

November 20th, 2023

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 15th November 2023** at **7:00 pm** in **Church Street, Newtownards.**

Agenda

Zoom Guidance

Agenda

[Agenda C&WC 15.11.2023.pdf](#)

Page 1

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

3. Environmental Health Protection and Development Annual Activity Report 2022-2023

(Report attached)

[3. Environmental Health Protection and Development Annual Activity Report 2022-2023.pdf](#)

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4. Creating a Smokefree Generation and Tackling Youth Vaping: An Open Consultation

(Attached)

[4. Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping consultation October 23.pdf](#)

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[4.1 Appendix Proposed Consultation Response.pdf](#)

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5. Hardship Funding

(Attached)

[5. Hardship Funding.pdf](#)

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[5.1 Appendix Hardship Fund Breakdown.pdf](#)

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6. Social Supermarket

[6. Social Supermarket.pdf](#)

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7. Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Grants 2023-2024

[7. Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Grants 2023-2024.pdf](#)

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8. Multi Annual Arts Grants 2024-2026

(Attached)

[!\[\]\(c507f772dba2b921f86777f01218e570_img.jpg\) 8. Multi-Annual Arts Grants 2024-2026.pdf](#) Page 58

9. Accreditation Achieved by North Down Museum

(Attached)

[!\[\]\(a03a7eb2f4046e1d3c76772003e549ea_img.jpg\) 9. Accreditation achieved by North Down Museum.pdf](#) Page 61

10. Trial of Dogs in the Courtyard at North Down Museum

(Attached)

[!\[\]\(3e2231b1ad3ca8da8658228c00dd08e0_img.jpg\) 10. Trial of Dogs in the Courtyard at North Down Museum.pdf](#) Page 63

11. Ending the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and Action Plan

(Attached)

[!\[\]\(4fe57c3593bf1b21d272ae7ac8dfaf77_img.jpg\) 11. Ending the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and Action Plan.pdf](#) Page 65

[!\[\]\(0d5ec72f61334709c3fc9450209b754f_img.jpg\) 11.1 Appendix 1 Draft response to Ending the Violence Against Women and Girls.pdf](#) Page 66

[!\[\]\(b792654f2cef9719eabeb6c5be00811e_img.jpg\) 11.2 Appendix 2 Consultation Document.pdf](#) Page 68

[!\[\]\(7d1d6890825e83a6a4a51febe2dcc7f3_img.jpg\) 11.3 Appendix 3 Action Plan.pdf](#) Page 99

[!\[\]\(2bae76de5ebbd5c4d7d47162f1673734_img.jpg\) 11.4 Appendix 4 Strategic Framework.pdf](#) Page 101

12. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants - WG October 2023

[!\[\]\(84f47badaad7772cd95667a7c387a639_img.jpg\) 12. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants - WG October 2023.pdf](#) Page 157

[!\[\]\(28f72b996fc97883dfd9d4e8b1b16b4e_img.jpg\) 12.1 Appendix 1 - Successful Equipment Report for Noting.pdf](#) Page 159

[!\[\]\(5d954b3e270654ad8ab0d5913161c03c_img.jpg\) 12.2 Appendix 2 - Successful Equipment Report for Approval.pdf](#) Page 160

[!\[\]\(aff7c69c44a5e015f18c35867ef3f5c3_img.jpg\) 12.3 Appendix 3 - Successful Event Report for Approval.pdf](#) Page 163

[!\[\]\(c15650232aa6660c9deb34f3b82dcb72_img.jpg\) 12.4 Appendix 4 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting.pdf](#) Page 164

13. Ward Park Redevelopment Update

(Attached)

📎 13. Ward Park Redevelopment Update.pdf

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📎 13.1 Appendic 1 Ward Park Poject Brief.pdf

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📎 13.2 Appendix Ward Park Presentation.pdf

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📎 13.3 Appendix 3 LA06 2016 1108 F Ward Park Planning Approval.pdf

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📎 13.4 Appendix 4 LA06 2016 1108 F Ward Park Planning Approval Drawing.pdf

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📎 13.5 Appendix 5 Public Info sheet on the Project and Desilting Works.pdf

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14. Receipt of Petition

(Attached)

📎 14. Receipt of Petition.pdf

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📎 14.1 Appendix Details of Petition Received.pdf

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15. Any Other Notified Business

(Attached)

*****IN CONFIDENCE*****

16. PEACEPLUS Partnership Minutes

📎 16. PEACEPLUS Partnership Minutes.pdf

Not included

📎 16.1 Appendix 1 Minutes PEACEPLUS Partnership 14th September 2023.pdf

Not included

📎 16.2 Appendix 2 Minutes Special PEACEPLUS Partnership 25th September 2023.pdf

Not included

17. Whitespots Country Park Appointment of Integrated Consultancy Team

(Attached)

📄 17. *Whitespots Country Park Appointment of Integrated Consultancy Team.pdf*

Not included

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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8 November 2023

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via zoom) of the Community and Wellbeing Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 15 November 2023** 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
3. Environmental Health Protection and Development Annual Activity Report 2022-2023 (Report attached)
4. Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: an open consultation (Report attached)
5. Hardship Funding (Report attached)
6. Social Supermarket (Report attached)
7. Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Grants 2023-2024 (Report attached)
8. Multi Annual Arts Grants 2024-2026 (Report attached)
9. Accreditation achieved by North Down Museum (Report attached)
10. Trial of Dogs in the Courtyard at North Down Museum (Report attached)
11. Ending the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and Action Plan (Report attached)
12. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants – WG October 2023 (Report attached)
13. Ward Park Redevelopment Update (Report attached)

14. Receipt of Petition (Report attached)
15. Any Other Notified Business

ITEMS 16 to 17 * IN CONFIDENCE*****

16. PEACEPLUS Partnership Minutes (Minutes Attached)
17. Whitespots Country Park Appointment of Integrated Consultancy Team (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)

Alderman Adair	Councillor Douglas
Alderman Brooks	Councillor Holywood
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	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	27 October 2023
File Reference	CW45
Legislation	Various
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Environmental Health Protection and Development Annual Activity Report 2022-2023
Attachments	None

Under the Councils scheme of delegation and in order to allow for timely service delivery, the application of legislation relating to Environmental Health matters has been delegated through the Councils Scheme of Delegation to officers to implement. A condition of this delegated authority is that related activity is reported to Council from time to time. The following is the report for the 2022-2023 year and includes such delegated activity.

1.0 Summary of Environmental Health Protection and Development Service Activity 2022-23

The role of the Environmental Health Protection and Development Department is to contribute to ensuring a better quality of life for all. From the Health Protection perspective, the service monitors, advises and enforces compliance with Food, Public Health, Pollution, Health and Safety at Work, Consumer Safety and Housing

Not Applicable

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legislation and standards to protect the public from physical, chemical and biological agents, and conditions that may cause ill health or harm.

1.1 Functions within the department

The range of statutory and non-statutory functions delivered on behalf of the Council are as follows:

1. Food Control (including food manufacturing and fisheries).
2. Consumer Protection. (safety of consumer goods)
3. Health and Safety at Work
 - Caravan Site Licensing
 - Petroleum Licensing
 - Sunbeds
 - Fireworks
4. Pollution Control
 - Noise
 - Air quality
5. Public Health (nuisance)
 - Pest Control
 - Private rented Housing
6. Health and Wellbeing / Health initiatives including:
 - Affordable Warmth.
 - Tobacco Control
 - Home Safety
 - Community Planning lead for Age Friendly, Community Resuscitation,
 - Whole Systems Approach to Obesity
 - Health Development including Employee Health and Wellbeing

1.2 Service Provision

Service provision includes

- service requests,
- planned inspections & proactive visits to commercial premises and
- wellbeing intervention activities.

1.2.1 Service Requests

Not Applicable

Service requests relate to individuals' requests for assistance for example in relation to pest control, or when the activities of one party cause an adverse effect on another for example in relation to nuisance and pollution.

The number of service requests by category 2022-23.

Department Function	Number of Requests
Pest Control	572
General Environmental Health	451
Food Hygiene and Standards	491
Pollution Control	1138
Private Tenancies Complaints	104
Health and Safety	165
Consumer Protection	19
Tobacco Control	6
Caravan/Petroleum Licensing	6
Total	2952

In addition to the above, 75 property inspections were carried out under the Private Tenancies Order to have homes assessed against the fitness standard.

A total of 110 statutory notices were issued under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, to secure environmental improvements and abatement of nuisances.

Officers responded to 281 consultations from the Council's planning department on planning matters that could potentially affect public or environmental health, and 202 licensing consultations in relation to entertainment premises.

The performance indicator target for a response to service requests is 94% within two working days. For the year 2022/23 the objective was achieved, with 94.5% of requests responded to within the target period.

The number of service requests received in 2022/23 was lower than for 2021/22, but still around 10% higher than pre-Covid levels.

1.3 Planned Inspection and Proactive visits to commercial premises

There are currently 4161 operating commercial premises on the Environmental Health database. During the year 3469 inspections were made to assess compliance with legislation, to educate business operators on new legislation and requirements and to obtain samples. In order to reduce the burden on businesses many of these visits were carried out concurrently with officers assessing a range of legislative compliance - for example food hygiene, food standards and tobacco control addressed by an officer during one visit. Businesses and premises are risk assessed

Not Applicable

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to ensure that those which might present the greatest potential risk to public health are visited most frequently.

2.0 Area Specific Performance

2.1 Food Control

The Food Control Service continued to meet the requirements of the FSA's biannual returns in 22/23 to ensure alignment with the Food Law Code of Practice. In addition to the routine inspection of food premises and the reactive work in dealing with complaints and notification of food poisoning incidents, a food sampling programme was undertaken.

Food Hygiene

- Inspected all category A premises
- Investigated food poisoning 67 identifications on behalf of the Public Health Agency and dealt with 14 alleged food poisoning reports.
- Reacted to and actioned 414 complaints regarding premises hygiene.
- Collected 610 food samples for microbiological analysis.
- 164 new businesses received an onsite inspection.
- Served eight Hygiene Improvement Notices.
- Served one Remedial Action Notice.
- Two Food businesses closed voluntarily.

Food Standards

- Five A rated premises inspected for food standards.
- Collected 78 food samples for chemical analysis.
- Investigated 72 complaints regarding allergens, composition, and labelling irregularities.
- Participated in two Northern Ireland surveys, nutritional analysis of children's meals in restaurants and prepared meals claiming under 500 calories.

2.2 Consumer Protection

The consumer protection team provides a support and advisory service to local manufacturers, suppliers, and distributors of non-food consumer products in respect of their safety. The activities that have been undertaken include:

- Populated a database with details of all known local manufacturers, importers, and first-time distributors (and most retail and other outlets)
- Planned a targeted programme of work on a quarterly basis
- Participated in the work of the Northern Ireland Consumer Protection Group (NICPG)
- Disseminated information and advice provided through NICPG various areas such as construction products, button batteries and structural steel manufacturers

Not Applicable

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- Investigated complaints
- Provided advice following requests from local manufacturers of toys, golf buggies, upholstered furniture, and cosmetics.

2.3 Health and Safety, Caravan Site and Petroleum Licensing

Health and Safety

A total of 2668 premises were registered for health and safety on 31 March 2023, and 461 health and safety visits were completed during the year. The breakdown of these visits is as follows;

350	Inspections & Revisits
36	Inspections of Tattooists and Overstocking Visits
38	Visits to investigate accidents
13	Visits in response to requests for advice
18	Visits in response to complaints about premises or work activities
6	Visits in relation to Firework Display applications

Visits to assess compliance with general Health and Safety legislation increased from the previous year with the relaxation in Covid-19 restrictions from February 2022 releasing resources that had been redirected to deal with service requests and visits regarding these restrictions.

One fatal accident, at a premises operating as a domiciliary care facility on 11/1/23

18 Improvement Notices were served in relation to serious contraventions or continuing non-compliance

Five Prohibition Notices were issued in relation to circumstances presenting an imminent risk of injury

One Formal Caution was issued following a serious accident.

Two prosecutions were instituted in respect of issues presenting a serious risk to health or safety.

One prosecution was completed for non-compliance with Improvement Notices served regarding the condition of roads, fencing and lighting at a residential home park.

Caravan Site Licensing.

The Health and Safety team is also responsible for this function; involving an annual assessment visit to each of the 26 Caravan Sites located throughout the Borough,

Not Applicable

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and revisits as necessary. 36 Visits to Caravan Sites were completed within the year. Officers also complete a Health and Safety inspection of sites where this is due.

Petroleum Licensing.

This is another area of enforcement covered by the Health and Safety Team, with two Health and Safety Officers who have received topic specific training responsible for this licensing function.

During this period 46 inspections and seven revisits were completed of filling stations located within the borough in order to ensure that licences were issued in a timely manner. Health and Safety Inspections of the premises have been completed in a single combined visit where appropriate.

Firework Licence Applications.

Officers are warranted by the Department of Justice Firearms and Explosives Branch (FEB) and provide comments and where necessary additional conditions to the FEB, who in turn issue Licences for fireworks display if officers are content that it is safe to do so.

Six Firework Licence applications were assessed by officers for displays held within the Borough. This is significantly less than the number assessed in previous years. Officers also inspected two premises where Fireworks or flares are stored and which is registered under the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations.

2.4 Pollution Control

Pollution Control – Noise

754 complaints about noise were received in 2022-2023. This was similar to the number of complaints received in 2021-2022, maintaining the significant increase of complaints recorded between 2019/20 and 2020/21.

EHPD deal with 100% of the complaints that are received. Of the 754 complaints received approximately 44% wanted to proceed after their initial contact. Complaints may not progress past initial information and advice for a number of reasons including; where a disturbance is reported as a side issue to a wider neighbour dispute or a reciprocal complaint; where complainants are unwilling to provide their details or engage in the necessary procedures; where complainants are reluctant to proceed fearing a negative reaction from noise sources or on social media, or where complainants are open to approaching the source directly.

Not Applicable

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At the stage of a formal investigation, complainants may again choose not to proceed if they are not prepared to collect the evidence required or appear as a witness in court.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 – S.65 Noise Abatement Notices.

Of the 118 complaints formally investigated, eight abatement notices were served within the financial year with other continuing investigations leading to further notices outside of this period. An abatement notice is served in all cases where a statutory nuisance is established, and legal proceedings consequently instituted, if continued disturbance is reported and breach of notice is established.

Of the abatement notices served four related to dogs barking excessively, two related to music and amplified noise from domestic property, one to music and radio playing through an outdoor PA system at a Filling Station and one to noise from external plant associated with the chill unit at a Butcher's Shop.

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 – S.65 Summary Proceedings for Noise Nuisance.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the period in relation to noise nuisance in breach of a Noise Abatement Notice.

Pollution - Prevention and Control

The Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013

A scoping exercise in relation to the Council's obligations under this legislation was completed during the year. Letters were sent where there was evidence of an existing permit, to newly identified dry cleaners and vehicle re-sprayers and to categories of premises where permits may be required including powder coating, working of timber and manufacture of wood-based products and animal carcass incineration. Verification visits were completed as necessary to obtain or check information.

As a result of the scoping exercise, seven premises were confirmed as requiring permits;

- 4 dry cleaners
- 2 cement manufacturers
- 1 mobile crusher

Permits were issued for three of the dry cleaners, with application fees paid. One Dry Cleaner applied but the permit was not issued during this period as the dry-cleaning machine was not in operation.

Permits were issued to the two cement manufacturers.

The permit for the mobile crusher was delayed pending requested information.

Not Applicable

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2.4.2 Air Quality

This is a shared service with Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council. Local air quality is monitored at 16 sites in the borough, with annual reports being submitted to DAERA as required by legislation. A successful grant application was made to DAERA for staff resource and equipment maintenance. Additional funds were also received in relation to the 'Engine Off, Prevent the Cough' campaign which aims to reduce vehicle emissions outside local primary schools.

During the year the Council purchased a new NOx gas analyser as the existing component was no longer considered to be adequate in determining pollution levels against National Air Quality Objectives. This was funded through the DAERA grant scheme.

Monitoring is also undertaken in relation to radiation levels in the borough, via sampling of foodstuffs and a permanent monitoring station in Portavogie. There were no incidents of concern during the year.

2.5 Public Health

Service Requests

Much of the work of the Public Health and Housing service unit relates to service requests from residents. For the year 2022/23, Officers responded to 1270 service requests relating to pest control, housing/drainage issues and neighbourhood nuisance (excluding noise).

The most common types of service request relate to pest control, with rodent and flying insect complaints being received in the greatest numbers. The service provides investigation and advice, which ensures that the root cause of pest problems can be properly identified, and effective solutions can be made. Support is also provided to Officers carrying out the food hygiene function when assistance is required in relation to pest control matters.

During the late autumn of 2022, a charged service to treat wasp nests was introduced, with 10 nests being treated. This tested the service during a quieter period in preparation for summer 2023.

Other types of service requests received included neighbourhood complaints in relation to housing defects, malodour, smoke, and problems with drainage/flooding. Dampness issues in rented accommodation account for the largest number of statutory nuisance notices issued by the Council.

Not Applicable

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2.6 Private Rented Housing

Regulation of the private rented housing sector is carried out, primarily through the enforcement of the Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 and ancillary regulations. Officers inspect rented properties to ensure they are fit for habitation, free from disrepair and that they are not in a condition that is prejudicial to health. During 2022/23, the service unit issued 73 Certificates of Fitness, while three properties were found to be unfit and Notices of Refusal were served on the landlords.

Housing officers also worked to ensure that landlords comply with tenancy deposit and landlord registration requirements. The legislation was reviewed during the year with the aim of correcting current weaknesses in its wording; this will aid regulation but will likely increase demand for the services. Housing officers also proactively search for properties which may require a Certificate of Fitness to ensure that residents in the private rented sector are living in acceptable housing. At any given time, Officers will be investigating 75-100 properties to determine if there are any breaches of housing legislation.

Notices Issued and Prosecutions

102 notices were served using the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011, following service requests or housing standards inspections. In addition, seven Notices of Unfitness and three Notices of Disrepair were served on landlords of private rented properties.

While several matters were referred to the Council's solicitor to instigate legal proceedings during the year, only one case was concluded during 2022/23. This case concluded with a landlord paying the £3000 fixed penalty prior to the matter being heard in the Magistrate's Court.

2.7 Health Development and Wellbeing

The department supports the "Take Five Steps to Wellbeing" principles which develop public health and wellbeing both within the organisation and externally. This includes initiatives to enhance the lives of the fuel poor, the safety of young and old in the home, mental health and other issues.

During the 2022–2023-year partnership work with Community Planning progressed, including rebuilding services and operations to as close to pre-pandemic levels as possible.

2.7.1 Affordable Warmth.

The Affordable Warmth Scheme has been designed to target support at those households which need to spend 25% or more of their income on heating and

Not Applicable

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lighting their home. It is open to both owner occupiers and tenants from the private rented sector with a household income of less than £23,000. Full grant is available to owner occupiers and landlords make a 50% contribution towards the cost of the energy efficiency improvement work.

Working from targeted lists, the number of referrals that could be made each month was set at 30 for April & May 2022 then 20 for the remainder of 2022/23, resulting in a reduction of staff levels in the team.

In 2022/23 the NIHE statistics for the Ards and North Down area were as follows: -

Referrals to NIHE by Council	255
Approved Works	294
Value of Approved Works	£1,247,521.94
Measures Installed	427
Homes Improved	266
Grant Expenditure 22/23	£1,163,485.82

The management of this Scheme throughout the period remained challenging due to decreasing annual budgets and changing targets. The concerns of Members and Officers were regularly raised both at council/DfC/NIHE meetings and in writing with the Department of Communities (DfC). A meeting with Elected Members, Council Officers and Senior Officials from DfC, including the Director of Housing Supply Policy, took place on 16 March 2023 to address the main concerns regarding the scheme and seek assurances that it would continue to support and prioritise the interests of the most vulnerable in Ards and North Down.

2.7.2 Tobacco Control

The Tobacco Control function is currently operated as a shared service between Ards and North Down, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Newry, Mourne and Down. In Ards and North Down, 570 inspections were carried out and a written warning was issued for the single premises where smoking was evident. Concerningly 186 failed to display the correct signage but, where possible, these were issued to the proprietor/manager and displayed before the officer left the premises. 117 written warnings were subsequently issued for non-compliance. 165 ANDBC premises were signposted to smoking cessation services and 564 businesses were supported to promote smoke free policies.

Two targeted campaigns were undertaken this year, with 91 visits to licensed premises, snooker and bingo and 143 visits to taxi depots and premises with work vehicles to ensure these were smoke-free and had the correct signage displayed.

179 retailers were visited in ANDBC to promote compliance with age of sale legislation and ensure compliance with all tobacco related legislation. 147 visits were

Not Applicable

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for tobacco and 162 provided information on the new nicotine inhaling products (including e-cigarettes) age restricted sales legislation which came into effect in February 2023. Some businesses sell both tobacco and NIP.

Tobacco test purchasing exercises were carried out in 40 premises with three sales, resulting in written warnings. A further 13 premises were test purchased for nicotine inhaling products (including e-cigs) and there were two sales, with written warnings issued and follow up visits undertaken.

Under Community Planning, a Community Resuscitation Group was established to promote the chain of survival across the Borough. As part of this work, Tobacco Control Officers promote the NIAS Regional Registration programme for Defibrillators by assisting with citing location of these devices and provide signposting information to relevant premises regarding how to register their device. 44 premises were identified as having AEDs with 34 being registered and the remaining 10 encouraged to do so.

2.7.3 Home Safety

The Home Safety Scheme is operated as a shared service by Ards and North Down Borough Council, Lisburn and Castlereagh and the Down portion of Newry, Mourne and Down. Target visits to priority groups (older people, children under five, those with disabilities/vulnerabilities) are agreed with Public Health Agency (PHA) who co-fund the service. A total of 725 home safety checks were carried out with 319 in Ards and North Down, (229 Older Persons & 90 under-fives) exceeding the PHA target of 270.

Home Safety Officers provided over 1324 pieces of equipment to older people in ANDBC and 815 to households with children under the age of five during these Home Safety Checks.

Home Safety Officers made a total of 273 onward referrals (179 of which were from Ards and North Down) to other organisations and departments.

BeeSafe is a multi-agency project aimed at Primary Seven children and designed to promote community, home and personal safety and reduce anti-social behaviour, crime and fear of crime within the Borough. PHA and PCSP funding along with Education Authority support allowed the annual BeeSafe event to take place in person in Ards Arena over a two-week period from 20 February 2023, instead of the virtual sessions offered during covid.

38 schools attended BeeSafe, with 1587 Primary Seven pupils participating. A further two schools (a total of 40 children) who were unable to attend the event were provided the virtual BeeSafe videos to watch in the classroom and activity books to complete in their own time. A total of 1627 children therefore participated in the BeeSafe scenarios, and all schools reported that they felt the event was worthwhile and of benefit to the children.

Not Applicable

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Social media campaigns were used to highlight regional safety messages including button battery dangers (April & Dec 2022) choking risks (Feb 23) and the Christmas Toy Safety campaign. Ards and North Down registrars gave out blind cord safety information to 1473 families registering births in the borough.

2.7.4 Age Friendly

Having committed to achieving World Health Organisation's Age Friendly status in October 2017, work was undertaken to develop a Strategy and Action Plan 2019 - 2022 for the council area through the establishment of an Age Friendly Alliance (AFA). Implementation was slow primarily due to the covid recovery period, but the appointment of a full time Age Friendly Co-ordinator in February 2022 allowed good progress to be made in this financial year.

Key successes include:

- the completion of the "Big Guide to Age Friendly Ards and North Down" of which 5000 copies have been distributed to date, with Council buildings, libraries, Community Advice centres, Elected Members, MLAs, GP practices and Age Friendly Alliance partners. Requests for copies have come from hospital social workers, mental health practitioners, churches and NIFRS as well as from charitable organisations. The guide is also available on the council website [The BIG Guide online publication \(dashdigital.com\)](https://www.dashdigital.com)
- the establishment of an Over 50s Council, following an open call recruitment process in the Summer of 2022, with 67 people aged 50 and over living within the Borough, meeting quarterly. This forum provides members with the opportunity to be representative of the older age group and have their say on local issues.
- the development of a Walking Audit toolkit which has been used by all ages and ability groups to provide key information to support the development and improvements planned for Ward Park.
- the production of a Positive Ageing Month calendar with 54 activities/events including the delivery of three roadshows around the Borough with over 27 exhibitors and 143 attendees.
- the formation of an internal Age Friendly Officers group to improve communication across departments and ensure that Age friendly is embedded into everyday council activities.
- the delivery of a Spring Tea Dance with 81 attending.
- The re-establishment of the SE Dementia sub-group

The review of the Action Plan and Strategy was also undertaken alongside early discussions with the Over 50s Council and the Age Friendly Alliance partners to plan and develop the new one.

Not Applicable

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2.7.5 Health Development

Mind Body and Business

Working closely with Economic Development, the Mind, Body Business (MBB) project supports local businesses to put the health and wellbeing of their staff higher up on the business agenda. 13 new business signed up to MBB in 2022-23, exceeding the target of 10. On request, five were provided with an employee/lead officer health & wellbeing box containing information, games and ideas including a step challenge. The MBB website was kept updated and promoted, with 12 e-zines and several emails to connect with businesses and promote activities and health messages. MBB business cards were produced and distributed to promote programme, website, activities and fitness videos.

A survey was undertaken in May 2022 to assess the needs of businesses and employees, to inform the MBB programme. Further promotion of the exercise videos produced by MBB in 2020/21 took place to encourage those working from home/sitting at desks to be more active.

A small grant scheme was launched to provide financial support (up to £250) for businesses to complete a wellbeing initiative within their business relating to the Take 5 Approach to Wellbeing (24 participated representing 916 employees)

Employee Health and Wellbeing

Health and Wellbeing also lead on Employee Health and Wellbeing, delivering over 20 different events and activities to improve staff morale, encourage self-awareness of health issues and promote the Take 5 messages.

56 employees under 50 were vaccinated as part of the flu prevention programme and 70 staff undertook Action Cancer Health Checks with a further 30 attending sessions with qualified Leisure and Fitness Instructors in Ards Blair Maine.

Men's Health Week was well supported in June with the usual activities of football, craft, lunches and newspapers.

The Menopause workshop in October provided the opportunity for HR to explain the new menopause policy and signpost staff to support, alongside an insightful healthy eating plan by Vital Nutrition, designed to help balance hormones and improve mood.

The new Employee Health and Wellbeing website STAY Well is proving very beneficial as it is an excellent source of reputable health and wellbeing information. It highlights all the key health campaigns throughout the year and also provides space to advertise in house events, an online booking system to sign up and generates a waiting list for popular events.

The addition of a dedicated Health and Wellbeing Officer post in September 2022, funded from existing budgets, has allowed more employee outreach work to take place and it is anticipated that this face-to-face engagement will, over time, improve

Not Applicable

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participation levels, learning opportunities for managing mental health and overall employee wellbeing

Whole Systems Approach to Obesity

Statistics from the Department of Health (2019/20) show that one in four children (aged 2 – 15) are living with overweight or obesity and almost two in three adults (65%) are either living with overweight (38%) or obesity (27%). Overweight and obesity rates are not evenly spread throughout the population with people living in the most deprived areas of Northern Ireland more likely to be overweight and obese

In September 2022 the Council accepted a request from the Public Health Agency to become an early adopter of a Whole System Approach (WSA) to Obesity, having already identified this as a priority in the Big Plan.

Environmental Health have been working closely with Community Planning, the Public Health Agency (PHA) and the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust (SEHSCT) to lead on this programme and work to date has included a training/information session for partner organisations and work to identify the target demography and geography.

This work will develop further in 2023/24 with mapping exercises and action plans being produced in partnership with statutory, voluntary, business and community sectors.

3.0 Summary

During the 2022-23 year the service met the KPI's and targets and had a significant positive impact on the community planning outcomes.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

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	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	25 October 2023
File Reference	CW165
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	Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: an open consultation
Attachments	Appendix Proposed Consultation Response

Background

Smoking is the single most entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability, and death in the UK. It is responsible for around 80,000 deaths a year, including about 2,200 deaths per year in Northern Ireland (as reported by the [Northern Ireland Department of Health's tobacco control information](#)) No other consumer product kills up to two-thirds of its users. The Office for National Statistics' [Adult smoking habits in the UK 2022](#) reported that 6.4 million people in the UK were current smokers. This was 12.9% of people in the UK, and 14.0% in Northern Ireland

Smoking causes harm throughout people's lives, not only for the smoker but for those around them. It is a major risk factor for poor maternal and infant outcomes, significantly increasing the chance of stillbirth and can trigger asthma in children. Smoking causes around 1 in 4 of all UK cancer deaths and is responsible for the great majority of lung cancer cases. Smoking is also a major cause of premature heart disease, stroke and heart failure, and increases the risk of dementia in the

Not Applicable

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elderly. Smokers lose an average of 10 years of life expectancy, or around 1 year for every 4 smoking years.

On 4 October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#) setting out proposed action to protect future generations from the harms of smoking by creating the first smokefree generation, which the UK Government and devolved administrations are now seeking to consult on.

The command paper also set out measures to crack down on youth vaping. The Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) report [Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) shows that the number of children using vapes has tripled in the past 3 years and a staggering 20.5% of children in Great Britain had tried vaping in 2023. According to the [Northern Ireland Young persons behaviour and attitudes survey 2022](#), 21.3% of 11 to 16 year olds in Northern Ireland reported having ever used an e-cigarette.

The command paper also focused on new measures to ensure the law is enforced. Underage and illicit sales of tobacco, and more recently vapes, are undermining the work of the UK Government and devolved administrations to regulate the industry and protect public health. In England and Wales, the government is seeking to introduce new powers for local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices (on the spot fines) to clamp down on those irresponsibly selling tobacco products and vapes to underage people.

Consultation overview

The consultation asks questions in 3 areas for which new legislation would be needed:

1. Creating a smokefree generation: on smoking, the case for change is clear and the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on the smokefree generation policy and its scope to inform future legislation.
2. Tackling youth vaping: while there is also significant evidence for action to tackle youth vaping, within each proposal the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on several options to ensure we take the most appropriate and impactful steps, building on England's [analysis of the youth vaping call for evidence](#).
3. Enforcement: the consultation also asks questions on the proposal to introduce new powers for local authorities in England and Wales to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes. (we already have these powers in Northern Ireland)

The UK Government and devolved administrations would like to receive as much detail as possible under each of the themes of the consultation. The questionnaire has therefore been designed with a multiple-choice question, with space to provide additional information and evidence to support your answer through free text boxes.

The UK Government and devolved administrations have advised that they will only make any decisions on these proposed measures after fully considering:

Not Applicable

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- the consultation responses received we receive
- the evidence provided in those responses
- a further review of the international evidence base

Following this, impact assessments will be published.

The UK Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Government intend to bring forward legislation as soon as possible. In Northern Ireland, the outcome of this consultation will inform decisions of incoming ministers and the Northern Ireland Executive, or in the absence of ministers, those decisions that can be taken under the [Northern Ireland \(Executive Formation etc\) Act 2022](#). This applies to all proposals in the consultation document.

Consultation Response

The full consultation along with associated information can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping>

A proposed response is attached to this paper, which broadly follows the regional response agreed by the NI Tobacco Task Group and supports the most stringent option in every case. This is to ensure that in the first instance young people are not given the opportunity to adopt a habit which has a strong likelihood of seriously damaging their health or even causing death. It also recognises that the use of vapes/e-cigarettes has become extremely popular with young people and there is growing evidence that groups of young people who would have previously been in a demographic that was unlikely to try cigarette smoking is now more likely to vape.

Every effort must therefore be made to protect public health, and young people in particular by introducing measures which will not only account for the current landscape but will minimise the risk of industry introducing novel products designed to circumvent the proposed legislation put in place to minimise the attraction of smoking and vaping.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agrees to the submission of the attached Proposed Consultation Response, and that individual members consider sending in individual responses using the link to propose that the most stringent measures are put in place to protect public health.

Appendix Proposed Consultation Response

Open consultation

Creating a smokefree generation and tackling youth vaping: your views

Published 12 October 2023

Summary

Background

Smoking is the single most entirely preventable cause of ill health, disability, and death in the UK. It is responsible for around 80,000 deaths a year, including about:

- 64,000 deaths per year in England (as reported by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities in [Local tobacco control profiles](#))
- 8,300 deaths per year in Scotland (as reported by the [Scottish Public Health Observatory's information on smoking attributable deaths](#))
- 5,600 deaths per year in Wales (as reported by the [Public Health Wales Smoking in Wales report](#))
- 2,200 deaths per year in Northern Ireland (as reported by the [Northern Ireland Department of Health's tobacco control information](#))

No other consumer product kills up to two-thirds of its users. The Office for National Statistics' [Adult smoking habits in the UK 2022](#) reported that 6.4 million people in the UK were current smokers. This was 12.9% of people in the UK, and:

- 12.7% in England
- 14.1% in Wales
- 14.0% in Northern Ireland
- 13.9% in Scotland

Smoking causes harm throughout people's lives, not only for the smoker but for those around them. It is a major risk factor for poor maternal and infant outcomes, significantly increasing the chance of stillbirth and can trigger asthma in children. Smoking causes around 1 in 4 of all UK cancer deaths and is responsible for the great majority of lung cancer cases. Smoking is also a major cause of premature heart disease, stroke and heart failure, and increases the risk of dementia in the elderly. Smokers lose an average of 10 years of life expectancy, or around 1 year for every 4 smoking years.

As a result, smoking puts significant pressure on the NHS. In England, almost every minute of every day someone is admitted to hospital because of smoking, and up to 75,000 GP appointments could be attributed to smoking each month - equivalent to over 100 appointments every hour.

That is why, on 4 October 2023, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) published a command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#) setting out proposed action to protect future generations from the harms of smoking by creating the first smokefree generation, which the UK Government and devolved administrations are now seeking to consult on.

Devolved administrations is a collective term for the executive bodies in Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales: the Northern Ireland Executive, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Government.

The command paper also set out measures to crack down on youth vaping. The Action on Smoking and Health (ASH) report [Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) shows that the number of children using vapes has tripled in the past 3 years and a staggering 20.5% of children in Great Britain had tried vaping in 2023. According to the [Northern Ireland Young persons behaviour and attitudes survey 2022](#), 21.3% of 11 to 16 year olds in Northern Ireland reported having ever used an e-cigarette.

Due to nicotine content and the unknown long-term harms, vaping carries risks to health and lifelong addiction for children. The health advice is clear: young people and people who have never smoked should not vape.

The UK Government and devolved administrations have a duty to protect our children from the potential harms associated with underage vaping, while their lungs and brains are still developing. So, the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on several proposals on youth vaping including:

- restricting flavours
- regulating point of sale displays
- regulating packaging and presentation
- considering restricting the supply and sale of disposable vapes
- whether regulations should extend to non-nicotine vapes
- taking action on the affordability of vapes

These will need to balance having the biggest impact on youth vaping with ensuring vapes continue to support adult smokers to quit.

The command paper also focused on new measures to ensure the law is enforced. Underage and illicit sales of tobacco, and more recently vapes, are undermining the work of the UK Government and devolved administrations to regulate the industry and protect public health. In England and Wales, the government is seeking to introduce new powers for local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices (on the spot

finer) to clamp down on those irresponsibly selling tobacco products and vapes to underage people.

Consultation overview

The consultation asks questions in 3 areas for which new legislation would be needed:

1. Creating a smokefree generation: on smoking, the case for change is clear and the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on the smokefree generation policy and its scope to inform future legislation.
2. Tackling youth vaping: while there is also significant evidence for action to tackle youth vaping, within each proposal the UK Government and devolved administrations are consulting on several options to ensure we take the most appropriate and impactful steps, building on England's [analysis of the youth vaping call for evidence](#).
3. Enforcement: the consultation also asks questions on the proposal to introduce new powers for local authorities in England and Wales to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes.

The UK Government and devolved administrations would like to understand the impacts on businesses and on people, and if there are any impacts on groups with protected characteristics (see [Discrimination: your rights](#)). We want to hear from:

- the public - from young people, parents, carers and teachers
- the retail sector and the independent vaping industry
- local authorities across the UK
- clinicians and medical professionals
- public health stakeholders and academic experts
- employers and trade unions

The UK Government and devolved administrations would like to receive as much detail as possible under each of the themes of the consultation. For each multiple choice question, you will be able to provide additional information and evidence to support your answer through free text boxes.

The UK Government and devolved administrations will only make any decisions on these proposed measures after fully considering:

- the consultation responses we receive
- the evidence provided in those responses
- a further review of the international evidence base

Following this, impact assessments will be published.

The UK Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Government intend to bring forward legislation as soon as possible. In Northern Ireland, the outcome of this consultation will inform decisions of incoming ministers and the Northern Ireland Executive, or in the absence of ministers, those decisions that can be taken under the [Northern Ireland \(Executive Formation etc\) Act 2022](#). This applies to all proposals in the consultation document.

Territorial extent

Health policy is a devolved matter in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. DHSC in England, the Directorate for Population Health in Scotland, the Health and Social Services Group in Wales and the Department of Health in Northern Ireland are each responsible for improving public health. This includes reducing tobacco use by implementing comprehensive tobacco control strategies and minimising the health risks of youth vaping.

Environmental policy, like health policy, is a devolved matter. DHSC, the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the devolved administrations will work together to agree a policy across the 4 nations on restricting disposable vapes and other appropriate measures.

While the legislative proposals in the command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#) set out an approach for England only, governments across the UK are now consulting to understand whether they should take action in the areas outlined in the paper. So, with agreement with the devolved administrations, DHSC is leading this consultation UK-wide.

Tobacco industry declaration

The UK is a party to the [World Health Organization Framework Convention on Tobacco Control](#) and so has an obligation to protect the development of public health policy from the vested interests of the tobacco industry.

To meet this obligation, we ask all respondents to disclose whether they have any direct or indirect links to, or receive funding from, the tobacco industry.

Legislating to create a smokefree generation

There is no more addictive product that is legally sold in our shops than tobacco. Three-quarters of smokers would never have started if they had the choice again.

As outlined in the command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#), we want to stop the start of addiction, as it is much easier to never start smoking than to have to quit. The UK Government, Scotland and Wales will bring forward legislation making it an offence to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

The law will stop children turning 14 this year or younger from ever legally being sold tobacco products. In effect, raising the smoking age by a year each year until it applies to the whole population. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to a smokefree generation following this consultation.

Policy summary

This policy will make it an offence for anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 to be sold tobacco products (and in Scotland, also an offence for anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 to purchase tobacco products).

This follows a similar approach to New Zealand who became the first country in the world to introduce a restriction on the sale of tobacco to anyone born after a specified date, as part of its [Smokefree Aotearoa 2025 Action Plan](#). The New Zealand legislation makes it an offence to sell smoked tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009, to first take effect in January 2027.

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales will also make it an offence for anyone at or over the legal age to purchase tobacco products on behalf of someone born on or after 1 January 2009 ('proxy purchasing'). The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider appropriate measures relating to a smokefree generation following this consultation.

Products in scope of the new legislation will mirror the current scope of age of sale legislation for tobacco products. This includes a wider range of products (see 'Product scope' below) than the New Zealand legislation, which only included smoked tobacco. However, New Zealand is taking forward other measures which the UK Government is not proposing, including through a licensing scheme to significantly reduce the number of retail outlets that can sell tobacco and through new limits to reduce the nicotine strength of cigarettes.

Product scope

In England and Wales, the current age of sale restriction is imposed under the [Children and Young Persons Act 1933](#). The age of sale restriction applies to tobacco products and cigarette papers.

In Scotland, the age of sale restrictions are set out Part 1 of the [Tobacco and Primary Medical Services \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). Those restrictions apply to tobacco products and cigarette papers, which are defined in section 35 of that act.

In Northern Ireland, the age of sale restrictions for tobacco are set out in the [Health and Personal Social Services \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1978](#) and through subsequent amendments.

We propose that all tobacco products, cigarette papers and herbal smoking products would be subject to the proposed age of sale.

Products that would be in scope of the change include:

- cigarettes
- cigarette papers
- hand rolled tobacco
- cigars
- cigarillos
- pipe tobacco
- waterpipe tobacco products (for example shisha)
- chewing tobacco
- heated tobacco
- nasal tobacco (snuff)
- herbal smoking products

All other products such as vapes and nicotine replacement therapies would be out of scope for the smokefree generation proposal, because they do not contain tobacco and are often used as a quit aid for those who smoke.

Age of sale statements

In England and Wales, the [Children and Young Persons \(Protection from Tobacco\) Act 1991](#) requires retailers selling tobacco to display a notice in a prominent position at the point of sale stating that “it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18”.

In Scotland, this requirement is contained in the [Tobacco and Primary Medical Services \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#).

In Northern Ireland, this requirement is contained in the [Children and Young Persons \(Protection from Tobacco\) \(Northern Ireland\) Order 1991](#).

In light of this, the UK Government, Scotland and Wales propose that display statements will need to be changed and required to read “it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009”.

The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to age of sale statements following this consultation.

Prohibiting anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 from ever being sold tobacco products (and also from purchasing tobacco products, in Scotland) will impact children who are turning 14 or younger in 2023. Setting this date will mean the change in the law would come into effect in 3 to 4 years' time from January 2027, when this group of children turns 18.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that the age of sale for tobacco products should be changed so that anyone born on or after 1 January 2009 will never be legally sold (and also in Scotland, never legally purchase) tobacco products?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

There has been overwhelming evidence that the use of tobacco products causes illness and premature deaths with a high cost to the economy as well as the personal impact. Despite increasing restrictions such as advertising bans, display bans, age restrictions, health warnings and graphic images on packaging, 14% of the adult population in NI continue to smoke and underage sales continue to be difficult to police. The introduction of a lifetime ban on selling to our future populations would be the best option to prevent more tobacco related deaths and illness without impacting on those already addicted.

Proxy sales refer to a person at or over the legal age of sale purchasing a product on behalf of someone under the legal age of sale. Proxy sales are prohibited under existing tobacco age of sale legislation. In this context, prohibiting proxy sales would mean that anyone born before 1 January 2009 would be prohibited from purchasing tobacco products on behalf of anyone born on or after 1 January 2009.

Question

Do you think that proxy sales should also be prohibited?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We agree that the current provision prohibiting proxy sales should be extended to mean that anyone born before 1st January 2009 should be prohibited from purchasing tobacco products on behalf of anyone born on or after 1st January 2009. In doing this it is hoped that fewer children will start smoking as they will be unable to easily obtain cigarettes. Failure to introduce a ban on proxy sales would completely dilute the impact of any lifetime ban legislation. Whilst this type of law is often difficult in practice to enforce it has been used to good effect in other legislation and acts as a deterrent.

The following products would be in scope of the new legislation:

- cigarettes
- cigarette papers
- hand rolled tobacco
- cigars
- cigarillos
- pipe tobacco
- waterpipe tobacco products (for example, shisha)
- chewing tobacco
- heated tobacco
- nasal tobacco (snuff)
- herbal smoking products

This mirrors the current scope of age of sale legislation in England and Wales. Existing age of sale requirements in Scotland currently cover products consisting wholly or partly of tobacco and which are intended to be smoked, sniffed, sucked or chewed. Insofar as the products listed would not be within the scope of the existing restrictions, it is proposed that the scope of the Scottish legislation be expanded to include them.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that all tobacco products, cigarette papers and herbal smoking products should be covered in the new legislation?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

The wider the scope of the legislation in relation to tobacco & tobacco related products, the more difficult it is to introduce potential loopholes or exemptions. This will also assist in removing ambiguity when it comes to the enforcement of the various products on the market.

It is currently a legal requirement for retail premises to display the following statement 'it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone under 18'. This requirement would need to be changed to align with the new age of sale.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that warning notices in retail premises will need to be changed to read 'it is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009' when the law comes into effect?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Point of sale signage is a recognised means of raising awareness of the legislative provisions and also acts as a deterrent to potential underage buyers and sellers. Such a significant shift in the law would need to be communicated as widely as possible and that includes point of sale signage. It may however be beneficial to also introduce wording to the signage to reflect the ban on proxy sales. "It is also illegal for anyone to buy or procure tobacco products for anyone born on or after 1 January 2009".

Tackling the rise in youth vaping

Vapes are an effective tool for adult smokers to quit, especially when combined with expert support. Ensuring vapes can continue to be made available to current adult smokers is vital to supporting current smokers to quit. However, vaping is not recommended for children, or indeed non-smokers, and carries risk of future harm and addiction. The number of children vaping has risen sharply over the past few years. In England, we carried out a [youth vaping call for evidence](#) and received a variety of suggested measures to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children.

The [Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016](#) sets product standards for nicotine vapes including restrictions on maximum nicotine strength, refill bottle and tank size limits, packaging and advertising (including prohibiting advertising on television and radio) in the UK.

In 2022, the Scottish Government consulted on proposals to make regulations under existing powers in the [Health \(Tobacco, Nicotine etc. and Care\) \(Scotland\) Act 2016](#) to restrict the advertising and promotion of nicotine vapour products (nicotine vapour products include both nicotine and non-nicotine vapes). The proposals included restrictions on advertising, brand-sharing in products and services, free distribution and nominal pricing and sponsorship.

In Wales, the [Public Health \(Wales\) Act 2017](#) introduced regulatory making powers to introduce a national register of retailers of tobacco and nicotine products. In Northern Ireland, the [Health \(Miscellaneous Provisions\) Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2016](#) provides a power to ban vape sales from vending machines.

As outlined in the command paper [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#), it is important to consult on a set of proposals to reduce youth vaping, ensuring we get the balance right between protecting children and supporting adult smokers to quit. The proposals being consulted on include:

- restricting vape flavours
- regulating vape packaging and product presentation
- regulating point of sale displays
- restricting the supply and sale of disposable vapes
- exploring further restrictions for non-nicotine vapes and other nicotine consumer products such as nicotine pouches
- action on the affordability of vapes, exploring a new duty on vapes

The ‘Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation’ paper also set out an existing plan to legislate in order to close the loophole in our laws which allows industry to give free samples of nicotine and non-nicotine vapes (and other nicotine products) to under 18s, as well as to introduce an age restriction for non-nicotine vapes. These would apply to England and Wales only, but we will explore the possibility of inclusion of the other devolved administrations in such provisions where appropriate.

Restricting vape flavours

Evidence on vape flavours

Research shows that children are attracted to the fruit and sweet flavours of vapes, both in their taste and smell, as well as how they are described. Restricting flavours has the potential to significantly reduce youth vaping.

In Great Britain, the ASH 2023 report [Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) shows that the most frequently used vape flavouring for children is ‘fruit flavour’, with 60% of current children using them. Seventeen per cent of children who vape choose sweet flavours such as chocolate or candy.

However, [research by London South Bank University](#) has found that there is evidence that flavoured vaping products can assist adults to quit smoking. So, any restriction on flavours needs to be carefully balanced with ensuring vapes continue to be available and accessible to support adults to quit smoking.

This is why the UK Government, Scotland and Wales are considering the options for how vape flavours and descriptions could be restricted in legislation. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to flavours following this consultation.

More information on the range of flavours and types of devices is available in Annex 1: vape types and flavours.

Options for how we can restrict vape flavours

Option 1: limiting how the vape is described.

Vape flavours can be restricted by the way they are described. For example, New Zealand has done this by mandating vape flavour descriptions, in their [Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Amendment Regulations 2023](#), to a specified list that includes generic flavour names such as ‘tobacco’ or ‘berry’. This means that vapes could be called ‘blueberry’, but not ‘blueberry muffin’ for example.

Option 2: limiting the ingredients in vapes.

Vape flavours can be restricted by only permitting certain ingredients to be used in the product. In the Netherlands, for example, there is a specified list of ingredients that can be used in vapes, which are those that produce a ‘tobacco’ taste and pose almost no health harm.

Option 3: limiting the characterising flavours (the taste and smell) of vapes.

The characterising flavours of vapes (the way a vape smells or tastes to a consumer) can be restricted. In 2020, when menthol flavoured cigarettes were banned in the UK, they were restricted based on the characterising flavour of menthol. Finland, for example, has restricted all characterising flavours for vapes, apart from the flavour of tobacco.

Options for which flavours vapes should be limited to

As well as consulting on how the UK Government and devolved administrations should restrict vape flavours, we are also asking which flavours vapes should be limited to. We are considering restricting flavours to one of the following options:

- Option A: flavours limited to tobacco only
- Option B: flavours limited to tobacco, mint and menthol only
- Option C: flavours limited to tobacco, mint, menthol and fruits only

We will also consider regulating non-nicotine vapes in the same way.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that the UK Government and devolved administrations should restrict vape flavours?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that vape flavours should be restricted for a number of reasons.

It is important to minimise the attractiveness and appeal of such products to users, particularly young people. Fruit, mint and menthol smells and tastes are much more appealing than tobacco – by restricting flavours to tobacco only, the appeal is significantly reduced.

If vapes are being used as an aid to quit smoking then should be limited to tobacco flavour and made as unattractive as possible to discourage new users.

In addition restricting flavours will assist in regulating the safety of vapes on the market and allow consistent enforcement.

Question

Which option or options do you think would be the most effective way for the UK Government and devolved administrations to implement restrictions on flavours? (You may select more than one answer)

- Option 1: limiting how the vape is described
- Option 2: limiting the ingredients in vapes
- Option 3: limiting the characterising flavours (the taste and smell) of vapes
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Evidence is showing that more young people are trying vapes than cigarettes and are likely to do so regardless of parental behaviours, therefore strong measures are needed to reduce the appeal of vapes. Every possible measure should be considered and implemented.

Question

Which option do you think would be the most effective way for the UK Government and devolved administrations to restrict vape flavours to children and young people?

- Option A: flavours limited to tobacco only
- Option B: flavours limited to tobacco, mint and menthol only
- Option C: flavours limited to tobacco, mint, menthol and fruits only

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

As previously stated, it is essential that vapes are made completely unappealing to children and young people. By ensuring they are restricted to tobacco flavour only, they are more likely to be used as a smoking cessation aid rather than a recreational pastime in their own right. Whilst research is indicating that flavoured vapes have more appeal for adults using them in an attempt to quit smoking, this is offset by the evidence that young people are more attracted to fruit and sweet flavoured vapes. The priority must be to prevent more people taking up the habit rather than weakening legislation on the basis that flavoured vapes are a preferred smoking cessation aid. The use of vapes are not without health risks and to promote them as a smoking cessation product creates the illusion that they are a safe product when the long-term health effects are not fully known. They may be considered "safer" than cigarettes but they are not "risk free".

Question

Do you think there are any alternative flavour options the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Flavours should be made as unattractive as possible to children and young people to prevent uptake and avoid future addiction.

Question

Do you think non-nicotine e-liquid, for example shortfills, should also be included in restrictions on vape flavours?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that the non-nicotine e-liquids should be included in the restrictions on vape flavours. There is evidence to suggest that vaping without nicotine may still cause harm to health and this could act as a gateway for users starting vaping nicotine e-liquids.

In addition as they can be mixed with nicotine containing e-liquids and could provide a loophole for users to make their own flavoured e-liquids. This would make the other proposed flavour restrictions on vapes pointless with such an easy workaround.

Regulating point of sale displays

Unlike tobacco products, vapes are currently allowed to be displayed at the point of sale. Children can see and handle vapes in retail outlets where they are often displayed alongside confectionery and on accessible shelves. The ASH report [Public support for government action on tobacco](#) found that 74% of adults in England support the prohibiting of point of sale promotion of vapes.

The UK Government and devolved administrations want to limit the exposure of children to vapes and keep them out of sight and reach of children. However, it is important not to inhibit people who currently smoke from accessing vapes as a quit aid, so they must remain visible enough.

Specialist vape shops are retail outlets that specialise in the sale of vaping products. The UK Government and devolved administrations want to consider if they should be an exception to any restrictions, as they usually have a wider selection of devices and products available. Also, some shops have staff trained by the [National Centre for Smoking Cessation and Training](#), to offer more tailored advice for smokers wanting to quit. The UK Government and devolved administrations are keen to hear responses on this and we have included a specific question on this.

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales will also consider regulating non-nicotine vapes and non-nicotine e-liquids in the same way. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to non-nicotine vapes, following consultation. There is the opportunity to provide your opinions and evidence about this in the section on non-nicotine vapes.

There are 2 options for regulating point of sale displays of vapes:

- Option 1: vapes must be kept behind the counter and cannot be on display, like tobacco products
- Option 2: vapes must be kept behind the counter but can be on display

Question

Which option do you think would be the most effective way to restrict vapes to children and young people?

- Option 1: vapes must be kept behind the counter and cannot be on display, like tobacco products
- Option 2: vapes must be kept behind the counter but can be on display

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that in order to prevent people from starting to vape and to assist those wishing to quit vaping, all vapes and vaping paraphernalia must be kept behind the counter and not on display. Evidence has shown that marketing of tobacco products encourages young people to smoke and the point of sale display restrictions have been successfully implemented in retailers and could easily be extended to vapes.

In addition we believe that a registration scheme for retailers selling vapes should be introduced. This could be similar to the current register for retailers of tobacco products in Northern Ireland, through the Tobacco Register NI, including similar sanctions. This would provide councils with a comprehensive list of retailers who sell vapes without the excessive cost or administrative burden for both businesses and councils that a licensing scheme would likely introduce.

We also believe that mandatory age identification checks should be introduced and the acceptable forms of ID be specified.

In addition vending machines supplying all vapes should be prohibited to prevent access to young people. We are aware vending machines supplying vapes for sale exist at a range of premises across N. Ireland. This would ensure vapes are brought in line with the prohibition of cigarette vending machines in Northern Ireland.

Question

Do you think exemptions should be made for specialist vape shops?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We do not agree that exemptions should be made for specialist vape shops. Unlike specialist tobacco retailers, which are rare, there are a large number/proliferation of specialist vape shops.

It is known that vapes are currently of particular appeal to children and young people. The relaxation of any display ban regulations relies on a secure entry system to the premises to ensure that those underage are not admitted to the shop in the first place. There are concerns that there would not be the same controls in place in specialist vape shops, many of which currently occupy prominent high street locations.

Question

If you disagree with regulating point of sale displays, what alternative measures do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider?

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that additional measures should be included, along with point of sale restrictions. Registration of premises selling vapes should mirror the current register for retailers of tobacco products in Northern Ireland, through the Tobacco Register NI. This would provide councils with a comprehensive list of retailers who sell vapes without the excessive cost or administrative burden for both businesses and councils that a licensing scheme would likely introduce.

Regulating vape packaging and product presentation

The [youth vaping call for evidence](#) in England showed that children are attracted to vapes through brightly coloured products and packaging and child friendly images such as cartoons. They are designed to appeal to children, and this must stop.

[Research on vape packaging published by the JAMA Network](#) has shown that standardised vape packaging with reduced brand imagery can decrease the appeal to young people who have not previously smoked or vaped, without reducing the appeal of vapes to adult smokers.

Options for regulating vape packaging

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales are considering further regulating the packaging of vapes. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to regulating vape packaging following this consultation. We want to ensure that no part of the vape device, nor its packaging, is targeted at children. This includes:

- any unit packet (first wrap or container of an item)
- any container pack (the portable device in which a material is stored, transported, disposed of or handled)
- the presentation of the vape device

There are several possible options for how packaging and presentation of vapes can be restricted.

Option 1: prohibiting the use of cartoons, characters, animals, inanimate objects and other child friendly imagery, on both the vape packaging and vape device. This would still allow for colouring and tailored brand design.

Option 2: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring on both the vape packaging and vape device. This would still allow for branding, such as logos and names.

Option 3: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring and branding for both the vape packaging and vape device. This is equivalent to the standardised packaging rules on tobacco.

Question

Which option do you think would be the most effective way for the UK Government and devolved administrations to restrict the way vapes can be packaged and presented to reduce youth vaping?

- Option 1: prohibiting the use of cartoons, characters, animals, inanimate objects, and other child friendly imagery, on both the vape packaging and vape device. This would still allow for colouring and tailored brand design
- Option 2: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring on both the vape packaging and vape device but still allow branding such as logos and names
- Option 3: prohibiting the use of all imagery and colouring and branding (standardised packaging) for both the vape packaging and vape device

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

We believe that standardised packaging for both the device and packaging of vapes should be introduced. This has been successfully introduced for tobacco and will reduce the appeal to young people and for those trying to quit vaping.

Recognition must be given to the fact that the long-term health effects of vapes are still not fully known but they have become appealing to young people and their popularity is increasing. Every effort must therefore be made to restrict their use and minimise their appeal to potential new users, in particular those underage. It therefore makes sense to impose similar restrictions on the imagery, colouring and branding (standardised packaging) that exists for tobacco.

If you disagree with regulating vape packaging, what alternative measures do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider?

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Restricting the supply and sale of disposable vaping products

The use of disposable vaping products (sometimes referred to as single-use vapes) has increased substantially in recent years. Disposable vapes are products that are not rechargeable, that are not refillable or that are neither rechargeable nor refillable. In contrast, a reusable vape is a product which can be recharged and fully refilled an unlimited number of times by the user. Products can contain vape liquid with or without nicotine.

There is growing concern over the environmental impacts of disposable vapes given their lithium batteries and hard to recycle components and the increasing frequency in which these products are littered or thrown in the bin. Recent [research on vape disposal by YouGov commissioned by Material Focus](#) found that almost 5 million disposable vapes are either littered or thrown away in general waste every week.

There are measures already in place to ensure responsible production and disposal of waste electrical and electronic items through the [Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations 2013](#) (WEEE) and obligations under the [Waste Batteries and Accumulators Regulations 2009](#). However, evidence suggests compliance with these obligations is low, given the recent surge of businesses supplying disposable vapes. Both the WEEE and batteries regulations are being reviewed, with consultations planned.

In 2023, the Scottish Government commissioned Zero Waste Scotland to examine the environmental impact of single-use vapes and consider options to tackle the issue. Environmental impacts highlighted by Zero Waste Scotland's [Environmental impact of single-use e-cigarettes](#) review include:

- the impact of littering
- fire risks associated with unsafe disposal of their contents, including lithium batteries and chemicals

- greenhouse gas emissions and water consumption generated in their manufacture

There is also evidence of a significant and widespread increase in the use of disposable vapes by children. ASH's [Use of e-cigarettes among young people in Great Britain](#) survey found that 69% of vape users aged 11 to 17 mainly used disposable vapes in 2023. Northern Ireland's [Young person's behaviour and attitude survey 2022](#) shows that 85.7% of 11 to 16 year olds in Northern Ireland who currently use e-cigarettes reported that they used disposables.

There are a range of policy options to tackle the environmental impact of single-use vapes, including improved product design, increasing access to responsible disposal options, public communication campaigns, as well as potential restrictions on single-use vapes.

The UK Government, Scotland and Wales are considering restrictions on the sale and supply of disposable vaping products (including non-nicotine vapes), including prohibiting the sale of these products, due to the environmental impacts of disposable vapes. Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to disposable vapes following this consultation.

The approach to the enforcement of any restrictions would be a matter for individual nations, with civil sanctions such as fixed penalty notices being the preferred enforcement mechanism where appropriate.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that there should be restrictions on the sale and supply of disposable vapes?

That is, those that are not rechargeable, not refillable or that are neither rechargeable nor refillable.

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

The Council agrees that the sale and supply of disposable vapes should be prohibited. Disposable vapes are particularly used by children and young people due to their accessibility, ease of use and cost.

It is important that urgent measures are put in place to prevent the continued environmental impact of disposable vapes made from hard to recycle components and containing lithium batteries.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that restrictions on disposable vapes should take the form of prohibiting their sale and supply?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that disposable vapes should be prohibited from being sold and supplied. There are alternative types of vapes available for those using vaping as a tool to quit smoking. The vast majority of young people and children who vape use disposable vapes due to their accessibility, ease of use and cost.

Banning disposable vapes completely would also be the most effective longer term environmental solution as well as removing the most popular type of vape for young people from the supply chain.

Question

Are there any other types of product or descriptions of products that you think should be included in these restrictions?

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe it is crucial that any restriction should be clearly defined to include any novel and innovative products, including rechargeable disposables and limits should be placed on the amount of nicotine sold per pack.

Question

Do you agree or disagree that an implementation period for restrictions on disposable vapes should be no less than 6 months after the law is introduced?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

The Council believes that there should be a shorter limit of no greater than 3 months to sell through existing stock.

Are there other measures that would be required, alongside restrictions on supply and sale of disposable vapes, to ensure the policy is effective in improving environmental outcomes?

All disposable vapes should be banned and for those remaining on the market consideration should be given to implementing an Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme for Vapes and associated funding. This would then place responsibility for the end-of-life management of vape devices on manufacturers, encouraging them to design products with recycling in mind.

Safe storage at collection points and onward transportation to final end destinations should be given greater consideration.

Communications on disposal and recycling of Vapes should be clearer and readily available

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Non-nicotine vapes and other nicotine consumer products

Non-nicotine vapes

Non-nicotine vapes (or nicotine-free vapes) are covered by the [General Products Safety Regulations \(GPSR\) 2005](#) in the UK.

Like nicotine vapes, they can come in liquid form to be used in a device or already contained as a liquid in a device. There are 3 categories of these types of non-nicotine vapes:

- shortfill and longfill vapes
- disposable (single-use) vapes
- alternative non-nicotine vapes

Alternative non-nicotine vapes are often advertised as wellness vapes. They are not currently subject to the same age restrictions or product standards as nicotine-containing vapes and there are some calls for non-nicotine vapes to be regulated in the same way as nicotine vapes.

There is evidence that children are accessing these products and the UK Government and devolved administrations want to prevent potential future health harms from non-nicotine vapes. Scotland has already introduced age of sale requirements for non-nicotine vapes.

So, the UK Government and the Welsh Government will seek to introduce legislation to prohibit the sale of non-nicotine vapes to under 18s as a first step to protect children from accessing and using these vapes. The Department of Health in Northern Ireland will consider measures relating to non-nicotine vapes to under 18s following this consultation.

The UK Government and devolved administrations are also interested in views on whether we should also impose further restrictions on non-nicotine vapes that we have outlined in this consultation for nicotine vapes.

Other nicotine consumer products

There are other consumer nicotine products in the UK market such as nicotine pouches. They are not regulated under the [Tobacco and Related Products Regulations 2016](#) but by GPSR. There are no mandated age of sale restrictions in the UK, but the UK Government, Northern Ireland and Wales have regulatory making powers to mandate these.

[Recent research on tobacco-free nicotine pouch use in Great Britain](#) suggests that although nicotine pouch use is low among adults (0.26% or 1 in 400 users in Great Britain), it is more popular with younger and middle-aged men who also use other nicotine products and have a history of smoking. Northern Ireland's [Young person's behaviour and attitudes survey 2022](#) shows that 4.8% of year 11 and year 12 pupils reported ever having used nicotine pouches in 2022.

Question

Do you have any evidence that the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider related to the harms or use of non-nicotine vapes?

- Yes
- **No**
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

Do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should regulate non-nicotine vapes under a similar regulatory framework as nicotine vapes?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that non-nicotine vapes should be restricted in the same way as those containing nicotine. The long term health effects of vaping are currently unknown and they could act as gateway for users switching to nicotine containing vapes or even smoking cigarettes.

Ensuring that new restrictions are similar will also assist retailers in complying and enforcement officers in ensuring consistency.

Question

Do you have any evidence that the UK Government and devolved administrations should consider on the harms or use of other consumer nicotine products such as nicotine pouches?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Question

Do you think the UK Government and devolved administrations should regulate other consumer nicotine products such as nicotine pouches under a similar regulatory framework as nicotine vapes?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

Nicotine is highly addictive and as such all products should be regulated in the same way to prevent addiction and users moving onto other more harmful products.

Affordability

Price difference between vaping and smoking

There is currently a significant difference in price between vapes and tobacco products, in part because vapes are only subject to VAT, whereas tobacco has VAT and duty (at least a £7.87 duty on a packet of 20 cigarettes). Smoking is 3 times more expensive than vaping, and it is estimated that the average smoker in England could save around £670 per year from switching to vaping. This price differential is important, as it can encourage smokers to switch from cigarettes to vapes.

However, this also means that vapes are more readily accessible to young people and other non-smokers, especially disposable and refillable devices.

Cost of vapes

Disposable vapes are considerably cheaper to buy than other vape products. The most popular disposable vape among young people in 2022 was the Elf Bar, which costs around £5, compared to a reusable Elf Bar which costs around £8. Mod or tank devices vary in price, but are in the region of £40 to £50, with additional costs for the e-liquid.

Table 1: average cost of vapes across different product categories

Product category	Unit cost (average)
Disposable	£6
Reusable: pre-filled pod kits	£12

Product category	Unit cost (average)
Reusable: vape kits (refillable cartridges)	£40

Duty and taxes on vapes

Fifteen European countries including Germany and Italy have introduced a national tax on vapes and Canada has introduced a vaping duty. American research on the intended and unintended effects of e-cigarette taxes on youth tobacco use shows that taxes on vapes are associated with reductions in vaping, but at the potential risk of increasing youth smoking.

The effect of increasing the prices of vapes

The majority of respondents in DHSC's [youth vaping call for evidence](#) (64%) said price increases would reduce the demand for vapes. Thirty-six per cent of respondents said vapes are affordable and within the average child's buying power and that price has a significant impact on the appeal of vapes, with a further 22% stating that disposable vapes specifically are affordable.

A quarter of respondents thought there was a risk that price increases may have a negative impact on smoking cessation progress, given the use of vapes as an aid to quit smoking. Eleven per cent of respondents stated that the price differential between vapes and cigarettes increased the appeal of vaping.

Policy considerations

This consultation covers a range of measures to reduce the appeal and availability of vapes to children. To support this agenda, the UK Government thinks that there is a strong case to take action on affordability and so is exploring options, including a new duty on vapes as other countries have done, while ensuring that there is a significant differential between duty on vapes and duty on tobacco products.

Question

Do you think that an increase in the price of vapes would reduce the number of young people who vape?

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

We believe that the price of vapes, particularly disposables, should be increased to prevent accessibility for young people. In addition there should be a restriction on price promotions on vapes by retailers.

Enforcement

A strong approach to enforcement is vital if the smokefree generation and youth vaping policy is to have real impact. Underage and illicit sale of tobacco, and more recently vapes, is undermining work to regulate the industry and protect public health.

In [Stopping the start: our new plan to create a smokefree generation](#), additional steps were set out to clamp down on those illegally selling tobacco products and vapes to underage people and to prevent illicit products from being sold.

One of these measures is introducing new powers for local authorities to issue fixed penalty notices to enforce age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes in England and Wales.

In Scotland, local authorities already have powers to issue fixed penalty notices to retailers and individuals who commit an offence under the [Tobacco and Primary Medical Services \(Scotland\) Act 2010](#). In Northern Ireland, there is local enforcement through the [Tobacco Retailers Act \(Northern Ireland\) 2014](#). It is proposed that the existing enforcement regime would continue to apply to age of sale restrictions.

Introducing on the spot fines for underage sales

Local authorities take a proportionate approach to enforce age of sale restrictions on tobacco products and vapes, that reflects the level of offence committed. For

example, in England, penalties can be escalated, starting with a warning through to a maximum fine of £2,500. In the case of the most serious or repeat offences, local authorities can apply for a court order to prevent the offending retailer from opening for a period of time.

The current penalty regime requires local authorities to prosecute the individual or business in question and for the individual or business in question to be convicted in a magistrates' court. Trading standards officers say this time-consuming court procedure limits their ability to issue fines and is a significant gap in their operational capabilities.

Question

Do you think that fixed penalty notices should be issued for breaches of age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes?

Powers to issue fixed penalty notices would provide an alternative means for local authorities to enforce age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes in addition to existing penalties.

- Yes
- No
- Don't know

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

In Northern Ireland we have the option of a Fixed Penalty Notice for the sale of tobacco products and it has been an efficient and effective way of dealing with people who sell to children.

Question

What level of fixed penalty notice should be given for an underage tobacco sale?

- £100
- £200
- Other

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

In Northern Ireland we currently have a £250 Fixed Penalty Notice for selling both tobacco products and vapes to children.

We believe that the fixed penalty amount should be £250 and recommend a sliding scale for FPNs with the amount increasing for repeat offenders. In addition we support the introduction of an offence for non-payment of a FPN.

Question

What level of fixed penalty notice should be given for an underage vape sale?

- £100
- £200
- Other

Please explain your answer and provide evidence or your opinion to support further development of our approach. (maximum 300 words)

In Northern Ireland we currently have a £250 Fixed Penalty Notice for selling both tobacco products and vapes to children.

We believe that the fixed penalty amount should be £250 and recommend a sliding scale for FPNs with the amount increasing for repeat offenders. In addition we support the introduction of an offence for non-payment of a FPN.

How to respond

This consultation seeks feedback on the proposed measures, to inform future legislation. On youth vaping, there are a number of options proposed, to ensure the UK Government and devolved administrations take the most appropriate and impactful steps, building on existing evidence.

The consultation closes on 6 December 2023 at 11:59pm and you can respond via our [online survey](#).

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	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community & Culture
Date of Report	16 October 2023
File Reference	CW159
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Hardship Funding
Attachments	Appendix Hardship Fund Breakdown

As reported in September 2023, Ards and North Down Borough Council have been awarded Hardship Funding from Department for Communities totalling £344,027. The total fund available however is £330,699. (This is because Council in February 2023 agreed that the Borough Social Supermarket underspend for 22/23 would be divided equally amongst members of the Community Support Group, giving each £6,672, and, it was agreed to increase the amount awarded to Kilcooley Social Supermarket to £20,000. The difference of £13,328 was to be found in this year's Hardship funding allocation.)

The purpose of this fund is to address hardship due to the current cost of living crisis, particularly because of recent increases in energy and food costs. The Hardship Funding Programme was developed in recognition of the difficult financial circumstances which exist in our communities.

Following Councils approval of the process and criteria, an application process was launched on 29th September 2023 and closed on 13th October 2023 at 4pm. The process was advertised on the Council grants webpage, Council social media and

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sent to all contacts on the Community Development Database. Grants were available up to £30,000 with a minimum amount of £10,000 being awarded. A total of 30 applications were received by the deadline, totalling to a value of £583,829.71.

The scoring panel consisted of the Community Development Manager, Community Planning Manager and the Community Grants and Funding Co-ordinator.

The panel met on 16 and 17 October 2023 to score the applications. The pass mark was agreed by the panel as 60%. 23 applications met the pass mark which equated to £492,815.83. The panel agreed that the budget should be proportionally allocated at 67% of the eligible awarded amount across all 23 of the successful applications, as detailed in appendix table 1.

Applications that did not reach the pass mark of 60% are detailed in appendix table 2. There was one Application that was not scored as it was deemed as ineligible.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the applications outlined in appendix table 1 totalling £330,186.61.

Appendix Hardship Fund Breakdown

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Table 1: Successful applications

Successful Hardship Fund Breakdown - Pass mark 60%					
#	Name Of Group	Project applied for	Score	Eligible Amount	Amount Awarded @ 67%
1	Ards Community Network - Project 1	NDA Growing Together Project - community kitchen garden, cooking skills and food & fuel vouchers	97.14%	£30,000.00	£20,100.00
2	Ards Community Network - Project 2	Basic Food & Family Necessity Packs - to distribute 800 food & basic necessity packs	71.43%	£30,000.00	£20,100.00
3	Bangor Foodbank	Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope - provision of emergency food parcels, Christmas Dinner and Food vouchers	77.14%	£28,674.90	£19,212.18
4	Belfast Central Mission NDA	HSYP & Family Support - providing Food and Fuel vouchers	88.57%	£26,400.00	£17,688.00
5	Bowtown Community Development Group	Happy to Help Programme - community breakfast morning, set up a community pantry, food packs and fuel vouchers	97.14%	£13,733.50	£9,201.45
6	County Down Rural Community Network	Hardship Help for Rural Communities - Food & Fuel vouchers, Food packs for older people and Potato growing project	88.57%	£29,154.00	£19,533.18
7	Hollywood Shared Town	Hardship Response Initiative - Over 55's lunch club, food & fuel vouchers and growing vegetables with the Mens Shed	80.00%	£30,000.00	£20,100.00
8	Hollywood Transition Town Ltd	Hollywood Community CoFarm - a community growing and fresh food distribution project and food vouchers	77.14%	£30,000.00	£20,100.00
9	Kilcooley Womens Centre	C.A.R.E.S. Project (Community Access to Resources, Essentials and support) - supporting the Kilcooley Social supermarket, Community fridge & pantry, early years Breakfast club and food & fuel vouchers	100.00%	£30,000.00	£20,100.00
10	Ladybirds Childcare Services	Fridgewise - Food packs, hygiene packs, cooking on a budget programme, community fridge & food vouchers	100.00%	£30,000.00	£20,100.00

11	Newtownards Foodbank (Thriving Life)	Alleviating Food & Fuel Poverty - Food & Fuel vouchers, additional food purchases of fresh and non-perishable items to meet increased demand on foodbank	82.86%	£13,500.00	£9,045.00
12	North Down Community Network	Communities Together - Food & Fuel vouchers, warm meal provision for Seniors and vulnerable young people	100.00%	£29,780.00	£19,952.60
13	North Down Community Works	Community Fridge & Freezer/Community Drop in - Purchase of community Fridge & Freezer, drop in breakfast and lunches, Family food packs and Christmas Lunch	71.43%	£15,399.98	£10,317.99
14	North Down YMCA	# Pulling Together - Food & Fuel Voucher schemes, food purchased for weekly hub sessions and holiday hunger initiative	94.29%	£13,200.00	£8,844.00
15	North Down Womens Aid	NDAWA Financial Assitance Project - Food & Fuel vouchers	77.14%	£22,500.00	£15,075.00
16	Orchardville	The Grub Club - Food purchases for Breakfast Club and Community Lunch and a Polytunnel & gardening products for their "Orchardville Grows" garden project.	74.29%	£12,500.00	£8,375.00
17	Peninsula Healthy Living	Health is Wealth - Purchase Community fridge, food & fuel vouchers and Garden materials for their "Plough on" Community Garden	100.00%	£16,335.00	£10,944.45
18	Portaferry Community Collective Ltd	Supporting the Hardship Needs of Residents in Portaferry - Breakfast Clubs, Community Lunches, Food packs and Food vouchers	88.57%	£11,640.00	£7,798.80
19	Redburn Loughview Community Forum	Support in times of Need - Establish a community Food Pantry, Gas & electric vouchers and Food vouchers	77,14%	£10,000.00	£6,700.00
20	St Marys PSG	Winter Savers - Food & Fuel vouchers, purchase of food for snack clubs, purchase of food for their Cook it! Programme	88.57%	£17,798.45	£11,924.96
21	St Vincent de Paul	Financial Support for families & individuals in finacial distress - Purchase of Oil vouchers, Food vouchers aand Gas & Electric top-ups	85.71%	£30,000.00	£20,100.00
22	The Hygiene Bank Ards & ND	THB Ards & North Down - purchase of products to make up hygiene packs e.g. Laundry & cleaning products, Baby	85.71%	£10,000.00	£6,700.00

		products, oral hygiene, general toiletries and personal care items			
23	West Winds Development Association	West Winds Cost of Living Support - Community fridge & cupboard set up, weekly lunch club, food packs, food & fuel vouchers and garden materials for their Community Growing project	100.00%	£12,200.00	£8,174.00
			Totals:	£492,815.83	£330,186.61

Table 2: Unsuccessful applications

Hardship Fund Applications That Did Not Meet 60% Pass Mark			
#	Name Of Group	Score	Reason for Unsuccessful Application
1	Be Kind Project	42.86%	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
2	Comber Youth for Christ	34.29%	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
3	Community Safety Team (ANDBC)	57.14%	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
4	First Presbyterian Bangor	37.14%	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
5	Groomsport Village Association	48.57%	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
6	Home-Start North Down	37.14%	Did not reach the 60% pass mark

Table 3: Ineligible applications

Hardship Fund Applications - Not scored as deemed ineligible			
#	Name Of Group	Score	Reason for Unsuccessful Application
1	SERC & Bangor Food Bank	0.00%	Application had included ineligible costs and once removed they fell below the £10,000 minimum

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	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	23 October 2023
File Reference	CW142
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	Social Supermarket
Attachments	None

The Department for Communities (DfC) has awarded Council funding of £100,277.48 in 2023/24 to be used for the provision the Borough social supermarket. Funding allocated in 2022/23 was £82,155.18.

As previously reported, an independent report was commissioned in 2022 which recommended that North Down Community Works (NDCW), Newtownards was selected as the organisation to lead the pilot Social Supermarket in Ards and North Down given its current wide-ranging activity, its networks, and partnerships with other organisations across the council area and its accessible location in Newtownards. The pilot was developed through a codesign process. DfC recommended, a tailored model that best meets the needs of the local community that builds on existing structures and partnerships.

The North Down Community Works SLA for 2023/24 was prepared based on last year's budget (£82,155.18) but when funding was received a total of £100,277.48

Not Applicable

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was received by Council. There is currently therefore an unallocated amount of £18,122.30.

NDCW have completed their quarter 1 return, which shows that demand is high for the current service. 36% of the allocated £82,155.18 has already been utilised. Within the first quarter 29 families have been reached from the following areas:

BT23 (Ballygowan)
BT23 (Newtownards)
BT19 (Bangor)
BT21 (Donaghadee)
BT23 (Ballywalter)
BT22 (Portaferry)
BT23 (Lisbane/Comber)

NDCW have confirmed they could utilise all of the £18k additional funding before 31st March 2024. However, members will also be aware of the other Social Supermarket based in Kilcooley operated by Kilcooley Womens Centre (KWC) that is currently not supported directly by DfC. They have also indicated that they could also make use of any additional funding effectively to serve its purposes. Therefore, an equal split of the additional funding, subject to DfCs approval and alteration to the letter of offer could be considered.

Members will be aware that the pilot is due to end on 31st March 2024. Officers intend to reconvene a meeting of the Community Support Group to begin a review that will map how the Social Supermarket is aligned with the Social Supermarket in Kilcooley and with the existing Food Bank infrastructure to ensure that all residents of the Borough, no matter where they reside, have access to appropriate support structures offered by these organisations collectively to help them in relation to their needs.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the above proposed review, and in the meantime divide the additional £18,122.30 equally between to the NDCW and KWC Social Supermarkets for use in 2023/24, subject to approval from DfC. Furthermore, if approval is not given by DfC, that the additional £18,122.30 is allocated to NDCW.

Unclassified

55

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	19 October 2023
File Reference	AH-AI/2023/24
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (NI) 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Department for Communities Access and Inclusion Grants 2023-2024
Attachments	None

The Department for Communities requested that Council administer the 2023/24 Access and Inclusion Grant for the Ards and North Down Borough.

The Grant is open for applications in relation to cultural organisations, outdoor recreation sites and Council facilities within the Borough and is a capital grant of up to £30,000 (10% minimum match funding required).

The Department was particularly keen to welcome applications for Changing Places facilities, accessible equipment for play parks and projects that would impact positively on sustainability and climate change.

The key objectives of the Department for Communities' Access and Inclusion Programme are to:

1. Improve access to arts, culture and active recreation venues across NI for people with disabilities;

Not Applicable

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2. Make arts, cultural and active recreation venues more inclusive across society; and
3. Increase participation in arts, culture and active recreation activities by people with disabilities.

The grant opened for applications on 22 August 2023 with a closing date of 13 September 2023. Applications were scored by a panel in Council and a recommendation sent to DfC for approval by its Moderation Panel.

Six applications were received and shortlisted by a panel comprising the Council's Arts and Heritage Manager, Outdoor Recreation Officer and Compliance Officer as follows:

Applicant	Project Title	% Score	Requested	Panel recommendation and award agreed by DfC
ANDBC Borough Wide	Equipment to make 44 public toilets in the borough Stoma Friendly	82	£30,000	£30,000
ANDBC Portavogie	Installation of an accessible roundabout at Portavogie Playpark	70	£11,497	£11,497
INSPIRING YARNS Newtownards	Installation of a ramp, new doors and adapted equipment for sewing/spinning. Installation of an Induction Loop system.	60	£17,440	Recommended to DfC for award but not approved. Added to a DfC contingency list if further funding is made available
BOOM STUDIOS Bangor	Installation of a remote door access facility.	60	£3,991.50	Recommended to DfC for award but not approved
DONAGHADEE HERITAGE PRESERVATION COMPANY	Ramp to access exhibition centre.	35	£3,000	Not recommended to DfC for award.
PORTICO, Portaferry	New sound system to improve available space for wheelchair users.	35	£29,72284	Not recommended to DfC for award.

A minimum pass rate of 50% was set by DfC. Four Applications scored over 50% and were recommended to DfC's Moderation Panel.

Not Applicable

57

2 applications did not score above 50/100 and therefore did not go forward to the Moderation Panel.

Council will be notified of the final outcome in due course.

All projects must be completed by 31 March 2024 and will be overseen by the Councils Arts and Heritage Manager.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the scoring panel's recommendations and the Department's decisions in this report.

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	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	24 October 2023
File Reference	ART 06/24-26
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (NI) 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Mult-annual Arts Grants 2024-2026
Attachments	None

Ards and North Down Borough Council offer two-year funding for Arts organisations operating in the borough. Organisations who operate an annual programme of arts activity can apply for core multi-annual grants up to a maximum of £5,000 per year. Organisations who carry out a large one-off arts project/festival per year can apply for up to £4,000.

The multi-annual arts grant opened for applications on Monday 4 September 2023 with a closing date of Thursday 19 October 2023 at 4pm.

Seven applications were received by the closing date.

An assessment panel made up of members from the Arts and Heritage panel met virtually on the morning of Tuesday 23 October 2023.

Not Applicable

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Panel members were:

Councillor Pete Wray
 Councillor Richard Smart
 Anna Donovan, Arts Specialist
 Jane McCann, Arts Specialist

Administering the process was Arts Officer, Patricia Hamilton and Arts Administrative assistant Lauren Dawson.

A minimum pass rate for recommendation was set at 50% before scoring took place.

The Panel agreed at the start of the meeting that the definition of an arts organisation should be that their core function and purpose should be solely arts related. This was assessed using each organisation's constitution, submitted with their application.

Applicant	% Score	Amount Requested CORE / PROGRAMME	Awarded
Bangor Drama Club	81%	CORE £5,000	£5,000
Bangor International Choral Festival	71%	PROGRAMME £3,000	£3,000
BOOM! Studios	87%	CORE £5,000	£5,000
Hollywood Music Festival	83%	PROGRAMME £4,000	£4,000
Kilcooley Women's Centre	N/A	CORE £5,000	£0
Portico of Ards Ltd	92%	CORE £5,000	£5,000
Seacourt Print Workshop	90%	CORE £5,000	£5,000
TOTAL		£32,000	£27,000

Six applications met the criteria to go forward for assessment. Kilcooley Women's Centre did not meet the definition of an arts organisation according to their constitution.

Not Applicable

60

The six applications scored, and all met the minimum 50% pass mark. The total amount requested for these six applications totalled £27,000. The panel agreed that they should be awarded their requested amount.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the recommendations of the scoring panel as detailed in the table to award the Multi-Annual Grants for 2024-26.

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	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	19 October 2023
File Reference	HER 12 11/24
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (NI) 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Accreditation achieved by North Down Museum
Attachments	None

North Down Museum has recently achieved renewed accreditation after an extensive assessment process. The accreditation covers a period of five years until 2028, when re-assessment will take place.

Accreditation provides museums in the UK with a clear set of Nationally agreed standards to work towards. Achieving accreditation builds public trust and funders' confidence in how museums manage collections for the community, and how they manage public resources. Accreditation status enhances a museums' presence and reputation and in turn bolsters the reputation of the Council.

The accreditation board requires a museum to provide appropriate governance and management and to have a high standard in the management of their collections, including its documentation, conservation, and interpretation.

Not Applicable

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The benefits for Council in maintaining an accredited museum are:

- If Museum accreditation was not achieved, ANDBC would be the only local authority in NI not to have an accredited museum.
- Increased access to funding - many funding streams are only open to accredited museums.
- Access to loans - accredited museums can only loan to other accredited museums. Without this the museum would lose many key loans that make up the permanent gallery displays. It would also mean that we would not be able to secure loans for any future temporary exhibitions.
- Maintaining accreditation will send a sign to the community and other institutions that our Council values the history and heritage of the community that we serve.
- Public trust - our community lends and donates to the museum because they trust the museum has high standards and that objects will be secure and appropriately cared when under museum care.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council welcomes the award of Accreditation to the North Down Museum until 2028.

Unclassified

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ITEM 10**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	01 November 2023
File Reference	HER 15 11/23
Legislation	None
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Trial of Dogs in the Courtyard at North Down Museum
Attachments	None

Following a report to Council in September recommending that the current trial of allowing dogs to access the museum coffee shop should end and adherence to the current by-laws continue, an amendment was proposed and agreed by Council as follows.

That Council agree, that a site meeting is held with officers, museum staff, a Coffee Cure representative and Bangor Central DEA Councillors to discuss a potential solution involving cafe staff providing access to the Courtyard via the gate and not the museum which will allow continued access for dogs whilst providing better access for those with mobility issues. Dogs will continue to be permitted in the Courtyard until a further report is brought back to Council with potential options following the site meeting.

A scheme was trialled initially for July and August 2022 to allow dogs into the courtyard at North Down Museum. This was extended for one year until June 2023 to monitor a full year, the impact of winter conditions and the return of pre-Covid-19 footfall to the Museum.

Not Applicable

As the original report agreed in June 2022 stated, dogs are not permitted into North Down Museum, or Coffee Cure, only into the courtyard at North Down Museum.

As requested, a meeting took place on Wednesday 25 October with the Elected Members representing the Bangor Central DEA, Director of Community and Wellbeing, Head of Community and Culture, relevant Arts and Heritage Officers, and a representative from Coffee Cure. The meeting was to discuss a potential solution to problems previously presented in a report to the Community and Wellbeing Committee on 13 September 2023.

All parties agreed that dogs could not be granted access to the Museum via the reception area as this was impractical and posed a number of operational and security issues.

A number of options were discussed in relation to the opening and locking of the side gate to the Museum's Courtyard to permit dogs. It was agreed that this was not the responsibility of Coffee Cure as the Museum Manager would be held accountable for the security of the building and associated collection and the resources required for Museum staff to do this, coupled with the high security risks outweighed the desire to permit dogs to the café.

It was agreed that permitting dogs to the courtyard at North Down Museum via the gate was therefore not practical due to the high security risk and potential impact on the Museum's reputation and accreditation.

Coffee Cure agreed that the trial to permit dogs had to work for both the Museum and Coffee Cure and although they are happy to permit dogs, they accepted that the trial arrangements were not practical for the Museum and that the responsibility for security fell to the Museum and not to Coffee Cure.

All parties recognised that there was an appetite for dog friendly café services in the area and were committed to working in partnership to look at alternatives in the future. For example, the active promotion of café facilities at the Walled Garden as 'dog-friendly' or the placing of a coffee dock in Castle Park.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agree from 1st January 2024, following a one year trial period, North Down Museum resort to the original Byelaw forbidding dogs to enter the Museum and accompanying courtyard and that Officers investigate alternative dog-friendly options going forward.

Unclassified

65

ITEM 11**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	27 October 2023
File Reference	CW164
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Ending the Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and Action Plan
Attachments	Appendix 1 Draft response to Ending the Violence Against Women and Girls Appendix 2 Consultation Document Appendix 3 Action Plan Appendix 4 Strategic Framework

At the Council meeting held on 26th July 2023, it was agreed that the consultation document – Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Strategic Framework and Action Plan be referred to the Community and Wellbeing Committee for a response.

As the closing date was 3rd October 2023 a draft response has been submitted and is attached for members consideration and approval. Any further comments will be accepted by the Department and the draft response updated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agree the attached Consultation response.

Response ID ANON-PVN8-73EF-1

Submitted to Consultation on a Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls & Foundational Action Plan
Submitted on 2023-10-03 19:31:51

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About You

1 Are you responding to this consultation as a member of the public, or on behalf of an organisation?

On behalf of an organisation.

About You - An Organisation

8 Please provide the name of the organisation you are answering on behalf of.

Name of organisation.:

Ards and North Down Borough Council

9 Which of the following best describes the sector you operate in? This will assist us in monitoring the range of respondents the consultation has reached.

Local Government

Other - Please specify:

Strategic Framework

10 Do you agree or disagree with our vision below?

Strongly Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our draft vision in the box below.:

11 Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 1 below, will enable us to achieve this vision?

Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 1 in the box below.:

Council welcomes the opportunity to have an input into the implementation of Outcome 1.

12 Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 2 below, will enable us to achieve this vision?

Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 2 in the box below.:

Council welcomes the opportunity to build upon projects currently implemented locally via PCSP to ensure everyone in the Borough is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.

13 Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 3 below, will enable us to achieve this vision?

Strongly Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 3 in the box below.:

14 Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 4 below, will enable us to achieve this vision?

Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 4 in the box below.:

It is essential that sustainable funding is put in place to ensure high quality services are retained and built upon.

15 Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 5 below, will enable us to achieve this vision?

Strongly Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 5 in the box below.:

16 Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 6 below, will enable us to achieve this vision?

Strongly Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 6 in the box below.:

Placing a focus on Prevention

17 Do you agree or disagree with our approach of focusing on PREVENTION to end violence against women and girls?

Strongly Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our approach of focusing on prevention in the box below.:

Council welcomes the weighting of prevention within the framework and that this would protect victims and potential victims. Preventive work with men and young men is vital.

Foundational Action Plan

18 Do you agree or disagree that these are the right actions to take in our foundational Action Plan?

Strongly Agree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our draft foundational Action Plan.:

Council welcomes the opportunity to work strategically to ensure that the draft foundational Action Plan outcomes are achieved in 23/24.

Impact Assessments

19 Do you agree or disagree with the way in which the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been carried out?

Agree

20 Do you agree or disagree with the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?

Agree

Are there any other issues or inequalities that you believe need to be considered in the EQIA?:

Next Steps

21 If you or your organisation would like to receive our newsletter, to keep up to date with our work to end violence against women and girls, please provide a contact email address in the box below.

Email:

nicola.dorrian@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Print Version

Public Consultation Paper
Ending Violence Against
Women and Girls
Strategic Framework &
Foundational Action Plan



Introduction

1. This consultation seeks views on the new draft Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) and Foundational Action Plan, being led by the Executive Office (TEO).
2. The seven-year (2023-2030) Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls has been co-designed with over 50 partners from across government, community and voluntary sectors and organisations, as well as wider society. Importantly, these partners also include those with lived experience.
3. It sets the agenda for all of government and society here to end violence against women and girls. It is ambitious, long term, and wide reaching. It is a living document and will be adapted along the journey responding to emerging needs.


Consultation

4. The consultation will run for 13 weeks from 04 July 2023 to 03 October 2023.
5. While we want to hear from as many people as possible on as many of the changes as possible, please feel free to comment on as few or as many of them as you see fit.
6. The proposals for the Strategic Framework and Foundational Action Plan are subject to the views of the Executive who will be responsible for final approval.

Alternative Formats

7. An electronic copy of our consultation documents, including an Easy Read version, can be accessed on our main [consultation page](#) (external link opens to a new window / tab).
8. Young people **under the age of 16** are encouraged to use the Easy Read Version and consider completing this under the supervision of an adult.
9. Copies in other languages and formats (including Braille, large print etc.), can be made available on request. If you require the document in an alternative format, or language other than English, please contact us at EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk, or at the address below.

Responding to the consultation

10. The best way to respond to this consultation is online, through our survey which can be accessed here:
<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/>
(external link opens to a new window / tab)
- 
11. A copy of the survey is also included in this document at page 10.
 12. Completed hard copy surveys and other written responses can be sent by:
E-mail to: EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk
Or, by post to: Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate
A5.18, The Executive Office
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast BT4 3SR
 13. Responses to this consultation are invited for 13 weeks after the consultation launch, and written responses will be accepted up to 03 October 2023.
 14. We look forward to hearing from you. If you want to contact the team about the approach being taken, or if you or a group you are involved with would like to participate in an engagement event, please use the email address provided.

Privacy, Confidentiality and Access to Consultation Responses

15. Following this consultation, the Department may publish all responses (subject to our Moderation Policy), except for those where the respondent indicates that they are an individual acting in a private capacity (e.g. a member of the public).
16. Where it is appropriate or necessary, we will remove email addresses, telephone numbers, and any other personal identifiers from these responses.
17. The Executive Office (TEO) is committed to protecting your privacy. For more information about what we do with your personal data please see our consultation privacy notice. That privacy notice explains how TEO uses the information supplied by you as part of a consultation, what we do with it, the ways in which we will safeguard it, and what your data protection rights are.

18. Your response, and all other responses to this consultation, may be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR); however, all disclosures will be in line with the requirements of the Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA) and UK GDPR.
19. If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Department should receive a request for the information under the FOIA or EIR.

Purpose

20. This seven-year (2023-2030) Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG), builds on the evidence received, and the key issues identified through the Call for Views consultation process, which took place in 2022. It sets the agenda for all of government and society to end violence against women and girls. It is ambitious, long term, and wide reaching. As a living document, it will be adapted along the journey according to emerging needs.
21. The **problem statement** that this Strategic Framework is addressing was agreed by our co-design group as,

“Societal culture and systemic attitudes and beliefs enable violence against women and girls”.
22. Wellbeing for all is at the heart of what Government aims to deliver in this jurisdiction. The ability to form and enjoy healthy relationships is central to individual wellbeing, and vital to building communities and a society where everyone can thrive. This is something that we want for all our children, and for every individual and community here.
23. Violence against women and girls, in all its forms, is a critical obstacle to achieving this goal of wellbeing for all. It is damaging to women, girls, men and boys. Stopping violence against women and girls by changing the attitudes, behaviours, and social norms that accept and enable it, can create a future that is not only better and safer for women and girls, but more just, equal, and respectful for everyone.

Overview of the Strategic Framework

24. The co-design process to develop the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls began in October 2022. It saw a group of over 50 partners come together from across government, different sectors, and wider society, including intersectional representation and, importantly, those with lived experience, to create a Strategic Framework that has been ***designed with***, not for, our communities and society.

Vision

25. The Vision of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is

A changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them.

Aim

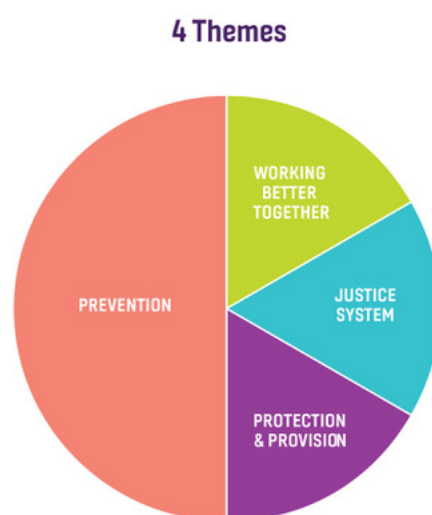
26. The Aim of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is:

To work together as partners across every sector of society to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls with a focus on root causes.

Four Themes

27. In developing this Strategic Framework our co-design group identified 4 broad themes and 6 big changes or 'outcomes' required to end violence against women and girls. The outcomes are grouped under the four themes:

1. **Prevention;**
2. **Protection & Provision;**
3. **Justice System;** and
4. **Working Better Together**



For illustration purposes only

Prevention

28. The emphasis of this Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is on the theme of **prevention**. Effective prevention can both stop violence from occurring in the first place, such as education and campaigns; as well as interrupt the cycle of violence, like making public transport safer.

29. Our main focus will be on those outcomes associated with prevention:

- Changing attitudes, behaviours, and social norms
- Building knowledge and skills of individuals to form healthy relationships
- Ensuring that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.

Outcomes

30. The 6 big changes required to end violence against women and girls identified by our Co-design group were grouped into six outcomes, with priority areas identified under each outcome:

- **Outcome 1: Changed Attitudes, Behaviours, and Social Norms.**
Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and plays an active role in preventing it.
- **Outcome 2: Healthy, Respectful Relationships.**
Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.
- **Outcome 3: Women and Girls are Safe and Feel Safe Everywhere.**
Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.
- **Outcome 4: Quality Frontline Services, Protection, and Provision for Victims and Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls.**
Provision of high quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.
- **Outcome 5: A Justice System which has the Confidence of Victims, Survivors and the Public in its Ability to Address Violence Against Women and Girls.**
In the context of violence against women and girls, a justice system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public.
- **Outcome 6: All of Government and Society Working Better Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls**
A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation by default across government departments and with, within, and between the community, voluntary, and other sectors.

31. Each of these Outcomes, and the priorities for delivering them are explained in more detail in our Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

Overview of the Foundational Action Plan

32. This Action Plan is a foundational one which establishes our work for the remainder of 2023/24. This approach allows us to make progress in the challenging financial climate this year, and to align our planning cycle with the financial year from March 2024. As we go forward, further conversations will be needed to allow us to advise the Executive on decisions to be taken on budgets and priorities.
33. The Action Plan consists of a series of key actions that were developed to lay the foundations of the work to bring about meaningful change and effective delivery as we move forward, and which the Strategic Framework can build upon in subsequent years.

Impact assessments

34. The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), completed in relation to our Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls and Foundational Action Plan, is the first stage in the ongoing monitoring of the inequalities that may be experienced by section 75 groups in respect of ending violence against women and girls. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

What Happens Next

35. A number of public engagement events will be held during the consultation period. Information on these events will be published on the Executive Office website and will be distributed through a newsletter.
36. Following the close of the consultation on 03 October 2023 the responses will be analysed and considered by the EVAWG Directorate.
37. Proposals for the Strategic Framework and Foundational Action Plan are subject to the views of the Executive who will be responsible for final approval.

Moderation Policy

38. In connection with any responses to the consultation and any which may be published we operate a moderation policy to ensure that responses are appropriate and not harmful to others. Moderation is performed in accordance with the terms set out below.
39. Responses that include any of the following may be deleted:
- threats or incitements to violence;
 - use of obscenity;
 - duplicative or substantially duplicative postings by the same person or entity;
 - postings seeking employment or containing advertisements for a commercial product or service;
 - information posted in violation of law, including libel, condoning or encouraging illegal activity, revealing classified information, or infringing on a copyright or trademark.
40. We value your time and input, and our aim is to accept as many responses as possible, while ensuring that a focused, constructive consultation takes place. To address additional matters as may be warranted, this moderation policy is subject to change.

Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls – Consultation Questionnaire

Overview

In total there are **21** questions in this consultation.

It should take approximately 15 minutes to complete.

If you or someone you know has been affected by any form of violence referred to in this document, you can seek help from the following:

You can contact the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline at any time, free of charge:

0808 802 1414

help@dsahelpline.org

If you are in danger right now

If you are in danger right now you should call 999. If it is difficult for you to talk when you call 999, you can **press 55** on the phone to let the police know that it is an emergency.

- [Women's Aid Federation NI](#)
- [NSPCC](#)
- [The Rainbow Project](#)
- [PSNI](#)
- [Victim Support NI](#)
- [Men's Advisory Project NI](#)

About You

Privacy, Confidentiality, and Access to Consultation Responses

The Executive Office (TEO) is committed to protecting your privacy. For more information about what we do with your personal data please see our consultation privacy notice.

All the questions in the 'About You', pages are required.

When completing the rest of this consultation, you only need to answer the questions that are most relevant and important to you.

1. Are you responding to this consultation as a member of the public, or on behalf of an organisation?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- A member of the public. *(Please proceed to **question 2.**)*
- On behalf of an organisation. *(Please proceed to **question 8.**)*

About You - A Member of the Public

2a. Within which local council district is your normal place of residence?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Antrim and Newtownabbey
- Ards and North Down
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon
- Belfast
- Causeway Coast and Glens
- Derry City and Strabane
- Fermanagh and Omagh
- Lisburn and Castlereagh
- Mid and East Antrim
- Mid Ulster

- Newry Mourne and Down
- Prefer not to say

2b. Within your local council district, do you consider yourself to live in a Rural, or Urban area?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Rural
- Urban
- Prefer not to say

3. Please select your age range:

(Required)

Please select only one option

- 16-17 years
- 18-24 years
- 25-34 years
- 35-44 years
- 45-54 years
- 55-64 years
- 65+ years
- Prefer not to say

*An **Easy Read Version** of this consultation is available.
Young people **under the age of 16** are encouraged to use
the Easy Read Version and consider completing this under
the supervision of an adult.*

4a. What is your gender identity?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Woman/Girl
- Man/Boy
- Non-binary
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

4b. Do you consider yourself to be either a transgender person or a person with a trans history?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Yes, I do
- No, I don't
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

5. Which of the following best describes your sexual orientation?

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Heterosexual
- Lesbian
- Gay
- Bisexual
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

6. What is your ethnic group?

Choose one option which best describes your ethnic group or background.

(Required)

Please select only one option

- White
- Irish Traveller
- White and Black Caribbean
- White and Black African
- White and Asian
- Indian
- Pakistani
- Bangladeshi
- Chinese
- African
- Caribbean
- Arab

- Any other ethnic or mixed ethnic group
(please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

If you have selected "Any other ethnic or mixed ethnic group", please specify below.

7. Do you consider yourself to be a person with a disability?

The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 defines disability as "a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities".

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Yes
- No
- Prefer not to say

This is the end of this section for those answering as a member of the public. Please proceed to the **Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls section** and **question 10**.

About You - An Organisation

All the questions on this page are required.

8. Please provide the name of the organisation you are answering on behalf of.

(Required)

9. Which of the following best describes the sector you operate in? This will assist us in monitoring the range of respondents the consultation has reached.

(Required)

Please select only one option

- Central government
- Local Government
- Statutory body (e.g. health, education, transport, housing etc.)
- Private sector
- Charity / Community / Voluntary sector
- Other (Please specify in the box below)
- Prefer not to say

This is the end of this section for those answering on behalf of an organisation. Please proceed to the **Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls section** and **question 10**.

Strategic Framework

The Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is the blueprint for society wide change to tackle this systemic problem.

10. Do you agree or disagree with our vision?

"A changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them"

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our draft vision in the box below.

What is Gender-based violence?

Violence against women and girls is a subset of gender-based

People sometimes think of violence as physical assault only, however violence against women and girls takes many forms.

Violence against women and girls includes:

- *physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence occurring in the family (including children and young people), in the general community, or in institutions including coercive control and stalking*
- *sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation in any public or private space*
- *workplace sexual harassment ranging from sexual jokes or comments to unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature.*
- *commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, trafficking, child sexual abuse, so called honour based violence, including female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and so called honour crimes*
- *harmful sexual behaviour which is sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self, or abusive to others*
- *online abuse including cyberstalking, sexual harassment, grooming for exploitation or abuse, image-based sexual abuse*
- *financial abuse such as controlling a woman's or girl's access to their money, taking loans or credit cards in their name or using their money without their consent*
- *everyday harm which includes everyday misogyny, sexist jokes and language, and discrimination.*

11. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 1 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?

Outcome 1 - Changed Attitudes, Behaviours and Social Norms.

Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and play an active role in preventing it.

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 1 in the box below.

12. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 2 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?

Outcome 2 – Healthy, Respectful Relationships.

Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships.

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 2 in the box below.

13. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 3 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?

Outcome 3 – Women and Girls Are Safe and Feel Safe Everywhere.

Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 3 in the box below.

14. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 4 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?

Outcome 4 – Quality Frontline Services, Protection, and Provision for Victims and Survivors of Violence Against Women and Girls.

Provision of high quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls.

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 4 in the box below.

15. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 5 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?

Outcome 5 – A Justice System which has the Confidence of Victims, Survivors and the Public in its Ability to Address Violence Against Women and Girls.

In the context of violence against women and girls, a justice system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public.

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 5 in the box below.

16. Do you agree or disagree that Outcome 6 below, will enable us to achieve this draft vision?

Outcome 6 – All of Government and Society Working Better Together to End Violence Against Women and Girls.

A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation by default across government departments and with, within and between the community, voluntary and other sectors.

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding Outcome 6 in the box below.

Placing a focus on Prevention

The emphasis of this draft Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls is on prevention.

"Prevention is about addressing the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, to stop it before it occurs."

UN Women, 2012

17. Do you agree or disagree with our approach of focusing on PREVENTION to end violence against women and girls?

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our approach of focusing on prevention in the box below.

Draft Foundational Action Plan

This Action Plan is a foundational one which establishes our work for the remainder of 2023/24. This approach allows us to make progress in the challenging financial climate this year and to align our planning cycle with the financial year from March 2024. As we go forward, further conversations will be needed to allow us to advise the Executive on decisions to be taken on budgets and priorities.

Draft Foundational Action Plan

Actions falling under the theme of **Prevention**:

1. Develop a society wide communications and engagement strategy to change attitudes, behaviours and social norms.
2. Adopt the Task Group Sprint Model to consider the needs (including Intersectional needs) of specific groups.
3. Establish a forum to coordinate work on equipping and supporting families, children and young people to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships using the curriculum (including Relationships and Sexuality Education), policies and practices in early years, schools and community sector.
4. To embed structures and processes which give space for young people's voices to participate and influence decision makers in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) work.
5. Establish a cross sectoral Further and Higher Education working group to develop a plan to address EVAWG on and off campus.
6. Establish a cross-sectoral workplace forum (including unions, Labour Relations Agency, employers' organisations and other professional bodies) to develop workplace policy toolkits/ guidance and to promote workplace training/ best practice in professional standards on EVAWG, Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) to lead good practice in public sector.
7. Support the cross-sectoral group addressing EVAWG issues in the hospitality sector and the night-time economy.

Actions falling under the theme of **Protection & Provision**:

8. Map and undertake gap analysis of violence against women and girls (VAWG) provision in general frontline services to help inform further policy development and service delivery.
9. Map and undertake gap analysis of VAWG provision in specialist frontline services including a review of referral gateways to help inform further policy development and service delivery.

Actions falling under the theme of Justice System:

10. Develop further tools for communicating information on the justice system and processes to improve information sharing and enhance confidence amongst victims/survivors in support of implementation of the Victim and Witness Strategy.
11. In the context of care and protections for victims in the Justice system:
 - (a) evaluate agreed interventions that are providing support to victims to access the Justice System;
 - (b) support research on victim attrition rates in serious sexual offences and domestic abuse cases, as part of implementation of Gillen Programme and Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
12. Explore with partners options to create specialism in VAWG cases in court proceedings including information provision for juries.
13. Undertake a review of international best practice perpetrator prevention and management systems to inform policy development and practice in support of the review under the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
14. Undertake a review of trends in aggravating and reinforcing factors of VAWG to inform policy development and practice.

Actions falling under the theme of Working Better Together:

15. Create a Knowledge and Network Hub within the Executive Office (TEO) to provide an accessible central resource on EVAWG research, data & evaluation and communication & engagement.
16. Establish a cross sectoral group located within the Knowledge and Network Hub to develop and lead the programme of EVAWG work on data and evaluation.
17. Through the Knowledge and Network Hub, develop and deliver an agreed annual EVAWG research programme with advice and support from a cross jurisdictional panel of academic research experts.
18. Through the Knowledge and Network Hub create reference groups to engage with lived experience, service provision, and academic research expertise in the development of the EVAWG work programme.

19. Create a five jurisdiction officials forum to share best practice and encourage cross jurisdictional shared learning.
20. NICS will identify and implement mechanisms including Programme for Government (PfG) to mainstream opportunities to EVAWG in public policies and strategies at all levels.
21. Develop funding strategy for sustainable EVAWG work across departments and other sectors.
22. In order to build widespread support for a changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them - to seek endorsement of EVAWG strategic framework and active participation in the whole of society programme of actions by political and civic leaders.

18. Do you agree or disagree that these are the right actions to take in our draft Foundational Action Plan?

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Please add any comments you wish to make regarding our draft Foundational Action Plan in the box below.

Impact Assessments

The Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA), completed in relation to our draft Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls and draft Foundational Action Plan, is the first stage in the ongoing monitoring of the inequalities that may be experienced by section 75 groups in respect of ending violence against women and girls. It will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis.

We have also completed other impact assessments and screenings in accordance with best practice. All Impact Assessments can be viewed on the [Executive Office website](#) (external link opens to a new window / tab).

19. Do you agree or disagree with the way the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) has been carried out?

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

20. Do you agree or disagree with the findings of the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)?

Please select only one option

- Strongly Agree
- Agree
- Neither Agree nor Disagree
- Disagree
- Strongly Disagree

Are there any other issues or inequalities that you believe need to be considered in the EQIA?

Next Steps

We have an opportunity to make a generational change that will improve life for everyone here.

In the past, violence against women and girls was a hidden problem. But now, women and girls with experience of violence are telling their stories, young people are asking why we can't do things differently, people across our communities are saying that we can and must change our culture and attitudes so that violence against women and girls becomes history.

Many thanks for taking the time to respond to this consultation.

21. If you or your organisation would like to receive our newsletter, to keep up to date with our work to end violence against women and girls, please provide a contact email address in the box below.

We will not publish the contact details of individual respondents.

For further information, please contact:

**Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate,
A5.18, The Executive Office
Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate,
Belfast BT4 3SR**

EVAWG.HaveYourSay@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

Action Plan



Summer 2023

It is only through a collaborative approach across society and government that we can start to build transformative change

This is everyone's problem and solving it will need action by everyone.

Together we all need to build a society wide movement that stops violence against women and girls before it starts; one that promotes attitudes and behaviours that make healthy, respectful relationships possible, so that everyone can thrive and be safe.

Men and boys have a very important role to play to change bad attitudes and behaviours towards women and girls. They can set a good example and be great role models for other men and boys to follow.

Evidence and research tell us that we can end violence against women and girls in our society if we act together to create change where we live, learn, and work.

There is something everyone can do

For further information, please contact:

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate

evawg@executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk



Our Vision

A CHANGED SOCIETY WHERE WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE FREE FROM ALL FORMS OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE, ABUSE AND HARM

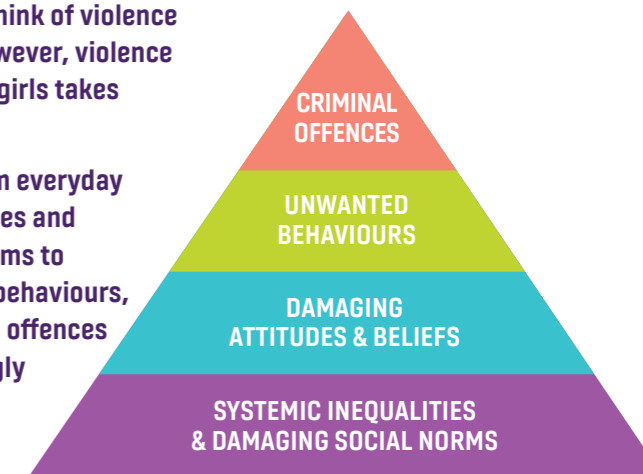
INCLUDING THE ATTITUDES, SYSTEMS AND STRUCTURAL INEQUALITIES THAT CAUSE THEM

NOTE:
VAWG: Violence against women and girls
EVAWG: Ending violence against women and girls

What is Violence against women and girls?

Sometimes people think of violence as only physical, however, violence against women and girls takes many forms.

Violence ranges from everyday misogynistic attitudes and damaging social norms to harmful, unwanted behaviours, and serious criminal offences and is overwhelmingly but not exclusively carried out by men.



Pyramid of Gender Based Violence

The United Nations define Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) as:

“any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”

(UN General Assembly, 1993, p.2.)

Violence against women and girls includes:

physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence occurring in the family (including children and young people), in the general community, or in institutions, including coercive control and stalking

harmful sexual behaviour which is sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self, or abusive to others

sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation in any public or private space

online abuse including cyberstalking, sexual harassment, grooming for exploitation or abuse, image-based sexual abuse

workplace sexual harassment ranging from sexual jokes or comments to unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature

financial abuse such as controlling a woman's or girls access to their money, taking loans or credit cards in their name, or using their money without their permission;

commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, trafficking, child sexual abuse, so-called honour based violence, including female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and so-called honour crimes

everyday harm which includes everyday misogyny, sexist jokes and language, and discrimination

Action Plan

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS

What is this about?

Ending violence against women and girls is one of the biggest challenges facing our society today. Throughout our communities there is a growing awareness and a sense of urgency that more needs to be done.

In 2021, the NI Executive set out the need to co-ordinate a new approach to tackling the root causes of violence against women and girls. They said it must be intersectional and consider all forms of violence, with particular focus on behavioural and attitudinal change.

Since then a draft **Strategic Framework** to End Violence Against Women and Girls has been developed; it has been co-designed by a range of people representing different organisations from across society and government, including people with lived experience.

A series of key actions were also developed, which will mark the start of a seven-year road map to bring about meaningful change and effective delivery of these actions.

The Action Plan sets out a foundation of activity to get things started. In a year where budgets are challenging for everyone we want to do as much as possible to get this work underway.

What we Know

There is still not enough information on how much all the different types of violence, abuse and harm takes place, and the impact it has on the lives of women and girls, their families and the communities around them. We know that what is reported is only the tip of the iceberg.

The information we have doesn't reflect the true size of the problem as a lot of violence, abuse and harm against women and girls goes unreported. We plan to improve information gathering.



Almost **4 in 5** victims of sexual offences, recorded by PSNI in 2021/22, where the gender of the victim was known, were female

PSNI, 2022



75% of girls experienced street harassment at least once in their lifetime

YLT, 2022

Young Life and Times Survey



1 in 2 girls, aged 16, have received an unwanted intimate photo/video at least once in their lifetime

YLT, 2022

Young Life and Times Survey

It is recognised that there is much good work already being done across government and society. It is vital to build on this and work together to ensure it is sufficiently joined up, prioritised, and consistently evaluated in a way that mutually meets all the outcomes.

ACTION PLAN - YEAR 1

Prevention

Changed Attitudes, Behaviours & Social Norms

Healthy, Respectful Relationships

Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

1. Develop a society wide communications and engagement strategy to change attitudes, behaviours and social norms.
2. Adopt the Task Group Sprint Model to consider the needs (including Intersectional needs) of specific groups.
3. Establish a forum to coordinate work on equipping and supporting families, children and young people to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships using the curriculum (including Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE)), policies and practices in early years, schools, youth and community sectors.
4. To embed structures and processes which give space for young people's voices to participate and influence decision makers in ending violence against women and girls (EVAWG) work.
5. Establish a cross sectoral Further and Higher education working group to develop a plan to address EVAWG on and off campus.
6. Establish a cross-sectoral workplace forum (including unions, Labour Relations Agency, employers' organisations and other professional bodies) to develop workplace policy toolkits/guidance and to promote workplace training/best practice in professional standards on EVAWG, Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) to lead good practice in public sector.
7. Support the cross-sectoral group addressing EVAWG issues in the hospitality sector and the night-time economy.

Protection & Provision

Quality frontline services, protection, and provision for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls

8. Map and undertake gap analysis of violence against women and girls (VAWG) provision in general frontline services to help inform further policy development and service delivery.
9. Map and undertake gap analysis of VAWG provision in specialist frontline services including a review of referral gateways to help inform further policy development and service delivery.



These actions form the foundation of work to be delivered for year one of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls

Justice System

A justice system which has the confidence of victims, survivors and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls

10. Develop further tools for communicating information on the justice system and processes to improve information sharing and enhance confidence amongst victims/survivors in support of implementation of the Victim and Witness Strategy.
11. In the context of care and protections for victims in the justice system, (a) evaluate agreed interventions that are providing support to victims to access the Justice System; (b) support research on victim attrition rates in serious sexual offences and domestic abuse cases, as part of implementation of Gillen Programme and Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
12. Explore with partners options to create specialism in VAWG cases in court proceedings including information provision for juries.
13. Undertake a review of international best practice perpetrator prevention and management systems to inform policy development and practice in support of the review under the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.
14. Undertake a review of trends in aggravating and reinforcing factors of VAWG to inform policy development and practice.

Working better Together

All of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls

15. Create a Knowledge and Network Hub within the Executive Office (TEO) to provide an accessible central resource on EVAWG research, data & evaluation and communication & engagement.
16. Establish a cross sectoral group located within the Knowledge and Network Hub to develop and lead the programme of EVAWG work on data and evaluation.
17. Through the Knowledge and Network Hub, develop and deliver an agreed annual EVAWG research programme with advice and support from a cross jurisdictional panel of academic research experts.
18. Through the Knowledge and Network Hub create reference groups to engage with lived experience, service provision, and academic research expertise in the development of the EVAWG work programme.
19. Create a five jurisdiction officials forum to share best practice and encourage cross jurisdictional shared learning.
20. NICS will identify and implement mechanisms including Programme for Government (PfG) to mainstream opportunities to EVAWG in public policies and strategies at all levels.
21. Develop funding strategy for sustainable EVAWG work across departments and other sectors.
22. In order to build widespread support for a changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them - to seek endorsement of EVAWG strategic framework and active participation in the whole of society programme of actions by political and civic leaders.

ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN & GIRLS



Strategic Framework

Our Vision

A CHANGED SOCIETY
WHERE WOMEN AND
GIRLS ARE FREE FROM
ALL FORMS OF GENDER-
BASED VIOLENCE, ABUSE
AND HARM

INCLUDING THE
ATTITUDES, SYSTEMS
AND STRUCTURAL
INEQUALITIES THAT
CAUSE THEM

Foreword

Ending violence of all kinds against women and girls is one of the most difficult challenges facing our society today. It is also one of the most important.



This Strategic Framework sets out meaningful steps, towards a changed society, where women and girls are free from all forms of violence, abuse and harm.

It requires urgent action at all levels, in all spaces and by all people. Every day we see and hear how violence, abuse and harm impacts the lives of women and girls, wherever they learn, live, work and socialise.

This framework has been co-designed with people and organisations from right across government and society, representing different backgrounds and perspectives, and importantly, including those with lived experience; and they have worked together to get to the heart of this challenging issue.

This plan will help us build a movement across our society to prevent violence, abuse and harm before they start, by tackling the root causes.

In practice this will mean working better together across our communities and throughout government to drive the big changes that have been identified in this plan, and that are needed in our schools, sports clubs, families, workplaces, on our streets, in fact, wherever we find ourselves.

This is, of course, about supporting our mothers, sisters, wives, partners and daughters. It's also about creating a better society for all people, including our brothers, our sons, our men and our boys; a place where everyone can have healthy, respectful relationships, where everyone has the chance to thrive.

I am pleased to share this Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls, which sets out clearly what we need to do as a society. Our challenge now is to turn it into action.

This is ambitious and will require all of us to play our part. There is something we can all do. Together, we can end violence against women and girls.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jayne Brady".

Jayne Brady,
Head of the NI Civil Service

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Executive Summary

This is a seven-year Strategic Framework to End Violence against Women and Girls mandated by the Northern Ireland Executive. It was co-designed by people from many sectors and backgrounds, with diverse perspectives, who are committed to ending violence against women and girls. The Strategic Framework is ambitious, long term, and wide reaching. It is a living document which will be reviewed and adapted along the journey according to emerging needs.

Violence against women and girls is a systemic and deep-rooted problem in our society. It is a problem that is hidden in plain sight and every day we see how it is affecting the lives of women and girls, wherever they learn, live, and work. This Strategic Framework will address the whole range of gender-based violence, abuse and harm which is disproportionately experienced by women and girls, and which is rooted in gender inequality.

Emerging evidence shows that the majority of women and girls in our society have experienced at least one form of gender-based violence, abuse and harm, ranging from everyday misogyny, sexual harassment in a public place or workspace, to more extreme physical violence. This leads to significant health and socio-economic impacts on families, communities, and our society and prevents the achievement of wellbeing for all.

By working collaboratively, we can build a society wide movement for prevention to drive the transformational change that is needed to end violence against women and girls

The Strategic Framework has a focus on tackling the root causes of violence against women and girls which include damaging social norms, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours which are discriminatory towards women and girls, and which create a culture that enables violence, harm, and abuse to develop and be sustained.

The vision is **'a changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse, and harm, including the attitudes, systems, and structural inequalities that cause them'**. This will be achieved through the aim of 'working together as partners across society in public, private, and third sectors, and with the community to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls with a focus on root causes.'

The co-design process identified four main themes which are: Prevention; Protection and Provision; The Justice System; and Working Better Together. Together, these themes make up the core foundation of this Strategic Framework. Under these themes, there are six outcomes which outline the big changes that are needed in our society to end violence against women and girls. Priority areas of focus for each outcome identify key areas where work is needed to bring about the changes.

The overall emphasis of the Strategic Framework is on prevention, tackling the root causes and stopping the violence before it starts. In order to prevent violence against women and girls effectively,

there needs to be a society wide focus on changing attitudes, behaviours and social norms, equipping everyone to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships and ensuring that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.

Addressing the needs of victims and survivors of all forms of violence against women and girls, and preventing further violence from taking place, are key to achieving the vision. There is a focus on providing high-quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence, harm and abuse and ensuring that the justice system has the confidence of victims, survivors, and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls.

Central to everything will be working better together across society and government and this will be built into delivery of the Strategic Framework and key to successful outcomes.

Delivery of the Strategic Framework will take a trauma informed approach, will be evidence based and data driven. It will take a public health approach to prevention, ensuring that lived experience is a central thread. The Strategic Framework has been designed, and will be delivered, with an intersectional lens, ensuring that the needs of women and girls facing additional inequalities and barriers are embedded throughout. It will learn from and embed international good practice ensuring the achievement of the International Standards of the United Nations and the Istanbul Convention.

This Strategic Framework outlines processes and structures for delivery that will ensure a whole of society and whole of government approach which is collaborative, respectful and challenging. It is recognised that there is much good work already being done across government and society. It is vital to build on this and work together to ensure it is sufficiently joined up, prioritised, and consistently evaluated in a way that mutually meets all the outcomes.

Violence against women and girls is a systemic and deep-rooted problem in our society. It is a problem that is hidden in plain sight and every day we see how it is affecting the lives of women and girls, wherever they learn, live, and work

By working collaboratively, we can build a society wide movement for prevention to drive the transformational change that is needed to end violence against women and girls.



DR. JAYNE BRADY
 Head of NI Civil Service

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



[CLICK HERE](#)

Introduction

Ending all forms of violence, abuse, and harm against women and girls is one of the most pressing challenges facing our society today and is internationally recognised as a violation of the human rights of women and girls. Violence, abuse and harm against women and girls happens everywhere, every day and impacts how women and girls live, work, and socialise. Many experience violence from someone known to them, while others may experience it from a stranger in a public place or online.

This Strategic Framework addresses the whole range of gender-based violence, abuse and harm which is disproportionately experienced by women and girls and rooted in gender inequality. The interconnected continuum of violence ranges from everyday misogynistic attitudes and damaging social norms to harmful, unwanted behaviours, and serious criminal offences and is overwhelmingly but not exclusively carried out by men.¹

In the past, being a victim of violence against women and girls was a shameful secret; hidden, ignored, and accepted but with long-term, life-changing impacts on the lives of women and girls and their families.



Despite much good work carried out across the voluntary and community sector, by public services and government, all these forms of violence, abuse, and harm against women and girls continue to be a big problem in our society.

We know that the full extent of the range of violence, abuse, and harm remains uncouned and under researched and what is reported is only the tip of the iceberg. Therefore, the data available only partly reflects the ongoing lived experience of women and girls throughout our communities.

The United Nations estimates that almost one in every three women globally will experience physical violence, sexual violence, or both in their lifetime

However, the emerging evidence and lived experience of women and girls presents a disturbing picture of this wide spectrum of violence, abuse, and harm that women and girls disproportionately experience on a daily basis. This is illustrated by the following statistics taken from various recent surveys and research carried out by Queen's University, Ulster University, the Young Life and Times Survey, the Trades Union Congress, and the PSNI:

- 75% of girls aged 16 surveyed experienced street harassment at least once in their lifetime²
- 73% of girls and young women surveyed, aged between 12 to 17 years of age, reported having experienced one or more forms of gender-based violence³ and 98% of adult women surveyed said that they had experienced at least one form of gender-based violence or abuse in their lifetime^{4,5}
- 67% of female students surveyed said that they had had at least one unwanted sexual experience during their time in higher education, including experiences of unwanted sexual contact, coercion, attempted rape, and rape⁶

98%

of women interviewed said that they had experienced at least one form of gender based violence or abuse in their lifetime

Every Voice Matters Report, Ulster University

45% of surveyed 16-year-old girls and boys know someone who has verbally harassed a girl or a woman, for example, by cat calling, wolf whistling or shouting at her in the street

Young Life & Times (YLT) 2022

- 3 in 5 women polled across the UK said they have experienced harassment at work – rising to almost 2 in 3 women aged 25 to 34⁷
- 68% of all domestic abuse crimes, recorded by PSNI in 2021/22 were female⁸
- 42 women across our society were murdered from January 2013 to June 2023 – that is 1 every 3 months⁹

According to research from the Women’s Policy Group submitted in response to the [Call for Views](#) to inform this Strategic Framework:^{10 11}

- 82% of women surveyed first experienced men’s violence before the age of 20
- 83% of women surveyed have been impacted by men’s violence against women and girls but only 21% reported this to the police and 77% of those did not find it useful.

The lives of women and girls cannot be reduced to statistics. The stories behind the statistics are stories about all of us. They are about girls and women we know in our families, and in every part of our lives and communities. Violence against women and girls cuts across all generations, all communities, and all spheres of our society.

It exists everywhere - in our schools, our universities, our workplaces, our sports clubs, our faith communities, our families, our online communities, and on our streets. It is a problem that is hidden in plain sight. Every day we see how it is affecting the lives of women and girls - wherever they learn, live, and work.



ELAINE CRORY

Women’s Resource and Development Agency

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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In addition to these direct impacts, the threat of violence limits the quality of life for women and girls and reduces their participation in social, civic, and economic life.

90% of women surveyed believe our society has a problem with attitudes of sexism and misogyny and 81 % believe there is stigma surrounding issues of violence against women and girls

Women’s Policy Group Survey

It is also important to recognise that while violence against women and girls occurs across all of society, some women and girls may face particular risks to their safety and additional barriers to justice, service provision, and support. This includes those who are deaf and disabled, minority ethnic, LGBTQIA+, older, financially dependent, homeless, those who suffer from addiction, looked after children,¹² as well as those with insecure immigration status and those residing in rural areas.



AISLING PLAYFORD
The Rainbow Project
Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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The responsibility for the implementation of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls lies with everyone

There is something that all of us can do

Throughout our communities, there is a growing awareness and sense of urgency that more needs to be done. In particular, we acknowledge the sustained advocacy, work, and determination of community and voluntary sector organisations, as well as those with lived experience. Increasing numbers of us are saying enough is enough.

This Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls covers a seven-year period, from 2023-2030. It is recognised that the level of change envisioned in the framework will only be achieved over the long term and will most likely need further work after the first seven years.

On 23 March 2021, a motion was tabled in the Assembly which condemned violence against women and girls and called on the Executive to take action.

The mandate from the Executive is clear and specific:

‘a cross-sectoral task-group was needed to co-ordinate a strategic approach to tackling the root causes of violence against women and girls, that must be inter-sectional and focus on all forms of violence with a particular emphasis on behavioural and attitudinal change;’ and agreed

‘to build this approach in the new Programme for Government with the necessary resource, and leadership from The Executive Office.’ – 25 March 2021.

The Strategic Framework has been co-designed by a **diverse range of people** representing different organisations from across society and government, including intersectional and lived experience representation.

It sits within the context of a range of international treaties and human rights obligations. The four pillars of **the Istanbul Convention** informed the framing that was used in the process of co-design of the Framework.

There are already several other strategies, either in place or being developed, which are relevant to the issue of violence against women and girls; The Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy 2016-2023 and the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030 address specific forms of violence, and the proposed Gender Equality Strategy will deal with wider issues of systemic gender inequality. Each of these strategies are gender inclusive.

While violence against women and girls includes domestic and sexual abuse, there is a clear need to have a dedicated focus in tackling the wider spectrum of violence, abuse and harm against women and girls as well as the root causes which are underpinned by systematic gender inequality.

This will mean working strategically and collaboratively across government and society with those who are dealing with other parts of the problem of violence in our society – such as helping victims and survivors of domestic and sexual abuse, action on paramilitary violence, tackling modern slavery, child sexual exploitation, and child criminal exploitation. Our work has mutual impacts and we need to ensure that all of our efforts are joined up, as well as highlighting the specific work needed to ensure that the problem of violence against women and girls is addressed.

Building a better society for everyone

Wellbeing for all is at the heart of what Government aims to deliver in this jurisdiction. The ability to form and enjoy healthy relationships is central to individual wellbeing and vital to building better, more connected communities and a society where everyone can thrive.¹³ This is something that we want for all our children, and for every individual and community here.



DUANE FARRELL
Relate NI
Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Violence against women and girls in all its forms is a critical obstacle to achieving this goal of wellbeing for everyone. It is damaging to women, girls, men, and boys. We can stop violence against women and girls by changing the attitudes and behaviours that enable it. We can transform the culture or social norms that tells us that this is just the way things are and will always be. We can create a future that is not only better and safer for women and girls, but more just, equal, and respectful for everyone.

Evidence and research tell us that we can end violence against women and girls in our society if we act together. There is something everyone can do, helping to create change where we live, learn, work and socialise. Together we need to build a society wide movement that stops violence against women and girls before it starts, that promotes a culture where healthy relationships are seen as the norm, where violence against women is never accepted, and which enables everyone to thrive and be safe.



CATHY GALWAY
Department of Justice
Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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PAUL DEIGHAN
Education Authority
Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Violence against women and girls is everyone's problem and solving it will need action by everyone.

What is Violence against women and girls?

Violence against women and girls is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of harm, abuse, and violence against women and girls because of their gender

People sometimes think of violence as physical assault only, however violence against women and girls takes many forms and has deep roots as shown in the Pyramid of Gender-Based Violence.

The Pyramid shows the interconnected continuum between the different types of violence, abuse, and harm. This does not mean that there is a hierarchy of seriousness or severity based on physical force or harm but reflects the spectrum of complex and interlinked experiences of everyday misogyny, harassment, violation, and abuse for individual women and girls which is underpinned by inequality. In the past there has been more focus on the urgent and more recognised issues at the top of the pyramid while less attention has been paid to the important work of tackling root causes which lie at the lower layers.



Pyramid of Gender Based Violence

The United Nations define Violence Against Women and Girls as: “any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”¹⁴

This Declaration indicates that such violence is specifically ‘directed against a woman because she is a woman, or violence that affects women and girls disproportionately’.

A wider definition of violence against women is provided by The UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in their **General recommendation No. 35 from 2017 on gender-based violence against women.**¹⁵

WHAT IS MISOGYNY?

Misogyny is a way of thinking that upholds the idea that men are superior to women and that it is right for women to have less power and freedom than men. This way of thinking can express itself in attitudes and behaviours which can be controlling, offensive and abusive.

Misogyny includes but is not limited to contempt for women as a group and ranges from disrespecting women and promotion of harmful stereotypes to physical and sexual violence.

WHAT ARE SOCIAL NORMS?

Social norms are the informal, mostly unwritten and unspoken collective rules that define typical, acceptable, appropriate and obligatory actions in a social group, setting or society. They are produced and reproduced by customs, traditions and value systems that develop over time to uphold particular forms of social order.

Social norms are those things people think are normal based on their experiences.

Violence against women and girl can include:

physical, sexual, psychological and emotional violence occurring in the family (including children and young people), in the general community, or in institutions, including coercive control and stalking

harmful sexual behaviour which is sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self, or abusive to others

sexual harassment, bullying, and intimidation in any public or private space

online abuse including cyberstalking, sexual harassment, grooming for exploitation or abuse, image-based sexual abuse

workplace sexual harassment ranging from sexual jokes or comments to unwanted sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature

financial abuse such as controlling a woman's or girls access to their money, taking loans or credit cards in their name, or using their money without their permission;

commercial and non-commercial sexual exploitation of women and girls, trafficking, child sexual abuse, so-called honour based violence, including female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and so-called honour crimes

everyday harm which includes everyday misogyny, sexist jokes and language, and discrimination

Violence against women and girls requires a multi-faceted and sustained response. This Strategic Framework covers the whole spectrum of violence, abuse, and harm against women and girls and its root causes and sets out how we can work together to end it. Targeted actions to tackle some of these specific harms, such as domestic and sexual abuse, or harms linked to paramilitarism and organised crime gangs are being led by other Departments and Agencies. This Strategic Framework will enable close collaboration with these other initiatives to ensure that we amplify, accentuate, and accelerate each other's work without duplication.



JOANNE BARNES

Nexus

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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What we know

Acknowledging the scale of violence against women and girls and the impact it is having in the lives of women and girls is an important first step in addressing the problem. Evidence of the prevalence of all forms of violence, abuse, and harm is scarce due to a lack of recorded statistics. Part of what this Strategic Framework will do is to gather and coordinate relevant data and evidence to inform how to address the issues and end violence against women and girls. Part of what we do know is shown below.



Almost **4 in 5** victims of sexual offences, recorded by PSNI in 2021/22, where the gender of the victim was known, were female

PSNI, 2022

71%

In UK, **71%** of women of all ages have experienced some form of sexual harassment in a public space

UN Women UK



In 2021/22, the median number of days taken to complete cases where the main offence was a sexual offence was **742 days**, the longest for any of the offence categories

Department of Justice, 2022



75% of girls experienced street harassment at least once in their lifetime

YLT, 2022

Young Life and Times Survey



Almost **1 in 5** young males aged 16, believe posting jokes or nasty comments of a sexual nature on social media, or cat calling, wolf whistling and shouting at someone in the street are acceptable behaviours

YLT, 2022

Young Life and Times Survey



1 in 2 girls, aged 16, have received an unwanted intimate photo/video at least once in their lifetime

YLT, 2022

Young Life and Times Survey

We know while men and boys also suffer from many of these forms of violence, abuse and harm, the majority of victims are female and violence against women and girls is predominately, but not exclusively, a pattern of behaviour perpetrated by men against women. Therefore, our mandate asks us to focus on violence against women and girls specifically.

78% of all victims of sexual offences recorded by PSNI were female

Trends in Police Recorded Crime in Northern Ireland

Of those convicted of sexual offences in 2021, at all courts combined, **99%** were males

Court prosecutions and out of court disposals statistics, 2021

Root causes of violence against women and girls

Violence against women and girls, though common, is not inevitable. It can be prevented by tackling the root causes. It takes time to tackle this endemic problem; to achieve our long-term goal of preventing violence against women and girls, an important first step is to define and understand the root causes and the impact that they have.

THE PROBLEM STATEMENT

Societal culture and systemic attitudes and beliefs enable violence against women and girls

Developed by Co-Design Group

The core problem that was identified by the co-design group is that the culture of the society that we live within, and the attitudes and beliefs that permeate our institutions and communities, enable violence against women and girls to take place.

Violence against women and girls is not caused by one single factor. It is rooted in historical inequalities, gender-based discrimination, and power imbalances between men and women. International evidence shows a strong and consistent association between gender inequality and levels of violence against women and girls.¹⁶

These inequalities in our society have led to damaging social norms, attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours which are discriminatory towards women and girls, creating a culture where violence, harm, and abuse are more likely to happen, be tolerated, and even condoned. International evidence clearly shows that as the number of these factors and their degree of influence increases, the probability of violence against women and girls also increases.¹⁷ Misogyny, sexist attitudes, harassment, coercive control, and physical violence are abuses of power that stem from gender inequality.

This is made worse through intergenerational trauma resulting from a culture and history that accepts many kinds of harm, abuse, and violence in society, both publicly and privately, as normal.

It is also important to recognise that gender inequality also intersects with other forms of inequalities and discrimination which means that there are increased risks of violence, abuse, and harm for some groups of women and girls.

By tackling the root causes successfully, we can break the cycle of violence against women and girls and stop it before it starts.

The main focus of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls will be to address the culture of damaging attitudes, beliefs, and behaviours that can lead to violence against women and girls

The role for men and boys

We will only end violence against women and girls if men and boys are part of the solution. We are all influenced by a misogynist culture and social norms, to the point where we can be unaware that damaging attitudes and behaviours, learned from the very early years of a child's life, have become normal to everyone; unrecognised but affecting how we react every day.

Men and boys have a very important role to play alongside women and girls to bring about a culture change in attitudes and behaviour, promoting and modelling gender equality, challenging poor behaviour by others and building healthy, respectful relationships in all aspects of their lives.



MICHAEL LYNCH
Men's Action Network

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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The impact of violence against women and girls

Most women and girls have become used to limiting where they go and being vigilant in the way they do things, ordering their lives in a particular way because of the fear and real risk of attracting unwanted attention or violence.

These routines of living with everyday misogyny have a cumulative impact on their wellbeing and potential. In essence, women's space to lead their lives as they would choose is curtailed by the very real fear, borne out by experience, that life in our communities can be hostile and even dangerous.

Violence against women and girls can lead to significant and lasting impacts on women and girls' physical, mental, and sexual health, as well as their life chances.

Children who grow up in violent households also suffer severe consequences and may exhibit a host of adverse behaviours and emotions, including anxiety and depression. These can be associated with an increased likelihood of perpetration and being a victim of violence in later life.¹⁸ The potential positive and negative impacts of community influences, peers, and the online world on young people's attitudes and ability to form safe and healthy relationships are also increasingly coming to the fore.

Violence against women and girls also has enormous economic and social impacts which affect our society. Women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, and lack of participation in regular activities.

In addition to the costs for the individual women and girls and their families, costs to wider society include health care, housing, police, and court services, as well as costs resulting from the loss of productivity.

We do not yet have a complete picture of the full economic cost of violence against women and girls, but we do know that conservative estimates of the costs of domestic and sexual violence and abuse range between £730 million to £1 billion per year in



this jurisdiction. This amount does not include the full impacts and costs of all forms of violence, abuse and harm against women and girls in this jurisdiction as we know that we do not have a true picture of prevalence due to underreporting. In addition, the costs do not include the impacts of everyday harassment, in real life and online.

Preventing violence against women and girls by tackling root causes can achieve improvements to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities and have a wider positive impact on the economy. It removes a direct obstacle to economic and social progress and will help improve overall wellbeing.¹⁹

Children who grow up in violent households also suffer severe consequences and may exhibit a host of adverse behaviours and emotions, including anxiety and depression

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The International Context

This Strategic Framework is rooted within the context of the rights and duties in international treaties and human rights standards that the UK has signed up to.

These include:

The Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (also known as the Istanbul Convention)

The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which sets out an agenda for action to end all forms of discrimination against women.

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), which grants all children and young people aged 17 and under a comprehensive set of rights

The International Labour Organisation Violence and Harassment Convention, 2019 (No. 190) affirms that everyone has the right to a world of work free from violence and harassment

We have also taken into account our duties outlined in the **Human Rights Act 1998** which incorporates the protections set out in the European Convention on Human Rights into UK law. Additionally, we have considered other statements by international bodies which have been especially influential in the area of ending violence against women and girls, including:

The Beijing Declaration and Global Platform for Action which calls on Governments to take integrated measures to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls

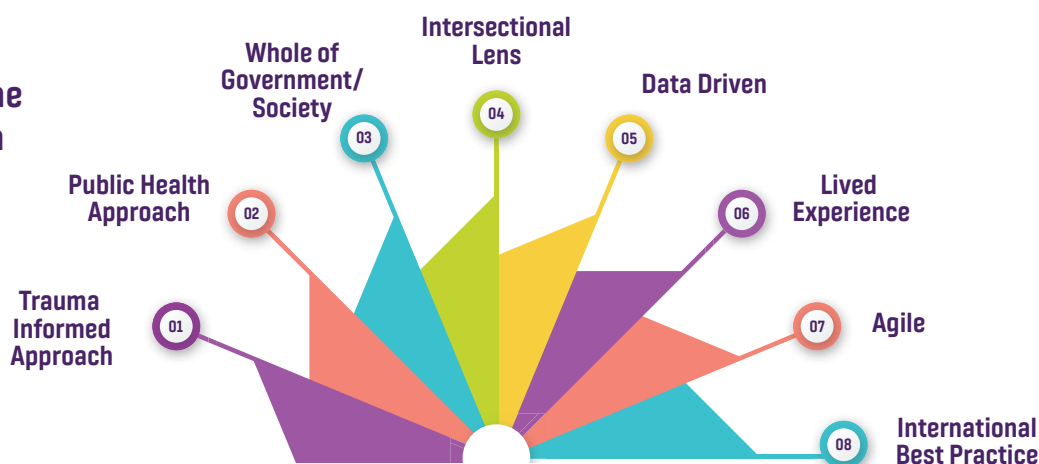
Inquiry concerning the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland under article 8 of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women of 2018 (CEDAW/C/OP.8/GBR/1)

United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security

The Strategic Framework Principles

The way we work together to solve this problem is just as important as the actions that we take. The co-design group established eight principles which will form the basis for the outworking of the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls in our society.

Guiding Principles for the Implementation of the Strategic Framework



1. Trauma Informed Approach

A trauma informed approach will be infused throughout the implementation of the Strategic Framework. A trauma informed approach realises the prevalence of trauma in our society, recognises when trauma may have impacted upon a person affecting their behaviour, their coping responses and their relationships. It supports the development of trauma sensitive/trauma responsive skills, which inform service delivery and policy development at all levels, supporting positive outcomes.²⁰

2. A Public Health Approach

A public health approach addresses complex health and social problems in a preventive way, using data to identify the best levers to use on a whole of population basis. It focuses on tackling the root causes and on early prevention. A public health approach will ensure that we have information about the populations which require interventions, as well as about risk and protective factors, that will allow us to shape interventions and services appropriately and measure success.

3. A Whole of Society and Whole of Government Approach

Tackling such a deep and widespread problem requires all parts of society and government to focus on the problem together. This will mean embedding collaboration in everything we do and continuing to look at how our work can impact across society.

4. An Intersectional Lens

Many women and girls face multiple intersecting inequalities and barriers to justice and support which can interact to increase their vulnerability to violence. A Strategic Framework which applies an intersectional lens will be more effective in identifying and dismantling these inequalities and barriers, taking account of the power relations and systems and structures that create and maintain them.

5. Evidence based, data driven and joined up – measuring change, outcome based

Data is critical for building our understanding of the problem, measuring our progress toward ending it, and informing funding, service design, and delivery decisions. A deeper, wider evidence base will help us take the specific needs of everyone in our society into account, and measure change well.

6. Lived experience as a central thread

The voices of women and girls who have lived experience will be woven throughout the implementation of the Strategic Framework to ensure that solutions are effective to solve real world problems.

7. Agile, responsive, and linked to current and future generations

The Strategic Framework needs to respond to evolving and changing culture and practices, such as the expanding forms of online harm, and specific forms of violence that exist in this jurisdiction, including the impacts of violence against women and girls of past conflict and the specific issues of violence suffered by women and girls living in communities currently coerced by paramilitaries or crime groups.

8. Embed international good practice

The United Nations and the Istanbul Convention provide useful and evidence-based frameworks and comprehensive standards of good practice for ending violence against women and girls which are already being implemented in other countries. The implementation of the Strategic Framework will continue to learn from these.

The work of the Executive Programme on Tackling Paramilitarism and Organised Crime (EPPOC) was used to inform the framing for the co-design space. Their practice of collaborative whole of government and whole of society working within a trauma informed public health approach to violence prevention is closely aligned with the principles that were developed through the ending violence against women and girls co-design process.

How we got here

The development of the Strategic Framework has been informed by a substantial body of international and local research, using the triple foundation of international best practice, lived experience, and local data and research.


An extensive programme of engagement with a wide range of external and internal stakeholders commenced in early 2022, including meeting with over 100 different groups and individuals with an interest in the issue.

A **Call for Views**²¹ was launched and ran from January to March 2022. It received 752 responses from individuals and organisations and has been instrumental in understanding the scale of the problem of violence against women in our society.

The responses to the Call for Views indicated that work to end violence against women and girls should be based on international best practice, adopt a whole of society and whole of government approach, be developed using appropriate and rigorous co-design, and reflect the lived experience of victims and survivors.



BARBARA PORTER
Public Health Agency
Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Ministers were clear that the Strategic Framework should be co-designed. A co-design process began in October 2022 with a representative **group of over 50 stakeholders**. The group reflected the need for a whole of government and whole of society approach and included intersectional and lived experience representation.

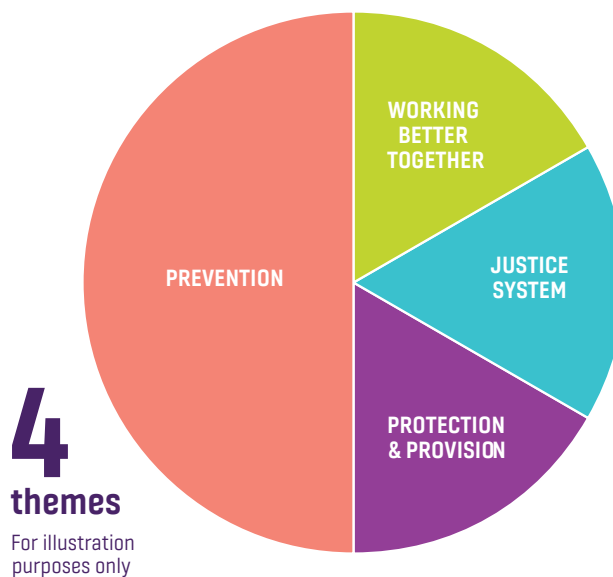
The process followed core co-design principles, with a carefully developed methodology built on the evidence-based research. The process ensured that the co-design forum reflected the value of all contributors equally, remaining open to a range of perspectives and opportunities. In early 2023, the co-design outputs were reviewed in detail and the content received from the co-design process was used to prepare the Strategic Framework.

The Strategic Framework Timeline



An overview of the Strategic Framework

This co-designed Strategic Framework sets the agenda for all of government and society to end violence against women and girls. It is ambitious, long term, and wide reaching. It is a living document which will be adapted along the journey according to emerging needs.



The Vision is one of a changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse, and harm, including the attitudes, systems, and structural inequalities that cause them. Everyone across society has a role to play, big and small, to achieve this vision.

It will require all of us to act and to be involved in change wherever we live, learn, work, and socialise. We will need to work together as partners across society, in public, private, third sector, and in the community to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls. We must ensure that all our actions are aligned and underpinned by strong structures, processes, and accountability.

The overall emphasis of the Strategic Framework is on prevention, tackling the root causes, and stopping the violence before it starts

The overall emphasis of the Strategic Framework is on prevention, tackling the root causes, and stopping the violence before it starts. This work will take account of our society’s unique context and history. The outworking of the Framework will be intersectional, trauma informed, take a whole of society and whole of government approach, be informed by lived experience, and focus on change at a population level.

Working collaboratively towards a common purpose, we can build a society wide movement for prevention that will drive the necessary transformation.



KENDALL BOUSQUET
NI Migrant Centre

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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The Co-Design group identified six big changes that need to happen in our society. These form the six outcomes of the strategic framework which are:

Outcome 1: Changed attitudes, behaviours, and social norms - Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and plays an active role in preventing it

Outcome 2: Healthy, respectful relationships - Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships

Outcome 3: Women and girls feel and are safe everywhere - Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do, so that women and girls feel and are safe everywhere

Outcome 4: Quality frontline services, protection, and provision for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls - Provision of high-quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls

Outcome 5: A justice system which has the confidence of victims, survivors and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls - In the context of violence against women and girls, a system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public

Outcome 6: All of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls - A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation by default across government departments and with, within, and between the community, voluntary, and other sectors

Long term coordinated action is needed on all of these outcomes in order for us to really see change happen and for progress to be made. We want to build a shared understanding of what we all need to do to make this happen. We hope that all of society will have ownership over this Strategic Framework and commitment to its ambitions.

It is only through a collaborative approach across society and government that we can start to build the transformative change we need

The Strategic Framework

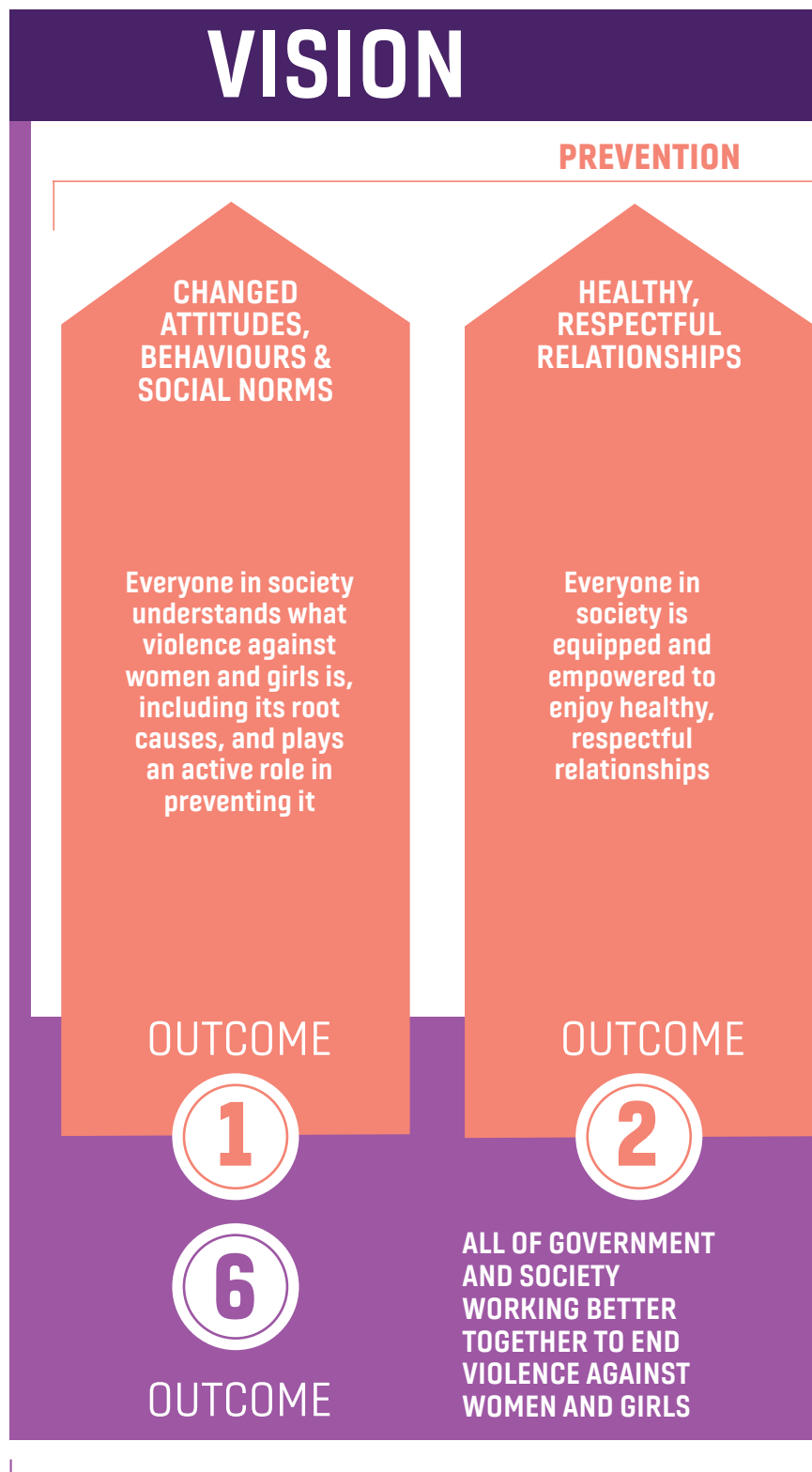
This Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls has been prepared from the output of a co-design process that ran from October to December 2022. A group of over 50 stakeholders came together from across government, different sectors, and wider society, including intersectional representation and, importantly, those with lived experience.

Co-design is about designing with, not for; it is designed to ensure everyone was able to participate on an equal footing and to bring their creativity to solving the problem. Therefore, the content of this Strategic Framework has been shaped by people from many sectors and perspectives; people who are committed to making a change across the whole of society and to end violence against women and girls.

This is a seven-year Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls. It is recognised that ending violence against women and girls will require a long-term sustained effort beyond seven years.

THE AIM

HOW WE PLAN TO DO IT:
The aim of the Strategic Framework is to work together as partners across every sector of society to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls with a focus on root causes.





TAHNEE McCORRY
White Ribbon NI

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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A changed society where women and girls are free from all forms of gender-based violence, abuse and harm including the attitudes, systems and structural inequalities that cause them

PROTECTION & PROVISION

JUSTICE SYSTEM

WOMEN AND GIRLS ARE SAFE AND FEEL SAFE EVERYWHERE

Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do, so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

OUTCOME



QUALITY FRONTLINE SERVICES, PROTECTION AND PROVISION FOR VICTIMS & SURVIVORS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Provision of high-quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls

OUTCOME



A JUSTICE SYSTEM WHICH HAS THE CONFIDENCE OF VICTIMS AND SURVIVORS & PUBLIC IN ITS ABILITY TO ADDRESS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

In the context of violence against women and girls, a system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public

OUTCOME



A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation by default across government departments and with, within, and between the community, voluntary, and other sectors

- Long term collaborative resourcing for effective delivery
- Robustly evidence based and data informed policy development with measurable outcomes
- Strong and proactive leadership at all levels of government and society to drive transformative change to end violence against women and girls
- Prevention of violence against women and girls mainstreamed in public policy
- Joined up decision making and governance

The Strategic Framework at a glance

This Strategic Framework has been developed by the co-design group and is for all of us as a society. It describes the changes which are needed and the work that needs to be done to bring about an end to violence against women and girls.

This Strategic Framework is made up of: 4 themes; 6 outcomes; and 19 priority areas, which inform a series of actions that will take place over the next seven years.

The changes that are needed - Outcomes

Outcome 1

Changed Attitudes, Behaviours & Social Norms

Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and play an active role in preventing it

Outcome 2

Healthy, Respectful Relationships

Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships

Outcome 3

Women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

The work that needs to be done to bring about these changes - Priority Areas

- 1.1 Integrated long-term campaigns to change attitudes, behaviours, and social norms, including online
- 1.2 Individual sectors promote positive attitudes and behaviours to prevent violence against women and girls at all ages

- 2.1 Parents, carers, and early years providers support children to develop healthy, respectful relationships during their early years
- 2.2 Schools, Further, and Higher education support children and young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships
- 2.3 Youth and community sectors support children and young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships
- 2.4 Supporting people and organisations who work with those at risk of using violence or those at higher risk of becoming victims of violence against women and girls

- 3.1 Individual sectors develop and embed ending violence against women and girls in the design of policies, strategies, services and procedures that prevent violence against women and girls, and create safe environments for women and girls
- 3.2 Supporting development of policies, procedures, tools and training that help women and girls be safe and feel safe online

The changes that are needed - Outcomes

The work that needs to be done to bring about these changes - Priority Areas

Outcome 4

Quality frontline services, protection, and provision for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls

Provision of high quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls (funded, available, accessible, responsive)

- 4.1 General frontline services are effective in identifying violence against women and girls, provide responsive services, and make appropriate referrals
- 4.2 Specialist services for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls are available, effective, sustainable, and accessible

Outcome 5

A justice system which has the confidence of victims, survivors and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls

In the context of violence against women and girls, a justice system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public

- 5.1 Victims and survivors needs are fully taken into account at each stage of the justice process
- 5.2 Reduce delays in the justice system for cases involving violence against women and girls
- 5.3 Joined up processes for cases involving violence against women and girls in the justice system
- 5.4 Effective systems and programmes for perpetrator prevention and management

Outcome 6

All of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls

A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation by default across government departments and with, within, and between the community, voluntary, and other sectors

- 6.1 Long term collaborative resourcing for effective delivery
- 6.2 Robustly evidence based and data informed policy development with measurable benefits/ outcomes
- 6.3 Strong and proactive leadership at all levels of government and society to drive transformative change to end violence against women and girls
- 6.4 Prevention of violence against women and girls mainstreamed in law and public policy
- 6.5 Joined up decision making and governance

Prevention

The emphasis of the Strategic Framework is on prevention. Effective prevention can both prevent violence from occurring in the first place and reinforce the response system to interrupt the cycle of violence.

Prevention cannot be a short-term effort, but rather an undertaking that requires ongoing commitment from government, collaboration across society, increased research to inform and monitor progress, and sustained action that addresses violence against women and girls at its source.

In order to prevent violence against women and girls, our main focus will be on:

- changing attitudes, behaviours, and social norms;
- building knowledge and skills of individuals to form healthy relationships;
- ensuring that women and girls are and feel safe everywhere.

Prevention is about addressing the underlying causes of violence against women and girls, to stop it before it occurs.
 (UN Women, 2012)

Outcome 1 – changed attitudes, behaviours, and social norms

Everyone in society understands what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes, and play an active role in preventing it.

Violence against women and girls does not happen in a vacuum. It has its roots in damaging beliefs, attitudes, and social norms that are embedded in our society and which need to be addressed. These norms, attitudes, and beliefs contribute to an environment where negative behaviours are seen as normal and go unchallenged, leading to violence against women and girls being carried out across our society, ranging from street and workplace harassment to online abuse, sexual violence, and femicide.²²



ANTOINETTE McKEOWN
 Sport NI

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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In order to achieve the vision of a changed society, it is vital that everyone has a shared understanding of what violence against women and girls is, including its root causes and impact in all its forms. However, understanding on its own doesn't lead to change.

It is equally vital that everyone is empowered to take an active role in preventing violence against women and girls, and equipped with the knowledge, motivation, and skills to play their part.

Effective prevention will change the beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours that condone violence against women and girls, creating new social norms and expectations.

Under this outcome the priority areas of focus are:

1.1 Integrated long-term campaigns to change attitudes, behaviours, and social norms, including online

The development of joint campaigns on a whole of society basis is an ongoing and central part of the Strategic Framework and a key tool in prevention work. These campaigns will be informed by stakeholders and lived experience and will be aimed at increasing understanding on all forms of violence against women and girls and their root causes and changing the attitudes, behaviours, and social norms that enable them.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- partnering across government and with stakeholders in wider society to develop joint messaging to address the root causes, drivers, and the impact of violence against women and girls, and on the role that everybody has to prevent it;
- co-creating campaigns with young people and children, and those with lived experience of abuse, harm, and violence
- delivery of campaigns in partnership with different sectors and aimed at all kinds of people across all stages of life
- using innovative ways to spread awareness on key messages to all parts of our society, including collaborative work in sports, arts, leisure, and social media

We need to change attitudes, behaviours and social norms

1.2 Individual sectors promote positive attitudes and behaviours to prevent violence against women and girls at all ages

In order to drive changes across our society, it is vital that every sector and every community has access to resources that allow them to explore and better understand the importance of their role in preventing violence against women and girls and take action.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- building connections in partnership with all sectors, sharing resources and good practice, and co-creating new materials to help more people achieve greater impact in tackling the root causes of violence against women and girls in their organisations and communities;
- implementation of interventions supported by evidence as effective in changing attitudes and behaviours including the active bystander approach. Partners could include employers, sports, education, faith, and community sectors among others
- identification of bespoke interventions with specific sectors, such as the media, to improve the standards of reporting on violence against women and girls
- identifying influencers to support this work within different sectors
- embedding evaluation in the design of programmes from the beginning to identify what works and provide information to partners in the design and selection of effective interventions.

Outcome 2 – Healthy, Respectful Relationships

Everyone in society is equipped and empowered to enjoy healthy, respectful relationships

We know that healthy and respectful relationships are key in promoting an individual’s physical, mental, and social wellbeing and protecting against a range of serious negative outcomes. They are also a significant component of wellbeing.²³

Violence against women and girls in all its forms is an all too prevalent obstacle to achieving this goal of wellbeing for everyone. In order to tackle this challenge, there is an urgent need to focus on our children and young people. This means supporting parents from the very start of their child’s life and throughout their earliest years; and working with both formal education and the community, to support our young people throughout their educational career, to post primary and third level education. We want all children and young people to know that any type of violence, abuse, and harm in relationships is never acceptable. Our ambition is for our children and young people to have the right knowledge and skills to have fulfilling and safe relationships throughout their lives.



JACQUI MONTGOMERY DEVLIN
Faith Forum

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Our young people are exposed to messages online which undervalue, demean and humiliate women and girls, as well as increased access to pornography from a young age. In addition, there has been a recent rise of online influencers who have a toxic influence on men and boys in our society, and negatively impact their views on women and girls. These new influences are layered on top of a context and history of societal violence, gender inequality, and resulting trauma. This is the environment in which our young people are growing up and, without significant action, it can lead to a lack of understanding about what a good relationship looks like and what consent is.

All of this together constitutes a crisis with serious consequences for current and future generations.

Under this outcome the priority areas of focus are:

Everyone should be able to have healthy, respectful relationships

2.1 Parents, carers, and early years providers help children to develop healthy, respectful relationships during their early years

Parents and carers of young children and early years providers have a very important role in helping to prevent violence against women and girls by modelling respect and equality in their relationships, addressing rigid and harmful gender norms and stereotypes, and providing holistic support in a child’s early years.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- partnering with government and community to co-design and deliver holistic whole family programmes that embed respectful and healthy relationship education and support across all early years’ support programmes
- partnering with parenting, carer organisations, and early years providers to ensure that families and carers have access to the tools, knowledge, and support that they need to promote healthy relationships from a young age

Parents and carers of young children and early years providers have a very important role in modelling respect and equality in their relationships

84% young people, aged 16, have never heard of the term coercive control or are unsure of what it means - Young Life and Times 2020/21

2.2 Schools, Further, and Higher Education support children and young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships



LINSEY FARRELL
Department of Education

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Schools

Schools are very well placed to lead the way in attitudinal and behavioural change, with a whole school environment which equips and supports the empowerment of future generations to develop healthy, respectful relationships and gender equality. Addressing the root causes of violence against women and girls will be a central part of achieving this outcome.

A whole school environment which equips and supports the empowerment of future generations to develop healthy, respectful relationships and gender equality

Particular areas of focus will include:

- research including mapping and evaluating what is presently being done within the education sector that is relevant to violence against women and girls, and scoping emerging issues and promising responses
- introducing whole school approaches to developing healthy and respectful relationships, within a wider safeguarding framework and culture, including policies and interventions that equip and support young people to address harmful attitudes and behaviours

- working together with young people and the education sector to strengthen and mainstream education on strong and healthy relationships throughout the curriculum for all ages and learning needs
- further developing, in collaboration with young people, the design of relationship and sexuality education which is accessible, inclusive, and age and developmentally appropriate, in the context of changes to mandatory content
- equipping teachers at all stages of their careers to respond to the challenges of violence against women and girls and the related attitudes and behaviours within schools
- equipping school leaders, governors, and parents to understand the issues and act on them appropriately

University and Further Education

Within University and Further Education settings there is already lots of coordinated good practice taking place to respond to the high levels of unwanted sexual experiences. This will be built on and scaled up:

Particular areas of focus will include:

- expansion of interventions that equip and support students to understand all forms of violence against women and girls and address harmful attitudes and behaviours. This would include the evidence based active bystander approach
- working together with other external services as part of a holistic University and Further Education wide approach to ensure safety on and off campus
- equipping university and college staff at all stages of their careers to respond to the challenges of violence against women and girls and the related attitudes and behaviours.

67%

67% of female students surveyed said that they had had at least one unwanted sexual experience during their time in higher education, including experiences of unwanted sexual contact, coercion, attempted rape and rape

Unseen at Uni Report

Within University and Further Education settings there is already lots of coordinated good practice taking place to respond to the high levels of unwanted sexual experiences

2.3 Youth and community sectors support children and young people to develop healthy, respectful relationships

Children and young people spend much of their time outside of formal education involved in community, sport, and youth organisations; these can play a pivotal role in the promotion of healthy, respectful, equal, and safe relationships.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- reinforcing work already being done in this sector and scaling it up for increased impact, including promotion of the active bystander approach, relationship education in community settings, and building on the mentoring and role modelling done by youth workers
- integration of young people’s voices on what is needed within the education and community sectors to prevent violence against women and girls
- creation of a community fund to support interventions across society that are equipping children and young people in the development of healthy and respectful relationships
- programmes with youth, faith, and sport sector that support the empowerment of women and girls to understand their rights and how to form healthy, safe relationships
- programmes with youth, faith, and sport sectors that support and engage men and boys to equip them to be part of the common goal of ending violence against women and girls

We want all children and young people to know that any type of violence, abuse, and harm in relationships is never acceptable

- equipping professionals who work with children and young people, at all stages of their careers, to respond to the challenges of violence against women and girls and the related attitudes and behaviours in the settings in which they work
- research, including mapping and evaluating what is presently being done within the community and youth sector that is relevant to violence against women and girls, as well as scoping emerging issues and promising responses in collaboration with young people
- creation of a unified platform for sharing effective evidence-based materials and development of new materials to fill gaps

Working together to connect and share learning will be important in this area.



MICHELLE HARRIS
 Barnardo's
 Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Our ambition is for our children and young people to have the right knowledge and skills to have fulfilling and safe relationships throughout their lives

2.4 Supporting people and organisations who work with those at risk of using violence or those at higher risk of becoming victims of violence against women and girls

Those at risk of using violence or those at higher risk of becoming victims of violence against women and girls require particular help, especially those who have not yet come in contact with the agencies where help is available. Early intervention for these two very different groups can prevent the issue escalating.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- further research to better understand the individual risk factors that make someone more likely to become a perpetrator of violence against women and girls
- creation of partnerships across government and the voluntary and community sector to embed awareness of violence against women and girls in programmes that are dealing with aggravating and reinforcing factors of violence against women and girls, such as exposure to violence during childhood, alcohol abuse, and mental health issues
- campaigns and information sharing to raise awareness of the links between risk factors and violence against women and girls
- review of referral mechanisms between specialist services of violence against women and girls and services dealing with drivers of violence to ensure that people are getting the right help when they need it
- scope the need for evidence based non-adjudicated perpetrator programmes
- map general services to ensure that risks to potential victims are understood and identified and that referral gateways to support operate effectively
- promotion of referral gateways for everyone who wants relevant counselling and relationship support, including for older people and families


Outcome 3 – Women and Girls are safe and feel safe everywhere

Organisations and institutions across government and society embed the prevention of violence against women and girls in all that they do so that women and girls are safe and feel safe everywhere.


Sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence abuse and harm in public and private spaces, both rural and urban, are an everyday occurrence for women and girls. This ranges from street harassment, unwelcome sexual gestures and remarks, right up to serious criminal offences against both women and girls.

It can happen to any woman or girl anywhere; including in the workplace, public parks, sports facilities, social spaces and events, public transportation, streets, schools, online, and at home. It includes abuse of women with a public profile, such as political representatives.

This reality affects the ability of women and girls to participate fully and to thrive within school, work, sport, public life and online, as well as negatively impacting on their health and wellbeing. There are specific issues for groups who face additional risks and barriers which may not be recognised by all service providers.



TRASA CANAVAN
 Barnardo's
 Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Women and girls should be safe and feel safe everywhere

Under this outcome the priority areas of focus are:

3.1 Individual sectors develop and embed ending violence against women and girls in the design of policies, strategies, services and procedures that prevent violence against women and girls, and create safe environments for women and girls

Organisations, businesses, and institutions can take many different kinds of actions to make their environment safe for women and girls.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- identifying best practice in creating safe environments for women and girls and promoting evidence based interventions
- working collaboratively to identify innovative solutions to improve safety in public spaces, for example risk mapping/reporting apps
- promoting the requirements of the [International Labour Organisation Convention C190 \(the Violence and Harassment Convention\)](#) to ensure that workplaces are aware and compliant
- sector specific actions to maximise safety in areas like sport, arts, and faith
- adopting a cross-sectoral approach to ensuring safety of women and girls in the University and Further Education sector
- adopting a cross-sectoral approach to ensuring safety of women and girls in the night-time economy. This will include the implementation of the Hospitality Ulster/White Ribbon led Women's Night-Time Safety Charter²⁴
- cross-sectoral review of workplace policies, procedures, reporting pathways and toolkits, and development of common best practice models to ensure safety of women and girls in the workplace
- scoping of the use of conditions in entertainment and premises licensing to enhance safety of women and girls

It will be important to link new work on violence against women and girls in all of these areas to existing safeguarding practices and referral mechanisms.



CLARE MOORE
The Irish Congress of Trade Unions
Co-design participant



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3.2 Supporting development of policies, procedures, and tools that help women and girls be safe online

The online space is becoming increasingly unsafe for women and girls. Online abuse normalises unacceptable behaviour, inhibits women and girls from expressing themselves in online spaces, and can have long lasting impacts. Abusers can use online platforms to further harass victims and survivors.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- awareness raising on actions to take, including campaigns and development of supports to guard against online harm
- development of a technology challenge fund to stimulate innovative approaches to addressing this issue
- development of specific interventions to address harassment of women in public life
- promoting media literacy skills and providing information to help users to keep themselves safe online and develop critical skills in regard to online material.
- inputting to UK wide legislation to deal with degrading or abusive material online

Sexual harassment and other forms of gender-based violence abuse and harm in public and private spaces, both rural and urban, are an everyday occurrence for women and girls

59%

Almost 3 in 5 girls (59%), aged 16, have been sent unwanted sexually explicit pictures, photos, or videos online at least once in their lifetime.

Young Life & Times 2022

This reality affects the ability of women and girls to participate fully and to thrive within school, work, sport, public life and online, as well as negatively impacting on their health and wellbeing

Protection and Provision

Outcome 4 – Quality frontline services, protection, and provision for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls

Provision of high-quality services for women and girls who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls –funded, available, accessible, responsive.



LINDSAY FISHER
 PSNI
 Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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Everyone in our community should be able to access help and support, such as that provided by doctors, social services, lawyers, social housing providers, and social security offices. In this section, we call this ‘general frontline support’.

Victims and survivors of violence against women and girls should also be able to access specialist services to protect and support them and their families and ensure they have access to what they need. In this section, we call these ‘specialist services.’

Most specialist services are available to everyone in society in the same way. Some groups facing additional inequalities, such as members of minority ethnic communities, LGBTQIA+ or deaf and disabled women and girls among other groups, who suffer violence against women and girls may need to receive

specialist services in a tailored way which addresses the needs of these groups and removes or mitigate the barriers to justice and support facing them.

When there is a risk of violence, general frontline services need to provide relevant support to women and girls and signpost to other relevant services; while specialist services are needed to protect and support victims and survivors and their families, ensuring that they have access to what they need, whilst taking account of the needs of groups facing additional inequalities and barriers.

There is a need to ensure services for victims of violence against women and girls provide early intervention, deliver a coherent and consistent trauma informed response across a diverse range of needs, are informed by lived experience, and have long term funding.

Violence against women and girls will impact different people in different ways. Lived experience and better data will help us understand the needs of groups facing additional inequalities and barriers who may be at higher risk and aid us in ensuring that they can access quality services when they need it.

Women and girls who are victims of violence should be well looked after by support systems

Under this outcome the priority areas of focus are:

4.1 Support for general frontline services so they are effective in identifying violence against women and girls, provide responsive services, and make appropriate referrals

Particular areas of focus will include:

- ensuring that general frontline services move towards an integrated response towards violence against women and girls that is easy to navigate from the first point of contact, with information shared across services in an appropriate and sensitive way
- mapping provision by general frontline services of support for women and girls at risk of violence, including referral gateways
- undertaking a gap analysis in general frontline service provision including for those with complex needs facing additional barriers to support
- developing and delivering, in partnership with professional training bodies, a training framework targeted at professionals in general frontline services who come into contact with the at-risk population of women and girls in their work
- research to identify prevalence of violence against women and girls among those at risk who do not access services and to use it to develop appropriate interventions and support pathways

4.2 Support for specialist services for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls so they are available, effective, sustainable, and accessible

Particular areas of focus will include:

- mapping provision by specialist services of support for victims and survivors of violence against women and girls, including referral gateways
- undertaking a gap analysis in specialist service provision including for those facing additional barriers to support
- capacity building for existing specialist services based on identified need for groups facing additional inequalities and barriers
- targeted and agile work to allow a short period of intense focus on areas which may need particular attention
- scoping an accessible single site online communication platform linked to campaign and education material to provide signposting and advice for all services relating to violence against women and girls

The Justice System

Outcome 5 - A justice system which has the confidence of victims, survivors, and the public in its ability to address violence against women and girls

In the context of violence against women and girls, a justice system that considers and addresses the needs of people who come into contact with it, holds perpetrators to account, while challenging and supporting them to change, gives victims and survivors a voice and a place in the process, and has the confidence of the public.

The role of the criminal justice system is significant in that it must hold perpetrators to account and discourage violence, whilst ensuring appropriate care for victims and survivors. The civil and family justice systems, also have an important role in dealing with dispute resolution and protection orders for those who may have experienced violence against women and girls.

Similarly, many victims and survivors of violence against women and girls may be involved in other forms of proceedings, such as tribunal proceedings. These proceedings should also take into account the context of trauma for the victim. There is also a need to prevent and reduce reoffending through working with perpetrators to challenge them and support them to change.

We know that victims and survivors have diverse lived experiences and will be affected by violence and trauma differently, which means they may have different needs in terms of their journey through the justice system.

Everyone should be able to have confidence in the justice system to address violence against women and girls

Evidence from the Call for Views highlighted that there are potential barriers to accessing justice which can occur at all stages.

Some women and girls are generally hesitant to report violence. This can be due to a variety of factors, including concerns about stigma, social pressure, fear of retribution from perpetrators or others, unwillingness to refer family members to the criminal justice system, concerns about the investigative process, the cross-examination process, length of time it takes for cases to conclude, and/or low conviction rates and sentencing.

Some victims and survivors who have engaged with the justice system have found their interactions to be traumatic, causing additional harm to that inflicted by the perpetrator. The experience, including giving evidence in adversarial proceedings and traditional cross-examination, can be daunting and victims can find that there is a lack of access to support services before, during, and after proceedings. Factors like these can influence victims' to abandon their case.



CIARAN McQUILLAN
 Public Prosecution Service
 Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



[CLICK HERE](#)

The fact that many victims and survivors choose not to engage with the criminal justice system, decide to discontinue their cases, or proceed only through the civil courts, means that the true scope of violence against women and girls is concealed.

As well as ensuring that the needs of victims and survivors are effectively addressed, it is important to focus on the offender to ensure that they are held accountable, supported and challenged to change their behaviour.

The fact that many victims and survivors choose not to engage with the criminal justice system, decide to discontinue their cases, or proceed only through the civil courts, means that the true scope of violence against women and girls is concealed

As well as ensuring that the needs of victims and survivors are effectively addressed, it is important to focus on the offender to ensure that they are held accountable, supported, and challenged to change their behaviour

Many of these issues have already been recognised and are being addressed by other strategies and through work being led by various statutory bodies an community and voluntary sector organisations. It will be important to ensure that all our efforts are joined up, utilising performance indicators that are meaningful across the board so that we can see what is working and what may need some more attention. The role of the Strategic Framework under this outcome will mainly be to support existing initiatives in partnership with those leading other strategies, with a clear focus on avoiding unnecessary duplication, and to identify areas where further development would be helpful.

The Justice System

Under this outcome the priority areas of focus are:

5.1 Victims and survivors' needs are fully taken into account at each stage of the justice process

Particular areas of focus will include:

- identifying and increasing awareness of the needs of women and girls involved in proceedings who are victims and survivors of violence against women and girls. A focus will be required on identifying and tackling additional inequalities and barriers to support faced by some groups of women and girls
- ensuring victims and survivors have access to appropriate support services with good signposting and are kept informed about the process
- trauma informed training for professionals who come into contact with victims and survivors
- considering specific measures in the field of criminal legislation and sentencing to enhance the confidence of victims, survivors, and the general public in the justice system
- introducing and supporting champions who will take the lead in promoting good practice within their profession

Particular concern was expressed in the Call for Views and during the co-design process about the barriers in accessing justice for victims and survivors with no recourse to public funds because they are subject to immigration control. This has been identified as a suitable topic for an early Task Group Sprint.

5.2 Reducing delays in the justice system for cases involving violence against women and girls

Particular areas of focus will include:

- identifying options to reduce delay and improve efficiency of the justice system in cases involving violence against women and girls. Avoidable delays are known to add to the trauma inflicted on victims and survivors and it is vital that women and girls have the confidence to use the justice system

5.3 Joined up processes for cases involving violence against women and girls

Particular areas of focus will include:

- improved consistent data capture across the systems to ensure better understanding of cases involving violence against women and girls
- enhanced sharing of information across the system for effective management of cases involving violence against women and girls
- practical arrangements which can improve victims and survivors feeling of safety within the court environment
- identifying options for streamlining the key interfaces between different courts (criminal/civil/family) that deal with cases involving violence against women and girls
- identifying arrangements which optimise the expertise of courts dealing with cases involving violence against women and girls

5.4 Effective systems and programmes for perpetrator prevention and management

Particular areas of focus will include:

- ensuring appropriate adjudicated and non-adjudicated perpetrator behavioural programmes are available
- research to further understand the aggravating and reinforcing factors for offending which can include adverse childhood experience (ACE's), substance misuse, and mental ill health
- identifying support pathways for those at risk of offending to address risk factors commonly found alongside offending related to violence against women and girls, including mental health, substance use, accommodation and employability
- exploring the development of a multi-agency approach to the management of high risk and repeat offenders with an agreed common framework such as the Multi Agency Tasking and Coordination (MATAC) model in Scotland

We know that victims and survivors have diverse lived experiences and will be affected by violence and trauma differently, which means they may have different needs in terms of their journey through the justice system

Working Better Together

Outcome 6 – All of government and society working better together to end violence against women and girls

A whole system approach with collaboration and cooperation across government departments and with, within, and between community, voluntary, and other sectors

In order to effectively tackle violence against women and girls, it is essential that we work in a more strategic and joined up way, embedding good practice. The following priority areas are strategic enablers, the threads of good practice that will drive forward implementation of the Strategic Framework. Each of them relates to all of the other 5 outcomes and are critical to effective delivery:



Components of Good Practice informing implementation of the Strategic Framework

In addition, agile work groups, bringing together lived experience and other subject matter experts, will be set up to allow for short periods of focused work to investigate particular challenges and co-create potential solutions (Task Group Sprint methodology).

6.1 Long term collaborative resourcing for effective delivery

Particular areas of focus will include:

- ambitious but realistic costing of all our initiatives and achievement of adequate funding to tackle this systemic and ingrained problem
- exploring innovative resourcing models that promote collaborative working and joined up thinking will optimise the impact of our resources
- developing a training and knowledge transfer approach to ensure expertise, skills, and new thinking is shared across the wider public sector and civic society

6.2 Robustly evidence based and data informed policy development with measurable benefits/outcomes

Data is essential for understanding the problem of violence against women and girls, measuring our progress toward ending it, and informing funding, service design, and delivery decisions. Data capture and data-sharing mechanisms need to be comprehensive, joined up, gathering consistent and high-quality data to use across the system.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- **Data (evidence base)**
To understand the landscape fully, it is necessary to develop the evidence base and strengthen data collection across all sectors and age cohorts of society. Data mapping will be crucial to identify data already available and explore the gaps, including a requirement for disaggregated data within existing data collection methods.



CHRIS GARDNER
The Executive Office

Comment from Co-design Reflection Day



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• **Measurement and evaluation**

In order to ensure that our actions are working we need to monitor and evaluate. To do this we need high quality data which is not constrained by silos.

• **Lived experience**

In addition to the quantitative data, we want the voices of lived experience (qualitative data) to be part of designing a system that works for all. A mechanism is required to allow these voices to be heard in a manner which will respect the rights of those involved.

• **Knowledge & Network Hub – share information and embed good practice**

A key element of an evidence and data driven foundation for this work is the creation of a Knowledge and Network Hub which can give all partners access to the best international and local research, data, communication resources, and good practice and make appropriate links with other local violence prevention and reduction programmes and initiatives.

6.3 Strong and proactive leadership at all levels of government and society to drive transformative change to end violence against women and girls

Collaborative and proactive leadership, both political and civic, is of vital importance in the creation of a society wide movement and to drive change in all sectors and across our community to end violence against women and girls.

Particular areas of focus will include:

- identifying change agents across civic society and co-creating opportunities to champion the issue, such as a civil society pledge
- working with political champions and developing opportunities to provide leadership on the issue

such as an all-party agreement or working group to encourage collaborative working across party lines

- embedding ending violence against women and girls into the Programme for Government to ensure a focus on ending violence against women and girls throughout government
- exploring options to drive collaboration and accountability in this area such as creating legislative powers and duties

6.4 Prevention of violence against women and girls mainstreamed in public policy

Particular areas of focus will include:

- encouraging partners within government to think proactively about violence against women when developing and delivering policies and services
- maximise the potential of existing government mechanisms, such as procurement or licensing, to mainstream ending violence against women and girls good practice

6.5 Joined up decision making and governance

Particular areas of focus will include:

- establishment of appropriate governance structures for the Strategic Framework to End Violence Against Women and Girls
- establishment of mechanisms which allow for cooperation and coordination with other intersecting strategies, especially where there are interdependencies;
- establishment of arrangements to facilitate working with other jurisdictions
- consideration of the potential of gender budgeting as a mechanism to assist in this area

Our Approach to Delivery

Our Approach to Delivery

In order to end violence against women and girls, it is essential that we work in a more strategic, collaborative, and joined up way, embedding good practice. This ethos helped to shape the process of co-design, which was foundational to the development of the Strategic Framework and will inform our approach to delivery and supporting arrangements.

Engagement

Through working together in co-design to get to the heart of this challenging issue, a strong and connected network of key stakeholders has been formed. New relationships have been forged and a clear commitment from all to the ambition of ending violence against women and girls. We will continue to engage with key stakeholders across society and government for the life of the programme, and we will explore other partnership opportunities.

Expertise and Advice will be sourced through the establishment of the creation of agile engagement arrangements, covering expertise by lived experience, local service providers, and international and local academic research. In developing these arrangements, we will ensure appropriate alignment including with those supporting the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

Ways of working

Our aim is to work together as partners across every sector of society to prevent and eradicate all forms of violence against women and girls with a focus on root causes.

The Executive mandate is to coordinate work across Departments and sectors at a strategic level. This can best be done in different ways and in different contexts. The Strategic Framework ensures that

where relevant work is already ongoing, it will not be duplicated. Instead, we will work to amplify, accelerate, and augment. Where new work is required, discussions will be held on where best to locate it and how best we can support it, whether by leading, investing, collaborating or joining up. The Executive Office and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls team will provide a range of functions to ensure that the following work proceeds successfully at pace, which includes:

A Knowledge & Network Hub will be created within The Executive Office to provide a central resource for everyone. The Hub will include data and evaluation expertise, engagement with reference groups, international research and dissemination of good practice, communications and campaigns, and ensure institutional memory. It will also make appropriate links with other local violence prevention and reduction programmes and initiatives.

A Programme Management Office will be established to provide central coordination and to support governance and any formal external review of the work at appropriate junctures.

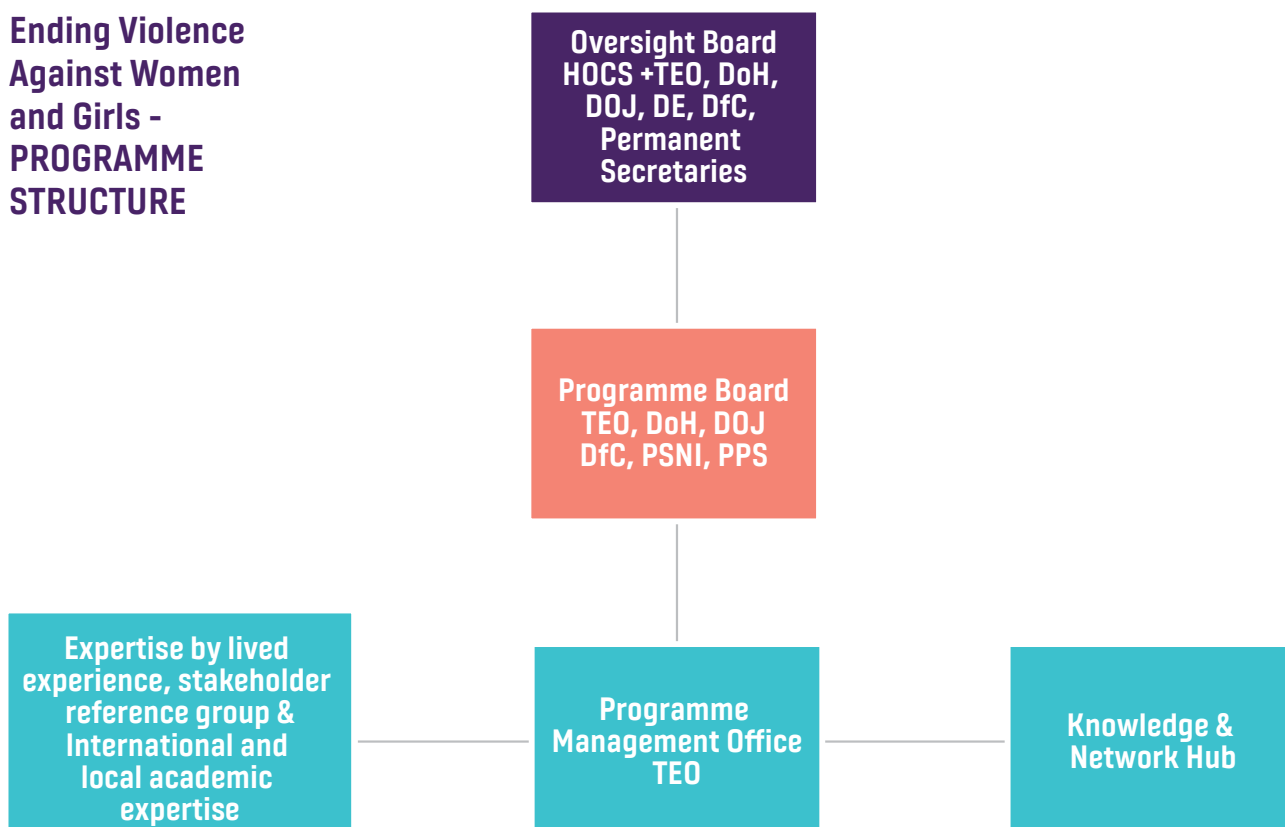
A Task Group Sprint approach will be deployed to facilitate focused, short-term projects on identified issues, bringing together relevant expertise from across departments, statutory agencies, lived experience, community, voluntary, and other sectors as necessary.

Oversight and Accountability

This is a whole of society and whole of government approach and it is important that we are able to measure impact and that there is accountability for delivering progress in all areas. Building on this foundation of a collaborative and creative approach to engagement, the interim governance and accountability structures are being formed to

provide effective focussed oversight while remaining agile to promote collaborative, connected delivery. Each element of the arrangements will contribute in different ways to ensuring effective delivery of the Strategic Framework and Action Plans. As delivery progresses, these arrangements may change to better reflect our needs.

Ending Violence Against Women and Girls - PROGRAMME STRUCTURE



The Oversight Board chaired by Head of Civil Service (HOCS), will include the Permanent Secretaries of key delivery Departments. This Board will review and monitor the implementation of the Strategic Framework taking account of the wider strategic context including other relevant strategies.

Programme Board – this Board will oversee and ensure delivery of the Strategic Framework and will monitor programme progress against agreed timelines and milestones. Membership will be drawn from key delivery partners and stakeholders.

Cross Departmental Liaison Group – this working level group will add value by ensuring that there is coordinated and collaborative delivery of commitments made by Executive Departments and their statutory bodies, including joined-up working with other strategies in relation to ending violence against women and girls.

Action plans and supporting monitoring framework

– these will be developed to deliver the Strategic Framework. The monitoring framework will be developed using ‘Outcomes Based Accountability’ and will be informed by an outcomes focused data driven approach, while enabling measurement of high-level change towards the outcomes. Where appropriate, we will seek to align actions, indicators and the way we measure progress towards our outcomes, with those being used in other related strategies including the Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

An independent mid-term review will be conducted to examine progress to date against the outcomes and priority areas, to assess the impact of the strategy, and review governance arrangements.

Delivery of the Strategic Framework and Action Plan will also be subject to established accountability arrangements (to Ministers and The Executive), to scrutiny by the Assembly and its Committees and to any relevant International Treaty monitoring mechanisms, such as those for the Istanbul Convention.

Concluding Remarks

Violence against women is a serious and widespread societal problem. Ending it is a significant task, a generational challenge which requires a strong society wide vision for transformational change. This co-designed Strategic Framework sets out a journey to achieve this change.

Violence against women and girls is preventable. We can stop it before it starts. Prevention can help create a future that is not only safer for women and girls, but is more respectful, just and equal for everyone in our society.

To achieve the widespread societal transformation necessary to prevent violence against women and girls, we need systematic and coordinated investment and effort at the widest possible scale, at all levels of government and society.

There is something everyone can do. Let's get started.

Annexes

Annex A - The Strategic Landscape

This Strategic Framework forms part of a web of support for everyone in our society. Ensuring it is joined up and protects everyone is part of our challenge. There are many other strategies and programmes of work across government which are relevant to ending violence against women and girls and we will be coordinating with them as necessary. It will also be important to work with local government and other partner agencies with this same goal in mind.

Some of the most relevant strategies and programmes of work are set out below.

The draft **Domestic and Sexual Abuse (DSA) Strategy 2023-2030**, led by the Department of Justice and Department of Health, will build on the first **Stopping Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse in NI Strategy (2016-2023)**. It sets out a renewed focus on tackling domestic and sexual abuse regardless of gender or gender identity. In addition, the **major review, conducted by Sir John Gillen** into the law and procedures applied in serious sexual offences in NI made recommendations for systemic reform and is currently in implementation phase.



Recognising the cross-cutting nature of violence against women and girls, and the emphasis on early intervention in this Strategic Framework, we are working closely with the **Department of Education** in order to ensure that ending violence against women and girls is mainstreamed into policy development, service delivery and the curriculum.



The proposed suite of four **Executive Social Inclusion Strategies (Anti-Poverty, Disability, Gender Equality, and Sexual Orientation)** development of which is being led by the Department for Communities, focuses on identifying and addressing the issues, barriers, and disadvantages that undermine equality of opportunity in our community. Close co-operation and the sharing of information will ensure that we complement each other's work and collaborate where possible. **The Executive Programme on Paramilitary Organised Crime (EPPOC)** is an Executive wide public health-based strategy to end paramilitary violence and organised crime. We intend to share with them a cross-departmental structure and a foundation in data-driven public health approaches to violence prevention.



The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) have also developed an **Action Plan: Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls** which will contribute to a society in which violence and abuse against women and girls in any form, anywhere, is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. It will also aid in building trust and confidence in policing.



The Public Prosecution Service (PPS) is in the final stages of developing a revised Sexual Offences Policy and Domestic Abuse Offences Policy. They are working closely with the PSNI to develop a joint strategy on cases involving serious sexual offences and to promote a prosecution team approach in tackling domestic abuse. There is also regular consultation via the PPS Stakeholder Engagement Forum.



Annex B - Glossary

Abuse: Is any action that violates a person's human rights or civil rights. It can take many forms and involves a number of factors. It can occur anywhere, and the abuser could be a stranger, a partner, a carer, a family member or someone else in a position of trust or authority.

Active Bystander Approach: An intervention approach which aims to equip people to become active bystanders as opposed to passive ones. It helps develop the knowledge, skills, and confidence to safely intervene when challenging harmful attitudes, language, or behaviour that supports violence.²⁵

Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE): Refers to some of the most intensive and frequently occurring sources of stress that children may suffer early in life. Adverse childhood experiences include multiple types of abuse, such as neglect, violence, and/or serious household dysfunction, for example, alcohol and substance abuse and may have lifelong impacts.²⁶

Child Marriage: UNICEF defines child marriage as any formal marriage or informal union between a child under the age of 18 and an adult or another child. It describes child marriage as a harmful practice as children, given their age, inherently lack the ability to give their full, free, and informed consent to their marriage or its timing.²⁷ In our jurisdiction, marriage of young people of 16 and 17 years of age is permitted with their parents' consent.

Co-Design: Co-design is a methodology about designing with people, not for people. It is a design led process using creative and participatory methods. Using a carefully designed approach to engagement and consultation, and built on evidence based research, a space is created to reflect the value all contributors to the process equally, remaining open to a range of perspectives and opportunities. The people in the co-design room are all important to the success of developing the proposition. We have used this approach to design this Strategic Framework.

Coercive Control: Coercive control is an act or a pattern of acts of assault, threats,

humiliation and intimidation, or other abuse that is used to harm, punish, or frighten a victim who is usually in an intimate partner or family relationship with the abuser. This controlling behaviour is designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them, depriving them of independence, and regulating their everyday behaviour.²⁸

Consent: In this Strategic Framework we use 'consent' specifically to describe an agreement between participants to engage in sexual activity or enter into marriage. It must be freely and actively given and cannot be provided by someone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol or by someone underage. Consent is specific, meaning that consent to one act does not imply consent to any others, and reversible, meaning that it may be revoked at any time.²⁹

Cyberstalking: Involves the use of information and communications technology to perpetrate more than one incident intended to repeatedly harass, annoy, attack, threaten, frighten, and/or verbally abuse individuals.³⁰

Domestic Violence (DV): All acts of physical, sexual, psychological, or financial abuse that occur within the family or domestic unit, irrespective of biological or legal family ties, or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence as the victim.³¹ Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse and includes but is not limited to intimate person violence.

Drivers of violence against women and girls: The underlying causes that are required to create the necessary conditions in which violence against women occurs. They relate to the particular structures, norms and practices arising from gender inequality in public and private life, but which must always be considered in the context of other forms of social discrimination and disadvantage.³²

Emotional violence: Emotional violence includes undermining a person's sense of self-worth through constant criticism; belittling one's abilities; name-calling or

other verbal abuse; damaging a partner's relationship with the children; or not letting a partner see friends and family.³³

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM): Comprises all procedures that involve partial or total removal of the external female genitalia, or other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. The practice is mostly carried out by traditional practitioners in certain cultures.³⁴

Femicide: Refers to the intentional murder of women because they are women, but may be defined more broadly to include any killings of women or girls.³⁵

Forced Marriage: A forced marriage is where one or both people do not or cannot consent to the marriage, and pressure or abuse is used to force them into marriage. It is also when anything is done to make someone marry before "they are of an age when they can validly consent, or where they lack mental capacity to do so, even if there is no pressure or abuse". Forced marriage is illegal in the UK. It is a form of domestic abuse and a serious abuse of human rights.³⁶

Financial Abuse: Financial abuse is an aspect of coercive control which involves a perpetrator using or misusing money which limits and controls their partner's current and future actions, as well as limiting their freedom of choice. It can include using credit cards without permission, putting contractual obligations in their partner's name, and gambling with family assets. Financial abuse can leave victims with no money for basic essentials, such as food and clothing. It can leave them without access to their own bank accounts, with no access to any independent income, and with debts that have been built up by their abusive partner.³⁷

Gender: Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with others. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.³⁸

Annexes

Annex B - Glossary

Gender-based discrimination: Any distinction, exclusion, or restriction made on the basis of sex or gender which has the effect or purpose of impairing or nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, or exercise by women, irrespective of their marital status, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, civil, or any other field.³⁹

Gender-based violence: Refers to harmful acts directed at an individual or a group of individuals based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. The term is primarily used to underscore the fact that structural, gender-based power differentials place women and girls at risk of multiple forms of violence. Women and girls suffer disproportionately from gender-based violence, however men and boys can also be targeted.⁴⁰

Gender budgeting: Gender budgeting is an important public governance tool that governments can use to assess how budget decisions impact gender equality. When implemented effectively, gender budgeting helps expose how gender inequalities may have inadvertently become embedded in public policies and the allocation of resources. It also promotes budget measures that will be effective at closing gender gaps.⁴¹

Gender equality: Involves equality for people of all genders. This term is used in the substantive sense to mean not only equality of opportunity, but also equal or just outcomes (sometimes also called equity). Achieving gender equality requires the redistribution of power, resources and responsibilities between men and women in particular, and the transformation of the underlying causes and structures that create and sustain gender inequality.⁴²

Gender Identity: One's innermost concept of self as male, female, a blend of both or neither – how individuals perceive themselves and what they call themselves. One's gender identity can be the same or different from their sex assigned at birth.⁴³

Gender norms: The dominant beliefs and rules of conduct which a society or social group see as normal in relation to the

types of roles, interests, behaviours and contributions expected from girls and boys, men and women. Norms are not neutral in their effect but rather create and maintain unequal relations of power.⁴⁴

Gender stereotype: A gender stereotype is a generalised view or preconception about attributes or characteristics that are or ought to be possessed by women and men or the roles that are or should be performed by men and women. They can be both positive and negative.

Gender stereotyping: The practice of ascribing to an individual woman or man specific attributes, characteristics, or roles by reason only of her or his membership in the social group of women or men.⁴⁵

General support services: Refers to government public social welfare services such as social services, housing services, (un)employment services, public education and training services, advocacy and legal services, financial support services, and health care services.

Grooming: Grooming is when a person builds a relationship with a child, young person or an adult who's at risk so they can abuse them and manipulate them into doing things. Grooming can take place online or in person and it can happen over a short or long period of time.⁴⁶

Harm: Harm includes all harmful contact, and in particular, conduct that causes physical harm, psychological harm by causing fear, alarm or distress; unlawful conduct which appropriates or adversely affects property, rights or interests; conduct which causes self-harm.⁴⁷

Harassment: Unwanted conduct related to a relevant protected characteristic, which has the purpose or effect of violating an individual's dignity or creating an intimidating, hostile, degrading, humiliating, or offensive environment for that individual.⁴⁸

Harmful Sexual Behaviour: Sexual behaviours expressed by children and young people under the age of 18 years old that are developmentally inappropriate, may be harmful towards self or others, or be abusive towards another child, young

person, or adult. These behaviours, which often occur in schools, can range from inappropriate and problematic behaviours, like sexist name-calling and non-consensual image sharing, through to abusive or violent behaviour, like unwanted touching and penetrative assaults. This behaviour can be between children and young people of any age, gender, and/or sexual orientation.⁴⁹

Honour-based violence or abuse: Honour based violence is a violent crime or incident which may have been committed to protect or defend the honour of the family or community. It is often linked to family members or acquaintances who mistakenly believe someone has brought shame to their family or community by doing something that is seen as being not in keeping with the traditional beliefs or culture.⁵⁰

International Labour Organisation (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention 2019 (No. 190): ILO Convention 2019 (190) is the first international treaty to recognise the right of everyone to participate in a world of work that is free from violence and harassment, including gender-based violence and harassment.

Image-Based Sexual Abuse (IBSA): Refers to creating, threatening to share, sharing, or using of recordings (still images or videos) of sexually explicit or sexualised materials without the consent of the person depicted and/or for the purposes of exploitation.⁵¹

Intergenerational Trauma: Refers to a discrete form of trauma which occurs when traumatic effects are passed across generations without exposure to the original event.⁵²

Intersectionality: The concept of intersectionality describes the ways in which systems of inequality based on gender, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity, disability, class, and other forms of discrimination "intersect" to create unique dynamics and effects.⁵³ An intersectional approach to ending violence against women and girls includes a consideration of where gender intersects with other inequalities/oppressions (sexual orientation and gender identity, ethnicity, immigration status, disability) to produce unique experiences of violence.⁵⁴

Annex B - Glossary

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): Intimate partner violence refers to behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm. Violent behaviour may include physical aggression, psychological abuse, sexual coercion, and/or controlling behaviours.⁵⁵

LGBTQIA+: An acronym for “lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, and asexual with a “+” sign to recognise other sexual orientations and gender identities that are not mentioned.

Misogyny: Misogyny is a way of thinking that upholds the idea that men are superior to women and that it is right for women to have less power and freedom than men. This way of thinking can express itself in attitudes and behaviours which can be controlling, offensive and abusive. Misogyny includes but is not limited to contempt for women as a group and ranges from disrespecting women and promotion of harmful stereotypes to physical and sexual violence.

An alternative definition: Misogyny is a way of thinking that upholds the primary status of men and a sense of male entitlement, while subordinating women and limiting their power and freedom. Conduct based on this thinking can include a range of abusive and controlling behaviours including rape, sexual offences, harassment and bullying, and domestic abuse.⁵⁶

NIC-ICTU: Northern Ireland Committee-Irish Congress of Trade Unions

NISRA: Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency

Online or Digital Violence Against Women and Girls: Refers to any act of violence that is committed, assisted or aggravated by the use of information and communication technology (mobile phones, the Internet, social media, computer games, text messaging, email, etc) against a woman because she is a woman.

Online violence can include:

- Cyberbullying which involves the sending of intimidating or threatening messages
- Non-consensual sexting which involves the sending of explicit messages or

photos without the recipient’s consent.

- Doxing involves the public release of private or identifying information about the victim.⁵⁷

Physical Violence: Involves hurting or trying to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, burning, grabbing, pinching, shoving, slapping, hair-pulling, biting, denying medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use, or using other physical force. It may include property damage.⁵⁸

Programme for Government (PFG): The PFG is a long term, strategic Programme for Government, to be agreed by the Executive under the Northern Ireland Act 1998, based on a shared and strategic vision for the future which aims to improve wellbeing for all.

PSNI: Police Service of Northern Ireland

Psychological Violence: Involves causing fear by intimidation, threatening physical harm to self, partner, or children, destruction of pets and property, “mind games,” or forcing isolation from friends, family, school, and/or work.⁵⁹

Reinforcing factors: Factors which become significant within the context of the drivers of violence. These factors do not predict or drive violence against women and girls on their own. However, they each play a role in influencing the occurrence or dynamics of violence against women and girls. Reinforcing factors are contextspecific; they have an influence in particular circumstances and manifest differently at the individual, community and society levels.⁶⁰

Relationships and Sexual Education (RSE):

RSE helps children and young people acquire knowledge, understanding, and skills, as well as developing attitudes, beliefs, and values about relationships, sexual identity, and intimacy. RSE encourages children and young people to value themselves as individuals, and to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives.⁶¹

Settings: Environments in which people live, work, learn, socialise, and play.

Sexism: Discrimination based on gender and the attitudes, stereotypes and cultural elements that promote this discrimination.⁶²

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse is when someone is forced, pressured or tricked into taking part in any kind of sexual activity with another person. It could be online or in person, and it can happen to anyone. Rape and sexual assault are types of sexual abuse, as well as sexual harassment. It includes sexual slavery, pornography, child abuse, and sexual assault.⁶³

Sexual Exploitation: An actual or attempted abuse of someone’s position of vulnerability (such as a person depending on you for survival, food, education, access to technology, transport, or other services), differential power, or trust, to obtain sexual favours by offering money or other social, economic, or political advantages. It includes trafficking and prostitution.⁶⁴ It can be commercial or noncommercial. It includes **child sexual exploitation** which is a form of child sexual abuse. This occurs where an individual or group takes advantage of an imbalance of power to coerce, manipulate or deceive a child or young person under the age of 18 into sexual activity (a) in exchange for something the victim needs or wants, and/or (b) for the financial advantage or increased status of the perpetrator or facilitator. The victim may have been sexually exploited even if the sexual activity appears consensual. Child sexual exploitation does not always involve physical contact; it can also occur through the use of technology.⁶⁵

Sexual Harassment: Sexual harassment encompasses non-consensual physical contact, like grabbing, pinching, slapping, or rubbing against another person in a sexual way. It also includes non-physical forms, such as catcalls, sexual comments about a person’s body or appearance, demands for sexual favours, sexually suggestive staring, stalking, and exposing one’s sex organs.⁶⁶

Sexual Orientation: An inherent or immutable enduring emotional, romantic or sexual attraction to other people. Note: an individual’s sexual orientation is independent of their gender identity.⁶⁷

Annex B - Glossary

Sexual Violence: Sexual activity that happens where consent is not obtained or freely given. It occurs any time a person is forced, coerced or manipulated into any unwanted sexual activity, such as touching, sexual harassment and intimidation, forced marriage, trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, sexual assault, and rape. Sexual assault is only one type of sexual violence and does not include sexual harassment, or broader and complex forms of sexual violence, such as technology-facilitated or image-based abuse.⁶⁸

Social norms: The informal, mostly unwritten and unspoken collective rules that define typical, acceptable, appropriate, and obligatory actions in a social group, setting or society. They are produced and reproduced by customs, traditions and value systems that develop over time to uphold particular forms of social order.⁶⁹

Social structures, (including and the systems which support them): These structures are reinforced through government, institutions and laws that serve to organise society, determining who has social and political power. Social change processes challenge those social structures and political and cultural institutions, and thus the organisation of society and the distribution of power and resources.⁷⁰

Specialist services: Refers to services that are specifically focused on supporting victims and survivors of violence against women and girls, for example shelters, helplines, collection of forensic medical evidence, trauma care, rape crisis centres, and specific services for children as victims and survivors. This includes services who work with marginalised communities who can face specific or multiple levels of inequality.

Street harassment / Public Sexual Harassment: Harassment refers to unwanted comments, gestures, and actions directed at someone in a public place without their consent. Harassment can happen anywhere. It can take place on the streets or any public space – parks,

gyms, university campuses, transport or shopping centres.

Structural Inequalities: Embedding of gender inequalities in social structures, based on institutionalised conceptions of gender differences.⁷¹

Structures: Macro-level mechanisms and structural forces (economic, political, cultural, organisational) that maintain social order and the status quo and which, in turn, shape our lives.

Systems and Structures: Macro-level mechanisms, both formal (policies, institutions and laws) and informal (social norms), which serve to organise society, and create power relationships between different groups of people and patterns of social and political power.⁷²

Systemic Social Inequalities: A pattern of discrimination that is reflected within social norms and reinforced through law, education the economy, healthcare and politics and results in the privileging of certain groups and individuals over others.⁷³

Trafficking: The recruitment, transportation, transfer, harbouring, or receipt of people through force, fraud, or deception, with the aim of exploiting them for profit. The traffickers often use violence or fraudulent employment agencies and fake promises of education and job opportunities to trick and coerce their victims.⁷⁴

Trauma Informed Practice (TIP): Trauma Informed Practice is a way of increasing the understanding of trauma and its impact through supporting development of skills and knowledge throughout the workforce. It also recognises the correlation between trauma and poorer outcomes which may be caused by the direct impact of the trauma, the impact of the trauma on a person's coping response, or the impact of the trauma on a person's relationships with others.⁷⁵

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG): Violence against women and girls is defined as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical,

sexual or mental harm or suffering to women and girls, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. Violence against women and girls encompasses, but is not limited to, physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family or within the general community, and perpetrated or condoned by the State.⁷⁶

Women's Night Safety Charter: The charter is a commitment by organisations and businesses operating at night to support the Northern Ireland Executive Office's work to end violence against women and girls. Hospitality Ulster and [White Ribbon NI](#) have joined forces to adopt the Women's Night Safe Charter and support its rollout in Northern Ireland.⁷⁷

Workplace Sexual Harassment: Unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature when:

- Submission to such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of an individual's employment, or
- Submission to or rejection of such conduct by an individual is used as a basis for employment decisions affecting such individual, or
- Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.⁷⁸

Young Life and Times Survey (YLT): The Young Life and Times (YLT) survey is an annual survey run by [ARK](#) in Northern Ireland. It is a repeated cross-sectional survey and records the views of 16 year olds on a range of issues such as community relations, health, politics, sectarianism and education. ARK is Northern Ireland's social policy hub based across the campuses of Ulster University and Queen's University Belfast. ARK's primary goal is to increase the accessibility and use of academic data and research and it provides robust and independent evidence, which forms the basis for critical policy debate and informed policy making.

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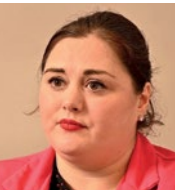



































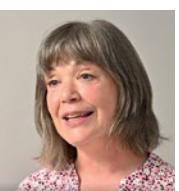




Annex D – Co-Design Partners

- Age NI
- Allstate NI
- Barnardo's
- Department for Communities
- Department of Education
- Department of Health
- Department of Justice
- Diocese of Down and Connor
- Disability Action
- Diversity Mark
- Education Authority
- Labour Relations Agency
- Men's Action Network
- Migrant Centre NI
- National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (NSPCC)
- Nexus NI
- NI Sports Forum
- Northern Ireland Committee – Irish Congress of Trade Unions (NI-ICTU)
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE)
- Northern Ireland Rural Women's Network (NIRWN)
- Ofcom Northern Ireland
- Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI)
- Presbyterian Church in Ireland
- Probation Board for Northern Ireland
- Public Health Agency
- Public Prosecution Service
- Queen's University Belfast Students Union
- Queen's University Belfast Teachers Training
- Relate NI
- Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI)
- Society of Local Authority Chief Executives SOLACE NI
- Sport NI
- The Executive Office
- The Rainbow Project
- Ulster University
- Victim Support NI
- Voice of Young People In Care (VOYPIC)
- White Ribbon NI
- Women with Lived Experience
- Women's Aid Federation NI (WAFNI)
- Women's Resource and Development Agency (WRDA)
- Youth Action NI

Annex D - Co-Design Partners

Vox Pop Recordings from Co-design members: The Strategic Framework was co-designed by people from many sectors and backgrounds, with diverse perspectives, who are committed to ending violence against women and girls. On the final Co-design Reflection Day, Monday 27th March 2023, a number of participants came together to comment on the process.

These voices and others that participated in co-design all reflected the level of involvement, the passion and the commitment in creating a Strategic Framework that will bring about the big changes needed to end violence against women and girls.

					
DR. JAYNE BRADY Head of NI Civil Service	SONYA MCMULLAN Women's Aid	ELAINE CRORY Women's Resource and Development Agency	AISLING PLAYFORD The Rainbow Project	DUANE FARRELL Relate NI	CATHY GALWAY Department of Justice
Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 
					
PAUL DEIGHAN Education Authority	JOANNE BARNES Nexus	MICHAEL LYNCH Men's Action Network	GRETA GURKLYTE Disability Action	BARBARA PORTER Public Health Agency	KENDALL BOUSQUET NI Migrant Centre
Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 
					
TAHNEE MCCORRY White Ribbon NI	ANTOINETTE MCKEOWN Sport NI	JACQUI MONTGOMERY DEVLIN Faith Forum	LINSEY FARRELL Department of Education	MICHELLE HARRIS Barnardo's	TRASA CANAVAN Barnardo's
Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 
					
LINDSAY FISHER PSNI	CIARAN MCQUILLAN Public Prosecution Service	CHRIS GARDNER The Executive Office	CLARE MOORE The Irish Congress of Trade Unions		
Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 	Comment: CLICK HERE 		

Annex E - Help and Support



Nexus NI

provide a specialised professional counselling service primarily focused on enabling positive change for those impacted by sexual abuse and abusive relationships.

Web: [About | Nexus NI](#)

Email: info@nexusni.org

Tel: 028 90326803

24 hour Domestic and Sexual Abuse Helpline:

Freephone: 0808 8021414 Email: help@dsahelpline.org



Women's Aid NI

work to provide trauma informed support services to women, children, and young people who have experienced domestic abuse.

Web: [Get help - Women's Aid Federation Northern Ireland](#)

Email: info@womensaidni.org Tel: 028 90249041



Victim Support NI

helps people affected by crime, including hate crime, eCrime, and sexual and domestic violence crime.

Web: [Victim Support Northern Ireland](#)

Email: info@victimsupportni.org.uk

Tel: 028 90243133



NSPCC

provides therapeutic services to help children move on from abuse, as well as supporting parents and families in caring for their children.

Web: [NSPCC](#) Email: help@nspcc.org.uk

Tel: 08088005000

24/7 Childline Helpline Web: [Childline](#) | Childline Tel: 08001111



The Rainbow Project

is a health organisation that works to improve the physical, mental, and emotional health and well-being of LGBTQIA+ people and their families.

Web: [Rainbow Project](#) Email: info@rainbow-project.org

Tel: 028 90319030



Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI)

are taking specific actions to tackle violence against women and girls.

Website: [What we are doing to tackle violence against women and girls?](#)

Report an emergency: Call 999

Report a non-emergency:

Call 101 or online: [Online Incident Reporting](#)



Men's Advisory Project NI

offers services of support to any man who has faced, or who is facing, domestic abuse across all of Northern Ireland.

Web: [MapNI](#) Email: info@mapni.co.uk

Tel: Belfast: 028 90241929 / Foyle: 028 71160001

Annex F - Endnotes

¹ Kelly, Liz. 1988. *Surviving Sexual Violence*. Cambridge: Polity.

² Northern Ireland Statistics and research Agency, (2023) *Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: Experiences and Attitudes of 16 year olds in Northern Ireland*, accessed April 14. [Ending Violence Against Women and Girls: Results from the Young Life and Times Survey 2022](#)

³ Based on a sample size of 179 young women who responded to this survey question. McAlister, S, Neill, Gail, Schubotz, D, Templeton, M. (2023). 'Its just what happens': Girls and Young Women's Views and Experiences of Violence. Queens University – Centre for Children's Rights and Ulster University. (Unpublished)

⁴ Based on a sample size of 542 women who completed the survey. Lagdon, S. et al. (2022) *Every Voice Matters! Violence Against Women in Northern Ireland*. Ulster University (unpublished).

⁵ These research findings mirror the results of UK wide research on sexual harassment of women and girls in the UN Women UK YouGov survey. Available here: [UN Women Sexual Harassment in Public Spaces](#) and the ONS survey on the Nature of sexual assault by rape or penetration, England and Wales: Year ending March 2020. Available here: [Nature of sexual assault - Office for National Statistics](#)

⁶ This survey used a non-random sample of 1,033 students. 830 of these were women. Taken from: Ngozi Anyadike-Danes et al., 2022. 'Unwanted and Non-Consensual Sexual Experiences Reported by University Students in Northern Ireland,' Ulster University. Available here: [Unseen at Uni - Ulster University](#)

⁷ Based on a sample size of 1010 working women in the UK aged over 18. The poll was carried out for the TUC by Opinium. Available here: [TUC Poll on sexual harassment, bullying or verbal abuse at work](#)

⁸ PSNI Domestic Abuse Trends. Available here: [Domestic Abuse Statistics | PSNI](#)

⁹ Police Service of Northern Ireland [PSNI Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Action Plan](#)

¹⁰ The Women's Policy Group Northern Ireland is a platform for women working in policy and advocacy roles in different organisations to share their work and speak with a collective voice on key issues. Website: [Women's Policy Group](#)

¹¹ This survey was based on a non-random sample of 1,065 responses. Taken from: Women's Policy Group NI. 2022. *Just a Fact of Life: being a woman in Northern Ireland. Violence Against Women and Girls in Northern Ireland: NI Women's Policy Group Research Findings*.

¹² A child who has been in the care of their local authority for more than 24 hours is known as a looked after child.

¹³ Robert Waldinger and Mark Schulz. 2023. *The Good Life: Lessons from the world's longest scientific study of happiness*. New York: Simon and Schuster.

¹⁴ United Nations General Assembly, *Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993)*, accessed April 14, 2023. Available here: [UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women](#)

¹⁵ General recommendation No 35 on gender-based violence against women updating general recommendation No. 19 (1992). Available here: [General recommendation No. 35 \(2017\)](#)

¹⁶ Heise, L., & Kotsadam, A. 2015. Cross national and multi-level correlates of partner violence: An analysis of data from population-based surveys. *Lancet Global Health*, 3, 332– 40; United Nations. 2006. *Ending violence against women: From words to action (Study of the Secretary-General)*; UNDP. 2020. *Tackling social norms: A game changer for gender inequalities*. United Nations Development Programme; World Health Organization and London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. 2010. *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: Taking action and generating evidence*. World Health Organization; Heise. 2011. *What works to prevent partner violence - An evidence overview*. STRIVE; Ellsberg, M., Arango, D. J., Morton, M., Gennari, F., Kiplesund, S., Contreras, M., & Watts, C. 2014. *Prevention of violence against women and girls: What does the evidence say?* *Lancet*; Michau, L., Horn, J., Bank, A., Dutt, M., & Zimmerman, C. 2014. *Prevention of violence against women and girls: Lessons from practice*. *Lancet*, 385(9978), 1672–84

¹⁷ Same as previous

¹⁸ Mark A. Bellis et al., 'Adverse Childhood Experience: Retrospective Study to Determine their Impact on Adult Health Behaviours and Health Outcomes in a UK Population,' *Journal of Public Health* 36, no. 1 (2013): 81-91

¹⁹ Wellbeing is the focus of the NI Civil Service Missions.

²⁰ Text provided by the Safeguarding Board of Northern Ireland. Available here: [SBNI Safeguarding is everyone's business](#)

²¹ Joint Call for Views initiated by The Executive Office and the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate, along with the Department of Health and the Department of Justice renewed Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

²² Mary Ellsberg et al. 2015. 'Prevention of violence against women and girls: what does the evidence say?' *Violence Against Women and Girls* 1, no. 385 (2015): 1555 – 1566.

²³ Waldinger and Schulz, *The Good Life*, 2023.

²⁴ Hospitality Ulster/White Ribbon UK, *Women's Night Time Safety Charter NI*. Accessed April 14 2023, Available here: [Women's Night Safety Charter NI | Hospitality Ulster](#).

²⁵ Warwick University definition. Available here: [Definition of an active bystander approach](#)

²⁶ WHO definition. Available here: [Definition of adverse childhood experiences \(ACES\)](#)

²⁷ UNICEF definition: Available here: [Definition of child marriage](#)

²⁸ Women's Aid definition. Available here: [Definition of coercive control](#)

²⁹ UN Women definition. Available here: [Definition of consent](#)

³⁰ UNODC definition. Available here: [Definition of Cyberstalking](#)

³¹ Council of Europe definition. Available here: [Definition of domestic violence](#)

³² Our Watch. 2021. *Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second ed)*. Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch.

³³ UN Women definition. Available here: [Definition of emotional violence](#)

³⁴ World Health Organisation definition: Available here: [Definition of female genital mutilation \(FGM\)](#)

³⁵ UN Women definition. Available here: [Definition of femicide](#)

³⁶ UK Government definition. Available here: [Definition of forced marriage](#)

³⁷ Women's aid definition: Available here: [Definition of Financial and economic abuse](#)

³⁸ WHO Europe definition: Available here: [Definition of Gender](#)

³⁹ Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women, Article 1 - [Definition of gender based discrimination](#)

⁴⁰ UN Women definition. Available here: [Definition of gender based violence](#)

⁴¹ Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development definition. Available here: [Definition of Gender Budgeting](#)

⁴² Definition taken from: Our Watch. 2021. Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second ed). Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch.

⁴³ Human Rights Campaign definition: Available here: [Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Definitions](#)

⁴⁴ Definition adapted from: Our Watch. 2021. Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second ed). Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch.

⁴⁵ Taken from: United Nations Human Rights office of the High Commissioner: Gender stereotypes and stereotyping and women's rights. Available here: [OHCHR Gender stereotypes and Stereotyping and women's rights](#)

⁴⁶ Metropolitan Police Definition: Available here: [Definition of Grooming](#)

⁴⁷ Scottish Government definition: Available here: [What is harm? | Care Information Scotland](#)

⁴⁸ Definition taken from: Equality Act, 2010

⁴⁹ Taken from: NSPCC.2022. Submission to Equally Safe Call for Views.

⁵⁰ PSNI definition. Available here: [Definition of Honour Based Violence](#)

⁵¹ National Centre on Sexual Exploitation definition. Available here: [Definition of Image Based Sexual Abuse](#)

⁵² Definition taken from: Isobel, S. et al. 2020. Intergenerational Trauma and Its Relationship to Mental Health Care: A qualitative Inquiry. Community Mental Health Journal. 57 (4): 631- 643. Available

here: [Intergenerational Trauma and Its Relationship to Mental Health Care: A Qualitative Inquiry](#)

⁵³ Center for Intersectional Justice definition. Available here: [Definition of Intersectionality](#)

⁵⁴ Adapted from: Scottish Government. 2022. Using intersectionality to understand structural inequality in Scotland: Evidence synthesis. Social Research. Available here: [Using intersectionality to understand structural inequality in Scotland](#)

⁵⁵ WHO definition: Available here: [Definition of Intimate Partner Violence \(IPV\)](#)

⁵⁶ Definition taken from: Working Group on Misogyny. 2022. Misogyny - A Human Rights Issue. The Scottish Government. Available here: [Misogyny - A Human Rights Issue](#)

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⁶¹ CCEA (Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment) definition: Available here: [About Relationships and Sexuality Education \(RSE\) | CCEA](#)

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⁶³ Adapted from Childline definition. Available here: [Definition of Sexual abuse](#)

⁶⁴ Definition taken from: UN.2017. Glossary on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. Available here: [UN Glossary on Sexual Exploitation and Abuse](#)

⁶⁵ Taken from: HM Government. Definition of child sexual exploitation. Government consultation response. 16 February 2016. Available at: [Statutory definition of child sexual exploitation - Government consultation](#)

⁶⁶ UN Women definition: Available here. [Definition of sexual harassment](#)

⁶⁷ Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Definitions - [Human Rights Campaign \(hrc.org\)](#)

⁶⁸ Definition taken from: Our Watch. 2021. Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second ed). Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch.

⁶⁹ Same as previous

⁷⁰ Definition taken from: Our Watch. 2021. Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second ed). Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch.

⁷¹ European Institute for Gender Equality definition. Available here: [Glossary & Thesaurus | European Institute for Gender Equality](#)

⁷² Definition taken from: Our Watch. 2021. Change the story. A shared framework for the primary prevention of violence against women in Australia (second ed). Melbourne, Australia: Our Watch.

⁷³ Same as previous

⁷⁴ UN Office on Drugs and Crime definition: Available here: [Definition of Human-Trafficking](#)

⁷⁵ Safeguarding Board of Northern Ireland definition. Available here: [What is Trauma Informed Practice?](#)

⁷⁶ UN Women definition: Available here. [Definition of violence against women and girls](#)

⁷⁷ Hospitality Ulster [Women's Night Safety Charter NI](#)

⁷⁸ Definition taken from: UN Women. What is Sexual Harassment. [Definition of sexual harassment](#)



For further information, please contact:

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Unclassified

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ITEM 12**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	18 October 2023
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 October 2023)
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Successful Equipment Report for Noting Appendix 2 - Successful Equipment Report for Approval Appendix 3 - Successful Event Report for Approval Appendix 4 - Successful Goldcard Report for Noting Appendix 5 - Successful Travel & Accommodation Report for Noting

Members will be aware that on the 26 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.

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.

Not Applicable

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During September 2023, the Forum received a total of 20 applications: 1 Event, 5 Equipment, 1 Goldcard and 13 Travel/Accommodation. A summary of the 20 successful applications are detailed in the attached Successful Equipment, Successful Event, Successful Goldcard and Successful Travel & Accommodation Appendices.

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

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded September 2023	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	£250
Coaching	£3,000	£0	£1,603.75
Equipment	£14,000	*£3,573.98	£2,319.06
Events	£6,000	*£500	£1,468.00*
Seeding	£500	£0	£55.01
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£1,960.00	-£2,174.51
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000
Schools/Sports Club Pathway	£5,000	£0	£4,500
*Goldcards proposed during the period September 2023 is 1 (15 Goldcards in total during 2023/24).			

*The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **£2,319.06** is based on a proposed award of **£3,573.98** – for Approval/Noting. *The proposed remaining budget for Events of **£1,468.00** is based on a proposed award of £500 and Withdrawn costs of £1,000.00. *The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **-£2,174.51** is based on a proposed award of **£1,960.00** – for Noting and Withdrawn costs of £100.

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 EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR NOTING

NAME	TYPE	EQUIPMENT NEED	BENEFIT	COSTS	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Ards Football Club	High Performance Equipment	The club would like to purchase GPS Performance tracking bibs. These devices will provide data to enhance information for coaches in the preparation of individual players in senior, under 20, women and disability squads. This will facilitate best quality care of players and offer more efficient support from coaches.	The equipment will be made available to all our squads. Tailored training regimes will mean players will benefit from the equipment both physically and mentally due to reduced risk of injury and opportunity to perform at their maximum fitness level.	Performance Tracking Bibs £320.00	£242.50	£242.50	Ards FC were awarded £757.50 in June 2023 for a VEO camera. Propose £242.50, maximum award reached.
TOTALS						£242.50	

APPENDIX 2 - SUCCESSFUL EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR APPROVAL

NAME	TYPE	EQUIPMENT NEED	BENEFIT	COSTS	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Bangor Barracudas Water Polo Club	Training Equipment	We have just introduced water polo to u9's as we have access to shallow water. We hope that starting to develop players at a young age will sew a seed of love for the sport and help sustain participation in years to come. We also have a new Division 2 men's team. A lot of the participants in this team are men over 40 being introduced to the sport for the first time. Many of these men are fathers of the children involved in the junior end of the club. We hope that everyone involved will embrace the sport and the health benefits that it brings.	Bangor Barracudas is developing the u9 section of the club. u9's use a size 3 ball, new balls will have good grips which will help the players to learn how to catch the ball. The size 4 balls will be for the u14s. Size 5 balls will be used by u16s and men. Water polo hats for training are essential to prevent eardrum rupture. It has been 10 years since we had new training hats and the current hats are falling apart. We have coaches in the water with the u9s and the water temperature is cold in the pool. The xerothem t-shirts will increase the visibility of the coaches and help to keep them warm.	16 indigo water polo caps £169.99 + 16 white water polo caps £169.99 + 10 x size 3 water polo balls £120 + 10 x size 4 water polo ball £120 + 10 x size 5 water polo ball £120 + 8 thermal tops £332 = £1,031.98.	£1,000	£632.00	Propose £632, as only £300 can be awarded towards water polo balls and caps (fundamental equipment).

<p>Hollywood Football Club</p>	<p>Support the development of new sections</p>	<p>This additional equipment will allow more people to participate. Having the facilities and equipment in place will be attractive to potential players.</p>	<p>The club has recently added a 4th team at senior level along with an increase in youth and female numbers. This equipment will allow better use of out pitch space to accommodate numbers.</p>	<p>FIFA Pro Soccer Balls £250.00 + Forza Football Nets £750.00 = £1,000.00</p>	<p>£1,000</p>	<p>£1,000</p>	<p>All documentation provided. Proposed £1,000, "subject to" written confirmation from the Club, that they adopt the IFA Safeguarding Policy.</p>
<p>Pro - Star Gymnastics Academy</p>	<p>Enhance physical literacy for Junior Sections, Training equipment and High performance equipment.</p>	<p>Having this extra piece of equipment will allow us to add more children into our classes as there will be more equipment for them to practice safely on.</p>	<p>This Balance Beam will benefit the whole club, ranging from our little ones right up to our competitive gymnasts. This piece of equipment is a fantastic training aid for all levels and abilities and is the start of a gymnast's journey. This is where they can start learning new skills to then build up to getting to the higher beam.</p>	<p>Gymnova Low Beam (20cm) £1,018.80 + Gymnastics Direct Taishan Low Balance Beam £1,173.60 + Continental Balance Beam Floor Model £1,389.00</p>	<p>£1,000</p>	<p>£1,000</p>	<p>All documentation provided. Proposed £1,000.</p>

<p>North Down Softball Club</p>	<p>Training Equipment</p>	<p>NDSC have 3 teams, approximately 50 players, with a 4th development team due to form in Spring 2024. With increased player numbers there is an equal need for more training equipment.</p>	<p>All non fundamental training kit. A glove bag will protect Club gloves from weathering, supporting new players. Weather writers protect training plans & recording of players stats in the rain. An equipment wagon facilitates rapid movement of kit on/off the field. Match kit bags provide secure storage for fundamental equipment. Tees, nets & a ball bucket support solo batting practice so players can improve performance outside of normal practice.</p>	<p>Wilson Team Gear Bag £69.99 + A3 Weather Writer x 3 £104.97 + Equipment Wagon £79.59 + Match Kit Bags x 2 £169.98 + Batting Tees x 2 £104.97 + Batting Nets x 2 £149.98 + Ball Bucket £20 = £699.48</p>	<p>£699.48</p>	<p>£699.48</p>	<p>Club were awarded £299.96 for equipment in June 2023. Propose £699.48, maximum award reached.</p>
<p>TOTALS</p>						<p>£3,331.48</p>	

APPENDIX 3 - SUCCESSFUL EVENT REPORT FOR APPROVAL

NAME	SPORT	EVENT	EVENT OUTLINE	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
North Down Cricket Club	Cricket	2023 Cricket Programme	NDCC Cricket Academy. We intend to hold an indoor academy in December/January to progress & prepare local cricketers for the 2024 season. We will engage over 60 youths (boys & girls 8-16) in structured coaching sessions which form part of our wider NDCC Cricket Academy provision. Open to new members/non-members & current youth members).	20 November 2023 - 20 January 2024	Facility Hire 10 x £20/hr = £200, Coaches 10 hr x £15pp x 2 = £300. Total = £500	£500	Propose £500, "subject to" a valid Public Liability Insurance certificate.
TOTALS						£500	

APPENDIX 4 - SUCCESSFUL GOLDCARD REPORT FOR NOTING

APPLICANT	REPRESENTING	SPORT	EVENT	DATES	GYM	PROPOSED	NOTES
Joy Ebbinghaus	Northern Ireland	Netball	2023 U19 European Competition, Loughborough University	15-17 December 2023	Bangor Aurora	Yes	Letter from Netball NI confirms Joy has been selected to the Northern Ireland U19 National Long Squad. Goldcard recommended for 6 months, until 3 April 2024.
TOTALS						1	

APPENDIX 5 - SUCCESSFUL TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR NOTING

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	REPRESENTING	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Michelle Allen	Gymnastics - Trampolining	2023 British Gymnastics Interregional Challenge Cup Final	23/09/2023	Utilita Arena Birmingham	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Michelle is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
Olivia Garrad	Gymnastics - Tumbling	2023 British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final	23/09/2023	Birmingham	N.Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Olivia is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
Lucy Kingsley	Gymnastics - Trampolining	2023 Trampoline, Tumbling & DMT Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final	23-24/9/23	Utilita Arena Birmingham	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Lucy is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.

Amelie Reid	Trampoline Gymnastics	2023 British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final	22-24/9/23	Utilita Arena Birmingham	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Amelie is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
Frankie McCullough	Shooting - Clay Pigeon	2023 ICTSC English Sporting Home International Tournament	16/09/2023	Sporting Targets, Bedford, England	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from the Ulster Clay Pigeon Shooting Association confirms Frankie has been selected to represent N.Ireland at the ICTSC English Sporting Home International Tournament, Bedford, 16 September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
Aimee Robinson	Trampoline Gymnastics	2023 Loule Cup	11-15/10/2023	Loule, Portugal	Northern Ireland	£170	£170	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Aimee is representing N.Ireland at the Loule Cup, Portugal, 11-15 October 2023. Recommend funding of £170.
Jessica Dadley-Young	Sailing	2023 RS Feva Southern Championship	23-24th September	Monkstown Bay Sailing Club Cork	Northern Ireland	£100	£100	Letter from RYA NI confirms Jessica has been selected to represent N.Ireland at the RS Feva Southern Championship, Monkstown Bay Sailing Club Cork, 23-24 September 2023. Recommend funding of £100.

Eliza McGill	Gymnastics	2023 British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final	20/09/2023	Utilita Arena, Birmingham	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Eliza is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
Lucy Kingsley	Gymnastics Trampoline & DMT (Double Mini Trampoline)	2023 Loulé Cup	13/10/2023	Pavilhão Desportivo Municipal de Loulé	Northern Ireland	£170	£170	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Lucy is representing N.Ireland at the Loule Cup, Portugal, 11-15 October 2023. Recommend funding of £170.
Oliver Magrath	Trampoline	2023 British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final	22-24/9/23	Birmingham	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Oliver is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
Anna McLarnon	Weightlifting	2023 9th European Union Weightlifting Cup	13/10/2023	Ljubljana, Slovenia	Ireland	£170	£170	Email from Weightlifting Ireland to parent confirms their child has been selected to represent Weightlifting Ireland at this year's EUWC in Ljubljana, Slovenia. Recommend funding of £170.

Ashten Adair	Tumbling	2023 Trampolining, Tumbling and DMT Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final	23-24/9/23	Birmingham	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Ashten is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
Isla Parkes	Trampolining & Tumbling	2023 British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final	22-24/9/23	Birmingham	Northern Ireland	£150	£150	Letter from Gymnastics NI confirms Isla is representing N.Ireland at the British Gymnastics Inter Regional Challenge Cup Final, Birmingham, 22-24th September 2023. Recommend funding of £150.
TOTALS							£1,960.00	

Unclassified

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ITEM 13**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	27 October 2023
File Reference	PCA27
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Ward Park Redevelopment Update
Attachments	Appendix 1 Ward Park Project Brief Appendix 2 Ward Park Presentation Appendix 3 LA06 2016 1108 F Ward Park Planning Approval Appendix 4 LA06 2016 1108 F Ward Park Planning Approval Drawing Appendix 5 Public Info sheet on the Project and Desilting Works

Ward Park is one of our Borough's most attractive assets, popular with residents and visitors of all ages. In 2021, Council was granted planning permission (REF: LA06/2016/1108/F) for an Environmental Improvement Scheme for Ward Park. In 2021, Members also agreed a phased approach to the Scheme i.e., Phase One to proceed with the desilting of the pond network and Phase Two to proceed with the wider improvement scheme. In 2022, Members agreed the Project Brief.

Not Applicable

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The Environmental Improvement Scheme aspires to largely retain the traditional landscape and recreational benefits of the park, while sympathetically creating a modern park environment that will enhance biodiversity and help safeguard the park for future generations. The scheme also aims to resolve the problem of silt build-up in the ponds and to mitigate against this recurring.

Desilting (or dredging) of the ponds is the first phase of work for the scheme and this work is due to start during week commencing 13 November 2023. It is anticipated that these works will be completed before Christmas, subject to weather or unforeseen ground conditions.

In June 2023 Council appointed Doran Consulting to lead an Integrated Design Team which will progress the Phase 2 elements of the Environmental Improvement Scheme. It is currently anticipated that on the ground works in this phase will begin in winter of 2024/5. There will be several public information sessions in advance of the works starting, this will give stakeholders an opportunity to engage with the Council and the design team and put their ideas for the park improvements to the team, within the scope of the planning application.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the above updates.

Ward Park Redevelopment

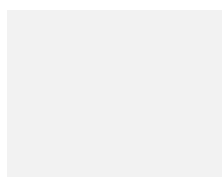
Project Brief

May 2022



Ards and
North Down
Borough Council

CONTACTS

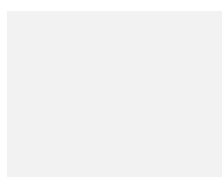


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VERSION CONTROL

Version	Date	Author	Checker	Approver	Changes
1.0	26/04/2022	SD			

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PROJECT BRIEF STAGES	
Steering Group / Project Sponsor Sign Off	 Date: 26 May 2022
CPPB Accepted	Date: _____
Reported to Committee	Date: _____
Reported to Council	Date: _____

SECTION 1: THE STRATEGIC CASE – Make a robust case for change and demonstrate how the proposal provides a strategic fit through consideration of project requirements, aims and objectives and alignment with strategic policies.

PROJECT CONCEPT

Briefly explain the proposed project, required facilities/functions, end user requirements and confirm extent of site area under consideration (please attach as an appendix a map illustrating site boundary).

Ward Park is a 37-acre urban park, located close to the centre of Bangor, Co Down. Originally the site of a brickworks, it was designed by Cheal's Nurseries in 1909 and gifted to the people of Bangor by the Ward family. The Park is owned and managed by Ards and North Down Borough Council and provides a key 'green lung' within an otherwise built-up urban context, being surrounded on three sides by residential properties, a hospital, schools, a college, a public library and sports facilities and enclosed on three sides by roads. One of the Park's main attractions is the fact that it is well wooded with different varieties of mature, semi-mature and young trees including popular large willows. It is accessible to all ages and widely used by children going to and from school, by people walking their dogs, by families taking young children to the play park and to feed the ducks, by people attending the free summer season events and increasingly, since the COVID pandemic, by citizens of Bangor who simply want to get some fresh air and exercise. Many residents consider it to be a haven of tranquillity and its proximity to local schools and SERC gives the park enormous educational potential as an outdoor classroom. The Park caters for numerous passive and active leisure activities including bowling, tennis, football, cricket, athletics, Coach to 5K, a weekly Park Run and less structured activities such as walking, running, cycling and general visitation. In addition, the wider park is used to facilitate large scale music events on a regular basis.

The Park has a zoo licence which permits the keeping of unusual birds for viewing by the public, and includes bird aviaries, housing fowl, canaries, budgerigars, peacocks and peahens. It also has several historical attractions including a public air raid shelter, a Victorian bandstand and a first World War gun.

The Park is characterised by the fact that it contains numerous mature trees and a chain of three narrow interconnected ponds which form a significant feature through the centre of the Park. These ponds appear to date from at least as far back as the early 1900's. They receive a supply of water from an inflow channel at the southern end of the park which feeds each of the three ponds in turn before discharging into a culvert on the north side of the park at Hamilton Road.

The ponds are heavily silted up and in some locations the depth of water is very restricted. The siltation is having an adverse impact on the wildlife which currently inhabits the ponds and surrounding areas in Ward Park. Testing was carried out in 2012 and indicated the quantity of silt to be in the region of 2000m³. A recent survey of the siltation levels showed that from random samples (15%) across the previous test sites showed that on average there was a 60% increase in the silt levels. On that basis, the current silt levels can be estimated as 3200m³. In addition to the levels of silt, sample analyses were taken to determine the level of contaminants within the sediment. The analysis results are available upon request.

As set out in the Planning application (LA06/2016/1108/F) approved on 11 November 2015 the scope of this project proposes environmental and central spine improvements to existing 37 acre site to include removal of sediment from ponds, enlargement of upper pond and island, creation of a newt pond, introduction of aquatic planting to pond edges, repair work to walls at pond edge and provision of new coping stones, upgrade of footpath network, installation of a boardwalk and decking to ponds, replacement of two existing pedestrian bridges, upgrade of existing inlet structure, replacement and refurbishment of existing bird enclosures to comply with modern day practices or alternative natural wildfowl environs, signage, seating, picnic benches, lighting, landscaping and planting. Removal of the silt from the ponds and the introduction of a more effective silt trap at the upstream end of the ponds to prevent or significantly reduce future siltation must be considered. These works will restore the ponds to their original capacity and condition and will create a more positive outcome for wildlife and ecological biodiversity and activity.

The Ward Park redevelopment concept is to make it of its place, utilising the existing park infrastructure, rationalising the various uses and elements, undertaking the central spine improvements passed by planning and exploring the potential to address the wider and overall parkland environment, should external funding become available.

POLICY ALIGNMENT

Does the project align with any organisational, regional or national strategic policies and objectives?

There are numerous existing government strategies that are considered relevant to this proposal and relate primarily to:

- 1) Increasing the visitor numbers to the Ards and North Down Borough to achieve economic growth for the area; and
- 2) The recognised health benefits to the public of physical activity and the benefits of retaining natural habitats for public access on our immediate environment.

National Strategies

There are a number of National Strategies to which the retention of the Site in public ownership is expected to contribute. These include the following:

1) Draft Programme for Government 2016 – 2021 ~(PfG)

Outcome 12 from the draft Programme for Government (PfG), proposed prior to the collapse of the NI Executive, was “*We have created a place where people want to live and work, to visit and invest*”

In addition, the fourth outcome from the PfG is “*We enjoy long, healthy, active lives*” which includes this commitment: “*We will support people to become more active in life and work*”

The draft Programme for Government Framework sets out the indicators of success in meeting the Programme for Government targets. One of the key indicators within this framework is Indicator 30: “*Improve our attractiveness as a destination: As one of our key service sectors and economic pillars, the tourism and hospitality industry offers one of the best opportunities for Northern Ireland to strengthen its economy. There is huge growth potential in our tourism and hospitality industry*”

2) Biodiversity Strategy for Northern Ireland 2000 (Department of the Environment)

This strategy supports the long-term objective of halting the loss of biodiversity stated in the PfG and aims to ensure: “*By 2050, our life support system, nature, is protected and restored for its own sake, its essential contribution to our wellbeing and prosperity, and to prevent catastrophic changes likely to arise from its loss.*”

The mission of the Northern Ireland Biodiversity Strategy is: “*To make progress towards halting overall biodiversity loss, establish an ecosystem approach and help business and society in general have a greater understanding of the benefits that nature can bring to everyday life in Northern Ireland.*”

3) The Northern Ireland Strategy for Sport & Physical Recreation 2009 (Department of Culture, Arts and Leisure).

DCAL, in partnership with the Sports Council for Northern Ireland (SCNI) is implementing a ten-year strategy for the development of sport and physical recreation in Northern Ireland. This strategy details the vision for sport and recreation and is highly relevant to this project as DCAL are placing ownership on wider local government bodies to support and deliver this strategy. The targets and objectives to this project are:

- Promote increased participation in sport and physical recreation among under-represented groups;
- By 2019 deliver increased participation rates in sport and physical recreation among people with a disability;
- By 2019 ensure the population has quality-accredited, multi-sport facilities, that have the capacity to meet demand;
- The realisation that the Vision will require the provision of increased opportunities for children and adults to participate in sport and physical recreation throughout their life;
- The strategy requires a range of modern, fit-for-purpose organisations to develop and deliver increased opportunities and improved sporting performances.

4) Health Survey Northern Ireland

This survey was undertaken by the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety and included questions relating to general health, mental health and wellbeing, diet and nutrition, breastfeeding, oral health, medicines, obesity, smoking and sexual health. The survey identified that a quarter of adults (25%) were obese with a further 35% classed as overweight. The proportion of adults classed as overweight or obese (60%) has remained relatively constant since 2005/06. Around three quarters of children aged 2-15 were classed as either normal weight or underweight, while 21% were classed as overweight and 7% were classed as obese.

These issues can be partially addressed through increased exercise and so provision of opportunities for walking and physical recreation within the local area is an important catalyst to improving the health and wellbeing of the community.

5) HSC Public Health Agency: Making Life Better 2012-2023

The Northern Ireland Executive is committed to creating the conditions for individuals, families and communities to take greater control over their lives and be enabled and supported to lead healthy lives. The strategy recognises that physical environments can be designed or maximised to promote health and wellbeing through, for example, providing access to services, green spaces including woodlands and forests, opportunities for being physically active and for safe social interaction.

6) Our Passion, Our Place, NIEA Strategic Priorities 2012-2022

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency recognise that their contribution to managing challenges from climate change is vital to ensure that we keep our high-quality environment on which we depend for our economic, physical and mental health. They have set out the four following strategic priority themes:

- **Healthy Natural Environment** – ensuring Northern Ireland's living and working places are green, clean and protected. We will act to ensure that the quality of our air, land and water continues to improve and our diverse landscapes, rich biodiversity and ecosystems are sustained through a network of protected areas.
- **People & Places** – promoting health and well-being and influencing how we all behave towards the environment. We will encourage access to and understanding of our environment and work with our partners to actively involve communities and businesses in protecting our natural and historic places for the enjoyment and benefit of everyone.
- **Sustainable Economic Growth** – creating a green economy that reflects the value of the environment and builds prosperity. We will invest in our natural and built heritage to realise its full potential. We will make sure planning decisions and business practices are guided by sound environmental principles and apply a risk-based approach to our regulatory activities.
- **Using Our Resources Well** – making efficient and effective use of our people and data resources to best serve our customers. We will lead by example and ensure decisions affecting the environment are underpinned by sound evidence.

Borough Strategies

1) Ards & North Down Borough Council Growing Better Together the Corporate Plan 2020-2024

The Corporate Plan describes the vision of the Council as:

“Ards & North Down will be a place to be proud of which is more prosperous, vibrant, healthy, and sustainable and where people enjoy an excellent quality of life”

The Corporate Plan describes the vision of the Council as: *“Ards & North Down will be a place to be proud of which is more prosperous, vibrant, healthy, and sustainable and where people enjoy an excellent quality of life”*. The objectives listed within the Corporate Plan to which this project can contribute are specifically:

- Priority 1: Prosperity - Growing our local economy.
- Priority 2: Environment - Growing a cleaner, greener local and global environment.
- Priority 3: Opportunity - Growing the lifelong potential of our community.
- Priority 4: Pride - Growing empowerment, respect and safety of our community.
- Priority 5: Life - Growing the health and wellbeing of our residents.
- Priority 6: Excellence - Growing a high-performing Council.

It is envisaged that the retention of Ward Park would contribute heavily to Priority 2 (Environment) & Priority 5 (Life) as the availability of a natural habitat for outdoor leisure and recreation provides opportunities for exercise through walking, sport and play and other related activities. In addition (although to a lesser extent) the Site offers the opportunity for people to benefit from a prosperous local economy Priority 1 (Economy) and to feel pride as the community have access to a well-managed sustainable service that are future fit (Priority 4). It is expected that the redeveloped park will also contribute towards Priority 3 (Opportunity) and provide opportunities for education. These targets have been identified as specific objectives for the Council for the Site and so are discussed further in Section 4 below.

2) ANDBC Integrated Strategy for Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development ("ITRDS"):

This strategy describes the key investment priorities of ANDBC up to 2030. This includes a detailed "Visitor Proposition" based around a key theme of the borough as a "Water-marked" Place around which a number of supporting tourism experiences are being proposed including:

- a. Water's Edge Encounters - feeding the spirit
- b. Time Depth Encounters - feeding the mind
- c. Creative Encounters - feeding the imagination
- d. Great Food Encounters- feeding body and soul

3) The Big Plan for Ards and North Down 2017 - 2032

The Council's Big Plan sets an overarching framework and shared vision that the Council's Strategic Community Planning Partnership has agreed to work towards over the 15 year period from 2017-2032. This vision is: ***“Ards and North Down is a vibrant, connected, healthy, safe and prosperous place to be.”***

The overarching, cross-cutting ambition of The Big Plan is: ***“To have empowered, resilient individuals and communities; to reduce inequalities; to promote good relations and sustainability; and to improve accessibility of all public services.”***

The Big Plan contains five outcomes that the Council aims to achieve by the year 2032. These are:

Outcome 1: All people in Ards & North Down fulfil their lifelong potential.
 Outcome 2: All people in Ards & North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing.
 Outcome 3: All people in Ards & North Down live in communities where they are respected, are safe and feel secure.
 Outcome 4: All people in Ards & North Down benefit from a prosperous economy.
 Outcome 5: All people in Ards & North Down feel pride as they have access to a well-managed sustainable environment.

It is envisaged that the retention of Ward Park would contribute heavily to Outcome 2 (health and Wellbeing) as the availability of a natural habitat for outdoor leisure provides opportunities for exercise through walking and other related activities. In addition (although to a lesser extent) the Site offers the opportunity for people to benefit from a prosperous economy (Outcome 4) and to feel pride as they have access to a well-managed sustainable environment (Outcome 5).

4) Bangor Town Centre Masterplan 2011

The Bangor Town Centre Masterplan 2011 provides a strategic basis upon which to develop urban regeneration initiatives for the town centre. The Masterplan is centred on three main aims:

- To make Bangor town centre a premier, high-quality destination in NI.
- Bangor town centre should reconnect with its waterfront.
- Bangor town should have a strong unique identity.

5) Tree and Woodland Strategy 2021 to 2032

As part of the development of our greenspaces within the Borough they will take cognisance of this strategy. The Tree & Woodland Strategy recognises the importance of trees, the many benefits they afford us and the increasingly important role they can play in mitigating the effects of climate change. This strategy is required to ensure the Council's limited budget is focused on positive planting programmes such as the STAND4TREES initiative and managing tree care and risks. The Council is committed to conserving and retaining existing trees and other features where it is considered that they have landscape or amenity value and will use its powers to protect trees where necessary. In the development of greenways, the Council will take on board these commitments as the Council is committed to ensuring improved tree cover within the Borough, and to promote the importance of trees in order to ensure a number of Corporate and Community Plan objectives are met.

6) ANDBC Roadmap to Sustainability 2021-2028

This document has been developed to present what sustainability benefits the Councils various strategies will deliver, setting out the key strategic background.

It sets out, in one document, the Council's commitment to becoming more sustainable. Key points within the document that relate to this project are the Sustainable Planning and Design principles for the Borough, including reducing transportation related carbon emissions by encouraging increased walking and cycling and committing to sustainable sources of energy and forms of transportation.

In summary, this section has demonstrated that there is strong support from both Council and Central Government to maintain and develop public parks in order to:

- Encourage participation and inclusion in physical recreation; and
- Ensure the natural environment and biodiversity of the area is protected.
- Encourage increased visitor numbers to the borough to drive economic development

A redevelopment of Ward Park represents an opportunity to achieve all three of these objectives.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES	List the objectives and aims of the proposed project
<p>The Council's objectives for the Ward Park project are to largely retain the traditional park landscape and its recreational benefits while creating a modern park environment that is future fit and will enhance biodiversity and provide opportunities for education. The project will also set out to resolve the engineering problems with the existing ponds and to mitigate against these problems recurring.</p> <p>The aims are :-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To improve the pond structure to include the redefined edge treatments and island configuration • to provide a modern approach to the management of wildfowl and waterfowl within the site. • to retain current historical features while improving the built environment and infrastructure. • To provide the scope for a wider park improvement scheme beyond the pond system. • Create educational and play opportunities for the Park. 	
DEMAND	Describe the existing provision (if any) and list any deficiencies. Outline the demand for the proposed service/s to demonstrate need.
<p>The evidence for the need was derived through a Public Consultation (Nov 2019) with local residents' groups and detailed desk-based analysis of the information available on the Site as well as consultation with a wide range of stakeholders including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Friends of Ward Park / Residents' Groups • Northern Ireland Water • NIEA • Ulster Wildlife Trust • Tourism NI • ANDBC Planning Department • ANDBC Parks & Cemeteries Manager • ANDBC Tourism Manager <p>A visitor survey undertaken by NISRA in 2017 provides the following key data that is relevant to Ward Park:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The total annual visitor numbers to the attraction category "Country Parks/Parks/Forests" were 7.5m in 2017. At 38% of the total visitor numbers to Northern Ireland attractions this represents the most popular category of attraction. 2) The number of visitors to Parks category has increased by 66% in the six years between 2011 and 2017 demonstrating that there is significant growth in the popularity of this category. 3) The second most popular attraction category is "Visitor/Heritage Centres" which given its WW2 theme Ward Park could qualify. The total visitors to this category were 3.6m (18% of the total). <p>Given the size of the park, the local population and the facilities available within Ward Park, it is reasonable to assume that the potential number of visitors could be at least as high as the last four in the above list which attract an average of 341,000 visitors per year.</p> <p>Therefore, Ward Park has the potential to be a significant driver of visitor numbers to Bangor. The main benefits to the local population include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Economic Development / Job Creation: Securing additional footfall for Ward Park will have a knock-on effect on the number of visitors to Bangor as a whole. Recent analysis 	

undertaken for Newcastle, County Down¹ found that between 0.17 and 0.23 jobs could be created per additional 100 visitors.

In addition, the success of a number of music concerts, at which up to 35,000 people visited the Park on each occasion, demonstrates the potential that exists to achieve significant visitor numbers to the area.

- b) **Health and Wellbeing:** The provision of open green spaces in urban settings contributes to the health and well-being of the local population by providing opportunities and support for outdoor leisure activities to assist in encouraging healthy lifestyles – which in itself has knock-on benefits of improved social mobility and a reduction in obesity and related diseases.

A study by Public Health England in 2014 found that:

- There is significant and growing evidence on the health benefits of access to good quality green spaces. The benefits include better self-rated health; lower body mass index, overweight and obesity levels; improved mental health and wellbeing; increased longevity.
- Increasing the use of good quality green space for all social groups is likely to improve health outcomes and reduce health inequalities. It can also bring other benefits such as greater community cohesion and reduced social isolation.

This study also found that local authorities play a vital role in protecting, maintaining and improving local green spaces and can create new areas of green space to improve access for all communities. This is an important rationale for intervention into Ward Park by the Council.

- c) **Environmental:** The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 introduced a statutory duty upon government departments and all public bodies to take action to further the conservation of biodiversity. The upgrade to the current infrastructure provides an opportunity to ensure the biodiversity of the park is enhanced including:
- Enlarging the existing pond to create a series of habitat types including marginal vegetation, shallow water and islands all of which encourage ecological features
 - Restrict access to areas of wetland to provide protected areas for wildlife
 - Replace maintained grass areas with wildflower meadows to increase species diversity and enhance ecological value
- d) **Education Opportunities:** Ward Park already provides facilities to provide educational opportunities including the bird aviaries and waterfowl sanctuary. However, the upgrade of the park will provide interpretive information to enhance educational value of these facilities.

Current deficiencies in the infrastructure

As described above the key concern regarding the future of Ward Park relates to the silting-up of the three interconnecting ponds running through the centre of the park. These ponds are critical to the Park's attractiveness given their central position and, in particular the nesting waterfowl that currently reside in them.

A survey undertaken for the Council in September 2011 found that all three ponds contain a large amount of silt which reduces the water depth in the three ponds to 278mm, 381mm and 192mm respectively. A more recent survey in 2022 found similar results. It found that if no action is taken, will lead to a number of problems, specifically:

- 1) **Loss of biodiversity:** At present during dry spells many of the ponds water levels drop to such an extent that visitors have reported to Council officials that the ducks and other waterfowl have been seen walking on the bottom of the existing ponds. The Doran's 2013 analysis indicated that, if left unchecked, most of the open water would disappear and the running water would form channels with a high flow rate. This is not the habitat required by waterfowl so eventually these animals will disappear as well as the plant-life that require still-water ponds.
- 2) **Odour:** A reduction in the depth of the water will expose the silt levels. Visitors have already complained to the Council over the smell of the ponds during dry periods. This issue will increase if the silt is not removed.
- 3) **Increased risk of flooding:** As the silt rises, there is a greater chance that flooding will occur to the local vicinity. As stated above, Ward Park is situated in a Strategic Flood Plain. In recent years flooding in the Gransha Road and Ward Park areas of Bangor has increased. Examples include March 2010 and July 2007 when the banks of the ponds were broken.

Key Deficiency	Overview
Pond Banks too steep	The ponds contain very little aquatic vegetation, and there is no emergent vegetation anywhere within the ponds. This is because the pond edges form a vertical face and there is no shallow water where aquatic plants can root. This is also true of the islands where the gabions form vertical faces. The de-silting process provide an opportunity to enhance the biodiversity of the site rather than simply replace the current status-quo
Poor quality Pathways	The existing pathways are surfaced generally with a mixture of bitmac and asphalt. It is evident that pathways have been maintained and upgraded over the years by patching to improve general condition. Nonetheless, the pathways have suffered general wear and tear over the years and although patched, in most locations will need new surfacing. Drainage is also poor in places contributing to delayed water run-off and puddling at specific areas as pathway gradients fall towards channels and gulley locations which are unable to take a high volume of water run off during periods of heavy rain.
Poor Lighting	The park is generally lit with 6-7m high lamp standards intermittently located throughout the park along the network of paths. Lighting appears to have been introduced over the development of the park over the years with the primary columns dating to the 1980's. The light levels produced are low and emit an orange sodium glow.
Poor Street Furniture & Signage	The range of street furniture used at the park varies greatly in character and style with different product ranges of bins, seats and bollards used throughout. Street furniture ranges include a variety of steel and timber products of different ages which creates an inconsistent appearance. There are a number of signs displayed at entrances and within the park all of which are different in style and appearance and do not contribute to ease of way finding throughout the park.
Poor Boundary Treatments, Railings and Fence Enclosures	Boundary treatments of the site include a variety of timber balustrade, mesh screen fencings, bow topped railings and timber cross boarded screen panels. Enclosed cages are located at the Middle and Lower ponds within which are housed a variety of different bird species which, although creating an attraction for the public, look unsightly. The various mix of fencings, boundaries and enclosures create an unsightly general appearance.

Inappropriate Existing Vegetation	The existing mature vegetation provides for a robust planted structure across the full extent of the park. The mix of planting consists of mature indigenous trees planted at the time the park was created in the early 20th Century. Interspersed throughout are more ornamental varieties planted throughout the 70's, 80's and 90's and although they provide some further vegetated structure to the park are inappropriate at some specific locations. A tree survey has been carried out by Dr Philip Blackstock in the vicinity of the ponds and makes recommendations for works to existing trees. Shrub and hedgerow vegetation has been planted during the development of the park over the years and in places obscures natural viewpoints along and across the ponds. Although these provide pleasant vistas throughout the park and are well maintained, the diversity of grassland is rather uniform. There is potential to manage the grassed areas in a way that both increases their biodiversity value and their visual attractiveness.
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RISKS	Consider, list & describe potential risks and constraints (minimum 5 to be included) e.g., programme, budget, legal, land, stakeholder & statutory etc.
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This project is deemed to have the following constraints

Constraint Category	Overview of Constraints
Opposition from local Resident Groups	A preferred option will need to have the approval of residents group prior to implementation.. In particular, the Ward Park Residents Association. Whilst initial consultation on the proposals have received a positive response from this organisation, further consultation on the details of any preferred option will be necessary.
Access	A significant constraint on the number of visitors that currently access the site is the access and car-parking availability for Ward Park. A solution to these access issues will be necessary if visitors to the site are to increase.
Environmental	Whilst any proposed development will need to have environmental considerations as a key priority, nevertheless there can be no significant adverse or detrimental impact on the surrounding environment, and it must adhere to statutory requirements.
Affordability	Any development will need to be funded from the available budget within the Council. At this stage it is assumed that no such expenditure has, as yet, been budgeted and so this will be a key consideration for any preferred option.

Regulatory	Any new developments on site must comply with relevant legislation and regulations.
Planning	Planning approval will be required prior to the implementation of any significant development.

The key risks facing the project are deemed to be the following:

- **Market demand for Outdoor Recreation is insufficient to justify investment:** This is the risk that the forecast demand for the Site following the proposed investment has been over-estimated and, as such the benefits that the project aims to achieve will not be sufficient to justify the public expenditure.
- **Unexpected Site conditions and risk of project overrun:** The risk that there are unknown elements relating to the condition of the site on which the facility is to be developed that will add cost and time delays to the current estimates.
- **Risk of misuse by users:** This is the risk that the new facility will be exposed to vandalism or attract anti-social behaviour. This risk needs to be assessed for the new facilities.
- **Availability of funding:** Risks that the proposal will not be affordable within the Council Budget when considered against other competing priorities for the expenditure.
- **Planning constraints:** Risk that planning regulations will not permit the development of the preferred solution.

INTERDEPENDENCIES	List any interdependencies with other existing or proposed projects.
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In considering this project, it is critical that the pending Leisure, Tennis, Sports & Play Park Pitch Reviews/Projects, plus Queens Parade and Bangor Waterfront projects are taken into account in order to ensure synergies and avoid duplication.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS	Identify and list key stakeholders and describe their involvement. List any planned or previously held consultations.
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Key stakeholders along with the Council:

- Bangor Residents
- Ward Park District Association
- Government Agencies such as Rivers Agency
- Park Run
- Northern Community Leisure Trust
- SERCO
- Ward Park Tennis Club
- Ward Park Bowling Club
- Libraries NI
- Woodland Trust
- RSPB

SECTION 2: THE ECONOMIC CASE – identify a range of options and from them select the ideal option.	
OPTIONS LONG LIST	Provide an initial list of possible options (a long list) that meet the project’s objectives and briefly describe their main features.
<p><u>Option 1: Do Nothing</u> Option 1 involves retention of the status quo with no external investment in the Site.</p> <p><u>Option 2: Do Minimum</u> Ponds dredged to remove silt content and restore capacity. Minimum maintenance as required, existing layout and park condition retained – as Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Option 3: Improve Shape of Ponds</u> Ponds dredged to remove silt content and restore capacity; pond boundaries altered to create additional habitat and increase biodiversity generally – as Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Option 4: Current Planning Application Scheme 2018</u> Centre Spine improvements to existing Site, ponds dredged with shape altered to improve biodiversity, bird aviaries upgraded, pathways, fencing, new bridges, furniture, lighting, and planting enhancement – as Appendix 1.</p> <p><u>Option 5: Heritage Upgrade</u> This option will reflect Option 4 but will additional refurbishment and upgrade to return Ward Park to the original historic fabric of the existing park – focusing on the key heritage features within the park (bowling green pavilion, WW2 gun, war-memorial)</p> <p><u>Option 6: Improvements to Entire Park</u> Radical improvements to the entire park consisting of ponds dredged with shape altered to improve biodiversity, renewal/upgrade of all the following: bird aviaries, decking and boardwalks, entrance upgrades, fencing/railings, bridges, furniture, play park and all ability area, car parking, planting and landscaping, memorial upgrades, new visitor/sports centre with parking, new tennis/airdrome, upgrades to existing bowling, Scout Hall, club house.</p>	
OPTIONS SHORT LIST	Identify a short list of at least 4 possible options. The short list must include the ‘do nothing’ or ‘business as usual’ option.
<p><u>Option 1: Do Nothing</u> Option 1 involves retention of the status quo with no external investment in the Site This would result in silt continuing to accumulate in the ponds resulting in dry patches, further colonisation of marchland vegetation, willow, birch, and alder scrub. Eventually, as the ground level within the ponds rises, most of the open water will disappear and running water will be confined to channels within the colonised vegetation. More extensive flooding will occur at times as the flow of water downstream is interrupted, and the holding capacity of the ponds greatly reduced. Any vegetation within the flood plain will have to be tolerant of inundation and the loss of permanent open water will result in the disappearance of waterfowl from the ponds.</p> <p><u>Option 4: Current Planning Application Scheme 2018</u> Centre Spine improvements to existing Site, ponds dredged with shape altered to improve biodiversity, bird aviaries upgraded, pathways, fencing, new bridges, furniture, lighting and planting enhancement – as Appendix 1.</p>	

Option 5: Heritage Upgrade

This option will reflect Option 4 but will additional refurbishment and upgrade to return Ward Park to the original historic fabric of the existing park – focusing on the key heritage features within the park (bowling green pavilion, WW2 gun, war-memorial)

Option 6: Improvements to Entire Park

Radical improvements to the entire park consisting of ponds dredged with shape altered to improve biodiversity, renewal/upgrade of all the following: bird aviaries, decking and boardwalks, entrance upgrades, fencing/railings, bridges, furniture, play park and all ability area, car parking, planting and landscaping, memorial upgrades, new visitor/sports centre with parking, new tennis/airdrome, upgrades to existing bowling, Scout Hall, club house

THE IDEAL OPTION

Outline and give reasons for your ideal option. NB: a preferred option should not be identified before options have been developed and appraised more fully at Outline Business Case stage.

The analysis within the Gleeds 2019 OBC has demonstrated that Option 4 – investment in the central spine of Ward Park as designed and costed by Gleeds is the preferred option for implementation. This option offers the highest benefit to cost ration and so represents the greatest value for money to council in delivering its strategic objectives.

Whilst Option 5 (additional investment in the heritage features) and Option 6 (Full masterplan) will achieve greater benefits than Option 4, if the Council must fund 100% of the changes, the additional of these options cost does not justify the benefits that will be delivered.

However, the OBC has also shown that if

- external funding for the heritage improvements became available from HLF or another external body, then Option 5 would become the preferred option for the Council as the additional benefits delivered from the heritage upgraded could be achieved at no additional cost to the Council; or
- the designs proposed for Option 6 could be value-engineered to reduce the cost of implementation whilst maintaining similar benefits for the community, then Option 6 may represent the

On this basis, given that both Options 5 and Options 6 include only incremental additions to the infrastructure changes envisaged under Option 4, it is suggested that Option 4 is implemented as **Phase 1 of an overall programme**.

Then if external funding becomes available for the heritage improvements, this can be delivered as **Phase 2** in the programme. Furthermore, if the additional facilities proposed under Option 6 can be delivered at a reduced cost to that currently anticipated through value-engineering, this could then be implemented as **Phase 3** in the coming years.

It should also be recognised that Options 4, 5 and 6 represent the greatest risks to the council. Therefore, prior to implementation, additional risk mitigation strategies will need to be identified to ensure that each of the incremental stages of investment can be implemented as described within this appraisal. In particular, ensuring that the funds can be made available for investment.

SECTION 3: THE COMMERCIAL CASE – demonstrate how the ideal option will result in a well-structured deal (where applicable).	
DELIVERY	What is your assessment of the capability of the market to deliver the proposed project.
No evidence that the market could not deliver the project.	
ATTRACTIVENESS	Assess the attractiveness of a 'deal' to potential operators
N/A	
IMPLEMENTATION	Outline how you intend to progress this project (procurement route, form of contract, exploration of a joint venture etc.) and what consultancy/SCPPU support is required. NB: to be completed at a later date.
<p>Investigative and design works stage have already taken place on the scheme to bring it to the stage of developed design. These works also included consultation with both Statutory Authorities and the Public along with various surveys being carried out. Planning permission was granted in November 2016 for the environmental improvement scheme for Ward Park.</p> <p>Council is now at the stage of appointing an Integrated Design Consultancy Team to manage the detailed design of the Ward Park Environmental Improvement scheme. To bring the current developed design to technical detailed design for production of tender documentation stage; subject to further Council approval to manage the tender and appointment of a contractor and to conduct site supervision/CDM coordination during the works. The Consultants will be expected to undertake further research and discussion with stakeholders including the Statutory Authorities, Public, Community Groups and the Planning Service.</p> <p>The Design Team must include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lead Consultant • Architect • Ecologist • Zoological consultant and associated veterinary expertise • Planning Consultant • Quantity Surveyor • Structural and Civil Engineer • Mechanical and Electrical Engineer • Site Supervisor/CDM Coordinator <p>Once the technical design is complete public procurement for a Contractor to undertake capital works will be carried out. Form of contract to be considered by Capital Project Unit.</p>	
MANAGEMENT	How will the project be managed in the long term.
The Capital Project Unit will deliver the project for the client, Community and Wellbeing Directorate. Upon the delivery of the project, the Parks and Cemeteries Service will take on the overall management of the site. For this reason, it is critical that the appropriate revenue funding is considered in the ongoing budgetary requirements for the project.	

SECTION 4: THE FINANCIAL CASE – demonstrate that the ideal option is affordable.	
PROGRAMME	In order to take the project to Stage 4 technical design, it is necessary to appoint an appropriate consultancy team to initially carry out a review of the Stage 3

	detailed design and update if necessary, then to manage the project from Stage 4 technical design to completion. This appointment will be made following Councils Procurement processes. Our Capital Project team will provide a high level timetable and this will be provided at a later date to the committee.
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BUDGET	What are your budget requirements both capital and revenue? Outline the estimated phasing of the capital funding requirements.
---------------	--

Ward Park Cost Summary – Option 4 Consultancy Fees & Capital Costs (as contained in proposal to DfI Blue Green Fund)

Pond dredging	£ 700,000.00 **
Pond boundary alteration	£ 1,900,000.00
Bird aviaries upgrade	£ 435,000.00
Paths	£ 815,000.00
Fencing	£ 17,000.00
Bridges / Boardwalk	£ 194,000.00
Furniture	£ 57,000.00
Playpark upgrade	£ 274,000.00
Lighting	£ 34,000.00
Landscape	£ 113,000.00
	£ 4,539,497.10
Add Risks @ 10%	£ 453,949.71
	£ 4,993,446.81
Optimism Bias @ 15.45%	£ 771,487.53
	£ 5,764,934.34
Consultant Fees	£ 350,000.00
	TOTAL: £ 6,114,934.34

**Pond dredging works likely to be taken forward as a separate scheme

FUNDING 1	Indicate current funding provision for the project and any additional resources likely to be required.
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ANDBC

FUNDING 2	Identify all potential sources of funding and the degree to which funders are committed.
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DFI Blue Green Fund: A proposal was submitted to Liz Loughran the DfI Cycling and Walking Champion in August 2021 outlining the Ward Park Redevelopment Scheme and requesting 50% funding.

Environmental Challenge Fund: DAERA Forestry Service TRIPSI

Levelling Up Fund (Phase 2): Administered by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC), Department for Transport (DfT) and HM Treasury (HMT).

AFFORDABILITY	State any particular concerns over affordability and mitigation for the potential loss of external funding.
Capital funding already in place	
ADDITIONAL INFO	Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 4: The Financial Case
N/A	

SECTION 5: THE MANAGEMENT CASE – demonstrate robust plans are in place for delivery, monitoring and evaluation. NB: to be completed by SCPPU.

ACCREDITATIONS / PROCESSES	Please confirm if any of the below processes are to be followed or accreditations are required to be achieved and explain in detail the requirements including key assessment or decision points.
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BREEAM, CEEQUAL, Gateway Process, DQI and social clauses, Construction & Procurement Delivery (CPD) or other.

GOVERNANCE	Outline the project’s governance arrangements
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All governance will be carried out in accordance with the ANDBC Project Management Handbook and Governance structure outlined below.

Project Governance Structure		
Investment Decision Makers (Councillors present)	Council	Reports and requests for next stage approval from the Parent Committee will be reported onwards to Council for final approval.
	Parent Committee (PC)	Reporting and requests for approval at key stages outlined in the PM handbook for all projects will be via the Parent Committee and then onwards to council.
Project Oversight (Council official only)	Corporate Project Portfolio Board (CPPB)	<p>Meeting every month and chaired by the Chief Executive, CPPB provides oversight steering group of all strategic projects.</p> <p>Progress updates, risks, decisions and recommendations will be communicated by the Head of Strategic Capital Development on behalf of the relevant project SRO’s via the live project portfolio register.</p> <p>Comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CEO • All Directors • Head of Strategic Capital Development • Capital Financial Accountant
Project Direction and Decision Making	Project Board (PB)	<p>The SRO assumes overall responsibility for the control of the project and can make decisions within the planned project limits, any decisions to deviate outside the tolerance limits outlined below must be reported to Council.</p> <p>The Project Board normally meet on a monthly frequency to discuss at a high-level progress to date, achievements in the current period and achievements expected in the next period, details of actual or potential problems and suggestions for their resolution.</p> <p>SRO responsible for chairing this meeting, the Project Manager is responsible for providing progress, risk update report with the meeting minuting for purposes of record and actions.</p> <p>Typically comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SRO – Director Service for the service which the project relates to • Project Sponsor – Head of Service for the service which the project relates to • Senior User – Typically SUM for the service which the project relates to • Project Manager – Internal Corporate Project Officer (CPO) & external appointed Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) Project Manager • Capital Accountant • Others as required <p>Note that depending on the size and scale of the project a decision may be made to form a Steering Group. The Steering Group on major projects will be appointed by the Project Board and will comprise of representatives from the wider group of stakeholders who have an interest or who may be affected by the project. The frequency of their meetings will be determined by the Project Board.</p>

<p>Project Delivery (Council official only)</p>	<p>Project Team (PT) / Steering Group</p>	<p>Will meet as required. Can cover a range of aspects related to the project, are an effective method to distribute information and communicate with the team and stakeholders.</p> <p>Corporate Project Officer responsible for updating the project portfolio register with progress. Project manager responsible for minuting these meetings.</p> <p>PT will report any major changes and acquire approvals from Project Board before proceeding.</p> <p>Typically comprised of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Sponsor – Head of Service for the service which the project relates to • Project Manager – Internal Corporate Project Officer & external appointed Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) Project Manager • Senior User – SUM for the service which the project relates to • External consultants/contractors • Others as required
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<p>PROJECT MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE</p>	<p>Give a preliminary indication of the proposed project management structure and key personnel including Senior Responsible Owner and Project Manager (Client side) plus any likely requirement for external resources (consultants/staff) etc.</p>
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Project Management Structure

The project will be managed and monitored in accordance with the processes outlined in the ANDBC Project Management Handbook.

Project Team Roles & Responsibilities – to include representatives from Ards and North Down Borough Council, Libraries NI and appointed external suppliers.

- **Senior Responsible Owner (SRO):** The person with overall responsibility for ensuring that a project meets its objectives and delivers the projected benefits. The SRO is the chairperson of the Project Board meetings.
 - **Graeme Bannister-Director of Community and Wellbeing**
- **Project Sponsor:** The Project Sponsor owns the project and acts as the representative of the organisation, and plays a vital leadership role through:
 - providing business expertise and guidance to the Project Manager.
 - acting as the link between the project, and management decision making groups.
 - provides high level authority and makes decisions that may be beyond the authority of the Project Manager.
 - **Stephen Daye – Head of Parks & Cemeteries**
- **Senior User(s):** Responsible for specifying the needs (requirements) of the Users that will use the project products and for monitoring that the solution will meet those needs. Responsible for liaisons between the Project Management Team and the Users.
 - **John McConnell – Parks & Cemeteries Manager**
- **Internal Project Manager:** Capital Project Manager Corporate Project Officer (CPO). Provides an internal project management service from project conception to completion Responsible for the day-to-day management and delivery of the project. The Project Manager (PM) runs the project on behalf of the Project Board within specified constraints and liaises throughout the project with the Project Board.
 - **Steven Ferguson – Capital Project Manager**
 - **Bridget Macsorley-Corporate Project Officer**

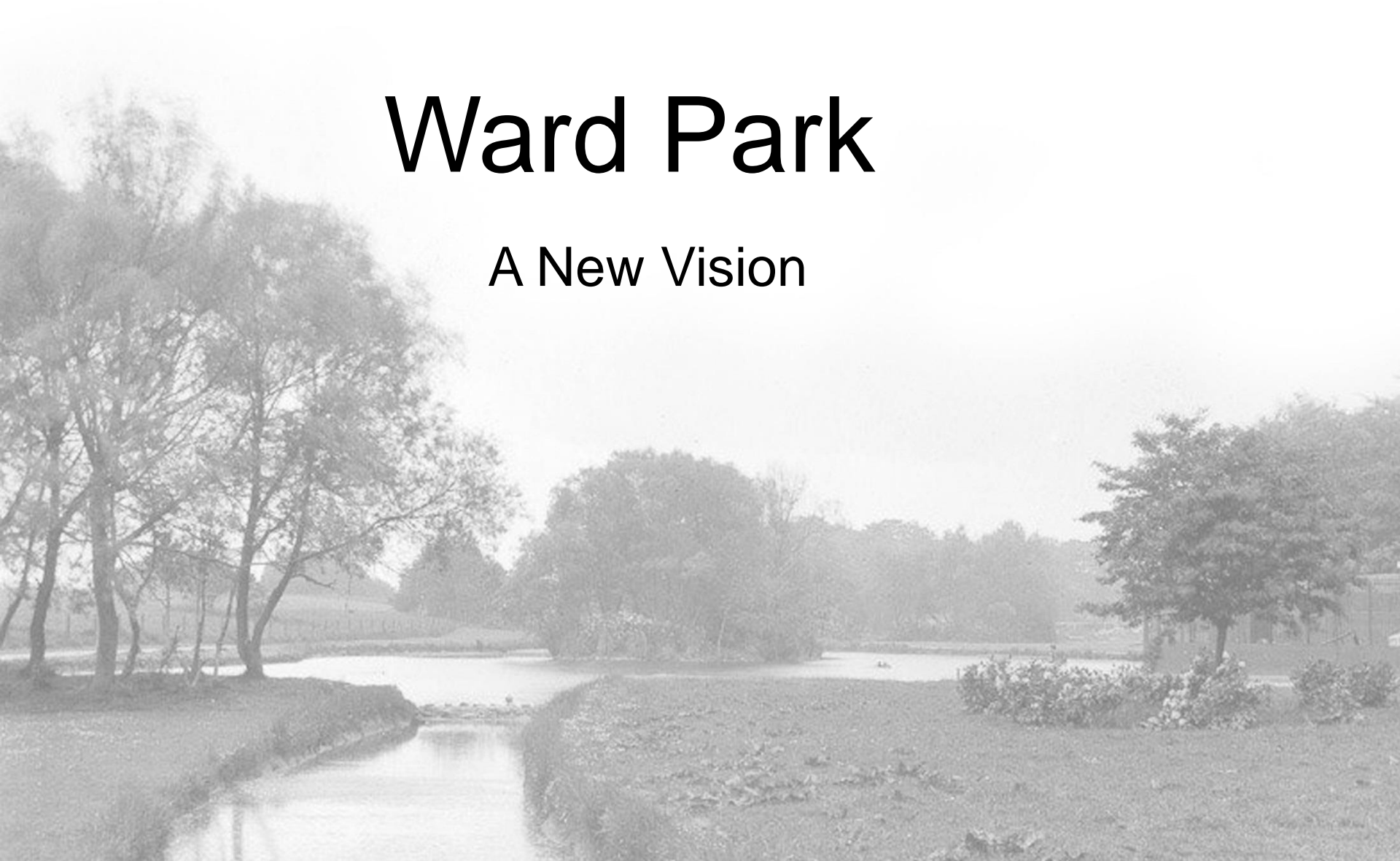
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Accountant. Assists with budget setting and managing the budget throughout the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Sharon McCullough – Capital Accountant • ANDBC support (Land; Planning; Legal; Assets; Parks; Cleansing and Compliance) • Other specialist Professional Services (QS, M&E, etc.) • Integrated Consultancy Team: Contractor Project Manager (once appointed) • Main Contractor • Others as required 	
ADDITIONAL INFO	Please list any other relevant matters not included in the above categories, which may fall within Section 5: The Management Case

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

www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Ward Park

A New Vision



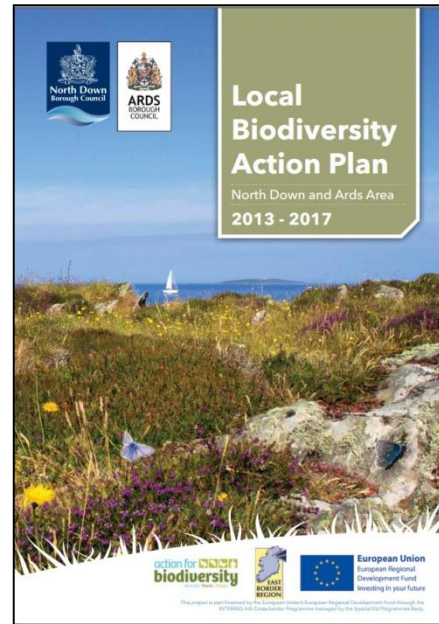
- Designed by competition 1909
- Much loved and unique town park
- Famed for its waterfowl and aviaries
- Mix of passive and active recreation
- Gives children first experience of wildlife



- Watercourse source in Craigantlet hills
- Ponds act as local flood plain
- Ponds subject to siltation
- Reduction in water depth and quality
- Effect on habitat quality



- Ward park an important 'green lung' close to the centre of Bangor. Trees, water, grassland, flower beds, shrubs.
- Range of tree species, habitat for birds, bats and insects. Three ponds aligned along a small river – Sticklebacks, eels and aquatic animals.
- No water Plants. Reduced Water Quality. Large numbers of waterfowl. Grassland neatly maintained
- Wildlife & natural environment act 2011 places a statutory duty on all public bodies to '...further any function...' biodiversity action plan.
- Vision: Make ward park a better place for wildlife & people. Give it a more natural feel. Enhance habitats
- Display avian collections in a modern environment
- Examples from Glasgow and London. No current examples in northern ireland



Taking the 1909 Design into the 21st Century

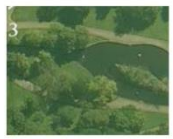
- Existing inlet silt trap needs to be upgraded
- Ponds need to be de-silted
- Existing pathways constructed in tarmacadam and beginning to degrade in places
- Existing pond edges and copings in poor repair
- Existing bridge structures/accesses are not DDA compliant
- Existing tree stock requires enhancement and safeguarding for the future
- Lack of planting to the pond edges
- Multiple mix of street furniture types including benches and bins
- Poor street lighting
- Opportunity to enhance/improve and upgrade the quality/character and finishes of the existing urban park fabric



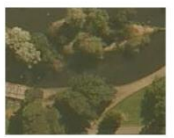
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Zone A - Ecology



Zone B - Leisure



Zone C - Recreational



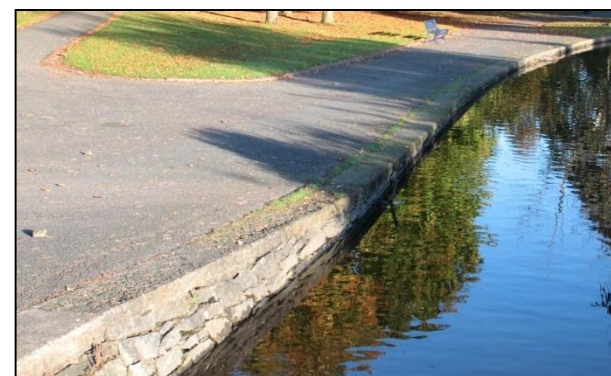
TOWN CENTRE

Upper Pond – Existing Situation

199



High flows at times



Vertical pond edges
Water plants absent

- Pleasing to the eye
- Static water controlled by weir
- Lacking aquatic plants
- Poor in biodiversity

Middle Pond – Existing Situation



- Fixed Water level
- Hard edges
- Lacking aquatic plants
- Poor biodiversity
- Islands with mature trees
- Abundant waterfowl



Japanese Knotweed



Waterfowl



Feeding the ducks

lower Pond – Existing Situation

201



Existing edges and surfaces
In poor condition



- Fixed Water level
- Hard edges
- Feature stone bridge
- Poor visual links from park entrance
- Inlet to culvert at hamilton road



Zone C - Enhancing Active Recreation

- Enhancement of park entrance and Creation of new informal seating area with potential for picnic provision

Zone B – Promoting Passive/Leisure Recreation

- Centralisation and consolidation of bird enclosures and improvement of the pond edge/pathways and introduction of new planting

Zone A – Enhancing Site Ecology

- Integration of wetland planting, shallow water conditions and remediation of invasive species to create a stronger ecological value to the park



WARD PARK - A NEW VISION





WARD PARK - A NEW VISION







WARD PARK - A NEW VISION





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WARD PARK - A NEW VISION







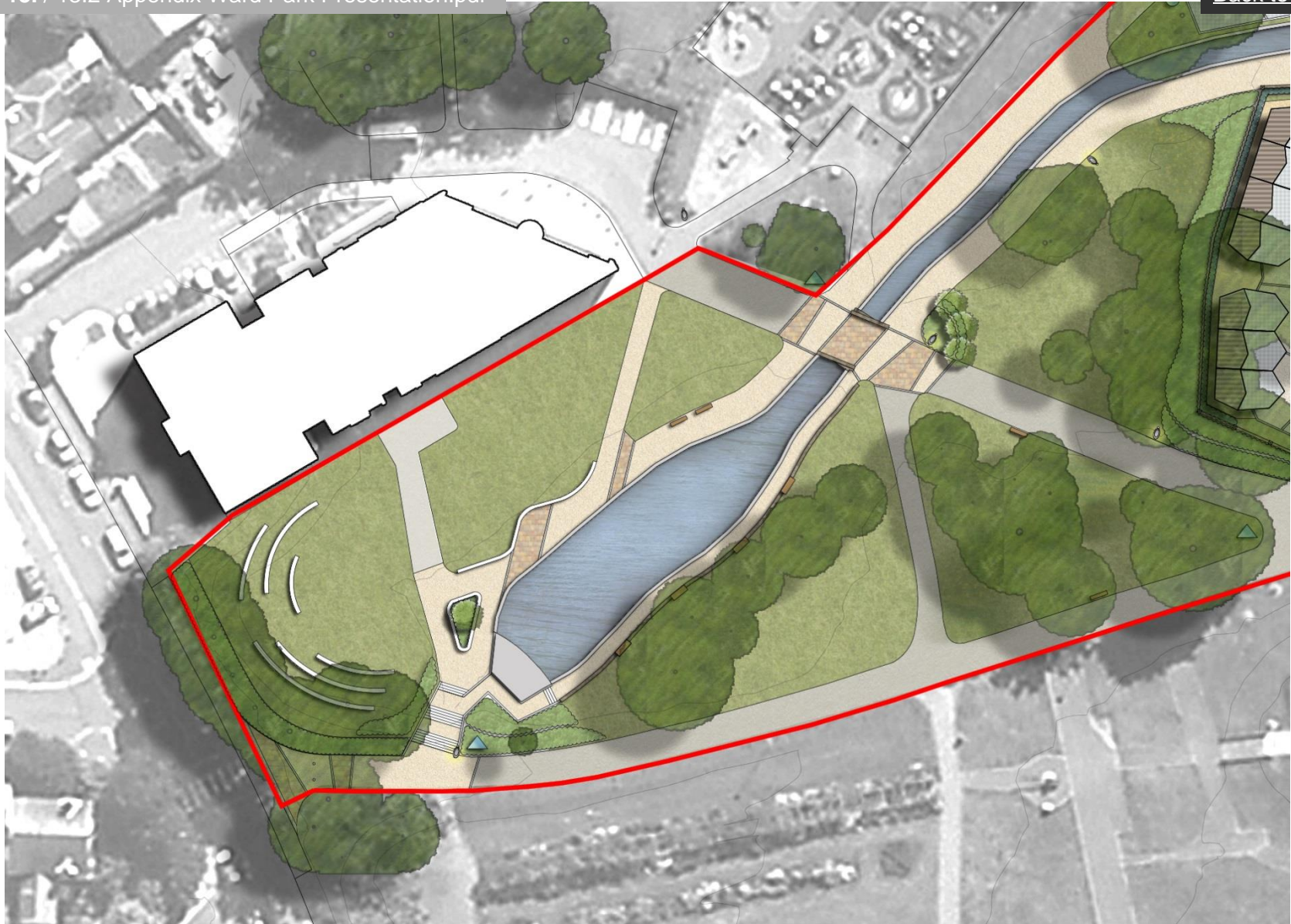
WARD PARK - A NEW VISION



WARD PARK - A NEW VISION







WARD PARK - A NEW VISION







WARD PARK - A NEW VISION





WARD PARK - A NEW VISION





APPROVAL OF PLANNING PERMISSION

Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011

Application No: **LA06/2016/1108/F**

Date of Application: **11th November 2016**

Site of Proposed
Development:

Ward Park, Hamilton Road, Bangor, Co. Down

Description of Proposal:

Environmental Improvement Scheme for Ward Park, Bangor. The scheme includes removal of sediment from ponds, enlargement of upper pond and island, creation of new pond, introduction of aquatic planting to pond edges, repair work to walls at pond edge and new coping stones provided, upgrade of footpath network, installation of timber boardwalk and decking to ponds, replacement of two existing pedestrian bridges, upgrade of existing inlet structure, replacement and refurbishment of existing bird enclosures, signage, seating, picnic benches, lighting, landscaping and planting.

Applicant: Ards and North Down Borough
Address: Council
Town Hall
Bangor Castle
Bangor

Agent: Doran Consulting
Address: 96 - 102 Great Victoria Street
Belfast
BT2 7BE

Drawing Ref: 01, 02, 03, 04, 07, 08A, 09A, 10, 11, 12, 13 Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan (November 2019), and Odour Impact Assessment (December 2018)

The Council in pursuance of its powers under the above-mentioned Act hereby

GRANTS PLANNING PERMISSION

for the above-mentioned development in accordance with your application subject to compliance with the following conditions which are imposed for the reasons stated:

1. The development hereby permitted shall be begun before the expiration of 5 years from the date of this permission.

Reason: As required by Section 61 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.



2. All hard and soft landscape works shall be carried out in accordance with the approved plans Drawing Nos. 08A and 09A bearing the date stamp 15 December 2020 and Drawing No. 10 bearing the date stamp 14 October 2016, and the appropriate British Standard or other recognised Codes of Practice and shall be retained thereafter. A specification detailing the timing for the implementation of hard and soft landscaping works shall be submitted to and approved in writing by the Council prior to commencement of any works on the site. All hard and soft landscaping shall be carried out in accordance with the approved specification.

Reason: To ensure the provision, establishment and maintenance of a high standard of landscape.

3. The existing trees as indicated on the approved plan, Drawing No. 07 bearing the date stamp 14 October 2016 shall be retained. No retained tree shall be cut down, uprooted or destroyed, or have its roots damaged within the crown spread nor shall arboricultural work or tree surgery take place or any retained tree be topped or lopped other than in accordance with the approved plans and particulars, without the written consent of the Council. Any arboricultural work or tree surgery approved shall be carried out in accordance with the relevant British Standard 3998: 2010.

Reason: To ensure the continuity of amenity afforded by the existing trees.

4. The erection of fencing for the protection of any retained tree, shall be undertaken in accordance with the approved plan Drawing No. 07 bearing the date stamp 14 October 2016 and in accordance with BS5837:2012 before any equipment, machinery or materials are brought onto the site for the purposes of the development, and shall be maintained until all equipment, machinery and surplus materials have been removed from the site. Nothing shall be stored or placed in any area fenced in accordance with this condition and the ground levels within those areas shall not be altered, nor shall any excavation be made or any other works carried out, or fires lit without the written consent of the Council.

Reason: To ensure the continuity of amenity afforded by existing trees.

5. If any retained tree is removed, uprooted or destroyed or dies within 5 years from the date of completion of the development it shall be replaced within the next planting season by another tree or trees in the same location of a species and size as specified by the Council.

Reason: To ensure the continuity of amenity afforded by existing trees.

6. If within a period of 5 years from the date of the planting of any tree, shrub or hedge, that tree, shrub or hedge is removed, uprooted or destroyed or dies, or becomes, in the opinion of the Council, seriously damaged or defective, another tree, shrub or hedge of the same species and size as that originally planted shall be planted at the same place, unless the Council gives its written consent to any variation.



Reason: To ensure the provision, establishment and maintenance of a high standard of landscape.

7. A Final Construction Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) shall be submitted to and approved by the Council in writing prior to the commencement of any works on site. This final CEMP shall contain all the mitigation as described in the Outline Construction Environmental Management Plan completed by Doran Consulting, dated November 2019 and shall be implemented as approved during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Council.

Reason: To ensure that the appointed contractor is aware of and implements the appropriate environmental mitigation during improvements construction phase.

8. The materials and finishes of the proposed hard surfaces shall be as shown on Drawing Nos. 08A and 09A bearing the date stamp 15 December 2020. These materials and finishes shall remain in perpetuity.

Reason: To ensure the works proposed make use of traditional or sympathetic building materials and techniques which respect those found on the adjacent listed buildings and to ensure the nature of the use proposed respects the character of the setting of the adjacent listed buildings.

9. There shall be no construction activity or deliveries to or from the site on Sundays, Bank holidays or outside the hours of 08:00hrs-18:00 hrs Monday to Friday and 09:00hrs-13:00 hrs on Saturday.

Reason: In the interests of amenity.

10. All control measures as detailed in the Odour Management Plan (Section 3 of the Odour Impact Assessment report) prepared by Envest, referenced ENV-4029 and dated December 2018 shall be implemented as approved during the excavation and removal of pond sediment to the satisfaction of the Council.

Reason: In the interests of amenity.

11. A revised Noise Impact Assessment /Noise Management Plan for this development shall be submitted to and agreed by the Council in writing prior to any development works commencing on site. This report shall include:
An assessment of the potential noise from construction activities which must have reference to BS 5228-1:2009+A1:2014 and include confirmation that the construction works will not exceed the Category A limit (65 dB LAeq daytime).
An outline of the ongoing noise monitoring programme during all construction works, (including locations/ frequency) to verify compliance with the set levels.
Details of all mitigation measures to control the construction noise from the site.
The noise mitigation measures shall be implemented as approved during the construction phase to the satisfaction of the Council.

Reason: In the interests of amenity.



Informatives

1. This Notice relates solely to a planning decision and does not purport to convey any other approval or consent which may be required under the Building Regulations or any other statutory purpose.

Dated: 15th April 2021

Authorised Officer C. Kerr

Form P1

Application for permission to develop land

Official Use	
Application No.	_____
Fee Received	£ _____
Receipt No.	_____

Please read the notes below first – for additional guidance please see the “Explanatory Notes on Applying for Planning Permission, Approval of Reserved Matters and Other Planning Consents” and “Notes on Completion of Form P1” on the Planning Portal at www.planningni.gov.uk or discuss any queries with your local planning office.

Please note that when you submit a planning application the information, including plans, maps and drawings, will appear on the Planning Register which is publicly available and, along with other associated documentation (with the exception of personal telephone numbers, email addresses or sensitive personal data), will also be published on the Planning Portal through the Public Access Portal www.planningni.gov.uk

Important: This form should **NOT** be used for the following types of application:

- Householder Application – Form PHD
- Section 54 Develop land without compliance with conditions – Form RVC1
- Listed Building Consent – Form LB1
- Conservation Area Consent – Form PCAC1
- Advertisement Consent – Form A1
- Certificate of Lawful Development – Form LDC1/2



1a. Applicant's name and address

1b. Agent's name and address (if any)

Name:	Ards and North Down Borough Council	Name:	Doran Consulting
Address:	Town Hall Bangor Castle	Address:	Norwood House 96 - 102 Great Victoria Street
Town:	Bangor	Town:	Belfast
Postcode:	BT20 4BT	Postcode:	BT2 7BE
Tel:	0300 013 3333	Tel:	028 9033 3443
		Ref. No.:	jpsk/141086

About the Application Site

2. Give the full postal address of the site to be developed (outline in red on site location map and give townland if known)

Ward Park Hamilton Road Bangor Co. Down BT20 4LG
--

3. What is the area of the site in hectares?

4. State the present use of the land / buildings (if vacant state last use and date last use ceased)

Public park incorporating ponds and bird enclosures.
--

About your Development Proposal

5. Please give details of the proposed development, including purpose for which the land / buildings are to be used. (It is vital that a full and accurate description of the proposal is provided. Give as much detail as possible including number of houses / apartments etc)

Environmental Improvement Scheme for Ward Park, Bangor. The scheme includes removal of sediment from ponds, enlargement of upper pond & island, creation of newt pond, introduction of aquatic planting to pond edges, repair work to walls at pond edges & new coping stones provided, upgrade of footpath network, installation of timber boardwalk and decking to ponds, replacement of two existing pedestrian bridges, upgrade of existing inlet structure, replacement & refurbishment of existing bird enclosures, signage, seating, picnic benches, lighting, landscaping and planting.

6. Do the current proposals involve: (tick as appropriate)

- | | | | |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| new buildings | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | alteration or extension of buildings | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| change of use | <input type="checkbox"/> | retention of development | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| development without complying with conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> | other operational development | <input type="checkbox"/> |

7. Pre-Application Discussion

Have you received any pre application advice from your local council in relation to this proposal?

Yes No If Yes please provide Reference No:

8. Major Development

Does the proposal involve a class of development listed in the Schedule of The Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015?

Yes No

If Yes has a Proposal of Application Notice been submitted for this development?

Yes No If Yes please provide Reference No:

If a Proposal of Application Notice has been submitted, has a Pre-Application Community Consultation report been submitted along with this application?

Yes No

NOTE: Failure to submit a Pre-Application Community Consultation Report with any Major development will result in your application being returned.

9. Is this a temporary permission? Yes No

If yes, please state how long the permission is required for and why:

10. Please tick the appropriate box below to indicate the type of application:

- Outline permission
- Full permission
- Renewal*
- Reserved Matters*

* Please provide the reference number of the previous application and date when permission was granted

Ref. No.: Date:

11. Are you aware of a previous application for a similar proposal on this site? No Yes

If Yes, give Ref No. of previous application

12. Do the access arrangements for this development involve: (tick as appropriate)

- Use of an existing unaltered access to a public road?
- Construction of a new access to a public road?
- Alteration of an existing access to a public road?

Is the access for: Vehicular Use Pedestrian Use Both

NOTE: If you propose to construct a new access or alter an existing one you must include full drawings with your application.

13. Do you own or control any adjoining land?

Yes No If Yes, outline in blue on site location map

14. Are you aware of the existence on the application site of any wildlife protected under the Wildlife (NI) Order 1985 (as amended)? Refer to Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs website (www.daerani.gov.uk)

Yes No If Yes, what species?

15. Is there a **public** right of way within or adjoining the site of the proposed development?

Yes No If Yes, show in green on your site location map

16. What is the source of the water supply?

Mains Other If Other, please specify

17. How will the surface water be disposed of?

Surface water will be disposed of as per the existing arrangements for Ward Park.

18. How will foul sewage be disposed with?

Mains Septic Tank Other If Other, please specify

19. Assessment of Flood Risk

Is the site within an area of known risk of flooding? Yes No

NOTE: If the site is within an area of known risk of flooding you may need to submit a Flood Risk Assessment before your application may be determined. You may wish to contact your local planning office for advice on what information may be required.

20. Does the application relate to a proposal for a dwelling for a on a farm? (tick yes or no)

Yes No If Yes, form P1C must be completed

If your application relates to Non Residential Development please complete questions 21-25, if not go to question 26

21. In the case of industrial development, give a brief description of the process, products and type of plant and machinery to be operated.

not applicable

22. What is the anticipated daily water requirement? m³

23. What is the nature, volume and proposed means of disposal of any trade effluents or trade refuse?

not applicable

24. Please detail floorspace as indicated below

Floorspace uses	Existing area (m ²)		Proposed addition replacement (m ²)		Total	
	Gross	Net	Gross	Net	Gross	Net
Production						
Sales						
Offices						
Storage						
Ancillary uses	Bird	Enclosures	Bird	Enclosures	Bird	Enclosures
Total	740	-	520	-	520	-

25. Indicate in the grids below answers to the following

Average No. of vehicles at premises daily from	Existing	Expected increase	Total
Staff	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
Visitors/Customers	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
Goods	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable

Average No. of persons attending premises daily	Existing	Expected increase	Total
Employees	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
Others Attending*	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable
Total	not applicable	not applicable	not applicable

* Others attending include visitors, customers, diners, spectators, pupils etc.

26. Council Employee / Elected Member Interest

Are you / the applicant / applicant's spouse or partner, a member of staff within the council or an elected member of the council?

Yes No

Or are you / the applicant / the applicant's spouse or partner, a relative of a member of staff in the council or an elected member of the council or their spouse or partner?

Yes No

If you have answered yes, please provide details (name, relationship and role):

The applicant is Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Planning Application Certificate

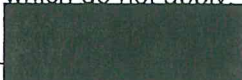
- 27. - Fill in ONE of the following certificates as required under Section 42 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. This form constitutes a statement of ownership, not proof of ownership.
- If you are applying for Approval of Reserved Matters following a grant of outline permission a certificate is NOT required.

CERTIFICATE A

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN

I hereby certify that the accompanying application is made by or on behalf of BOROUGH COUNCIL
(Please use BLOCK LETTERS)

Who is in actual possession of every part of the land to which the said application relates and is entitled to *a fee simple absolute/a fee tail/a life estate/a tenancy of which at least 40 years remain unexpired in the land. *You must delete words which do not apply.

Signature of applicant/agent  FOR DORAN CONSULTING Date 14 October 2016

or

CERTIFICATE B

I hereby certify that the accompanying application is made by or on behalf of _____
(Please use BLOCK LETTERS)

Who is the trustee of a trust or settlement which affects every part of the land to which the accompanying application relates and that at the date of the application:

- (a) a beneficiary under the trust or settlement is in the actual possession of every part of the land; and
- (b) no person other than a beneficiary under the trust or settlement is entitled to enter into the actual possession of any part of the said land within a period of 40 years.

Signature of applicant/agent _____ Date _____

or

CERTIFICATE C

I hereby certify that the requisite notice of the accompanying application has been given by or on behalf of _____ (Please use BLOCK LETTERS)

to any person, who at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the said application was, in relation to all or any part of the land affected by the application:

- (a) a person then in actual possession;
- (b) the trustee of a trust or settlement where a beneficiary under the trust or settlement was in actual possession and no person other than such a beneficiary was entitled to enter into actual possession within a period of 40 years; and
- (c) a person [not being a person falling within (a) or (b)] entitled to enter into actual possession within a period of 40 years.

The persons upon whom notice was served are:

Name and Address	Interest	Date of service of notice
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Signature of applicant/agent _____ Date _____

§ Copies of the requisite notice (Form P2A) may be obtained from your local planning office

or

CERTIFICATE D

1. I hereby certify that the person making the accompanying application:

(a) is unable to issue a certificate in accordance with either Section 42(1)(a) or (b) of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011;

(b) has made due enquiries and is of the opinion that he is unable to issue a certificate which would satisfy the requirements of Section 42(1)(c) of the said Act for the following reasons;

(c) has given the requisite notice of the application to the undermentioned persons who, at the beginning of the period of 21 days ending with the date of the said application, were in the actual possession of all or part of the land to which the application relates, namely:

Name and Address:	Date of service of notice:
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

2. Notice of the said application has been published in the _____ on _____ and a copy of the newspaper in which the notice appeared is enclosed.

Signature of applicant/agent _____ Date _____

3 Copies of the requisite notice (Form P2A) may be obtained from your local planning office.

WARNING: Any person who knowingly or recklessly issues this certificate containing a statement which is false or misleading is guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine.

Statutory Neighbour Notification of Planning Application

You are not required to notify the occupiers listed below. This will be done by the Council, or as the case may be, the Department for Infrastructure.

28. Please give the address of any identified occupiers of buildings on neighbouring land. An 'identified occupier' is the occupier of premises within a 90 metre radius of the boundary of the proposed application site, provided they adjoin the application site. 'Neighbouring land' is land which directly adjoins the application site, or which would adjoin it but for an entry or road less than 20 metres in width. Where identified occupiers of a building on neighbouring land have to be notified and the building is in multiple occupation give the addresses of all occupiers.

a) Address:	refer to separate sheet	b) Address:	
Town:		Town:	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
c) Address:		d) Address:	
Town:		Town:	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
e) Address:		f) Address:	
Town:		Town:	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
g) Address:		h) Address:	
Town:		Town:	
Postcode:		Postcode:	
i) Address:		j) Address:	
Town:		Town:	
Postcode:		Postcode:	

If there is not enough space please list any additional addresses on a separate sheet.

Fee Payable

29. Please read 'Planning Fees Explanatory Notes for Applicants' and submit the correct fee as set out in the scale of fees in the current Fee Regulations available on the Planning Portal (www.planningni.gov.uk).

Please give details of the fee category/ies 13. Any other applications not falling within categories 1 - 12

I enclose a cheque / postal order no. internal transfer for the sum of £ 831

Cheques or postal orders should be made payable to your relevant council, or as the case may be, the Department for Infrastructure and crossed 'Not negotiable, A/C Payee only'.

Form P1

Q28

Neighbour Notification

a	2 Springfield Avenue, Bangor, BT20 5BY
b	Hamilton Road Presbyterian Church, Prospect Road, Bangor, BT20 4LN
c	Bangor Carnegie Library, Hamilton Road, Bangor, BT20 4AJ
d	2 to 22 Moira Drive, Bangor, BT20 4RN (even only)
e	24 to 64 Moira Drive, Bangor, BT20 4RW (even only)
f	66 Moira Drive, Bangor, BT20 4XY
g	Ward Park Tennis Club, Ward Park, Gransha Road, Bangor, BT20 4TN
h	6 Gransha Road, Bangor, BT20 4TG
i	4 Gransha Road, Bangor, BT20 4TG
j	2 Gransha Road, Bangor, BT20 4TG
k	2A Gransha Road, Bangor, BT20 4TG
l	1 Bloomfield Road, Bangor, BT20 4UH
m	SERC, Bangor Campus, Castle Park Road, Bangor, BT20 4TD
n	Bangor Sea Cadets, Ward Park, Castle Street, Bangor, BT20
o	1 to 16 Castle Lodge, Castle Street, Bangor, BT20 4LX
p	1 to 4 Castle Cottages, Castle Street, Bangor, BT20 4SZ
q	Bangor Community Hospital, Castle Street, Bangor, BT20 4TA
r	Ward Park Bowling Pavilion, Ward Park, Bangor, BT20
s	North Down Cycling Club, Ward Park, Park Drive, Bangor, BT20 4JZ

30. Sections 4 and 5 of the 'Planning Fees Explanatory Notes for Applicants' provide further information on the fee exemptions/reductions that are available to applicants, **subject to certain conditions**, and the **evidence** which is required to be submitted.

Do you qualify for a reduced or nil fee? (tick as appropriate)

The application is for the extensions / alterations to a disabled person's dwelling house to improve access, safety or comfort.

The application is for the carrying out of works for the purpose of providing a means of access for disabled persons to a public building.

The application relates to the provision of community facilities (including sports grounds) and playing fields and has been made by, or on behalf of, a non-profit making club, society or other organisation.

The application is to renew planning permission where the existing approval has not yet expired and therefore a reduced fee of 25% of the normal fee applies.

If Yes, please provide the Ref No. of the existing approval:

[Empty rectangular box for Ref No.]

Declaration

The information *I / we have given in this Form P1 and accompanying plans is correct and complete to the best of my knowledge and belief.

*I / We apply for planning permission for the development described in this application and the accompanying plans.

Signature of *~~Applicant~~/Agent



Date 14 October 2016

* Delete as appropriate

FOR DORAN CONSULTING

Checklist

It is very important that you check to ensure that all of the requirements listed have been satisfied before submitting your application. Please note that failure to comply may result in your submission being returned or the processing of the application being delayed until all relevant information is submitted.

Forms

Please tick the boxes to indicate enclosures

- Have all forms been completed fully, with the correct number of copies all duly signed and dated?
- Have you completed the certificate of ownership section with the appropriate parts deleted? (Only one section A, B, C or D should be fully completed. If required, please refer to page 3 of "Explanatory Notes on Applying for Planning Permission, Approval of Reserved Matters and other Planning Consents")
- Have you listed all of the neighbours who should be notified?

Plans/Drawings

- Have you included Ordnance Survey based site location plans to scale, clearly showing the site outlined in red, ensuring that lands required for access to the public road and for the septic tank are included within the red line?
- Have you submitted the required number and type of fully annotated detailed drawings to an appropriate scale?

Site Location Plan (x 4 copies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elevations (x 4 copies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Site layout/Block Plan (x 4 copies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Cross Sections (x 4 copies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floor Plans (x 4 copies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Existing & Proposed Levels (x 4 copies)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Fee

- Have you enclosed the correct fee?
- Have you enclosed all necessary supplementary documents? (e.g. supporting information so as to avail of nil fee)

Reserved Matters

- If you are applying for Reserved Matters approval following the grant of Outline permission, are all the conditions of the Outline approval met? (If not, the Reserved Matters approval cannot be sought and Full permission should be sought instead)

Fee

With most planning applications a fee is payable. It is essential that the correct fee is enclosed to avoid your application being returned. Please refer to 'Planning Fees Explanatory Notes for Applicants'.

You should note that during processing, further information and details may be requested to enable us to determine your application.

Supplementary Forms

Answer Questions (i) to (iii) below to check if you need to include supplementary forms with your planning application. If you answer 'No' go to the next Question. If you answer 'Yes' complete the appropriate supplementary form. All supplementary forms are available on the Planning Portal website (www.planningni.gov.uk)

If you do need supplementary forms, tick the boxes below when you've completed them.

- | | | | |
|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| (i) Does your proposal involve the carrying out of any quarrying/ mineral extraction? | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Form P1B
(2 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (ii) Is your proposal for a dwelling on a farm? | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Form P1C
(3 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> |
| (iii) Does your proposal relate to a creche / day nursery, or nursery / residential home? | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Form P1D
(2 copies) <input type="checkbox"/> |

If you need any supplementary forms, fill them in **BEFORE** completing the rest of this form. Please use blue or black ink to fill in your planning application forms and complete all sections in BLOCK letters.

NOTE: For certain types of development certain additional information may be required e.g. a Transport Assessment, Flood Risk Assessment etc.

Additional Applications

When proposing to undertake a development there may be other forms of planning control to consider. Answer Questions (iv) - (vii) below to check if you need to submit an additional application. If you answer 'Yes' complete the appropriate application and submit it to the relevant local Area Planning Office, or as the case may be, the Department.

- | | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------|---|
| (iv) Does your proposal relate to the alteration or demolition of a listed building? | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Submit an application for Listed Building Consent, using Form LB1 |
| (v) Does your proposal relate to the demolition of a building within a Conservation Area? | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | You may need to submit an application for Conservation Area Consent, using Form PCAC1 |
| (vi) Does your proposal involve the use or storage of any Hazardous Substances, which are subject to the controls set out in the Planning (COMAH) Regulations (N.I.) 2000? | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | Submit an application for Hazardous Substances Consent using Forms 1 - 3 |
| (vii) Does your proposal involve the display of any advertisements? | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> | You may need to submit an application for Advertisement Consent using Form A1 |

NOTE: You may also need to apply for approval under the Building Regulations, on forms available from your local Council.

Planning Act
(N) 2011

Ards and
North Down
Borough Council

GRANTED

Subject to Conditions (if any)
as set out on

2 Decision for LA06/2016/1108
Date... 15 APR 2020

Doran
CONSULTING
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Electronic Copy

WARD PARK, BANGOR

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPROVEMENT SCHEME
AT WARD PARK, BANGOR

OUTLINE CONSTRUCTION ENVIRONMENTAL
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Ards and
North Down
Borough Council

20 NOV 2019

NOVEMBER 2019

ISSUE 1

LA06 / 2016 / 1108

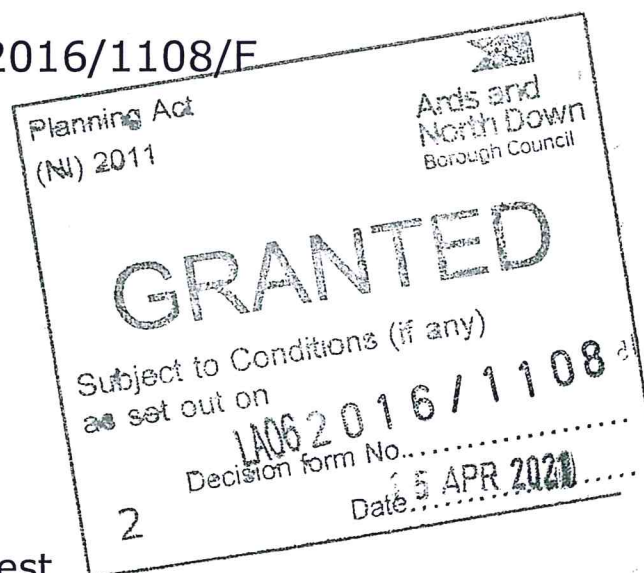


CLIENT: Doran Consulting

PROJECT: Environmental Improvement Scheme for Ward Park, Bangor.

Odour Impact Assessment Report.

LA06/2016/1108/F



Prepared by: Envest

Date: December 2018

Boundary of planning application site (3.6 Hectares)

Boundary of adjacent land owned or controlled by the Applicant

Planning Act (NI) 2011

Ards and North Down Borough Council

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2

Decision form No. LA06 16/1108

Date. 15 APR 2021

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Ards and North Down Borough Council

14 OCT 2018

File No.

PRELIMINARY DRAWING

LA06 16/1108

Project Title:

Environmental Improvement Scheme
Ward Park, Bangor

Drawing Title:

Site Location Plan

Drawing Number 01

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Client/Architect:	Ards and North Down Borough Council		
Drawn by:	RR	Date:	Dec 2015
Checked by:	JPSk	Scales:	1:1250
Approved by:	Sheet Size: A1		

Drawing Number:							
Project Number:	Orig.	Zone.	Level.	Type.	Disc.	Number.	Revision:
141086	DC	-	-	GA	C	03	C



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Norwood House
96-102 Great Victoria Street,
Belfast BT2 7BE

T 028 90333443
F 028 90235501
E mail@doran.co.uk
W www.doran.co.uk

12/9/16
G12.84 L

Planning Act
(NI) 2011

Ards and North Down
Borough Council

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as set out on

Decision Form No. LA06-016/1108
Date: 15 APR 2021

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Ards and North Down
Borough Council
14 OCT 2016
File No.

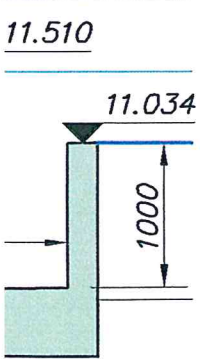
	2				
Status	Date:	By:	Check:	Drawing Status Details:	Appr:

PLANNING DRAWING

LA06-016/1108

Project Title:
Environmental Improvement Scheme
Ward Park, Bangor

Drawing Title:
Proposed Refurbishment of
Pond Inlet Weir and Baffles



structure.

Client/Architect: North Down Borough Council

Drawn by: HJD Date: Feb 2015

Checked by: MJM Scales: 1:100

Approved by: Sheet Size: A1

Drawing
Number 02

Ards and North Down
Borough Council

Drawing Number:							
Project Number:	Orig.	Zone.	Level.	Type.	Disc.	Number.	Revision:
141086	DC	-	-	SK	C	02	D

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Location Plan
Scale 1:2500



NOTES:

1. All levels to Ordnance Datum.
2. All dimensions and details subject to detailed design.
3. Bridge deck to be designed for 7.5T vehicular loading (7.5T Max. Gross Vehicle Weight).

Planning Act (NI) 2011

GRANTED DRAWING

Subject to Conditions (if any) as set out on

Decision No. LA06-016/1108

Date: 15 APR 2016

2

LA06-016/1108

Environmental Improvement Scheme
Ward Park, Bangor

Drawing Title:

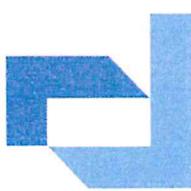
Proposed Replacement of Upper Bridge

Drawing Number: OS

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Client/Architect:	Ards & North Down Borough Council		
Drawn by:	RR	Date:	Mar 2016
Checked by:	JPSk	Scales:	As shown
Approved by:		Sheet Size:	A1

Drawing Number:							
Project Number:	Orig.	Zone.	Level.	Type.	Disc.	Number.	Revision:
141086	DC	-	-	SK	C	31	



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Existing pipes to be retained and cast through proposed concrete abutment with flexible surround.



Location Plan
Scale 1:2500



NOTES:

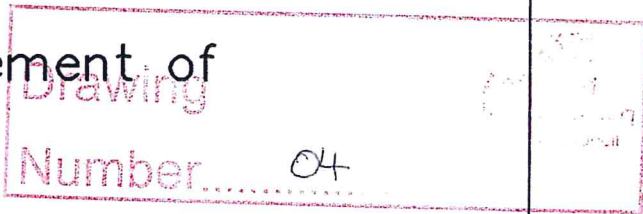
1. All levels to Ordnance Datum.
2. All dimensions and details subject to detailed design.
3. Bridge deck to be designed for 7.5T vehicular loading. (7.5T Max Gross Vehicle Weight).

PLANNING DRAWING

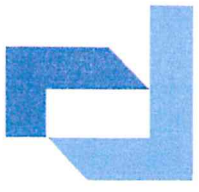


Project Title: ~~as set out on~~
 Environmental Improvement Scheme
 Ward Park, Bangor
 Date: 15 APR 2021

Drawing Title:
 Proposed Replacement of Middle Bridge

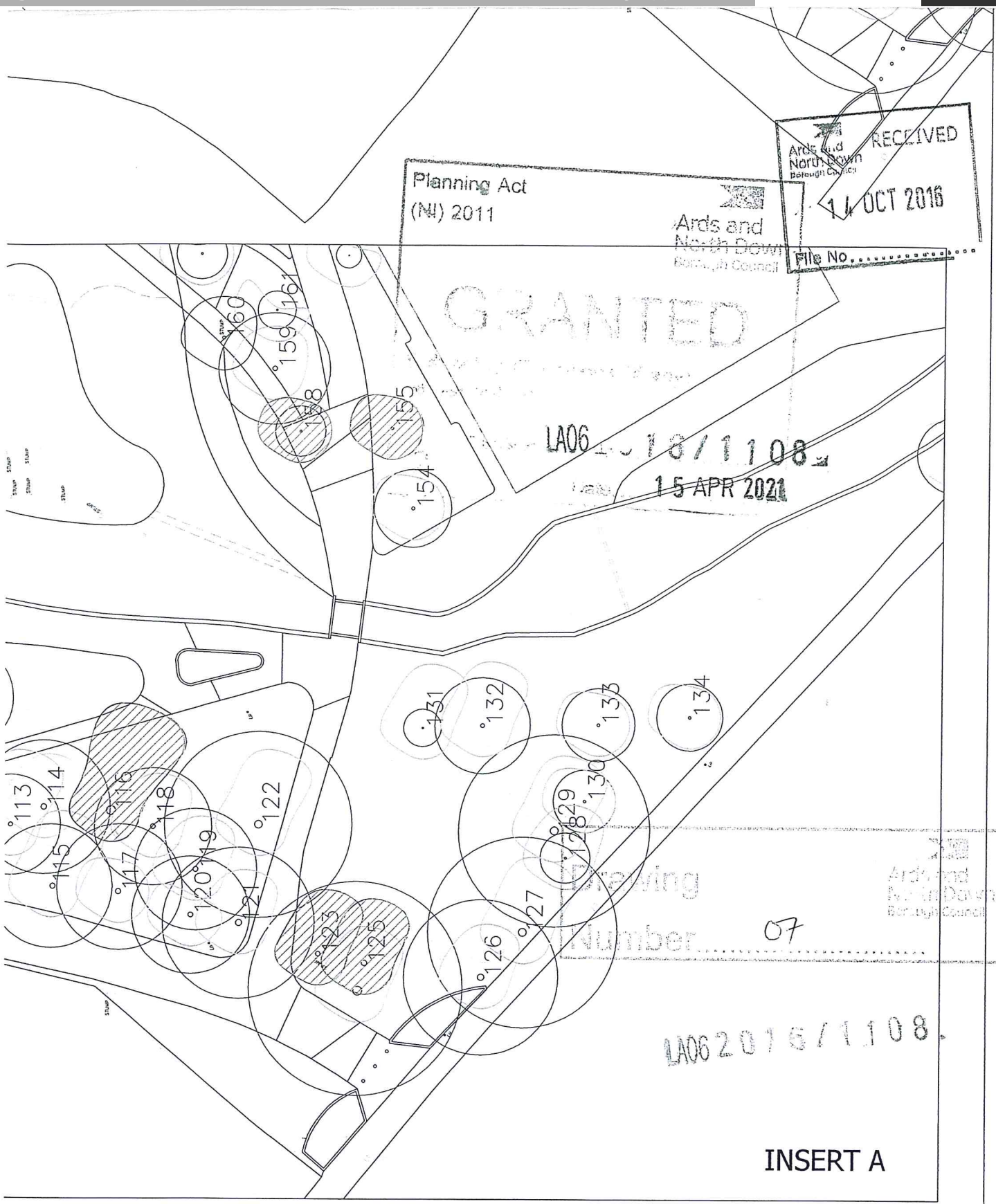


Client/Architect:	Ards & North Down Borough Council						
Drawn by:	RR	Date:	Mar 2016				
Checked by:	JPSk	Scales:	As shown				
Approved by:			Sheet Size:	A1			
Drawing Number:							
Project Number:	Orig.	Zone.	Level.	Type.	Disc.	Number.	Revision:
141086	DC	-	-	SK	C	32	



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 E mail@doran.co.uk
 W www.doran.co.uk



Park Hood

ARCHITECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3HZ
 8030 E: info@parkhood.com, www.parkhood.com

Client :
 Ards and North Down Borough Council

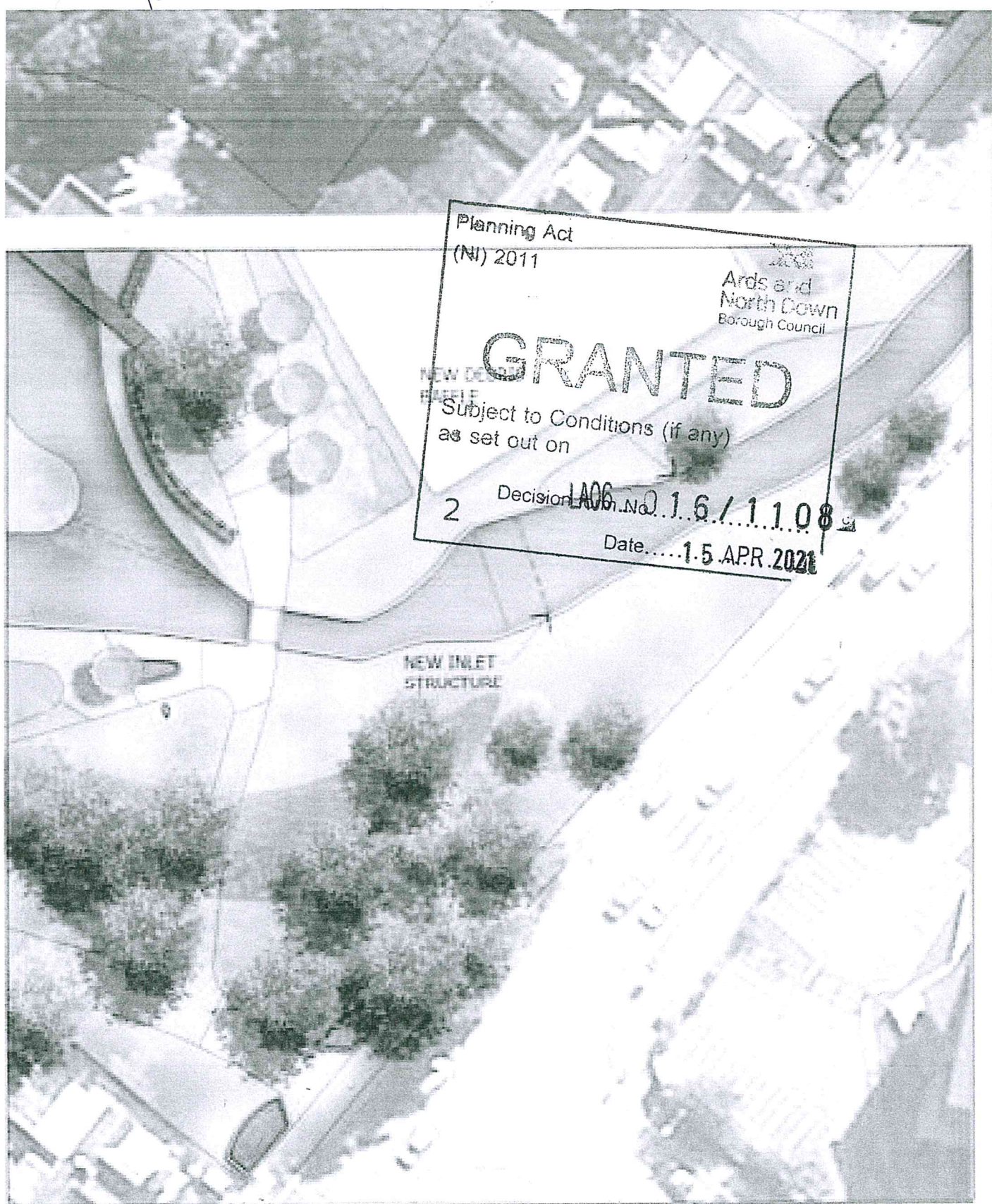
Project: Ward Park
 Bangor

Title: Development Impact on Existing Vegetation

Scale: 1:500@A1

Date: June 2016

Dwg.no: 5331-L-102



Planning Act
(NI) 2011

Ards and
North Down
Borough Council

GRANTED

Subject to Conditions (if any)
as set out on

2 Decision No. **LA06 1.6 / 1.108**
Date... **1.5 APR. 2021**

NEW INLET
STRUCTURE

Client: Ards and North Down Borough Council

Drawing Number... *08A*

Project: Ward Park Borough

RECEIVED
Ards and North Down Borough Council
15 DEC 2020

File No. **LA06 2016 1.108**

Title: Site Proposals

Planning Act (NI) 2011

Ards and North Down Borough Council

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Subject to Conditions (if any) as set out on

Decision No. LA06 No. 0.1.6 / 1108

Date 15 APR 2021

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Ards and North Down Borough Council
15 DEC 2020
LA06 2016-1108

Drawing Number..... 091A

Ards and North Down Borough Council
INSERT A



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ARCHITECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

10 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3HZ
03030 E: info@parkhood.com, www.parkhood.com

Client :
Ards and North Down Borough Council

Project: Ward Park
Bangor

Title: Hardworks Drawing

Scale: 1:500@A1

Date: June 2016

Dwg.no: 5331-L-104-A1




Park Hood
 ARCHITECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3HZ
 8030 E: info@parkhood.com, www.parkhood.com

Client :	
Ards and North Down Borough Council	
Project: Ward Park Bangor	
Title: Planting Plan	
Scale: 1:500@A1	Date: June 2016
Dwg.no: 5331-L-105	

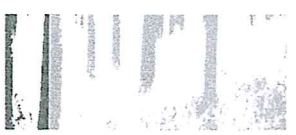
Scale 1:100

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 Ards and North Down Borough Council
 14 OCT 2016
 File No.

Planning Act (NI) 2011
 Ards and North Down Borough Council
GRANTED
 Subject to Conditions (if any)
 Decision No. LA06-016/1108
 Date 15 APR 2021

Drawing Number.....
 Ards and North Down Borough Council

LA06 2016 / 1108.4

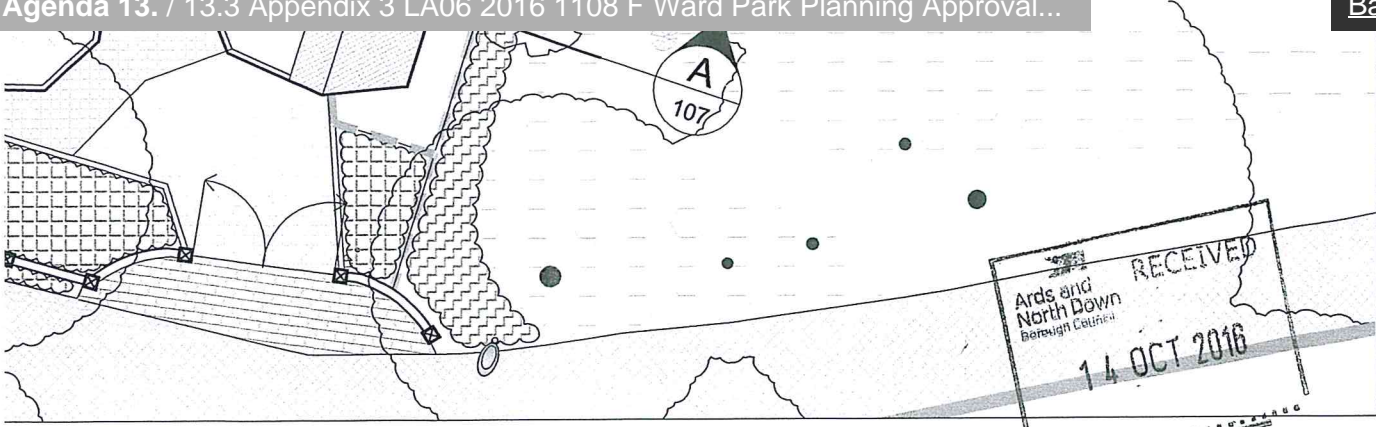


park ~ Hood

ARCHITECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3HZ
9 8030 E: info@parkhood.com, www.parkhood.com

Client : Ards and North Down Borough Council		
Project: Ward Park Project Location		
Title: Landscape Sections		
Scale: 1:500@A1	Date: June 2016	Dwg.no: 5331-L-106



SCALE

Planning Act (NI) 2011

Ards and North Down Borough Council

GRANTED

Subject to Conditions (if any) as set out on

2 Decision Form No. LA06 016/1108

Date 15 APR 2021

DS NEST' DESIGN
LS

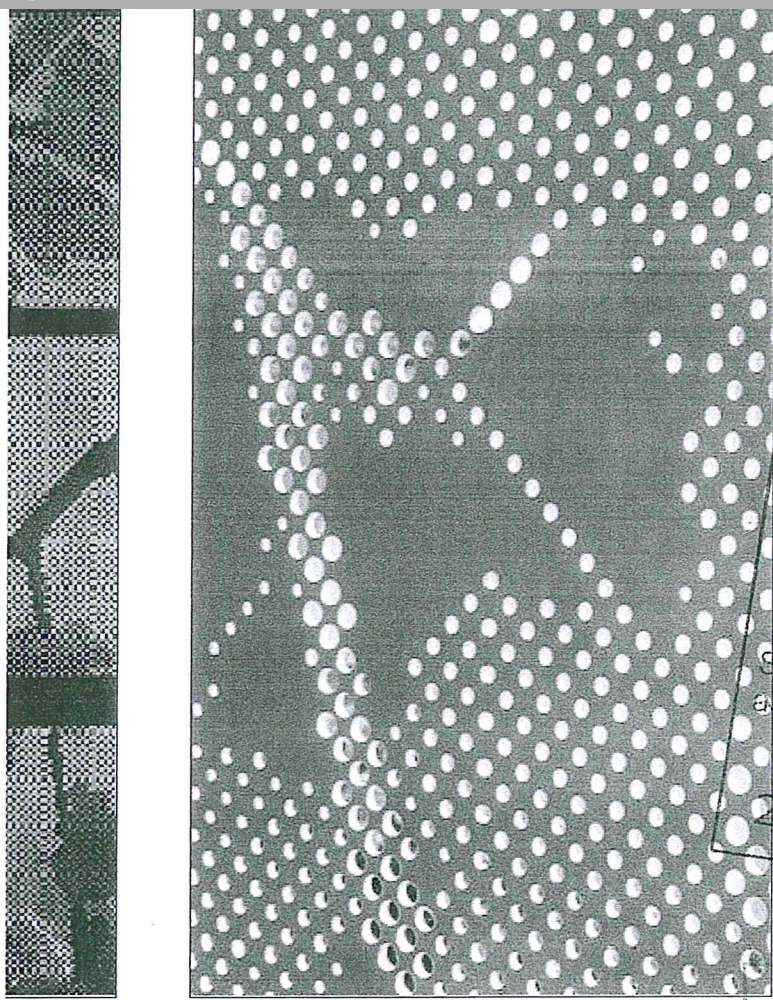
Drawing Number 12

Ards and North Down Borough Council



ARCHITECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS
 Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3HZ
 8030 E: info@parkhood.com, www.parkhood.com

Client : Ards and North Down Borough Council	
Project: Ward Park Bangor	
Title: Aviary Proposals	
Scale: varies @ A1	Date: June 2016
Dwg.no: 5331-L-107	



RECEIVED
Ards and North Down Borough Council
14 OCT 2016
File No.

Planning Act (NI) 2011
Ards and North Down Borough Council
GRANTED
Subject to Conditions (if any) as set out on
LA06 - 016/1108
Decision form No.
Date... 15 APR 2024

Drawing Number... 13
Ards and North Down Borough Council

LA06 2016 / 1108.

RY



Park Hood

ARCHITECTS AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Upper Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 3HZ
8030 E: info@parkhood.com, www.parkhood.com

Client :
Ards and North Down Borough Council

Project: Ward Park
Bangor

Title: Aviary Boundary Treatments

Scale: 1:500@A1

Date: June 2016

Dwg.no: 5331-L-108



LEGEND:

HARDSCAPE

- EXISTING PATH RESURFACED WITH BITMAC
- DECORATIVE PAVING
- TIMBER DECKING
- TIMBER BOARDWALK

SOFTWORKS

- EXISTING TREES TO BE RETAINED
- PROPOSED TREE
- GRASS AREA
- NATIVE HEDGE PLANTING
- ORNAMENTAL SHRUB AND PERENNIAL PLANTING
- MEADOW / WILD FLOWER AND GRASS HABITAT AREA
- WETLAND PLANTS / MARGINAL PLANTING AT WATERS EDGE

FURNITURE

- TIMBER BENCH SEATING
- BESPOKE CONCRETE SEATING
- RAISED CONCRETE PLANTERS WITH SEATING EDGE
- NEW COPING TO EDGE OF WATER
- NATURAL STONE WALLING
- BIRD AVIARY
- EXISTING LAMPPOST COLUMN WITH NEW LIGHT HEAD
- REMOVABLE BOLLARDS
- PICNIC BENCHES
- 2.4m HIGH SECURITY MESH FENCE TO SIDES OF AVIARY AREA
- DECORATIVE HANDRAIL AND RAILING
- TIMBER FENCE



Some of Your Questions Answered

1) About Ward Park

Ward Park is a 37-acre urban park in the City of Bangor. Originally the site of a brickworks, it was designed by Cheal's Nurseries in 1909 and gifted to the people of Bangor by the Ward family. The Park is owned and managed by Ards and North Down Borough Council. It provides a key 'green lung' in what is otherwise a built-up urban environment, the park being surrounded by residential properties, a hospital, schools, a college, a public library and sports facilities and enclosed on three sides by roads. One of the Park's main attractions is that it is well wooded with different varieties of mature, semi-mature and young trees including popular large willows. It is accessible to all ages and widely used by children going to and from school, by dog walkers, by families attending the play park and feeding the ducks, by residents and visitors enjoying free summer events, by sports groups including Park Run and NDCC and by many who simply want to enjoy some fresh air in beautiful surroundings.

2) What are the aims of the Environmental Improvement Scheme?

The Ward Park Environmental Improvement Scheme aims to:

- Improve the current pond structure.
- Provide a modern approach to the management of wildfowl and waterfowl.
- Retain historical features, while improving the built environment/ infrastructure.
- Create educational and play opportunities.
- Promote biodiversity.
- Help safeguard the Park for future generations.

3) What does the Scheme involve?

As set out in the Planning Application (LA06/2016/1108/F) this scheme will deliver environmental improvements to the park that will enhance biodiversity and help safeguard the park for future generations. This includes:

- removal of sediment from ponds
- enlargement of the upper pond and island
- introduction of aquatic planting to pond edges
- repair work to walls at pond edge and provision of new coping stones
- upgrade of the footpath network
- installation of a boardwalk and decking to the ponds
- replacement of two existing pedestrian bridges
- upgrade of the existing inlet structure
- replacement and refurbishment of the existing bird enclosures
- new signage, seating, picnic benches, lighting, landscaping and planting.

4) What is the value of the Scheme and how is it being funded?

This improvement scheme is being funded directly by Council and has a cost of over £5.5 million.

5) When was Planning Approval Secured?

Planning approval was secured in April 2021. The scheme was first presented to the public in 2015, with events held in that year and 2016. Three letters of objections were received over the period before the final approval. There were no objections from statutory bodies.

6) When will works start on site?

The first phase of the improvement scheme will be desilting of the pond network (see more details below). This will start week commencing 13 November 2023 and it is anticipated that this will be completed before Christmas. Work on other elements of the Scheme is hoped to start in the winter of 2024/5.

7) What is pond desilting?

Desilting (or dredging) is the removal of silt, sediment and other materials that have built up over time from the ponds. Desilting decreases the possibility of flooding and will improve the environment for wildlife including fish, birds and insects. As part of the improvement scheme a more effective silt trap will be introduced at the upstream end of the ponds to prevent, or significantly reduce, future siltation. These works will restore the ponds to their original capacity and condition and will create a more positive outcome for wildlife and ecological biodiversity and activity.

8) How do I find out more?

If you wish to contact the Parks Team please do so via the e-mail: andparks@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk or ring us on 0300 013 3333.

Unclassified

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ITEM 14**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	15 November 2023
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	07 November 2023
File Reference	LEI 20
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	Receipt of Petition
Attachments	Appendix Details of Petition Received

On 25th October 2023 prior to the commencement of the Council meeting, a petition concerning the management of leisure services was submitted to the Chief Executive. Details of the petition are attached in the appendix to this report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.



Stop Comber, Newtownards and Portaferry Leisure Centres being privatised.

Started

20 September 2023

2,756

Signatures

5,000

Next Goal

 160 people signed this week

[Share this petition](#)

Why this petition matters



Started by [Gareth Klein](#)

Save Our Local Leisure Centres from Privatisation

Members of the community are deeply concerned about the proposed privatisation of our beloved local leisure centres. These facilities have been an essential part of our community for years, offering a wide range of activities and services that enhance our quality of life.

Privatisation threatens the accessibility and affordability of this valuable resource. We believe that our leisure centres should remain in public hands, ensuring that it continues to serve everyone in our community, regardless of their income or background.

The proposed privatisation of this cherished facility jeopardises the employment of our dedicated staff

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Our leisure centre staff members play a crucial role in maintaining a welcoming and safe environment for our community. Privatisation could lead to job cuts, reduced wages, and diminished job security, negatively impacting the well-being of these hardworking individuals and their families.

By signing this petition, we call on our local authorities to reconsider privatisation and explore alternative solutions that preserve public ownership and accessibility. Together, we can protect our leisure centres as a vital community asset and ensure its continued contribution to our well-being.

Join us in safeguarding our local leisure center for current and future generations. Sign this petition today to make a difference and keep our community thriving.