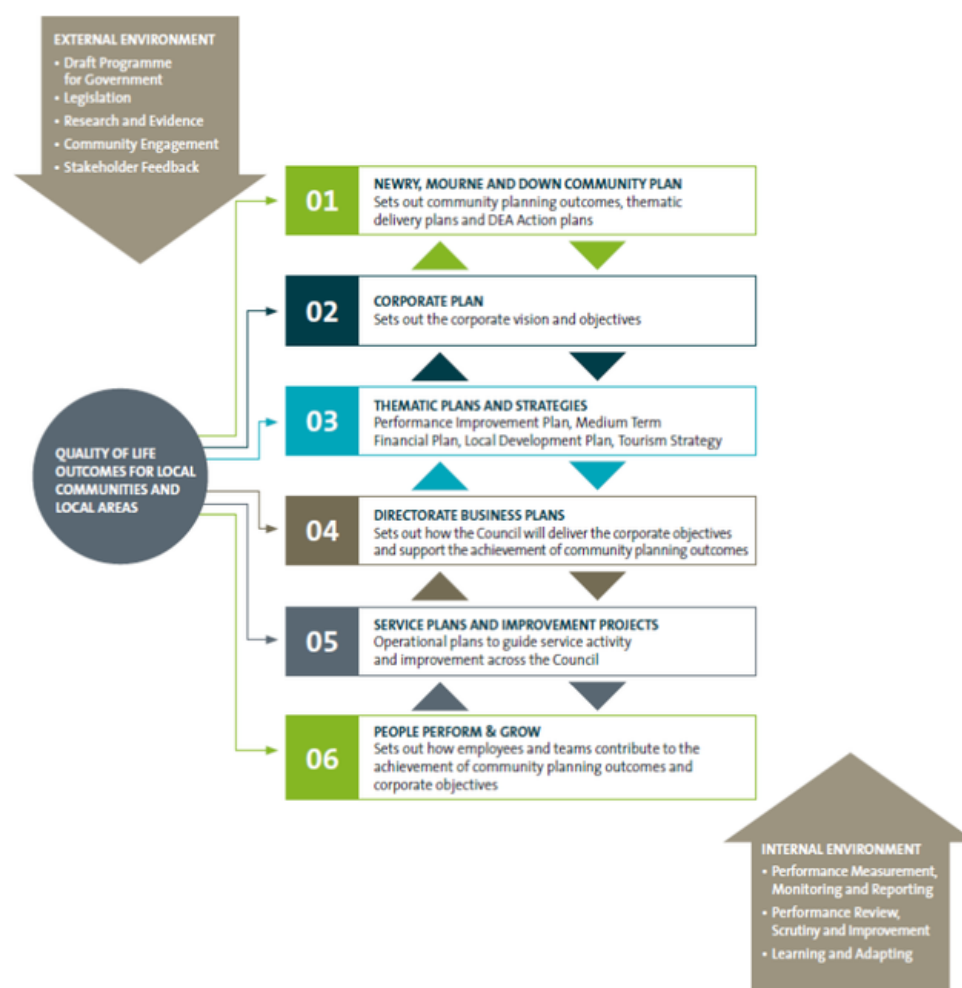
2.0 Background

- 2.1 The SE Business Plan is developed within the context of the Community Plan and Corporate Plan 2024-27. The Community Plan sets out the long-term outcomes for the district, based on the needs and aspirations of local people. The draft Corporate Plan sets out the key strategic objectives for the Council between 2024-

27, and how it will contribute to achieving the community planning outcomes.

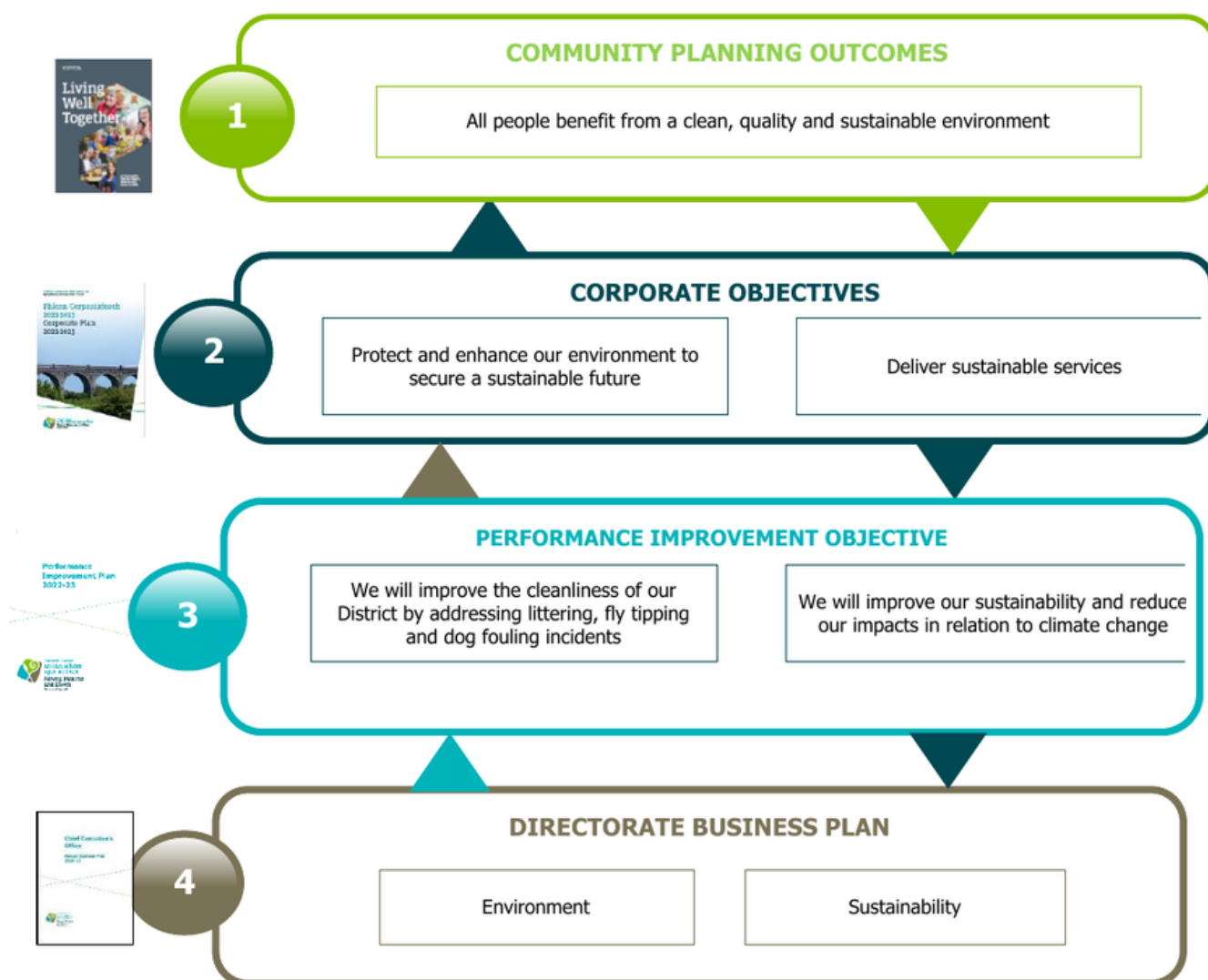
- 2.2 The Community Plan and Corporate Plan are cross cutting and strategic in nature. They guide all activity within the organisation, as well as the subsequent allocation of resources, and sit within a hierarchy of plans, as outlined in the 'Business Planning and Performance Management Framework' (Figure 1).
- 2.3 The Business Planning and Performance Management Framework drives and provides assurance that the Council is delivering its corporate vision and priorities, whilst securing continuous improvement in the exercise of functions. It provides a mechanism to join up and cascade the various plans and strategies across the organisation, demonstrating how employees contribute to achieving community planning outcomes and corporate priorities, for the ultimate benefit of the citizens we serve.

Figure 1: Business Planning and Performance Management Framework



- 2.4 Whilst the Corporate Plan focuses on issues which cut across the organisation and are strategic in nature, the SE Business Plan provides an overview of the key operational activities for the coming year. These activities are explicitly linked to corporate objectives and coupled with 'business as usual' service delivery, provide clear direction for all employees within the Directorate (Figure 2). Directorate Business Plans are supported by Service Plans and the 'People Perform and Grow' initiative.
- 2.5 The SE Business Plan is published annually and is the basis upon which performance is managed and reviewed by the full Council, Sustainability & Environment Committee and Senior Management Team.

Figure 2: Sustainability & Environment Alignment across the Business Planning and Performance Management Framework



3.0 Purpose & Values

3.1 Purpose

- 3.1.1 The primary purpose of the Sustainability & Environment Directorate is to develop, implement and monitor key corporate (strategic) frameworks to maintain and improve the environmental sustainability of the district through the appropriate management of waste and litter in the physical environment while also ensuring the management and maintenance of the council's estate across the district.

3.2 Values

- 3.2.1 The Department adheres to the Council's values which are outlined in the Corporate Plan 2024-27:

We will be:	Which means:
Respect	We will demonstrate respect for all people in our attitudes, behaviours and working relationships.
Transparency	We will be transparent in how we make decisions
Excellence	We will take pride in our work and be passionate about the standards we strive to achieve.
Integrity	We want the people of our district to trust us to do the right thing.
Accountability	We will be accountable to the public for our decisions and actions. We will be accountable for how we plan for and use resources sustainably.

- 3.2.2 In accordance with the Section 75 requirements of the Northern Ireland Act (1998), the Sustainability & Environment Directorate is committed to carrying out its functions having due regard to the need to promote equality of opportunity and regard for the desirability to promote good relations. All new and revised policies, procedures and programmes of work will be subject to an equality screening and rural needs impact assessment (where appropriate).

4.0 Challenges & Opportunities

- 4.1 The Sustainability & Environment Directorate, which was formally the Neighbourhood Services Directorate, was established in August 2022 following the implementation of 'Planning for the Future'. The organisational design of the new Council has therefore evolved, to centralise the management of several existing Council functions as well as new powers which were transferred to the Council on the 1 April 2015.
- 4.2 The various (internal and external) challenges and opportunities for the Directorate are summarised as follows:

External Environment

- **Legislation:** Ensuring corporate legislative compliance in respect of existing and new statutory obligations in Waste, including Zero Carbon, Health & Safety and Equality (Section 75).
- **Community Planning:** Via the Environmental and Spatial Thematic Delivery Group, developing partnerships and plans that will assist in the creation of local area-based plans to deliver on the Council's Community Plan.
- **Strategic Alliances:** Collaborating with a range of stakeholders to address the impact of Brexit and other emerging issues.
- **Global trends:** Take account of the impact on our working and natural environment from Covid-19 pandemic, climate change, Brexit and how this Directorate can rise to the challenges these issue present.

Internal Environment

- **Management:** Successfully establishing the new Directorate in terms of its structure, governance and internal processes.
- **Resources:** Identifying and securing the financial and non-financial resources needed for the Directorate to deliver the key frontline service for the Directorate.
- **Performance Management:** Continually monitoring and reviewing departments' performance, highlighting areas of high-performance as well as identifying areas for intervention.
- **Transformation & Improvement:** Developing and implementing transformational change for the new Sustainability & Environment Transformation Project. Through this, successfully develop and implement transformational change that drives out the efficiencies and improvements that both Members and the public demand.
- **Strategic Projects:** Ensuring the management and delivery of the Directorate's strategic projects within time, cost and quality parameters.
- **Property and Land Assets:** Successfully implementing centralised contracts and frameworks to support the effective and efficient management of the

council's estate.

- **Creating a Cleaner and Greener Environment:** Aligned with the best Circular Economy practices, implementing programs that will reduce waste arisings and litter, while increasing recycling and reuse.
- **Engagement:** Encouraging communities to take pride in their areas and support the Council by helping look after our environment through initiatives and campaigns.
- **Risk Management:** Managing potential risks and opportunities in achieving key actions outlined in the SE Business Plan by adhering to the Corporate Risk Management Policy and reviewing the SE Risk Register on a quarterly basis.
- **Compliance:** Establishing the necessary policies and procedures and monitoring arrangements to ensure corporate legislative compliance in respect of key statutory obligations, including Equality, Disability, Rural Needs, Health & Safety, Employment and Procurement legislation.
- **Information Technology:** Establishing robust information technology infrastructure to support business transformation.

5.0 Cross-Cutting Themes and Actions

There are a number of cross cutting actions aligned to the Community Planning Partnership priorities, Community Wealth Building and Sustainability and Climate Change that span across all Directorates and contribute to the fulfilment of Directorate Objectives, Corporate Objectives and ultimately Community Planning Outcomes.

Officers should indicate where their actions are contributing to the fulfilment of CPP, CWB or SCC actions by putting the relevant acronym in the column.

These actions should be identified in liaison with the relevant officers (CPP – Alan Beggs; CWB – Colin Moffett; SCC – Conor Sage) and relevant annual assessments of service plans forwarded to the above officers.

Acronym	Themes
CWB	Community Wealth Building
CPP	Community Planning Partnership priorities
SCC	Sustainability and Climate Change

Community Planning Partnership Priorities

While all actions will contribute to the delivery of the Community Plan, some actions may be considered appropriate to be contained within the Community Planning Partnership Priorities.

Relevant priorities should:

- Align to the outcomes of the Community Plan
- Involve collaborative working across statutory and community voluntary sector partners for both design and delivery.
- Report through the Community Planning Structures
- Measure and report impacts and outcomes

Community Wealth Building

Community Wealth Building is an approach to the way that economy's function, retaining more wealth and opportunity for the benefit of local people.

Key actions in relation to CWB should deliver on the 5 recommendations and sub-recommendations contained within the CLES/DTNI report – Newry, Mourne and Down pioneering the potential of community wealth building.

Sustainability and Climate Change

Sustainability and the climate change emergency continues to be a key driver of Council with the key objective of improving the lives and livelihoods of the people who live and work here. Approval to develop a Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy was agreed in June 20

6.0 Directorate Objectives and Supporting Actions

Directorate Objectives
<p>Sustainability and Environment Transformation: 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.</p>
<p>Sustainability: 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.</p>
<p>Environment: 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.</p>

Sustainability & Environment Transformation			
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.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Deliver sustainable services		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
	Represent the voice of the District with our Partners		
	Develop and revitalise our District		
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)	Target		
	Progress	<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)	Target		
	Progress	<div></div>	<div></div>
Continue the implementation of the Procurement action plan	Target		
	Progress	<div></div>	<div></div>
Continue to improve compliance with all relevant statutory obligations	Target		
	Progress	<div></div>	<div></div>
Identify opportunities for digital transformation through review of service delivery	Target		
	Progress	<div></div>	<div></div>
Provide adequate emergency planning and response.	Target		
	Progress	<div></div>	<div></div>

Procure the required insurance cover for all Council requirements	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Number of compliant contracts completed in line with procurement action plan	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Number of fully or partially implemented audit actions.	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Number of statutory & funding returns completed on time.	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Establish baseline customer satisfaction of the Household Recycling Centre Service users.	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Number of vacant posts filled	Target		
	Actual	—	—
Number of agency staff reduced	Target		
	Actual	—	—
Percentage of statutory & funding returns completed on time.	Target		
	Actual	—	—
Complete the Health and wellbeing survey for staff and develop an action plan	Target		
	Progress	—	—

Sustainability			
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.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Deliver sustainable services		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
	Represent the voice of the District with our Partners		
	Develop and revitalise our District		
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.	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Develop and implement: (SCC) • Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy • Climate Change Mitigation Report • Climate Adaptation Report	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Implement Biodiversity / Tree Strategies	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Research and develop options for a circular economy pilot project and explore funding opportunities (CWB) (Partner ERT)	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Continued review and implementation of the Fleet Replacement Programme and decarbonization strategy.	Target		
	Progress	—	—

Review Active Travel Masterplan (CPP) (Partner with ERT) (Q4)	Target	<div></div>	
	Progress	<div>—</div>	
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	<div></div>	
	Progress	<div>—</div>	
Publication of Climate Change and Sustainability Strategy and associated action plan	Target	<div></div>	<div></div>
	Actual	<div>—</div>	<div>—</div>
Completion and submission of Climate Change Mitigation Report in accordance with Climate Change Act.	Target	<div></div>	<div></div>
	Actual	<div>—</div>	<div>—</div>
Completion and submission of Climate Change Adaptation Report in accordance with Climate Change Act.	Target	<div></div>	<div></div>
	Progress	<div>—</div>	<div>—</div>
Progress decarbonisation of Council fleet	Target	<div></div>	<div></div>
	Progress	<div>—</div>	<div>—</div>

Environment			
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.	ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PLAN		
	Deliver sustainable services		
	Protect and enhance our environment to secure a sustainable future		
	Improve the health and wellbeing of everyone in the district		
	Empowering communities to play an active part in civic life		
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	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Develop an Education, Awareness and Enforcement Improvement plan to address dog fouling, litter and fly tipping incidents across the District. (CPP)	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Develop a strategy and action plan for the management and maintenance of Council facilities. (Q4)	Target		
	Progress	—	
Finalise and launch the Age Friendly Action Plan with partners (CPP) (Q4)	Target		
	Progress	—	
Support the development and review of Business continuity plans across Council	Target		
	Progress	—	—

Review and maintain the Council's compliance with health and safety legislative requirements.	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Introduction of APSEs Land Audit Management System LAMS to measure and benchmark levels of street cleanliness, grounds maintenance and cemeteries across the district	Target		
	Progress	—	—
Develop an action plan to meet the requirements of new legislation and policy relating to waste management.	Target		
	Progress	—	—

7.0 Performance

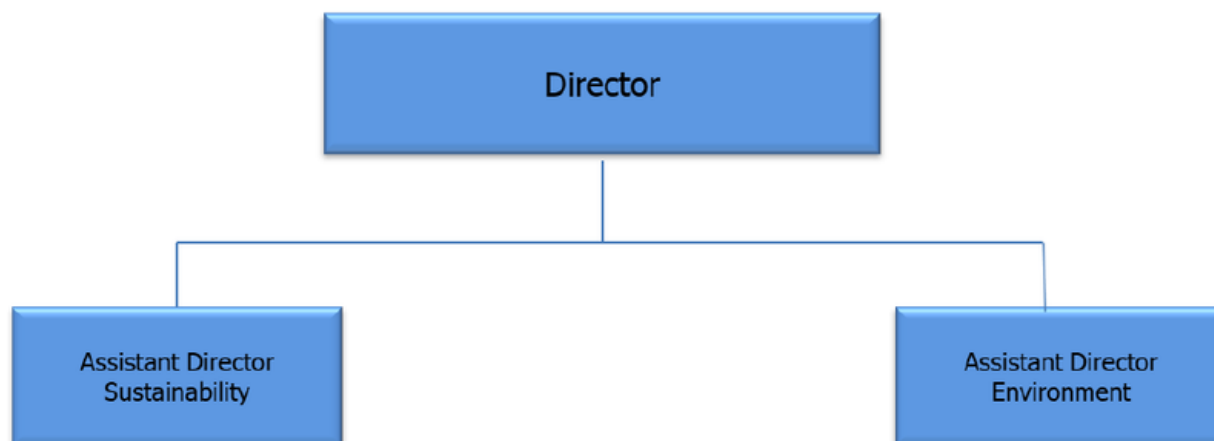
7.1 The Sustainability & Environment Directorate is responsible for key technical services, both internally to other council departments and externally to rate payers across the district. This exercise will also identify additional, suitable performance measures for the Sustainability & Environment Directorate.

7.2 The SE Directorate is responsible for leading the development, implementation and review of the following plans and strategies, which influence the work of the Office and Council:

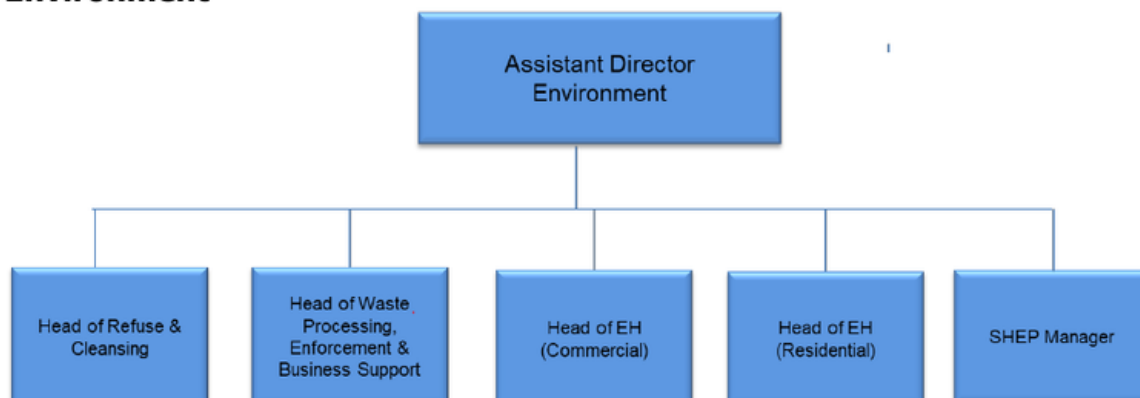
- Waste Management Plan
- SE Directorate Procurement Action Plan
- Public Toilet Strategy
- Tree Strategy
- Enforcement Improvement Plan
- Dog Fouling Strategy
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Air Quality Management Action Plan
- Food Service Plan
- Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Active Travel Masterplan

8.0 Organisation and Directorate Structure

The Sustainability & Environment Directorate is one of four Directorates, which together comprise the management structure of the Council (Figure 3). The management structure of the Sustainability & Environment Directorate contains two core frontline services and is outlined in the structure below;



• Environment



• Sustainability

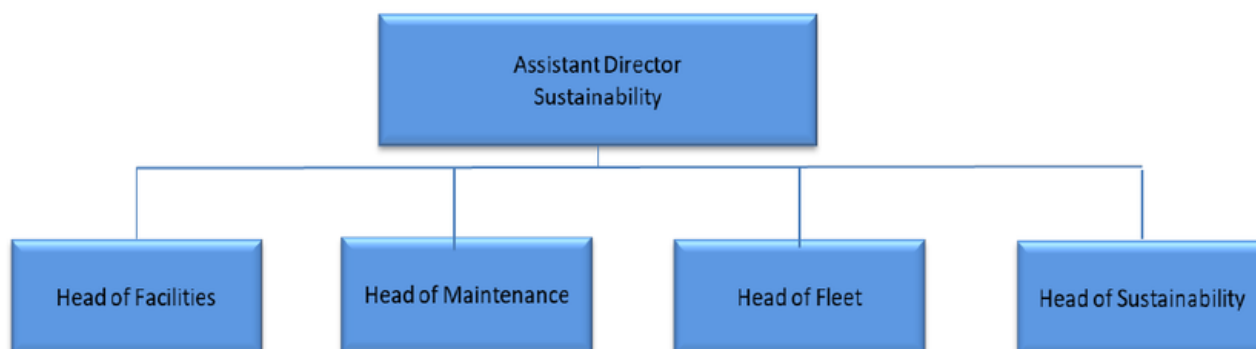
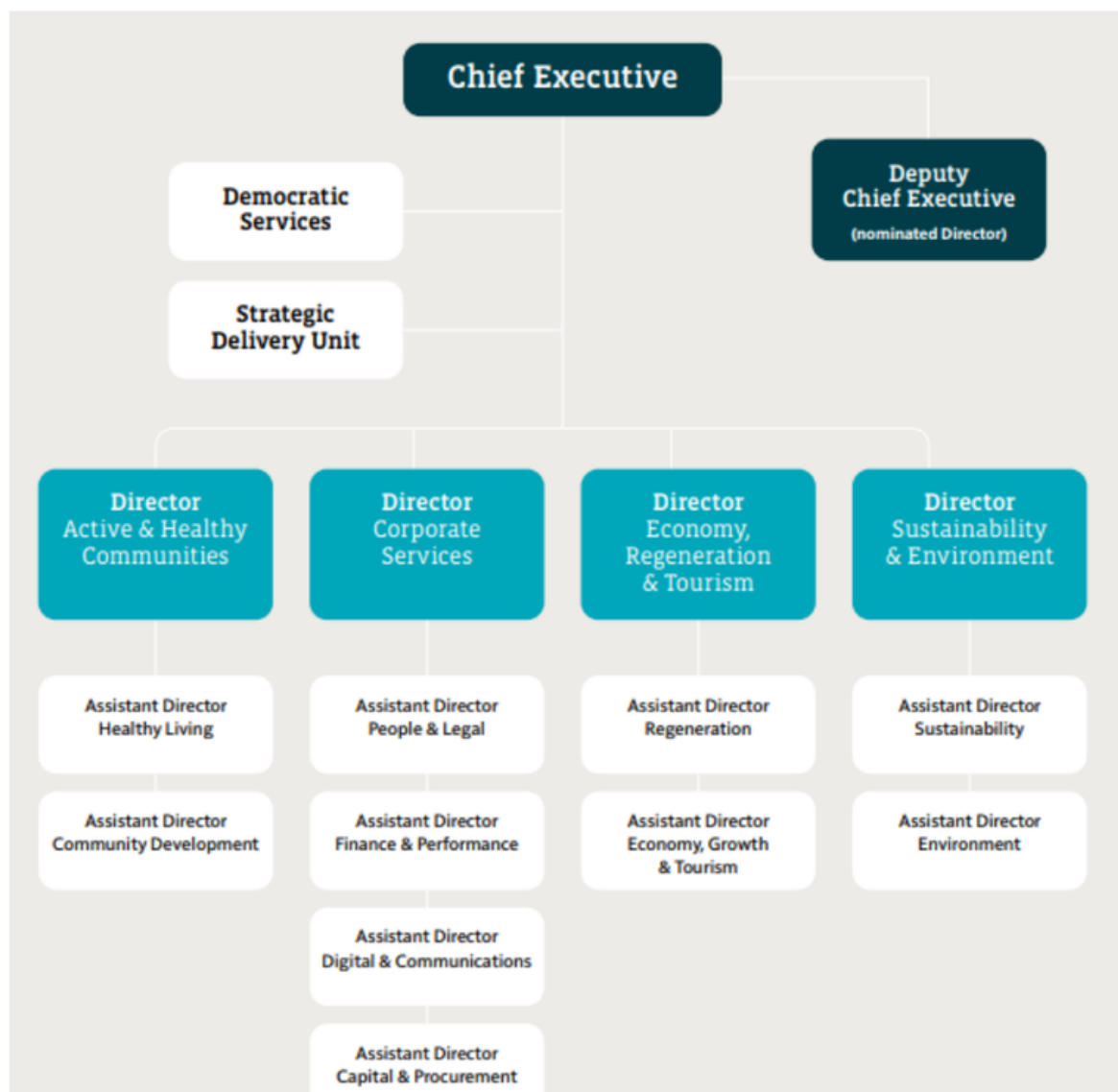


Figure 3 - Council Management Structure



9.0 Financial Information

Net estimated expenditure (2025-26)	
Sustainability	
Environment	
TOTAL: Sustainability & Environment	

10.0 Governance Arrangements

- 10.1 Reviewing performance and reporting progress to Elected Members and other key stakeholders facilitates transparency, accountability and improvement in everything the Council does. The governance arrangements to develop, monitor and report the Council's progress in implementing the Director's Business Plan are outlined below, and are supplemented by regular reviews by the Director and his team. The governance arrangements the Council has put in place to deliver continuous improvement are also subject an annual audit and assessment by the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

Figure 4: Governance Arrangements

Full Council

- Ratification of Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan
- Ratification of annual review of Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan

Strategy, Policy and Resources Committee / Audit Committee

- Scrutiny and challenge around the Duty of Improvement
- Provide assurance that performance management arrangements are robust and effective

Sustainability & Environment Committee

- Consideration, scrutiny and approval of Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan
- Consideration, scrutiny and approval of annual and bi-annual reviews of Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan

Senior Management Team

- Development, consideration and approval of Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan
- Development, consideration and approval of the annual and bi-annual reviews of Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan

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

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Downpatrick Office
Downshire Civic Centre
Downshire Estate, Ardglass Road

Downpatrick BT30 6GQ

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 June 2025
Subject:	Control of Invasive Species Across the NM&DDC Estate
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Conor Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Jonathan Ellis Grounds Maintenance Manager

Confirm how this Report should be treated by placing an x in either: -			
	For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on the current Invasive Species Control Programmes including the use of herbicides to control Invasive species on Council Facilities by the Grounds Maintenance Section.		
1.2	<p>In 2023 it was requested that weed control be carried forward with a 25% of 2019 volume now being used. The rationalised weed control programme continues, invasive species control however is largely beyond this.</p> <p>Proliferation of invasive species is always emerging, and eradication can be 5 years plus per location. Council has some of the most established plant stands in the country due to its horticultural history.</p> <p>Programmes are undertaken specific to each location and the species involved; including herbicide and physical control methods with resulting renovation works which continue over years.</p> <p>Invasive species control and application of herbicides is an important contributor to council achieving its climate adaption, sustainability efficiencies, addressing biodiversity issues and carbon reduction strategies.</p>		
2.0	Key Issues		
2.1	<p><u>Issues arising from this programme</u></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Legislatively, Council must comply via an effective invasive weed control to The Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 and EU Invasive Alien Species Regulations. 2. Accurate operational recording on the ground proves difficult. Linked to this a new mapping process planned for later in 2025 using new GPS mapping equipment. 3. New locations including forest parks etc form a considerable amount of land with limited resources - maintenance within these has been largely reactive to date. 4. Ongoing expectations from the public and elected members for better maintained high use spaces & tourist destinations etc cannot be achieved without significant resources and herbicides. 		

5. Control of Invasive Weeds (which are increasing in species numbers and varieties) is an annual problem. Virulence of these plants appears to be strengthening both locally and nationally.

The National Arboretum at Castlewellan Forest Park has a complex weed control programme whereby Council must fully address the following:

- NIEA / HED approvals
- Geographical & timebound assents
- Control reductions, cutting & clearing.
- Applications specific to invasive species.
- Sanitisation programmes
- Biosecurity - potential disease & spread eg Phytophthora
- Full utilisation of uptake agents & anti drift

Individual management plans must be produced to DAERA (NIEA) if a location is reported as having plants via the CEDAR website. Any member of the public can avail of this service. This must fully detail species, control methods, eradication timeline and rectification work.

The Reservoirs Act creates requirements for invasive control on Council waterbodies with associated H&S issues. These are often vectors for Giant Hog Weed etc

The Albert Basin in Newry has been subject to an extensive invasive control programme to enable park redevelopment, where otherwise the ground layer would have to be treated as hazardous waste when developing. Here as in many other locations the seed bank / propagules are washing downstream from private lands.

2.2	<p>Invasive plants include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Japanese Knotweed • Giant hogweed • Himalayan Balsam • Laurel • Rhododendron <p>New species are emerging as invasives, with many yet to be formally adopted on the Invasive Species Ireland List, particularly in the forest locations.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	Note the contents of the report
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>Officer time to study, trial and research various control methods. Officer time to map the current locations and plan the evolving proactive regime.</p> <p>Grounds Maintenance operatives time and resources to physically control species with resulting landscape rectification work.</p>
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	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 type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>	

	<p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If no, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy / strategy / plan / public service is not influenced by rural needs <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
7.1	None
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p> <p><i>This relates to meeting requirements outlined in Part 8 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Access to Meetings and Documents, wherein for four years after a meeting the following must be available at the Council Offices and on the website:</i></p> <p><i>Background papers which are defined as those documents relating to the subject matter of a report which:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>a) Disclose any facts or matters which in the opinion of the Chief Executive, the report or an important part of the report is based upon; and</i> <i>b) Have, in the Chief Executive's opinion, been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i> <p><i>These are documents on which the report, or an important part of the report, is based upon and have been relied upon to a material extent in preparing the report.</i></p>
8.1	None

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE

Meeting No 095

MINUTES

Thursday 27 March 2025

Hybrid meeting in Arts Civic Centre, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn

Hosted by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Members Present:

Councillor M Goodman (*Chair*)
Councillor H Cushman
Councillor E Thompson
Councillor A Givan
Councillor G McKeen (*Deputy Chair*)
Alderman M Morrow
Councillor K Murphy
Councillor C Enright

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

Members' Apologies:

Councillor R Lynch
Councillor J Cochrane
Councillor C Blaney
Councillor B Smyth
Councillor M Collins
Councillor E McDonough-Brown
Councillor P Kennedy
Alderman S Skillen
Councillor R Quigley
Councillor T Andrews

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

Officers Present:

T Walker
H Campbell
J Green
M Lavery
D Lindsay
J McConnell
R Harvey, W Muldrew, G Richardson
C Hunter
E Reilly

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

Officers' Apologies:

S Leonard
S Morley
S Murphy
K Boal

Belfast City Council
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
arc21

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 094 held on 27 February 2025

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

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Ald Morrow advised that there had been some complaints about the bring banks at Sainsburys at Braidwater Retail Park, with material being left beside them of an unsanitary nature. Ms Boal advised that she was unsure if those banks fell within the remit of the arc21 contract but that she would check and arrange an inspection and raise a request. If they are not, she would seek to identify which operator is providing the collection service and she would raise a complaint on the Members behalf – Mr Walker advised that Ms Boal would provide feedback directly to Ald Morrow due to her absence at the meeting.

Action: Ms Boal

Any specific matters were actioned or discussed under the main agenda items.

Action: Noted

IN COMMITTEE

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

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

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

- | | |
|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Item 5 | Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 094 held on 27 February 2025 ‘ <i>in committee</i> ’ (<i>approved</i>) |
| Item 6 | Matters Arising (<i>noted</i>) |
| Item 7 | Residual Waste Treatment Project (<i>noted</i>) |
| Item 8 | Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues (<i>approved</i>) |
| Item 9 | Audit Committee Meeting 11 March 2025 Report (<i>noted</i>) |

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Ald Morrow.

Item 10 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Service Status

Mr Walker reported that contingency arrangements continued to be in place throughout February for RiverRidge due to the damage caused by a fire at their Craigmore facility.

He also advised that NWP had asked to use their contingency weighbridge at their Glenside site for one day.

Performance

The performance tables for February were presented for the contracts and he noted that in most cases the contractors provided sufficient reasons, and no service credits were applied, however some information was still awaited

For the bring banks, he advised that there were eight requests for bring site rectifications (they did not have the specified capacity) across all contracts and the majority of these were serviced within the required 48 hours.

Health & Safety

Mr Walker reported that during February there were no Health & Safety incidents reported to arc21 by contractors.

Audits

In terms of audits, he advised that the external Health & Safety consultant had started to undertake this year's health and safety audits and at the end of February, an audit was conducted of Heatricks which included the transfer stations at Newtownards, Ballymena and Sullatober. This H&S report is currently being drafted and once completed will be shared with Heatricks and the councils. arc21 will work with all stakeholders to ensure that any proposed actions are completed as soon as possible.

Rejected Loads

He reported that there had been no rejected loads into both the Material Recovery delivery sites and Organics delivery sites in February 2025.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

The contract tonnages for February were presented and the percentage differences to the February 2024 were noted as follows:

MRF Contract – Lot 1 - a 4.4% decrease;

MRF Contract – Lot 2 - a 7.1% decrease;

Organics Contract: Type 1 – a 3.3% increase; and Type 2 – a decrease of 8.8%.

Supplies

Mr Walker noted that council officers are requested, on a monthly basis, to place orders for supplies at the earliest opportunity as delays due to transportation and increased demand for certain categories of containers etc. may occur which may affect delivery timescales.

The Chair noted that a number of councils in the past had reported issues in particular with supplies of the corn starch bags and inquired if there was still a supply issue in the market?

Mr Walker advised that it was probably more of a timing issue with the market responding to the requests from Simpler Recycling that every householder across England was to have a food waste collection starting later this year, so there had been a drive across the English councils to provide this which meant, for the arc21 councils, it was more about timing.

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

Action: Noted

Item 11 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Mr Walker presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material processed through the arc21 contracts since 2021/22.

He advised that the operations for the new residual contracts was working well and tonnages flowing as expected and any teething issues, in terms of access to sites, was being monitored closely.

In terms of the organics, he noted that it was expected that the tonnages would increase as in past years with the better weather expected.

He also noted that MRF tonnages were following a similar trajectory to previous years.

The other smaller contract tonnages were also presented for information.

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

Action: Noted

Item 12 - DAERA Call for Evidence – Review of Environmental Governance in Northern Ireland

Mr Walker reported that the Department for Agriculture, the Environment & Rural Affairs had published a Call for Evidence on 31 January, 2025 on behalf of an Independent Panel, seeking views on the current environmental governance arrangements in Northern Ireland and options for improvement.

He noted that there had been a previous consultation in 2015 the responses of which had been firmly in favour of the creation of an independent environment agency but, at that time, Minister Poots had felt it was not necessary to have such a degree of separation between the agency and the Department.

He advised that an arc21 response had been drafted and submitted to meet the deadline, and for completeness, a copy of the earlier (2016) response had been appended to the submission. He noted that the present response had been agreed with the Deputy Chair in advance before submitting.

It was recommended that the Members retrospectively ratify the submission for the Call for Evidence on the Review of Environmental Governance for NI.

Following an endorsement from a Member for the thoroughness of the response, the Members agreed to approve the recommendation. Proposed by Cllr Enright, seconded by Cllr Givan, and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed

Item 13 - AOB

Request for letter of support from QUB

Mr Walker advised that he had received correspondence in regard to an ESPRC funding application seeking arc21 support to endorse a project called *Fiber reinforced polymer waste upcycling for zero emission syngas and high-quality new composite production* (FINE-COMPOSITE).

Specifically, the project by Queen's University, Belfast is at outline proposal stage and focuses upon addressing the upcycling of hard to recycle waste plastics to transportation fuels and high-value carbon materials.

He highlighted that, although this was not an area within arc21's particular remit, we have previously endorsed similar projects as part of our contribution to the wider circular economy piece.

He recommended that the Joint Committee provide a letter of support, in principle, and that he would provide further detail at the next meeting.

The Chair noted that any support arc21 could give for new technologies to help with recycling etc would be worthwhile.

Following discussion, it was agreed to support the drafting of a letter. Proposed by Cllr Cushinan, seconded by Cllr Thompson, and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed

UK Internal Markets Act Consultation

Mr Walker advised of a consultation on the UK Internal Markets Act which had been issued by the Department for Trade and Enterprise in England and noted that in reviewing the document, he considered it was more a trade policy position paper and that arc21 and councils in general did not have enough experience to comment on trading issues. It was therefore noted that it was not the intention to submit a response.

Action: Noted

Item 14 - Next Meeting Thursday 24 April 2025, using MS Teams

Action: Noted

Date: 29 May 2025

Chairman:



Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	18 th June 2025
Subject:	Port Health Update
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment

	For decision	For noting only	X
1.0	Purpose and Background		
1.1	<p><u>Purpose</u></p> <p>The purpose of this report is to provide a Members of Sustainability and Environment Committee with an update on the Council's Port Health operations and transition plans for moving to a new purpose built product inspection facility at Warrenpoint Port in July 2025.</p>		
1.2	<p><u>Background</u></p> <p>Members will be aware that Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Port Health service have been working jointly with DAERA at Warrenpoint Port for many years, and this has continued in an enhanced form since the UK's exit from the European Union. Since the beginning of 2021, the Port Health function services an increased volume of food consignments entering via Warrenpoint Port, ensuring that food is fit and safe to eat.</p> <p>Following publication of the Windsor Framework Agreement by the UK/EU, new arrangements for food and other products entering NI ports commenced from 1st Oct 2023, including under Northern Ireland Retail Movement Scheme (NIRMS) and the Northern Ireland Plant Health Label (NIPHL) scheme.</p> <p>NMDDC Port Health undertakes official controls on certain food products (including fish and fish products, high risk food not of animal origin, organic products and plastic kitchenware on consignments that may be at risk of entering the EU (red lane). In the main the Windsor Framework has not resulted in significant direct impacts on NMDDC operation and work volumes have remained generally steady over the past 4 years.</p> <p>The Windsor Framework has been implemented in phases, and the latest phase sees delivery of newly constructed inspection facilities at NI Ports by July 2025. This programme of work has been led by DEFRA in consultation with key delivery stakeholders, including DAERA, Food Standards Agency, Border Force and the relevant NI Councils. Forthcoming changes to labelling requirements for goods moving under the NIRMS scheme are also due to be introduced within the next few months, together with updated arrangements for pet travel and post and parcels. This work is being led by DEFRA and DAERA.</p> <p>Some uncertainties remain in areas where UK Government ministers have yet to provide direction, however we are aware that discussions between the UK Government and the EU are continuing.</p>		

2.0	Key Issues
2.1	<p><u>Funding</u></p> <p>The service is currently funded on an annual basis via the Central Competent Authorities for the respective food policy areas (Food Standards Agency for fish, high risk food and plastics/kitchenware from China/Hong Kong and DAERA for organic products and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing). Officers have submitted details (of the Councils requirements to retain our current staffing resource assigned to this work) to the relevant central competent authorities (FSA and DAERA) for the 2025/6 year and we anticipate that these will be successful.</p> <p>The Council has been advocating for a longer term sustainable funding model for these services. Whilst the Council has been engaged in assessing requirements over a longer term period, no confirmation of a longer term funding period, or how uncertainties in future work volumes might be addressed has yet been received. It anticipated that as UK/EU discussions progress, further clarity over future arrangements and funding models will emerge.</p>
2.2	<p><u>Staffing</u></p> <p>To facilitate increased service levels, the Port Health team was expanded in late 2020 to four FTE posts. This is supported by a wider team of Environmental Health Officers that are fully trained and competent in Port Health functions and provide additional cover for planned and unplanned staff absences.</p>
2.3	<p><u>IT systems</u></p> <p>Officers are engaging with DAERA, FSA and DEFRA on emerging developments at regional, national and global levels, to ensure that IT systems used by the Council are fit for purpose and effectively integrated to ensure a more efficient and streamlined approach. To facilitate this work, DAERA have been developing and enhancing the system used by Port stakeholder including Councils, to address Council needs. This will support closer joint working on the shared Port sites, while increasing efficiency of processes.</p>
2.4	<p><u>New inspection facility</u></p> <p>A new SPS Product Inspection Facility on Warrenpoint Port is scheduled for operational readiness in summer of 2025 and construction is occurring at pace under the direction of DEFRA. Finalised timelines will be confirmed in the coming weeks – operational readiness is planned for 1st July 2025, however this could be subject to change depending on delivery of key milestones in handover of the site to DAERA, and finalisation of site processes, procedures, risk assessments and site inductions for all staff.</p> <p>DAERA will act as the site operator leading on facilities management. Users of the site will include DAERA Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group and Plant Health, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Port Health, and Border Force. All users will move operations to the new site from day 1.</p> <p>A joint Memorandum of Understanding is being prepared for agreement of all site users – this will set out the roles, responsibilities and procedures for management and operation of the facility. This is currently being developed with input from officers across the Council. It</p>

	<p>is envisaged this will secure continuation of the arrangements that operate at the temporary facilities at Warrenpoint Port.</p> <p>Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's Port Health service continues to operate from the existing inspection facility at Warrenpoint Port, which currently operated by DAERA and until the move to the newly constructed facility.</p>
2.5	<p><u>Consumer Product Safety – Ports and Borders Programme</u></p> <p>The Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) is responsible for developing national capacity for product safety to manage risks related to consumer product safety across the UK. The objective of the OPSS Ports and Borders Programme is to strengthen the UK's market surveillance activities to the interception of unsafe imported goods at ports using risk and intelligence led approach in a way that minimises disruption to trade in compliant goods. The programme aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide effective deterrent to prevent importers from importing unsafe goods; • build capability to respond to national threats related to imported goods; • be able to demonstrate the adequacy of this approach to trade partners and meet our obligations under relevant trade agreements. This is primarily in relation to imports into GB, including goods imported from the EU which may be non-qualifying goods moving via Northern Ireland.
2.6	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>32 Fixed term contract posts are included in the Port Health structure (of which 27 are filled) for delivering this function. Funding for these posts is provided on an annual basis from UK Government via both the Food Standards Agency and DAERA</p> <p>To support the Council's work on Consumer product safety, Newry, Mourne and Down District Council has received funding from OPSS for the past 5 years; funding for this programme for 2025/26 has been confirmed.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the contents of the report.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	The resourcing of the Port health function at Warrenpoint Port is fully funded by FSA(NI), DAERA and OPSS as set out in sections 2.1 and 2.6 of the 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><i>n/a</i> <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 checked="" 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p><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)</p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> n/a</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 type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	Appendices
	None
8.0	Background Documents