

March 7th, 2024

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 13th March 2024 at 7:00 pm** in **Council Chamber, Church Street, Newtownards.**

Agenda

Agenda

(Attached)

[📄 Agenda C&WC 13.03.2024.pdf](#)

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1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for Approval

3. Ashbury Play Park Update

(Attached)

[📄 3. Ashbury Play Park Update.pdf](#)

Page 3

4. In Bloom Funding and Update

(Attached)

[📄 4. In Bloom Funding and Update.pdf](#)

Page 10

[📄 4.1 Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table.pdf](#)

Page 14

5. Display Bed Applications

(Attached)

[📄 5. Display Bed Applications.pdf](#)

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[📄 5.1 Appendix Display Bed Designs.pdf](#)

Page 26

6. DfE Consultation on Onshore Petroleum Licensing for Northern Ireland

(Attached)

[📄 6. DfE Consultation on Onshore Petroleum Licensing Policy for Northern Ireland.pdf](#)

Page 27

[📄 6.1 Appendix DfE Consultation Document.pdf](#)

Page 30

7. 2018 Public Consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Legislation

(Attached)

- [!\[\]\(746d018fdf6ab02bf5fb7681133e8b29_img.jpg\) *7. 2018 Public Consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour \(ASB\) legislation.pdf*](#) *Page 57*
- [!\[\]\(5daa6eee1904cb6b9d765700250de764_img.jpg\) *7.1 Appendix Draft response to the public consultation on ASBs legislation.pdf*](#) *Page 60*

8. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG February 2024)

(Attached)

- [!\[\]\(511a36c244659513b679df9c639945de_img.jpg\) *8. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants \(WG February 2024\).pdf*](#) *Page 64*
- [!\[\]\(2c0783baf87a2728b2fe49eb1c34c456_img.jpg\) *8.1. Appendix 1 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting 23-24.pdf*](#) *Page 67*
- [!\[\]\(7cfb20e3a97beaa6243bf39ce8dc849f_img.jpg\) *8.2 Appendix 2 - Successful Individual Travel Accommodation Report for Noting 23-24.pdf*](#) *Page 70*
- [!\[\]\(4ec82d7d2c97e7458ec11741fc48dcdc_img.jpg\) *8.3 Appendix 3 - Successful Club Travel Accommodation Report for Noting 23-24.pdf*](#) *Page 73*
- [!\[\]\(8a3eeabae8fd8c34f983be60adf65fec_img.jpg\) *8.4 Appendix 4 - Unsuccessful Report 23-24.pdf*](#) *Page 74*
- [!\[\]\(f8c4514865ca6cc7d15601f5b468a267_img.jpg\) *8.5 Appendix 5 - Successful Individual Travel Accommodation Report for Noting 24-25.pdf*](#) *Page 75*

Reports for Noting

9. Cairn Wood Post Project Evaluation

(Attached)

- [!\[\]\(2a133ebb0337313d16cc068f19494aa2_img.jpg\) *9. Cairn Wood Post-Project Evaluation.pdf*](#) *Page 76*
- [!\[\]\(e5831951c2bb646a242d812c288ddabc_img.jpg\) *9.1 Appendix Cairn Wood Post-Project Evaluation.pdf*](#) *Page 78*

10. Notice of Motion

Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Adair, seconded by Councillor Edmund

Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Adair and Councillor Edmund

That Council note the increasing growing population in the village of Ballyhalbert and the current lack of public open spaces in the village and task officers to bring forward a report on options to provide a public green open space to promote health and wellbeing of the local community and further tasks officers to engage with developer to ensure the new play park planned for Saint Andrews is delivered in line with our Council play strategy.

11. Any Other Notified Business

ITEMS 12-19 *IN CONFIDENCE*****

Reports for Approval (In Confidence)

12. Extension to the Tender for the Provision of Pre and Post Bonfire Services

(Attached)

📎 *12. Extension to the Tender for the provision of Pre and Post Bonfire Services.pdf* **Not included**

13. Aurora Pool Floors Outline Business Case (OBC)

📎 *13. Aurora Pool Floors Outline Business Case (OBC).pdf* **Not included**

📎 *13.1 Appendix OBC.pdf* **Not included**

14. Tender for the Provision of an Integrated Consultancy Team for Replacement of Moveable Pool Floors at Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex

(Attached)

📎 *14. Tender Provision of an Integrated Consultancy Team for Replacement of Moveable Pool Fl.pdf* **Not included**

15. Social Supermarket Pilot Review

(Attached)

📎 *15. Social Supermarket Pilot Review.pdf* **Not included**

Reports for Noting (In Confidence)

16. PEACEPLUS Minutes

(Attached)


📎 *16. PEACEPLUS Minutes.pdf* **Not included**


 **16.1 Appendix Minutes of PEACEPLUS Partnership 7th December 2023.pdf** **Not included**

17. PCSP Minutes

(Attached)

 **17. PCSP Minutes.pdf** **Not included**

 **17.1 Appendix 2 - Minutes of PCSP meeting held on 20th November 2023.pdf** **Not included**


 **17.2 Appendix 2 - Minutes of PCSP meeting held on 15th January 2024.pdf** **Not included**

18. Leisure Transformation Phase 3

(Attached)

 **18. Leisure Transformation Phase 3.pdf** **Not included**

 **18.1 Appendix 1 Leisure Transformation Report to SPFG July 2023.pdf** **Not included**

 **18.2 Appendix 2 LFA Transformation - Business Case approved by CLT in February 2024.pdf** **Not included**

19. NCLT Quarter 3 2023-2024

(Attached)

 **19. NCLT Quarterly Report - AND Report LS CW March 2024.pdf** **Not included**

 **19.1 Appendix Q3 2023-2024 Trust Report.pptx** **Not included**

Circulated for Information

Parsonage Road Play Park Petition

 **Notification of Petition.pdf** **Page 101**

 **Circulated for information. Parsonage Road Play Park Petition.pdf** **Page 102**

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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7 March 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 13 March 2024** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for approval

3. Ashbury Play Park Update (Report attached)
4. In Bloom Funding and Update (Report attached)
5. Display Bed Applications (Report attached)
6. DfE Consultation on Onshore Petroleum Licensing for Northern Ireland (Report attached)
7. 2018 Public Consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Legislation (Report attached)
8. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG February 2024) (Report attached)

Reports For Noting

9. Cairn Wood Post Project Evaluation (Report attached)
10. Notice of Motion

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That Council note the increasing growing population in the village of Ballyhalbert and the current lack of public open spaces in the village and task officers to bring forward a report on options to provide a public green open space to promote health and wellbeing of the local community and further tasks officers to engage with developer to ensure the new play park planned for Saint Andrews is delivered in line with our Council play strategy

11. Any Other Notified Business

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Reports for approval (In confidence)

- 12. Extension to the Tender for the provision of Pre and Post Bonfire Services (Report attached)
- 13. Aurora Pool Floors Outline Business Case (OBC) (Report attached)
- 14. Tender for the Provision of an Integrated Consultancy Team for Replacement of Moveable Pool Floors at Bangor Aurora Aquatic and Leisure Complex (Report attached)
- 15. Social Supermarket Pilot Review (Report attached)

Reports for Noting (In Confidence)

- 16. PEACEPLUS Minutes (Report attached)
- 17. PCSP Minutes (Report attached)
- 18. Leisure Transformation Phase 3 (Report attached)
- 19. NCLT Quarter 3 2023-2024 (Report attached)

Circulated For Information

Parsonage Road Play Park Petition

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)

Alderman Adair	Councillor Douglas
Alderman Brooks	Councillor Hollywood
Alderman Cummings	Councillor Irwin
Councillor Ashe	Councillor S Irvine
Councillor Boyle	Councillor W Irvine
Councillor Chambers	Councillor Kendall (Vice Chair)
Councillor Cochrane	Councillor Martin (Chair)
Councillor Creighton	Councillor Moore

Unclassified

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ITEM 3

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	23 February 2024
File Reference	CW4
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ashbury Play Park Update
Attachments	None

The purpose of this report is to update the Committee on the current status of the proposed Ashbury Play Park. Following the last update report in September 2023, Members agreed, ‘That council note that the playpark cannot be delivered until the planning application has been determined. Officers, in the meantime, will return a report to this Committee, detailing alternative options in the event of the current plans not being progressed. In addition, Council Officers meet with NI Water and the developer for an onsite meeting to address the drainage issues.’

BACKGROUND

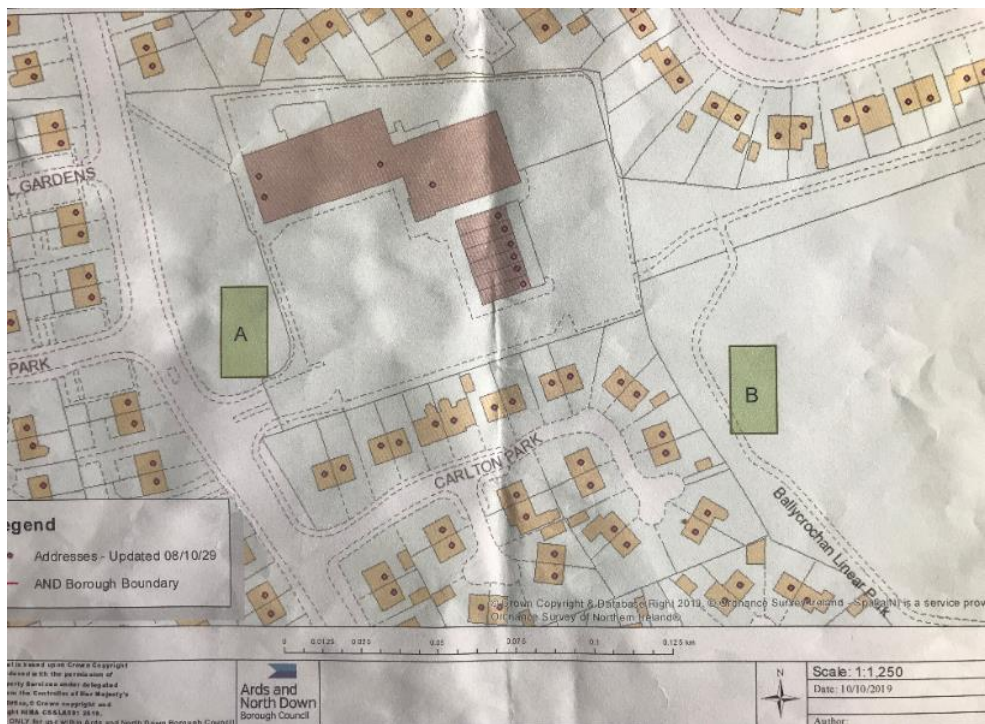
Under the legacy North Down Borough Council Play Park Strategy 2014, the east Bangor area was identified as having a lack of play provision. The more recent Ards and North Down Borough Council Play Strategy 2021 – 2032 also reiterated the lack of play provision in this area. An area around Ashbury Avenue (Ashbury Shops) and Linear Park was identified as being the best locations to deliver a play park in that area to serve the local population. A site in the Lower Linear Park area was considered but

Not Applicable

was discounted due to the proximity of the dual carriageway. The sites which were identified were a location on the grass area to the front of the Ashbury Shops (not in Council ownership) and another within Linear Park (Council owned). It is proposed that a Tier 2 play park be delivered.

In the summer of 2019, a total of four public consultation events were held (two sets of two sessions), which were facilitated by the Community Development Team of the Council. The events were advertised locally via a leaflet drop (1000 per session), posters were placed in the shops, local schools were given flyers, and the consultation was promoted on social media. Two of the sessions were held in local Primary Schools in June and a further two sessions were held in a local shop unit in September 2019. A survey in the form of a questionnaire was available at the sessions. A total of 114 questionnaires were completed over the four events.

The two possible locations for the play park were displayed on the map below at the public consultation sessions. Site A being the green space at the front of the shops at Ashbury and Site B within Linear Park.



The results were as follows:

1. Do you live in the Ashbury/Ballycrochan area? **97% said Yes**
2. Do you feel there is a need for a play facility in the area? **81% said Yes**
3. Looking at the map on display where do you feel is the best location for the play facility? **42% preferred Site A. & 46% preferred Site B. 3% indicated they would be happy with either location. 9% did not include a preference.**

At a subsequent Council meeting in August 2020, it was determined that the play park should be delivered at Site A, in front of the shops.

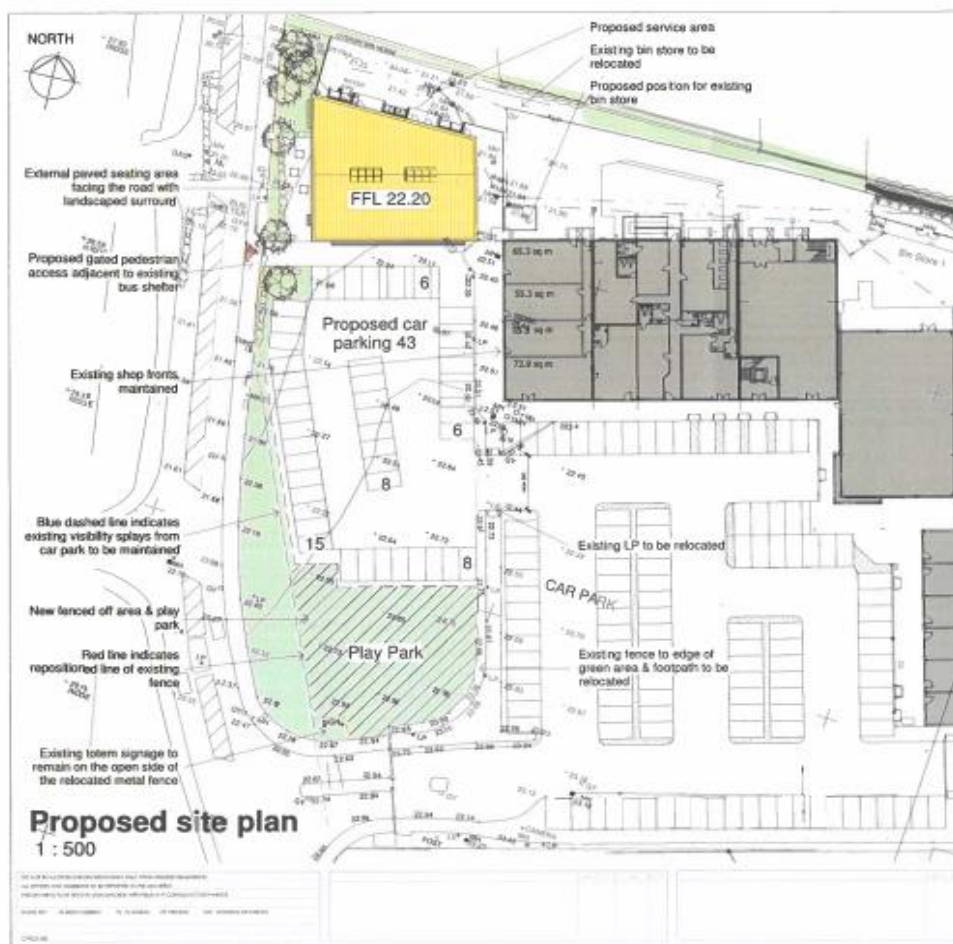
Not Applicable

Negotiations began with the landowners as well as Land and Property Service to establish if the land could be obtained to deliver the play park and under what conditions. The landowners had aspirations of extending their commercial units at the site and following lengthy negotiations it was finally agreed that they would submit a planning application for their commercial extension. This application included additional commercial units, an extension of the car park and the play park.

The play park was designed by the Council’s contracted installers in line with the normal Council specifications and the drawings were issued to the landowner’s agent for inclusion in the planning application. Council also paid the element of the planning fee attributable to the play park (£848). Indication was given by the landowners that when they receive their planning permission, they would then transfer the land needed for the play park to Council and Council would deliver the play park. The conditions of the land transfer will be determined at that point.

The planning application was submitted on 20th July 2022:

LA06/2022/0750/F: Two class 1 shop units and 1 hot food unit to the ground floor and first floor accommodation for use as class B1(a) or class A2 financial professional and other service use with associated car parking and children's play area.



Not Applicable

As previously reported, NI Water requested an assessment of the network capacity in the area. The landowners Agent has been liaising with NI Water to resolve this issue.

NI Water have sent their report on their Wastewater Impact Assessment to the applicant (landowner) which they had to pay for, it was received by the landowner on 21st April 2023 and its recommendations are valid for 18 months.

A further report has now been commissioned by the landowner in order to address the recommendations in the NI Water report. This requires further investigations to be undertaken along with recommendations for further work, especially in relation to stormwater offsetting (SWO) solutions etc.

NI Water stated:

Once the SWO location has been confirmed with NI Water Clerk of Works on site, then developer will need to provide detailed design to demonstrate how SWO will be completed, and confirm that all consents are in place as detailed in Section 6 of the SER. We would advise that before our Clerk of Works visits the site that the necessary onsite investigation are completed. The visit by our Clerk of works can be arranged by contacting the Impact Assessments Team.

Under certain circumstances there may be a requirement for the developer to undertake a habitat regulations assessment. NI Water may need to complete modelling to determine if the solution meets the requirements of a no detriment solution.

When NI Water are satisfied that there is a suitable solution can be completed on site and the proposed solution is in line with the NIEA agreement, then we can agree to release of the Article 161.

Only once the solution has been agreed with NI Water and all third-party consents are in place will we be in a position to agree a positive response to the planning application associated with the development.

Therefore, until this issue has been resolved to the satisfaction of NI Water and they advise the planners that they are content, the planning application cannot be determined by the planners.

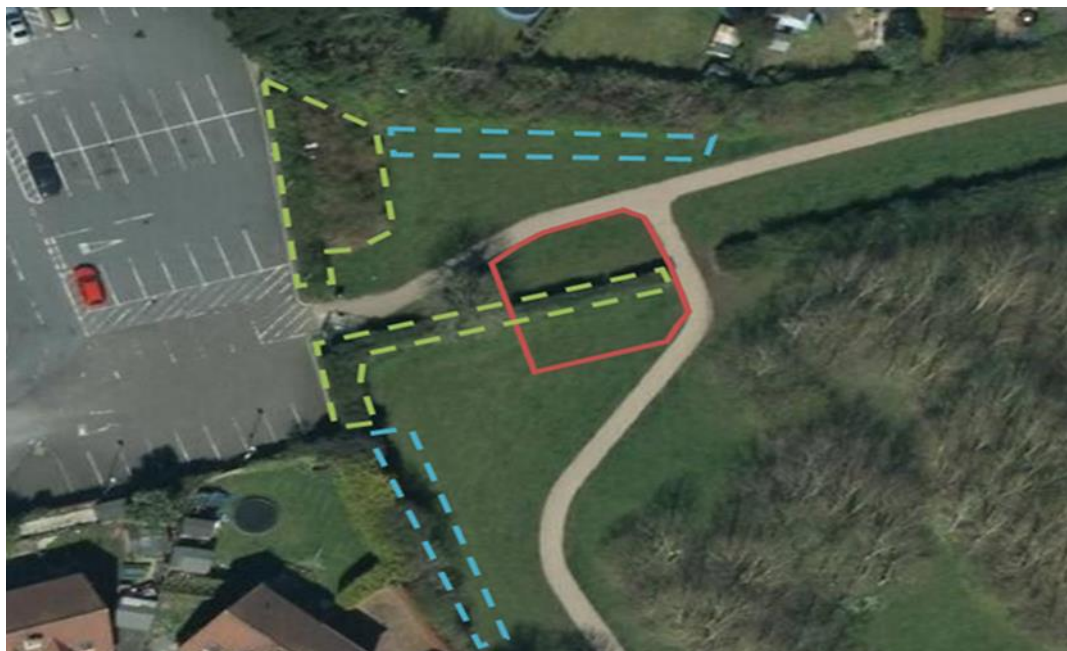
An issue relating to open space raised by the planners, has generally been resolved following direction received from the Local Development Plan Team. They stated that the Local Development Plan is not at an advanced enough stage to merit it being a material consideration in relation to this planning application and the potential for this area (the grass area to the front of the shops) to be classified as open space. They did state that further points of clarification relating to the retail and office use may be required.

The play park cannot therefore be delivered until the planning process has been completed. The terms of the transfer will then be determined, and the legal transfer process will need to be undertaken. Should the application not be successful then

Not Applicable

further negotiations will be required. Members subsequently in September 2023 asked that Officers explore other options for the delivery of a play park in this area.

Going back to the public consultation the other site considered during that process was a site within Linear Park (Site B), which is Council owned. Back in 2020 Officers did visit the site and considered the potential of this location.



The proposed alternative location is outlined in red within Linear Park. The areas within the dashed blue line would be where bunds (earth mounds) would be located to act as an acoustic barrier and therefore reduce potential noise nuisance to the adjacent dwellings. These could also be landscaped with evergreen planting to provide a year-round screen to protect the residential amenity of the adjacent dwellings. The area within the dashed green line indicates where vegetation would need to be removed.

The play park location has been selected to increase the separation distance between it and the adjacent houses.

Linear Park (Site B)	
Advantages	Disadvantages
No purchase cost	Vegetation would need to be removed to open up the visibility of the site so it can be easier monitored. Compensatory planting would be required.
Easy to deliver	Would require mitigation measures in order to create a noise/privacy buffer between the site and the adjacent houses (additional planting along the boundaries and bunding). Will require

Not Applicable

	mitigation measures to protect the river (silt traps).
Will be locked at night along with the wider Linear Park	Would require planning permission and Habitats Regulation Assessment due to proximity to watercourse which is hydrologically linked to Areas of Special Scientific Interest, Special Protection Areas and Special Areas of Conservation and a Ramsar site.

Some members will be aware that there was also a reasonable degree of objection from neighbours to a playpark being built within Linear Park.

While Linear Park is designated as a Local Landscape Policy Area (BR 19 Ballycrochan) it is not considered that the development of the play park would adversely impact on those features for which it was designated as follows:

- Area of local amenity importance – A river corridor and associated public pathways developed as a contemporary urban park.
- Area of local nature conservation interest – Structured planting, managed by the Woodland Trust and providing linkage and a wildlife corridor within an urban environment.

Play parks are generally considered as open space so it would generally be acceptable in this location. Given the proximity of the site to the river within Linear Park (approx. 103m) which hydrologically links to the Outer Ards Ramsar, ASSI and SPA designated area, a Stage 1, Habitats Regulations Assessment (HRA) would be required, and this is likely to require an additional report and a recommendation of the appropriate mitigation measures before any development can occur. Therefore, planning permission will be required to fully consider these aspects as outlined above. Appropriate mitigation measures such as silt traps etc would be required to protect the river from any sediments created during construction.

The existing fencing and gates of Linear Park would remain in situ and the gates would continue to be locked at night to reduce any antisocial behaviour issues. The existing paths would also remain in situ. It should be noted that the entrance gates leading to the commercial site are also locked at night (11pm) and managed by the landowner.

Alternative sites

Alternative sites within Linear Park considered in the areas generally outlined in the dashed blue lines shown below. These were discounted due to the lack of visibility/access, which would create issues in terms of being able to monitor any antisocial behaviour, child protection issues as well as construction and maintenance access. They would also bring the proposed play park closer to the river corridor. The topography of these sites would also more difficult especially the central area which would make developing this area more expensive and challenging.

Not Applicable



Conclusions

Site A to the front of the shops, has been in the planning system for a considerable time and it is hoped that the negotiations between the developer/landowner and NI Water should be nearing a conclusion. Once they are finalised, the planners can make a decision on the planning application and the delivery of the play park can progress subject to the transfer agreements etc. Should planning approval not be granted then further negotiations with the landowner can be held.

Site B in Linear Park would likely also require a planning application and so that process would have to be initiated and it too could take a considerable amount of time to reach a conclusion as well as costing additional money for the planning fees and the cost of preparing drawings and the Habitats Regulation Assessments etc.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council await the outcome of the current planning application and continue with the delivery of the play park at Site A.

Unclassified

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ITEM 4**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	23 February 2024
File Reference	PCA85
Legislation	n/a
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	In Bloom Funding and Update
Attachments	Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Ards and North Down in Bloom initiative and consider the 22 applications from local community groups for 'In Bloom' funding.

Ards and North Down in Bloom Update

The Ards and North Down in Bloom initiative has been developed with three overlapping objectives which are: horticultural excellence, community participation and environmentally sustainable practices. These are in line with the objectives of national award schemes such as Britain in Bloom and regional awards such as Translink Ulster in Bloom.

By actively supporting this initiative, applicants not only make their communities more attractive, but also contribute to the Borough's entry to the Translink 'Ulster in Bloom' Competition and other regional awards. In recent years this has proved to be a great success, particularly in the towns of Comber (runner-up in 2021 & 2022), Groomsport

Not Applicable

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(runner-up in 2023) and Donaghadee (winner 2021,2022 and 2023) also winning Gold at Britain in Bloom 2023.

While this success is welcomed, the Council's Parks Service recognises the opportunities for growth through further community engagement and participation. To support communities with their 'In Bloom' entries, the Park Service invite annual applications from environmental and community groups and associations within the Ards and North Down Borough, for funding to enable the purchase of flowers, plants, shrub and tree material, for planting within local villages or towns. The allocation of funding is subject to Council budget approval and capped at £1,000 per application. Since 2019, the 'In Bloom' Funding Scheme has awarded more than £95,000, supporting 106 projects. The scheme is projected to support a further 21 groups through 2024.

The benefits of the wider 'In Bloom' initiative include increased numbers of visitors who travel around our towns and villages to see the floral displays. Shops and businesses in the respective communities report considerable increase in their business for weeks afterwards. In addition, people perceive these floral places as attractive areas to live resulting in demand for properties, thus increasing property value. The success at Translink 'Ulster in Bloom' and success of Donaghadee at RHS 'Britain in Bloom' enhance the attractiveness of the borough across the UK.

Community Competitions

To further promote and support the 'In Bloom' initiative, the Council Parks Service launched the Ards and North Down in Bloom Community Competitions in 2020. The competitions are coordinated by Ards and North Down Borough Council. This community competition encourages everyone who lives or works in the Borough to think about their local environment and how attractive flowers, plants, trees and gardens can enhance it. By supporting this competition residents not only make their garden or business more attractive, but also contribute to the Borough's entry to the Translink 'Ulster in Bloom' Competition and other regional awards.

The competitions are designed to attract a wide demographic to become involved in activities that promote horticultural excellence, increase environmental responsibility and encourage community participation. The competitions regularly attract over a thousand entries per year.

The general categories for the Community Competition categories are:

- Best Kept Front Garden
- Gardening for Wildlife Award
- Volunteer of The Year
- Best Kept Commercial Premises
- Best Kept Community Planting Scheme.

The structure of the competitions recognises the importance of educating young people on environmental responsibility, benefiting the Borough now and for future generations. The competitions include categories specifically aimed at entrants aged under 16. The Young People's Categories for the Community Competitions are:

Not Applicable

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- Best School Gardening Project
- Painting Competition
- Tallest Sunflower Competition
- Young Volunteer of The Year

The most popular Young Peoples category is the Tallest Sunflower Competition. The category was designed to engage young people in a fun horticulture activity, while learning about how to grow and care for plants. The Parks Service have found many stories of children working with friends, neighbours and relatives to grow their sunflower as tall as possible. To support the scheme, free packets of sunflower seeds are distributed to schools across the borough. In 2023, the scheme saw the delivery of 8,000 packets of seeds (approx. 80,000 seeds) and we are continuing this initiative in 2024.

In October 2023, Parks and Cemeteries Services organised the second Ards and North Down 'In Bloom' Awards ceremony in Clandeboye Lodge Hotel in Bangor, to celebrate the winners within each category. More than 60 residents and special guests were in attendance. The event proved a huge success with participants and further strengthened the Council commitment to community engagement and support.

In Bloom Funding

Ards and North Down Borough has a reputation for leading the way with 'In Bloom' efforts. The Borough has won regional and national competitions in recent years and the common theme throughout all the success is the incredible hard work and enthusiasm shown by our staff and the local communities they work with.

The grant scheme assists the Ards and North Down in Bloom initiative which has been developed with three overlapping objectives: horticultural excellence, community participation and environmentally sustainable practices. These are in line with objectives of Translink Ulster in Bloom and other regional awards schemes.

Ards and North Down Borough Council currently makes budget provision for the allocation of funding to community groups in order to assist with floral displays in the towns and villages throughout the borough, to assist with the Council's commitment to the Ulster in Bloom competition.

The allocation for funding is intended to supplement floral display and amenity area maintenance currently carried out by the Council's Parks and Cemeteries section. This may be in the form of hanging baskets, planters, flower beds etc. on Council property, NIHE property, Roads Service property, or privately owned non-domestic areas in public view.

The maximum limit for funding is £1,000 per annum per group. A further grant may be provided for funding, in whole or in part, appropriate liability insurance covering the floral display work over and above the group's normal insured activities. Funding will be allocated with 80% advance payment, with the further 20% paid upon the receipt of invoices.

Not Applicable

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Council wishes to encourage a collaborative approach by groups, where there are more than one group applying in a town or village, consideration may only be given to one project.

The 22 applications were assessed against the following criteria:

- Provide a vision as to how the funding will enhance the particular areas and how this will be sustained in subsequent years.
- Evidence of approval from relevant landowners where works are to be carried out.
- When appropriate insurance liability cover is in place, copy of certificate and schedule to be submitted.
- How the works are to be carried out, and by whom.
- Detailed breakdown of how funding will be utilised, and receipts submitted accordingly.

Appendix 1 clearly demonstrates how each application met each of the criteria.

In the assessment, 21 applications were considered to have met the criteria. This is the greatest number of successful applications received for this funding call and is consistent with the increase in community group activities experienced during the current pandemic.

Currently, there is budget allocation of £21,000 for the In Bloom programme. The 21 successful applications amount to £20,525 in total.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Continue to support the 'In Bloom' initiatives across the Borough
2. Awards the 21 applications for funding.

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

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CRITERIA							
GROUP	Provide a vision as to how the funding will enhance the particular areas and how this will be sustained in subsequent years.	Evidence of approval from relevant land owner where works are to be carried out	When appropriate insurance liability cover is in place, copy of certificate and schedule to be submitted.	How the works are to be carried out, and by whom.	Detailed breakdown of how funding will be utilised, and receipts submitted accordingly.	Amount of funding requested	Recommendation
Ballyhalbert Park Home Residents	To enhance and brighten environment with new floral displays which is currently neglected and uninviting to aid with elderly residents living alone engage with each other and get active.	Yes	Yes	Committee members and Volunteers, residents.	Yes	£810 100% of total project.	Approval
Ballywalter Community Action Group	Joint project with multiple groups in Ballywalter. Plan to continue planting and maintaining flower displays at peace and memorial garden and throughout village. Sustained by volunteers, NIHE staff and Over 50's gardening club.	Yes	Yes	Community volunteers, local primary school children, local gardening club, supported by contractor and NIHE staff.	Yes Works detailed in full, contractor to supply plants, shrubs, equipment.	£995 100% of total project.	Approval

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

Ballygowan Community Association	The Community Association intend to replenish the planters within the village with bedding plants which we hope will be in bloom throughout the year. Local residents will also be given the opportunity to come along to help with the initial planting and with any follow up maintenance.	Yes	Yes	Local community volunteers to plant and maintain.	Yes	£446 100% of total project.	Approval
Bangor Chamber of Commerce	Improve the area of Bingham Lane to combat anti-social behaviour, regenerate the area by providing a visually and environmentally friendly place to encourage visitors and improve community pride and ownership	Yes	Yes	Commerce group, Local tradesmen, local volunteers	Yes All costs to supplier	£1000 100% of total project.	Approval
Bryansburn Road Allotment Association	Creating and maintaining planting scheme on a council display bed on Bryansburn road, with an allotment theme to provide value and connection to local residents.	Yes	Yes	Bryansburn Allotment Association members and volunteers	Yes	£1000 100% of total project.	Approval

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

Comber Regeneration Community Partnership Ltd(CRCP)	<p>To purchase plug plants and bring on in polytunnel for planting in the various areas around the town. Purchase peat free compost.</p> <p>To fill and install hanging basket around the town centre to include planting up the several street planters.</p>	Yes	Yes	Works completed by CCRP volunteers, local youth groups, senior citizens. Supported by contactor.	Yes	£1000 100% of total project.	Approval
Conlig Community Regeneration Group	Collaborative project with local PRAXIS group to install and maintain wooden planters throughout the village, complementing the existing floral displays. The planters created will be retained for future displays, sustained by the group.	A.N.D.B.C., N.I.H.E. and DFI, not clear if agreed. Private land usage agreed.	Yes	Works completed by local volunteers and PRAXIS group members.	Yes	£1000 75% of total project.	Approval

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

<p>Donaghadee Community Development Association</p>	<p>The erection and dismantling of hanging baskets; b) Purchase of 25 bags of 50L peat-free compost; and c) In consultation with the Parks Department planting of Small perennials such as Sedum, Armeria maritima, Eryngium, Geraniums, Achillea. Agapanthus, Salvias, Geums, Sea Thift, Echinops, Erigeron, Grasses</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Works completed by local volunteers, youth groups and traders. Contractor for hanging baskets.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>£1000 25% of total project</p>	<p>Approval</p>
<p>Gifted Enterprise Bangor</p>	<p>Main Street In Bloom We wish to install large self-watering street furniture planters at the front elevation the site on Main street, to compliment the existing hanging baskets and the council installations on the barriers at the road crossing outside. This will add to our large hanging baskets at the front of the</p>	<p>Clarity required on letter of offer.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Volunteer teams</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>£1000 100% of total project.</p>	<p>Approval</p>

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

	building which is part of our heritage regeneration of the Old Market House which is a listed heritage building, dating to 1770.						
Greyabbey and District Community Association	The erection and maintenance of hanging baskets throughout the village will add to the floral displays. Annual project.	Yes	Yes	Completed by community volunteers.	Yes	£1000 80% of total project	Approval
Greyabbey Primary School	Provide seeds, vegetable and flower for school gardening club, containers, supplies, tools and plants.	Yes	Yes	Teachers, school children, parents	Yes	£610 %100 of total project.	Not Approved Does not meet criteria. School advised that support can be provided through Ards and North Down 'School Growing Clubs'.

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

Groomsport Village Association	To tend to the community herb garden, Community orchard on the hill and the Bug Hotel on Main Street. Maintenance work throughout. To carry out a programme of weeding and tidying up the village. Plants and Daffodils will require replacement and fresh compost as necessary.	In conjunction and agreement with ANDBC Parks & Cemeteries.	Yes	The Association will liaise with local businesses and organisations to complete. Volunteers and residents.	Yes	£1000 91% of total project	Approval
Helen's Bay and Crawfordsburn Residents Association (HBCRA)	On going development and maintenance of existing beds throughout area, with hopes to further engage local residents and encourage more volunteering and ownership, improving existing areas with new planting.	This is always obtained, and has never been a problem hitherto - from Translink, Clandeboye Estate, NIHE, and ANDBC, as well as local residents	Yes	By members of HBCRA, as Volunteers.	Yes	£1000 85% of total project Insurance grant of £674	Approval

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

<p>Hollywood Shared Towns</p>	<p>This is part of a much wider green spaces initiative designed to engage the local community through volunteering to improve their environment and take pride in their area. The funding will provide for both annual planting but also perennial planting.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Volunteers, members of Hollywood mens shed, local schools.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>£1000 100% of total project</p>	<p>Approval</p>
<p>LADYBIRDS CHILDRENS SERVICES Children & Family Centre</p>	<p>We wish to install large self watering street furniture planters at the front elevation the site on the Old Belfast Road which is currently run down and not very asthetically appealing. It is to add to the previous project and extend the infrastructure for planting in 2024</p>	<p>Hanging basket holders are already in place on site. Planters already on site</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Volunteers will install and maintain floral displays.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>£1000 100% of total project</p>	<p>Approval</p>

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

Kilcooley Womens Centre	Currently the area is very run down. The project will provide a floral display for year on year enjoyment and yield. It is a very unaesthetically pleasing area, which has issues with anti social behaviour.	Yes	Yes	Volunteers	Yes	£1000 100% of total project	Approval
Lawson Learners	Continue to planter areas of the Lawson estate with bulbs, plants, shrubs and other diplays	Yes	Yes	Volunteers	Yes	£1000 100% of total project	Approval
Lisbarnett and Lisbane Community Association	The funding will be used to plant up existing planters and pots at various locations around the village to help improve and brighten the village and encourage everyone who lives and works in the village to take pride in it.	Yes	Yes	Volunteers	Yes	£850 100% of total project	Approval

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

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Mill Village Gardening Club	Enhancing of floral displays for resident and residents by introducing seasonal and long-term planting. Club will maintain and re-plant in future.	Land owned by Mill Village management.	N/A	Volunteer work by club members	Yes	£1000 100% of total project	Approval
Millisle Health and Wellbeing Group	Plants and flowers will be grown from seed in polytunnel and transplanted to planters around village enhancing floral displays.	Permissions and leases in place	Yes	Group volunteers will grow seeds in their polytunnel and transplant once ready.	Yes	£1000 100% of total project	Approval
Portaferry In Bloom	Re-plant, update and maintain existing flower beds throughout village to enhance visual appeal. Sustained by a pool of volunteers with track record in the area.	Yes	Yes	In Bloom group will undertake all work with volunteer support.	Yes	£1000 100% of total project + Insurance £230	Approval

Appendix In Bloom Funding Application Table

Portavogie Regeneration Forum	Following on from previous projects We plan every year to buy a large planter made with recycled materials that will last for years. These are placed around the village concentrating on Harbour Road area. With recent public realm works around the harbour area we want the village to be attractive to both visitors and residents	Will receive approval from business and landowner as required.	Yes	Works completed by group volunteers and local primary school pupils.	Yes	£1000 100% of total project	Approval
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Unclassified

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ITEM 5**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	23 February 2024
File Reference	PCA5
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Display Bed Applications
Attachments	Appendix Display Bed Designs

Members will be aware that Council has an agreed policy for the use of Display Beds in the Borough, this policy requires Officers to report to Council any applications received by external organisations.

The Council have received applications for use of multiple display beds, Officers have assessed the application and have determined that all requests meet the criteria in the policy and are recommended for approval. The applications were deemed by Officers to not require equality screening.

The applications and the proposed designs of the displays are included in the attached Appendices. The Parks team will endeavour to replicate the designs as far as possible, however detail design may alter to facilitate installation. If necessary, the Officer will liaise with the applicant if the installation may have to be significantly different from that proposed.

Not Applicable

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Name of Group / Organisation	Display Bed applied for	Proposed dates of display	Reason for the display	Drafted Display image
Bryansburn Rangers	Bangor Post Office	03/06/2024-19/07/2024	Commemorate 50 Year Anniversary	See Appendix 1
RNLI Holywood	Ballymenoch Park	15/04/2024-26/05/2024	200 th Year Anniversary	See Appendix 2
RNLI Donaghadee	Donaghadee	15/04/2024-26/05/2024	200 th Year Anniversary	See Appendix 2

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve the proposed display bed applications.

Appendix Display Bed Designs

Bangor Post office Bryansburn RLNI



Ballymenoch & Donaghadee RLNI



Unclassified

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ITEM 6**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	08 February 2024
File Reference	CW128
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: n/a
Subject	DfE Consultation on Onshore Petroleum Licensing Policy for Northern Ireland
Attachments	Appendix DfE Consultation document

Introduction

DfE have launched a consultation the purpose of which is to consult on options for onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland, provide detail on the proposed policy and to seek views on the issues raised, as well as the way forward. Council has requested that a response to the consultation is submitted. The full documentation can be found here [DfE website](#).

Background

The petroleum licensing system is the set of rules for how companies can search for and extract onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland. It is the responsibility of DfE under the Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 and other regulations. Offshore petroleum exploration and production which takes place in coastal or open waters is not devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive and is the responsibility of the North Sea Transition Authority (formerly known as the Oil and Gas Authority).

Not Applicable

In October 2020, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed a motion calling for a moratorium on petroleum licensing for exploration, drilling or extraction of hydrocarbons (oil and gas) in Northern Ireland. In advance of the October 2020 Assembly debate, DfE obtained legal advice that a moratorium on fracking or, on petroleum exploration and extraction, prior to the independent research and policy development process completing, could result in a legal challenge with a high likelihood of success. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 has also been passed. There is considerable public interest in this issue, especially concerning the potential use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking). These developments demonstrate the need for this review of the onshore petroleum licensing policy position in Northern Ireland to ensure it is fit for purpose.

Key information

The consultation document in the Appendix explains onshore petroleum exploration and production, it outlines Global and regional policies, outlines the situation in Northern Ireland, summarises independent research relating specifically to Northern Ireland and discusses options for the way forward.

Note that within the information in the consultation document, a map is provided showing the areas that have potential for oil and gas exploration, potential conventional hydrocarbon resource and potential unconventional hydrocarbon resource. None of these fall within the perimeter of Ards and North Down Brough Council.

Options

Four options outlined by the consultation are as follows;

Option 1: Status Quo – Do Nothing. This would involve no change to the current licensing rules and no change to the current policies. The open door policy would remain in place and the focus would continue to be on maximising the economic potential of Northern Ireland's oil and gas resources.

Option 2: Change from open door policy to licensing rounds in defined areas. This would maintain the policy to maximise the economic potential of Northern Ireland's natural resources but remove the open door policy and adopt a licensing round approach.

Option 3: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration or production of unconventional hydrocarbons. This would represent a significant shift in the current policy. It would lead to a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration for all unconventional oil and gas (including fracking) in Northern Ireland. Companies would still be able to apply for licences to explore for conventional oil or gas.

Option 4: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on all forms of onshore petroleum exploration and production. This would represent the most significant shift in the current policy. It would lead to a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland. This would introduce a closed door policy for onshore petroleum exploration and production in Northern Ireland. **This is the preferred option proposed by DfE.**

Not Applicable

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There is no strong economic case to support the exploration for and possible production of any potential onshore oil and gas resources in NI. Such a course of action also runs contrary to the objectives of the NI Energy Strategy and targets in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. In addition, both the Hatch Report and BGS Report on Seismic Activity in NI Basins raise concerns about the environmental and social impacts of onshore oil and gas exploration and extraction. On this basis, the recommended preferred policy is a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland.

The Consultation

The consultation asks five questions which are outlined below with a draft response showing support for the preferred option.

1. Do you agree with the assessment of the policy context and potential for onshore oil and gas resource in Northern Ireland? **Yes**
2. Do you agree with the assessment of the economic impacts of potential onshore oil and gas exploration and production in Northern Ireland? **Yes**
3. Do you agree with the assessment of the potential social and environmental impacts of onshore oil and gas exploration and production in Northern Ireland? **Yes**
4. Do you agree with the preferred option for onshore petroleum licensing policy? **Yes**
5. Do you think there are alternative options for onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland which should be considered? **No**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the response to the consultation and agrees that this response is submitted by the Head of Environmental Health and Development on behalf of the Council to DfC by the deadline of 12th April 2024.



Onshore Petroleum Licensing Policy for Northern Ireland

CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

JANUARY 2024

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1. Introduction to the consultation

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THIS CONSULTATION?

- 1.1 The purpose of the consultation is to set out the options for onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland, provide detail on the proposed policy and to seek views on the issues raised, as well as the way forward.
- 1.2 The consultation has the following main sections:

“What is onshore petroleum exploration and production?”

“What is happening outside Northern Ireland?”

Global and regional developments and policies that impact onshore petroleum exploration and production.

“What happens in Northern Ireland?”

The situation in Northern Ireland including policies, potential onshore oil and gas resource and exploration history.

“What does the independent Northern Ireland research tell us?”

Summary and analysis of the independent research into the economic, environmental and social impacts of onshore petroleum exploration and production in Northern Ireland.

“What should happen next?”

A discussion of options for onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland. This includes the preferred option for the way forward and asks for your views on five key questions.

WHY WE ARE CONSULTING

- 1.3 The petroleum licensing system is the set of rules for how companies can search for and extract onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland. It is the responsibility of DfE under the [Petroleum \(Production\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 1964 and other regulations](#). Offshore petroleum exploration and production which takes place in coastal or open waters is not devolved to the Northern Ireland Executive and is the responsibility of the [North Sea Transition Authority](#) (formerly known as the Oil and Gas Authority).
- 1.4 In 2019, DfE began to consider the current onshore petroleum licensing system to assess its effectiveness and impact on sustainability, particularly in light of the UK's net zero carbon commitments. To support this process, DfE commissioned research into the environmental, social and economic impacts of onshore petroleum exploration and production in Northern Ireland. This research, conducted by Hatch Regeneris, has bolstered Northern Ireland specific knowledge and is available as part of the consultation pack. This research-based approach has been taken by the other UK administrations prior to the formulation of final policy proposals.
- 1.5 Consideration of the Northern Ireland specific position is set against the backdrop of local and international efforts to combat climate change (e.g. the Paris Agreement, UK Net Zero Commitment by 2050). This has intensified following recent reports from [the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) and recommendations on the oil and gas industry from the [International Energy Agency \(IEA\)](#). Neighbouring administrations have taken action to varying degrees on onshore oil and gas exploration and production.
- 1.6 In October 2020, the Northern Ireland Assembly passed a motion calling for a moratorium on petroleum licensing for exploration, drilling or extraction of hydrocarbons (oil and gas) in Northern Ireland. In advance of the October 2020 Assembly debate, DfE obtained legal advice that a moratorium on fracking or, on petroleum exploration and extraction, prior to the independent research and policy development process completing, could result in a legal challenge with a high likelihood of success. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 has also been passed. There is considerable public interest in this issue, especially concerning the potential use of hydraulic fracturing (fracking).
- 1.7 These developments demonstrate the need for this review of the onshore petroleum licensing policy position in Northern Ireland to ensure it is fit for purpose.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

- 1.8 The consultation document analyses the social, environmental and economic impacts of a range of policy options and draft impact assessments have been completed where appropriate. Final impact assessments will be informed by the responses and evidence submitted through this consultation process and will be available alongside the final policy position. Following the consultation, a Section 75 Equality of Opportunity Screening will be completed for the proposed policy option prior to any Ministerial decision being made. The final decision on the onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland will be taken by a future Executive.

- 1.9 A draft Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) has been completed for the preferred option. The draft RNIA will be revisited to ensure all relevant issues have been taken into account and finalised prior to the introduction of any new legislation. The need for a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) has been screened out at this stage. As the preferred option is a no development option it does not provide a framework for the development consent for projects and will have no significant effects on the environment. This position will be revisited following the consultation and prior to finalising the policy position.

2. How to respond

2.1 This public consultation is open until **12 April 2024**. Please respond by answering the questions online. If not responding using the online survey, your response will be most useful if it is framed in direct response to the questions posed. The questions are:

- *Do you agree with the assessment of the policy context and potential for onshore oil and gas resource in Northern Ireland?*
- *Do you agree with the assessment of the economic impacts of potential onshore oil and gas exploration and production in Northern Ireland?*
- *Do you agree with the assessment of the potential social and environmental impacts of onshore oil and gas exploration and production in Northern Ireland?*
- *Do you agree with the preferred option for onshore petroleum licensing policy?*
- *Do you think there are alternative options for onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland which should be considered?*

2.2 We encourage respondents to respond to this consultation online where possible, as this is the Department for the Economy's (DfE) preferred method of receiving responses. It is also the most convenient and simple way for you to make a response. You can answer the questions by completing the [Citizen Space online survey](#).

2.3 Responses submitted in writing or by email will also be accepted. Email responses to this consultation should be sent to petroleumpolicyreview@economy-ni.gov.uk. Alternatively you may post your response to DfE at:

Onshore Petroleum Licensing Policy for Northern Ireland Consultation
Minerals and Petroleum Branch
Floor 7
Adelaide House
39-49 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8FD
Tel: 028 9052 9377

2.4 If you require an alternative format (Braille, audio, CD, etc.), please contact DfE on petroleumpolicyreview@economy-ni.gov.uk and appropriate arrangements will be made as soon as possible.

2.5 Following the end of the consultation, DfE may publish anonymised direct quotes from your consultation response. Further detail on this, and how it relates to access to information legislation, can be found in Section 9.

3. What is onshore petroleum exploration and production?



- 3.1 Onshore petroleum exploration and production is the process of searching for underground accumulations of oil and gas known as hydrocarbons. This involves a range of desk-based and non-invasive studies to identify prospective targets and then drilling to test them. Following this process, if drilling discovers significant quantities of hydrocarbons that can be commercially extracted, production of oil and gas may follow. Not all exploration will lead to production.
- 3.2 Areas that are the focus of exploration are chosen based on the local geology (i.e. the types of rock underneath the surface, their history, and the structures they have formed). This consultation deals with the two types of oil or gas accumulations and the two different methods of extraction that are used for each.

CONVENTIONAL HYDROCARBONS

- This oil and gas is located within porous and permeable rocks such as sandstones.
- As these rocks are permeable, oil and gas is relatively straightforward to bring to the surface. The extraction process primarily involves the drilling of vertical wells into the ground to reach the oil or gas, which often flows into the well unaided and is then pumped to the surface.

UNCONVENTIONAL HYDROCARBONS

- This oil and gas is located in rocks that do not have the permeability (minute connected pathways) that would allow the hydrocarbons to easily flow from them.
 - Oil and gas does not flow from these rocks without help. Methods used to promote the flow include drilling of vertical wells with long horizontal extensions that increase the area in contact with the rock and high volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) to create the pathways for oil or gas to flow into the well.
- 3.3 To proceed with any activity the geological, technical and economic conditions need to be suitable. The local environment needs to be respected and protected in line with the relevant laws. Developers also need the “social licence” to operate. This means that there needs to be broad local support for exploration and buy in from the communities where it might take place.
 - 3.4 Exploration for unconventional oil and gas has become more prominent in recent years with extraction of oil and gas made possible through technological changes including the combination of horizontal drilling and high volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking). This has been championed by some as a means to obtain a secure energy supply, but it has also received widespread criticism for its potential environmental and social impacts and risks.
 - 3.5 Offshore petroleum exploration and production takes place in coastal or in open waters, i.e. not on land. Responsibility for UK licensing in this area rests with the [North Sea Transition Authority](#) (formerly known as the Oil and Gas Authority), not the Northern Ireland Executive. There are currently no offshore petroleum licences near Northern Ireland.

4. What is happening outside Northern Ireland?

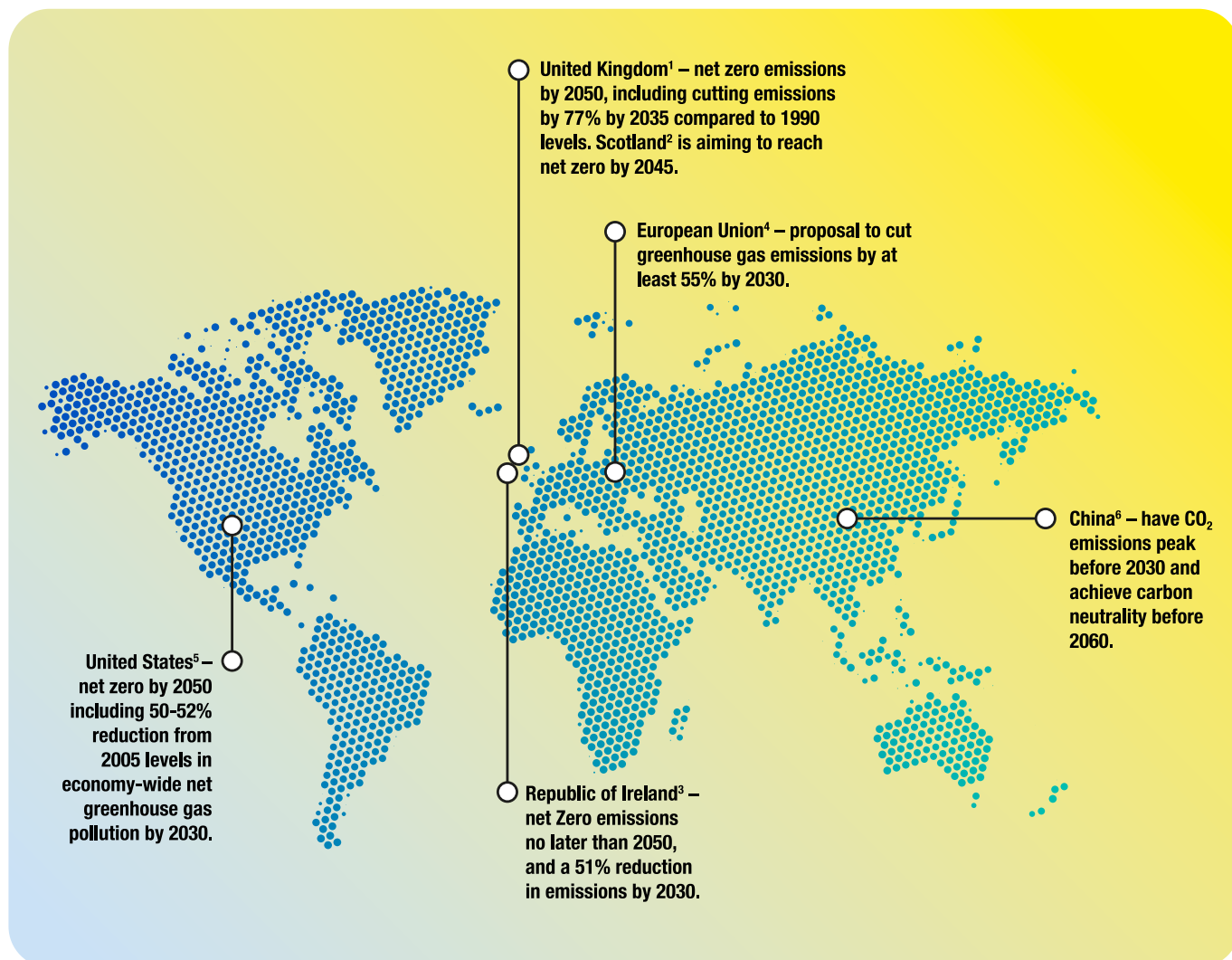


- 4.1 This section sets out some of the recent developments in onshore petroleum exploration and production as well as the policies that impact this activity in Great Britain, Republic of Ireland and international jurisdictions.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS AND POLICIES

- 4.2 Recent years have seen a high profile “shale boom” in the United States. By 2019, the USA produced 98% of the shale oil and 78% of the shale gas in the world becoming a net exporter of hydrocarbons. This growth in the hydrocarbon industry has brought economic benefits to those regions with long standing oil and gas infrastructure and a less prescribed regulatory system.
- 4.3 Policies aimed at combating climate change are now having a major impact on onshore petroleum exploration, and raising questions about how this activity contributes to greenhouse gas emissions, the appropriateness of continuing to explore for fossil fuels and the future of jobs in this industry. The recent International Energy Agency (IEA) report [The Oil and Gas Industry in Net Zero Transitions](#) has highlighted the need for the industry to adapt to the move towards net zero.
- 4.4 The [2015 Paris Agreement](#) was signed by 191 countries. It aims to substantially reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to limit the global temperature increase in this century to 2 degrees Celsius while pursuing efforts to limit the increase even further to 1.5 degrees in order to achieve a climate neutral world by the mid-century. The Agreement includes commitments from all countries to reduce their emissions and work together to adapt to the impacts of climate change, and calls on countries to strengthen their commitments over time.
- 4.5 [The Glasgow Climate Pact](#) was agreed at the COP26 climate change conference in 2021. This package of decisions reaffirms the international communities commitment to limiting global temperature rise to 1.5°C, as well as calling for the phasing-down unabated coal power and ending of fossil fuel subsidies. The [COP 28 conference](#) in November 2023 made further commitments to transition away from fossil fuels and triple the use of renewables by 2030.

4.6 Individual countries have developed emissions targets to help reach these goals. These include:



1 [gov.uk website - United Kingdom emissions targets September 2023](#)
 2 [gov.scot website - Scotland emissions targets](#)
 3 [Government of Ireland website - Republic of Ireland emissions target August 2021](#)
 4 [European Commission website - EU 2030 Climate Target Plan](#)
 5 [Whitehouse.gov website - Reducing U.S. greenhouse emissions](#)
 6 [AP news website - China emissions target 2030](#)

- 4.7 These are ambitious targets that will require significant changes including a decrease in fossil fuel use in business and domestic settings through a focus on energy efficiency measures. There will also need to be a corresponding increase in the use of and investment in other sources of energy, e.g. growth in renewables such as wind or solar power and exploration and development of alternative zero-carbon fuels.
- 4.8 Pressure continues to increase on the scale and speed of the efforts needed to meet these critical and formidable goals. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is a group of scientists whose findings are endorsed by the world's governments. Successive reports have demonstrated the need for huge cuts in carbon emissions which, in part, led to calls for climate legislation in Northern Ireland. [The Climate Change 2023 report](#) puts it very succinctly "Limiting human-caused global warming requires net zero CO₂ emissions".
- 4.9 The International Energy Agency (IEA) is an autonomous intergovernmental organisation set up under the framework of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD). It has specific recommendations for the oil and gas industry. The May 2021 report [Net Zero by 2050](#) recommends that, beyond projects already committed as of 2021, there should be no new oil and gas fields approved for development in our pathway to achieve net zero. The November 2023 report [The Oil and Gas Industry in Net Zero Transitions](#) states "In a scenario that hits global net zero emissions by 2050, declines in demand are sufficiently steep that no new long lead-time conventional oil and gas projects are required".

ENERGY SECURITY AND ENERGY COSTS

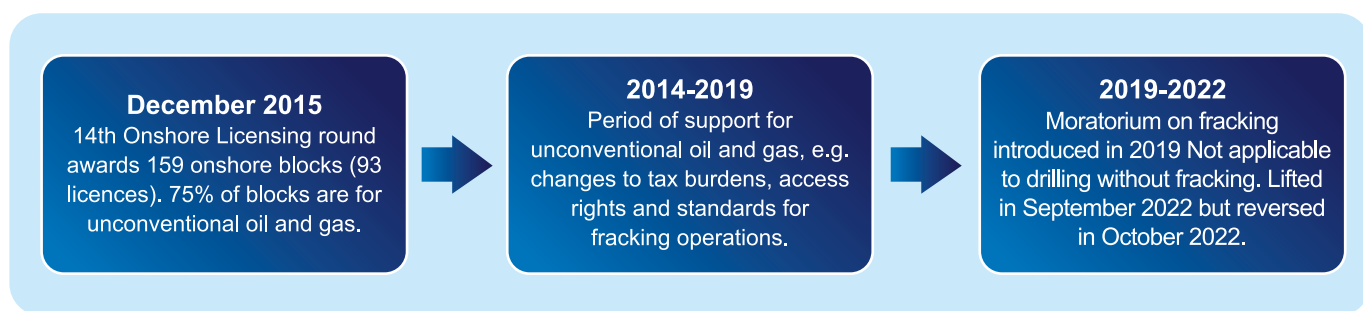
- 4.10 Energy security is defined as "[the uninterrupted availability of energy sources at an affordable price](#)". Rising wholesale energy prices and the Russian invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 means that where energy comes from and how much it costs has become one of the most pressing geo-political issues. It is also a major issue for all of us as we spend a lot more to heat our homes, fill up the car and cope with increases in the price of food and other goods.
- 4.11 In response to increasing concerns about energy security, the UK government published the [British Energy Security Strategy](#) in April 2022. This outlines long term plans to provide secure, clean and affordable energy by focusing on renewable and nuclear energy. It emphasises that North Sea oil and gas will need to be used during the transition to net zero and that the government is remaining open minded about onshore gas reserves. There have been [renewed calls](#) to allow fracking as a way to increase energy security and independence.
- 4.12 In response to this the UK government commissioned the British Geological Survey to advise on the latest scientific evidence around shale gas extraction and associated seismic activity. [The report](#) was published in September 2022. It concluded that "forecasting the occurrence of large earthquakes and their expected magnitude is complex and remains a scientific challenge. As a result, our ability to evaluate and mitigate risks from hydraulic fracturing-induced seismicity and predict the occurrence of larger earthquakes during hydraulic fracturing operations is also a challenge." The report also concludes that "there are new seismic data analysis methods that could help to manage the risk of seismic activity from hydraulic fracturing in shales. Further work is needed to develop these methods and incorporate them in risk assessments."

4.13 The UK government formally lifted the moratorium on shale gas extraction in [September 2022](#). This change in policy was widely opposed both from the opposition and within the government. In October 2022 it was confirmed that the [Prime Minister Rishi Sunak stood by the policy of a moratorium as stated in the 2019 manifesto](#).

ONSHORE PETROLEUM LICENSING POLICY IN GREAT BRITAIN AND REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

4.14 The rules for granting onshore petroleum licences are different in the rest of the UK than in Northern Ireland. In England, a system of licensing rounds, administered by the [North Sea Transition Authority](#), is in place where companies have a limited period to apply for a licence for an area that they wish to explore. Onshore petroleum licensing policy has been a devolved matter in Scotland and Wales since 2018. There have been a number of significant policy developments (mainly relating to unconventional oil and gas) in the past few years as shown in the sections below.

4.15 England



4.16 Scotland



4.17 Wales



4.18 Republic of Ireland



At COP26 in November 2021, Wales and Ireland were part of a group of ten national and regional governments that pledged to stop licensing oil and gas production⁷. This has since been formalised as the [Beyond Oil and Gas Alliance](#) as "a first-of-its-kind alliance of governments and stakeholders working together to facilitate the managed phase-out of [oil and gas production](#)". The policies of neighbouring administrations have halted a lot of, but not all, onshore petroleum exploration in the UK and Ireland. This will impact the decisions of companies looking to invest in this sector and that needs to be taken into account in the consideration of Northern Ireland's onshore petroleum licensing policy.

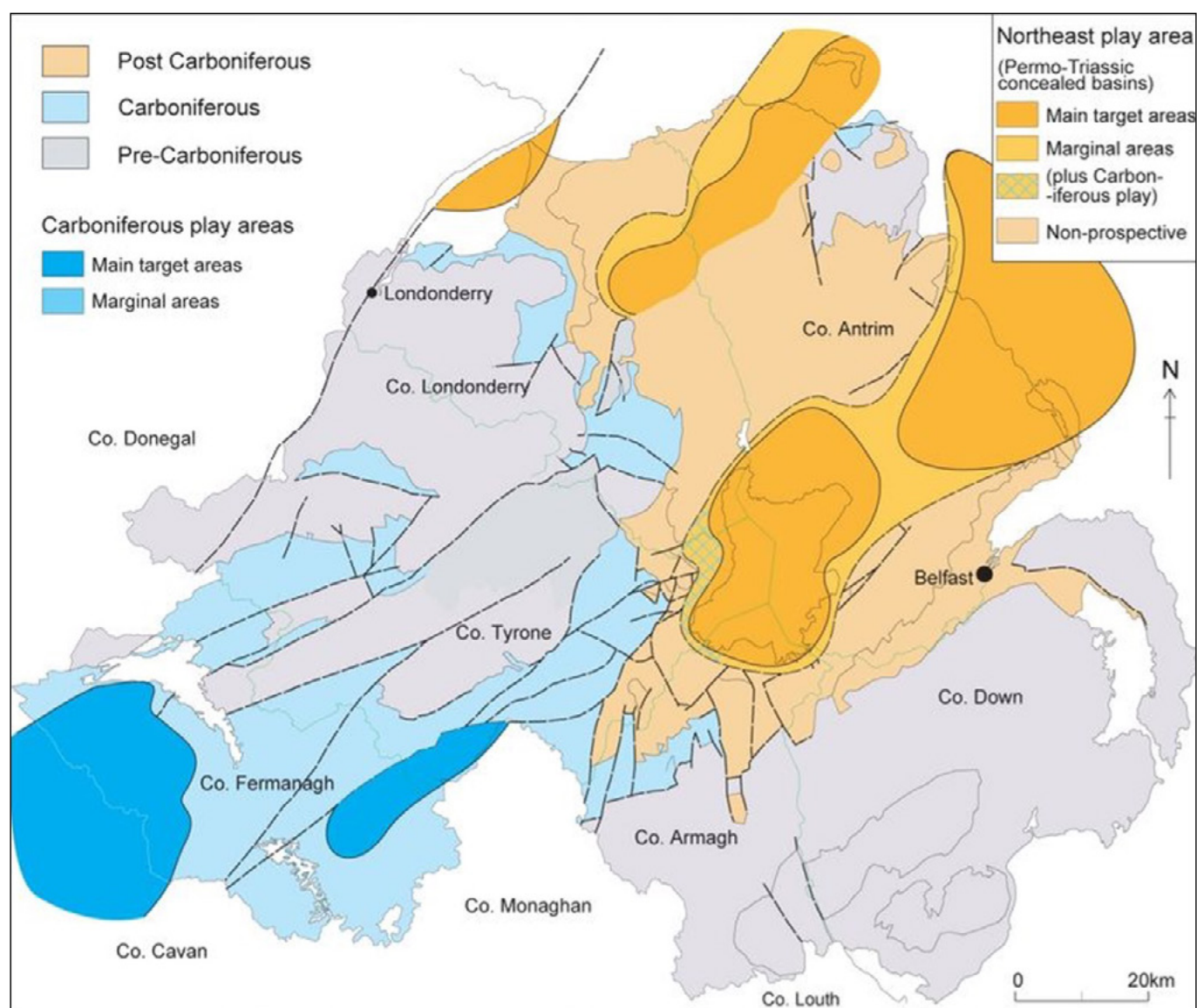
⁷ [BBC News website - Wales pledges to stop licensed oil and gas production](#)

5. What happens in Northern Ireland?



- 5.1 This section considers the potential onshore petroleum resource in Northern Ireland, the current system for petroleum licensing including relevant policies and details of previous exploration.
- 5.2 Whilst not an established location for oil and gas exploration, Northern Ireland has seen some limited exploration activity since the 1960s. The map below shows the areas that may have potential for oil and gas exploration. The orange areas represent potential conventional hydrocarbon resource and the blue areas represent potential unconventional hydrocarbon resource.

AREAS PROSPECTIVE FOR HYDROCARBONS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Source: [Geological Survey of Northern Ireland](#)

- 5.3 DfE has the power to grant licences “to explore for, bore for and get” petroleum in Northern Ireland. This power was granted by the Petroleum (Production) Act (Northern Ireland) 1964 and has been supplemented by further legislation since then.
- 5.4 All of onshore Northern Ireland, excluding internal waters, is available for Petroleum Licence applications. Unlike the rest of the UK, Northern Ireland has an “open door” policy meaning that a company can apply for a licence at any point rather than during a particular licensing round. In addition to submitting an application, companies must meet financial and technical capability thresholds, as well as demonstrate sufficient environmental awareness. Details of the application and assessment process for petroleum licence applications can be found in the [Guidance for Applicants](#).
- 5.5 DfE’s current stated policy objective is “...to maximise successful and expeditious exploration and exploitation of Northern Ireland’s oil and gas resources.”⁸ Historically this policy has been driven by economic considerations such as wanting a secure and local source of energy and attracting inward investment by developers/licensees.
- 5.6 Since 1964 there have been thirty-four Petroleum Licences. A total of sixteen exploration wells and two shallow stratigraphic boreholes have been drilled under these licences. Although several wells have recorded the presence of onshore oil or gas, it has not been in a sufficient quantity to be suitable for commercial development. There are currently no active petroleum licences in Northern Ireland with the last active licence (PL1/10, under which the Woodburn Forest No. 1 well was drilled) relinquished in April 2020.

8 [Department for the Economy website - Petroleum Licensing in Northern Ireland; Guidance for Applicants, page 27](#)

LOCATIONS OF EXPLORATION DRILLING UNDER HISTORIC PETROLEUM LICENCES



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5.7 There are two petroleum licence applications currently with DfE. One application is for the Lower Lough Neagh area (PLA 1/16) and the other is focused on County Fermanagh (PLA 2/16). There was a public consultation on both applications in 2019 that raised a range of issues. Given the cross cutting and controversial nature of this issue previous DfE Ministers have stated that the final decision on these applications will be made by the Executive and not before the completion of the review of petroleum licensing policy⁹. Further details of these applications can be found on the [Departmental website](#).

⁹ NI Assembly website. See debate on Onshore Fracking (Prohibition) Bill: Second Stage.

THE POLICY CONTEXT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 5.8 The Northern Ireland [‘Energy Strategy – The Path to Net Zero Energy’](#) aims to ensure that our energy is secure, affordable and clean for us now and future generations. One of the five main principles is to, “Replace fossil fuels with renewable energy: We will phase out fossil fuels by growing our indigenous renewable base, supported by sustainable renewable imports and use these to decarbonise power, heat and transport.”
- 5.9 In addition to the Energy Strategy, any onshore petroleum licensing policy must align with a number of other policies, proposals and commitments. Some examples are:
- In 2020, the [New Decade New Approach](#) document included a commitment to introduce legislation and targets for reducing carbon emissions in line with the Paris Climate Change Agreement.
 - The [10X Economic Vision](#) for the Northern Ireland Economy is based around three pillars of innovation, inclusive growth and sustainability. The sustainability objectives are for 80% electricity consumption from renewable sources, greenhouse gas emissions 48% lower than baseline and to double the size of NI’s low carbon and renewable energy economy to more than £2bn turnover.
 - The [Green Growth Strategy](#) will be delivered through a series of Climate Action Plans, which will set out the actions to meet sector-specific greenhouse gas emission targets leading to a cleaner environment, more efficient use of our resources within a circular economy and green jobs.
 - The [Climate Change Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2022](#) was passed in March 2022. This legislation sets targets for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions for the years 2030, 2040 and 2050. It states that "The Northern Ireland departments must ensure that the net Northern Ireland emissions account for the year 2050 is at least 100% lower than the baseline."
 - In September 2021 the Infrastructure Minister announced a [review of strategic planning policy](#) on oil and gas development. This will include conventional and unconventional hydrocarbon development.

6. What does the independent Northern Ireland research tell us?



- 6.1 As detailed in section three, in October 2020, DfE commissioned [independent research](#) (hereafter referred to as the research) into the economic, social and environmental impacts of onshore petroleum exploration and production in Northern Ireland (both conventional and unconventional oil and gas).
- 6.2 Following an open procurement process, Hatch Regeneris was awarded the contract for the work by DfE. The research was overseen by a steering group of officials from DfE Energy Group, Geological Survey of Northern Ireland (GSNI) and Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The final report was received by DfE in July 2021. This section details the key findings of the research which can be accessed as part of the [consultation pack](#). Page references for specific sections are also provided for ease of reference.
- 6.3 Hatch Regeneris applied development scenarios to help identify the potential impacts of different levels of future exploration and production activity. This method has been applied widely in numerous studies of this nature in other jurisdictions¹⁰. The four scenarios were - no development and then low, medium and high levels of development. A 30-year period to 2050 was used to measure the impacts and encompass the stages of a standard exploration and production process – from preliminary investigations through production and to the closure of a site.
- 6.4 The final Hatch research sets out the relevant policies in Northern Ireland and further afield, as well as the potential for onshore oil and gas development in Northern Ireland. Conclusions and findings were based on information available at the time of the research, as well as informed through engagement with stakeholders from industry, government, interest groups and local elected representatives.
- 6.5 The research sets out the following key findings which are considered in more detail below:
- Changing policy context with international, UK and Executive commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and proposals to phase out fossil fuels;
 - The uncertainty around the potential for onshore oil and gas resources within Northern Ireland;
 - Relatively modest economic benefits of any potential development of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland; and
 - The risk of moderate adverse and, in some cases, potentially major adverse environmental and social impacts associated with potential development of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland.

10 See KMPG - [Unconventional oil and gas: Economic Impact Assessment and scenario development of unconventional oil and gas in Scotland \(2016\)](#) (www.gov.scot/website)

CHANGING POLICY CONTEXT AND UNCERTAINTIES

[Research Report sections 3, 4 \(p.23-57\) and section 6 \(p.65-76\)](#)

- 6.6 As set out in the earlier sections of this consultation, the global and regional context for petroleum exploration and production has significantly altered in recent years with further change inevitable. Since 2015, targets have been introduced with the aim of reducing greenhouse gas emissions as well as phasing out combustion of fossil fuels. The moratoria and bans on various forms of petroleum exploration in the rest of the UK and the Republic of Ireland will also have a significant impact reducing the likelihood of further research and investment.
- 6.7 The research highlights the limited data on Northern Ireland's prospectivity for onshore oil and gas. Whilst it is feasible that there is oil and gas resource, there is also a high level of uncertainty about whether there is enough to make production commercially viable. On this basis, Hatch conclude that extensive further exploration activity would be needed before it could be concluded that commercial extraction would be viable.

**QUESTION 1 – CHANGING POLICY CONTEXT AND UNCERTAINTIES
DO YOU AGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE POLICY CONTEXT AND POTENTIAL FOR
ONSHORE OIL AND GAS RESOURCE IN NORTHERN IRELAND?**

ECONOMIC IMPACTS

[Research Report section 7 \(p. 76-102\)](#)

- 6.8 The research presents the potential economic benefits of onshore oil and gas exploration and production in Northern Ireland.

Main economic impact figures for the four scenarios

	Average Employment Impacts per year (Person Years) within Northern Ireland	GVA Impacts (per annum)	Potential total lifetime retained expenditure
No development	No impacts	No impacts	No impacts
Low development	35 – 45	£2.2m – £3.3m	£63.10m – £94.40m
Medium development	60 – 85	£4.0m – £6.0m	£113.60m – £169.90m
High development	110 – 155	£7.6m – £11.3m	£214.60m – £320.90m

- 6.9 Any level of development would create a demand for skills and jobs, however, the estimated number of jobs which would be created both in the industry and indirectly is low across all scenarios. The Northern Ireland economy does not have the significant chemical or energy intensive sectors that would benefit from indigenous onshore oil and gas production. The level of retained benefit from expenditure by the sector is estimated to be below 50% in all scenarios, even with the highest level of development and local sourcing of goods and services.

6.10 The research concludes that the costs and scale of development in Northern Ireland would be unlikely to achieve economies of scale or low production costs required to impact energy prices. It raises questions about the impact such activity could have on the local tourism industry that often focuses on the unique and untouched natural environment of Northern Ireland. Exploration and production activity could harm that reputation and therefore harm that sector of the economy.

QUESTION 2 – ECONOMIC IMPACTS

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC IMPACTS OF POTENTIAL ONSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND?

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

[Section 8 \(p.103-187\)](#)

6.11 The potential economic impacts need to be considered alongside the potential social and environmental impacts. The research presents an assessment of the significance of these factors on an assumption that current environmental as well as planning regulations will be adhered to, and that best practice industry mitigation measures will be implemented. The social and environmental impacts are greater with a higher level of development and, in some cases, are of a major adverse significance.

Environmental and social impacts of the four scenarios

- No development
No social or environmental impacts.
- Low development scenario
Potential effects of moderate adverse significance related to public health, and seismicity (unconventional only).
- Medium development scenario
Potential effects of at least moderate adverse significance for the following additional topics over and above the low scenario: groundwater and surface water; green house gas emissions (unconventional only); loss of soils; some landscapes and geodiversity receptors (potentially greater for unconventional wells).
- High development scenario
Potential effects of at least moderate adverse significance for the following additional topics over and above the medium scenario: some air quality receptors; handling, storage and disposal of waste; and habitat loss, disturbance and fragmentation. The significance of the effects for the groundwater abstraction and pollution and social cohesion and community wellbeing receptors are assessed as being of major adverse significance.

- 6.12 The research also highlights that there is uncertainty about some impacts, such as longer term gas leakage after well closure and pollution of ground water aquifers from any fracking process or the failure or deterioration of well integrity over time. This is a high level analysis of the impacts so conclusions reached are not site specific. It is important to note impacts will vary by geographic location and there may be additional unforeseen effects.
- 6.13 There are other gaps in evidence particularly around the longer term public health impacts, cumulative health impacts and potential cumulative impacts of a combination of emissions on site as well as impacts on water resource availability, water quality and the fragmentation of habitats. These gaps in evidence make a reliable assessment of impacts challenging in these areas.
- 6.14 The research indicates that any form of development will have noticeable impacts on local communities and landscapes, even with the checks provided by the law and best practice. This may make it difficult to achieve the social licence that would make exploration and production possible or feasible.
- 6.15 In 2020 DfE commissioned [the British Geological Survey](#) to carry out a desk-based study of the potential risks of induced seismicity from high volume hydraulic fracturing of shales in Northern Ireland. The Report, which is available as part of the consultation pack, considered the principal areas of Northern Ireland that may be prospective for shale gas and shale oil - the Lough Allen (Fermanagh) and Rathlin (Antrim) sedimentary basins. It reviewed seismicity data associated with high volume hydraulic fracturing elsewhere (primarily GB and North America). It also incorporated the available seismicity data for the two NI basins, known potential risks and mitigations. The report concluded that the present-day stress regime and stress state of the faults in these basins are poorly understood. Our understanding of these basins could be improved through better geophysical data and improved regional seismic monitoring.

QUESTION 3 – ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACTS

DO YOU AGREE WITH THE ASSESSMENT OF THE POTENTIAL SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ONSHORE OIL AND GAS EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND?



7. What should happen next?

7.1 This section sets out four possible options for onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland:

Option 1: Status quo – Do Nothing;

Option 2: Change from open door policy to licensing rounds in defined areas;

Option 3: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration or production of unconventional hydrocarbons; or

Option 4: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on all forms of onshore petroleum exploration and production.

SUMMARY OF APPRAISAL OF OPTIONS

7.2 The following table summarises the appraisal of the four options against key criteria using a traffic light system; with green indicating a desirable outcome, red an undesirable outcome and amber as neutral. The appraisal of each option is discussed in more detail below:

Option	Policy Fit	Economic impacts	Environmental impacts	Social impacts	Deliverable
1. Status quo	No	Low – positive	Medium to high – negative	Medium to high – negative	No action
2. Licensing rounds	No	Low – positive	Medium to high – negative	Medium to high – negative	New legislation and regulatory framework
3. Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration or production of unconventional hydrocarbons; or	Partial	Low – positive	Medium – negative	Medium – negative	Legislative change
4. Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on all forms of onshore petroleum exploration and production.	Yes	Low – positive	None – negative	None – negative	Legislative change

DISCUSSION OF OPTIONS

Option 1: Status Quo – Do Nothing

- 7.3 This would involve no change to the current licensing rules and no change to the current policies. The open door policy would remain in place and the focus would continue to be on maximising the economic potential of Northern Ireland's oil and gas resources.
- 7.4 DfE's initial consideration of the petroleum licensing regime in 2019 indicated that the current system (and its supporting policy) does not give sufficient weight to the environmental and social impacts of onshore petroleum exploration and production. Since then there has been a further shift towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions through the 2022 Climate Change Act and prioritising sectors that benefit the growth of a carbon neutral, green economy in the 10X Economic Vision and the Energy Strategy.
- 7.5 There has never been any indigenous production of onshore oil and gas so there is no dependence on the sector. In addition, the research shows that the economic benefit of continuing exploration for potential oil and gas would not be significant and that there could be negative consequences for society and the environment. Maintaining the current position would therefore appear to leave petroleum licensing out of step with the Climate Change Act, the Energy Strategy, have no major economic impact and potentially have adverse environmental and social impacts.

Option 2: Change from open door policy to licensing rounds in defined areas

- 7.6 This would maintain the policy to maximise the economic potential of Northern Ireland's natural resources but remove the open door policy and adopt a licensing round approach. The licensing round process as administered by the North Sea Transition Authority (formerly known as the Oil and Gas Authority) in England is informed by strategic environmental assessments and provides greater control over petroleum licensing activity. If a similar system were to be adopted in Northern Ireland, DfE would define the area open for applications and the conditions to be applied to licences would be informed by a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA). This approach would attempt to address some of the social and environmental concerns through environmental assessment and a more robust regulatory system.
- 7.7 From an economic perspective, there has never been any indigenous production of onshore oil and gas so there is no dependence on the sector. The Hatch research concludes the economic benefits of any future petroleum exploration and production would not be significant, so it would perhaps be difficult to justify a potentially lengthy process of regulatory reform to convert to a licensing round approach. There are also potentially more retained economic and skills benefits through investing in renewables and greener technologies as set out in the 10X Economic Vision. Like Option 1, this option would also appear to leave petroleum licensing out of step with the Climate Change Act, the Energy Strategy and broader economic and climate change priorities.

Option 3: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration or production of unconventional hydrocarbons

- 7.8 This would represent a significant shift in the current policy. It would lead to a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration for all unconventional oil and gas (including fracking) in Northern Ireland. Companies would still be able to apply for licences to explore for conventional oil or gas.
- 7.9 There would be no detrimental impact to the economy as there is no current production of indigenous onshore oil and gas and the economic impacts of any future petroleum exploration and production have been shown by the research to be reasonably low. A reduction in any potential activity would also lead to a decrease in the social and environmental impacts of petroleum exploration associated with unconventional oil and gas. There have been particular concerns about the impact of high volume hydraulic fracturing (fracking) as shown by the motion in the Assembly, the introduction of a Private Members Bill to prohibit onshore fracking in the last Assembly mandate and the high level of objection to current licence applications. This option would help to alleviate those concerns although would not address the remaining impacts of any conventional onshore oil and gas exploration and production.
- 7.10 While more in line with the Climate Change Act, the Energy Strategy and other economic and environmental priorities than options 1 and 2, option 3 would not signal a complete shift away from fossil fuels as exploration for conventional onshore oil and gas would still be permitted.

Option 4: Moratorium and eventual legislative ban on all forms of onshore petroleum exploration and production.

- 7.11 This would represent the most significant shift in the current policy. It would lead to a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland. This would introduce a closed door policy for onshore petroleum exploration and production in Northern Ireland. **This is the preferred option.**

Why is this the preferred option?

- 7.12 The Hatch research concludes that supporting onshore petroleum exploration and production would not result in any significant increase in jobs, or wider benefits for the economy. Furthermore, such an approach would have no impact on energy prices for Northern Ireland consumers, as any oil or gas would be sold at international market prices. As there has been no commercial production of oil or gas in Northern Ireland to date and therefore no reliance on the sector, a ban on petroleum exploration and production would not disadvantage the broader economy. However, a ban on petroleum exploration and production would stop any future tax revenue or royalties from this activity.

- 7.13 Option 4 aligns with the commitment in the Energy Strategy to ensure that our energy is secure, affordable and clean for us now and for future generations by phasing out fossil fuels and supports the long term vision of Net Zero Carbon Energy for Northern Ireland. This option would ensure a focus on the growth of the low carbon and renewable energy sector, supporting people into secure, well paid jobs.
- 7.14 It would also remove the possibility of adverse social and environmental impacts on local communities and the rural environment whilst ensuring Northern Ireland plays its part in meeting climate commitments. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 enshrines in legislation a commitment to meet emissions targets in 2030, 2040 and achieve net zero by 2050. International research from the International Energy Agency (IEA) recommends that there should be no further development of oil or gas fields in the pathway to achieve net zero. The UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has repeatedly warned that huge cuts in carbon emissions are necessary to reach the targets of the Paris agreement and limit the impacts of climate change.
- 7.15 As part of the Energy Strategy Options consultation in 2021, stakeholders were asked if the current approach to petroleum licensing should change in line with the commitment to decarbonise energy. Of the 115 stakeholders who responded, there was broad support (86% of respondents to the question) for changing the approach to petroleum licensing. The majority of the written responses call for all petroleum licensing to be banned. Responses highlighted that continuing with licensing petroleum exploration and production would be inconsistent with net zero commitments and other aspects of the Energy Strategy.
- 7.16 The war in Ukraine and rising energy prices has brought into sharp focus the need to ensure we have more secure indigenous energy supply. The UK Government's [British Energy Security Strategy \(ESS\)](#) outlines long term plans to provide secure, clean and affordable energy by focusing on nuclear and renewable energy. This is in line with our preferred approach focusing on decarbonising our network through renewables and the use of biomethane and hydrogen technologies. The ESS also states that North sea oil and gas will need to be used during the transition to net zero. It remains open minded about onshore gas reserves. The British Geological Survey report on shale gas extraction and associated seismic activity shows that there is more to be done to understand the risks of this activity.
- 7.17 In 2023 the UK government began to pursue a policy of encouraging offshore oil and gas exploration as part of the the transition to net zero.¹¹ For our consideration of the NI position, there are no known oil and gas reserves like those found in the North Sea or onshore in GB. Therefore, any exploration or production of hydrocarbons would take significant time to find oil and gas with no guarantees that there is enough to merit commercial production. This investigative activity would not be able to address the immediate issues of security of supply and rising prices. In addition, the Hatch Report indicates the potential moderate to adverse environmental impacts and the 2021 BGS Report on seismic activity in NI basins concludes that the present day stress regime and stress state of the faults in these basins are poorly understood.

11 [gov.uk website - New annual oil and gas licensing rounds to boost UK economy](#)

7.18 In conclusion, there is no strong economic case to support the exploration for and possible production of any potential onshore oil and gas resources in NI. Such a course of action also runs contrary to the objectives of the NI Energy Strategy and targets in the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. In addition, both the Hatch Report and BGS Report on Seismic Activity in NI Basins raise concerns about the environmental and social impacts of onshore oil and gas exploration and extraction. **On this basis, the recommended preferred policy is a moratorium and eventual legislative ban on exploration and production of all forms of onshore oil and gas in Northern Ireland.**

QUESTION 4 – DO YOU AGREE WITH THE PREFERRED OPTION FOR ONSHORE PETROLEUM LICENSING POLICY?

**QUESTION 5 – ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS
DO YOU THINK THERE ARE ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS FOR ONSHORE PETROLEUM LICENSING POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND WHICH SHOULD BE CONSIDERED?**

REMINDER

You can answer the questions by completing the [Citizen Space online survey](#).

The consultation is open until **12 April 2024**.

8. Next steps

- 8.1 Once this consultation is closed the responses will be analysed by DfE and a report will be made available. The responses will help identify any aspects of this topic that need further scrutiny or impact assessment and to gauge the level of support for the preferred option.
- 8.2 The final decision on the onshore petroleum licensing policy in Northern Ireland will be taken by the Executive, informed by the responses and evidence submitted through this consultation process.
- 8.3 Full implementation of any option other than the status quo would require passage of legislation through the Northern Ireland Assembly.

9. Confidentiality

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION, ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION AND DATA PROTECTION

- 9.1 Following the end of the consultation, DfE will publish a consultation report summarising responses received in an aggregated format. This report may include anonymised direct quotes from your response. Personal information that you provide in your response will not be published in the consultation report.
- 9.2 However, any information provided in responses, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 or the Data Protection Act 2018 if DfE receives such a request for information.
- 9.3 With your response, please identify any information which you do not wish to be disclosed and explain why you regard that information as confidential. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on DfE. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances.
- 9.4 For information regarding the Minerals and Petroleum Branch Privacy Notice following the introduction of GDPR please use the following link: [Minerals and Petroleum Branch Privacy Notice](#)

Unclassified

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ITEM 7**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community & Culture
Date of Report	28 February 2024
File Reference	ASB - PCSP
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	2018 Public Consultation on Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) legislation
Attachments	Appendix Draft response to the public consultation on ASBs legislation

In April 2018, the Department of Justice (DoJ) carried out a public consultation to review the criminal legislation framework to tackle anti-social behaviour.

Following that consultation a multi-agency, cross-governmental ASB Delivery Group was formed to take forward the outworking's of the consultation. The group was tasked to consider five powers that were consulted upon, as well as four additional powers that were raised as a result of the 2018 consultation.

The ASB Delivery Group considered nine legislative powers as follows:

- Criminal Behaviour Orders (post-conviction order to stop individuals engaging in ASB by placing prohibitions and requirements on them);
- Public Space Protection Orders (order imposing conditions on use of designated areas);

Not Applicable

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- Closure Powers (power to close premises that are being used, or likely to be used, to commit nuisance or disorder);
- On-Street Drinking (commencement of sections 68 to 72 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008);
- Powers in section 54 of the Civic Government (Scotland) Act 1982 to address noise nuisance through seizure of sound producing devices;
- Civil Injunctions (power to stop individuals engaging in ASB by placing prohibitions and requirements on them);
- Absolute Grounds for Possession (power for possession of secure and assured tenancies where ASB / criminality has been proven by another court);
- Dispersal Powers (power to direct a person who is in a public place to leave the locality and not return for a specified period); and
- ASB Case Review /Community Trigger (power for victims of ASB to request a review of actions taken to address ASB).

Conclusions of the ASB Legislative Review Delivery Group

The ASB Delivery Group undertook a detailed scoping exercise to identify, where possible, an evidence base that would indicate how successful some of the proposed legislative measures were in addressing ASB in other jurisdictions. It was also necessary to compare the powers under consideration with those already in place in Northern Ireland to ascertain whether their introduction would bring any tangible benefit.

Not all of the powers were deemed suitable for progression and the Delivery Group concluded that legislative amendments could be progressed for four of the nine powers. Therefore, together with the Department for Communities (DfC), DoJ is seeking views on those four pieces of legislation, policy responsibility for which falls across both departments, with a view to ensuring relevant authorities have effective and proportionate powers to help address ASB and its effects with our communities. The proposals relate to:

- Amendments to the Anti-Social Behaviour (NI) Order 2004 (amendments to ASBOs) - DoJ
- Amendments to the Criminal Justice (NI) Order (amendments to on-street drinking legislation) – DoJ / DfC
- Amendments to Housing (NI) Order 2003 (amendments to ASB Injunctions for housing providers) – DfC
- Amendment to the Housing (NI) Order 1983 (introduction of Absolute Grounds for Possession of secure tenancies) – DfC

The purpose of this consultation is to seek the views of stakeholders on these proposed amendments to ensure that powers available to relevant authorities (Councils, Police and Social Housing providers) are proportionate, effective and will have an appropriate impact on addressing ASB and its effects within our communities.

Please find attached response which has been submitted in draft form, subject to Council approval.

Not Applicable

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the attached consultation response.

Response ID ANON-TAW1-D2VF-F

Submitted to Anti-Social Behaviour Consultation

Submitted on 2024-03-01 12:29:59

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Equality Considerations

Background

Drinking in Public

1 When considering the regulation of drinking in public places, should it be confined to:

Any area within a Council district that the Council may designate.

Other information 1:

This would enable Council to designate places in the future that may not be areas of concern at the present time.

2 When considering the regulation of drinking in designated public places, should it regulate:

Target those engaged in nuisance, annoyance or other ASB / offending behaviour associated with consumption of alcohol.

Other information 2:

3 When considering the legislation:

Yes

4 If yes, should this power be (check all that apply):

A general power available within designated zones if an individual refused to surrender alcohol., Available in any public area (no designated zones), but limited to individuals engaged in offensive conduct, or using or engaging in threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour with intent to provoke a breach of the peace.

Other information 3:

5 If you selected "no" to the question 3, please provide some details as to the reason why you would not support this amendment.

Other information 4:

6 In the circumstances where an individual drinking alcohol in a public place, refuses to comply with a request from a Constable to stop, should officers have the power to:

Seize only open containers on an individual's person.

Other information 5:

Please provide an explanation for your preferred selection::

Persons should be asked to move on with the closed alcohol.

7 Who should be enforcing the powers relating to drinking in public places?

The PSNI should be solely responsible.

8 When considering the current solutions to address drinking in designated public places, should we:

Amend the current bye-laws prohibiting drinking in designated public places in Northern Ireland to make them more effective.

9 Please explain the reason for your selection at question 8.

Other information 6:

The current bye laws are out of date and need updated in order to allow the relevant agencies to take action, when required.

10 Please use the space below to provide any additional comments or suggestions you have in relation to the drinking of alcohol in public places.

Other information:

Anti-Social Behaviour Orders

11 The current proposals suggest amending and expanding the definition of anti-social behaviour. Do you think that the definition of anti-social behaviour should be expanded to include provisions around housing as suggested?

Yes

12 Do you think the 'not of the same household' qualifier should be amended to 'any person' as suggested?

Yes

13 Do you think the minimum age for imposition of an ASBO should be reconsidered?

No

14 If yes, should it be amended to allow an ASBO for:

Not Answered

15 Do you think the threshold for obtaining an ASBO should be lowered from 'necessary to protect people' to 'helpful in preventing behaviour'?

Yes

16 If yes, should it be lowered for:

Both

17 Do you think the standard of proof threshold should be lowered from "beyond reasonable doubt" (the criminal standard) to "the balance of probabilities (the civil standard)?"

No

18 Do you think that housing associations should be added to the list of "Relevant Authorities" who have the power to make an ASBO application?

Yes

19 Do you think that positive requirements should be introduced as an option when making an ASBO application?

Yes

20 The introduction of positive requirements, as suggested by these proposals, is intended to address the underlying conditions that cause the anti-social behaviour. With this in mind, if positive requirements are introduced, how do you think a breach of these conditions should be addressed?

Dealt with in the same way as the current legislation defines (i.e. through criminal court with the same terms for imprisonment and fines);

21 If positive requirements are introduced, who should be responsible for ensuring the conditions of the order are complied with?

Other - please specify.

Other information 5:

PSNI - with support from other relevant agencies

22 Who do you think should be responsible for funding of services that are not free of charge?

The body responsible for delivery of the service (e.g. Health & Social Care Trusts would be responsible for addiction services).

Other Information 8:

23 Article 5 of the 2004 Order places a statutory obligation on the Relevant Authority making an ASBO application to consult with the other Relevant Authorities in advance of doing so. Do you think this legislative requirement should be extended to include managing, monitoring and reporting on ASBOs?

Yes

24 Please provide any additional feedback in relation to the proposals in the box below.

Other information 14:

Injunctions Against Anti-Social Behaviour

25 We are proposing that Article 26 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 should be amended to allow the courts in Northern Ireland to grant an injunction against adults engaging in anti-social behaviour on the same basis that courts in England and Wales can grant an anti-social behaviour injunction to housing providers and local authorities i.e., subject to the tests set out above. Would you support the proposed amendment?

Yes

26 If no, please provide some details as to the reason why you would not support this amendment.

Other information 7:

27 We are proposing that Article 26 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 should be amended to allow the courts in Northern Ireland to attach a power of arrest (including a power of entry) to injunctions against anti-social behaviour if the court thinks that the anti-social behaviour consists of or includes the use or threatened use of violence against other persons, or there is a significant risk of harm to other persons. This would enable the PSNI to arrest persons suspected with reasonable cause of breaching injunctions, so that the matter can be dealt with by the court without unnecessary delay, thereby minimising the risk of harm to the public. Would you support the proposed amendment?

Yes

28 If no, please provide some details as to the reason why you would not support this amendment.

other information 8:

29 We are proposing that Article 26 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 should be amended to allow the courts in Northern Ireland to attach a power of exclusion to injunctions against anti-social behaviour if the court thinks that the anti-social behaviour in which the individual has engaged in, or threatens to engage in, consists of or includes the use or threatened use of violence against other persons, or there is a significant risk of harm to other persons from the individual. Would you support the proposed amendment?

Yes

30 If no, please provide some details as to the reason why you would not support this amendment.

other information 9:

31 We are proposing that Article 26 of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 2003 should be amended to allow the courts in Northern Ireland to include positive requirements in injunctions against anti-social behaviour, subject to the conditions set out above. Would you support the proposed amendment?

Yes

32 If no, please provide some details as to the reason why you would not support this amendment.

other information 10:

Absolute Grounds for Possession

33 We are proposing that an absolute ground for possession along the lines of the absolute ground provided for in section 84A in the Housing Act 1985 and described above should be inserted in Part I of Schedule 3 to the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1983. Would you support the proposed amendment?

Yes

34 If no, please provide some details as to the reason why you would not support this amendment.

other information 11:

Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses

35 Do you consider the information you have provided to be confidential?

No

36 If yes, please tell us why you consider the information you have provided to be confidential.

Confidentiality statement:

37 Please provide the name of the organisation you represent. If you are responding in a personal capacity, please insert "PRIVATE".

Organisation Details:

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Unclassified

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ITEM 8**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	07 February 2024
File Reference	SD149
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG February 2024)
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting 23-24 Appendix 2 - Successful Individual Travel & Accommodation Report for Noting 23-24 Appendix 3 - Successful Club Travel & Accommodation Report for Noting 23-24 Appendix 4 - Unsuccessful Report 23-24 Appendix 5 - Successful Individual Travel & Accommodation Report for Noting 24-25

Members will be aware that on the 26th August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £45,000 had been allocated within the 2023/2024 revenue budget for this purpose.

Not Applicable

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The Council further authorised the Forum under delegated powers to award grants of up to £250. Grants above £250 still require Council approval. In addition, the Council requested that regular updates are reported to members.

During January 2024, the Forum received a total of 15 applications: 1 Event, 6 Goldcard, 7 Individual Travel/Accommodation and 1 Club Travel/Accommodation Grant (1 Individual Travel/Accommodation Grant was for an event in April 2024, hence, this was assessed as a 2024/25 Grant). A summary of the **14** successful applications are detailed in the attached appendices. Successful Goldcard 23-24, Successful Individual Travel/Accommodation 23-24, Successful Club Travel & Accommodation Appendices 23-24 and Successful Individual Travel/Accommodation 24-25.

For information, the annual budget and spend to date on grant categories is as follows:

2023/24 Budget £45,000	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded January 2024	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	£250.00
Coaching	£3,000	£0	£1,453.75
Equipment	£14,000	£0	*-£4,755.74
Events	£6,000	£0	-£523.33
Seeding	£500	£0	£55.01
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£980.00	-£4,088.99
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000.00
Schools/Sports Club Pathway	£5,000	£0	£3,002.00
*Goldcards proposed during the period January 2024 is 6 (27 Goldcards in total during 2023/24).			

*The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **-£4,088.99** is based on a proposed award of **£980.00** – for Noting.

*The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **-£4,755.74** is based on a withdrawn amount of **£2,000.00** and reclaimed amount of **£121.29**.

The proposed funding for January is **£980.00** and the proposed remaining budget for 2023/24 is **-£3,607.30** (108% of the 2023/24 budget spent).

The proposed funding for January 2024, relating to 2024/2025 budget is **£200**. This will be deducted from the Travel and Accommodation grant allocation 2024/25 subject to confirmation of the 2024/2025 Budget.

Not Applicable

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RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the attached applications for financial assistance for sporting purposes valued at above £250, and that the applications approved by the Forum (valued at below £250) are noted.

APPENDIX 1 - SUCCESSFUL GOLDCARD REPORT FOR NOTING 23-24

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	REPRESENTING	GOLDCARD	DATES	PROPOSED	NOTES
Isla Mitchell	Football	Northern Ireland U16 Squad working towards WU16 Euro's 24	Northern Ireland	Bangor Aurora	01/03/2024	Yes	Letter from IFA advises Isla is a member of the Northern Ireland U16 Squad and is working towards the WU16 Euros 2024, March 2024. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 6 August 2024.
Jessica Dadley-Young	Sailing	RYANI – Under 16 Northern Ireland Youth Performance Programme. Events include Eric Twiname Youth Championships, RS Feva Irish National Championships, RYANI Youth Championships, Eric Twiname Youth and Junior Team Racing Championships.	Northern Ireland	Ards Blair Mayne, Bangor Aurora and Bangor Sportsplex	4-6 May, 6th - 7th July, 7th – 8th September and 12-13 October 2024.	Yes	Letter from RYA NI advises Jessica has been selected to attend several events during 2024, including the Eric Twiname Youth and Junior Team Racing Championships 12-13 October 2024 at Oxford Sailing Club. Goldcard recommended until 13 October 2024.

Polly Robinson	Dinghy Sailing	Northern Ireland Topper 5.3 Performance Squad. Events include Celtic Cup, Plas Menai, Wales / Irish Nationals, Wexford Harbour, IRL / Topper Worlds, Mar Menor, Spain.	Northern Ireland	Bangor Aurora	3-Feb-24, 28- Jun-24, 22- Jul-24	Yes	Emails from RYA NI advise Polly has been selected RYANI Topper Performance Programme 2023-24 and has been selected for the Celtic Cup, Plas Menai, Wales on 3 February 24. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 6 August 2024.
Emily Ridout	Dinghy Sailing	RS Feva Worlds Ruinisse Netherlands 26/7/24, RYANI Y Champs, Carrickfergus 08/09/24	Northern Ireland	ABM, Bangor Aurora, Queens Holywood and Bangor Sportsplex Gym, Health Suite, Track & Pool	26/7/24, 08/09/24	Yes	Letter from RYA NI advises Emily will be invited to the Northern Youth Performance Programme and has been selected to attend the RS Feva World Championships and the RYANI Youth Championships. Goldcard recommended until 8 September 2024.
Peter Ridout	Dinghy Sailing	RS Feva Worlds Ruinisse Netherlands 26/7/24, RYANI Y Champs, Carrickfergus 08/09/24	Northern Ireland	ABM, Aurora Pool	26/7/24, 08/09/24	Yes	Letter from RYA NI advises Peter will be invited to the Northern Youth Performance Programme and has been selected to attend the RS Feva World Championships and the RYANI Youth Championships. Goldcard recommended until 8 September 2024.

Annabel Ridout	Dinghy Sailing	RS Feva Worlds Ruinisse Netherlands 26/7/24, RYANI Y Champs, Carrickfergus 08/09/24	Northern Ireland	ABM, Bangor Aurora, Queens Holywood and Bangor Sportsplex Gym, Health Suite, Track & Pool	26/7/24, 08/09/24	Yes	Letter from RYA NI advises Annabel will be invited to the Northern Youth Performance Programme and has been selected to attend the RS Feva World Championships and the RYANI Youth Championships. Goldcard recommended until 8 September 2024.
TOTALS						6	

APPENDIX 2 - SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR NOTING 23-24

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	REPRESENTATIVE	LOCATION	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Gary Wylie	BlackBall Pool	Nation's Cup 2024	Northern Ireland	Bridlington Spa , Bridlington, East Yorkshire, YO15 3JH	17/03/2024	Flight Belfast Int / Leeds Bradford £138.98 + Accommo dation £160 = £298.98	£150	Letter from the Northern Ireland Pool Association confirms Gary has been selected to represent the Northern Ireland Pool Association Seniors Team at the 2024 EBA Nations Cup of Pool, held in Bridlington, England, from 17 - 22 March. Propose funding of £150.
Levi Linda Kane	Karate	WUKF Irish Open	Ulster	SETU Arena , West campus, Waterford, X91 XD96	03/02/2024	Mileage Newtowna rds to Waterford 222 miles@ 45p = £99.90 + Accommo dation £45 = £144.90	£100	Letter from Karate Northern Ireland Management Committee advise Levi has been selected to represent Northern Ireland in two upcoming events including the WUKF Irish Open. Propose funding of £100.

Ryan Stirling	Taekwon-Do	Open Dutch Championship Tournament	27/01/2024	Helmond, Holland	Northern Ireland National Junior Team	Flight Belfast Int to Amsterdam £492.76 + Accommodation £325.	£160	Letter from ScoT advises Ryan has been selected to represent Northern Ireland as part of the Northern Ireland National Taekwon-Do Team at the Taekwon-Do Open Dutch Tournament held in Helmond, Netherlands on 27 January 2024. Propose funding of £160, as £340 already awarded in 2023/24.
Mathias Pickett	Swimming	Manchester International Gala	16-17/03/2024	Manchester Aquatic Centre	Swim Ireland	Mileage £27 + Flight Belfast to Manchester £81.47 + Accommodation £180 = £288.47	£150	Email from Swim Ireland advises Mathias has been invited to participate in the Manchester International Gala Fri 15 to Sun 17 Mar 2024, as part of the P28 squad representing Swim Ireland. Propose funding of £150.

APPENDIX 3 - SUCCESSFUL CLUB TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR NOTING 23-24

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	REPRESENTATIVE	LOCATION	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Ards Ladies Hockey	Hockey	All Ireland Indoor Competition	Ards LHC 1XI	The winner of the All Ireland Competition, at the Kingfisher Stadium, Galway, will go on to represent Ireland at the Club European Championships next year. By attending this competition, we not only raise the profile of our club, but it gives our players the chance to compete at the highest level of Irish competition, and the opportunity to be seen and selected for the national squad.	28/01/2024	Accommodation costs £615	£200	Ards LHC 1XI travel to the All Ireland Indoor finals on Sunday 28 January in Galway; they qualified for this tournament by winning the Ulster Championships on Sunday 21 January. Our guidelines state under "applicant eligibility", that Affiliated "Clubs can apply on behalf of individuals who reside or who are active members of an affiliated sports club within the Borough to participate at club level competition, that provides a steppingstone to the next level of competition." Propose funding of £200, maximum amount permitted for Ireland.
TOTALS							£200	

APPENDIX 4 - UNSUCCESSFUL REPORT 23-24

APPLICANT	APPLICATION	REQUEST	EVIDENCE REQUIRED	EXPLANATION
Ards Ladies Hockey Club	Event Grant	Pitch Hire at Londonderry Park for Ulster Hockey Blitz on 3 March 2024.	Our Event Application Guidance states, "the application must be submitted three months prior to the event".	Funding not recommended as the application was received on 8 January for an Event on 3 March 2024.

APPENDIX 5 - SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR NOTING 24-25

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	REPRESENTATIVE	LOCATION	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Riley Greaves	Ice Hockey	Sedhma Minor Hockey Tournament	Ireland U15 Team	Canada	2-8/04/2024	£200	£200	Letter from the Irish Ice Hockey Association advises Riley has been selected to represent the Irish U15 Ice Hockey Team at the Sedhma Minor Hockey Tournament in April in Canada. Propose funding of £200.
TOTALS							£200	

Unclassified

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ITEM 9**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	23 February 2024
File Reference	PCU38
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Cairn Wood Post Project Evaluation
Attachments	Appendix Cairn Wood Post-Project Evaluation

In line with the Councils 'Capital Management Handbook' a Post Project Evaluation (PPE) should be carried out on all capital works following completion of project. The 'Cairn Wood Recreation Project', funded and administered by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Forest Service, through the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Fund (TRIPSI) was completed by the 4th February 2022.

The Post Project Evaluation (PPE) is service led and is an assessment of the projects results, activities, and processes. It is an essential tool to show that the project objectives have been met and, in terms of public accountability, to demonstrate what has been achieved with the investment of public funds. It also facilitates recognition of project achievements and acknowledges people's work. This phase is also used to capture any learnings gained from the project while the memory of any issues encountered are still recent. The PPE primarily evaluates:

Not Applicable

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- If the benefits, scope and deliverables of the project, as stated in the Project Brief, have been met;
- The performance of the building/facility;
- Lessons to be learned from the experience which may help future projects.

The PPE for the Cairn Wood recreation project is attached at Annex 1. Members should note that DAERA, Forest Service have verified and paid all claims and a separate PPE has been submitted to them at their request and using their templates etc.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

2024

Cairn Wood PPE March 2024

CAIRN WOOD REDEVELOPMENT



**Ards and
North Down
Borough Council**

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VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Author	Checker	Approver	Changes
1.0	20 February 2024	Edel Trainor	Stephen Daye	Graeme Bannister	n/a

This report dated 13 March 2024 has been prepared by the Parks & Cemeteries Service. For avoidance of doubt, no other person(s) may use or rely upon this report or its contents, and Ards and North Down Borough Council accepts no responsibility for any such use or reliance thereon by any other third party.

CONTENTS

FACTSHEET	Summary	Prepared by Client Team in coordination with Corporate Project Unit
SECTION 1	Strategic Case Review	Prepared by Client Team
SECTION 2	Economic Case Review	Prepared by Client Team
SECTION 3	Commercial Case Review	Prepared by Client Team
SECTION 4	Financial Case Review	Prepared by Client Team in coordination with Corporate Project Unit
SECTION 5	Management Case Review	Prepared by Client Team in coordination with Corporate Project Unit
APPENDICES	Supporting Documents	

PPE SIGN OFF	
Stage 6: In Use Stage Date: _____	 Date: _____

FACTSHEET: This document covers the items listed below. This is a suggested minimum coverage reflecting a project run under PRINCE2. A Post-Project Evaluation provides important input into a Gate 5 Review. The purpose of a Post-Project Evaluation (PPE) is to:

- Evaluate the effectiveness of a project in realising the proposed benefits as outlined in the Business Case.
- Compare planned costs and benefits with actual costs and benefits to allow an assessment to be made of the project's overall value for money.
- Identify specific aspects of the project which have affected benefits either positively or negatively; from which recommendations for future projects can be derived.
- Reveal opportunities for increasing the project's yield of benefits, whether they were planned or became apparent during or after implementation, and recommend what actions are required to maximise benefits.

SUMMARY

Please complete summary of key indicators below after having completed sections 1 to 5

Key Indicators	Yes /No /Partial
Was the project delivered on time?	Yes, with a short extension approved by the funder
Was the project delivered on budget?	Yes - Minor variation only (0.02%), project delivered within budget tolerances.
Were the objectives met?	Yes
Have any recommendations been documented?	Yes

If any answer to the above Key Indicators is not 'Yes' please ensure details are provided at relevant section.

SECTION 1: STRATEGIC CASE REVIEW–Demonstrate how the proposal provided a strategic fit through consideration of project requirements, aims and objectives and alignment with strategic policies.

INTRODUCTORY NOTES

A brief note outlining the project being evaluated, who commissioned the report (e.g., the Project Board, Steering Committee), those who produced the report, and anyone who helped with technical or user advice, or who played a part in its production, e.g., by providing quality review. Those who attended the Benefit Review Meeting should also be identified.

The Project which is being evaluated consists of an outdoor recreation facility at Cairn Wood. The project involved the construction of a new car park, toilet, four new trails and a solar energy facility to service the energy needs of the site.

This post project evaluation report (PPE) is initiated in accordance with the requirements of the approved Economic Appraisal (under Monitoring and Evaluating section). Its intention is to build on strengths and learn from weaknesses. Its goal is to develop a disciplined process for evaluating project success, and to create standard, formalised, best practices that can be applied for future initiatives.

The evaluation is based on actual project data taken from: -

- Final Account prepared by Lead Consultant
- Capital Card prepared by ANDBC Finance
- Early Warning Register
- Communication Register
- Income and Expenditure
- Recurrent Costs
- Usage Figures

PROJECT CONCEPT

A brief description of the project, its terms of reference (including the main objectives – which will be found in the original Business Case), and an outline of its progress, identifying those who played major roles, e.g., SRO, Project Manager, Senior User.

Cairn Wood is located in Ards and North Down Borough Council area and is adjacent to roads commonly known as the Craiganlet Crossroads, within the hills between Holywood and Newtownards (approximately 9 miles from Belfast, 5 miles to Holywood and 5 miles to Bangor). The site is approx. 76 Ha in area and is comprised of native and coniferous woodland. Approximately 100,000 people live within 10 miles of the site and therefore the forest offers an opportunity for a significant population to gain the benefits that the natural forest environment has to offer.

The purpose of the project was to greatly enhance the leisure offering that the site could provide. It was delivered in 2 phases.

Phase 1 was fully financed by DAERA and involved the delivery of an extended and upgraded car park providing greater capacity and disabled parking provision enabling more people to enjoy the site as well as being complimented by toilet amenity provision (including disabled). Two trails on the lower section of the site were delivered:

Ballysallagh Trail: an easy grade multi-use trail - all ability, walking and family cycling trail (approx. 1.7km)
 Woodland Trail: a moderate grade multi-use trail - walking and family cycling (approx. 3km)

Phase 2 saw the delivery of a further 2 trails:

Quarry trail: Moderate grade - walking trail (approx. 4km)

Boundary Trail: Moderate grade - walking trail (approx. 4.5km)

A solar energy system was also installed to provide the electric for the toilets, and drainage pumping system for the car park.

These new trails provide safe, off-road trails which enable the site to be enjoyed by people from all ability and age groups, encouraging family and intergenerational users as well as those with physical and mental health conditions and those who want extended trails for walking/running etc.

The Capital Projects Team, supported by Doran Consulting helped deliver the project as well as Council Officers including the Director of Community and Wellbeing (SRO), the Head of Service of Leisure and the Outdoor Recreation Officer (SRU).

The overall objectives were as follows:

- **Improve health and wellbeing and promote active lifestyles.**
- **Increase pride in the borough.**
- **Invest and promote facilities and outdoor spaces.**
- **Provide a sustainable family orientated outdoor experience.**

POLICY ALIGNMENT & DEMAND

A brief description of the user/organisation, its aims and structure, and the reasons for the required business change.

Ards and North Down Borough Council serves a population of 162, 714 over 228 square miles. The Council has an annual operating budget of approximately £58 million and a workforce of approximately 800, delivering a range of services to residents and local businesses. These include refuse collection and disposal, street cleaning, recycling, community development, economic development, environmental health, building control, leisure services, parks and cemeteries, arts, heritage, and tourism provision and events. The Council has new powers including planning, enhanced powers for economic development and off-street parking and responsibility for harbours.

The **vision** of Ards and North Down Borough Council is as follows:

Ards and North Down is a vibrant, connected, healthy, safe and prosperous place to be

Our Outcomes: All people in Ards and North Down will:

- Fulfil their lifelong potential
- Enjoy good health and wellbeing
- Live in communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure
- Benefit from a prosperous economy
- Feel pride from having access to a well-managed sustainable environment

Our Focus:

- Growing: Progressing towards sustainable outcomes
- Better: Improving our services and functions
- Together: Working in partnership with statutory bodies, businesses, the community sector and residents

The project aligned with the following strategies:

- Ards and North Down Corporate Plan 2020-2024

<https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/about-the-council/corporate-plan-2020-24>

- Ards and North Down - The Big Plan 2017-2032

https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/The_Big_Plan_Second_Edt_d2.pdf

- Ards and North Down Estate Strategy 2020-2025

https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/Ards_and_North_Down_Estate_Strategy_-_November_2018.pdf

- Local Biodiversity Action Plan: North Down and Ards Area 2013 - 2017

This plan highlights Cairn Wood as a key woodland habitat within the area and specifically encourages the public to visit (A review of this Action Plan is currently underway). By installing an extensive trail network, the unofficial ad hoc access will be reduced and the access will be more sustainable and protect biodiversity. This has now been superseded by the recently launched LBAP 2023 – 2032.

https://www.dashdigital.com/aandbc/local_biodiversity_action_plan/MobilePagedReplica.action?pm=1&folio=Cover#pg1

- Integrated Strategy for Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development, Ards and North Down 2018-2030

https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/downloads/Integrated_Tourism_Regeneration_Economic_Development_Strategy_2018-2030_v2.pdf

Council entered into a partnership with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Forest Service to enable continued public ownership of Cairn Wood and therefore ensuring continued public access to it. In 2016 the Department for Regional Development had intended to dispose of the asset but following a public campaign amassing a total of 2,700 signatures this decision was reversed.

Originally within the site there were limited walking trails, which consisted of forestry access roads through the site with evidence of several unofficial mountain bike trails going through the woodland. There was an information point consisting of a map showing the trail network (approx. 2 miles) and details of the flora and fauna found there (added by volunteers). Upon entry to the site there are initial wayfinding markers, but as progress is made through the site there are few others evident, so navigation around the site is poor.

The car park was in a poor state of repair and did not have enough capacity at busier times. There were two ingress/egress points from the car park with the western one being closer to the brow of a hill reducing visibility for safe egress.

DAERA, Forest Service will remain responsible for the trees. Areas in the forest which had been planted in larch have been removed as a result the threat of sudden larch death (*P. ramorum*). It will be the remit of the Council to provide the recreational and leisure possibilities of the site.

Evidence of deficiencies in current service provision/ opportunities for improvement:

Following a public petition and the subsequent acquirement of the site by Forest Service an Outline Business Case (OBC) and Feasibility Study was commissioned by Ards and North Down Borough Council in the autumn of 2017 (by Jettora Ltd) to consider the value in entering into a partnership agreement with Forest Service in relation to the development and management of

Cairn Wood. A number of options for the future use of the site were identified, but it was noted that these are not mutually exclusive but rather the options put forward represents an incremental development of the site from the option that proceeds it.

An assessment of need was carried out as part of the OBC and key stakeholders were consulted with. Site reviews were also carried out to identify constraints and opportunities for development.

The OBC found that despite Cairn Wood extending some 76 Ha only a small proportion of it is utilised by the public given the minimal trail structure which doesn't utilise the entire area of land within the site. Only some of the paths are stoned and considered in good condition for recreational walking. It was proposed within the scope of the project to increase the extent of the trails and enhance those already existing.

The car park could only accommodate 15-20 cars and reached capacity quickly at weekends which limited the number of visitors to Cairn Wood. The car park was accessed from the B170, which has a significant straight stretch that runs along the northern boundary of the site and cars travel at fast speeds along it. The 2 ingress/egress points to the car park needed upgraded and a one way in/one way out or a single entrance needed to be implemented to provide a safer egress from it onto the road. The capacity of the car park needed increased.

The wayfinding signage in the site was poor and offered little guidance to especially new visitors on the extent of the routes and features within the site. New wayfinding was proposed.

Following advice from trail designers it was deemed that the site was not suitable for any quality mountain bike trail offer. Instead, the focus was to deliver a green grade family cycling trail on the lower, flatter section of the site which would also allow it to be classed as a multi-use trail that walkers can also use especially those with limited mobility. Additional walking trails were to be added through the site to maximise the use of the area within the site and also certain viewpoint areas. It was also proposed to add the provision of a toilet block to serve the site. It was considered that if the provision of multi-use family cycling and easily accessible walking trails on the lower portion of the site were provided, as well as adding longer walking trails across the site then toilet facilities would be a necessary requirement.

PROJECT TIMETABLE

If there was a delay in completing the project, please provide narrative and details below

PHASE 1 – CAR PARK, TOILET BLOACK AND LOWER SECTION WALKING TRAILS

Project Start Date (estimated):	15/06/2020	Project Start Date (actual):	15/06/2020
Project Completion Date (estimated):	27/04/2021	Project Completion Date (actual):	18/08/2021

Delays:

- Car park and toilet block works - 3-week variance due to contractor delays in completing the M&E installation and lead in times for items being installed longer than expected.
- Lower section walking trails - construction works were scheduled to begin on site 28.01.21 and although the discharge of planning condition activities commenced on time approval to discharge the conditions was only received 31.03.21, as works could not begin until this approval was granted, this pushed out the programme.

PHASE 2 – UPPER SECTION WALKING TRAILS

Project Start Date (estimated):	16/08/2021	Project Start Date (actual):	13/10/2021
Project Completion Date (estimated):	31/01/2022	Project Completion Date (actual):	04/02/2022

Delays:

- Works commenced later than expected due to the length of time it took to discharge the planning conditions however the contractor completed the works earlier than expected and much in line with the original estimated completion date.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

Each of the main objectives of the project/programme, as laid out in the Business Case, should be examined, to determine how far they were met, and reasons given for any shortfall. It may be useful to include this in a tabular format.

Assess to what extent the objectives outlined in the economic appraisal were achieved using the key provided below and give a short explanation of each of them.

KEY	++ Fully Achieved	+ Partially Achieved	N/A Not Achieved
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Objective	Extent Achieved	Explanation
1. Improve health and wellbeing and promote active lifestyles	By the end of year 1 increase the number of visitors to the site by 25% compared to year 0 (from 50,000 to 62,500 per annum). There is an average of 10,000 people visiting the site per month (numbers gained via a people counter at the entrance)	Provide opportunities for residents to enjoy an active lifestyle and work to reduce social deprivation, isolation and inequality and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing in a safe environment.
2. Increase pride in the borough	Ensure the asset remains open to the public. The site remains open to the public and is being used by more people.	Ensure residents are engaged and empowered to help shape the future of the borough. Build on the public support for the continued use of this site as a public asset.
3. Invest and promote facilities and outdoor spaces	Facilitate better access by the creation of walking and cycling trails, wayfinding, upgraded car park and toilet facilities. By year 3 encourage at least 3 regular recreational or sporting events at the site. This may be nature walks or sponsored walks, running and cycling events.	Make the Borough an attractive place to live/visit through a variety of recreational and sporting facilities and events. Utilise the potential of this asset in the Borough.

	A range of events take place at Cairn Wood, from biodiversity events as well as running events etc.	
4. Provide a sustainable family orientated outdoor experience	Delivery of the enhanced trail network, wayfinding, extended car park and toilet amenities.	Delivery of a much needed facility in the Borough by making the most of this site.

Please include any additional information below (if applicable):

In general, the main objectives and benefits were

RISKS & CONSTRAINTS	<i>Assess to what extent the risks identified in the original appraisal occurred and the effectiveness of mitigation measures. Also, identify any additional risks associated with the project that were not foreseen in the economic appraisal.</i>
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KEY	++ Fully mitigated	+ Partially mitigated	N/M Not Mitigated
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Risk	Extent Mitigated Against	Explanation of the effectiveness of Risk Mitigation Measures
1. Budget - whilst cost should not initially limit the development of a vision, identified related option must be feasible and evidenced as value for money within the context of limited financial resources	Tendered for contractors for trail construction .	<p>Due to funding deadlines the car park had to be delivered by the Council's term contractors. This did cost more but couldn't be avoided. This could be mitigated in future by not applying for funding or trying to deliver a project without the planning permission being in place, so that a proper tender exercise can be completed to procure contractors at a competitive rate.</p> <p>There were also unforeseen ground conditions which increased the cost. If additional ground investigations had been carried out prior to construction this may have avoided or reduced the impact this had on delivery and budget.</p> <p>A proper investigation of drainage conditions was not carried out prior to construction. In future this would need to be considered to ensure that adequate drainage can be installed without the need for elaborate drainage/pumping system.</p>

<p>2. Funding – including external funding</p>	<p>The project was split into phases.</p>	<p>The first element (car park) was funded by Council, and the first 2 trails were funded by DAERA – TRIPSI funding.</p> <p>A second application for TRIPSI funding was applied for to deliver the additional 2 trails and because planning was already in place and the contractors had already been procured this was able to be delivered on time and under budget.</p> <p>The funders were critical of the underspend and advised that the costings given to us by the external consultancy team had been overestimated. This would need to be further scrutinised in future projects.</p>
<p>3. Regulatory including planning and environmental policies</p>	<p>The project was split into phases.</p>	<p>For phase 1 planning was a challenge as gaining the relevant permission took time meanwhile the deadline for the funding spend was running out.</p> <p>For phase 2 because planning was already in place it meant that the project was delivered in time and under budget.</p>
<p>4. Legal – Surrender of existing leases (where applicable). Potential issues may arise</p>	<p>Council's legal team responded quickly to information requests and returned information in a timely manner.</p>	<p>The renegotiation of the lease for the car park included its extension etc. Also, the licence agreement for the woodland area had to be agreed with Forest Service.</p> <p>The legal team acting on behalf of Forest Service were very slow to produce the required information and would not agree to any amendments suggested by Council's legal team. This issue has been raised with Forest Service.</p>
<p>5. Land ownership –</p>	<p>Regular meetings with Forest Service</p>	<p>While Council leases the car park and operates the recreation element of the woodland under licence, Forest Service retains ownership of the land. Council meets biannually with Forest Service to discuss issues such as site drainage and tree fell plans etc. Council also has to inform Forest Service when any events are being held up at Cairn Wood.</p>
<p>6. Timescale / Reputational –</p>	<p>A detailed programme was outlined for the project elements.</p>	<p>Car park and toilet block works - 3-week variance due to contractor delays in completing the M&E installation and lead in times for items being installed longer than expected.</p> <p>Lower section walking trails - construction works were scheduled to begin on site 28.01.21 and although the discharge of planning condition activities commenced on time approval to discharge the conditions was only received 31.03.21, as works could not begin until this approval</p>

		<p>was granted, this pushed out the programme.</p> <p>Any changes to the projected programme were communicated to the funders so they were aware.</p>
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Please include any additional information below (if applicable):

SECTION 2: ECONOMIC CASE REVIEW – Selection of the most preferred option

THE IDEAL OPTION	<p><i>Was the preferred option identified after options had been fully developed and appraised at the Outline Business Case stage? Was it fully implemented? Was there any change to the scope of works which resulted in re-evaluating the most preferred option?</i></p>
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A Total of 5 options were identified in the Outline Business Case and Option 2 was what was delivered.

Option 2: Enhancement of Existing Infrastructure at Cairn Wood – this involves the development of the existing infrastructure within the Cairn Wood side of the development in order to encourage growth in visitors but minimise disruption and investment. This includes extension of the existing car park, extending additional paths to the full extent of the site, development of separate mountain bike trails and improved signage for new visitors marking out separate walks.

The final scheme did not include the proposed mountain bike trails as the trail designers advised against this as there wasn't enough room within the site to make quality trails (when this was done the whole of Cairn wood was considered and we were still advised not to consider mountain bike trails). Also, during the public consultation process there was strong opposition to mountain bike trails as it was considered that it would create too much user conflict. The OBC only considered the part of the woodland that was owned at that time by NI Water, Forest Service owned the upper part of the woodland. By the time the project was being considered Forest Service had taken on the ownership of all of Cairn Wood which meant that more land was available, and a wider walking trail network could be accommodated.

The car park had been identified as needing improvement which was done as it was extended and surfaced. Toilets were not part of the proposed Option 2 but given the extent of the new trails and that some were classified as accessible it was considered appropriate to incorporate toilets into the scheme.

LESSONS LEARNED	<p><i>What lessons learned from similar projects were identified and taken into consideration?</i></p>
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N/A

NON-MONETARY COSTS & BENEFITS	<p><i>Each of the benefits projected in the Business Case should be examined to determine how fully they have been realised.</i></p> <p><i>If possible, please include evidence of how the non-monetary benefits have been achieved. If non-</i></p>
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		<i>monetary benefits have not been realised, please explain why</i>	
KEY		++ Fully Achieved	+ Partially Achieved / Not Achieved
Benefit (as specified in economic appraisal)	Extent Achieved	Description of how benefit was achieved? Explanation of why benefit was not achieved	
Improve health, wellbeing and promote active lifestyles: Provides opportunities for residents to enjoy an active lifestyle and work to reduce social deprivation and inequality	On average there are approx. 10,000 visits to the site every month.	An important reason for the development of active leisure facilities is to increase the general health of the local population within the West Belfast area. There are a number of aspects relating to the improvement of health and wellbeing across society that are anticipated as a result of quality active-leisure facilities including providing an opportunity for those in underactive groups to comfortably access facilities to improve health e.g. Prevention of Obesity, Diabetes and coronary heart disease.	
Increase pride in the borough: Ensure Council residents and visitors are engaged and empowered to help shape the future of our borough	On average there are approx. 10,000 visits to the site every month.	The degree to which the selected option can achieve an increase in civic pride is assessed in particular through examining the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Accessibility of the community to use the Site and associated facilities; • The services provided in terms of recreation/leisure facilities which develop good relations within the community and meet the needs of those at the margins of the community. 	
Enhance the visitor experience to increase visitor spend: Promote the cultural, recreational, sporting and event offering in the borough to attract visitors	On average there are approx. 10,000 visits to the site every month.	A key objective for the Council is to enhance the economic growth of any area surrounding its investment. The investment in the Site will draw individuals and visitors to the area and an important benefit is the extent of the increased footfall available to local businesses in the Ballysallagh/Craigantlet area. A new vendor has a pitch at the site serving refreshments etc. The delivery of the project now provides a high quality recreation offer with over 15km of trails, to suit a range of abilities giving many options for people to use the site for a wide range of abilities.	
Invest in and promote facilities and outdoor spaces: Make the borough an attractive place to live/visit through a variety of recreational and sporting facilities and events.	A number of events have been delivered and will continue to be going forward.	This criterion focuses primarily on the extent to which each of the options promotes the opportunity for recreational and sporting events to be held within the Borough area. Running and orientation clubs have held events at the site. Local conservation clubs have also used it for events and Council have run events also.	
ADDITIONAL INFO – UNEXPECTED BENEFITS OR DISBENEFITS		<i>Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 2: Economic Case Review e.g. Any benefits which emerged during the lifespan of the</i>	

project/programme which were not predicted in the Business Case should be outlined. If there were no unexpected benefits please record a note of this here.

The key benefits reflect the objectives of the Project set out previously:

- Improve health, wellbeing and promote active lifestyles: Provides opportunities for residents to enjoy an active lifestyle and work to reduce social deprivation and inequality.
- Increase pride in the borough: Ensure Council residents and visitors are engaged and empowered to help shape the future of our borough.
- Enhance the visitor experience to increase visitor spend: Promote the cultural, recreational, sporting and event offering in the borough to attract visitors.
- Invest in and promote facilities and outdoor spaces: We will make the borough an attractive place to live/visit through a variety of recreational and sporting facilities and events.

SECTION 3: COMMERCIAL CASE REVIEW – demonstrate how the ideal option resulted in a well-structured deal (where applicable).

DEMAND & BENEFITS *Did the project meet the demand?*

The baseline user figures pre any works was approx. 50,000 per annum. It was projected that the increase in visitors would be 65,000 visitors per annum. Based on visitor data collected at the site to date the average monthly usage is approx. 10,000, so it is exceeding the projected user figures. The enhancement of the site has provided opportunities for residents to enjoy an active lifestyle and work to reduce social deprivation, isolation and inequality and improve their physical and mental health and wellbeing in a safe environment.

The delivery of the walking and cycling trails, wayfinding, upgraded car park and toilet facilities has enabled wider access to the site. A running event has been held on site as well as orienteering events. Council commissioned a new updated survey of the site for orienteering and a map as well as new orienteering courses have been designed and are available on the Council's website. Scouting groups also use the site for orienteering purposes. A number of bat walks have taken place at the site and dawn chorus walks, Environmental Education workshops are also taking place. The investment in the site has created another accessible and useable asset in the Borough

The investment in the site has ensured that it has remained opened to the public. Preliminary feedback based on social media comments on progress posts relating to the project have been very positive regarding the parking, toilets and trails.

User surveys are planned when resources allow. Such surveys may identify any further interventions or animation that the users would like to see, and it will enable them to become empowered to help shape the future of the Borough and to build on the public support for the continued use of this site as a public asset.

It is planned to engage with users via biodiversity themes facilitated by the Councils Biodiversity Officer and in partnership with the local Red Squirrel and Pine Marten Group and external providers. Recreation themed events will also be explored further.

The site can now be used by a wider range of people as it is now more accessible and as such it provides a better connection with nature and provides an opportunity to raise awareness of environmental issues and the responsible use of such a resource. Right Side of the Outside signage has been erected at the site and the main wayfinding map also encourages responsible use of the site.

IMPLEMENTATION *Outline how this project was procured?*

ANDBC uses eTendersNI, the electronic procurement system for NI Central Government, agencies, and arm's length bodies, overseen by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), which ensures compliance with all legislative requirements and best practice. This includes the expectation that tenderers will contribute to achieving the UK Government's Net Zero carbon commitments and adhere to social value principles as well as incorporating social clauses to support the long term unemployed, apprentices, work experience opportunities and supporting the local community.

The tender documents were based on the NEC3 suite of conditions of contract. At this stage tenderers had to provide detailed costs and respond to specific quality questions relating to the project delivery. All responses were assessed by a suitable assessment panel and the best scoring tenderer was awarded the contract.

PHASE 1 – CAR PARK, TOILET BLOCK AND LOWER SECTION WALKING TRAILS

Given the initial timeframes it was necessary to use Council's own term contractors to deliver the carpark and toilets works who had already been through ANDBC's tendering process and were appointed so were available to commence the works within the required timeframes.

As the walking trails works were not able to commence until after the above works, there was sufficient time to go out to tender for a contractor. The tender documents were based on the NEC3 suite of conditions of contract. At this stage tenderers had to provide detailed costs and respond to specific quality questions relating to the project delivery. All responses were assessed by a suitable assessment panel and the best scoring tenderer was awarded the contract.

PHASE 2 – UPPER SECTION WALKING TRAILS

The tender documents were based on the NEC3 suite of conditions of contract. At this stage tenderers had to provide detailed costs and respond to specific quality questions relating to the project delivery. All responses were assessed by a suitable assessment panel and the best scoring tenderer was awarded the contract.

OPERATIONS

How was the project managed and operated?

Operational models which were fully explored and tested as part of the Business Case. An additional FTE member of Parks staff was included in the provision of the business case and this was incorporated into the operating budget for Parks and Cemeteries.

The Capital Project team managed the delivery of the capital project with support from an external Integrated Consultancy Team. The activities delivered included:

- Undertaking detailed surveys and analysis of ground conditions / contamination of site;
- Developing a masterplan into detailed designs (location of interventions, specifications etc.) from which works contracts can be priced);
- Progressing the project through planning;
- Development of the procurement for contractors;
- Assistance with the implementation of the contract;
- Management of the capital construction works.

A project board consisting of officers from the Capital Projects Team, the Director of Community and Wellbeing, the Head of Service of Leisure, the Head of Service of Parks and Cemeteries and the Outdoor Recreation Officer, as well as representatives from the consulting company met monthly to progress the project as well as having regular contact in between to agree details, designs, documents etc. The contractors also attended the meetings to give updates on progress etc. On occasion representatives from Forest Service and the funders DAERA also attended.

The Communities and Wellbeing Directorate, Parks and Cemeteries Team, will have primary responsibility for the project as “clients” during the implementation, with responsibility for operation and maintenance of the facilities and ensuring maximum use by local residents as well as ensuring opportunities for educational development are maximised.

The Communications and Tourism Teams also aided during the project management for the public consultation and project updates and once completed, to promote events etc.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 3: Commercial Case Review

SECTION 4: FINANCIAL CASE REVIEW – demonstrate that the ideal option was affordable.**MONETARY COSTS AND BENEFITS**

Briefly explain whether the costing assumptions and estimates of targeted benefits made at the project's inception proved realistic; a comparison of estimated and actual cost savings and efficiency improvements

Capital Cost

Total Capital Cost (excluding OB)	Total Estimated OB Adjusted Capital Cost (A)*	Actual Cost (B)	Variation between A and B (%)
N/a	£963,314	£981,836	£18,522

**If no Optimism Bias was applied, please calculate the variation between the Capital Cost (excl. OB) and the Actual Cost.*

Please explain any variation in capital cost below:

Minor variation only (0.02%), project delivered within budget tolerances.

FUNDING

How was the project funded?

CAPITAL FUNDING

Total Capital	PHASE 1 (£)	PHASE 2 (£)	TOTAL (£)
Council	£319,570	£25,407	£344,977
Other Funders	£492,886	£143,973	£636,859
TOTAL	£812,456	£169,380	£981,836

Phase 1 costs relate to the car park works and lower trails.

Phase 2 costs relate to the upper trails.

NPV/NPC CALCULATIONS

The estimated NPV in the Business Case should be compared with the actual NPV and reasons given for any variance. It would be useful if you could append both the original NPV and the actual resultant NPV. If NPVs were not carried out in the Business Case, please record a note of this here.

	Economic Appraisal	Actual	Variation between EA and Actual
Total Capital Cost £ (without Optimism Bias)		£981,836	
Total Annual Net Recurrent Cost (£)		-	
Total Annual Benefit (£)		-	
Net Present Cost £ (without Optimism Bias)		£981,836	

Non-Monetary Benefits Ranking				
Risk Assessment (H/M/L)				

NPVs were not carried out in the Business Cases submitted to DAERA for the funding.

ADDITIONAL INFO	<i>Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 4: Financial Case Review</i>
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SECTION 5: MANAGEMENT CASE REVIEW – Demonstrate robust plans were in place for delivery, monitoring and evaluation.
GOVERNANCE

The purpose of this section is to identify factors that went well or did not go well with respect to the management of the project and which can be applied to future projects. Please consider:

Factors	Comments
a) What aspects of the project management structure worked well?	The project board meetings and the professional working relationships between all parties.
b) Were there any aspects that worked poorly or were lacking?	Time taken to discharge the planning conditions, statutory consultees are meant to respond within 21 working days, however for many of the conditions this time exceeded the target response time and impacted programme.
c) Is there anything that could have been done differently?	More ground investigations prior to the car park works would have highlighted the issues in the underlying ground conditions and would potentially have avoided remedial works to the car park where there was some subsidence experienced.
d) Did any unforeseen issues arise that affected the project management process?	The significant time that would be required to discharge the planning conditions was not realised, target response time for statutory consultees is 21 workings days and this was the timeframe built into the programme however this was significantly exceeded.
e) How well were the risks managed?	Risks were managed effectively through the Project Board. A risk register was prepared and reviewed at each Project Board meeting and updated thereafter to reflect the status. Risks were identified, scored on probability of occurrence and potential impact on project budget, programme, and quality.
f) Are there any remaining issues which need to be addressed?	No outstanding issues, all defects addressed accordingly within the defects period.
g) Did the scope of the project change during implementation?	All scope changes were implemented early in the project prior to construction i.e. toilet block to be included which was not incorporated in the initial concept designs.
h) Were there problems with the contractor/contracted party?	Both contractors were flexible and communication with the team was strong throughout.
i) Were quality expectations met?	Yes.

LESSONS LEARNED & RECOMMENDATIONS

A high-level summary of the main recommendations/lessons learned with respect to the implementation of the project.

Identify factors which can be usefully applied to future projects. Also make recommendations as to how to improve future appraisals and future management of projects.

Lesson Learned	Recommendations
<p>Planning should be in place before applying for funding and commencing capital project.</p>	<p>Secure planning permission before applying for funding or commencing the capital project to ensure there is adequate time to fully explore all elements of the project, to ensure that potential issues such as ground conditions, drainage etc are highlighted. Also, that any planning conditions can be fully discharged. Also, to ensure that the funding deadlines can be realistically achieved. Also, to allow for the procurement of both consultants and contractors.</p>
<p>To liaise better with the maintenance team from Property and Assets and Parks and Cemeteries</p>	<p>Elements may need to be included that will make the operational management of the facility to be more efficient.</p>
<p>Develop a better communication strategy</p>	<p>A strategy would continue to inform the public as to what stages or what was happening. A lot of individual queries were received which took considerable time to respond to.</p>
<p>Need to liaise with Property and Assets</p>	<p>It transpired that the toilets had been over specified to a degree in terms of heating etc. This placed a drain on the off grid energy supply in the initial stages and Council electricians had to retrospectively change or turn off some equipment to reduce the supply need. A</p>
<p>Bins</p>	<p>There was an issue with bins at the site in relation to dog waste. additional bins were provided at the top of the entrance ramp and are now being well used. Even though 6 bins were installed in the car park people didn't use these that much.</p>
<p>Trailhead panel revision</p>	<p>When the trailhead was installed, people complained it was the wrong way round, in that when they were looking at it they wanted the trails/site to be orientated as it would be from the starting point as opposed to it being orientated geographically correct. it had to be amended.</p>
<p>Width of the drainage gulleys</p>	

	<p>The verges at the edge of the trails in certain sections of the site need trimmed to prevent the vegetation encroaching onto/over the path. It transpired that the gulleys over the drainage channels were not wide enough to allow the tractor with the flail across them, so they had to be retrospectively widened to allow passage of the tractor.</p>
Funding	<p>Rather than applying for funding first then trying to deliver the project, funding should not be applied for until the OBC, planning and consultants are in pace. This does involve Council proceeding at risk and having to pay for these elements before any funding is gained to deliver the capital project. Feedback has been given to funders such as DAERA to highlight the challenges of the planning process and capital delivery with a one year funding delivery window etc.</p>
Need for a management plan for the site	<p>It has been an operational challenge to maintain the site after the capital project has finished. Cairn Wood was a new site for the Parks and Cemeteries team to manage and a lot of the maintenance over the first-year post completion has been reactionary. It is proposed to develop a management plan in conjunction with the staff who actively manage it. This should reduce complaints from the public and keep the resource in a well managed state.</p>
Need to liaise with Cleansing on the specification for their toilet locks	<p>There was a delay in opening the toilets as the</p>
Energy needs of site	<p>It transpired that the cost of NIE grid connection was extremely expensive, and this was only discovered once the project had begun. This then required an off grid system to be specified and the planning permission required for that took an extremely long time. Earlier discussions with NIE may have mitigated this issue.</p>
Capacity of car park	<p>While the car park has increased in capacity by a factor of 5 it is at capacity on a regular basis, and it limits the size of events that can be accommodated at the site. It would be prudent to build in further capacity for parking into projects. It may need to be increased in the future.</p>
Drainage provision	<p>It was not realised until well into the project that in order to drain the car park, given the fall of the car park there was nowhere to discharge the runoff at</p>

	<p>the lower end of the car park. It then needed to be pumped back up to a drain at the higher end of the site which required considerable infrastructure to do so.</p>
<p>Enclosure along road boundary</p>	<p>While the original car park had no enclosure along the road it became apparent that enclosure was needed when we were alerted to the fact that a number of dogs had been killed on the road which runs along the boundary of the car park. Also, part of one of the new trails runs parallel to the road also and again in order to reduce the likelihood of dogs or children going to that boundary it needed to be fenced off.</p>
<p>ADDITIONAL INFO</p>	<p><i>Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 5: The Management Case</i></p>
<p>n/a</p>	

Once Completed, the Post Project Evaluation is signed off by the relevant Senior Responsible Owner and reported to relevant Council Committee and Council.

Detailed guidance on project appraisal, evaluation, approval and management is available from the Strategic Capital Project and Programme Unit at PCU@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk ext. 40604

Ards and North Down Borough Council
 Town Hall, The Castle
 Bangor, BT20 4BT
 T: 0300 013 3333

www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

APPENDICES	Supporting documents		

Unclassified

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Circulated for Information

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	13 March 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	22 February 2024
File Reference	CW4
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Notification of a petition received
Attachments	Petition

Members are advised as per convention that the attached petition was received by the Chief Executive in February 2024, concerning the public consultation and the resulting Councils decision in October 2023 to enhance play provision in Kircubbin, that also included the closure of the playpark at Parsonage Road in the village.

The petition wording was not included but it is understood that it is to oppose the aforementioned closure decision.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note this petition that has been circulated for information.

(16)

- ~~Anne Torney Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK 20~~
~~Christopher Stewart Tower Hamlets England E14 UK 20:~~
~~Dolores Kennedy Belfast BT UK 2023-12-15~~
~~Dorothy Atcheson Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 UK :~~
~~Ryan Fowler Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 2QR U~~
~~Kelly McCallum Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 2rj~~
~~Rebecca Todd Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK 2~~
~~Daniel Gilmore Belfast BT6 UK 2023-12-16~~
~~Paul Todd Bangor Northern Ireland BT19 UK 2023-12-16~~
~~Kevin Atcheson Hammersmith W6 UK 2023-12-16~~
~~Samantha Hawthorne Newtownards Northern Ireland BT~~
~~Molly Atcheson Newtownabbey Northern Ireland BT37 U~~
~~Leah Robertson Greenville Virginia 24440 US 2023-12-11~~
~~Mary Atcheson Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK~~
~~nicole mellon Kircubbin Northern Ireland Bt22 2sp UK 20~~
~~Jennifer Denise McCaul Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT2~~
~~Devlyn Lennon Omagh Northern Ireland BT78 UK 2023-1~~
~~Barry Woods Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 2RL U~~
~~Stephen Mcgrattan Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 2R~~
~~Laura Johns Auckley Dn93nj UK 2023-12-16~~
~~Evelyn Dorrian Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK~~
~~Laura McConnell Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 U~~
~~Rebecca Timmins Wiltshire England Sn11 9fh UK 2023-1:~~
~~Barbara Morrow Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 U~~
~~Sue Cone Hull England HU13 9DS UK 2023-12-16~~
~~Julie Stuart Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK 20:~~

(20)

(11)

Avril Gilmore Belfast BT6 UK 2023-12-16

Helen Earley Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK 2

Pauline Rogan Belfast BT5 UK 2023-12-16

Chloe Savage Belfast Northern Ireland BT16 UK 2023-1

Dorothy Atcheson Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22

C-Jay Copeland Omagh Northern Ireland BT79 UK 2023

Damian Woods Bangor Northern Ireland BT20 UK 2023-

Daire Lyttle Ballynahinch Northern Ireland BT24 UK 20

Christine Wilson Omagh Northern Ireland BT79 UK 2023

Karl Barnett Kircubbin Northern Ireland Bt22 2sl UK 20

Pauline Rogan Belfast BT5 UK 2023-12-17

Bethany Fortune Duff Edinburgh EH11 UK 2023-12-17

D Montgomery Derry Northern Ireland BT47 5SX UK 20

Suzanne hutchison Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23

Sharon Woods Kircubbin Northern Ireland Bt221ah UK 2

Donna Atcheson-Airdrie ME6 UK 2023-12-17

Margaret Murray Portaferry Northern Ireland Bt22 1n

A Nash Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 1GA UK 20

Brian Miskimmin Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 U

Pauline Rowland Lewisham England SE13 5EL UK 2023-

Darren Stewart Belfast Northern Ireland BT22 UK 202:

Jamie Martin Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK 2

Niamh Fitzsimmons Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 2Q

(20)

(9)

(14)

- ~~May Agar Guildford GU1 UK 2023-12-17~~
~~Lynn Brown Omagh Northern Ireland BT78 UK 2023-12-~~
~~Faadil Khan Blackburn BB1 UK 2023-12-17~~
~~Yasmin Faye Newtownards Northern Ireland BT221nt UI~~
~~Shannon Murray Belfast Northern Ireland BT16 UK 202~~
~~Zoe Johnston Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT222RL UK 21~~
~~Christine Mcgrattan Kircubbin, Ards and North Down NI~~
~~UK 2023-12-17~~
~~Melisa Arman London N17 opa UK 2023-12-17~~
~~Jenna Kayes St. Helens WA9 4uj UK 2023-12-17~~
~~Leanne Morgan Belfast Northern Ireland BT16 UK 2023~~
~~Ashleigh Andrews Belfast Northern Ireland BT11 UK 20~~
~~Louise Gilmore Kircubbin Newtownards Northern Ireland~~
~~2023-12-17~~
~~David Mason Portaferry Northern Ireland BT22 1lt UK 2~~
~~Jaleel Hama Amin Colchester CO4 UK 2023-12-17~~
~~Fionnuala McKenna Newtownards Northern Ireland BT2:~~
~~Sandra Fowler Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK~~
~~Megan Mcilwaine Belfast BT5 UK 2023-12-18~~
~~Anna Coyle Bangor Northern Ireland BT19 UK 2023-12-~~
~~Joanne Rushe "" "" UK 2023-12-18~~
~~Margaret Todd Bangor Northern Ireland BT19 UK 2023-~~
~~Ebado Ibrahim Leicester LE5 UK 2023-12-18~~
~~Robert Conniff Cardiff CF5 UK 2023-12-18~~
~~Ms Amanda L Smith Coventry CV6 UK 2023-12-18~~

① ②

Klaus-Juergen Kessel Winnersh England RG41 UK 2023-
Josef Pechar Edinburgh EH106HF UK 2023-12-18
Grace Watts Liverpool L3 UK 2023-12-18
K-Burke Nahasher London Nw11 UK 2023-12-19
Abigail McGlinchey Hove BN3 UK 2023-12-19
John w Hamilton Musselburgh Scotland Eh21 6qz UK 202
Lynda Blackston Manchester BL9 8PJ UK 2023-12-19
Francoise Ladreyt Hellingly BN27 4DG UK 2023-12-19
Paula Robinson Ballywalter Northern Ireland BT22 2PH I
Kit-Maria Braender Hove BN3 UK 2023-12-19
Patrick Hughes Ballynahinch Northern Ireland BT24 UK
Wendy Stanton Nottingham NG16 UK 2023-12-19
Serwet Kousar Lancashire BB95DN UK 2023-12-19
Dabinder Kaur Irvine Ka12 0jr UK 2023-12-19
Caroline Wright Bognor Regis PO212BU UK 2023-12-19
mersiha muratovic London SW9 6nb UK 2023-12-19
Diana Stewart Salford M5 UK 2023-12-19
Rashpal Bhatti Wallington SM6 UK 2023-12-19
Tracey Mc keever london sw3 5ay UK 2023-12-19
Maureen Walsh Croydon CR07tg UK 2023-12-19
Shazia Tariq Bradford BD59nx UK 2023-12-19
Stephanie Lewis Brighton CA2 UK 2023-12-19

16

Thomas Ritchie Belfast Northern Ireland BT12 UK 202:
 Jenny McBride Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 2S
 Jonnie Clarke Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK
 Philip Hughes Rotherham England S65 UK 2023-12-29
 Christopher Wright Belfast BT5 UK 2023-12-29
 Caitlin Armstrong Newtownards Northern Ireland BT2:
 Megan Dyer Bangor Northern Ireland BT22 UK 2023-1:
 Shabina Shahid Huddersfield England Hd2 1na UK 202:
 mishka pearson Stourbridge DY9 UK 2023-12-29
 Jude Miskimmin Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 L
 Suzanne Bell Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 2RG
 Kirsty Holdaway Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22
 Dianne Bell Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 1AJ UK 21
 Sheenagh Gipp Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UI
 R Gilmore Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK 202
 Nicola Gilmore Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK
 Alan Todd Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK 202
 Lorenzo McMullan Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22
 Catriona Dugan Lisburn Northern Ireland BT28 UK 202
 Colin Sinclair Ballymena Northern Ireland BT42 UK 202
 Alistair Bell Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 1AJ UK 2
 Demi McN Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK 202
 Deborah Adams Ballynahinch Northern Ireland BT24 U
 Cheryl Mcmanus Newtownards Northern Ireland Bt22

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- Jo Smith Guildford GU1 UK 2023-12-21
- Matilda Meka Dover CT15 UK 2023-12-21
- Christine Quinn Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 L
- Samuel Malley Bristol BS148DG UK 2023-12-21
- Conor Busuttill Newport Wales; Cymru NP18 3EW UK 20
- JAMIE FAYE Ballynahinch Northern Ireland BT24 UK 2
- Fergal Hughes Omagh Northern Ireland BT79 UK 2023-
- Matthew Clarke City of Westminster W9 UK 2023-12-:
- Ian Miller Poulton le fylde Fy6 7rl UK 2023-12-22
- Helen Hopkins Oldham OL8 4NX UK 2023-12-22
- Erin Smethurst Leigh WN7 UK 2023-12-22
- Stacey McAuley Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 L
- D Khan Blackburn BB1 UK 2023-12-22
- Maxine Heywood Manchester M25 UK 2023-12-22
- Tessa Stewart Cambridge CB3 9EU UK 2023-12-23
- Tonia Cristina De Sousa Birmingham England B26 UK
- Kevin Gilroy Darlington DL1 UK 2023-12-23
- Sue Lethbridge Romsey England SO51 5PU UK 2023-12
- David Yuill Glasgow Scotland G13 2HP UK 2023-12-23
- Ann sugden Keighley bd21 1lq UK 2023-12-23
- Ingrid G Price Manchester SK4 UK 2023-12-23
- Chrissy McClelland Bangor Northern Ireland BT22 1ET
- Andrew Williams Cleethorpes DN35 UK 2023-12-24
- NATALIE ADAMS Tadworth KT20 6qz UK 2023-12-24
- Phil Kew Notting Hill W11 UK 2023-12-24
- sara Mcmeekin Glasgaw Scotland G21 UK 2023-12-24

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(22)

◆◆ Name City State Postal Code Country Signed On
 chris atcheson "" "" UK 2023-12-15

Jacqui Woods Newtownards BT4 UK 2023-12-15

Michael Woods Tczew 83-110 Poland 2023-12-15

Dean Woods Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 2RL UK 20

Jordan Henderson Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23

Jenna Heron Ballymena Northern Ireland BT44 UK 2023-

Courtney Barr Newtownards BT22 21QS UK 2023-12-15

Emma Breadon Southwark SE1P UK 2023-12-15

Joanne Hutchison Cloughey Northern Ireland BT22 1gb L

Ciaran Lyttle Belfast BT5 UK 2023-12-15

Sean Fowler Kircubbin Northern Ireland Bt22 2qr UK 20:

Marty Miskimmin Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 L

Caileigh Atcheson Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT222QR

Gareth Roddy Belfast Northern Ireland BT14 UK 2023-

erin miskimmin Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK

Katarzyna Mackey Bangor Northern Ireland BT19 UK 20

Jess Mackey Bangor Northern Ireland BT19 UK 2023-12-

Glenn Woods Kircubbin Northern Ireland Bt222rl UK 202

Sarah Atcheson Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 2QR U

Shane Woods Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 UK 2023-

Kelly Atcheson Belfast BT8 UK 2023-12-15

Donna Roddy Kir Northern Ireland BT22 UK 2023-12-15

Maria Fogarty Kircubbin Northern Ireland BT22 2QR UK

Danny Kelly Omagh Northern Ireland BT78 UK 2023-12-

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Bettina Hunniford Ballyhalbert Northern Ireland BT22
 Kellie Armstrong MLA Newtownards Northern Ireland
 Josie Atcheson Newtownards Northern Ireland BT23 UK
 nicole stewart New York New York 10013 US 2024-01-2
 Jodie Taggart Newtownards Northern Ireland bt22 2sc
 Pauline Kelly Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 1Hh
 Stephen Fagan Grange-over-Sands England LA11 UK
 Eamonn Magennis Hackney E5 UK 2024-01-29
 Patricia O'Rourke Dungannon Northern Ireland BT71 U
 Freddie Windrum Croydon CR0 UK 2024-01-29
 Oliver Gilmore Belfast Northern Ireland Bt221dr UK 2
 Emma Finlay Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK
 Tania Gregory Newtownards Northern Ireland BT22 UK
 Berni Quinn "" "" Portugal 2024-01-29
 Ryan Busuttil Belfast Northern Ireland BT12 UK 2024-
 Claire McClure Wakefield WF1 UK 2024-01-30
 Julie Gallagher Leeds England LS99 UK 2024-01-30
 John Young Downpatrick Northern Ireland BT30 UK 202
 Emma Rogan Belfast Northern Ireland BT14 UK 2024-
 brenda arthurs Kircubbin Northern Ireland bt22 1at U

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