

May 20th, 2022

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 25th May 2022 at 7:00 pm**
in **Virtual Via Zoom**.

Agenda

Virtual Meeting Guidance

[Guidance for virtual Council meetings.pdf](#)

Not included

Agenda

[C 25.05.2022 Agenda.pdf](#)

Page 1

1. **Prayer**
2. **Apologies**
3. **Declarations of Interest**
4. **Mayor's Business**
5. **Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the Month of May
(Copy to follow)**
6. **Minutes of Council Meeting held on 27 April 2022 (Copy attached)**
[C 27.04.2022 MinutesPM.pdf](#) Page 5
7. **Minutes of Special Council meeting dated 9th May 2022
(Copy attached)**
[Minutes SpC.09.05.22.pdf](#) Page 34
8. **Minutes of Committees (copies attached)**
 - 8.1 **Minutes of Meeting of Regeneration & Development Committee dated
10th May 2022 (Copy attached)**
[RDC 10.05.2022 MinutesPM.pdf](#) Page 45
 - 8.2 **Minutes of Corporate Committee dated 10th May 2022 (copy attached)**
[CS 10.05.2022 Minutes PM.pdf](#) Page 58
 - 8.2.1. **Arising from Item 6 - Sustainability and Climate Change
Policy 2022 (Amended)**
[Item 8.2.1 - CS Matters Arising Sustainability and Climate Change Policy - FINAL -](#) Page 75

8.3 Minutes of Environment Committee dated 11th May 2022 (copy attached)
📄 *EC.11.05.22 MinutesPM.pdf* Page 92

8.4 Minutes of Community and Wellbeing Committee dated 11th May 2022 (copy attached)
📄 *11.05.2022 CWB Minutes PM.pdf* Page 103

9 Resolutions

9.1 From Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – Public Holiday St Brigid’s Day (Copy correspondence dated 21 April 2022 attached)
📄 *Item 9.1 Resolution -St Brigid's day.pdf* Page 126

9.2 From Fermanagh and Omagh District Council – Additional Roles for Local Councils (Copy correspondence dated 25 April 2022 attached)
📄 *Item 9.2 Resolution Additional Roles from Central Govt.pdf* Page 127

10 Consultation Documents

10.1 Further Consultation on Body Worn Video – Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (Correspondence attached)
📄 *Item 10.1 Consultation Summary BWV V.2.pdf* Page 128

📄 *Item 10.1 Consultation - 2022 05 11 BODY WORN VIDEO Deployment Plan.pdf* Page 140

📄 *Item 10.1 Consultation - Body Worn Video Public Consultation Phase 2 Questions.pdf* Page 148

📄 *Item 10.1 Consultation - Ch Ex Letter BWV Consultation 12-5-22.pdf* Page 150

11 Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) Water and Drainage Policy Division Consultation (Report attached)

📄 *Item 11 DFI Water and Drainage Policy Division Consultation.pdf* Page 152

📄 *Item 11 Appendix 1 Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage Consultation - Letter to S75 Co...pdf* Page 154

📄 *Item 11 Appendix 2 Water, Flooding, and Sustainable Drainage Consultation.pdf* Page 157

12 Annual Meeting Arrangements

Item 12 - Annual Meeting Arrangements.pdf

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13 Sealing Documents

14 Transfer of Rights of Burial

15 Conferences

15.1 Attendance at Harkin Summit 7-8 June 2022

Item 15.1 Chief Executive attendance at Harkin Conference June 2022 - FINAL - SR approved.pdf Page 217

WEBSITE_ Harkin Belfast 2022 - delegate packages.pdf Page 218

WEBSITE_ Harkin Belfast 2022 - day 1.pdf Page 220

WEBSITE_ Harkin Belfast 2022 day 2.pdf Page 223

15.2 NAC UK Summer Conference Southport 24-26 June 2022

Item 15.2 Attendance att NAC Conference in Southport 24-26 June - FINAL - SR approved.docx Page 226

Item 15.2 NAC UK Booking form 24-26 June Southport.pdf Page 227

16 Notice of Motion Status Report (Report attached)

Item 16 - NOM Covering Report.pdf

Page 228

Item 16 - NOM Tracker May 2022.pdf

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17 Notices of Motion

17.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Adair and Councillor Edmund

That this Council task officers to enter into discussions with the Education Authority concerning the redevelopment of the play area fronting Victoria Primary School (which is a shared facility between the school and public) as a potential Peace Plus project to enhance recreation and sports facilities for Ballyhalbert.

17.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman McIlveen and Councillor Kennedy

That this Council notes that 2028 will mark the centenary of the internationally renowned Ards TT Races and tasks officers to prepare a report in relation to options on events to best commemorate this sporting anniversary and celebrate the area's rich motorsport heritage.

17.3 Rescinding Motion submitted by Alderman McDowell, Councillor Cummings, Councillor P Smith, Councillor Greer, Councillor McRandal, Councillor Walker and Councillor McKee

We the undersigned propose that the decision of the Council taken on 30 March 2022, that the Council purchases equipment to support 2 semi-permanent installations, 1 in Bangor Chamber and 1 in Ards Chamber for hybrid Council and Committee meetings going forward at a total 5-year cost of £120k (subject to permanent legislative change). Running costs from year 2 of £17.5 per year to be included in district rates, is rescinded and that the Council purchases equipment to support 2 semi-permanent installations, 1 in Bangor Chamber and 1 in Ards Chamber for hybrid Council and Committee meetings going forward at a total 5 year cost of £120k. Running costs from year 2 of £17.5k per year to be included in district rates, be approved by the Council.

Circulated for Information

- a **Census 2021 Update – Intent to Publish, www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2021-census**
- b **National Association of Councillors UK Conferences**
 - 📄 *CFI (b) National Association of Councillors UK Conferences.pdf* *Page 238*
- c **Listed Building Notice – Lime Kilns Ballywalter**
 - 📄 *CFI (c) DFC Notice dated 6th May 22.pdf* *Page 239*
 - 📄 *CFI (c) Listed Building notice 06.5.22.pdf* *Page 241*
- d **Extension of Consultation on Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol in NI – now closes 27 May 2022 – www.health-ni.gov.uk/MUP-consultation**
- e **Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin and March Housing Council Minutes**
 - 📄 *CFI (f) Members Bulletin - 12th May 2022.pdf* *Page 245*
 - 📄 *CFI (f) Housing Council Minutes 10th March 2022.pdf* *Page 247*

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

18 Redevelopment of Kinnegar Logistics Base (Report Attached)

- 📄 *Item 18 Redevelopment of Kinnegar Logistics Base - FINAL - SR approved.pdf* *Not included*

- 19 Application to Levelling Up Fund Round 2**
📄 *Item 19 - Levelling Up Fund Round Two - FINAL - SR approved.pdf* **Not included**
- 20 UNITE Industrial Action Suspended – Update (Report attached)**
📄 *Item 20 - UNITE Industrial Action.pdf* **Not included**

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

19 May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a meeting of Ards and North Down Borough Council which will be held remotely via Zoom on **Wednesday, 25 May 2022 at 7.00pm.**

Yours faithfully

Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Prayer
2. Apologies
3. Declarations of Interest
4. Mayor's Business
5. Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the Month of May 2022 (Copy attached)
6. Minutes of Council meeting dated 27 April 2022 (Copy attached)
7. Minutes of Special Council meeting dated 9 May 2022 (Copy attached)
8. Minutes of Committees (Copies attached)
 - 8.1. Minutes of Meeting of Regeneration and Development Committee dated 10 May 2022
 - 8.2. Minutes of Corporate Committee dated 10 May 2022
 - 8.2.1. Arising from Item 6 – Sustainability and Climate Change Policy 2022 (amended)
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 - 8.4. Minutes of Community and Wellbeing Committee dated 11 May 2022
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- 11. Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Water and Drainage Policy Division Consultation (Report attached)
- 12. Annual Meeting Arrangements (Report attached)
- 13. Sealing Documents
- 14. Transfer of Rights of Burial
- 15. Conferences
 - 15.1 Attendance at Harkin Summit 7-8 June 2022 (Attached)
 - 15.2 NAC UK Summer Conference Southport 24-26 June 2022 (Attached)
- 16. Notice of Motion Status Report (Report attached)
- 17. Notices of Motion
 - 17.1. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Adair and Councillor Edmund

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www.nisra.gov.uk/statistics/census/2021-census
- (b) National Association of Councillors UK Conferences
- (c) Listed Building Notice – Lime Kilns Ballywalter
- (d) Extension of Consultation on Minimum Unit Pricing for Alcohol in NI – now closes 27 May 2022 – www.health-ni.gov.uk/MUP-consultation
- (e) Northern Ireland Housing Council Bulletin and March Housing Council Minutes

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

- 18. Redevelopment of Kinnegar Logistics Base (Report attached)
- 19. Application to Levelling Up Fund Round 2 (Report attached)
- 20. UNITE Industrial Action Suspended – Update (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Alderman Carson	Councillor Edmund
Alderman Gibson	Councillor Gilmour
Alderman Girvan	Councillor Greer
Alderman Irvine	Councillor Irvine
Alderman Keery	Councillor Johnson
Alderman McDowell	Councillor Kendall
Alderman McIlveen	Councillor Kennedy
Alderman Smith	
Alderman Wilson	Councillor McAlpine
Councillor Adair (Deputy Mayor)	Councillor McArthur
Councillor Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor McClean
Councillor Blaney	Councillor McKee
Councillor Boyle	Councillor McKimm
Councillor Brooks (Mayor)	Councillor McRandal
Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Smart
Councillor Chambers	Councillor P Smith
Councillor Cooper	Councillor T Smith
Councillor Cummings	Councillor Thompson

Councillor Douglas	Councillor Walker
Councillor S Dunlop	

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held remotely using Zoom on Wednesday, 27 April 2022 commencing at 7.00pm.

In the Chair:	The Mayor (Councillor Brooks)	
Aldermen:	Carson Gibson Girvan (7.13pm) Irvine Keery	McDowell McIlveen Menagh Smith (7.18pm) Wilson (8.40pm)
Councillors:	Adair Armstrong-Cotter Blaney Boyle Cathcart Chambers Cooper (7.04pm) Cummings Douglas (7.05pm) Edmund Gilmour (7.55pm) Greer Johnson	Kennedy Kendall MacArthur McAlpine McClellan (7.07pm) McKee McRandal Smart P Smith T Smith Thompson Walker

Officers: Chief Executive (S Reid), Director of Organisational Development and Administration (W Swanston), Director of Finance and Performance (S Christie), Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Director of Environment (D Lindsay), Director of Community & Wellbeing (G Bannister), Corporate Communications Manager (C Jackson), Democratic Services Manager (J Wilson) and Democratic Services Officers (P Foster & S McCrea)

1. PRAYER

The Mayor (Councillor Brooks) welcomed everyone to the meeting and commenced with the Chief Executive reading the Council prayer.

NOTED.

2. APOLOGIES

The Mayor sought apologies at this stage.

Apologies were received from Councillors Egan, Mathison and McKimm.

Apologies for lateness was received from Aldermen Wilson and Girvan and Councillors Cooper, Douglas, Dunlop, Gilmour and McRandal.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor asked for any Declarations of Interest and the following were made:

Councillor Smith – Item 13 - Community Festival Funding

Alderman McIlveen – Item 7.5.1 - Arising from Item 21 - Queens Platinum Jubilee Grants

Alderman Alan McDowell – Item 7.3 Regeneration & Development Committee Item 12.

Councillor Greer – Item 6.1 - Minutes of Council meeting dated 30 March 2022 (declared interest prior to discussion)

Alderman Girvan – Item 13 - Community Festival Funding (declared interest prior to discussion)

NOTED.

(Councillor Cooper joined the meeting at this stage – 7.04pm)

4. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

It was noted that the Chief Executive, dignitaries and local councillors from Bangor East and Donaghadee area attended a launch of completed restorations at the Gunpowder Store at the Moat, Donaghadee. It was also noted that a camera obscura had been installed and was operational; the first of its kind in Northern Ireland. The Mayor praised all those involved from the Council and Heritage Lottery Fund for assistance in the project.

(Councillor Douglas joined the meeting at this stage – 7.05pm)

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that the Mayor's comments be noted.

5. MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 2022

(Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for the month of April 2022

The Mayor referred members to his List of Engagements undertaken for the month of April 2022 and took the opportunity to express his thanks to the Deputy Mayor Adair for his assistance throughout.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the information be noted.

(Councillor McClean joined the meeting at this stage – 7.07pm)

6. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 30 MARCH 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that the minutes be adopted.

7. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

7.1 Planning Committee dated 5 April 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Gibson, that the minutes be adopted.

7.2. Environment Committee dated 6 April 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the minutes be adopted.

7.3. Regeneration and Development Committee dated 7 April 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Alderman McDowell proposed, seconded by Councillor Adair, that the minutes be adopted.

(Alderman Girvan joined the meeting at this stage – 7.13pm)

Item 3 – Covid 19 Revitalisation Funding Update

Councillor Thompson commented with regard to funding for projects. He welcomed the completed projects throughout the Borough, especially that for the approved village signage. He explained that a delay had occurred due to a decision to expand this signage project throughout other villages and settlements across the Borough, the planning approval of which came through in October 2021. Councillor Thompson welcomed that but wished to clarify when further works on signage could be expected.

C.27.04.2022PM

8

The Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning advised such was subject to the ratification of this evening's minutes and would like to be rolling this out over the next number of months.

NOTED.

Item 14 – Portaferry Ropewalk Improvement Scheme Update

Councillor Kendall wished to discuss Item 14, though as such was an In-Confidence item, it would be kept for In-Committee discussion.

NOTED.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McDowell, seconded by Councillor Adair, that the minutes be adopted.

7.4. Corporate Committee dated 12 April 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Alderman McIlveen proposed, seconded by Alderman Gibson, that the minutes be adopted.

Item 10 – UNITE Industrial Action Update and Item 17 – SPFG Minutes 31 March 2022

Councillor T Smith advised he wished to discuss Item 10 and Item 17 of this minute but such would be kept for In-Committee.

NOTED.

Item 6 – Response to Notice of Motion

Councillor Smart advised of wishing to discuss Item 6 but would do so In-Committee.

NOTED.

Item 6.1 – NOM 154 – Stress in Social Housing

Councillor MacArthur wished to discuss Item 6.1 referencing the housing stress response from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

(Councillor Greer declared an interest and was temporarily removed for the following discussion)

Councillor MacArthur explained that over the last three years, 719 temporary housing arrangement placements had occurred. In stark contrast in the 2022 year to date alone, there had been over 340 temporary placements, showing a significant increase. Furthermore, it denoted the current housing crisis being experienced throughout the Borough which outlined a very acute need for housing, especially for

families suffering housing stress. An example was proffered of a family of six from the Bangor area who had technically become homeless but had nowhere to go. Such a situation whereby a family of six could be placed at any location within Northern Ireland, but not until such times as they found themselves homeless was not adequate. Councillor MacArthur believed there needed to be further action to avoid such situations in the future.

Councillor Adair concurred with his colleague, advising that he had brought forth the motion on her behalf. He explained there was little movement with the current housing crisis but hoped it would be a priority for the next Assembly. The social housing shortage was further exacerbated during the pandemic through private landlords selling properties, leading to a shortage of private rentals, with the added difficulty of social housing having been sold off in the past. However, he welcomed some temporary accommodation that had been sourced, such as guest houses. It was also raised with the Housing Manager Owen Brady that the new Veteran Centre located in Portavogie could be using for temporary accommodation.

(Alderman M Smith joined the meeting at this stage – 7.18pm)

Councillor Edmund agreed that there was a shortage of social housing and explained that legislation currently sat within Stormont.

(Councillor Greer was returned to the meeting)

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Alderman Gibson, that the minutes be adopted.

7.5. Community and Wellbeing Committee 13 April 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

Councillor Thompson proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the minutes be adopted.

On issues of accuracy, Councillor Greer, on behalf of Councillor McRandal, referred to page 16 of the minutes wherein it was stated that a motion arose due to littering at Seapark. It is wished that such be amended from, 'Seapark,' to, '*...coastal path at Seahill.*'

NOTED.

Item 18 – Ards & North Down Social Supermarkets

Councillor Cathcart made comment on Item 18 of page 29, Social Supermarkets. This had been raised last month and had included references being made of an, 'us versus them or Bangor versus Ards issues.' Councillor Cathcart explained that location should not matter but that it appeared the concern was location instead of the service provided. In addition, two pilot programmes (Kilcooley & Ards) had been planned when in fact only one programme has taken place which only came to light when Councillor Gilmour provided the report last month. He enquired as to why

those issues had not been made clear to Councillors and the public and reiterated the focus should be on the wrap-around service for vulnerable people and support, not being transfixed on the location of the project.

Councillor Cathcart welcomed the forward movement of the project but believed that there may be a case that this be referred to the Audit Committee to ensure future projects were carried out with best practice in place.

The Chief Executive advised that should any Councillor feel it required, any matter could be referred to an Audit Committee. Councillor Cathcart did not wish to delay the scheme's progress but wanted to explain his concern as to the initial set up and practice used.

NOTED.

Item 22 – Ukrainian Resettlement

Councillor MacArthur advised from a resident across the Borough indicated that the Belfast Welcome Centre worked efficiently as a, 'one-stop shop,' but that some delays still existed such as the processing of visas which had improved as time went on. She enquired as to what extent there was demand for a local community advice centre in the Borough as intimated in the report.

The Director of Community & Wellbeing advised that matters had advanced as much as possible at the current stage but awaited the request from the Department for a centre to be set up here, at this stage it had not been reached.

NOTED.

Item 20 – Good Relations Cultural Expressions Programme

Councillor Armstrong-Cotter referenced item 20 on the report, Community Festival & Funding, discussing that she was not a member of the committee but watched the debate. She observed the Good Relations Officer was not present this evening, and so proceeded to ask the Director on what basis the report had been written under given that only one specific event had been focussed upon and what prompted such singularity.

The Director of Community & Wellbeing explained that it had been the issue of the particular site that had prompted the report; that early in the season, the owner of this site, the Education Authority, had contributed to the debate and their input had been taken into account when considering the forthcoming season.

Councillor Armstrong-Cotter felt the report had been submitted early given that no consultation had taken place with the affected group. In querying what discussions had/would take place with the bonfire builders or communities deprived of funding for fun-days, the Director of Community & Wellbeing advised that attempts had been made to arrange meetings and would be subject to ratification tonight. Meetings would take place with the bonfire building representatives and Chairs of the relevant community association groups.

Councillor Armstrong-Cotter advised she would have been keen to provide help in building better relations and would continue to extend that offer if necessary. She explained of both her and the community's desire to provide funded fun-days and provide a positive outcome. The Director of Community & Wellbeing intended to contact the Newtownards DEA members to provide updates after the election. Councillor Armstrong-Cotter referenced the need to build good relations and ensure communication took place particularly where funding for cultural expression existed.

NOTED.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Thompson, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the minutes be adopted.

(Having declared an interest in the following item Alderman McIlveen & Councillor P Smith left the meeting at this stage – 7.37pm)

7.5.1. Arising from Item 21 - Queens Platinum Jubilee Grants (File CW-150)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Community & Wellbeing stating that Council agreed in February 2022 to put in place a grants scheme to mark the Queens Platinum Jubilee. The scheme enabled local constituted community organisations within the Borough to avail of grant assistance from the Council to commemorate / celebrate the Queens Platinum Jubilee and in March 2022 the following was agreed:

"The Councils Community Festival Fund (CFF) is presently open for applications, closing on 21 March 2022 with a total budget of £90,000, with individual small grants available up to £1,000 each for local festivals, £4000 for Neighbourhood Festivals and £15,000 for Large Festivals. The CFF grants cannot be used to run Street Parties to celebrate the Jubilee and community and voluntary groups are being advised that a separate grant scheme will be available for that purpose.

In order to ensure parity between the two grant schemes it was recommended that the Jubilee Grants are increased, from a budget £350 each, as per the previous Queens Birthday Grants in 2016, up to a maximum of £1,000 each. The Jubilee Grants will open for applications week commencing 7 March 2022. As per the Councils Grants Policy the grants will be assessed by a panel of officers and their recommendations will be brought to Council in April 2022 for approval. A small proportion of the budget would be used to purchase party packs containing bunting, table clothes napkins etc"

A total of £40,000 was set aside for the grant scheme. £37,000 was allocated to the grant scheme with a further £3,000 allocated for official bunting, party wears. The latter would be made available to groups who were deemed ineligible to apply for more substantial funding for example, un-constituted groups etc. All funding must be expended over the Queens Platinum Jubilee official holiday from 2 June to 6 June 2022.

Eligible grant applications were scored by an officer panel. The pass mark was set at 45% and applications were measured against the following criteria: -

- Events / Activities to celebrate or commemorate the Queens Platinum Jubilee
- Events / Activities are suitably advertised and open and inclusive to the wider community
- Value for money is demonstrated
- Evaluation undertaken

The following was recommended to members at the Community and Wellbeing Committee on 13 April 2022:

Table 1. Successful Applicants

#	Name Of Group	Score	Eligible Amount	Amount Awarded
1	1st Newtownards Somme & Historical Society	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
2	Ballygowan & District CA	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
3	Ballyhalbert Community Association	75%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
4	Ballywalter Community Action Group	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
5	Bangor Ex Services Club	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
6	Bowtown Community Development Group	80%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
7	Breezemount CA	80%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
8	Carrowdore & District CA	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
9	Clandeboyne Village CA	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
10	Cloughey & District CA	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
11	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
12	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
13	Decorum NI	50%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
14	Donaghadee Community Development association	80%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
15	Donaghadee Heritage Preservation Company	60%	£700.00	£700.00
16	Eastend Residents association	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
17	Glen Ward Community Development Association	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
18	Harmoni	75%	£983.32	£983.32
19	Hollywood District Guides	65%	£985.00	£985.00
20	Kilcooley Community Forum	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
21	Kilcooley Womens Centre	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
22	Kirkistown Primary PTFA	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
23	Ladybird Childcare Services	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
24	Lisbarnett & Lisbane CA Ltd	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00

25	Loughries Men's Shed	70%	£995.00	£995.00
26	Millisle & District Community Association	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
27	Millisle Health & Wellbeing Group	60%	£500.00	£500.00
28	Millisle Youth Forum	65%	£950.00	£950.00
29	Mothers Union Branch St Philip & St James	60%	£145.00	£145.00
30	Portavogie Historical Society	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
31	Recharge CIC	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
32	Redburn Loughview Community Forum	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
33	Seahaven Park homes Residents Association	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
34	St Mark's Drop In	60%	£660.00	£660.00
35	The Regimental Association of the Ulster Defence Regiment (Bangor Branch)	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
36	West Winds Development Association	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
37	Whitehill Community Association	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
		Totals:	£34,918.32	£34,918.32

Table 2. Unsuccessful Applications

#	Name of Group	Score	Reason for unsuccessful application
1	Ards Rangers FC	Not Scored	Sports Club
2	Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church	Not Scored	Faith based organisation
3	Bangor District LOL No 18	Not Scored	Political / Faith Based organisation
4	Comber Methodist Church	Not Scored	Faith based organisation
5	Comber Recreational FC	Not Scored	Sports Club
6	Friends of Ravara Training Centre	Not Scored	No essential documents provided
7	Hollywood Shared Town	40%	Failed to reach pass mark
8	Newtownards Orange Hall Trustees Committee	Not Scored	Political organisation / Building Trustees
9	North Down Scout Centre	Not Scored	No constitution / Large Charitable organisation
10	Portavogie PTA	35%	Failed to reach pass mark
11	The Beacon	Not Scored	No essential documents provided

Of the 48 organisations which applied for funding under the scheme. 42 were deemed eligible with 39 being deemed successful in their application, meeting eligibility requirements and the criteria set out above Table 1 referred. Three applications were deemed eligible but could not be scored as they did not supply the required essential documentation see Table 2 above.

Further to the above recommendations presented at the Community and Wellbeing Committee on 13 April 2022, members agreed that the item be deferred until the full Council meeting in order that applications from all constituted community groups, who submitted the required supporting documents could be scored. The results of that process and the scoring panels recommendations were set out in tables 3 and 4 below.

Table 3. Successful Applicants

#	Name Of Group	Score	Eligible Amount	Amount Awarded
1	1st Newtownards Somme & Historical Society	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
2	Ballycrochan Presbyterian Church	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
3	Ballygowan & District CA	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
4	Ballyhalbert Community Association	75%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
5	Ballywalter Community Action Group	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
6	Bangor Ex Services Club	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
7	Bowtown Community Development Group	80%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
8	Breezemount CA	80%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
9	Carrowdore & District CA	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
10	Clandeboyne Village CA	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
11	Cloughey & District CA	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
12	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
13	Comber Recreational FC	45%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
14	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
15	Decorum NI	50%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
16	Donaghadee Community Development association	80%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
17	Donaghadee Heritage Preservation Company	60%	£700.00	£700.00
18	Eastend Residents association	70%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
19	Glen Ward Community Development Association	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
20	Harmoni	75%	£983.32	£983.32
21	Hollywood District Guides	65%	£985.00	£985.00
22	Kilcooley Community Forum	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
23	Kilcooley Womens Centre	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
24	Kirkistown Primary PTFA	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00

25	Ladybird Childcare Services	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
26	Lisbarnett & Lisbane CA Ltd	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
27	Loughries Men's Shed	70%	£995.00	£995.00
28	Millisle & District Community Association	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
29	Millisle Health & Wellbeing Group	60%	£500.00	£500.00
30	Millisle Youth Forum	65%	£950.00	£950.00
31	Mothers Union Branch St Philip & St James	60%	£145.00	£145.00
32	Portavogie Historical Society	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
33	Recharge CIC	60%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
34	Redburn Loughview Community Forum	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
35	Seahaven Park homes Residents Association	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
36	St Mark's Drop In	60%	£660.00	£660.00
37	The Regimental Association of the Ulster Defence Regiment (Bangor Branch)	55%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
38	West Winds Development Association	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
39	Whitehill Community Association	65%	£1,000.00	£1,000.00
		Totals:	£36,918.32	£36,918.32

Table 4. Unsuccessful Applications

#	Name of Group	Score	Reason for unsuccessful application
1	Ards Rangers FC	Not Scored	No supporting documentation i.e. constitution
2	Bangor District LOL No 18	60%	Political organisation/ not a constituted community group
3	Comber Methodist Church	40%	Failed to reach the pass mark
4	Friends of Ravara Training Centre	Not Scored	No essential documents provided
5	Hollywood Shared Town	40%	Failed to reach pass mark
6	Newtownards Orange Hall Trustees Committee	45%	Political organisation / not a constituted community group
7	North Down Scout Centre	45%	No constitution / Large Charitable organisation
8	Portavogie PTA	35%	Failed to reach pass mark
9	The Beacon	Not Scored	No essential documents provided

Members should note that the Queen Platinum Jubilee Grants Scheme had been run in line with Council's approval in March and in line with the Councils approved Grants Policy.

Should Council decide to fund ineligible applications i.e. political organisations Council would:

- not be complying with its agreed Grants Policy
- be opened to claims of unfairness from groups hitherto deemed ineligible, who may well have wished to apply for this funding stream but did not, due to the specified criteria.

Members would note in Tables 3 and 4 above:

- a wide range of eligible local community organisations had been successful in receiving funding under the Queens Platinum Jubilee Grant scheme.
- £36,918.32 had been expended from the available fund.
- each eligible and successful application was recommended to received 100% of the funding they applied for under the scheme.

It was further recommended that those groups who were not recommended for funding in Table 4 above were prioritised to receive Party Packs.

To date £2,700 had been spent from the £3,000 set aside to provide non-constituted community, voluntary and resident groups with street party packs.

It was further recommended that officers review the Councils Grant Aid Policy that was approved in 2016. In light of Councils wish to make small grants available to constituted groups who may wish to run street parties, to celebrate/commemorate future national events.

Members should also be aware that a Queens Platinum Jubilee Expression of Interest (EOI) for faith-based organisations opened on Monday 4 April and would close on Tuesday 3 May. This was to enable faith-based organisations to avail of £100 to provide refreshments marking the Queens Platinum Jubilee after their thanksgiving service.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve:

1. The recommendations set out in tables 3 and 4 detailed in this report.
2. That officers review the Councils Grant Aid Policy that was approved in 2016.in light of Councils wish to make small grants available to constituted groups who may wish to run street parties, to celebrate/commemorate future national events.

Alderman Irvine made a proposal which differed from the Recommendation and which was seconded by Councillor T Smith, that all constituted Groups whose score passed the pass mark be approved for Queens Platinum Jubilee Grants.

Alderman Irvine recognised some progress had been made in relation to faith-based organisations, such as Ballycrochan Church being a successful applicant, but expressed concern over other constituted groups who could not access funding due to being considered as political organisations; something he disagreed with.

Councillor T Smith shared the sentiments of his colleague and welcomed news that Ballycrochan Church had been granted access to funds and reiterated Alderman Irvine's point on political organisations, believing them to be cultural instead.

The Director of Community & Wellbeing explained that the specific groups referenced had supplied the constitution of the Grand Lodge rather than a local community development orientated constitution which another Orange Lodge had enclosed, and the assessment panel read some elements of Grand Lodge constitution as, 'having political outcomes', thence the results of their request for this particular funding. One of the criteria issued with the Jubilee grant was that organisations could not be political which may have influenced the decision of some organisations to not apply.

Councillor Cooper took exception to the above remark, explaining that District Lodges were under the umbrella of Grand Lodges and therefore he did not understand how they failed to meet criteria given his belief they were religious, not political. Therefore, Councillor Cooper would like to see the criteria amended, citing the Platinum Jubilee of the Defender of the Faith and how such criteria would be discriminatory.

The Director of Community & Wellbeing explained that Officers as part of the report recommended that they would review how grants of this nature were awarded to organisations, and that it may be that Members may wish to consider approving the report save those two, allowing the criteria to be reviewed and brought back for members' information. He cautioned that other organisations would have read the criteria as it stood and may not have applied accordingly which was a risk.

Councillor Cooper would ask Members if they would approve the inclusion of such groups given his belief the Lodges were religious and sporting groups.

Councillor Boyle stated that the criteria had been set and those that understood it and applied accordingly did so in good faith whilst others did not due to the criteria. If the Jubilee Grants issue was opened further, there could be issues arising from those who had not applied. Furthermore, if the current discussion were to take place looking toward a future grants scheme, it would be acceptable, but there would be an issue with such if doing so mid-process as that would appear to show the Council could not stand by criteria it had already set. As such, Councillor Boyle advised he could not support anything other than the current report.

Councillor Edmund explained that individuals with political opinions shall attend various organisations whether that be churches, lodges or chapels for example but that this did not have anything to do with political affiliation and that it was the sole decision of those who choose to partake in political life.

Councillor Walker shared the sentiments of Councillor Boyle regarding the changing of policies half-way through a grant scheme and how such could open up issues of discrimination and unfair treatment. Though he acknowledged Alderman Irvine's idea, Councillor Walker believed carrying it forward would set a dangerous precedent and so he could only accept the report as it was, without supporting the amendment.

Councillor Smart stated the exceptional and rare nature of a Platinum Jubilee and queried the peculiar situation of having some Lodges being eligible for the grant whilst others were not. Though he appreciated this was due to their constitutions, he wondered if it be appropriate to have Council representatives approach those Lodges to highlight why they were unsuccessful with their applications. The Director of Community & Wellbeing suggested that meeting with such Lodges to offer an explanation as to how to avail of future grants.

Alderman Keery proffered the following example. If one were to set Donaghadee and Groomsport areas to the side and focus on the Ballycrochan area which was 70% of the whole area, there were no community groups within it and that the only organisations providing youth work were the three churches in that area. The Ballycrochan Church applied under its church name however the facilities were used by several different groups and so it may have been more appropriate to apply for a grant under one of those alternatives. Due to such a wide set of users and organisations, he would have liked to see the church avail of this grant. The Director of Community & Wellbeing confirmed that Ballycrochan Church was going to receive a £1,000 grant for which Alderman Keery was most grateful.

In summary, Alderman Irvine explained that he was a member of a Lodge, but not with the Bangor District or that he had any connection with the Ards application. He believed the issue lay with the interpretation and that Lodges were not political organisations and as such, would stand by his want of putting forward his amendment.

Alderman Irvine called for a Recorded Vote to be taken.

(Councillor Gilmour joined the meeting at this stage – 7.55pm)

On being put to the meeting with 19 voting FOR, 11 voting AGAINST, 3 ABSTAINING and 7 ABSENT, the amendment was CARRIED.

A recorded vote had been requested and the voting was detailed below:

FOR (19)	AGAINST (11)	ABSTAINED (3)	ABSENT (7)
Aldermen	Aldermen	Alderman	Aldermen
Gibson	Carson	M Smith	McIlveen
Irvine	Girvan	Councillors	Wilson
Keery	McDowell	Brooks	Councillors
Menagh	Councillors	McClellan	Dunlop
Councillors	Boyle		Egan
Adair	Douglas		Mathison
Armstrong-Cotter	Greer		McKimm
Blaney	Kendall		P Smith
Cathcart	McAlpine		
Chambers	McKee		
Cooper	McRandal		
Cummings	Walker		
Edmund			
Gilmour			
Johnson			
Kennedy			
MacArthur			
Smart			
T Smith			
Thompson			

Councillor Walker wished to know following the vote what would happen now to such groups that had not applied but may have actually been able to pass criteria with this change.

The Chief Executive advised the scheme was closed and the Council had now made an amendment to the recommendation from the officers in relation to the outcome. Whilst the Council in making that decision would not be reopening the grants scheme.

Councillor Greer stated that she was concerned about this process and the Chief Executive advised this could be discussed later in-committee.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor T Smith, with 19 voting FOR, 11 voting AGAINST, 3 ABSTAINING and 7 ABSENT, that all constituted Groups whose score passed the pass mark be approved for Queens Platinum Jubilee Grants.

8. RESOLUTIONS

On the proposal of Councillor P Smith; seconded by Councillor McClellan, Items 8.1 to 8.5 were dealt with together for noting.

8.1. Newry Mournie & Down District Council – Increased Energy Costs (Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Correspondence dated 15 March 2022 from Newry Mourne and Down District Council detailing an emergency motion which was passed at a meeting held on 7 March 2022. The motion about increased energy costs was detailed in the attached appendix. Council was being asked to give this consideration and respond appropriately.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers the correspondence from Newry Mourne and District Council.

RESOLVED on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the correspondence be noted.

8.2. Newry Mourne & Down District Council – Opposed to Planned Changes to Red Diesel (Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Correspondence dated 15 March 2022 from Newry Mourne and Down District Council detailing an emergency motion which was passed at a meeting held on 7 March 2022. The motion about opposing the planned changes to red diesel usage by the HRMC was detailed in the attached appendix. Council was being asked to give this consideration and respond appropriately.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers the correspondence from Newry Mourne and District Council.

RESOLVED on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the correspondence be noted.

8.3. Fermanagh & Omagh District Council - Continuing Healthcare Provision

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council detailing that at the Council meeting held on 5 April, members asked that the Chief Executive wrote to the Commissioner for Older People to commend him for progressing judicial review proceedings against the Department of Health regarding the Department's changes to continuing healthcare.

Members also requested that he wrote to all other Councils in Northern Ireland to encourage them to make similar representations to the Commissioner. The Council trusts you will give this issue due consideration

RECOMMENDED that Council considers the correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

RESOLVED on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the correspondence be noted.

8.4. Fermanagh & Omagh District Council - Independent Review of all deaths with potential issues around domestic violence

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council detailing that at the recent Council meeting held on 5 April 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion: "This Council calls on the Chief Constable of the Police Service of Northern Ireland to instigate an independent, strategic review of the handling of all deaths in which there were established or potential issues around domestic violence and in particular those which were not investigated or treated as murder, or death was deemed to be from suicide or accidental injury. This review should determine all aspects of each case including decisions taken by senior officers and explanations for same, and if all procedures and protocols were fully adhered to and all avenues of investigation exhausted. In addition this council calls on the Chief Constable to establish a mechanism whereby officers of any rank can raise concerns as to the circumstances and investigations of such deaths and indicate if they are being overruled and/or ordered by superiors not to pursue these cases. Further, this council calls on all Health and Social Care Trusts to either expand "Whistleblower" Policies or create a separate, similar channel for all treating staff to voice concerns on the presentation of victims, with support for staff in alerting the Police Service of Northern Ireland and ensuring said concerns are fully taken on board and appropriately documented. This motion should also be shared with the Minister for Justice, the Police Ombudsman, the Policing Board, the Commissioner for Human Rights and all district councils with a view to adopting the requests/recommendations contained therein."

The Council trusts that you will support this Motion.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers the correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

RESOLVED on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the correspondence be noted.

8.5. Fermanagh & Omagh District Council - Recruiting staff within the hospitality and tourism sectors

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Correspondence dated 12 April 2022 from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council detailing that at the recent Council meeting held on 5 April 2022, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council adopted the following Motion: "This Council calls on the UK Government and the NI Executive to urgently review the current deficit experienced by employers in recruiting staff within the hospitality & tourism sectors. This has become a major crisis not only locally but throughout the entirety of Northern Ireland. Further, that this Council writes to Kevin Foster MP, Minister for Immigration in the UK Government, and associated Stormont Ministers, to ask that immediate measures are instigated to alleviate the recruitment difficulties in this vital sector to our economy. It is recommended that this Motion is circulated to all other Councils in Northern Ireland seeking their support in lobbying on behalf of the Tourism and Hospitality providers." The Council trusts that you will support this Motion

The Council trusts that you will support this Motion.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers the correspondence from Fermanagh & Omagh District Council.

RESOLVED on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the correspondence be noted.

9. DEPUTATION REQUEST – PADEL TENNIS

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive advising that Mr Liam Botham had requested a date to make a presentation to Council outlining his plans for the creation of a Padel Tennis Facility in the Borough.

RECOMMENDED that Council agrees to the deputation request from Mr Botham and this be referred to the Community and Wellbeing Committee.

RESOLVED on the proposal of Councillor T Smith, seconded by Councillor Greer, that Council agrees to the deputation request from Mr Botham and this be referred to the Community and Wellbeing Committee.

9.1. DELEGATED AUTHORITY – CONSULTATION ON PRN AND PERN

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that DAERA had recently written to stakeholders to advise that the Government response to the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for Packaging consultation had now been published and was available to view through the following link:

[Packaging and packaging waste: introducing Extended Producer Responsibility - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/packaging-and-packaging-waste-introducing-extended-producer-responsibility)

DAERA had also advised that a consultation was being launched on Reforms to the Packaging Waste Recycling Note (PRN) and Packaging Waste Export Recycling Note (PERN) systems and Operator Approval. This consultation could be accessed through the following links:

<https://consult.defra.gov.uk/packaging-extended-producer-responsibility/reforms-to-the-prn-and-pern-systems/>

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/reforms-packaging-waste-recycling-note-prn-and-packaging-waste-export-recycling-note-pern-systems>

The PRN and PERN consultation closes on 21 May 2022. A draft Council response would be prepared by officers and provided to the Environment Committee on 4 May 2022. In order to ensure it may be issued before the consultation closed, it was recommended that Council agreed to grant delegated authority to the Committee to sign off and issue the response.

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RECOMMENDED that Council agrees that the Environment Committee shall have delegated authority to consider and agree for issue a Council response to the consultation.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Kendall, that the recommendation be adopted.

10. GRANT OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE (FILE LR 100 / 90101)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that An application had been received for the grant of entertainment licence as follows:

Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club

Applicant: Mr Roger Lees, 88 Princetown Road, Bangor

Days and Hours: Monday to Sunday during the permitted hours during which intoxicating liquor may be sold or consumed on these premises under the Registration of Clubs Order (NI) 1996.

Type of entertainment: Indoor dancing, singing and music or any other entertainment of a like kind.

RECOMMENDED that the Council grants the application.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

11. INVITATION FROM IRISH GUARDS TO CEREMONY AT WINDSOR CASTLE

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Head of Administration advising that The Irish Guards were due to be presented with their new colours at a ceremony at Windsor Castle on Tuesday 17 May 2022. Given their impending Freedom of the Borough, Major Niall Hall, Regimental Adjutant, had invited members of the Council's Freedom of the Borough working group to attend this ceremony.

It was agreed at Council in March 2022 that two officers would be nominated to attend. The Mayor had also subsequently received an invitation and would like to attend. Flight and subsistence costs would be approximately £150 and could be met from the Mayor's allowance.

RECOMMENDED that the Mayor is permitted to attend the Irish Guards ceremony in Windsor Castle, London on 17 May 2022.

At this stage the Mayor invited the Chief Executive to provide members with a brief update.

The Chief Executive reminded members that approval had already been sought for two officers to attend and now permission was also being sought for the Mayor to also attend. He added that it had subsequently come to light that the event would not finish until 7pm making it impossible to make the last flight home to Belfast at 7.40pm. Therefore approval was sought for one night's accommodation to be paid at approximately £100 per head for the Mayor and two officers to attend.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Greer, seconded by Councillor Cummings, that the recommendation be adopted and furthermore that approval was granted for one night's accommodation to be paid at approximately £100 per person for the Mayor and two officers attending.

12. REQUEST TO LIGHT UP COUNCIL BUILDINGS FOR FOSTER CARE FORTNIGHT (FILE LP37)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration detailing the following:

Requestor

HSC NI Foster Care

Reason for request

To mark the start of Foster Care Fortnight (9 to 22 May 2022)

Dates and colours

Turquoise and yellow on 9 May 2022, and annually thereafter, at an available date during the fortnight. The fortnight normally falls during the middle two weeks of May.

Background information

Foster Care Fortnight was an annual UK wide celebration of Foster Care. HSC NI Foster Care urgently needed more people to come forward to offer foster homes to children in care right across Northern Ireland. As the statutory authority for Looked After Children, it was their responsibility to ensure they had a wide pool of foster carers available to meet the needs of the children requiring foster homes. Since the beginning of the pandemic, they had advised that the number of children and young people coming into care had increased, at the same time, the number of people who had enquired to foster had dropped by approximately 23%. At the moment, there were over 2,800 children & young people living in foster care in NI. They used Foster Care Fortnight as an opportunity to publicly thank their existing foster carers for their commitment to children in their care and as an opportunity to raise awareness about the need for more short term and longer-term foster carers in all areas.

HSC Northern Ireland Foster Care was the statutory body with responsibility to all Looked After Children in Northern Ireland. They were made up of all 5 HSC Trusts' fostering teams across NI, including SEHSCT, and were the largest recruitment agency for foster carers in NI. They had advised they not only recruit carers; they also train and support them in their fostering role.

Does it meet policy requirements?

Yes - request had been received from a non-profit making organisation based in the Borough to mark a significant occasion.

RECOMMENDED that Council accedes to the request and lights up Council buildings in turquoise and yellow on the date requested and annually thereafter.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Councillor Kendall, that the recommendation be adopted.

13. COMMUNITY FESTIVAL FUNDING (FILE CD27) (Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Community & Wellbeing stating that the Community Festivals Fund (CFF) was jointly provided by the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Council. The fund was established in recognition of the positive contribution that festivals could make to communities and to the local economy. The CFF had been divided into three categories:

- Local Festival: of up to £1,000 for a local community festival that attracted up to 1500 attendees
- Neighbourhood Festival; up to a maximum of £4,000 attracting between 1,501 - 5,000 attendees from neighbouring areas/towns/villages
- Large Scale Festival; up to £15,000, at least three days in duration and attracting a minimum of 5000 attendees.

Although a Letter of Offer (LoO) had not yet been received from DfC, and the Department had advised that in the incoming year quarterly LoO's would be issued to Councils. It was expected that the total budget available for the fund was circa £91,000.

The Council invited applications for the 2022/23 Community Festival Fund with a closing date of 21 March at 4.00pm.

In keeping with the success of the YouTube Guidance Video last year, replacing the traditional grant application workshops 52 hits were recorded.

By the closing date 34 applications were received requesting funding totalling £100,200. The applications were assessed and scored by the Community Development Manager, Community Development Officer, Events Officer, and Community Development Grants Officer, using the following criteria.

Grant Criteria - Local	Max Points
Community Involvement	5
Promotes Equality	5
Tackling Poverty & Social Exclusion	5
Volunteering, attendance & Community Participation	5
Opportunities to improve skills/training	5
Marketing & PR	5

Value for Money	5
Project Evaluation	5
Total	40
Grant Criteria –	Max Points
Neighbourhood/Large	
Aim and objectives of organisation & experience in organising festivals	5
Capacity of Participants	5
Benefit to local community & economy	5
Need and benefit for festival	5
Outcomes and Impacts	5
Promotes cultural tradition	5
Equality/community cohesion	5
Tackling poverty and social exclusion	5
Encourages participation/attendance	5
Training & skills provided	5
Value for money	5
Total	55

Festivals that included a commemorative element were also scored out of five, with a total possible scoring of 40 (Local) 55 (Neighbourhood and Large). It should be noted that no group applied for a Commemorative event.

A 20% weighting was applied to: i) applications for festivals taking place in the top 10% of the most deprived wards in the Council area, (using the DfC Weighting Tool) and ii) from festivals that specifically target those who were socially excluded. The assessment panel agreed a pass mark for the Local Festivals of 45% (score 18) and a pass mark for the Neighbourhood and Large Festival of 45% (24.75). The marks were totalled and calculated as a percentage of 100.

There was a broad spectrum of applications received, some of which were very detailed and strong in meeting the DfC criteria and others were less so. On the completion of the assessment process, the panel agreed that:

- Seven festival applications did not reach the pass mark of 45%. All applications lacked detailed responses to some of the questions and therefore scored under the required pass mark.

Successful applications were classified into the three categories. The total funding requested from the 13 Local Festival applicants was £12,980, applications for six Neighbourhood Festivals totalled £17,980 and four Large Festivals requesting £53,800. On the completion of the assessment process, the value of the funding programme of successful applications totalled £84,760 which was slightly than the available budget. CD Team recognised that several groups who were regular applicants to CFF fund had instead made application to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee Fund, which would explain this slight underspend.

	Number of applicants	Total value of funding	% funding awarded
Local Festival	13	£12,980	100%
Neighbourhood Festival	6	£17,980	100%
Large Festival	4	£84,760	100%
Unsuccessful applicants	7		N/A
Ineligible applicants	4		N/A

Subject to approval successful applicants would be awarded the following –

Local Festivals	100% of the amount requested
Neighbourhood Festivals	100% of the requested amount.
Large Festivals	100% of the amount requested.

Appendix I listed the groups which applied, the recommended scores, the funds requested and the amount to be allocated based on the budget available. Seven applications failed to meet the required pass mark and four applicants were ineligible.

All awards to groups for festivals must use the funds before the end of the grant period 31 March 2023.

Given the CFF LoO from the Department of Communities was not going to be available to Council until the end of June 2022, it was recommended that awards to successful applicants, whose Festivals commence or were to be held between March and June 2022 (Q1) were made at risk, from the Councils contribution of £60,000 which match funded the Departments estimated contribution of £31,000 to the total CFF budget of circa £91,000.

The Q1 Festivals were:

Group/Organisation	Name of Festival	Amount Requested
Friends of St Patricks PS Ballygalget	End of school festival	£1,000
Millisle Regeneration	The Big Lunch	£1,000
North Down YMCA	YMCA Fusion Festival	£980
Polish Association	International Childrens Festival	£4,000
Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	Comber Fringe Festival	£15,000
Donaghadee Community Development Association	Donaghadee Summer Festival	£15,000
Total		£36,980

RECOMMENDED that Council approves:

1. The recommendations detailed in the attached tables in Appendix 1
2. The award at risk LoO to successful applicants whose Festivals commence or are to be held between April and June 2022 (Q1)

(Alderman Girvan declared an interest and excused herself from the meeting at 8.22pm)

Alderman Irvine proposed, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman Irvine referred to the number of applications in table five and queried the absence of reasoning of ineligibility and sought clarification.

The Director of Community and Wellbeing apologised and explained he had noticed that the table had not been completed fully. Numbers 31 and 33 were sports clubs and so they fell under a different grants scheme and were pointed toward Sports Grants. Similarly, Portico was an Arts event and they too were directed to the appropriate scheme. With regard to residents, paperwork had not been supplied and so could not be supported.

Councillor Thompson welcomed the opportunities for communities across the borough and praised the work of volunteers and their worthiness to funds. He appreciated their hard work and that of council officers in the process.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

14. SEALING DOCUMENTS

RESOLVED: - (On the proposal of Councillor Greer, seconded by Councillor Thompson)

THAT the Seal of the Council be affixed to the following documents:-

- (a)** Lease from Ards and North Down Borough Council to Maxol Oil (Gemma Brown)
- (b)** Grant of Right of Burial nos. 14185-14207
- (c)** Planning Agreement under Section 76 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 relating to Lands between 58 Kinnegar Drive and the Pavilions Office Park, Holywood, Co Down.

15. TRANSFERS OF RIGHTS OF BURIAL

The following transfer applications were received:-

Comber Cemetery Section 21 Grave 36 Latimer to Gregory.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Alderman Gibson, that the information be noted.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION STATUS REPORT

(Appendix V)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Chief Executive detailing that the Status Report in respect of Notice of Motions was attached.

This was a standing item on the Council agenda each month and its aim was to keep members updated on the outcome of Motions. Please note that as each Motion was dealt with it would be removed from the report.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Gibson, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

17. NOTICES OF MOTION

17.1. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Adair and Edmund

That Council Task Officers to work with the woodland trust to develop and enhance community trails at Carrowood, Carrowdore as a potential peace plus project.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Adair, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Community & Wellbeing Committee.

17.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P Smith

That Council facilitates the Comber TT Soapbox Race by helping to organize insurance for the event.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cooper, seconded by Councillor Cummings, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Corporate Committee.

17.3. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors McRandal and Douglas

That this Council recognises the environmental damage caused by modern day packaging, much of which is disposed of in landfill or as litter. This Council agrees that producers, not ratepayers, should be responsible for the net costs of managing packaging waste and that litter payments must be included in any Extended Producer Responsibility scheme.

This Council tasks Officers with bringing back a report detailing what initiatives Council have undertaken to encourage businesses within the Borough to review, change and/or reduce the packaging they use. The report should include analysis of achievements and challenges encountered to date and outline further initiatives that

could be undertaken to encourage businesses to change or reduce the packaging they use.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McRandal, seconded by Councillor Douglas, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Environment Committee.

17.4. Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Irvine and Alderman Keery

That this Council notes with the concern the recent decision taken to no longer lock playgrounds in the borough. That a report is brought back on the matter that will look at maintaining a locking up schedule that will include the Bloomfield and Rathgill playparks.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Alderman Keery, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Community & Wellbeing Committee.

17.5. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Dunlop and McKimm

This Council commends and recognises the extraordinary efforts of the Samaritans during the Covid pandemic and beyond. The ability of the volunteers to react quickly and effectively during the pandemic and to continue to offer support to anyone who needs a listening ear day or night, 365 days a year, is to be commended and congratulated. This Council recognises the mental health challenges facing our society and agrees to light up our council buildings in green (the colour of the Samaritans) on the evening of 22 December by way of demonstrating that the Samaritans are always there for all within society.

Before asking for proposal, Mayor Brooks advised this motion is already an existing policy and thus would require no notice of motion. Councillor McKee advised it would be inappropriate for him to speak on behalf of members who were not present, but that this may be withdrawn at a later date if they so choose.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Kendall, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Corporate Committee.

Circulated for Information

- (a) DfC Consultation Outcome Report – Intermediated Rent (Correspondence attached)
- (b) Department of Health – Health Inequalities Annual Report 2022 (Correspondence attached)

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the items which were Circulated for Information be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

C.27.04.2022PM

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RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the public/press be excluded from the undernoted items of confidential business.

(Alderman Menagh left the meeting at this stage – 8.32pm)

7.3. Regeneration and Development Committee dated 7 April 2022

Item 14 - Portaferry Ropewalk Improvement Scheme Update

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

7.4. Corporate Committee dated 12 April 2022

Item 17 - SPFG Minutes dated 31 March 2022 – Town Centre Investment Strategy – Civic/Office Rationalisation, Newtownards Citizen Hub Outline Business Cases

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

RECESS

The meeting went into Recess at this stage 9.00pm and resumed at 9.10pm.

7.5.1. Community and Wellbeing Committee 13 April 2022 - Arising from Item 21 - Queens Platinum Jubilee Grants

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

18. TENDER AWARD TO DELIVER HGV TRAINING ON BEHALF OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN LABOUR MARKET PARTNERSHIP (FILE ED123)

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

19. NOTIFICATION OF APPLICATION FOR A LIQUOR LICENCE - COPELAND DISTILLERY (Appendix V)

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

20. USE OF COUNCIL LAND IN DONAGHADEE AND MILLISLE - BBC DRAMA SERIES HOPE STREET 2 (Appendix VI)

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

21. UNITE INDUSTRIAL ACTION FURTHER UPDATE

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

*****NOT FOR PUBLICATION*****

SCHEDULE 6 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)

READMITTANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that the public/press be readmitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 10.33pm

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A special meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held remotely via Zoom on Monday, 9 May 2022 commencing at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: The Mayor (Councillor Brooks)

Aldermen:	Carson	McDowell
	Gibson	McIlveen
	Girvan	M Smith
	Irvine	Wilson
	Keery	

Councillors:	Adair	MacArthur
	Armstrong-Cotter	McAlpine
	Chambers	McClellan
	Cummings	McKee
	Douglas	McRandal
	Edmund	Smart
	Greer (7.50 pm)	Smith, P
	Irvine	Smith, T
	Kendall	Walker

Officers: Chief Executive (S Reid), Director of Finance and Performance (S Christie), Director of Community and Wellbeing (G Bannister), Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Corporate Communications Manager (C Jackson), Democratic Services Manager (J Wilson) and Democratic Services Officer (H Loebnau)

1. PRAYER

The Mayor (Councillor Brooks) welcomed everyone to the meeting and then invited the Chief Executive to read the Council prayer.

NOTED.

2. APOLOGIES

The Mayor sought apologies at this stage and noted apologies had been received from Councillors Boyle, Thompson, Gilmour and Cooper. Apologies for lateness had been received from Councillor T Smith and Councillor Greer.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Mayor sought Declarations of Interest at this stage and none were declared.

NOTED.

4. TRIBUTES TO THE LATE ALDERMAN MENAGH

The Mayor began by indicating that this Special Council meeting had been called in order to pay tribute to the late Alderman Menagh. However, firstly he wished to welcome Councillor Steven Irvine to his first Council meeting and Members would be aware that Councillor Irvine had replaced Alderman Menagh on the Council since the previous Thursday. He hoped that Councillor Irvine would settle in well over the coming weeks.

The Mayor said that it had been with great sadness that he had learned that Alderman James Menagh, known as 'Jimmy', had passed away last weekend, following a long period of illness.

Alderman Menagh's funeral had taken place on Saturday morning at St Marks Parish Church in Newtownards. There was a huge turnout at the church and on the streets around it. The town had come to a complete standstill, especially on Frances and Regent Street, with people coming to pay respects, as the funeral cortege made its way to Movilla Cemetery. It had been such a telling tribute by so many to the countless lives the Alderman had touched and the numerous causes he had supported.

Alderman Menagh was an Independent Member of Ards and North Down Borough Council, representing the Electoral Area of Newtownards. He was first elected to Ards Borough Council in 2011 and then to Ards and North Down Borough Council in 2015. He was then greatly honoured to be elected as an Alderman in 2019.

News of his death had seen an outpouring of tributes across the Borough, and in particular from the community in Newtownards, where Alderman Menagh was cherished for his hard work and dedication and where residents referred to him as 'Mr Ards', which was itself a testament to his love for the town.

Alderman Menagh greatly valued his Independent stance; proudly proclaiming that this spared him from the matters of party politics – enabling him to focus in his own particular way on understanding the key issues facing his community and working collaboratively to address them.

His straightforward and direct approach endeared him to people and no doubt helped to get the job done. It would be remiss of him as Mayor not to applaud his tremendous fundraising efforts to support all the causes he had been involved in.

The Mayor went on to state that Alderman Menagh had been deeply passionate about sport and the positive changes it could make to individuals and society. That was reflected in his keen involvement in Council initiatives such as the Ards and

North Down Sports Awards, Sports Forum and the Blair Mayne Bursary. He had a love of local football and was deeply involved with Greenwell Star Football Club. The Club paid a beautiful tribute to him, referring to him as their 'Honorary Life President.'

He acknowledged Alderman Menagh's determination and courage in fighting his illness. He had been ever the professional with endless resilience and had even attended the Council meeting on the Wednesday night before he passed away, working hard to the end.

The Mayor concluded that Alderman Menagh would be dearly missed by all his Council colleagues as well as residents and the many local causes he had represented. Council staff too paid tribute to Jimmy who, while being strong minded and firm, was always respectful with staff, engaging with many different teams and initiatives. He would indeed be missed greatly.

There was no doubt that we would continue to hear much about Alderman Menagh's contributions to society during the meeting and for some time to come. He expressed the thoughts and deepest condolences of the Council to the family circle - partner Nichola and boys Bradley, Tyler and Casen, daughter Julie and her husband Stephen, son Gary, grandchildren Dylan, Jersey and Molly, sisters Ann and Eleanor. He understood that many from Jimmy's family were watching this Special Council meeting tonight from home and hoped that the warm tributes which would be made would bring comfort in the times ahead.

The Mayor then invited Members to make their own tributes and he considered it to be appropriate to ask Councillor Irvine to begin since he had taken the place of Alderman Menagh on the Council.

Councillor Irvine thanked the Mayor and Councillors for welcoming him and began by taking the opportunity to give thanks on behalf of Alderman Menagh's partner Nichola and his daughter Julie for the help and messages of support the family had received from Jimmy's friends and colleagues on the Council over the past week. He gave special thanks to the Chief Executive, the Mayor, Councillor Brooks, and Councillors Boyle and Cooper.

He also placed on record his thanks to the people of Newtownards who had taken the time to attend the funeral service on Saturday morning. The funeral had been a sight to behold with so many people lining the streets of Newtownards to pay their respects, and he had only ever seen the town so crowded on the Twelfth of July when the celebrations were taking place in Newtownards. It had been astonishing to see shops pulling down their shutters as a mark of respect and the town coming to a standstill to catch one last glimpse of the local hero that they had come to cherish and adore as he made his final journey through the town that he loved so much.

Councillor Irvine explained that he had been inundated with messages of thanks for organising the funeral arrangements but stated that he was only carrying out what Alderman Menagh had already requested. The Alderman had spent months putting everything in place so that the burden was not left to others and that it had been an absolute privilege to make sure his last wishes were honoured. The Councillor

hoped everything had gone as Jimmy would have wanted but he was also aware that Jimmy was a 'stickler' for detail and was still expecting a phone call from him giving off about forgetting something or telling him that something had not gone as he had planned.

He was sure that as many Members were aware Jimmy loved a photo opportunity and a couple of weeks before he passed Councillor Irvine had received a phone call from him in his usual straight to the point matter of fact manner. Jimmy had asked him where he was, explaining that Councillor Cooper was in West Winds and that he should get himself down there to have a picture taken. To the Councillor's regret he had been in Downpatrick at the time and was unable to make it back to get that one last picture with Jimmy and Councillor Cooper. However, that was just one side of Jimmy and how he liked to promote himself and the work that he was doing in the community.

At his funeral service on Saturday the congregation had been made aware of the private side to Jimmy and there were many occasions when he had taken it upon himself to help people in need away from the public eye. He could recount numerous occasions when he went to fix broken lights, smoke alarms in people's homes, repair damage done to homes during a storm or by taking supplies to those most in need and vulnerable at the height of the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions. He always put others ahead of himself and would have done anything to help even while knowing that his cancer was terminal. Councillor Irvine also remembered a time when Jimmy's beloved Greenwell Star received a hefty fine and within two days of finding out about it Jimmy had paid it out of his own pocket and had been made his friend promise that he was not to worry about it or even mention it again – his generosity was second to none.

Councillor Irvine explained that these were just some memories that he wanted to share of the great man and that there were far too many more to mention. Jimmy would always and forever be number one to him and to many other people of Newtownards. He hoped that going forward he could carry on his friend's legacy and build upon the fantastic work that he had done.

Before inviting others to speak the Mayor explained that Councillor Boyle and Councillor Cooper, who were not able to make the meeting this evening had left tributes but before he would read those he invited Alderman McIlveen to speak and he would be followed by the other Party Group Leaders.

Alderman McIlveen spoke on behalf of the DUP grouping in the Council and expressed his sincerest condolences to the Menagh family and to Jimmy's partner Nichola on the passing of Alderman James Menagh. In his remarks he would refer to him as Alderman Menagh despite everyone referring to him as Jimmy outside the Council Chamber and he also knew well that if he was present at the meeting he would be reminding him that it was 'Alderman' if he forgot. Alderman Menagh had frequently said that being a Member of the Council was his proudest achievement and even after he was told that his cancer was terminal he had insisted that he was going to keep attending Council meetings for as long as he could and indeed he had kept his word attending up until the Wednesday before he died. Alderman McIlveen said that his fellow Members and Council officers had been deeply moved by his

continued presence at meetings and his commitment and indeed, most would have wondered if things were going well had he not be present.

Whenever Alderman McIlveen spoke to people in the town who had crossed Alderman Menagh's path what was important to them were his thoughts and kindness and passion for the town he represented. While Alderman Menagh was not shy in having his photograph taken many of his acts of kindness were carried out within the community and away from the camera deliberately avoiding publicity. One could not help but be impressed by his ability to remember everyone's name and the interest he took in people and their families. It was for the reason that people were important to him that Alderman Menagh became important to them too. He finished by saying that while political representatives hoped for respect from those who voted for them Alderman Menagh had much more because his electorate adored him. The Alderman was an authentic voice for Newtownards and would be a tough act to follow.

Councillor P Smith spoke on behalf of the UUP Group and began by expressing his condolences to Alderman Menagh's partner Nichola and the family circle. Like many others he had had the privilege of attending Alderman Menagh's funeral the previous Saturday and the numbers who had attended, and the genuine heart felt affection for him from all those there had paid its own tribute. The eulogies at the funeral service rightly highlighted Jimmy's larger than life character, his tremendous work on behalf of his community, his contribution to local sport across the Borough and his love for his home town of Newtownards. On Saturday Jimmy was no doubt looking down as his funeral plans were played out under warm sunshine – which he even managed to organise – and as the Minister mentioned would have uttered his favourite compliment, 'Outstanding!'

Everyone had their personal stories to share of the man. Councillor P Smith remembered that he had first met him when they were elected to the old legacy Ards Council but had only really got to know Jimmy when he was Mayor and had given him a lift to a reception in Portaferry for the Down Hurling team who had just won the Christy Ring Cup. They had had the opportunity for a good chat during the journey there and back which he hoped had developed into a friendship. He recalled that you would always hear Jimmy before you saw him and he remembers being in Tesco or around Newtownards and would hear 'Mr Mayor' and you would look round and there was Jimmy, and this was two years after he had been Mayor!

The main thing about Jimmy that stood out for him was the work he did for the people in the community. He would give him a call asking to arrange a meeting or to source help for an individual or family. Jimmy's tenacity always got an outcome and those who worked with him were aware that he would be back again and again but always in a nice way and always thankful for any help which was offered. He repeated that as had been said previously Jimmy was a gentleman and the way he worked exemplified that. Councillor P Smith concluded by asserting his tremendous respect for Jimmy, for his compassion, his unending hard work for his community and the results he achieved. He was certain that we would not see the likes of him again since he was truly unique.

Alderman McDowell was next to speak on behalf of the Alliance Party Grouping. He offered his condolences and sympathy to Alderman Jimmy Menagh's family and friends on his sad passing.

Alderman McDowell explained that he had known Alderman Menagh since his election in 2011 and that was the last time that he had had more votes than him and it had never happened again. Jimmy had been a passionate advocate for the town of Newtownards, the town he loved so much. He was a larger-than-life character with a big personality but also had a compassionate and sensitive side and was often moved by the plight of some of the constituents he helped.

It was not a secret that Alderman Menagh and he had different views on some political issues, but they were in agreement on most issues regarding the wellbeing and improvement of Newtownards. When he met Jimmy around Newtownards he was always courteous and friendly and there was a mutual respect as Members representing Newtownards.

He explained that Alderman Menagh, as a public representative, had a great reputation for getting things done. Everyone in Newtownards knew Jimmy and Jimmy knew nearly everyone by name and he witnessed him in action outside polling stations in Newtownards, greeting and bantering with all the people he knew. He may not have got all their votes but he did get a sizable personal vote in Newtownards.

He remembered fondly that Alderman Menagh used to correct anyone who called the Council, North Down and Ards Borough Council and he, along with other Ards Councillors had campaigned to have the name changed to the rightful title of Ards and North Down Borough Council. He would also correct anyone who called the Town Hall in Newtownards the Ards Arts Centre.

He finished by saying that other Councillors would have many more stories than he had and that Jimmy would be missed by many people on the Council and by a large number of residents in Newtownards. Having attended his funeral service on Saturday it had been a testament to see the large crowds lining the streets in Newtownards when his cortege had passed on its way to Movilla Cemetery. He hoped that Alderman Menagh would rest in peace. He welcomed Councillor Steven Irvine to the Council and hoped to work with him to improve Newtownards and all the Ards and North Down Borough area for all of its residents.

Councillor McKee, on behalf of Green Party group within the Council, expressed that it had been lovely to hear the tributes paid to Jimmy so far and although he had not had an opportunity to get to know Alderman Menagh well he had always been a friendly face to bump in to whether that was at an event or at a meeting. His unique manner in which he showed his steadfast support for Newtownards' interests would be a loss to the Council. He had been struck during the week by something said by a resident of Newtownards, that when they had moved to the area some years ago they were contacted by Alderman Menagh to help over a parking issue near St Finnian's Primary School. Alderman Menagh had not been the only Councillor they had contacted but Jimmy was the one to resolve the problem. He was aware that that story of assisting those in need would be far from unique during his three terms

in the Council. His dedication to public service would be his legacy and why he had earned so much respect from the residents of Newtownards, no matter what their background. His thoughts and those of his party colleagues were with Jimmy's family and friends during these difficult times.

The Mayor read out the tribute from Councillor Boyle who said that since Alderman Menagh's election to the legacy Ards Borough Council and subsequently the Ards and North Down Borough Council as initially Councillor and later Alderman Menagh, a friendship had been struck up between Jimmy and himself.

He recalled Jimmy's first day where Councillor Boyle had invited him to sit beside him and he had sensed that feeling of not being sure what to do and something akin to the first day at school. However, they immediately struck up a welcoming warm and at ease relationship. They both soon understood that they came from entirely opposing backgrounds and yet from day one there was total respect for one another and that understanding had created a strong bond of friendship. They understood that from time to time they would be on completely different pages and that their views would be poles apart, as was demonstrated within the debates of some Council related issues and concerns. After the debate they were always able to have a handshake and a cup of tea/coffee afterwards.

He recalled that on several occasions he would have travelled to Jimmy's beloved West Winds, either to collect him or to leave him home from Council or outside body meetings, that had become the natural thing to do.

The late Alderman Menagh was clearly, and this was confirmed from the massive turnout at his funeral service in St. Marks Church along with the subsequent streets being lined with mourners throughout his beloved Newtownards, demonstrated that he was Mr Newtownards – Newtownards' unofficial Mayor.

He went on to say that on one occasion Councillor Boyle was offered an Aldermanship within the Council and whilst that was a respecting gesture he spoke to Councillor Menagh at the time who had urged him to take it. In the end Councillor Boyle had proposed Jimmy instead for the title and the rest was history.

Alderman Menagh was clearly a man of the people demonstrated by his huge personal vote from the people of Newtownards. He was not interested in Party politics and was clearly supported by his electorate. He was a fearless defender of Newtownards but also was as keen to see resources in the Council spread over all parts of the Ards and North Down Borough.

He went on to say that Alderman Menagh was part of the small party / Independent grouping within the Council and it was at one of those meetings that he informed him of his illness and what stage it was at. In many ways their bond became even stronger since they knew they were on borrowed time and it was difficult to determine how long that would be. Their phone calls became more regular and they met as much as possible in Portaferry and Newtownards as Covid restrictions permitted. Through all this period Jimmy never complained and always had the highest praise for everyone in the NHS and particularly those looking after him directly. He equally always had the highest of praise for Nichola and regularly

mentioned how much she had stood by him and assisted him on this journey. He always responded whenever Councillor Boyle enquired of his health, "I'm doing fine son, take each day as it comes to me."

Councillor Boyle was sure that everyone would agree that Newtownards had lost one of its favourite sons and that the Council had lost an extremely committed elected member. He was saddened that Members would no longer hear at meetings:

I'm serious,
Outstanding,
I'm not happy,
It's Ards and North Down not North Down and Ards and
It's the Town Hall not the Arts Centre in Conway Square.

His thoughts were with Nichola and the Menagh family circle and friends, and he welcomed Councillor Irvine and wished him all the best as he took up the baton of replacing the commitment and enthusiasm that his close friend Jimmy had brought to the Council. He hoped that Jimmy would rest in peace.

The Mayor also made a tribute to Alderman Menagh on behalf of Councillor Cooper who was unable to be present at the meeting.

Councillor Cooper had been deeply saddened to learn of the passing of his colleague and close friend, Alderman Jimmy Menagh. He thought that Jimmy encapsulated everything positive about local representation where nothing was too much trouble to the Councillor known affectionately as 'Mr Ards' and he knew how much the people of his constituency valued his incessant dedication to them and his devotion to all.

(Councillor Adair left the meeting at 7.29 pm)

Last week Jimmy had made the effort to attend a photoshoot with him to endorse his candidature as TUV Strangford MLA, and he was delighted to receive his public backing for the Assembly election and that, in spite of his ill health, he joined him on the campaign trail in his beloved Newtownards which he served so well for many years. That spoke volumes of their bond and his values. Councillor Cooper said that his friend and colleague was a loyal son of Ulster, devoted to his hometown of Newtownards and was a committed loyalist.

Jimmy would leave a huge void not only to his family and friends, and to him personally and professionally, and to the wider Newtownards constituency of which he served so faithfully. He concluded that he was honoured to have been so close to Jimmy for so many years and would miss his humour, loyalty and most of all his dedication to public service. He passed on his condolences to Jimmy's family circle.

Councillor Smart welcomed Councillor Irvine and said it was great to have him here this evening and he looked forward to working with him. Since 2014 it had been Councillor Smart's great pleasure to get to know Alderman Menagh and their friendship outlasted not always voting or thinking in the same way. Alderman Menagh would always have let him know if he did not approve of his voting decisions

and there were a few quiet drives home to West Winds after Council meetings but the next morning Jimmy would have always forgiven him and had a cheery word. As others had said already whether you called him Jimmy, Mr Ards or whatever, everyone knew Jimmy, he was larger than life and could often be heard calling out to people in Conway Square, Newtownards, as he was passing by. When Councillor Smart caught up with him Alderman Menagh would say "Hello Big Son" but underneath that Newtownards bravado that Jimmy had there was a man who undertook random acts of kindness and had a heart for encouraging and supporting people to be their very best. Councillor Smart had often heard from others about the way Jimmy had supported the local youth disability football team or St Marks drop in or any other number of local groups in any way that he could. Jimmy had a determination to do his best for Newtownards and the two councillors would often have the pleasure of working together on different projects within the town whether that be the likes of the Blair Mayne Bursary of which he was incredibly passionate, or the Ards Town Steering Group which he always attended and knew any development that was taking place in Newtownards. He was also passionate about local sport and would do whatever he could to support that. Councillor Smart remarked that he and Alderman Menagh were members of the Ards Suicide Group which Jimmy had supported passionately. His dedication and energy to so many local causes and groups was truly remarkable but to him Jimmy represented a time when everyone knew everyone else and worked together and supported one another.

The funeral on Saturday had been a remarkable tribute to the man which absolutely showed how much Jimmy was loved and would be sorely missed by so many across the town and further afield. Alderman Menagh would be missed in this Chamber as a tireless champion for Newtownards and Ards and North Down and of course Jimmy would be most keenly missed by Nichola and the wider Menagh family circle to whom he sent his deepest condolences and he hoped that the impact that he had made on the Borough would help to bring them comfort in the days ahead.

Councillor Cummings offered a warm welcome to Councillor Irvine and looked forward to seeing him in person and working together in the future. When he had heard of Alderman Menagh's passing, he had been deeply saddened and while he knew that his colleague was very ill, his evident resilience and persistence to attend meetings made him hope for having a little more time. He remembered Jimmy on his motorbike with helmet travelling to and from meetings and on occasions he had given him a lift. It was on those journeys that all matter of things were discussed including, politics, Council, sport, faith and family. Jimmy was always engaging and was a strong advocate for local football. He was a dedicated and passionate Alderman who loved to serve the people of Ards. His attendance at the previous month's Council meeting was testament to that. He expressed his condolences to the family circle.

Alderman M Smith stated that her thoughts and prayers went to Jimmy's partner Nichola, and his family and that they were blessed to have so many happy and wonderful memories of such a unique man. While her politics were not in line with Alderman Menagh's he had always been a friend and shown her the greatest of kindness and courtesy. Often, she had dreaded when votes were called for as she knew Jimmy watched every vote, and she was conscious at times of not voting in the

way he would have wished. She would have looked over at Jimmy who would have just shaken his head. Most importantly that did not change their regard for one another. Jimmy never missed an opportunity to inform everyone that it was Ards and North Down and it was drummed into everyone so that they would never forget. She would miss his cheery phone calls with, 'Hello Mrs Smith how's the good man' and she did not need to ask who was phoning. She stated that she would miss Jimmy and his hand of friendship and kindness.

(Alderman Keery left at 7.41 pm)

Alderman Irvine began by offering his condolences to Nichola and the Menagh family circle. Jimmy was indeed unique and was a big character. He had enjoyed speaking to him and what had shone through was his passion for helping people and the dedication to the work he did. He had been proud of his role within Ards and North Down Borough Council and he had been pleased to chat with recently when he had received a Lifetime Achievement Award at the Ards and North Down Sports Awards. As others had said when anyone was making a deputation to the Council and they innocently got the name wrong he knew that person would soon be corrected. The outpouring of grief at the Alderman's passing was quite remarkable and the funeral service would be remembered for a long time. That was testimony to how Jimmy was regarded by people, and he would be badly missed. Alderman Irvine gave his best wishes to the incoming Councillor Irvine.

Alderman Gibson began by expressing his sympathy to Nichola and the Menagh family. Alderman Menagh had been elected to the Ards Council in 2011 and from that day on he had given 100% to his community and even regretted not joining the Council earlier since he had been working within the community for many decades. He had fond memories of Jimmy on his Honda motorbike and had joined him in 1973 at the Ulster Workers Council strike in opposition to the Sunningdale Agreement. He had been struck by the many people from the statutory bodies that Jimmy would have had connections with and the ordinary people who had met him which showed how highly esteemed he had been. Jimmy had shown great compassion to those he had worked with and to fellow Councillors and he would be greatly missed. He wishes Jimmy's family and friends God's blessing in the times ahead.

Alderman Girvan extended a warm welcome to Councillor Irvine and it was good to have him on the Council and explained that she had been unable to attend the funeral due to health reasons. Although she didn't know Jimmy well, their paths had crossed several times particularly when she had been Mayor and they had shared lifts, she admired his dedication and commitment to the people of Newtownards. He had been an excellent member of the Council and reached out to many people to help them. Although their political outlook was different at times, she had respected him and hope he did towards her. She paid condolences to the family and explained that Jimmy had left a lasting legacy and would be solely missed and hoped that he would rest in peace.

(Alderman Gibson left at 7.45 pm)

Councillor Chambers also extended a welcome to Councillor Irvine and even if he would do half the job that Alderman Menagh had he would be doing a good job. The

Councillor explained that he had enormous respect for Alderman Menagh and the work that he had done for sport and for his local community. Jimmy had always had time for a chat and took an interest in people as individuals. He fondly remembered a tip that the Alderman had given him for press photographs, one should always stand at the end of the row to the left as your name would be printed first. He offered his condolences to Nichola, the Menagh family and Jimmy's huge circle of friends.

Councillor Armstrong-Cotter explained that she was emotional and asked fellow Members to bear with her. She expressed her sincere sympathies to Nichola and the Menagh family who had long been in her thoughts and prayers and the gap he had left was great to Members so must therefore be a massive loss to them. She would miss his warm welcome at Council meetings across Chamber greeting her by name and she prayed that the God of comfort and peace would be their stay in the days ahead.

She recalled that she and Alderman Menagh had come on to the Council at the same time and at the first election they had stood together and tried to make sense of the STV voting system. He had been a few votes behind her at that time but since then had no need for any other Councillors help to get him across the line. They both shared the same love for their town and for their nation and she had much respect for him and they were firm friends. They enjoyed laughing together and he always took an interest in her and her family and made everyone feel that their children were special.

She would continue to make sure that the Town Hall in Ards was remembered as such and she welcomed the new Councillor Irvine and said that it gave Members comfort to know that he had been selected by Jimmy who had placed his trust in him.

She had cried getting ready for church the previous Sunday and when her young daughters had asked what was the matter, she had explained that she was upset about Jimmy but stressed to them that it was not goodbye to him it was simply 'see you in the morning', since Jimmy had surrendered his life to God just before his death and for that she was deeply thankful. She pledged, with her Council colleagues, to continue working for the Borough, where all were welcome to Ards and North Down and could enjoy a wee chat and tea in the Square, Newtownards, where Jimmy would be fondly remembered and missed.

Councillor Edmund passed on his condolences to Nichola and Alderman Menagh's family circle and spoke of his memories of him calling in to the shop. He said everyone would miss Jimmy.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.55 pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Regeneration and Development Committee was held remotely via Zoom on Tuesday, 10 May 2022 at 6.00pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman McDowell

Aldermen: Girvan
Smith (6.01pm)
Wilson

Councillors:	Adair	Dunlop
	Armstrong-Cotter	Gilmour
	Blaney (6.14pm)	Irvine
	Brooks	Walker
	Cummings	

In Attendance: Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Head of Regeneration (B Dorrian), Head of Tourism (S Mahaffy), Development Projects Manager (A Stobie), Economic Development Manager (K McGuckin) and Democratic Services Officers (P Foster & S McCrea)

1. APOLOGIES

The Chairman (Alderman McDowell) sought apologies at this stage.

(Alderman Smith joined the meeting at this stage – 6.01pm)

Apologies had been received from Councillor McKimm.

NOTED.

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

At this stage the Chairman welcomed Councillor Irvine to his first meeting of the Committee, having taken Alderman Menagh's place following his recent sad passing.

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman sought Declarations of Interest at this stage and the following declarations were made.

Alderman Girvan – Item 3 – Tourism Events Grants Review 2021-2022

NOTED.

(Having declared an interest in the next item, Alderman Girvan was put on hold – 6.04pm)

3. TOURISM EVENTS GRANTS REVIEW 2021-2022 (FILE TO/EG58)
(Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning attaching Events Targets and Actual figures 2021/2022. The report detailed that in March 2022 Council approved ten Tourism Events Grants for events taking place from 1 June 2021 to 31 March 2022.

Government restrictions were in place during the season due to the Covid-19 Pandemic, events were running on limited capacities and visitor confidence was low. Two scheduled events were cancelled completely whilst the programming of a number of the remaining eight, had to be changed to follow Government restrictions.

The eight events delivered were listed in the table over:

Organiser	Event Delivered	Event Date 2021/2022
Culloden Estate and Spa	Art in the Garden	11-27 June
Open House Festival	Music in the Park	4 July - 29 August
Portaferry Sailing and Social Club	Sails and Sounds	8-12 July
Portaferry Gala Fest	Portaferry Gala	17-23 July
Ultimate Strongman Productions	Ultimate Strongman World Championship Weekend	28-29 August
Ultimate Strongman Productions	Ultimate Strongman, UK's Strongest Woman and Ireland's Strongest Man	4-5 Sept
Portico of Ards Ltd	Portico Comedy Arts Festival	17-25 September
Portaferry and Strangford Trust	The Carol Ship on Strangford Lough	3-5 December

Budget

A total budget of £85,425 was available to fund the 2021/2022 events (10 original grants approved). The actual amount drawn down by applicants was £73,045. One event showed less of a shortfall than their grant offered, therefore, the grant was reduced.

Economic Benefit

Using Tourism NI average values of £18 per day spend and £55 per bed-night, the table below showed the estimated economic benefit of the 2021/2022 Tourism Events Grant Scheme.

It should be noted, however, that this information was indicative only and was not based on any formal Economic Appraisals. It was likely, therefore, to be on the high side as this figure assumed that all attendees spent within the Borough, and it did not consider party composition. Determining actual attendance and visitor proportion was beyond the resources of the Tourism section.

Overall Attendee Spend	£1,647,108
Accommodation value	£448,580
Return on investment for each Council £1	£22.55
Cost to Council per attendee	£0.93

The table in the appendix showed the targets set by the Organisations at the time of application and the actual figures achieved in 2021/2022, as submitted on their post event evaluation documents.

The Events team had reviewed the Letter of Offer and post evaluation process for the 2022/23 process and would apply an enhanced, but proportionate and reasonable level of evidence vouching relating to bed-night data.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report.

Councillor Cummings proposed, seconded by Councillor Adair, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Cummings, commended officers given the difficulties which had been experienced throughout the last year. He noted the significant amount of funding which had been drawn down and sought clarification on whether or not there would be any further economic appraisals which may provide more detailed figures.

In response the Head of Tourism commented that the main challenge for event organisers was often the attendee figures, and as such it was planned to work more closely with event organisers going forwards to gain a better understanding of the figures.

Commenting as seconder, Councillor Adair also took the opportunity to welcome Councillor Irvine to the Committee, adding that he would extend his sympathy to the Menagh family at this time. Looking to the report he noted the added value those events had brought to the Borough and acknowledged the hard work of all those volunteers involved. Commenting specifically on 'The Carol Ship on Strangford Lough' event, he noted that parking had been an issue in Portaferry and as such was something which may need to be looked at in the future.

Alderman Wilson noted the exceptional return on investment of twenty to one and asked how that compared to Council run events. He also asked if the Council should be investing more funds into events such as those referred to within the report.

The Head of Tourism advised that the report alluded to the fact that figures may be on the high side and it was recognised there was work ongoing in that regard. She added that officers intended to explore further working more closely with event organisers.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Adair, that the recommendation be adopted.

(Alderman Girvan re-joined the meeting at this this stage – 6.11pm)

4. SUPPORT FOR A LOW CARBON ECONOMY (FILE ED124)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning providing the undernoted detail:

1. INI Business Support Needs Analysis for a Sustainable and Low Carbon economy in the South East Region of Northern Ireland

Members would be aware that a report was brought to Council in January 2022, detailing funding from Invest NI to carry out a *Business Support Needs Analysis for a sustainable and low carbon economy in the South East region of Northern Ireland*. Following a procurement exercise the company Triterra was commissioned to carry out the work.

This project, fully funded by Invest NI under the Economic Recovery Action Plan (ERAP), was a collaborative exercise between the three councils covering the Southeast (SE) Region of Northern Ireland (Ards and North Down Borough Council; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council and Newry, Mourne and Down District Council), and aimed to establish and analyse local business wants and needs in order to inform the South East Region Councils on how they might best support our businesses to achieve a sustainable and low carbon economy across the area.

The project, which ran from 18 January to 14 March 2022, gathered insights through five key areas. Those included:

- Desktop research on industry insights
- An online ad campaign promoting the campaign survey. This was promoted across Facebook and LinkedIn over a four-week period.
- A planned customer engagement session via zoom featuring a case study organisation. This was consequently cancelled due to low uptake across the region.
- Direct telephone calls aiming to engage local businesses directly in the survey.
- Development of relevant case studies.

Desktop study unveiled significant research that demonstrated the clear and tangible need and benefits to businesses of adopting a more sustainable and low-carbon agenda, with value being created across social, environmental, and economic pillars.

Those sentiments had been shared across the nine case studies undertaken, with business owners and organisations seeing numerous benefits for their companies.

Insights from the SE regional survey demonstrated overwhelming support from businesses who felt that was important to work towards creating a more sustainable and low-carbon agenda, with the majority of respondents feeling a clear sense of moral obligation, as well as being keen to identify cost saving opportunities. However, businesses recognised that support was needed across a number of key areas such as:

- Help in applying for funding
- Strategic sustainability planning
- Support in identifying cost saving opportunities through resource audits
- Help in creating sustainability policies, marketing strategies and general upskilling.

Businesses also felt that the key stakeholders who could help facilitate businesses in making this transition included local government departments, local authorities, central government and specialist experts and consultants.

The key conclusions provided therefore supported those views, with the final recommendations outlined below:

- 1) The SE Region should consider a programme of support that specifically seeks to address the sustainability and low carbon agenda.
- 2) The SE Region's officers should continue to develop their professional network and accrue relevant points of contact with key providers and industry representatives.
- 3) The SE Region should not seek to 'reinvent the wheel' and instead work to form partnerships with organisations already delivering relevant programmes of support.
- 4) Quarterly learning and engagement events should be organised for businesses where partners can be invited to speak to attendees about areas of interest and support.
- 5) There was evidence to support value in engaging with the agriculture and transport sectors as some of the most noted greenhouse gas contributors, however, all sectors have a part to play in this transition.
- 6) Support, through advice and training, should be offered to businesses keen to diversify into more sustainable and low carbon products and service offerings.
- 7) The region should consider developing a dedicated team of experts who can provide auditing expertise across areas including energy, waste, and water

resource management, providing business reports, or registers of opportunity for businesses to focus on as they move forward.

- 8) The SE Region should develop a toolkit or website where a range of information, templates, case studies and/or webinars should be shared for businesses to access and work through at their own pace.
- 9) All elements outlined above should be collated through a dedicated sustainability and low carbon business support programme, where a team of suitably qualified and experienced sustainability programme managers, facilitators, mentors and consultants are recruited to help the Council areas deliver on the region's key goals and objectives.

1.1 Next Steps

Due to the complexity of climate change and the interventions needed to facilitate a low carbon economy, work by officers, would be undertaken on a collaborative basis across relevant council services including sustainability, community planning and environment. Collaborative working would enable us to map how best to take forward the findings of the report to create appropriate interventions and connections.

2. Climate Action Programme, Climate Champion and Climate Pledge

The Council had been approached by Business in the Community (BITC), which helped organisations across Northern Ireland to develop their responsibility towards the People, the Planet and the Places where they operate. This approach focused on the way a company manages its business to make profits in a responsible way, having a positive impact on stakeholders, the environment and society.

With this in mind, BITC had developed the Climate Action Programme to help organisations reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Through this programme, BITC was seeking 15 organisations to participate in the UK CRF Climate Action Programme as Climate Champion organisations. Climate Champions had robust climate plans in place and had made public commitments to reduce environmental impacts by committing to a reputable external emissions reduction initiative such as the BITC Climate Action Pledge, Race to Zero, or Science Based Targets Initiative etc. It was felt that the Council's Roadmap to Sustainability which had been developed to formalise the Council's commitment to becoming more sustainable made it a suitable candidate to become a Climate Champion.

Climate Champion organisations would engage with eight businesses in their value chain (customers, suppliers, businesses within the Council area etc) to take part in fully funded Carbon Literacy Training and a series of bespoke workshops to measure their carbon footprint and set climate action targets.

The Programme presented a valuable opportunity to address Scope 3 emissions (emissions within the supplier chain), build relationships with key suppliers, and be seen as a leader for climate action in Northern Ireland.

The funding for the initiative had been secured through the UK Community Renewal Fund and BITC was therefore offering the Council the opportunity to take the role of Climate Champion free of charge for it and all 8 participating companies.

Commitment required from Council as a Climate Champion:

- Recruit 8 SMEs from the value chain in the AND area. Seven should be medium sized up to 499 employees and one can be a smaller business with less than 100 employees;
- Ensure each participating SME commits to the agreed terms and conditions of the programme;
- Support the SMEs on their climate journey;
- Attend the Final Climate Action Programme Networking Event.

Climate Action Pledge:

As a natural evolution from this programme, it was proposed that the Council considered signing the BITC Action Pledge to demonstrate further its willingness to reduce Greenhouse gas reduction targets.

Signatory organisations commit to reducing their absolute Scope 1 and Scope 2 greenhouse emissions (direct and indirect gas emissions) by either 30% or 50% by 2030 and to work towards measuring and reporting their Scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions (emissions with its supply chain). The chosen base year must be 2015 or thereafter.

RECOMMENDED that Council:

- 1) notes the outcomes of the report on *Business Support Needs Analysis for a sustainable and low carbon economy in the South East region of Northern Ireland*
- 2) approves Council's participation in the Climate Action Programme as a Climate Champion with the aim of signing the Climate Pledge.

Councillor Dunlop proposed, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Dunlop stated that he was very happy to propose the recommendation adding that it was important for the public sector to be seen to be taking a lead on such matters.

Commenting as seconder, Councillor Walker acknowledged there was still much yet to be done however he agreed that this would be the first step of many to be taken during the coming years.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Dunlop, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the recommendation be adopted.

5. **4C UR FUTURE CAREER EVENT - 7 JUNE 2022 (FILE ED122)**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning detailing that in 2019, 4C UR Future delivered a highly successful 'proof of concept' pilot event called 4C UR Future *LIVE* at Ulster University, Jordanstown, in which 1,200 13-year-olds participated, supported by over 120 volunteers from over 30 companies.

4C UR Future's industry-led Steering Team represented all of the key industry sectors in Northern Ireland, ensuring a future of work focus. For example, the current 30+ members included: AllStateNI, NI Electricity, Danske Bank, Staffline, Ryobi, 21 Training, Liberty IT, Translink, Mount Charles Group, UTV, O'Neills, Manufacturing NI, Institute of Directors NI, Women in Business, Cranswick, and more. Local companies would be also approached depending on their availability to participate.

LIVE events were not typical, traditional careers events. Instead, young people would participate in a range of interactive skills games and work-based challenges developed in collaboration with industry, that sought to draw out and identify each young person's key strengths and attributes, relative to future employability criteria. Those future employability criteria were developed via workshops with industry representatives and aligned with all major employability outcomes from leading research.

The range of games and other engagements were specifically designed to find something for everyone, reflecting the diversity of future career opportunities and giving everyone the opportunity to shine. Every young person who attended a *LIVE* event was encouraged to participate in every activity, and determine through experience, what they found easy and challenging, and what they liked and disliked.

The project:

In June 2021, officers were approached by 4C UR Future to run a *LIVE* event in Ards and North Down in collaboration with Council. 4C UR Future was a not-for-profit Community Interest Company that was established in 2019 to engage with, and empower, young people to help them make more informed education and career decisions. The proposed initiative was a partnership between 4C UR Future and ANDBC.

4C UR Future *LIVE* – 7th June 2022 – Ards Blair Mayne Leisure and Wellbeing Complex, Newtownards

Due to the impact of COVID19, at-scale pilot events were postponed, however, the initial pilot programme recognised a significant need for careers inspiration and support, especially in a post-COVID environment, and planned for a series of regional events across Northern Ireland for June 2022, are underway.

They would address the issue of career choice to enable positive futures for young people. It had been demonstrated that young people did not initially choose a career path but were often guided by others towards a career which may not suit them. That

resulted in poor levels of satisfaction later in the workplace and low self-esteem. The proposed initiative of a *LIVE event on 7 June 2022 in the Ards Blair Mayne Leisure and Wellbeing* responds to the need to find suitable career paths by allowing young people to explore their unique combination of positive attributes, talents and learning styles, relative to their peer group, and align those with emerging work trends and employability criteria. The proposed programme would assist under-represented individuals to gain greater access to meaningful work and economic opportunities.

In addition, the *4C UR Future CAREERS PORTAL* was a bespoke digital platform with the potential to reach and engage every young person in Northern Ireland, providing them with a go-to resource for impartial and up-to-date careers information, and crucially, featuring local companies and local voices. Access to the *4C UR Future CAREERS PORTAL* was provided free of charge to schools and pupils.

By offering such initiatives the Council could secure a better future for young people within Ards and North Down and make a significant contribution to the priorities identified in the Council's Big Plan, which stated that all AND citizens should be able to fulfill their lifelong potential and the *Integrated Strategy for Tourism, Regeneration, Economic Development 2018-2030 and Council's Corporate Plan 2020-24* objectives:

- To grow the number of jobs and business productivity within the Borough.
- Ensure that the skills of the available workforce match the needs of local businesses today and in the future.
- Increase the skills base and encourage people to have higher aspirations, potentially leading to better employment opportunities.

Participating Schools:

4C UR Future *LIVE* in AND would enable as many 13-year-olds as possible to gain insights into their future career opportunities before their make their GCSE choices.

All post primary schools in Ards and North Down were invited to register their interest to participate, and eight out of fourteen have registered. The following schools had been selected to attend on a first come, first served basis, subject to capacity of the venue, equality of opportunity criteria and subject to them being able to accommodate an early start and late finish:

- Regent House Grammar School - Newtownards
- Movilla High School - Newtownards
- St Columbanus College - Bangor
- Strangford Integrated College - Carrowdore
- Priory Integrated College – Holywood.

The event was free of charge for schools to attend; that included free transportation.

In line with current guidelines, it was estimated that 742 pupils would attend this event on 7 June 2022 which was the maximum capacity the venue could

accommodate. The organisers had agreed that, should new COVID-19 restrictions be introduced, the number of attendees would be reduced accordingly.

Council's Contribution:

A business case for this project, previously approved under the Estimates process, agreed the following project contribution by Council:

- A suitably large venue to accommodate up to 742 pupils and 200 staff and volunteers. (Ards Blair Mayne Leisure and Well Being Complex was considered the most appropriate venue in the Borough in terms of hosting high numbers, accommodating the event's purpose-built set-up and offering easiest accessibility to the widest range of schools.)
- Catering for the volunteers (the companies) and the teachers, provided by the Council through the Leisure Complex's Catering Franchise – pupils would bring packed lunches.
- Contribution to the furniture/logistics company which brought the event around the different areas.

The in-kind contribution was valued at approximately £3,000.

Further reports on outcomes and event feedback would be brought to Council.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes the content of this report.

Councillor Dunlop proposed, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Dunlop, stated this was another excellent project which he felt was extremely worthwhile and added that he was delighted to read that it would be hosted at the Ards Blair Mayne Leisure and Wellbeing Centre, Newtownards.

Concurring with those comments the seconder, Councillor Walker, agreed that it was a very worthwhile programme which had great support across the entire province and as such he was delighted the Council was able to be involved.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Dunlop, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the recommendation be adopted.

(Councillor Blaney joined the meeting at this stage – 6.14pm)

6. TOWN ADVISORY GROUP MEETING MINUTES FOR NOTING (Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copies of the undernoted minutes:

Bangor dated 22.03.2022

Newtownards dated 23.03.2022

Donaghadee dated 24.03.2022

Comber dated 28.03.2022
Holywood dated 29.03.2022

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the minutes.

Councillor Adair proposed, seconded by Alderman Wilson, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Adair, referred to funding for a Public Realm Scheme at Portaferry and asked when a meeting of the Portaferry Town Advisory Group (TAG) would take place to consider that further.

In response the Head of Regeneration indicated that once DfC had confirmed the Council had permission to proceed with the Scheme a meeting would be called.

Commenting as seconder, Alderman Wilson referred to the presentation which had been made 'In Committee' at the Bangor TAG about proposals for the Flagship Centre and asked if that section of the minutes should have been kept 'In Committee'.

The Head of Regeneration reminded the member that the presentation had been given to the members of the Bangor TAG some of whom represented public bodies and as such it was considered in a public forum.

Alderman Smith referred to Page 9 of the Bangor TAG minutes which referred to the maintenance of Parklets and she voiced strong concerns with that on behalf of a number of local businesses. As such, she requested some further details on how it was proposed to carry out maintenance of the Parklets particularly at night.

In response, the Head of Regeneration advised that during the day, Parklets would be maintained by Town Wardens. At night however there would be no Council staff on duty therefore any maintenance issues would be dealt with the following morning. The officer confirmed that it was hoped to secure buy in from some of the local businesses in respect of Parklet maintenance.

Alderman Smith reiterated her strong concerns about the maintenance of the Parklets.

At this stage Councillor Cummings referred Page 5 of the Comber TAG minutes which discussed issues at Laurelbank. He noted that a Feasibility Study had previously been explored and he was able to confirm a Council officer planned to be on site in the near future.

Councillor Walker referred to the Donaghadee TAG and welcomed that Donaghadee had been awarded both 'Donaghadee in Bloom' and 'Tidy Town' Award. Continuing, he also acknowledged the recent completion of the works at the Moat which now housed the only Camera Obscura in Ireland. Having visited the facility himself, he stated that it was well worth a visit adding that it was a fantastic addition to Donaghadee. Councillor Walker also took the opportunity to acknowledge the work which had been put into this project by Councillor T Smith.

The Head of Regeneration expressed his thanks to members for their comments adding that he would be sure to pass them on to the rest of the team. It was noted during the first opening weekend of the Moat and the Camera Obscura almost 400 people had visited.

At this stage Councillor Gilmour expressed her thanks to all those who had been involved with the Moat project. She also took the opportunity to note that initially when the project had been considered by the Council, she recalled that at that time Councillor Walker had significantly objected to it. Continuing, she sought an update on the drainage issues and the pathway around the Moat.

The Head of Regeneration confirmed that the wall which had been knocked down by vandals would be rebuilt in due course. The drainage issues had resulted in a number of boreholes being drilled at the base of the Moat and further advice was awaited from the NIEA on this matter.

Councillor Gilmour welcomed the comments adding that the Moat was a tremendous asset to the town.

Welcoming the comments which had been made, the proposer, Councillor Adair agreed that it would further enhance Donaghadee town and promote tourism to the area. Continuing he also noted Councillor Walker's comments quoting that "success has many fathers" and was something his party may wish to bear in mind when further projects came to the Council for consideration.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Adair, seconded by Alderman Wilson, that the recommendation be adopted.

7. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

The Chairman advised there were no items of Any Other Notified Business.

NOTED.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of undernoted items of confidential business.

8. DIGITAL PROJECT UPDATE (DEVP25)

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

9. EUROPEAN SOCIAL FUND MATCH FUNDING – ESF CALL 3, 2022-2023 (FILE ED52)

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

10. BANGOR MARINA PROGRESS REPORT FOR QUARTER 4, 2021-2022 (FILE 141671) (Appendix III)

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Gilmour, seconded by Councillor Armstrong-Cotter, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 6.32pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A virtual meeting of the Corporate Services Committee was held via Zoom on Tuesday 10 May 2022 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman McIlveen

Aldermen: Gibson Irvine
Girvan, Keery

Councillors: Blaney Gilmour
 Chambers McKimm
 Dunlop P Smith
 Greer

Officers: Director of Organisational Development and Administration (W Swanston), Head of Administration (A Curtis), Head of Strategic Transformation & Performance (S Denny), Community Planning Manager (P Mackey) and Democratic Services Officers (P Foster & S McCrea)

1. APOLOGIES

An apology for inability to attend was received from Director of Finance and Performance (S Christie).

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman sought any Declarations of Interest at this stage and the following declarations were made:

Councillor Smith declared an interest in Item 10a - Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Cooper and Cummings (Comber TT Soapbox Race Insurance assistance).

Councillor Dunlop declared an interest in Item 16 - Request from Open Reach for a Wayleave over land at Manor Street, Donaghadee.

Councillor McKimm declared an interest in Item 20 - Potential Land Acquisition, Distributor Road.

NOTED.

3. REVIEW OF COMMUNITY PLANNING AND THE BIG PLAN (FILE) (Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration advising that The Big Plan for Ards and North Down was published in March 2017. Part 10, sections 69 and 70 of the Local Government (2014) Act stipulated that the first community plan should be reviewed before the fourth anniversary of the date on which the community plans were published. This meant that for Ards and North Down the review and outcomes from that review should have been finalised by March 2021. In June 2019, to meet this deadline Ards and North Down's Strategic Community Planning Partnership initiated a review that considered the statutory functions of partners, existing collaborative partnerships and funded programmes delivering against the Big Plan outcomes.

It was agreed that a review should concentrate on the implementation of the Big Plan and identify collaborative issues that the Community Planning Partnership should prioritise. This was an acknowledgement that trying to do everything had led to may 'business as usual' and existing activities being included within action plan. An important part of the review was considering how to demonstrate the added value that could be achieved by taking a 'community planning approach' to decision making.

In December 2019, a draft set of Big Plan priorities was presented to the Strategic Community Planning Partnership. Those were endorsed and it was then anticipated that during 2020 considerable effort would be spent in further developing the evidence base, establishing new reporting structure and identifying relevant workstream participants.

Then Covid-19 happened, and community planning partnerships were appropriately used to co-ordinate community support. This meant that the more structured work needed to finish the review was paused. Department for Communities wrote to Community Planning Partnerships confirming that the date and expectations of the review could be pushed back 12 months. They accepted that all Partnerships had reviewed the plans as part of the pandemic and acknowledged the positive impact that established community planning partnerships had on quickly setting up community support structures. They did however suggest that Strategic Partnerships may want to consider a further review to be concluded in March/April 2022.

Rather than starting another review from scratch, the Council focused on reviewing the priorities that were endorsed by the Strategic Partnership in December 2019. The Council needed to assess whether those pre-Covid priorities were still relevant. And as such evidence was collected via the Big Conversation Panel and through conversations with community planning partners, Community Support Steering Group and council colleagues. Officers found that Covid-19 did not necessarily cause new issues for residents. Instead, it highlighted problems that already existed or that people were unknowingly vulnerable to. This meant that pre-Covid priorities such as poverty, mental health, employment and access to outdoor spaces were still relevant.

The Big Plan Part II | Our Big Priorities explained the outcome of the review. It provided updated content to the Big Plan and explains that while the Big Plan outcomes remain relevant, 10 focused priorities for the Partnership had been identified. The document contained information on the workstreams established to take each priority forwarded. The indicators of the Big Plan had also been updated to better reflect the issues the Partnership had agreed to focus on.

The Big Plan Part II | Our Big Priorities was endorsed by Ards and North Down's Strategic Community Planning Partnership on 22 February 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes this report.

Councillor McKimm proposed an amendment, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendation be noted and furthermore that this Council in addition to publishing the updated Big Plan, explore under the guidance of the office of the Commissioner for Children and Young People how they might develop a version accessible for children

The proposer, Councillor McKimm stated there were now between 30-35, 000 people in the Borough under the age of 15 who would benefit. Furthermore, this would be in keeping on UN Article 11 on the rights of the child.

All children had a right to seek, receive and impart information in a medium of choice (Art. 13, UNCRC; Article 11 of the Charter).

Children were better able to exercise their right to have their views given due weight on matters affecting them (Article 12, UNCRC; Article 24.1 of the Charter) when they had information that they could understand.

In respect of this it was requested that officers explore what would be required to facilitate this child friendly report.

The Community Planning Manager explained that similar works had been carried out in the past, referencing the initial 2017 Plan and a series of animations that were produced. These provided bitesize chunks of information which provided a more accessible means for the reader. In addition to such animations, 'easy-to-read' versions that simplified the content were also created. With regard to Big Plan II, work had already begun on an easy-read version which has a large focus on children/young people and others with accessibility issues. The document shall, upon completion, also act as an Executive Summary. She went on to explain that there might not be adequate finance within the current budget, but investigations into the creation of similar animated bitesize chunks as aforementioned within 2017's Big Plan One would be carried out, given how well they had worked before.

Councillor McKimm elaborated further upon his amendment and explained the increase in the Borough of the under 15s demographic, and that looking forward, the Council should consider their communication strategies take an inclusive approach.

Councillor McKimm asked that a report should be brought back which would investigate costs and provide exploratory information on such a task.

Councillor Greer concurred, providing an example of the Department of Health's reports that consist of similar simplification. She pointed toward the current trends amongst different age demographics; that younger people would use social media outlets such as TikTok and Instagram whilst Twitter and Facebook might be used by older demographics. She believed it worthwhile to explore such outlets.

Alderman Irvine agreed with the sentiments of his colleagues, adding that reaching out to as many as possible and inclusion of young people were very important factors. He referenced the Big Plan II report's mention of Mental Health hubs and his belief of their importance especially when considering the usual routes such as general practitioner surgeries having backlogs.

The Community Planning Manager agreed that greater strains had been placed on both mental and emotional wellbeing since the production of Big Plan I, especially so with the advent of Coronavirus. Surveys had been used in 2021 to provide evidence bases for temporary funding which allowed for the establishment of short-term wellbeing hubs in a virtual presence. It was unfortunate that the funding was temporary as opposed to recurrent. Thus, engagement with the SEHSCT and other community and statutory partners began in the hopes of providing a long-term model for the borough. Those partners had been working on the provision of said model, influenced by intelligence provided by the council, such as the need for an additional 3,000 talking therapy spots. The Community Planning Manager summarised that it had been difficult trying to find funding, but work had not stopped by the provision of data and wider community support.

Councillor P Smith also referenced the Big Plan II report and the priorities and workstreams that would be produced from it. He approximated 29 indicators listed within its content and queried how these would be measured.

The Community Planning Manager advised the complicated nature of the relationship between indicators and workstreams. There had been additional indicators added to Big Plan II, such as a population indicator that provided a, '*pulse check*,' on the Borough's status but this was based upon the entire population and so would not drill down to specific issues. In regards to workstreams, these were measured dependent on the particular stream and action plan. Report cards existed for some of the key issues identified. A review had also been engaged in order to discover performance which would provide guidance on the differences that had been made. She advised that it was meant to be a long-term aspiration and so figures would not be readily available.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendation be adopted and amendment accepted to seek an exploratory report into providing an accessibly inclusive

format for all user-groups. The review should include a costs analysis of such a task and general guidance that may be used for future plans.

4. RURAL NEEDS ACT (NI) 2016 - MONITORING RETURN FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2021 - 31 MARCH 2022 (RA2)

(Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration advising that Section 1 of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 placed a duty on public authorities, including Councils, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans, and when designing and delivering public services. In carrying out this duty and in line with guidance issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), the Council carried out rural screening exercises on its policies. Those screening exercises were carried out simultaneously by officers when completing section 75 screening of policies.

The 2016 Act placed a further obligation on public authorities to compile information on the exercise of its functions under section 1 of the Act (i.e., information on completed screening exercises), and to report this annually to DAERA.

DAERA had produced a template for public authorities to complete when compiling the information for their annual return. DAERA then collated all the returns it received and produced an annual Rural Needs Monitoring Report.

The Council's completed return for 1 April 2021 - 31 March 2022 was attached to this report at Appendix 1 and provided detail on the rural screening exercises completed during this period.

RECOMMENDED that Council agrees to submit to DAERA the Rural Needs monitoring return for 2021/22 attached to this report at Appendix 1.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Smith, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that the recommendation be adopted.

5. QUARTERLY REPORT ON EQUALITY AND GOOD RELATIONS (SECTION 75 OF THE N.I. ACT 1998) 1 JANUARY 2022 – 30 MARCH 2022 (EQ 33)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration stating that, in accordance with the Council's Equality Scheme, a progress report was required to be submitted on a quarterly basis to the Council's Corporate Services Committee. This ensured the Council complied with its obligations to meet its equality and good relations duties and responsibilities, as identified in Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998.

This report listed the actions of Council officers to meet the statutory duties since 1 January 2022.

External Consultative Panel

The Equality and Good Relations External Consultative Panel had not met during the period of the report, as remote meetings did not prove suitable for this group for a range of reasons. Consideration was given to reconvening physical meetings. It was also agreed that the membership of the group would be refreshed, and work had been on-going to investigate how this could best be done to ensure representation from a wide spectrum of individuals. An update on the methodology and proposed timeline would be provided in the next quarterly report.

Screening of Council policies

The Screening Panel met in February 2022. Officers from across the Council directorates screened 12 Council policies. This enabled comments to be received, considered, and addressed. All officers agreed with the outcome of all screening documents on 15 February 2022. The Compliance Officer (Equality and Safeguarding), the Compliance Officer (Sustainability) along with the Performance Improvement Officer and Head of Administration had developed a new screening app and 'Jot form' which had been trialled and, following adjustments, should be ready for staff to use in May 2022.

Quarterly Consultations

The Council had a requirement within the Equality Scheme to publish the outcome of screened policies quarterly. A quarterly report was uploaded onto the Council's website on 31 December 2021. The next agreed table and forms were uploaded to the Council's website and circulated to all consultees on 30 April 2022. At the time of writing this report there were 20 completed screening forms made available on the Council website.

Equality Action Plan

The Compliance Officer (Equality and Safeguarding) had continued to review and ensure that items outlined in the plan were in place and on track, and Officers had been reminded of their responsibilities during the quarterly Screening Panel meetings.

ECNI annual report 2020 – 2021

The ECNI report was ratified at Council on 27 October 2021 and was sent to the Equality Commission on 29 October 2021. The Compliance Officer (Equality and Safeguarding) had met with the Equality Commission to discuss this report. The Equality Commission were happy with the report and how Council had performed in the previous year, Council had been reminded to continue to screen all policies for Section 75 impacts.

Disability Forum

The Disability Forum met on 18 January 2022. The meeting was well received however it was noted that attendance was low. The Compliance Officer emailed the Forum members, and it was noted that online meetings were not the preferred choice for some members. It was hoped that once face to face meetings return attendance would rise. Minutes for the meetings were available from the Compliance Officer (Equality and Safeguarding)

AccessAble

The Compliance Officer (Equality and Safeguarding Officer) had continued to work with AccessAble and it was anticipated that the Annual Review conducted by their Surveying Team would take place in June 2022.

Disability Action Plan

The Compliance Officer (Equality and Safeguarding) had continued to work in delivering the Disability Action Plan. This was reported through the Internal Screening Group and the Disability Forum. At those meetings, any identified concerns may be added to the Plan to ensure appropriate actions were identified and undertaken in a timely manner to enable the Council to remain compliant with the relevant legislation.

Complaints

During this period no Section 75 complaints had been received. A previous complaint in relation to a reasonable adjustment request at Comber Cemetery to enable a wheelchair user to visit a family grave had now been resolved and a gravel pathway was installed.

Safeguarding

The eLearning training for Council employees regarding Safeguarding was rolled out to all staff in February 2022.

Council Officers had continued to provide a range of support and any queries had been signposted directly as appropriate to each need to ensure those had been met as promptly as possible.

It Takes Allsorts 2022

The It Takes Allsorts team had reconvened on 4 May 2022 to organise events for the incoming year. An update would be provided in the next quarterly report.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report.

Councillor McKimm proposed, seconded by Councillor P Smith, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor McKimm queried when the membership panel might next be reviewed.

The Director of Organisational Development & Administration explained that previous discussions had taken place in relation to how to refresh the panel but these had stalled with the advent of Coronavirus. The panel had not wished to meet virtually or in person, thus membership had been placed on hold. However, advice had been sought from Dr John Kremer which would feed into a report that would hopefully be presented to the committee next month to outline the procedure for refreshing the panel.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor P Smith, that the recommendation be adopted.

6. SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE POLICY (FILE)
(Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Reports from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration detailing that the Council had a Sustainability and Environmental Policy in place since 2015.

On 9 March 2021 the Council approved the Roadmap to Sustainability. Action 6 of the Roadmap to Sustainability was to review and update the Council's current Sustainability and Environmental Policy. This was to include current topics such as climate change and social value in procurement.

Given the time that had passed since the original policy it was therefore somewhat outdated. It currently did not reference important sustainability issues such as climate change and the need for carbon emissions reduction. With particular emphasis on impacts on "designated" areas of the borough i.e., ASSIs, AONB

Update

Officers had reviewed the policy including a consultation with the Corporate Leadership Team, Head of Service Team and Climate Action and Sustainability Champions Working Group. The policy had been renamed to 'Sustainability and Climate Change Policy' to ensure that the policy was fully reflective of current and upcoming issues (Appendix 1).

The main changes from the current version were:

- Our Commitment to Sustainability
- Climate Change Bill - As of 9th March 2022, Northern Ireland has its own Climate Change Bill
- Green Leases - The policy asks that Green Leases are considered, where possible.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the Sustainability and Climate Change Policy 2022. Councillor P Smith proposed, seconded by Councillor Dunlop, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Smith requested clarity around three points; one, the green leases and the Council's responsibility for building control given the nature of buildings on carbon emissions, two, progress on policies with regard to transformation of fleet vehicles to green energy, and three, current landfill and recycling target difficulties.

Alderman McIlveen advised that the Council had previously taken a decision to transfer to zero or low emission vehicles with regard the fleet following his Notice of Motion.

The Director of Organisational Development & Administration advised that a number of Councillor Smith's queries were the remit of other committees.

The Head of Administration was able to advise that the green lease was quite a new initiative with the Sustainability Officer investigating this alongside the lands policy. The issue of the fleet had been raised some time ago, and progress has been with initiatives involving the Sustainability Officer & Environment Director. Both this and waste management were actions in the Roadmap to Sustainability. This policy was overarching and was designed to firm up those actions.

Councillor Dunlop professed his support for the policy but was concerned that some conflict may arise between responsibility for the local development plans and the implementation of the policy.

Alderman McIlveen stated that he had raised the same issue at a previous Planning Committee and asked officers to investigate it. He explained that, given local development planning consisted of a series of policies that were reviewed, and this too was one of those policies, that would be a material consideration in decision making.

Councillor Dunlop agreed with a summary provided by Alderman McIlveen in the seeking of reassurance from the Head of Planning and suggested he might raise the issue at full council.

Councillor McKimm added a concern that the report made no mention of the declared climate emergency. The Head of Administration believed this to be an omission and suggested the subject of the climate emergency could be added to the document prior to ratification at full Council.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Dunlop, that the recommendation be adopted and the report amended to include reference to the declared climate emergency prior to ratification.

7. SUSTAINABLE FOOD PLACES – MEMBERSHIP (SUS 1)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration detailing that Sustainable Food Places (SFP) (previously Sustainable Food Cities) was one of the fastest-growing social movements today.

SFP was a partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming. It was funded by the Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The National Lottery Community Fund.

The ambition of SFP was to create a transition to a healthy, sustainable, and more equitable food system. Not only did this require strong national policy, but also collaborative action between policy makers, businesses, and society at the local level, it promoted a systems approach that involved and connected key actors at all levels and across all parts of the food system.

Until now SFP had largely been a network of cities and most members and partnerships had been in England. A key strand of their work going forward would focus on adapting and extending the model to new places and geographies across all four nations.

In January 2021 the Council was awarded a £5,000 Development Grant by Sustainable Food Places (reported February 2021, Corporate Committee) to develop the Sustainable Food Places (Phase 1) structure within Ards and North Down Borough Council as part of the Community Plan, under Outcome 5 (Access to a well-managed sustainable environment), Priority 9 (Sustainability), 9.2 Sustainable Food Working Group.

In addition, this project met Action 4 of the Roadmap to Sustainability, approved by Council in March 2021.

Phase 2 (approved by Council in September 2021) was to apply for Sustainable Food Places membership. Membership would provide the benefits of more access to experts from existing members and partners, opportunities to attend events and take part in campaigns, access grants and funding and have access to online tools and resources. There was no charge for this membership.

Unfortunately, the application submitted in October 2021 was unsuccessful. However, a more recent application was made in March 2022, and this was successful.

As members of the Sustainable Food Places network, the Council had been added to their website and had access to a wide range of contacts, networks, events, and resources: <https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/members/>

Going forward the Council would develop its presence on their network and utilise the range of support available.

Key areas of focus over the next 6 – 12 months would be:

1. Developing and mapping our Growing Network as per the Council's growing strategy – Lets Grow Together.
2. Continue to grow our network of food growers and businesses throughout the borough to encourage knowledge and skill sharing and to continue to build partnerships
3. Work with our partners Social Farms and Gardens to develop wider policy related work

4. Continue to co-design the establishment of a Social Supermarket linked to the Community Plan priorities and directed a Community Support Steering Group

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes this report.

Alderman Girvan proposed, seconded by Councillor Dunlop, that the recommendation be noted.

Alderman Girvan referenced the Ukrainian War and the resultant food shortages in some shops. She believed it important to encourage the residents of Northern Ireland to support local growers and to buy local.

Councillor Dunlop agreed with his colleague whilst Councillor P Smith wanted to acknowledge the unique position Northern Ireland has within the UK; that it makes up 3% of the total population but manages to produce 20% of the UK's food supply in dairy & poultry. The Ukrainian conflict and its implications highlighted the importance of Northern Ireland's capability to grow food.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Girvan, seconded by Councillor Dunlop, that the recommendation be adopted.

8. REQUEST TO LIGHT UP COUNCIL BUILDINGS IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE (LP 37)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Reports from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration outlining that in response to the invasion by Russia of Ukraine in February 2022, and to show Council's support for and solidarity with Ukraine, it was agreed at March 2022 Corporate Committee (and subsequently ratified at March Council) by Members through the Party Group Leaders, Independents and single Member Parties that Council buildings were lit blue and yellow on Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th February 2022.

It was further proposed by Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor T Smith, as an amendment, that the Council continue to light up its buildings in support and in solidarity with the people of Ukraine if there were no other scheduled events and review that in one month. It was agreed that Corporate Services Committee would undertake the review.

It was agreed in April 2022 to continue this practice and this decision would be reviewed in May 2022

RECOMMENDED that Council continues to light up for Ukraine and review the decision on a monthly basis at Corporate Services Committee, on dates when there are no other light ups programmed.

Councillor P Smith proposed, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor P Smith described the importance of continuing to provide support where possible, citing figures relating to death tolls, refugees and wounded in the conflict.

The lighting of the council buildings, though small, is important to show not only solidarity with Ukraine, and support to both freedom and democracy.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Alderman Girvan, that the recommendation be adopted.

9. RESPONSE TO NOTICES OF MOTION

9a. NOM 158 - Park and Ride (Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration regarding a Notice of Motion debated at Corporate Committee in February 2022 and subsequently ratified by Council that stated:

"That this Council recognises the need for an additional park and ride to serve the Ards Peninsula and agrees to lobby Translink and the Department of Infrastructure to seriously consider this facility, which would further reduce vehicle movements within the Borough and assist our residents to continue to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint."

Letters were sent from the Chief Executive on 5 April 2022 to the Minister for Infrastructure and Translink and a reply email was received from the Department of Infrastructure on 11 April 2022. A reply was also received from Translink on 12 April 2022.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes the responses to the Notice of Motion

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Gilmour, seconded by Councillor Dunlop, that the recommendation be adopted.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION

(a) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Cooper and Cummings:

That Council facilitates the Comber TT Soapbox Race by helping to organize insurance for the event. Councillor Cooper proposed, seconded by Councillor Cummings, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

(At 20:09, Councillor P Smith left the proceedings due to a Declaration of Interest, whilst Councillor Cummings joined to discuss the Notice of Motion)

Councillor Cummings proposed, seconded by Councillor Blaney, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Cummings explained that the race was an initiative of the Comber Regeneration Partnership. Interest had grown exponentially and it had reached a stage whereby the organisation had been unable to source insurance to cover the event. Councillor Cummings referred to examples of other projects across Northern Ireland that had to call on assistance of local government bodies for assistance. This

group was not requesting financial assistance and had funds in place to cover insurance but was seeking assistance and expertise in having insurance in place.

Alderman McIlveen queried the specifics of what exactly was being asked of the Council.

Councillor Cummings said that the request was that the Council as a body would submit the application for insurance cover on behalf of the organisation, clarifying that the council would get the insurance in place and be reimbursed by the organisation.

Councillor Blaney was happy to provide his support to the motion. He explained that he had been to the event on many occasions, had seen it grow with the community providing their support. It had become an attraction that brought crowds from across the Borough and may even provide jobs.

Alderman McIlveen asked the Director of Organisational Development and Administration for her advice on the motion.

The Director of Organisational Development and Administration asked that the motion was amended to ask officers to bring back a report on the request. There were a large number of third-party events across the Borough and the issues of the nature of the Council's insurance cover and professional officer indemnity would need to be addressed.

Alderman Girvan supported the event and believed it to be a valid proposal. She explained when it was first brought forth by the Comber Regeneration Committee, there were great reservations for safety and insurance cover. Though efforts were made to provide safety precautions, an eventuality existed wherein insurance would be needed.

Alderman McIlveen confirmed a minor amendment be added to the motion; that a report be sought on the subject to which both Councillors Cummings and Blaney agreed.

Alderman Gibson offered his support to the event but requested further clarity on the amendment and what the expected role of the council was.

Alderman Irvine spoke of his keenness to support the event as well and welcomed the amendment for a report. Having visited the Donaghadee TT Soapbox races in the past, Alderman Irvine suggested that it may be wise for the Comber TT soapbox organisers to make contact for further advice.

Councillor Gilmour also welcomed the amendment. She raised concerns that, if the Council were to organise this insurance, it may open the floodgates to many other third parties in similar circumstances and so would look toward to a report that outlined what the Council could and could not do.

Alderman Keery believed it may have been the case that the first Comber TT Soapbox race took place whilst he was Mayor and recalled being both impressed

with the safety standards put in place and that it was initially they who provided advice to the Donaghadee TT Soapbox organisers. He thought there may be a problem however if the Council were to take out insurance; that an insurance company may not be willing to cover the event if the Council did not have a controlling interest in how the event was planned. Furthermore, he suggested a grant may be an easier approach.

Councillor Cummings summarised, thanking members for their contribution in the discussion and that the motion was amended to request a report outlining the council's ability to help. He referenced a question raised earlier in the discussions regarding funding and advised that no mention of financial help had been mentioned on the motion as it was only a request for assistance in acquiring insurance.

(Councillor P Smith returned to the meeting at 20:26)

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Blaney, that the Notice of Motion be amended to seek a report outlining the Council's ability to assist with the insurance for the event.

(b) Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Dunlop and McKimm:

The Council has commended and recognised the extraordinary efforts of the Samaritans during the Covid pandemic and beyond. The ability of the volunteers to react quickly and effectively during the pandemic and to continue to offer support to anyone who needs a listening ear day or night, 365 days a year, is to be commended and congratulated. This Council has recognised the mental health challenges facing our society, and agreed to light up our council buildings in green (the colour of the Samaritans) on the evening of 22 December by way of demonstrating that the Samaritans are always there for all within society

Councillor Dunlop proposed, seconded by Councillor McKimm, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Dunlop advised that the initial submission for this motion had been some time ago and that the Samaritans were on the annual lighting of buildings. Due to this, he wished the motion to be put through as a renewal but that if this was not appropriate, the motion could be withdrawn.

Alderman McIlveen advised that as it was on the agenda, it was most appropriate to withdraw as opposed to debating the subject as it was already an agreed occurrence, unless a difference existed between this motion and the previous.

Councillor Dunlop had not seen the previous motion and so could not comment. He explained part of this motion was congratulating and acknowledging their work.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Dunlop, seconded by Councillor McKimm, that the Council has commended and recognised the extraordinary efforts of the Samaritans during the Covid pandemic and beyond. The ability of the volunteers to react quickly and effectively during the pandemic and to

continue to offer support to anyone who needs a listening ear day or night, 365 days a year, is to be commended and congratulated. This Council has recognised the mental health challenges facing our society, and agreed to light up our council buildings in green (the colour of the Samaritans) on the evening of 22 December by way of demonstrating that the Samaritans are always there for all within society

11. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

There were no items of any other notified business.

NOTED.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Girvan, seconded by Councillor Gilmour, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted items of confidential business.

12. ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

IN CONFIDENCE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

13. RECTIFICATION OF TITLE AT THE GREEN, KIRCUBBIN

IN CONFIDENCE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

14. RENEWAL OF LICENCES TO BANGOR MEN'S BILLIARDS AND SNOOKER CLUB AND NORTH DOWN MODEL RAILWAY CLUB IN RELATION TO PREMISES AT 13 CENTRAL AVENUE, BANGOR

IN CONFIDENCE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

15. REQUEST FROM THE BROMPTON BELLES AND BEAUX TO INSTALL HANDRAILS AT BROMPTON

IN CONFIDENCE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

16. REQUEST FROM OPEN REACH FOR A WAYLEAVE OVER LAND AT MANOR STREET, DONAGHADEE

IN CONFIDENCE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

17. REQUEST FROM LITTLE DOVES CHILDCARE CENTRE TO INSTALL A NEW GAS BOILER

IN CONFIDENCE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

18. REQUEST FOR VEHICULAR ACCESS OVER COUNCIL LAND AT BROMPTON

IN CONFIDENCE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

19. PUBLIC RIGHT OF WAY UPDATE

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

20. POTENTIAL LAND ACQUISITION, DISTRIBUTOR ROAD

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Greer, seconded by Alderman Keery, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 20:53.

Unclassified

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ITEM 8.2.1**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Corporate Services Committee
Date of Meeting	25 May 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Organisational Development and Administration
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Administration
Date of Report	19 May 2022
File Reference	SUS 1
Legislation	NI (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Sustainability and Climate Change Policy
Attachments	Sustainability and Climate Change Policy

Matter Arising from Corporate Services Committee 10 May 2022.

At Corporate Services Committee on the 10th May 2022 it was agreed that Council approves the Sustainability and Climate Change Policy 2022 subject to the inclusion of a reference to the declared climate emergency prior to ratification.

The amended policy is attached for approval.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the Sustainability and Climate Change Policy 2022 which includes reference to the declared climate emergency.

Document Control Number:	ALL-POL-001-02		
Document Name:	Sustainability and Climate Change Policy		
Date 1st Issued:	1 st April 2015	Latest Issue Date:	23 rd March 2022
Issued By:	E Adair	Approved By:	Corporate Services Committee

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Policy Title	Sustainability and Climate Change Policy
Policy Reference	ALL-POL-002
Version	02
Policy Summary	The Sustainability and Climate Change Policy gives a commitment that the Council will carry out its activities and functions a manner which minimizes any potentially negative climate change impacts and states that the principles of sustainable development will be integrated throughout all Ards and North Down Borough Council activities.
Source/Author(s)	Compliance Officer - Sustainability
Date of Equality and Sustainability Screening Panel	12 th April 2022
Date of Council Approval	XXXXX
Implementation Date	XXXXX
Last Review Date	31 st March 2017
Next Review Date	31 st March 2023
Officer Responsible for Review	Compliance Officer - Sustainability
Any Other Information	This policy can be provided in alternative formats if required in relation to language or disability.

Revision History:

Date	Changes Made	Version
9 November 2021		

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Sustainability and Climate Change Policy

Policy Summary

This Sustainability and Climate Change Policy gives a commitment that the Council will endeavour to reduce its impact on the local and global environment by demonstrating clear leadership, providing high quality services, whilst preventing pollution, reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions and saving energy and water.

The Council will strive towards compliance with all sustainability, environmental and climate change legislation, guidance and best practice principles to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

As part of its commitment to acting sustainably and safeguarding the environment, Ards and North Down Borough Council will follow an informed approach in protecting the environment and our outstanding natural surroundings, including many internationally recognised designated sites, eg ASSIs, AONBs, SPAs and SACs. To mitigate and adapt to climate change we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and improve our resilience to current and future climate impacts. We will conserve natural resources, enhance biodiversity and further improve the quality of life and the sense of well-being for all our residents.

We will do this by initially looking internally within the organisation to mitigate and adapt the Council's practices, in order to reduce our environmental footprint and promote sustainability, and then looking outward, working constructively with our external partners to further sustainable development by ensuring the integration and balancing of social, economic and environmental factors when plan-making and decision-taking, in order to support the long-term public interest.

Requirement for Policy

Ards and North Down Borough Council has an ISO 14001 Environmental Management System which requires us to have an Environmental Policy.

The Council is also required to demonstrate compliance with the Duty for Sustainable Development, the Biodiversity Duty and any future Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill or sustainability and environmental legislation.

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A Climate Emergency was also declared, by the Council, in February 2019.

This Policy has been devised to address all sustainability, biodiversity and environmental requirements.

Who does this policy apply to

This policy applies to all Council employees, Elected Members, external contractors, visitors, service users and all persons and organisations using Council's facilities.

Sustainable Development

Our Commitment to Sustainable Development

Our economy and society depend on a healthy environment. To achieve this, the Council is committed to integrating sustainability throughout our operations.

To deliver against this commitment the Council will:

- Empower the local community to live healthy, sustainable and fulfilling lives through our Community Plan, Community Development and community engagement work.
- The Local Development Plan will play a key role in looking after and improving our environment for future generations in a changing climate. It can do so by promoting sustainable development, promoting sustainable and active travel to assist with limiting emissions, promoting green infrastructure and avoiding development in areas with risk from flooding. The LDP shall deliver locally distinct planning policy including policies related to renewable energy.
- Supporting local prosperity, equal opportunity, social value and fair trade.
- Consider the sustainability and climate change impact of all new policies and activities including how we can reduce our impact on climate change (mitigate) and how we can prepare and adapt ourselves and our ratepayers to the expected effects of climate change
- Promote and support a Sustainable Food System by considering the influence we have in using our buying power and community

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relationships to encourage healthy and sustainable food production; and consumption and encouraging the use of seasonal, local produce, promoting ways to reduce food waste, providing land and support where possible for community growing

- Sustainable design principles are integrated into all major construction and refurbishment projects at the design phase, incorporating it into both the business case and project specification.
- Monitor and manage our own use of natural resources as an organisation, as well as championing sustainability as a community leader.
- Require contractors and others operating on our behalf to uphold the same sustainability standards.
- Ensure that Council Officers and Elected Members are regularly briefed on sustainability and climate change issues; and
- Regularly report on progress in delivering our sustainability and climate change programs.

Assessing Sustainability

Ards and North Down Borough Council is committed to screening our activities for their social, economic and environmental impacts. The assessment of sustainability will identify when significant adverse impacts may occur. If issues are identified during the screening process the activity may be reviewed, revised or have mitigation measures applied to it before it can proceed.

All new policies, plans, strategies should be screened for their sustainability impact:

- New strategies
- Events
- Capital building projects
- Activities affecting the public realm
- Community consultation exercises
- Community plan
- New projects and initiatives
- Choosing location for new infrastructure
- Changes to service delivery
- Management arrangements for the Council estate

The list above is not exclusive and other activities that do not fall within the above categories should also be considered and assessed for their sustainability impact.

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The Local Development Plan shall be accompanied by a Sustainability Appraisal incorporating strategic environmental assessment.

Integrating Sustainability

Ards and North Down Borough Council will strive towards compliance with all sustainability, environmental and climate change legislation, guidance and best practice principles to fulfil its statutory responsibilities.

It will demonstrate its commitment to sustainability by including sustainability principles within all corporate and service level documents.

The Roadmap to Sustainability is the central strategy to ensuring sustainability and climate change is 'main-stream' in all councils policies and plans.

Sustainable Development Goals

The Council has formally agreed to support and promote the UN Goals in June 2018. This agreement has been further extended into the councils [Roadmap to Sustainability](#), agreed by council in March 2021.

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We recognise that local development goals cannot be achieved without simultaneously looking after the planet and its ability to provide the natural resources and ecosystem services on which our economy and society depends.

Furthering sustainable development requires the integration and balancing of complex social, economic and environmental factors when plan-making and decision-taking. To achieve this, the Council is committed to integrating, where possible, sustainability throughout its operations.

The Council also recognises that urgent action is required to address the climate and nature emergency, and that the Council must play its part in the global effort to meet the aims of the UN Paris Agreement to combat climate change and accelerate and intensify the actions needed for a sustainable, low carbon future.

Legal requirement (Sustainable Development)

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Duty for Sustainable Development

The principal legal requirement for this policy is the Duty for Sustainable Development contained within Section 25 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This places a statutory duty on district councils to promote the achievement of sustainable development.

The principles of sustainable development will be integrated throughout all Ards and North Down Borough Council activities.

Duty for Biodiversity

The principal legal requirement for this policy is the Duty for Sustainable Development contained within Section 25 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006. This places a statutory duty on district councils to promote the achievement of sustainable development.

The principles of sustainable development will be integrated throughout all Ards and North Down Borough Council activities.

Proposed Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill

As of 9th March 2022, Northern Ireland has its own Climate Change Bill - CC (n.2) Bill, also known as the Minister's Bill, passed the final stage of the Assembly legislative process. It will now go forward for Royal Assent.

The key targets include:

- Overall Net Zero Target by 2050 (+target for 2030 & 2040)
- Sectoral Plans
- 80% by 2030 Renewables target
- 10% Active Travel Budget requirement
- Just Transition Fund for Agriculture
- Soil Quality & Biodiversity Targets
- Sectoral carbon budgets
- Nature-Based Solutions support
- Just Transition Commission
- Climate Commissioner within two years
- Climate Action Plan within three years
- Methane Emissions - separate reduction target of 46% by 2050 (largely associated with the agricultural sector)

Note: a bill proposed by a minister has the preference for final stage consideration. Therefore, the Minister's Bill had a quicker legislative process than the PMB, which did not proceed.

Green Leases

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Green Leases The built environment is responsible for 40 per cent of the UK's carbon emissions and government's carbon reduction targets and impending legislation's are driving the issue of 'green leases' from the periphery of the owner/ occupier discussions into the very middle of every conversation about environmental performance of the built environment. The built environment is a significant consumer of and contributor to the nation's energy and water consumption and waste generation. Owners and occupiers will inevitably have to make green-related decisions when choosing materials for fit-outs, alteration and refurbishments. Owners should seek to minimise their EPC ratings and achieve high levels of BREEAM and LEED accreditation when building new premises or refurbishing existing ones.

What is a 'Green' Lease? It is a standard lease that:

- Includes additional clauses relating to the management and improvement of the environmental performance of a building;
- Is enforceable for the entire term of the lease;
- Helps to provide realistic and measurable building efficiency targets;

Five Broad Categories The 'green' element of the lease will fall into 5 broad categories as follows:

- Energy – Building Management Systems (BMS); separate utilities metering systems; motion and daylight sensors lighting systems; appropriate service and maintenance strategy; renewable energy schemes
- Water – building strategy and individual metering; advanced metering technology; efficient plumbing; recycling of grey water and rainwater/ storm water harvesting
- Waste – waste audits and monitoring; reduction strategy; adequate space for recyclables storage; fit-out and refurbishment contractors to make provision for waste recycling and segregation
- Building works – avoid work compromising environmental performance; BREEAM; LED; EPC; sustainable replacement of plant and equipment; sustainability-based planned preventative

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maintenance; EV charging; green travel plans; on-site cycle storage and cyclist's facilities; SUDs

- Biophilic and Biodiversity Planning – use of plants and natural materials; biodiversity in and around the building; green roofs; living walls; building performance monitoring

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Sometimes agreement between owners/ occupiers cannot be reached on 'green' leases but nevertheless they each have a strong commitment to all things green. In such cases the parties can agree to enter into a MOU outlining how they will both commit to working together on how they will improve and manage the building's environmental performance. MOU's are not legally binding documents and can be updated by either party without effecting the terms of the over-arching lease. They are a faster way to securing a green-related agreement.

Benefits to owners/ occupiers of 'Green' leases

Owners – good quality space is easier to rent; better leasing terms able to be negotiated; occupiers will be keen to renew leases
 Occupiers – allays environmental and social impact concerns; reduces reputational risk; reduces operational costs; creates a 'green' culture

Ards and North Down Borough Council will consider the use of Green Leases where practicable.

Monitoring Sustainability Compliance

Compliance with this policy will be monitored using the Roadmap to Sustainability. This live document will be regularly reviewed and reported to council and senior management.

Related Information

Compliance with the Duty for Sustainable Development will be assessed via the Council's:

- Sustainable Screening form
- Roadmap to Sustainability

Other Council Policies and Procedures relevant to

Roadmap to Sustainability
 Local Biodiversity Action Plan
 Tree & Woodland Strategy
 Procurement Policy & Guidelines

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Environmental Aspects	<p>Emergency Plan</p> <p>Learning & Development Strategy</p> <p>Pride in Performance Conversations</p> <p>Land & Property Policy</p> <p>Local Development Plan</p>
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Environmental Management System

Required ISO 14001 Environmental Performance	<p>Ards and North Down Borough Council is committed to continual improvement and prevention of pollution by reducing the environmental impacts that arise from our business activities and delivery of our services.</p>
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Through the implementation of our Environmental Management System the Council will:

1. Set realistic and measurable objectives and targets together with an Environmental Management Programme to ensure continual improvement in environmental performance; and
2. Regularly review this policy to ensure it continues to be effective and representative of our activities and services.

We endeavor to:

1. Minimise the amount of waste generated internally and disposed of to landfill. Where reduction is not practical, seek to reuse or recycle waste and ensure the safe disposal of all waste;
2. Introduce measures to ensure good practice and the responsible use of natural resources such as water, fuel and energy;
3. Investigate and introduce, where possible, measures to minimise the release of pollutants which cause damage to land, air and water due to our activities,
4. Reduce the environmental impact of goods purchased at the same time encouraging suppliers and contracted services to improve their environmental performance

Legal Requirements (Environmental)	<p>Ards and North Down Borough Council will comply fully, and where possible exceed, the requirements of applicable legislation and</p>
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regulations and any other environmental requirements, through the application of good practice techniques.

NOTE: An Environmental Legal Register is maintained within the accredited Environmental Management System

Monitoring Environmental Compliance

Environmental compliance will be monitored using the Environmental Management System auditing procedure, via the collection of environmental data and via the recording of any incidents of non-compliance.

The system will be externally audited in line with the requirements of ISO 14001 verification by an appropriately qualified company.

Related Environmental Information

Within the environmental management system the following documents exist which help support the implementation of this policy:

- Environmental Legislation Register
- Environmental Aspects Register
- Environmental Audit Reports
- Environmental Corrective Action Database
- Environmental Monitoring Information

Management of Environmental Aspects

The most significant environmental aspects associated with Council operations and activities include (but are not exclusive to):

Energy	<p>Energy use has a major economic and environmental impact on both the Council and the wider Ards and North Down Borough area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Promotes the efficient use of energy; - Maximises economic savings through efficient use of energy and installing low energy technology; and - Prioritises the use of renewable energy across our entire Council estate. <p>Fleet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Introduction of Lightfoot to aid the reduction of fuel usage.
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continually researching alternative fuels, eg electric and hydrogen. - Continuing to procure the latest emissions standards on new vehicles
Waste	<p>The Council will lead by example to support ratepayers to reduce, reuse and recycle in line with the Waste Management Hierarchy. This will be achieved by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shifting the conversation to resource management rather than waste management - Promoting and communicating sustainable waste management to all our ratepayers and external contractors; - Leading by example through minimising the amount of waste generated as a result of Council activities and at all council sites; and promoting reuse and recycling where possible. - Continue to enforce the council ban on single use plastic products.
Pollution	<p>Pollution of air, water and ground can cause significant environmental problems.</p> <p>The council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure all infrastructure is suitable to prevent pollution from occurring or dispersing to other areas; - Implement and communicate procedures to ensure the correct disposal, release or spill protection of substances that could cause pollution; and - Minimise the use of all substances that could cause pollution. <p>Council will specify that any 3rd party contractors will operate to the highest standards and adhere to relevant codes of practice, Considerate Constructors Scheme.</p>

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Resources	<p>Excessive use of resources can have a negative environmental impact which in turn can negatively affect people and economic performance.</p> <p>The council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitor and reduce our energy and water consumption - Continue to eliminate single use plastics within council operations and through our supply chain - Closely monitor consumables purchased and ensure only those items that are necessary are ordered; - Consider the whole-life-cost of items purchased and reuse items rather than purchase new ones where possible; and <p>Minimise the amount of Council documents to be printed and use electronic methods of dissemination where possible.</p>
Biodiversity	<p>Biodiversity defined as the variety of life on earth. Moreover, it is the variety of flora and fauna and the functions that exist between them.</p> <p>The council will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Focus on Nature Based Solutions - Biodiversity will be considered within the Local Development Plan and a biodiversity checklist completed for all new plans - Our new Local Biodiversity Action Plan will be published in 2022 and will move towards a Nature Recovery Approach. - Commit to increased tree planting whilst protecting and correctly managing our existing woodlands (Tree & Woodland Strategy) - Consider the impact of planting schemes on wildlife and where possible choose pollinator friendly plants; - Restore ecosystems through rewilding schemes - Reduce the use of artificial fertilizer and pesticides; and - Plan our activities to reduce disturbance to nesting birds and mammals.

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Communication of Sustainability and Climate Change Policy

Communication and Awareness

This policy shall be communicated in an effective and accessible manner so as to be understood and practiced by all our employees. We shall raise awareness of sustainability, climate change and environmental management among all those working for or on behalf of the Council through appropriate training and relevant dissemination of information.

This Policy is actively promoted and is readily available to our employees, the public and other stakeholders.

The Council now has an internal Climate Action and Sustainability Champions Working Group which meets quarterly. The policy and its impacts will be regularly communicated through this group.

Environmental Statement

An abridged version of this policy (see Appendix 1) will be on public display within all Council buildings. This version of the policy will help enforce our environmental and legal responsibilities, demonstrate our commitment to environmental improvement as well as enforcing our desire to publicly communicate with our stakeholders.

Reporting Compliance

Compliance with legal requirements will be reported biennially in the form of the action plan reporting of the Roadmap to Sustainability.

Reports on our compliance with the Statutory Duty for Sustainable Development, the Biodiversity Duty, UK Climate Change Act and any future Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill will be submitted to the relevant government departments as requested.

Consequences of Not Following this Policy

Failure to follow this policy may be considered misconduct and formal disciplinary steps, in line with the Council's Disciplinary Policy, may be taken against person or persons deemed to be in breach.

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Appendix 1 Public Environmental Statement

Public Environmental Statement

Below is a copy of the Environmental Statement on display in all Council owned and maintained buildings.

Environmental Statement

Ards and North Down Borough Council is committed to being an exemplar in sustainability.

The principles of environmental stewardship are demonstrated through our strong and effective leadership. We actively strive to promote a sustainable local economy with jobs and employment for everyone; a just and fair society that promotes social inclusion, sustainable communities and personal wellbeing; and a vibrant, effective and healthy local environment.

Environmental Performance

Ards and North Down Borough Council is committed to acting sustainably and safeguarding the environment. Ards and North Down Borough Council will follow an informed approach in protecting the environment and our outstanding natural surroundings. To mitigate and adapt to climate change we will reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and improve our resilience to current and future climate impacts. We will conserve natural resources, enhance biodiversity and further improve the quality of life and the sense of well-being for all our residents.

Through the implementation of our Environmental Management System we will:

Set realistic and measurable objectives and targets together with an Environmental Management Programme to ensure continual improvement in environmental performance; and
Regularly review our Sustainability and Environmental Policy to ensure it continues to be effective and representative of our activities and services.

We endeavour to:

Minimise the amount of waste generated internally and disposed of to landfill. Where reduction is not practical, seek to reuse or recycle waste and ensure the safe disposal of all waste;
Introduce measures to ensure best practice and the responsible use of natural resources such as water, fuel and energy;
Investigate and introduce, where possible, measures to minimise the release of pollutants which cause damage to land, air and water due to our activities; and
Reduce the environmental impact of goods purchased at the same time encouraging suppliers and contracted services to improve their environmental performance.

Legal Requirements

Ards and North Down Borough will comply fully, and where possible exceed, the requirements of applicable legislation and regulations and any other environmental requirements, through the application of best practice techniques.

Communication / Awareness

This statement shall be communicated in an effective and accessible manner so as to be understood and practiced by all our employees. We shall raise awareness of sustainability, climate change and environmental management among all those working for or on behalf of the Council through appropriate training and relevant dissemination of information.

This Environmental Statement is actively promoted and is readily available to our employees, the public, other stakeholders and has been ratified by Council. This Statement is a summary of the Council's Sustainability and Climate Change Policy (ALL-POL-002) which can be viewed in full on the intranet or by requesting a hard copy from Ards and North Down Borough Council's Compliance Officer – Sustainability.

Signed:

Date:

Stephen Reid—Chief Executive
On behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council



ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Environment Committee was held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday, May 2022 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman M Smith

Alderman: Carson (6.16 pm)
Wilson

Councillors:	Armstrong-Cotter	Greer
	Cathcart	Johnson
	Cummings	McKee
	Douglas (6.29 pm)	Smart
	Edmund	

Officers:- Director of Environment (D Lindsay), Head of Assets and Property Services (P Caldwell), Head of Regulatory Services (S Addy), Head of Waste and Cleansing Services (N Martin) and Democratic Services Officer (H Loebnau)

1. APOLOGIES

The Chair of the Environment Committee, Councillor MacArthur, had sent her apologies and Alderman M Smith, as Deputy Chair of the Committee, would be taking the Chair at the meeting. Apologies were also received from Councillor Kendall and apologies for lateness from Alderman Carson and Councillor Boyle.

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked for Declarations of Interest. Alderman M Smith and Councillor Wilson both declared an interest in Item 6 – Grant of Entertainment Licences.

NOTED.

3. CHEWING GUM TASK FORCE FUND

(Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report dated 11 April 2022 from the Director of Environment detailing that the newly established Chewing Gum Task Force brought together some of the UK's major chewing gum producers in a new partnership to remove gum litter from UK high streets and prevent future littering. The scheme administered by independent charity Keep Britain Tidy, saw the chewing gum firms invest up to £10 million over five years to achieve two objectives; cleaning up historic gum staining and changing behaviour so that more people would bin their gum.

Grants of up to £20,000 were available to individual councils in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to fund street cleansing and/or purchase of cleaning equipment. Councils would also benefit from a bespoke gum litter prevention package, including targeted behaviour change signage and advice to encourage people to bin their gum.

As reported last month, there was a shortfall in the funding for the two additional posts to operate the new Public Realm Deep Clean Equipment. Initial enquiries had confirmed that the funding could be used to employ additional staff to operate gum removal equipment. As part of the grant application process, the application must have Committee approval and state the name of a Councillor/Member Champion (see appendix – example application form).

RECOMMENDED that the Council proceeds with a grant application and secondly agrees a Councillor/Member Champion.

Proposed by Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the recommendation be adopted and that Councillor MacArthur be appointed as the Councillor/Member Champion.

Councillor Cathcart welcomed the additional funding to the Council and firmly believed that the onus should be on producers to help address the chewing gum litter problem through a tax or levy on them. However, he remained curious about the role of the Member Champion. In seconding the recommendation, Councillor Johnson shared that opinion and had nothing further to add.

Councillor Wilson agreed with those who had spoken and thought that it was good to see producers beginning to show corporate responsibility and this was also being seen in the collection of soft plastics in supermarkets. He hoped that the responsibility being shown would soon be adopted by fast food producers/retailers.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the recommendation be adopted, and that Councillor MacArthur become the Councillor/Member Champion.

4. CONSULTATION ON THE REFORMS OF THE PACKAGING WASTE RECYCLING NOTE (PRN) AND PACKAGING WASTE EXPORT RECYCLING NOTE (PERN) SYSTEM AND OPERATOR APPROVAL

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report dated 20 April 2022 from the Director of Environment detailing that the Consultation Paper related to proposals to amend the Packaging Waste Recycling Note system to align with the new Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations.

Since 2007, all packaging producers with a turnover in excess of £2 million and handling more than 50 tonnes of packaging per year, had been obligated to demonstrate that they had met statutory recycling obligations. That had been

achieved by purchasing PRNs and PERNs from accredited recycling processors. The transactions were normally purchased through compliance schemes acting on behalf of producer members. That operated as a market-based system, with the price of PRNs fluctuating based on supply and demand.

Historically, the transactions had been between Packaging Producers and Recycling Processors, with councils who managed the collection of household waste receiving no direct payments. Under the new Extended Producer Responsibility Regulations, there would be a new separate payment made by producers to local authorities for managing the collection and sorting of household packaging waste.

The Consultation set out 22 questions relating to the proposed changes. The majority of those would have no direct impact on Council services and related to recycling processors and packaging producers. That said, as the Council used a number of recycling processors and ultimately a sizeable volume of materials were shipped abroad for recycling, the stability of markets had an important bearing on gate fees.

The full Consultation Paper could be viewed using the following hyper link:

[Reforms to the PRN and PERN System Consultation Document.pdf \(defra.gov.uk\)](#)

RECOMMENDED that the Council agrees the proposed response attached in the appendix.

Proposed by Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Proposing the recommendation Councillor McKee had nothing further to comment. Councillor Cathcart considered the response to be well set out and believed that the innovation necessary within the industry to reduce waste would not be taken until the government took a firmer stance on packaging waste. He expected a remarkable improvement in waste generation to take place when charges were introduced and appreciated the report and update to the Environment Committee.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

5. AMENDMENTS TO PROPERTY MAINTENANCE STRATEGY (Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report dated 22 April 2022 from the Director of Environment detailing that the Council's Maintenance Strategy was originally implemented in 2016 but had been revised several times to meet the changing needs of the Estate and to evolve in line with best practice and changes to other, related strategies. In this fourth revision, a number of changes were proposed.

Development of the Condition Survey

Officers understood that it was not simply a building's condition that determined its need or suitability for refurbishment works, therefore two additional criteria had been introduced.

Cognisance of Other Strategies

This criterion was designed to take into account the possibility of the asset being replaced, sold, developed or declared surplus as part of the other Council plans and strategies.

The scoring ranged from 1: Highly unlikely within the next ten years to, 4: Planned future project within two years.

Social Adjustment

This criterion was designed to explicitly take into account the requirement for social need and provision of service for the community, to be considered within the current stock of buildings.

Factors such as the building's current layout / size / facilities would be taken into account when scoring.

The scoring ranged from 4: Good – An extensively used facility with high occupancy usage. Performing as intended and operating efficiently, to, 1: Bad – Under-utilised. Required major improvements / redesign to be fit for purpose.

These two criteria would help ensure that the Council's building stock remained fit for purpose in terms of both its design and condition.

Amendments in line with the Council's Newly Approved Play Strategy

Each of the Council's 80 play sites cost between £50 and £175k to replace (depending on the Tier or type MUGA/Skatepark/Pump Track) and ideally that should be done every 15 years. Therefore, an annual capital budget of £500k was required to avoid large peaks and troughs in Capital financial planning. That represented a £200k per year increase, in line with figures published within the play strategy.

RECOMMENDED that the amendments detailed within this report and made within the revised strategy attached, are adopted by the Council.

Proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Cummings commended the Strategy particularly in relation to the social impact of property maintenance and was mindful that a number of Council Community Centres served a lot of community need, so therefore it was right and proper that the Council introduced that element into its strategy.

Seconding the recommendation, Councillor Cathcart thought that the amendments to the Strategy were sensible and he was happy to approve them. He indicated that a number of fountains in Pickie and the Promenade in Bangor were not working currently, and he asked how the Council would address those repairs in the short to medium term since he was concerned about safety to the public. The Head of Assets and Property Services was aware of the issues in that area but not the extent of them and would examine that further.

Councillor Smart gave his support to the amendments to the Strategy which highlighted an awareness of what could be sold or replaced, and the Head of Assets and Property Services explained the scoring mechanism in terms of the likelihood of future changes to property use or ownership when consideration was being given to investment.

The officer made it clear that Members would be informed annually on the out working of the Strategy with a report being brought before the Council.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman M Smith, Acting Chair of the Environment Committee, and Alderman Wilson had declared an interest in the Item 6 below and it was agreed that neither would take part in the decision of Committee on this matter.

It was proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor Armstrong-Cotter that Councillor Smart take the Chair for Item 6.

6. GRANT OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report dated 22 April 2022 from the Director of Environment detailing that applications had been received for the grant of entertainment licence as follows:

1. Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club – Marquee, 7 Seafront Road, Cultra

Applicant: Mr Roger Lees, 88 Princetown Road, Bangor

Days and Hours: 7pm – 11pm, 19th – 21st August 2022

Type of entertainment: Indoor dancing, singing and music or any other entertainment of a like kind.

2. Royal Ulster Yacht Club – Marquee, 101 Clifton Road, Bangor

Applicant: Mr Gavin Watson, 101 Clifton Road, Bangor

Days and Hours: 23rd – 26th June 2022

- 6pm – 11pm, 23rd, 24th, 25th June
- 4pm – 6pm, 26th June

Type of entertainment: Indoor dancing, singing and music or any other entertainment of a like kind.

3. The Woburn Arms, 69 Main Street, Millisle

Applicant: Mr Thomas Bickerstaff, 52 Abbey Road, Millisle

Days and Hours: Monday to Sunday during the permitted hours when alcohol may be served on these premises under the Licensing (NI) Order 1996

Type of entertainment: Indoor dancing, singing and music.

4. Stoneyfalls Equestrian Arena, 1 Bush Road, Ballyhalbert

Applicant: Mr Hugh Colwell, 4 Stoneyfalls Lane, Ballyhalbert

Days and Hours: Friday, Saturday, Sunday 7.30pm – 1.00am

Type of entertainment: Indoor dancing, singing and music

RECOMMENDED that the Council grants the applications.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman M Smith resumed the Chair.

7. GRANT OF OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENCE

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report dated 22 April 2022 from the Director of Environment detailing that an application for an outdoor entertainment licence had been received.

Walled Garden, Bangor Castle

Applicant: Mr Kieran Gilmore, 27 Sheridan Drive, Bangor BT20 5NQ

Days and Hours: 10th – 30th August 2022

- 12noon – 11pm (except Sundays which have a 10pm finish)

Type of entertainment: A public musical / theatrical entertainment event to be held wholly or mainly in the open air as part of the Open House Festival.

RECOMMENDED that the Council grants this licence with the condition that it will not be issued until the licensee provides and implements an Event Management plan to the satisfaction of the PSNI, NIFRS and Council Officers.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Wilson, that the recommendation be adopted.

8. LICENSING Q3 ACTIVITY REPORT (OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2021)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report dated 23 March 2022 from the Director of Environment detailing that the information provided in the report covered, unless otherwise stated, the period from **1 October to 31 December 2021**. The aim of the report was to provide members with details of some of the key activities of the Licensing Service, the range of services it provided along with details of level of performance.

Applications Received

The Service dealt with a wide range of licensing functions which required the officers to consult with the PSNI, NIFRS and a range of other internal Council Sections in making their assessment of an application.

	Period of Report	Same quarter last year
Entertainment Licence	50	51
Cinema Licence	1	1
Amusement Permits	1	1
Marriage & Civil Partnership Place Approval	2	1
Pavement Café Licence	0	2
Street Trading Licence	4	1
Lottery Permits	6	6

Most of the licences issued were for renewals and hence the workload was constant year on year. Renewing a licence still entailed considerable work to access the application and consult with the other bodies.

Regulatory Approvals

That was the number of licences, approvals and permits that had been processed and issued.

	Period of Report	Same quarter last year
Entertainment Licence	71	28
Cinema Licence	1	0
Amusement Permits	1	1
Marriage & Civil Partnership Place Approval	2	0
Pavement Café Licence	0	7
Street Trading Licence	5	0
Lottery Permits	5	0

Inspections

The Service normally carried out a range of inspections in connection with the grant and renewal of licences to establish if the premises were suitable. In some cases, Council officers inspected with the NIFRS.

Due to the Covid-19 crisis all entertainment in premises had stopped. Whilst premises had continued to apply for the grant and renewal of licences officers had not been able to enter any licensed premises to carry out inspections.

Town Centre CCTV

The Council operated 18 cameras in Bangor, Holywood and Newtownards with the control room located in Bangor. They were manned for 40 hours per week; the remainder of the week the cameras were recording from a fixed position.

During the period of the report 7 incidents were recorded and reported to the PSNI by the CCTV operator:

Offence Recorded	Bangor	Holywood	Newtownards	Total
Assaults	1	1	0	2
Drink driving	1	0	0	1

Off Street Car Parking

Whilst the car parks were in use again, they had not returned to their previous levels due to the Covid-19 restrictions.

Table 1: Income from Ticket Sales

	Period of Report	Previous year
Income from ticket sales	£216,058	£141,858

Table 3: PCN's Issued

	Period of Report	Same quarter last year
Bangor	262	217
Holywood	212	180
Newtownards	313	288
Total	787	685

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

Proposed by Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the recommendation be adopted.

(Councillor Douglas entered the meeting at 6.29 pm)

Councillor Cummings was happy to propose the recommendation to note the report but drew officers' attention to the operation of town centre CCTV, enquiring about the hours of manned services and how often CCTV was called as a witness to crime. The Director explained that it was manned during set hours across the week and when that occurred the cameras could be rotated to follow activity being monitored, however when the CCTV monitoring room was unmanned the cameras remained in a fixed position and so the value of the information they provided would potentially be more limited. He did not have statistics on how frequently the PSNI asked to view the footage and would check that with a view to clarifying in future reports.

The Member expressed his concern about the low number of incidents reported to the police and wondered was the current resolution standard of the camera adequate to bring people to court. He had raised that with the local police commander and was aware that there was a working group looking at the town centre CCTV systems and that a report on the review was due soon.

(Alderman Carson entered the meeting at 6.16 pm)

The Director explained that the plan was that a report be brought back to the committee making a recommendation after that preliminary review, proposing a way forward. However, at this stage the thinking was that, given the range of parameters and inter-related issues, the recommendation may well be that the Council bring in an expert to do a full review engaging with relevant stakeholders internal and external, available technologies, financial estimates, potential funding streams, models of best practice etc.

Other Members discussed the operation of the CCTV and Councillor Armstrong-Cotter questioned if the cameras were indeed acting as a deterrent. She wondered if the manning hours should be changed to the times when most crime was committed and considered that if the public knew they could be watched it would act as a deterrent. Alderman Wilson noted that the figures related to the same quarter last year but felt that comparison should be made to pre pandemic times to more accurately reflect reality. The Director agreed that those questions could be considered in the immediate term and historical trends would be considered in the report.

Councillor Edmund was aware that the cost of the equipment was very high and asked if the Council should look to central government to obtain the funding needed. He also considered the importance of greater surveillance cover and more flexibility within the times of monitoring.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Cummings, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the recommendation be adopted.

9. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Notified Business.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Smart, seconded by Councillor Douglas, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted items of confidential business.

10. FRAMEWORK FOR THE PROVISION OF ELECTRIC AND GAS SUPPLIES FOR ARDS AND NORTH DOWN COUNCIL PROPERTIES

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

11. EXTENSION OF TENDERS

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

**12. ARC21 HAULAGE TENDER REPORT
(Appendix III)**

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDNG THAT INFORMATION)

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting.

Before finishing the Acting Chair, Alderman M Smith, stated that this would be the last Environment Committee meeting of the session and she offered praise to the outgoing Chair, Councillor MacArthur, along with relevant officers and Members of the committee. It had been a challenging year and she gave best wishes to all for the coming Council year.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.54 pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A virtual meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Committee was held via Zoom on Wednesday 11 May 2022 at 7.30 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor Thompson

Aldermen: Carson
W Irvine

Councillors: Chambers Johnson
Douglas McRandal
Edmund Smart
Greer T Smith
S Irvine

Officers: Director of Community and Wellbeing (G Bannister), Head of Community and Culture (J Nixey), Leisure Services Manager (A Johnson) and Democratic Services Officer (R King)

Others: Mr Liam Botham and Mr Fredrik Kronmarker (Deputation)

CHAIR'S REMARKS

Before commencing with Committee business, the chair paid tribute to the late Alderman Menagh who had been a member of the Community and Wellbeing Committee. Alderman Menagh's family were in his thoughts and he wished to pass on his sincere condolences on behalf of the Committee. He welcomed Councillor S Irvine to the Committee following his recent appointment to the Council.

He also welcomed Councillor Greer who was joining the Committee to replace Councillor Egan following her election to the Northern Ireland Assembly.

1. APOLOGIES

The Chairman sought apologies at this stage and apologies were received from Councillors Kendall, MacArthur and Boyle.

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked for any Declarations of Interest and none were noted at this stage.

NOTED.

3. DEPUTATION – PADDLE / PADEL TENNIS
(Appendix I)

Mr Liam Botham and Mr Fredrik Kronmarker were admitted to the meeting (7.05pm)

They outlined the attached presentation, highlighting the following points:

- Padel was best described as a cross between tennis and squash
- It originated in Portugal and Spain and had seen tremendous growth in Europe over the last 10 years. The Bliss group which Mr Botham, as a local resident, was working in partnership with also had centres in Dubai and Singapore.
- Padel was accessible due to the type of ball used and was played by all ages and equally popular with male and female participants including those with limited mobility.
- Club settings embraced family and social aspects and would typically include cafés, restaurants, yoga and kids activity areas, a concept that Mr Botham was seeking to deliver in Ards and North Down.
- The best quality Padel courts were manufactured in Spain with height requirements of above 10 metres
- 700-800 Padel courts were expected to open in NI in the next couple of years
- Bangor's Eddie Irvine centre had a Padel court but the group was hopeful to expand with prime opportunities identified in the North Down and Ards area.

The Chair thanked Mr Botham and Mr Kronmarker following the presentation and invited questions from members.

Councillor McRandal asked what the deputation was looking for from the Council and Mr Botham explained that in partnership with Bliss Padel, he was seeking to acquire use of land possibly through long term lease or potentially a profit-sharing arrangement. He emphasised that the group was not seeking grant aid and the project would be privately funded.

Mr Botham added that the club would be open to all and not run on a membership basis. There would be a strong PR campaign running alongside it to encourage as much uptake as possible.

Councillor McRandal felt that in the case of a private business taking on a public owned land it would need to be at the right price point and accessible. He asked for further details about the estimated 50 new jobs. Mr Botham explained that the café and restaurant element along with the maintenance requirements would, he believed bring up to 50 people in to employment.

Councillor Chambers was aware of the sport and its popularity in Spain and Portugal and agreed that it appeared to be suitable for all ages and various levels of ability. He also saw the social benefits of the club aspect.

The Republic of Ireland had a bigger network of clubs and he felt it could be equally popular in Northern Ireland. Councillor Chambers asked what the demand was locally.

Mr Botham suspected there would be strong demand although many people did not know about the game and therefore it was important to link with other sporting clubs in addition to running a strong PR and marketing campaign. He felt that the game would be well received locally.

Alderman Irvine queried the rules of the game and Mr Botham advised it was the same system as tennis with games and sets though the size of the court was a third the size of a tennis court and it was played both indoor and outdoor.

Councillor Greer queried the timescales with regards to rolling out the plans. It was advised that a business plan was in place and Bliss, as an organisation could move immediately though there was usually around two months waiting time for the courts to be manufactured in Spain.

Councillor Smart appreciated the importance of the economic benefits that the plans could bring but recognised much of the influence around that was outside of the Council's remit. He asked Mr Botham if he had an understanding of what Council sites and facilities were available.

Mr Botham had had some discussions and was aware of certain areas that he felt were highly suitable – some of those were shared with other sports clubs and facilities which he welcomed and he would be keen to take those initial discussions forward.

Councillor Edmund asked if there were plans to make the sport more accessible to the Borough's rural communities and while the initial focus was on creating a multi-use centre as outlined in the presentation, once interest was built, Mr Botham explained it would become financially viable then to install one or two courts on their own within rural areas. He added that the courts included lighting and could be controlled remotely to remove the need for staffing those smaller facilities.

Mr Kronmarker pointed to the growth of Padel in Sweden where there were now more than 4,500 courts and it was quite common for courts to pop up in out of town and more rural areas. He agreed with Mr Botham though that it was important to increase participation at this stage and introduce a large centre to get the sport established.

Councillor Edmund wondered if courts could be manufactured locally and schools could be involved. Mr Botham welcomed that suggestion

Councillor Douglas welcomed the potential for inward investment along with the health and wellbeing opportunities that the plans would create. She asked the deputation if it had any particular site in mind and if there was appropriate infrastructure in place. Mr Botham confirmed this, adding that he had appointed an architect, who had designed a previous facility in Dubai.

The Chair thanked the deputation for attending. He felt that the project would appeal to all age groups and particularly welcomed the economic benefits and the potential for courts in rural communities.

Mr Botham and Mr Kronmarker left the meeting.

4. WASP NEST TREATMENT SERVICE (FILE EHPD2)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 25 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the Environmental Health Protection and Development Service provided an investigation and advice service in relation to pest control matters. This function received approximately 1000 service requests annually. Calls relating to wasp nests were one of the most common requests, with more than 200 enquiries received each year.

When a service request of this type was received, officers would provide advice to the public on how to safely treat a nest when appropriate. If it appeared that it would be unsafe or the resident was not comfortable to treat the nest personally, then guidance was given on contacting private pest control operators. The cost of wasp nest treatment in the private sector ranged from £45-£150, depending on the location of the nest and the company providing the service. However, most requests received by this Service were initially enquiries as to whether the Council would carry out treatment, so we were proposing to offer this service for a fee on a cost recovery basis, in addition to our normal advisory response.

There would be a need to purchase additional equipment to safely treat nests, but this could be done using existing budget. It was proposed that the charge for treatment would be fixed at £30 for 2022/23. This fee had been set as a reasonable cost that would cover the cost of officer time and materials.

RECOMMENDED that Council agrees to wasp nest treatments being offered as a service to residents. It is also recommended that a fee of £30 be approved for the financial year 2022/23.

Proposed by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor McRandal that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Chambers suspected that the public would already assume this was a free service already offered by the Council. However, when weighed up against the private sector charges he felt that it represented good value. He asked if there were other pest control services that the Council could add.

The Director explained that the Council offered advisory services across all areas of pest control. Wasp nests was the most common single pest control issue which was the reason for the response outlined and recommended in the report. Other types of pest control services could be considered in the future however.

Councillor McRandal concurred with the proposer, feeling that the new service represented good value to the householder. Councillor Edmund agreed with the Director, recalling that it was one of the most common issues brought to him by residents. He thanked officers for bringing the recommendation forward.

Councillor Smart saw the benefit of the service but sought reassurance that the low price point of the service would not be damaging to private sector operators.

The Director emphasised that there was no desire to undercut any business but Council would be responding to the high demand for the service and he felt it would supplement that rather than take away any business from the private sector.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the recommendation be adopted.

5. PEACEPLUS (FILE PEACE V-1)
(Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 26 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that as Members would be aware Council was supported by its assigned consortium support consultant, Blu Zebra to establish a PEACEPLUS Partnership and undertake a co-design approach to produce an Action Plan, which would form the basis of the Councils submission to the Special EU Programmes Body.

The attached Update for Councils, dated 6 April 2022, gave Members an overview of the required co-design process, indicative timescales, and next steps.

At present, officers were working towards the establishment of the PEACEPLUS Partnership.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report.

Proposed by Alderman W Irvine, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman W Irvine was content with the progress that had been made with PEACE PLUS and he wished the partnership well.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the recommendation be adopted.

6. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SEEDING GRANT QUILTS FOR CARE LEAVERS (FILE CDV31)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 26 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that as members would be aware Council provided a Community Development Seeding Grant for newly formed community/residents groups. The seeding grant provided financial assistance with the costs involved in formally constituting a community/residents group.

On the 21st March 2022, Council received a seeding grant application from the Chairperson of Quilts for Care Leavers. The application was reviewed by a Community Development Officer and the Community Development Manager. The application was complete and met the criteria for receipt of a Community Development seeding grant.

Quilts for Care Leavers were awarded a seeding grant of £200.00. Under delegated authority, the seeding grant was approved and signed off by the Director of Community and Wellbeing.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report.

Proposed by Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman W Irvine welcomed the formation of the group and that it had seen fit to operate as a constituted group going forward.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman W Irvine, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the recommendation be adopted.

7. GOOD RELATIONS AND THE POLICING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP FUNDING (FILE GREL 433 AND PCSP/ANDBC16)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 26 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that both the Councils Good Relations (GR) and Policing and Community Safety Partnership (PCSP) were funded by respective Government Departments and the Council.

Good Relations was funded by The Executive Office (TEO), as follows:

Total Budget	TEO	ANDBC
£226,738	£170,053	£56,685

PCSP was funded by the Department of Justice (DoJ), as follows:

Total Budget	Joint Committee	ANDBC
£335,834	£274,267	£63,566

Both the GR and PCSP three years Strategies and one year Action Plans were submitted to the relevant Departments by the required submission dates. The Strategies and Action Plans were normally reviewed and approved by the Departments, to allow formal Letters of Offer to be issued to the Council for the start of the new financial year, to allow spend to commence. This year, officers had been advised that Letters of Offer would be late. TEO could not be issued a LOO without a First Minister sign off and the Joint Committee were still reviewing some PCSP Action Plans so would not issue any Letters of Offer until that process was finished.

To ensure there was no break in either service it was recommended that Council operated at risk from 1 April 2022. Having profiled both the GR and PCSP budgets for the incoming year, Councils financial contribution to both programmes would cover salaries and programme costs in Quarter 1, by the end of which time both formal Letters of Offer should have been received.

Programme	ANDBC Contribution	Profiled Q 1 Expenditure
GR	£56,685	Circa £54,000
PCSP	£63,566	Circa £39,000

RECOMMENDED that Council agrees to operate both programmes at risk, until formal Letters of Offer are received from the relevant Departments, as detailed in this report.

Proposed by Councillor Smart, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Smart queried if there had been any verbal indication given by the relevant NI Executive Departments in the absence of both letters of offer.

The Head of Community and Culture advised that there was an update to provide as since the writing of the report, the Good Relations letter of offer had now been received although with a slightly lower offer of funding than anticipated. The PCSP letter of offer was still outstanding. Officers had been asked to address some issues in the annual action plan, but there was confidence though that it would arrive shortly.

Councillor Edmund welcomed the comments by the officer and wished officers all the best with both programmes and hoped that the PCSP funding offer would be for the amount expected.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Smart, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the recommendation be adopted.

8. INDICATIVE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO MARK THE 400TH ANNIVERSARY OF KIRKISTOWN CASTLE (FILE HER/08-2/12 21)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 26 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the following notice of motion was agreed by Council in April 2022:

'To mark the 400th anniversary of the building of Kirkistown Castle, Council tasks officers to work with the Department of Communities (Historic Monuments Division), local community groups and schools, to deliver a community programme of events to mark this important milestone in the history of the village of Cloughey.

Officers from the Community and Culture Team had met to discuss what could be achieved given the very limited timescale. Members were asked to note that there had been no opportunity as yet to: consult with the community or secure any budget for the indicative activities outlined in this report.

Indicative programme of Activity

Officers proposed that the most viable option was to arrange an open day and programme of activity to coincide with the national European Heritage Open Day series that would take place on **10 September 2022**.

Access to the Castle was dependent on the agreement and cooperation of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency who were the custodians of the Castle. Appropriate insurances would need to be in place before the public could be permitted to enter the Castle.

Indicative programming ideas included:

Activity	Estimated Cost
A mobile exhibition on the history of the Castle	£1,000
Guided tours of the Castle by Blue Badge Guides	£800

An historical talk delivered by a Blue Badge Guide	£200
A commemorative booklet/programme	£1,000
Historical enactment/animation	£600
Plantation fencing demonstrations	£400
Community activity/fun day	£1,000
Engagement with school's local to the area (tbc)	£0
Kirkistown 400 motif/branding	£0
TOTAL	£5,000

Funding

It was noted that there was no specific budget allocated for this programme of activity and in order to deliver the initial ideas outlined above a budget in the region of **£5,000** would be required.

The community could apply to the Council's 2nd round of Heritage Development Grants for up to £500 and there was a possibility that if an appropriate programme was designed, officers could help the group explore other internal and external grant opportunities. The Arts and Heritage service may have been able to assist with some costs however this was likely to be to the detriment of other already planned for provision. The community could also potentially apply externally to the Big Lottery Fund to support the event.

A further report with an update of planned events and associated budget would be brought to Members at a later date, following community consultation.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes the outline plan in this report, that at present it is not possible to deliver on it due to the absence of any budget, but that officers will explore this further with the community as part of local consultation with the community on the event.

Proposed by Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Edmund felt that for a structure that was 400 years old, there needed to be some sort of celebration and if Council was unable to find the funds then it was a real indictment of its financial position. The market cross was one of the oldest in the

UK and the heart of the community. It needed to be respected as a structure of historical significance. Councillor Smart agreed but acknowledged that the rate setting process had already taken place but was hopeful of funding from external sources being identified.

Councillor McRandal felt it would have been useful if this had been raised prior to the estimates process. He asked why Council could not find £5,000, believing it was not a large amount of money. The Head of Community and Culture advised that all budgets had been set and there were no contingency funds that could be used but officers would try to source funding.

Councillor McRandal asked when officers would be proposing to bring any events to the committee. The officer added that a working group had been formed and she hoped that officers would be in a position to bring a report back in June.

Councillor T Smith supported the original motion and felt that Council was able to pick and choose when it found funding depending on the task. He hoped that the funding would be found due to the historical significance. Councillor Douglas appreciated it was short notice but was disappointed that funding could not be provided. She hoped that officers would explore all options.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the recommendation be adopted.

9. GOOD RELATIONS GRANT FUNDING (FILE GREL417)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 26 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that The Council continued to support local groups so that a variety of exciting and innovative good relations projects could take place locally. Through commitment to good relations and community development work, groups and individuals from different political, racial, and religious traditions are enabled, with the support of the Good Relations Small Grants Programme, to engage with one another to meet the aims of the Good Relations grant guidelines which were:

- Develop understanding, trust, equality & fairness
- Build confidence and inclusion
- Encourage meaningful dialogue and sustainable relationships based on the principles of equity, respect for diversity and Interdependence

The 2022/23 Good Relations grants scheme opened on Thursday 10th March 2022 and closed on Thursday 7th April 2022. The call was publicly advertised in the local press, via the community database, social media and on the Councils website. There were 2 online workshops delivered via Zoom and Microsoft Teams.

The total grant budget ring fenced was £10,000. A maximum of £1,000, per grant was available and a total of 7 applications were received by the closing date.

A scoring panel, which comprised of the Good Relations Officer, Peace IV Finance Officer, Parks and Cemeteries Officer and the PEACE IV Officer was held on Tuesday 12th April 2022. A pass mark of 40% was set and all applications were scored against the set and published criteria. All 7 applications provided the requested documentation and were deemed eligible to apply. At the start of the scoring process the panel agreed that if the total successful applications were in excess of the total available budget, percentage deductions would be made equally across all successful applicants. Panel members had no conflicts of interest in any of the applications under consideration.

Applications were scored against 5 key criteria:

- Demonstration of need
- Participants
- Activity
- Value for Money
- Benefits and opportunities and Inclusion.

Below was a list of applications processed by the scoring panel, the score awarded and the officer's recommendations. All applications would adhere to any COVID restrictions in place at the time of delivery.

	Applicant and description of the project	Amount requested	Score achieved	Amount Awarded	Recommendation
1	<p>Hollywood Shared Town – Welcome to Hollywood</p> <p>A project to compliment the newly formed Hollywood Resettlement Group (HRG) established to welcome an Afghan refugee family to the town.</p> <p>1. A concert held by musicians from across the world 2. A small worlds workshop for schools in Hollywood</p>	£1,000	75%	£1,000	Approved
2	<p>Kilcooley Women's Centre – Quilting Queens Community Collective</p> <p>A 14-week programme for women across the borough to come together for dialogue and networking while learning a new skill. Building on last year's</p>	£1,000	65%	£1,000	Approved

	programme, participants will build on the discussions started in 21-22 and create individual pieces that will form a collective project on the theme of a 'Creative, Cultural Community'.				
3	<p>Millisle Youth Forum – Understanding Good Relations</p> <p>A project designed to support young people in establishing and understanding what good relations is and the role young people play in society to strengthen good relations. Elements will include good citizenship, understanding the meaning of racism and hate crime and sectarianism within their local community and across NI.</p>	£1,000	75%	£1,000	Approved
4	<p>Portaferry Community Services Ltd – Who are we to our community?</p> <p>The project is deemed as Phase 1 and will encourage 5 of the main groups in Portaferry to work better together through a series of workshops and visits. The groups will develop as one unit and explore any conflicts, diversity within their own groups and community and how best to become more inclusive post covid.</p>	£1000	75%	£1000	Approved
5	<p>Portaferry Gala Festival – Same but Different.</p> <p>Working with Portaferry Community Services, Phase 2 of the project will enable the collective groups to explore another area similar to theirs and how they can learn from each other to express culture and good practice.</p>	£1000	50%	£1000	Approved
6	<p>West Winds Development Association in partnership with West Winds primary school – Intergenerational Gardening Project</p> <p>Building on last year's project the intergenerational working between primary school children aged 5-11 and local residents will continue. The project</p>	£1000	70%	£1000	Approved

	last year led to improved relationships, improved confidence and strengthened connections with the local school. The project will continue to target those children and adults at risk of social inclusion.				
7	Youth for Christ Ards Peninsula – I'm ok, you're ok A project with young people from different areas to explore the issues around identity and relationships through informal group work and sport sessions. Sessions will include identity, flags and remembering, bias/prejudice with a visit to reinforce the learning.	£1000	80%	£1000	Approved
	Total awarded	£7,000			

The total budget was £10,000. A total of £7,000 was applied for with the maximum grant award of £1,000. A total of £7,000 was recommended for approval. TEO had yet to confirm if a budget cut would be implemented in 2022/23 (PCSP had been asked to plan for a 2% reduction in the 2022/23 budget). At this stage, the £3,000 surplus would be held until a Letter of Offer was obtained. Should a budget cut not be implemented then the GR Section would update the Committee on plans for the use of the funding within the current Action Plan.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approves the grant awards as detailed above and that the £3,000 surplus budget be retained at this stage with a further update to Committee in due course.

Proposed by Alderman W Irvine, seconded by Councillor Douglas, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman W Irvine queried the surplus of £3,000 and asked if it was the intention to issue a further call for applications but it was advised that given the reduced funding offer that would not be the case. The officer added that there would be a report brought to members on elements of the action plan that would need to be removed due to that reduced funding offer.

Councillor Douglas welcomed the report and was pleased to see a variety of groups and projects within the programme.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Douglas, that the recommendation be adopted.

10. PROGRAMME OF EVENTS TO MARK THE BICENTENARY OF THE DEATH OF VISCOUNT CASTLEREAGH 2022 - UPDATE REPORT (FILE HER/08-2/05 22)

(Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 27 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the following notice of motion was agreed by Council:

That this Council notes that 12 August 2022 will mark the bicentenary of the premature death of Robert Stewart, Viscount Castlereagh British Foreign Secretary during the Napoleonic Wars, architect of the Treaty of Vienna which brought peace to Europe, Chief Secretary of Ireland during the time of the Act of Union and ultimately becoming the 2nd Marquess of Londonderry the year before his untimely death.

That this Council agrees to develop a series of events, on its own, in partnership or in conjunction with others, to mark and develop a wider public appreciation of the huge role played by Robert Stewart in Irish, British and European history. The Council will also give consideration as to how this influential individual can be more permanently commemorated in the Borough. In doing so, officers are tasked with consulting with the National Trust, who have responsibility for Mount Stewart, the Londonderry family and other key stakeholders who may have information, material and/or artefacts to assist in this endeavour or who may wish to take part in an event or events.'

A Working Group had been established comprising the following Officers and Members:

- Councillor Colin Kennedy
- Councillor Lorna McAlpine
- Alderman Stephen McIlveen
- Alderman Jimmy Menagh
- Councillor Ray McKimm
- Councillor Richard Smart
- Arts and Heritage Manager, Emily Crawford
- Museum Manager, Heather McGuicken

A fourth meeting of the Working Group took place on Wednesday 23 March on Teams. Unfortunately, the Arts and Heritage Manager could not attend due to Covid-19 and as a result some elements of the draft programme of activity still required finalising.

Programme of Activity

The draft programme had been streamlined and events and activity deemed viable were attached.

It was previously agreed that the focus of the bicentenary commemorations should be on specific areas of significance in Castlereagh's life and career, with the National Trust proposing the areas of **Family Man, Politician, Statesman and Peer**.

The overall strapline for the programme of events was suggested by the National Trust as *A Commemoration of the Life and Achievements of Castlereagh*

Education

Officers met with the education team and Property Curator at Mount Stewart on Tuesday 8 February 22 to agree provisional plans for the education offering as part of the draft programme of activity.

It was proposed that the National Trust would provide a dedicated 'Castlereagh Day' each week between January-March 2023 for school children in the Borough to visit. The National Trust would develop a bespoke animated tour for Key Stage 2 children but specifically aimed at the post AQE Year 7 children. Officers identified that the main barrier preventing school children visiting was transport and that a subsidy for buses should be provided to enable the children to attend. The National Trust would provide a comprehensive and engaging tour with takeaway materials for the school visits.

Following comments received at the Working Group, Officers would investigate the viability of producing pre and post visit packs/online content for all of the children also.

Funding

A budget of **£40,000** was successfully secured through the Estimates Process.

Officers were liaising with the Externally Funded Programmes Team to establish if any appropriate elements of the draft programme of activity met the funding objectives of any appropriate internal funding streams.

PR and Communications

A marketing plan would be agreed in partnership with the National Trust and Mount Stewart and would include, but not limited to; the development of a brand, a floral bedding display, a publication, a dedicated page on the Council's website, event marketing and it was hoped that a short documentary could be commissioned.

The cost for PR and communications was included in the £40,000 for the project.

A further report with an update of planned events and associated budget would be brought to Members in June 2022 following a further meeting of the Working Group

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report

Proposed by Councillor Smart, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Smart thanked officers for their work, commenting that he would have liked to have seen other partners getting more involved and adding more resource but looked forward to the work progressing.

Councillor Edmund spoke of the historical significance of the Viscount of Castlereagh and was glad to see the National Trust getting involved.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Smart, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the recommendation be adopted.

**11. ARDS AND NORTH DOWN SPORTS FORUM GRANTS - WG
APRIL 2022 (FILE SD109)
(Appendices III – X)**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report dated 12 April 2022 from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that Members would be aware that on the 26th August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £40,000 had been allocated within the 2022/2023 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 required Council approval. In addition, the Council requested that regular updates were reported to members.

During March 2022, the Forum received a total of 20 grant applications; 1 of which was for Anniversary, 2 for Coaching, 1 for Equipment, 2 for an Event, 4 Goldcard and 10 Individual Travel/Accommodation Applications. A summary of the **19** successful applications are detailed in the attached Successful Anniversary, Coaching, Equipment, Event, Goldcard and Travel/Accommodation Applications.

A total of **1** of the applications failed to meet the specified criteria. The reason for the unsuccessful application was detailed on the attached Unsuccessful Applications.

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

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded March 2022	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£750	£250
Coaching	£3,000	£796.25	£2,203.75
Equipment	£11,000	£1,000	£10,000
Events	£6,000	£1,300	£4,700

Seeding	£500	£0	£500
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	£800	£13,700
Discretionary	£1000	£0	£1,000
After Schools Coaching	£3000	£0	£3,000
Goldcards proposed during the period March 2022 is 4 (2 of which are "subject to").			

*The proposed remaining budget for Anniversary of **£250** was based on a proposed award of **£750** as outlined in Successful Anniversary Applications – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Coaching of **£2,203.75** was based on a proposed award of **£796.25** – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **£10,000** was based on a proposed award of **£1,000** – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Events of **£4,700** was based on a proposed award of **£1,300** – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Individual Travel/Accommodation of **£13,700** was based on a proposed award of **£800** – for Noting.

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

Proposed by Councillor Edmund, seconded by Alderman W Irvine, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Edmund advised he wished to propose this on behalf of the late Alderman Menagh. Alderman W Irvine was pleased to see the grants rolled out and spoke of the benefits that the funding provided to the clubs involved.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that the recommendation be adopted.

12. NOTICES OF MOTION

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Councillor Adair was experiencing technical difficulties and was unable to join the meeting at this stage to propose his Notice of Motion at Item 12.1. The Chair therefore agreed to hear Item 12.2 first while those issues were resolved.

12.2 Submitted by Alderman W Irvine and Alderman Keery

That this Council notes with the concern the recent decision taken to no longer lock playgrounds in the Borough. That a report is brought back on the matter that will look at maintaining a locking up schedule that will include the Bloomfield and Rathgill playparks

(Alderman Keery was admitted to the meeting – 8.32pm)

Proposed by Alderman W Irvine, seconded by Alderman Keery, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

Proposing, Alderman W Irvine felt that the Council's play park locking up schedule should not have been a one size fits all approach and highlighted that there was a desire in the respective local communities for Rathgill and Bloomfield play parks to remain locked as they had done throughout their 10-to-12-year existence. Both play facilities were valuable community assets and as the lighter evenings approached, they provided a place for people to gather, adding that the play park at Bloomfield was beside a bonfire field. Both play parks had been affected by antisocial behaviour in the past with glass and smashed bottles found regularly. He hoped that members would support his request for a report to be brought back.

The seconder, Alderman Keery concurred, explaining that council needed to look after the facilities and added his concerns for the neighbouring residents in terms of ASB. He also wondered if Linear Park would no longer be locked after the issues there and felt that it was a retrograde step. The council should be looking after its equipment and keeping it in pristine condition for the public.

Summing up, Alderman Irvine assumed the absence of speakers was agreement to the motion and looked forward to discussing the issue again when the report was brought back to the committee.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Alderman Keery, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

(Alderman Keery was returned to the public gallery – 8.38pm)

12.1 Submitted by Councillor Adair and Councillor Edmund

That Council Task Officers to work with the woodland trust to develop and enhance community trails at Carrowood, Carrowdore as a potential peace plus project.

(Councillor Adair was admitted to the meeting – 8.38pm)

Proposed by Councillor Adair, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the notice of motion be adopted.

Councillor Adair explained that the wood was planted in 1999 to celebrate the Millennium. It had matured and was enjoyed by the local community. He noted the enhancement from the Live Here Love Here campaign and more people were able to enjoy the great outdoors following the end of the Covid-19 lockdown. He wanted now to see greater community use and the issue had been highlighted also by Michelle McIlveen MLA. He had been surprised to hear from many who did not know it

existed. He also felt it could now be a PEACE PLUS project and saw a good opportunity for the Council to work up a scheme in the event of that money becoming available. Council had a good track record of working with the Woodland Trust, and he asked members to support the motion.

Councillor Edmund described the location as historical woodland area and the proposal would fit in with public health messaging to encourage people to take exercise and get fresh air. It was a good opportunity to give people of Carrowdore a space to go and he too had visited the site recently. He hoped the Committee would support the motion as it would enhance the lives of the people of Carrowdore.

There were no indications from members to speak so Councillor Adair added his thanks to the committee for its support and looked forward to the motion being passed and work progressing.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Adair, seconded by Alderman Edmund, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

(Councillor Adair left the meeting – 8.44pm)

13. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

13.1 UPDATE ON THE BALLYCROCHAN/ASHBURY PLAY PARK

In response to the above item requested by Councillor T Smith, the Director advised that following the retirement of a member of staff, a meeting was due to take place with Council's newly appointed Lands Officer on 18th May to pick up where the proposal had been left off with a couple of issues to be ironed out with the land owner. He was confident though the project would progress as planned.

Councillor T Smith thanked the officer and asked for a timescale on completion. The Director felt it was not right to commit to timescales at this stage but he could confirm that Council had approved the location and the money was in the current budget along with verbal agreement in principle from the landowner. It was a matter of agreeing the final details now.

NOTED.

13.2 UPDATE ON 2022 SUMMER SCHEMES

In response to the above item, brought by Councillor T Smith, the Head of Community and Culture provided an update. She advised that the online registration system was being piloted this year and had opened on Monday 9th May 2022. There

was no facility in place yet for taking online payments but it was hoped Council could move to that process next year.

The officer added that so far there had been 650 applications and summer schemes were running in Ballygowan, Bowtown, Carrowdore, Portavogie, Redburn, Rathgill and West Winds. She added that the programme of venues had taken a slight deviation from what Council had agreed in March due to venue unavailability at Comber and Dongaghdee. Therefore, Bowtown and Carrowdore had been selected as alternatives on the basis of need, suitability and availability of venues.

Officers were also aware of other summer schemes being run in Donaghadee (Lighthouse) and Comber (Youth For Christ). A meeting with community groups, which were acting as delivery partners for some non Council delivered schemes, had been held earlier that day. Those organisations involved Ballyphilip youth group in Portaferry, Breezemount Community Association, Kilcooley Womens' Centre, Killinchy and District Development Association and Millisle Youth Forum. Breezemount had now withdrawn from that programme however, and there was a small amount of budget which could potentially be used to support an existing scheme in Donaghadee. A conversation was ongoing with Council's Finance team and a report would follow in June.

Councillor T Smith found it unacceptable that Donaghadee and Comber had now lost summer schemes because the venues had not been booked in time. He had only learned of their absence from the programme when viewing the Council's website and found it disappointing that members had not been updated, given it was asked for last June and then agreed by Council in March. He asked if officers had looked at alternative venues for Comber and Donaghadee.

The officer accepted the member's comments and advised that the situation had only come to light this week and so a report to members was not possible and was therefore unable to answer the question at this stage with regards to alternative venues. A report with further details would be brought to members next month.

Councillor Edmund noted that Ballyhalbert, Ballywalter and Portavogie did not fall into the deprivation areas used to identify need for Summer Schemes. He felt there needed to be something to keep children in those areas occupied pointing to antisocial behaviour issues and warning that they did not just appear in housing estates. He believed Council needed to change its approach and consider rural communities to ensure they got the same representation.

The officer added that Councillor Edmund's concerns would be considered in the annual evaluation process that took place at the end of each summer scheme programme.

Councillor Greer thanked officers for getting the schemes up and running again after a two year absence due to the Covid-19 pandemic. She welcomed the application

CW 11.05.2022 PM

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system being moved online and felt it was more accessible. She asked how the payment process was working given that it was separate to the online application system.

The officer added that applicants were asked to attend Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre and Ards Arts Centre to make the payment and there was an option for some to pay at the summer scheme on the first day for those parents unable to attend the two venues.

Councillor Greer asked about those schemes that were fully subscribed and it was advised that where schemes were fully subscribed, the applicant would be placed on a waiting list or offered an alternative where places were still available.

Councillor S Irvine wished to clarify that the Arts Centre was known as Newtownards Town Hall. He asked if consultation had been undertaken with those other independent summer scheme providers to ensure there was no conflict or duplication. That was confirmed by the officer who would also send the previous report in relation to summer scheme programme by way of an update to Councillor S Irvine.

NOTED.

(Councillor T Smith left the meeting – 8.59pm)

13.3 BANGOR YOUNG MEN FOOTBALL CLUB ON WINNING THE COCHRANE CURRY CUP AND FINISHING RUNNERS UP IN THE IFA JUNIOR CUP

Alderman W Irvine wished to note the above cup success of Bangor Young Men, capping a season which also included a promotion from the team's existing league, all within a demanding match schedule. He felt it right that Council write a letter of congratulations to the club and the players along with backroom staff be invited to attend a Mayor's reception. Councillor S Irvine agreed, describing the achievement, in the words of the late Alderman Menagh, as outstanding. He felt it important to stress the level of achievement in the club reaching the IFA Junior Cup final, describing the competition as the equivalent of the FA Cup for amateur teams across Northern Ireland. He praised the manager, players and committee on the club's achievements.

Councillor Chambers added his congratulations and supported the suggestion of a Mayor's reception as he felt that the club's success, particularly in reaching the final of the IFA Junior Cup, should not be underestimated. Councillor Edmund also supported the suggestion and wondered if Alderman W Irvine would be happy to include all champions across the Borough. In summary, he added that it was another fantastic sporting achievement within the Borough.

The Chair advised that a letter of congratulations could be sent but a request would have to be made to the Mayor with regards to a reception.

NOTED.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the public/press be excluded from the meeting.

14. WAR YEARS REMEMBERED (FILE CW152)

(Appendix XVI)

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

15. PCSP MINUTES 17TH JANUARY 2022

(Appendix XI)

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

16. PCSP MINUTES 7TH FEBRUARY 2022

(Appendix XII)

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

17. PCSP MINUTES 15TH FEBRUARY 2022

(Appendix XIII)

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

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

SCHEDULE 6 – INFORMATION RELATING TO THE FINANCIAL OR BUSINESS AFFAIRS OF ANY PARTICULAR PERSON (INCLUDING THE COUNCIL HOLDING THAT INFORMATION)

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Douglas, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting.

The Chair wished to thank members and officers on what had been his last meeting as Chair of the Committee and looked forward to serving on the committee next year.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 9.25pm.

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

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Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 21 April 2022

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Mr Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Townhall
The Castle
Bangor
BT20 4BT

Dear Mr Reid,

Re: Public Holiday – St Brigid's Day

At a recent Council meeting, Members asked that I write to the Prime Minister to request that from 2023, the first Monday in February be designated a public holiday in Northern Ireland. Such a designation would be in line with a recent decision by the Irish Government and would therefore result in a public holiday across the island of Ireland.

At the Policy and Resources meeting held on 13 April 2022, Members asked that I write to you and to all Councils in Northern Ireland, to ask for your support in our efforts to secure this additional Public Holiday and any further steps they will take to initiate the required process.

The Council trusts that you will give due consideration to this request and looks forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

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Our Ref: Democratic Services

Date: 25 April 2022

Email: democratic.services@fermanaghomagh.com

Mr Stephen Reid
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Townhall
The Castle
Bangor
BT20 4BT

Dear Mr Reid,

Re: Additional Roles for Local Councils

At a recent Regeneration and Community Committee meeting held on 12 April 2022, Members asked me to write to the Executive Office to formally highlight their concerns that local Councils are being required to take on roles from central government agencies, without budget, and to request that appropriate budget is provided to Councils for such activities.

Members also asked that I write to all Councils with a rural catchment area to encourage you to make similar representations.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alison McCullagh".

Alison McCullagh
Chief Executive



NORTHERN IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE

CLOSED CONSULTATION SUMMARY OF CONSULTATION RESPONSES FOR NORTHERN IRELAND AMBULANCE SERVICE HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE TRUST

CONSULTATION ON THE PRINCIPLE OF INTRODUCING BODY WORN VIDEO FOR THE PURPOSES OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND REDUCTION



1.0 INTRODUCTION:

The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust (NIAS) ran a 10 week public consultation on The Principle of Introducing Body Worn Video For The Purposes of Violence Prevention and Reduction between 06 December 2021 and 14 February 2022.

This report is a summary of the consultation results, and the main themes identified from written feedback, public meetings and questions posted on social media (Twitter).

1.1 Strategic Background To Consultation:

Last year, we launched our Strategy to Transform 2020- 2026, which identified a number of key priorities and how we intend to transform our service to deliver these and improve the care we provide for our patients.

One of our key priorities is in

relation to our workforce and, in particular, addressing the safety of our staff as we go about our normal day-to-day activities. Staff safety is paramount and the Trust takes violence and aggression towards any member of staff, whilst they are carrying out their role, very seriously.

Over the past year, our Violence Prevention and Reduction Group has been developing a supporting strategy to provide the Trust with a range of specific projects and reviews which have identified a number of key actions that will help drive change. One of these projects is to consider the implementation of Body Worn Video (BWV).

1.2 Purpose of Consultation:

On average in Northern Ireland there are around 12 acts of aggression against ambulance staff per week (2020/21).

NIAS has a duty of care to both its service users and its staff. In recent years we have witnessed increased levels of aggression, violence and harm caused to our staff while on duty. This has been manifested in both physical assaults (e.g. of an extremely violent or sexual nature) and/or non-physical assaults (including verbal assault and personal abuse). This abuse is unacceptable and unfortunately despite efforts to curb violence and aggression against NIAS staff, incidents have continued to increase

This ongoing issue has serious, long-term impacts on the Trust's ability and

capacity to deliver its services. It has substantial and long-term impacts on the physical and psychological wellbeing of staff. It can cause major impediments to the urgent provision of immediate care by NIAS staff in emergency scenarios.

After significant consideration and engagement with staff, unions, and partner agencies, NIAS believes in principle that the introduction of BWV is a proportionate and reasonable proposal to help reduce harm to staff, and to assist in due process investigation and if necessary prosecution of offenders.

This initial consultation was about *the principle of introducing BWV For The Purposes of Violence Prevention and Reduction*.

1.3 Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA):

The Trust has carried out a full Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) in order to address any issues raised with regards to the European Convention of Human Rights and Human Rights Act

1998, the Data Protection Act (DPA) 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations and the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

As part of this exercise a number of risks have been identified and mitigated.

The full Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) is publicly available on the NIAS website.

1.4 Consultation Approach:

Our consultation was designed to examine the principle of BWV being introduced to NIAS as the Trust recognises the scale of culture shift involved in the proposal that NIAS employees would wear portable recording devices.

The consultation consisted of three elements, a questionnaire, public meetings and questions were posted on social media (Twitter). With regards to the questionnaire, this was circulated as part of the consultation document to around 400 organisations



1.5 Executive Summary:

We received 28 responses, one of which was a group response on behalf of a charity (included 48 respondents).

We were particularly pleased to hear from a range of organisations including community / voluntary organisations, local authorities, health trusts, political parties, regulators, GPs, Trade Unions, NIAS staff, along with members of the public. Respondents ranged from individual members of the public and staff, to some of the largest public sector organisations in Northern Ireland.

The consultation asked how aware respondents were with regards to the current levels of violence and aggression in NIAS, what respondents views were on this, and under what circumstances it would be appropriate for NIAS staff to use body worn video.

Overall there was a positive and supportive response to the 'Principle of Introducing Body Worn Video For The Purposes of Violence Prevention' and Reduction to address the challenges faced by staff in the delivery of emergency services to the public.

Respondents recognised that the prevention and reduction of violence and aggression is an important workstream for the Trust and that NIAS has a statutory duty to keep staff safe.

The Trust will give consideration to the feedback and in particular that there are areas to carefully consider, most notably the information governance and data protection responsibilities.

1.6 Next Steps:

Now that this first consultation exercise is complete around the principle of body worn video, the information gathered will help inform the next stage of the process.

NIAS will ensure due weight is provided to the responses from key stakeholders and further consult on the detail of factors like deployment, usage, governance, equality, requirement for advisory panels, assurance groups, policy and procedures in March / April 2022.

Many respondents have offered more input and support and we intend to engage further with these organisations.

SOME HIGHLIGHTS:

Who we heard from...

We received 28 responses, one of which was a group response on behalf of a community / voluntary organisation (included 48 responses). Sectors were as follows:

- Three from the community / voluntary sector (one response was on behalf of 48 respondents).
- Nine health and social care organisations.
- One member of NIAS staff.
- Three political parties.
- One Trade Union.
- Two regulators / government advisory organisations.
- Seven service users / members of the public.
- One GP.
- One local authority.

All of the responses were received via email using either the questionnaire provided (word). Three responses were received on the Easy Read version / questionnaire. Respondents ticked the appropriate box and used free text boxes to provide their response(s).

What we heard...

- The majority were extremely shocked / concerned about the current levels of violence and aggression.
- Violence towards Ambulance Service Staff is totally unacceptable.
- The utmost should be done to protect our frontline staff.
- There should be no place in our society for such attacks.
- I think BWC would act as a deterrent, and reduce the number of incidents.

- Recording will ensure that the matter is taken seriously by employers, police and the courts and that it is punished appropriately.
- Being able to use the body camera recordings as evidence could lead to prosecutions, and this would hopefully reduce the incidents of aggression towards Ambulance Staff
- Tougher sentences against those who do attack Ambulance Service Staff.
- All efforts need to be made to proactively stop this and prosecute it when it happens.
- Consideration should be given to the ability to switch the recording on or off following a case assessment of the risk posed.
- It may be appropriate to blur individual's faces or body parts to protect them.
- A strong and comprehensive governance regime must be established for the use of information recorded by body worn video.
- We would encourage extensive staff and Trade Union consultation.
- Mapping against national best practice would be valuable.
- Consideration should be given to children, those with learning difficulties, in distress, displaying challenging behaviour due to a clinical diagnosis, suicides etc.
- NIAS is a fantastic service which is not recognised enough for the hard work you do.

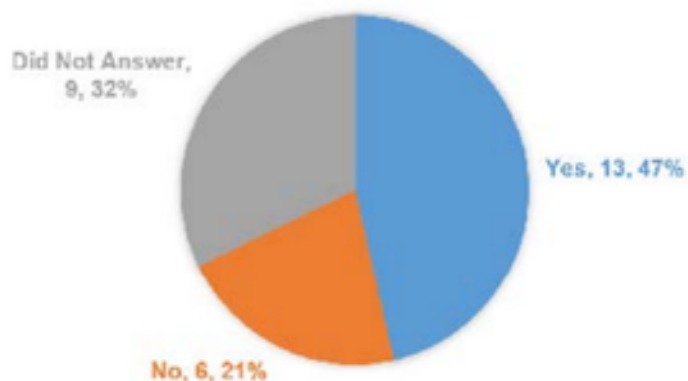
More in depth Results:

This section takes each question individually and presents the associated findings.

We Asked:

1. Were you aware of the current levels of violence and aggression towards Ambulance Service Staff? Please tick YES or NO.

Were you aware of the current levels of violence and aggression towards ambulance service staff?



The majority of respondents were aware of the current levels of violence and aggression towards Ambulance Service staff.

There was no real trend to note with regards to those or who either more or less aware.

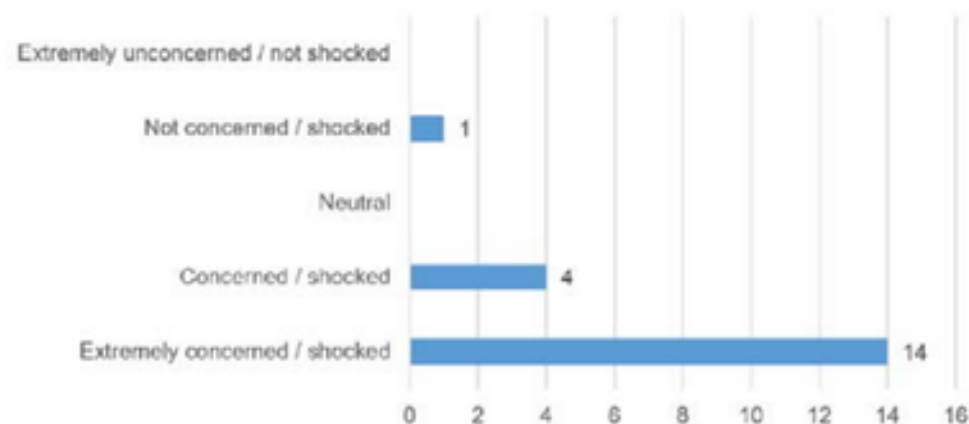
We had a number of respondents who did not answer as they kindly took the time to respond to us via a letter rather than complete the questionnaire in its entirety.

We Asked:

2. What is your reaction to the current levels of violence and aggression against Ambulance Service staff? Please tick:

- Extremely concerned / shocked.
- Concerned / shocked.
- Neutral.
- Not concerned / shocked.
- Extremely unconcerned / not shocked.

What is your reaction to the current levels of violence and aggression against Ambulance Service staff? Please tick:



The majority of respondents were 'extremely concerned / shocked' at the current levels of violence and aggression against Ambulance Service staff.

A further four respondents were 'shocked / concerned'.

One respondent was not shocked or concerned at the current levels of violence and aggression against Ambulance Service staff. This response came from the health and social care sector.

We Asked:

3. Do you have any further comments to make on the current levels of violence and aggression towards Ambulance Service staff?

Around 50% of respondents provided an answer to this question.

The majority of responses detailed how unacceptable this was and that efforts needed to be made to address this. Many went further to state that more needed to be done in order to address the issue. Here are some of the responses:

- The utmost should be done to protect our frontline staff – especially those providing urgent first hand care. I'm really disgusted to read about the stats/levels of violence towards our ambulance service who are there to help community.
 - Violence towards Ambulance Service staff is totally unacceptable, and the full force of the law should be brought to bear.
 - At present many members of the public view health and social care staff as something of a doormat.
 - No one should have to be subjected to violence when they have been called to assist someone that requires their help
 - Ridiculous and you all provide a vital service that is for all. No need for violence or aggression to anyone especially your staff.
 - All HSC including emergency services should be protected against
- all acts of violence and aggression whilst performing their duties. Each organisation has a 'zero tolerance' policy however this does not protect the person and as HC professionals they are still expected to treat people or have a threat of refusal to treat made against them.
- It is entirely unacceptable and should be eradicated by whatever means are necessary.
 - This is terrible and the staff need to feel supported and that the NIAS is doing everything they can to reduce and prevent this behaviour and let the public no it is unacceptable.
 - No. I just don't understand why someone would attack a person that's trying to help them unless they were high on drugs/alcohol and judgement was impaired.
 - All efforts need to be made to proactively stop this and prosecute it when it happens
 - Should not be tolerated.
 - Acts of aggression and violence towards any emergency service is unacceptable.
 - This is terrible and the staff need to feel supported and that the NIAS is doing everything they can to reduce and prevent this behaviour and let the public know it is unacceptable. We also need more and stronger sanctions for those perpetrating violence and/or aggression towards health care workers. We need a strong commitment to zero tolerance that includes quite stringent sanctions.

- The levels of aggression and violence towards Ambulance Service Staff are totally unacceptable. They have a detrimental effect on staff wellbeing and morale, staff numbers available for duty

and an obvious impact on family life. Anything that can be done to deter and reduce such attacks should be done a matter of urgency.

We Asked:

4. Under what circumstances do you feel that it would be appropriate for Ambulance Service staff to record interactions using body worn video? Please tick all that apply:

- Physical threat (no contact).
- Psychological abuse.
- Sexual.
- Verbal abuse.
- Verbal abuse with racial content.
- Biological agents / COVID-19 assaults.
- Other aggressive incidents (for example destroying equipment).

was a physical threat (no contact), psychological abuse, a sexual incident, verbal abuse, verbal abuse with racial content, assaults involving biological agents / COVID-19 and other aggressive incidents (for example destroying equipment).

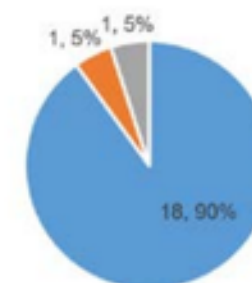
One respondent did not understand the phrase psychological abuse and noted this.

One respondent felt that the use of body worn video was not warranted in any of these circumstances. This response came from the health and social care sector.

We had 19 responses to this question. Seventeen out of the 19 responses selected all of the above, i.e. a significant majority of respondents advised that they felt it was appropriate for Ambulance Service staff to record interactions using body worn video when there

As detailed previously, we had a number of respondents who did not answer as they kindly took the time to respond to us via a letter rather than complete the questionnaire in its entirety.

Under what circumstances do you feel that it would be appropriate for Ambulance Service staff to record interactions using body worn video?



• All listed • All Except Psychological • No circumstances

We Asked:

5. How frequently do you think it would be appropriate for the ambulance service to record interactions using body worn video? Please tick one only:

- Always.
- Often.
- Sometimes.
- Rarely.
- Never.
- Don't know.

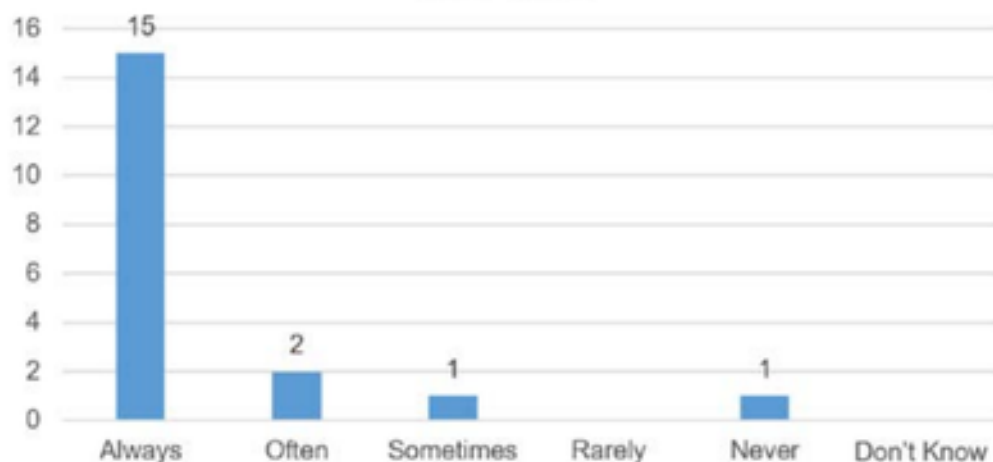
We once again had 19 responses to this question. The majority of respondents

felt that it would 'always' be appropriate for the ambulance service to record interactions using body worn video.

Two respondents felt that it would be 'often' appropriate for the ambulance service to record interactions using body worn video. One response was from a community / voluntary organisation and one from a member of the public.

One respondent felt that the use of body own video was never warranted. This response came from the health and social care sector.

How frequently do you think it would be appropriate for the ambulance service to record interactions using body worn video?



We Asked:

6. Could you describe the reasons you think it would NOT be appropriate for Ambulance Service staff to record aggressive interactions using body worn video:

Around 60% of respondents who completed the questionnaire provided an answer to this question.

Some concerns were raised by consultees in relations to the video recording of children, those with mental ill health, and those persons with learning difficulties / disabilities.

Here are some of the responses:

- Involving a child that may have learning difficult and in distress.
- When someone passes away.
- It is down to the discretion of paramedic to press a button and turn the bodycam on.
- Many of the worst offenders will not care that their behaviour is being

recorded, some will even play up to this and behave worse, possibly increasing the risk of physical harm.

- If the videos are inappropriately used by staff, i.e., for any other reason other than that they were intended for.

- N/A if Police can wear then NIAS Staff should also.

- I think it sounds like a very important thing to do but only if used for a purpose. If not used for a particular purpose then it is a needless exercise that will waste money. It should be used to support staff and keep them safe but there must be some way of evidencing the usefulness.

- Discretion could be used for a person having a psychotic episode who perhaps is unaware/not in full control of their actions however the footage would only be utilised if further action was required and this could be part of the decision making process after the event.

- The only reason why it would not be productive (appropriate is not

the correct term) for Ambulance Service staff to record aggressive behaviour using body worn video is if this action is likely to increase the aggression.

- No but it may be appropriate to blur individuals faces or body parts to protect them or be discreet during editing process for court proceedings.

- None whatever. If they are worn in standby mode then the NIAS staff member can choose to switch on. Obviously staff will need an SOP to guide on appropriate use.

- Potentially if this was due to a clinical diagnosis or mental health issue in that the behaviour is not maliciously intended?

- Any and all 'aggressive interactions' should be recorded to protect staff and to enable future action including prosecutions.

- Patient confidentiality and privacy as will be attending some very sensitive cases eg suicide attempt, RTAs, etc. Dignity and respect.

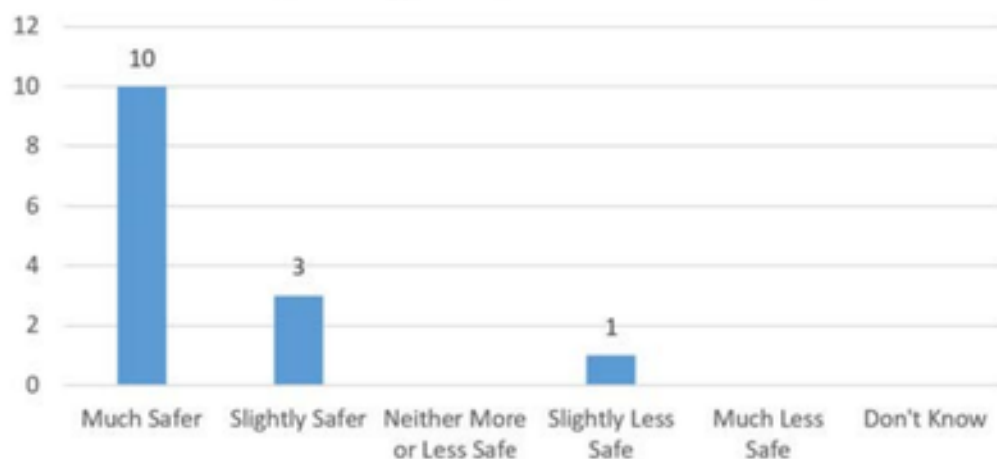
We Asked:

7. Would you feel safer knowing that the Ambulance Service could record aggressive interactions using body worn video (including audio)? Please tick one only:

- Much safer.
- Slightly safer.
- Neither more or less safe.
- Slightly less safe.
- Much less safe.
- Don't know.

Around 50% of respondents provided an answer to this question as follows:

Would you feel safer knowing that the Ambulance Service could record aggressive interactions using body worn video (including audio)? Please tick one only:



The majority of respondents advised that they would feel much safer knowing that the Ambulance Service could record aggressive interactions using body worn video.

Three respondents advised that they would feel slightly safer; these three respondents were either members of the public or respondents from the community / voluntary sector.

One respondent from a health and social care background advised that they would feel slightly less safe.

One respondent wrote that they hoped that Ambulance Service Staff would feel much safer.

We Asked:

8. Do you think the implementation of body worn video will be positive or negative for Ambulance Service staff? Please tick:

- Positive.
- Negative.

Nearly 70% of respondents answered this question. As detailed previously, we had a number of respondents who did not answer as they kindly took the time to respond to us via a letter rather than complete the questionnaire in its entirety.

Eighteen out of the 19 respondents responded that the implementation of body worn video will be positive for Ambulance Service staff.

One respondent from a health and social care background advised that the implementation of body worn video will be negative for Ambulance Service staff.

Do you think the implementation of body worn video will be positive or negative for Ambulance Service staff? Please tick:



■ Positive ■ Negative

We Asked:

9. Do you have further comments to make on the above (Q8)?

Around 60% of respondents provided further information on question eight.

The majority of respondents discussed how it would act as a deterrent and staff should feel safer. Here are some of the responses:

- It will provide tangible evidence to corroborate claims of abuse or injury to ambulance staff. Also, from a balanced perspective, it will provide evidence if patients are wrongly accused.
- Could act as a deterrent - some people might think twice about their behaviour if they knew it was being recorded and could be given to the police.
- They have a right to feel safe. Any encounters I have had with NIAS staff has been very positive and they are extremely helpful and professional.
- I think they should indeed be used in order to support prosecution.
- This not only protects the member of staff but also members of the public.
- The only point in Ambulance Service staff recording aggressive behaviour is that it will be taken seriously by employers, police and the courts and that it is punished appropriately. Otherwise it will be a worthless exercise.
- I think BWC would act as a deterrent, and reduce the number of incidents happening. I also think they are necessary as evidence in order for these people to be prosecuted.
- No one should have to suffer from violence when doing their job, particularly when they are trying to save lives. This sounds like a reasonable risk mitigation. Camera footage does not need to be retained if there is no incident.
- Morale and the feeling that their employer supports them on the frontline is an important factor here.
- This will be a positive step and could help reduce staff fears of acts of violence and their safety

in the workplace.

- Further research would be helpful into whether the use of Body Worn Cameras can result in the escalation of aggressive behaviour.
- I think BWV would act as a deterrent, and reduce the number of incidents happening. I also think they are necessary as evidence in order for these people to be prosecuted. BMV also will provide NIAS staff with protection in terms of any allegations of inappropriate behaviour or language made against them.
- It will make staff feel safer and enable action to be taken against anyone who attacks them.
- We need staff to be safe doing their job. May help to prevent them getting injured and being able to stay at work to help those that need their care. If staff of on sick more pressure on remaining staff. Staff feel more supported. Evidence to take a personal injury case. Help with recruitment if staff feel safe. Perpetrator less likely to offend if know they are being recorded.

We Asked:

10. Do you think that there is anything else that the Ambulance Service should consider in order to reduce the risk of violence and aggression towards its staff?

Around 50% of respondents provided an answer to this question which were varied, here are a number of responses:

- I'm not sure if they already have this implemented – but I know police forces have an 'Urgent' type button. I know this is in mainland UK (not entirely sure of PSNI). This button can be pressed when in serious/urgent danger and it alerts all police in the area to go for backup.
- Many NIAS calls are inappropriate and should really be dealt with by PSNI or Social Services. Reduced exposure to these high risk individuals could be achieved if NIAS could employ a means of passing these calls to a more suitable agency. Also, a much tougher 'No Send' policy, especially for individuals known for aggression and that have been flagged as a persistent threat, would reduce the number of violent incidents against staff. I appreciate some of these measures require tough decisions to be made at a high level but don't expect anything to change otherwise.
- Policy or guidance for staff that supports them in circumstances when the threat of injury to them becomes so great that they can make a decision to extract themselves from the circumstances or of threat of danger, even though the abusive patient requires medical attention. This support should not only be at the time of the incident but also in circumstances of a lookback review where the patient suffered as a result of not getting medical intervention or the patient making a complaint or seeking compensation. I think having video evidence would also make for a stronger awareness campaign, warning the public/service users that video evidence will be used to prosecute offenders. This will be a strong message to those service users who have replaced respect for the service to entitlement to the service and staff that they are abusing.
- Self-defence training.
- If they are faced with aggression or violence they should be able to walk away with no consequences of what the outcome is for that patient. No one should be verbally or physically assaulted for carrying out their job. They have a family to go home to and this could impact on their family life.
- Prosecution against those who harm staff. Risk management training.
- NIAS can walk into a situation that they are unprepared for – walking into anyone's home you cannot prepare for every eventuality.
- I don't think that Ambulance Service staff should ever be placed into any potentially aggressive situation without adequate backup. This means that they do not attend

such calls alone or in some situations without police in attendance.

- Special uniform materials that maybe protect their skin from attack. A bit like chainsaw trousers protect legs from minor cuts. Long sleeved shirts probably uncomfortable to wear in hot weather though. Consider research into smart materials for uniforms.
- Seeking extension of list of applicants for ASBOs to include NIAS or indeed Criminal Behaviour Orders.
- Lobbying for tougher sentences against those who do attack Ambulance Service Staff to ensure punishments that fit the crime for some and a deterrent for others.
- Ensuring Police escort for known offenders. Zero tolerance and right to refuse intervention.

We Asked:

11. Please provide any further general comments

Around a third of respondents provided further comments as follows.

- Quite surprised that this approach has not been adopted before now as abuse to health service staff in general is not a new thing. To a certain extent there has been a culture of abuse being part of the job which has been a leadership failure to date and could be viewed as not valuing our staff enough. This perceived culture in the HSC is not one that would encourage a career in the service or retain existing experienced staff. The impact of covid and Brexit has created staff shortages in service industries that would have basic terms and conditions of employment. Now those industries have significantly

increased the terms and conditions to incentivise recruitment and retain staff. I know it would be a huge shift for the HSC to follow this trend but such a model cannot be ignored if we are to have a career that can compete with the growth in private healthcare provision to recruit and retain staff.

- Fantastic service not recognised enough for the hard work you do.
- I think it sounds like a very important thing to do but only if used for a purpose.



If not used for a particular purpose then it is a needless exercise that will waste money. It should be used to support staff and keep them safe but there must be some way of evidencing the usefulness.

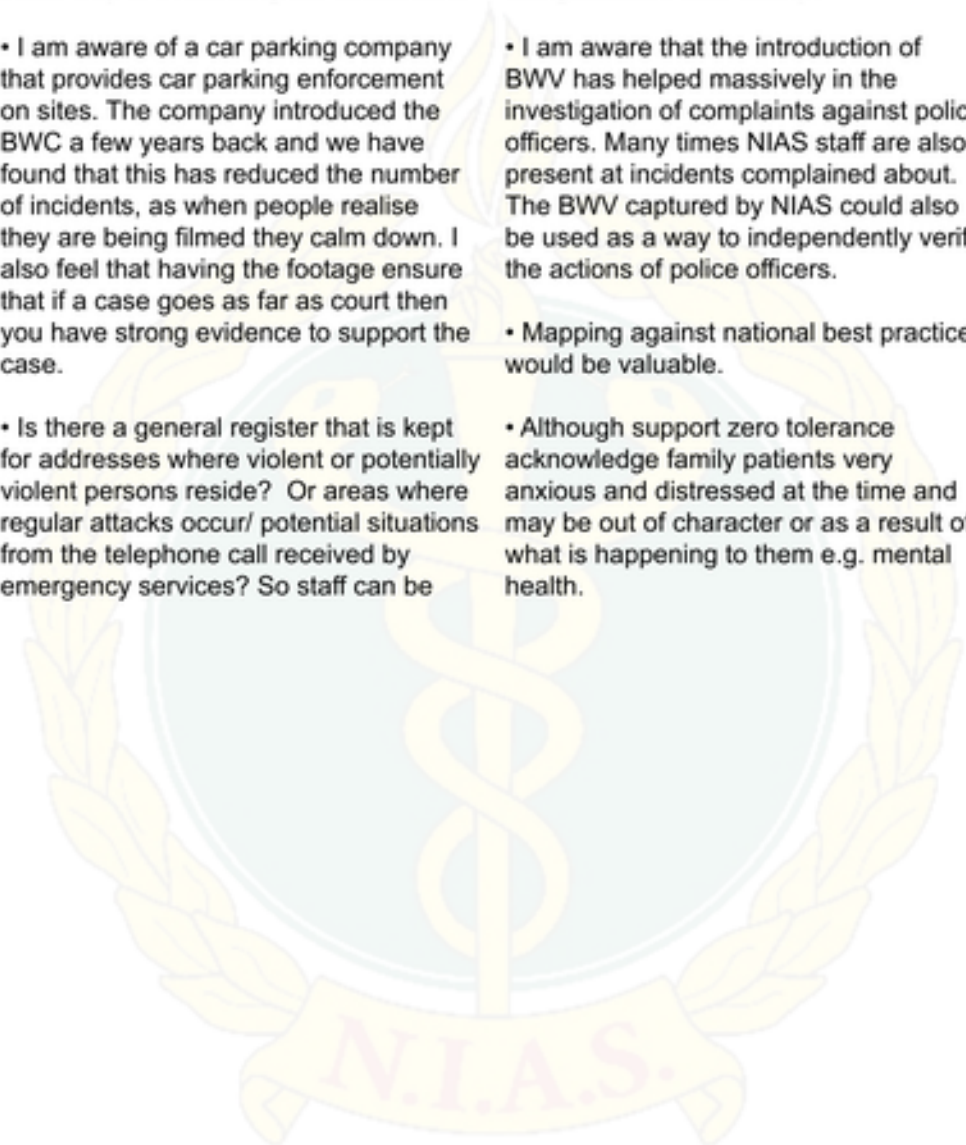
- I am aware of a car parking company that provides car parking enforcement on sites. The company introduced the BWC a few years back and we have found that this has reduced the number of incidents, as when people realise they are being filmed they calm down. I also feel that having the footage ensure that if a case goes as far as court then you have strong evidence to support the case.

- Is there a general register that is kept for addresses where violent or potentially violent persons reside? Or areas where regular attacks occur/ potential situations from the telephone call received by emergency services? So staff can be

forearmed to have their cameras on? Can you have a 3 strikes system for persistent offenders with the threat that paramedics will not attend unless they can guarantee their safety?

• I am aware that the introduction of BWV has helped massively in the investigation of complaints against police officers. Many times NIAS staff are also present at incidents complained about. The BWV captured by NIAS could also be used as a way to independently verify the actions of police officers.

- Mapping against national best practice would be valuable.
- Although support zero tolerance acknowledge family patients very anxious and distressed at the time and may be out of character or as a result of what is happening to them e.g. mental health.



PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS:

NIAS offered up the opportunity for members of the public / service users to meet with the Trust in order to discuss the consultation. Two meetings were arranged and the following poster was shared widely:

PUBLIC CONSULTATION NOTICE

Consultation on the Principle of Introducing Body Worn Video (BWV) for the purposes of violence prevention and reduction against staff. NIAS has developed a Violence Prevention & Reduction Strategy under which it is considering a number of projects that help keep staff safe.

WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR YOUR VIEWS ON THIS PROPOSAL AT ONE OF OUR VIRTUAL PUBLIC MEETINGS SCHEDULED AS FOLLOWS:

Wednesday 26th January – 19:30 – 20:00
Wednesday 09th February – 12:00 – 14:00

EVERYONE WELCOME!

Please advise of your attendance and accessibility requirements to consultation@nias.hscni.net before 6pm Friday 4th February. Registration to attend the virtual meetings is required, as joining details will need to be sent. Early registration is advised!

For further information please refer to NIAS public webpages at this link [Body Worn Cameras Consultation | Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health & Social Care Trust \(hscni.net\)](#)

If you have any questions please get in touch:
Email: consultation@nias.hscni.net
Telephone: (028) 9340 8999. Textphone: (028) 9340 8971

Equality & Public Involvement Office, Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health & Social Care Trust, Site 30 Knockbracken Healthcare Park, Sandford Road, BELFAST, BT8 5SG

STOP THE ABUSE NOW

Unfortunately there was limited uptake. One meeting was cancelled due to low registrations, however the second went ahead.

The second took place on Wednesday 9th February 2022 at midday. Attendees were given a presentation on the issue and the questions from the consultation were posed. Points to note are as follows:

- There was awareness of the current levels of violence and aggression.
- This is extremely concerning.
- Agree that more needs to be done.

- There is merit in recording all of the scenarios set out in question 4, i.e. interactions using body worn video when there was a physical threat (no contact), psychological abuse, a sexual incident, verbal abuse, verbal abuse with racial content, assaults involving biological agents / COVID-19 and other aggressive incidents (for example destroying equipment).

- It would always be appropriate.
- With regards to situations where recording should not take place, consideration may need to be given to the maternity environment.
- The environment would be 'slightly safer' knowing that ambulance staff could record interactions.
- The implementation of body worn video would be positive.
- Anything that can make staff more protected or feel safer is good. Helps with staff absences and psychological safety of staff, i.e., if they are called back to a place/area where they were previously assaulted, they may feel more protected.
- With regards to anything else that could be done to help ambulance service staff, it's the additional and continuous training of staff, to keep them learning. Cameras are a good positive step, armour would have to be very passive.

TWITTER FEED DURING PUBLIC CONSULTATION MEETINGS:

During the second public consultation meeting on the 9th February 2022, NIAS posted three questions on Twitter.

The use of social media as a means of consultation is quick and enables respondents to engage easily. It is not possible however to provide any analysis of respondents as that information is not available. It was noted however that a number of NIAS staff commented and were involved in the interactions. The full feed remains on Twitter at the time of publication of this document (spelling and grammar corrections have been made).



THE FIRST QUESTION POSTED WAS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Under what circumstances do you feel that it would be appropriate for Ambulance Service staff to record interactions using body worn video?

There were 21 responses to the first question. The majority of these responses were supportive of body worn video being used all the time, here are a number of the responses:

- All the time but perhaps technology will enable to capture and store only those situations when a staff member feels things are or have potential to escalate. Perhaps pressing a button which will then take the last 5 mins of recording to keep along with the future period of time.
- All the time then you can't be blamed for discriminating.
- If they feel threatened.
- Whenever you yourselves think necessary.
- All interactions, it protects you and it protects the patient.
- Should be activated as you make your way into every call. You don't know when someone is going to become violent so attempting to hit a button whilst being attacked is a big ask.

- All circumstances.
- All interactions especially in volatile situations as any situation has the potential to escalate very quickly.
- All the time!! There is enormous potential for learning at both individual (reflection!) and organisational (quality improvement) levels. However, there are also significant issues in relation to organisational culture which must be addressed first.
- Do you ask the patient client or family first. It should either be on, all the time, or off all the time. You don't have time to choose in a crisis.
- Why not have it on all the time when with a patient, it will only be looked at by someone if there is an issue/complaint so patient confidentiality etc should be maintained. I appreciate patient dignity needs maintained but unfortunately some people use this as an excuse to attack when they know it is less likely to be recorded.
- All the time. You never know how a situation will turn out. I certainly wouldn't have an issue with it, if I needed an ambulance #zerotolerance

THE SECOND QUESTION POSTED WAS AS FOLLOWS:

2. How would you feel, in terms of safety, knowing that the Ambulance Service could record interactions using body worn video?

There were 17 responses to the second question. Again the majority of responses were around increased safety. There were however a small number of responses from NIAS staff who believed that it would not make them feel safer. Response examples are as follows:

- The only difference this will make is to assist in the prosecution of offenders. Those who decide to be violent won't stop to think in the heat of the moment ok I'll not do this I'm being recorded. Most will be under the influence of substances. It won't make me feel any safer.
- Personally speaking, won't make me feel safer with an aggressive pt, espesh knowing that footage often makes little difference in a court case. Worry more that it will bring unwanted attention and something easier to grab a hold of

to be totally honest.

- I would feel safer and feel comfortable knowing staff are protected and more likely to be available to work and help my family and myself in emergencies.
- I would feel OK about it. It's not ideal but circumstances have decided for us. #zerotolerance to those who abuse our services #consequences #newlaws.
- I would feel safer and I would want staff to feel protected as well.
- Do what you need to do, you would have my full support. It's crazy that you have to.
- I think staff wearing body cams would help bring those who do cause distress to justice to some extent. However I believe that the body cams won't stop people from abusing staff and that's a really sad thing to say. Welcome to the world we live in.

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THE THIRD QUESTION POSTED WAS AS FOLLOWS:

3. Our final question on body worn video: what other measures do you think the Ambulance Service could take to reduce acts of violence and aggression?

There were 14 responses to the third question.

- Media campaign with examples, impact to staff, health wellbeing and the financial costs. Have the backing of the law that those who perform acts of violence / aggression will be punished heavily under law. NIAS staff are your HSCNI heroes message, violence against them is against us all.

- It doesn't matter what sort of campaign we run if the judges handing sentences out then keep letting them walk.

- There lies the problem...my lord my client didn't know what he doing was he's from a deprived community and struggling with alcohol and solvent abuse and was under the influence at the time, so please will you to see it fit to be lenient thank you my lord.

- Imagine employing people on band 7 to come up with these solutions and just asking random lads on twitter for advice.

- Name and shame using the footage on social media. Assuming it wouldn't affect possible prosecutions.

- You need the backing of courts and Police, more harsh penalties on one's who carry out acts of violence on the staff.

- Do you have / have you considered a "mental health response" team/vehicle, in direct co-operation with PSNI and other agencies, in a similar way to that employed by WMAS and West Midlands Police?



CONCLUSION:

We are extremely grateful to all of those organisations and individuals that have taken the time to provide feedback. Thank you!

As an organisation, we will give careful consideration to each questionnaire, meeting and piece of information provided during our social media consultation. We will ensure adequate focus on the areas that have been raised most frequently and those issues brought to our attention by key stakeholders.

The overarching theme arising from the consultation is that of data protection / privacy. As the consultation moves into its second phase, the Trust will carefully consider matters of compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and the UK General Data Regulation. We will also consider Technical Guidance for Body Worn Devices, Encryption Guidance, CCTV Codes of Practice, Surveillance Camera Codes of Practice etc. and any other applicable legislation and guidance.

We will fully consider data protection obligations including:

- Utilising of BWV must be lawful and fair.
- Obligation to be transparent about recording.
- Minimising the amount of personal data recorded.
- Maintaining security and integrity of

recording.

- Responding to data Subject Requests and ensuring that processes are in place to manage rights for an individual recorded by BWV devices including restriction of personal data.

Through the development and implementation of policy, procedures and training, NIAS will look to ensure the following:

- Standard operating procedures are in place to guide BWV users on when to activate and deactivate a recording.
- BWV users will be made aware of their device's potential to capture large amounts of intended sensitive information.
- BWV users will be made aware of the need to consider ending a recording or temporarily covering the camera or microphone or both to minimise the capture of sensitive information.
- The need for greater discretion when recording in special locations.

In short, during the next phase this consultation, NIAS will endeavour to ensure that the operational use of BWV is proportionate, legitimate and necessary. It is proposed that it will be only used when deemed necessary for the purposes of violence reduction, by trained staff in accordance with policy, procedures and legislation.



Northern Ireland 140 Ambulance Service

**BODY WORN
VIDEO (BWV)
PILOT**

**DEPLOYMENT
PLAN**



Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Health and Social Care Trust



1.0 OVERVIEW:

1.1 Purpose:

From 6th December 2021 until the 14th February 2022, the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust (NIAS) consulted on the 'Principle of Introducing Body Worn Video (BWV) for violence prevention and reduction purposes'. This initial consultation was the first of two phases of the Body Worn Video (BWV) consultation exercise. This first phase of the consultation is now closed and a full summary document can be found on the NIAS website. The Trust is extremely grateful to all of those who took the time to respond.

This second document forms phase two of the consultation, i.e. the Body Worn Video Pilot Deployment Plan. This second phase will once again take ten (10) weeks. The purpose of this document is to set out in more detail, the staged approach by which the Trust will pilot fully functional Body Worn Video Cameras along with the associated hardware, software and ancillaries. The Trust will then make the necessary improvements prior to full implementation. During this second consultation phase piloting, testing and improvement will take place. This plan outlines assumptions, dependencies and constraints along with structures, resources and requirements. It will take a risk management approach throughout.

The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust (NIAS) is committed to consult with and engage service users on its plan to implement Body Worn Video Camera (BWV).

1.2 Strategic Background:

In 2020, NIAS launched its Strategy to Transform 2020-2026, which identified a number of key priorities, and how the Trust intends to transform its service to deliver these and improve the care provided for

patients.

One of the Trusts' key priorities is in relation to its workforce and, in particular, addressing the safety of staff as they go about their normal day-to-day activities. Staff safety is paramount and the Trust takes violence and aggression towards any member of staff, whilst they are carrying out their role very seriously.

Over the past year, the Trusts' Violence Prevention and Reduction Group has been developing a supporting strategy to provide the organisation with a range of specific projects and reviews which will drive improvement in staff safety. One of these projects is the implementation of Body Worn Video (BWV).

1.3 Business Context:

On average in Northern Ireland there are around 12 acts of aggression against ambulance staff per week (2021/22). These incidents result in members of the organisation being absent through sickness every day of the year, which clearly affects the community as it limits the service that can be provided

The Introduction of Body Worn Video (BWV) intends to address this significant and ever increasing risk to staff from violence and aggression by members of the public by the following:

- The presence of a highly visible camera which acts as a deterrent in itself.
- Through use of the technology, increasing the availability of evidence which could increase more formal interventions such as cautions, fines, community sentences and orders. This in turn should lead to a reduction in the number of assaults on staff.

1.4 Modification of Business Processes:

It is proposed that the following

modifications to existing Trust processes are made as part of the Body Worn Video (BWV) pilot:

- Wearing of Body Worn Video Cameras on the uniform of a restricted number of emergency crews.
- Implementation of a software package to manage cameras / footage from the pilot.
- Redesign of incident reporting procedures to include deployment during the pilot.
- Implementation of draft BWV Policy and Standard Operating Procedures (will be refined as the pilot progresses).
- New body worn video camera risk, governance and assurance arrangements (further refined as the pilot progresses).
- Implementation of a communication strategy around BWV (setting out pilot phase and movement towards implementation as appropriate).
- Development of single points of contact for PSNI / PPS etc.
- Introduction of resources associated with the project (ICT, system admin etc.)
- Revised privacy and data protection arrangements (notices and SARs).
- Introduction of associated training packages for all staff (further refined as pilot progresses).
- In due course, the movement of BWV to 'business as usual' arrangements.

1.5 Project Management Methodology:

PRINCE2 project management methodology will be applied where appropriate in managing the risks and benefits associated with the project, and to date the following documentation is in place:

- A Project Initiation Document (PID).
- Project structure (including Project Board and Project Management Team).
- Project meetings (agenda, notes and action logs available).
- ICT product flow mapping.
- Change management process.
- Risk register and issue log.
- Action logs / timelines etc.

1.6 Summary:

A summary of the deployment plan is as follows:



2.0 ASSUMPTIONS, DEPENDENCIES, CONSTRAINTS & RISKS:

2.1 Assumptions:

- No significant new developments in technology (market research).
- No significant change in direction nationally (monitoring ambulance services).
- No significant change in actual need (monitoring of aggression data).
- No significant change in cost of hardware / software (ongoing market research).

2.2 Dependencies:

- Ongoing Executive and Non-Executive Director support (Strategy agreed).
- Ongoing support from Operational Management structure (ongoing engagement).
- Support from Operational staff to willingly deploy new technology (consultation).
- Operational pressures (release of staff for engagement and training).
- Availability of job descriptions for project roles (under development).
- Suitability of facilities for installation (headquarters and stations)
- Suitability of infrastructure (information and communications technology).
- Supply chain / delivery dates (global supply concerns, global instability etc.).
- Move to business as usual (potentially delivered during Conflict Resolution Training).

2.3 Constraints:

The following constraints have been identified:

- Funding / financial approvals (budget is available up until March 2022).
- Recruitment timelines (Project Lead,

Administrative Support and ICT support).

- Technology (ability to integrate BWV technology into NIAS ICT systems).
- Procurement timeline (current well publicised supply chain concerns).
- Demands on Risk Management Team.
- Demands on procurement partners (Procurement Manager, BSO, Finance etc.).
- Compliance with data protection and privacy requirements (DPIA).
- Compliance with statutory requirements (risk assessments / policy development).
- Compliance with contracts and licensing agreements (contract management).

2.4 Risks:

- Service User privacy concerns (policy, procedures, SOPs and training).
- User acceptance / staff privacy concerns (policy, procedures, SOPs and training).
- Function creep (defined scope of use, action taken if outside of scope).
- Evidential data accidentally deleted (policy, procedures, SOPs and training).
- Loss of information / device (encryption in place).
- Timely access requests (Information Team established arrangements in place).
- Failure to adhere to data protection requirements (Trust governance).

A full data protection privacy risk assessment is available within the Data Protection Impact Assessment (available at <http://www.nias.hscni.net>).

3.0 PLANNING:

3.1 Trust Board & Senior Management Engagement:

NIAS Trust Board and Senior Management Team (SMT) have been involved throughout the project. In May 2021 NIAS Senior Management Team (SMT) and Trust Board agreed the Corporate Violence Prevention and Reduction Strategy. In November 2021 SMT and Trust Board were further consulted on the Body Worn Video Public Consultation and were content. In March 2022 SMT and Trust Board will be provided with a consultation summary and proposed BWV Pilot Deployment Plan. Senior Operational Services staff, ICT staff and Information Governance staff are members of the Project Team, and additional Operational Services senior management were provided with a project overview in early March 2022.

3.2 Trade Union Consultation:

NIAS Trade Unions / Staff Representatives etc. have been involved in all stages of the process. NIAS Trade Unions are members of the Violence Prevention & Reduction Group, and were invited to nominate members for the Project Team. Trade Union colleagues are working in partnership with NIAS management on the implementation of BWV in NIAS.

3.3 Project Resources:

The project manager is the Trust Risk Manager. The project is being operationalised by the Trusts newly appointed Violence Reduction Officer. Information and Communications (ICT) support is in place from the ICT Department and project administration is being undertaken by support staff from the Risk Management Team (until the appointment of

a project support administrator).

3.4 Communication Strategy:

The Body Worn Video Communication Strategy as follows:

- Development of internal webpages (SharePoint).
- Inclusion of associated documentation on JRCALC (app for clinical staff).
- Regular internal email communications.
- Corporate WhatsApp (all staff have been invited to participate).
- Posters for stations (coloured / laminated).
- MDT for short messaging (advising that areas are live etc.).
- Sharing of information from ongoing monthly meetings (agenda, minutes etc.).
- TU consultation at all stages (members of project team).
- Area Manager / Line Management (presentations to Ops Meetings).
- A central BWV email will be set up / monitored by the Risk Management Team.

4.0 DESIGN:

4.1 Flow of Information – Data Captured By Body Worn Video Following An Incident Of Violence / Aggression

Information flow has been considered and agreed as follows.



Please note the following:

- Each device will remain allocated to the staff member for the full duration of the shift and must not be shared with other staff members during this time.
- The device will **only be operated by the staff member if there is a threat of violence and aggression, or actual violence or aggression**, and the situation warrants the activation of the device to start recording.

4.2 System Setup & System Administration Training (Supplier Led):

System Setup and System Administration Training for back office staff including Information Governance and Risk Management staff is planned for March 2022. Training will include the following:

- Introduction to body worn video camera systems software and hardware (overview, login, help etc.).
- Manage video and create incidents (find and review videos, share video, create an incident, find and edit, clip, redact, annotate etc.).
- Manage users (create roles, create groups, create users, assign RFID, disable users, passwords etc.).
- Manage devices (create device profiles, customise charging, remove cameras, update cameras, dock controllers etc.).
- Manage systems (data, storage, bandwidth rules, deletion etc.).
- System reporting (audit logs, system reports and functions).
- Routine maintenance (cleaning, inspection of cameras and docking stations and battery

health).

- Troubleshooting (unexpected camera behaviour, errors, swipe failures, space warnings, escalation).

4.3 Design / Pilot / Test of Training Package For Operational Staff (Trust Led):

An eLearning training package has been developed and is being tested at this time by operational staff, Regional Ambulance Clinical Training Centre staff and health and safety colleagues (March 2022). The package includes the following:

- Project background.
- Impact on staff and our community.
- Violence Reduction Group, Strategy and 'Stop the Abuse Now' campaign.
- National and regional arrangements.
- Benefits of body worn video.
- Legal framework.
- General principles.
- How to use the camera (fitting, functions, recording, lights and sounds)
- Health and safety.
- Personal protective equipment (PPE).
- When to record.
- Flow of information.
- How to dock and upload footage.
- Incident reporting.
- Objections or requests to record.
- Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS).
- Loss / theft of device.
- Complaints.

The training will be piloted with a small group of staff April / May 2022 and any required updates made. A copy of the draft training package can be provided on request as it remains under development and is subject to change at this time.

4.4 Camera Specification:

Motorola VB400



Dimension	68 x 89 x 25 mm
Weight	160g (incl Mount)
Memory Size	64 GB
Video Quality	Full HD recording capability (1920x1080, 25fps) High Resolution (720p, 30fps) currently configured
Battery Life	Up to 12 Hours (less with X-100 attached)
IP rating	IP 67 MIL-STD-810G
Field of view (H)	120 deg horizontal, 65° vertical, 140° diagonal
Secure Footage	AES 256 encryption

4.5 Encryption:

The video will be encrypted during capture on the device to AES 256 standard using a paired key with the Video Manager server (advanced encryption standard). The traffic will then be encrypted in transit to the server over SSL TLS1.2 (secure internet connection with cryptographic protocols). The Video Manager will then decrypt the video upon download (assuming a matched paired key). The video will then subsequently be re-encrypted during transfer to the storage to AES256 in the database.

5.0 DEVELOPMENT

5.1 Policy, Procedures & Operational Risk Assessment:

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A suite of documents have been drafted to be tested during the pilot covering the following areas:

- Purpose and scope, including proportionality, legitimacy and legal basis.
- Roles and responsibilities (including Information Asset Owner).
- Key principles such as:
 - Arrangements for legislative compliance (data protection).
 - Governance arrangements (Assurance Groups, Audit & Risk Committee).
 - Provision of information, instruction and training.
 - Device issue.
 - Operational use.
 - Signage.
 - Incident reporting (use of BWV fields in DATIX).
 - Objections to recording.
 - Docking / upload.
 - Transfer of information.
 - Software systems.
 - Loss / theft / security.
 - Subject access requests and freedom of information.
 - Health and safety risks and mitigations.

Drafts of these documents can be provided on request as they remain under development and test and are subject to regular change at this time.

5.2 Governance & Assurance:

Governance around the implementation of body worn video will be as follows:

- Policy, procedures and training prior to issue of BWV devices.
- Staff will be required to sign in agreement with the terms and conditions of use as detailed within this policy and confirm training on the devices.
- On completion of training, each member of staff will be allocated a unique ID card, which will be used to access the radio frequency identification (RFID) reader on the BWV Digital Evidence Management System (DEMS) which will automatically assign a specific BWV device to them (no sharing permitted).
- The DEMS retains an audit trail for each BWV device, recording who it has been assigned to and when the device was returned to the docking station.
- Authorised staff will only be able to access and use the DEMS once they have been trained and setup with a login / password.
- Incidents and arrangements for the management of violence and aggression are overseen by the Violence Prevention & Reduction Group and the Health and Safety Committee (statutory requirement).
- During the pilot phase, arrangements with regards to data protection and privacy will have strict oversight from the Information Governance Group and Informatics

Assurance Group. Statistics and information access requests for all of the incidents occurring during the course of the pilot will be presented and reported upon by the Project Manager to ensure adherence to information governance and data protection requirements; improvements will be made as necessary. During the pilot phase each incident will be individually reviewed by the Project Manager and Project Lead, with support from Information Governance as necessary before release.

- Reports will be provide to Audit and Risk Assurance Committee and Trust Board as directed by the agreed committee cycle framework.

A review of ID badges will be undertaken to determine suitability with regards to the implementation of RFID / Programmable ID Badges.

Installation of pilot equipment and associated software is planned for March 2022. In the event of the successful completion of the pilot phase, further infrastructure preparation will take place.

5.5 Anticipated Outputs (Pilot & Full Implementation):

The pilot phase of the body worn video implementation will require around 21 cameras with stickers and fixings, two docking stations, two dock controllers and one RFID reader.

For the full implementation of the cameras the outputs will likely be as follows:

- 450 Body Worn Video devices (portable, lightweight, record audio etc.).
- 33 Docking Stations (to house / charge / dock cameras).
- 33 Dock Controllers (Ethernet connection to communicate with the server).
- 44 RFID Readers (for camera assignment – connects to Dock Controller).
- Digital Evidence and Asset Management Software and associated licensing.
- 450 ancillary items (fixings and harnesses for mounting cameras to uniforms).
- Stickers to affix to cameras (advise others of the potential for recording).

5.3 Site Surveys:

With regards to the pilot site, a survey will be conducted of the ambulance station / site to ensure suitable space and ICT infrastructure. The suitability of the following will be assessed:

- Space.
- Storage / shelving etc.
- Data points.
- Electrical outlets.
- Requirement for changes (additional services / ducting etc.).

A proposed layout will be developed and discussed / agreed with local operational management and ICT.

In the event of the successful completion of the pilot phase, further surveys will take place.

5.4 Infrastructure Preparation:

Arrangements will be made centrally to build the necessary server space with specifications define by suppliers.

6.0 TEST:

6.1 Evaluation of Wearing Options:

There are a number of ways to attach the camera to the body / uniform. A selection of these attachments will be procured for the pilot and for ongoing user acceptance testing. Options are as follows:

- Magnetic mounts.
- Radio loops.
- Epaulette doc.
- Shoulder harness.
- 4 point chest harness.
- Belt loop.
- Crocodile clip (see picture below for further information).



6.2 Evaluation of Charging Options:

The pilot will consider battery life. Testing will take place with charging options under evaluation as follows:

- In vehicle.
- On site.

6.3 Evaluation of Adherence to Policy / Procedures:

During the pilot, adherence to policy, procedures and training will be assessed. Information governance audits will be conducted (with the support of the Information Governance Team) and any remedial action taken.

Action will be taken by the Risk Management Team / Information Team to ensure learning for staff either not deploying cameras correctly and / or gathering footage inappropriately. Policies / procedures will be reviewed / updated as necessary.

6.4 Proposed Deployment for Pilot & User Acceptance Testing (UAT):

Proposed deployment for pilot and user acceptance will be as follows:

- Pilot User Acceptance Testing Phase 1 – NIAS Headquarters (March 2022).
- Pilot User Acceptance Testing Phase 2 – One Belfast Area Ambulance Station (Bridge End). During the course of the second phase of the consultation, i.e. April / May 2022.



6.4.1 Deployment Rationale for Pilot & User Acceptance Testing (UAT):

Pilot User Acceptance Testing Phase 1 – NIAS Headquarters – initial piloting and testing will take place in Trust Headquarters in order to ensure all hardware and software has been installed and is working correctly (March 2022).

Pilot User Acceptance Testing Phase 2 – One Belfast Area Ambulance Station (Bridge End) – a review has taken place with regards to the best location for a pilot to be conducted (during the course of the second phase of the consultation, i.e. April / May 2022).

The Bridge Ambulance Station in Belfast has been selected for the following reasons:

- Staff are engaged and have asked to be involved.
- Station management are engaged and are keen to lead the way due to the current levels of violence and aggression in their division.
- 60% off incidents of violence and aggression occur in Belfast which will enable incidents to be captured and learning to take place quickly (use of other stations / divisions may delay the project).
- Suitable infrastructure already in place.
- Geographically favourable with regards to support from the Information Communications and Technology Team and the Risk Management Team.

7.0 IMPLEMENTATION:

7.1 Go Live Decision:

A decision on 'go live' will be taken on completion of this second consultation phase (i.e. end of May 2022). This will involve a positive affirmation of the above two phases of user acceptance testing, along with confirmation of suitability of, and compliance with, data protection and privacy arrangements. Updates / improvements will be made to policies, procedures and training as necessary during the consultation.

Further deployment will then be as follows:

1. One station in each division
2. Across five divisions, 4-10 stations in each division.



Cameras and docking stations will be allocated at station level.

A review of emergency crew staffing levels will take place to ensure appropriate allocation. Peripatetic staff will be allocated to the nearest station (for example Hospital Ambulance Liaison Officers).

7.2 Contract Management:

Equipment / supplier performance will be monitored through regular contract management meetings with suppliers.

Additional work will be undertaken to establish the necessary schedules dealing with supplier Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).

7.3 Business As Usual:

Movement of training to business as usual (presentation of requirements during Trust Education Learning and Development Meeting in March 2022). Assistant Director of Education Learning & Development present.

8.0 QUESTIONNAIRE:

1.	Were you aware that in 2021/22 688 incidents of violence and aggression towards Ambulance Service Staff occurred? Please tick:
Yes	
No	

2.	Do you agree with our proposed deployment plan to address the issue of violence and aggression towards ambulance staff? Please tick:
Yes	
No	

3.	Do you have any comments on our proposed arrangements for data protection and information governance?

4.	Do you have any further comments to make?

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	I am providing feedback as:
Service user / member of public	
Member of Staff	
HSC Organisation	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Public Authority	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Trade Union representative	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Community / Voluntary Sector	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Other Organisation	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Full Name (block capitals)	
Contact details	
Address	
Email address	
Telephone number	

**Thank you for taking the time to contribute to this priority area for the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust (NIAS).
Your views are important to us.**

This questionnaire should take no longer than 5 minutes to complete.

1.	Were you aware that in 2021/22 688 incidents of violence and aggression towards Ambulance Service Staff occurred? Please tick:	
	Yes	
	No	

2.	Do you agree with our proposed deployment plan to address the issue of violence and aggression towards ambulance staff? Please tick:	
	Yes	
	No	

3.	Do you have any comments on our proposed arrangements for data protection and information governance?	

4.	Do you have any further comments to make?	

I am providing feedback as:	
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Trade Union representative	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Community / Voluntary Sector	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Other Organisation	<i>Name of Organisation</i>
Full Name (block capitals)	
Contact details	
Address	
Email address	
Telephone number	

Email response to: consultation@nias.hscni.net

Thank you for taking the time to complete this questionnaire



**Northern Ireland Ambulance Service
Health and Social Care Trust**



BY EMAIL

Chief Executive's Office
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service

Email: michael.bloomfield@nias.hscni.net
Telephone: 028 9040 0712

Our Ref: AD/CE/02

Date: 12 May 2022

Dear Consultee,

The Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health and Social Care Trust (NIAS) conducted a public consultation designed to examine the principle of introducing body worn video for the purposes of violence prevention and reduction between 6 December 2021 and 14 February 2022. As part of this consultation, we undertook to carry out a further consultation to consider more detailed factors like deployment, usage, governance, policy and procedure, subject to a positive outcome to this initial consultation.

I am pleased to say there was a positive and supportive response to the initial consultation on the principle of introducing body worn video. Respondents to the consultation recognised the importance of prevention and reduction of violence and aggression, and that NIAS has a statutory duty to keep staff safe. A summary report of the consultation results, and the main themes identified from written feedback, public meetings and questions posted on social media is enclosed.

We now intend to carry out a pilot of the use of body worn video and, informed by comments made by consultees during the initial consultation, we have developed the enclosed consultation document on the Deployment Plan. The purpose of this consultation is to seek your views on this.

Alternatively, if you would like us to send you a copy of the consultation document, please contact the Trust's Equality Team on 07810 636990 or email john.gow@nias.hscni.net. An Easy Read version of the consultation document will also be published. If you have any queries about the document, and its availability in alternative formats (including Braille, disk, audio cassette and minority languages) please contact:

Equality Team

Telephone: 07810 636990

E-mail: john.gow@nias.hscni.net

A consultation questionnaire is available on our website for you to complete, but we would welcome your comments in any format. Please send your comments to:

Body Worn Video Public Consultation
Equality & Public Involvement Office
Northern Ireland Ambulance Service Health & Social Care Trust
Site 30
Knockbracken Healthcare Park
Saintfield Road
BELFAST
BT8 8SG
Email: consultation@nias.hscni.net
Telephone: (028) 9040 0999
Textphone: (028) 9040 0871

If you would like an opportunity to discuss any aspect of the consultation, please contact bwv@nias.hscni.net.

The closing date for comments is Friday 22 July 2022.

Yours sincerely



Michael Bloomfield
Chief Executive

Enc.

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	25 May 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Planning
Date of Report	20 April 2022
File Reference	160051
Legislation	
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 Infrastructure (Dfi) Water and Drainage Policy Division Consultation
Attachments	Appendix 1 Correspondence from DFI announcing consultation Appendix 2 DFI Consultation Document Paper - 'Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving how we manage water' Appendix 3 Draft response

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) has commenced a consultation on a range of policy options being considered for inclusion in future primary legislation relating to water, flooding and sustainable drainage. The letter attached (8.1) outlines that the consultation is open for a period of 12 weeks from 11 March 2022 until 3 June 2022. The DFI consultation document, (Item 7.2) 'Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving how we manage water' sets out the issues.

2.0 Detail

Unclassified

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- 2.1** The consultation paper sets out the background, including the wider consultation focusing on nine key policy areas where the Department for Infrastructure ("the Department") considers that current policy could benefit from change. These include providing additional powers, rectifying loopholes and strengthening existing powers:
- Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures.
 - Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works for flood risk management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).
 - Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments.
 - Powers for NI Water to adopt certain drainage infrastructure, which is in private ownership and was constructed prior to 1st October 1973
 - Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections.
 - Powers for NI Water to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register
 - Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures:
 - Powers to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners to facilitate flood storage.
 - Technical amendments to enable future amendment of subordinate legislation - Powers for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.
- 3.0 Next steps**
- 3.1** Responses to the consultation are requested to be submitted by Friday 3 June 2022. A draft response for consideration is included at Item 7.3. Input from Building Control, Emergency Planning, Environmental Health and the Council's Sustainability Officer has been incorporated.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the consultation and agrees to submit the response as outlined.

Water and Drainage Policy Division

To DfI Section 75 Consultee

Clarence Court
10-18 Adelaide Street
BELFAST
BT2 8GB

Tel: 028 9054 0540

Your reference:
Our reference: IN1/22/191607

11th March 2022

Dear consultee

Consultation on Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage

You are invited to comment on the Department for Infrastructure's consultation on policies relating to water, flooding and sustainable drainage. These policies are being considered for future amendments to primary legislation.

There are nine topics included within this consultation covering a range of proposed new or amended powers for the Department and NI Water.

The topics being consulted upon are:

- (i) Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures;
- (ii) Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works, for flood risk management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS);
- (iii) Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDs) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments;

- (iv) Powers for NI Water to adopt certain drainage infrastructure, which is in private ownership and was constructed prior to 1st October 1973;
- (v) Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections;
- (vi) Power for NI Water to register Article 161 Agreements in the Statutory Charges Register;
- (vii) Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures;
- (viii) Powers to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners to facilitate flood storage; and
- (ix) Technical amendments to enable future amendment of subordinate legislation - Powers for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

Consultation arrangements

More details on the nine topics and how to respond to the consultation are set out in the consultation document which can be viewed on the Department's website at <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/water-flooding-and-sustainable-drainage-consultation>. The consultation document will be available for response, and comment for a period of 12 weeks from 11th March 2022 to 3rd June 2022. Hard copies or alternative formats of the consultation document can be requested by telephone 028 9034 6210, by e-mail waterpolicy@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk or by post Water, flooding and sustainable drainage consultation, Water and Drainage Policy Division, Department for Infrastructure, Room 122, Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, BELFAST BT2 8GB.

I look forward to receiving your response to this consultation.

Yours faithfully

JULIE ANN DUTTON
Head of Water Policy and Environment Team
Water and Drainage Policy Division



Department for

Infrastructure

An Roinn

Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving how we manage water

Consultation on a range of policy options being considered for inclusion in future primary legislation relating to water, flooding and sustainable drainage.



Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water



“

Updating our legislation will help to reduce pollution in our watercourses, strengthen our resilience against extreme weather events, such as drought and flooding and introduce more sustainable, environmentally friendly and green solutions to managing our precious water resources.

”

Ministerial Foreword

Climate change has contributed to an increased likelihood of warmer drier summers, milder wetter winters and a greater frequency of impactful storms. Both of these pose new challenges for how we manage, use, and treat our precious water resources. Extreme weather conditions that come with climate change pose risks to peoples' homes, businesses, safety, and health. In order to tackle these threats we must revise, improve and update our legislation on water, flooding and drainage.

Updating our legislation will help to reduce pollution in our watercourses, strengthen our resilience against extreme weather events, such as drought and flooding and introduce more sustainable, environmentally friendly and green solutions to managing our precious water resources.

It is important that we gather the views of members of the public and stakeholders to ensure that our policies and legislation reflect everyone's needs.

I am, therefore, delighted to publish this consultation on potential improvements to our water, flooding, and drainage legislation. Your responses will help to guide how we manage the consequences of extreme weather events, how we improve our drainage infrastructure and how we can better protect our environment and biodiversity for years to come.

The wider use of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS), the ability to store stormwater in green/open areas during heavy rainfall, and enabling NI Water to adopt and maintain certain private drainage infrastructure constructed pre-1973 offer opportunities for reducing flooding in areas at risk. The planning and creation of more SuDS in development areas and as part of general drainage infrastructure will slow the flow of water entering our sewers during times of heavy rainfall and will reduce out-of-sewer flooding. The Department is also consulting on continuing the Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme beyond the initial scheme which was carried out for research purposes.

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water

In addition to offering protection to those in flood-risk areas, a reduction of water in our sewerage system will help prevent discharges from combined sewer overflows, which can pollute our watercourses, and this consultation is also examining other ways to better protect our environment from pollution.

Water is a precious resource which we should all conserve and use responsibly. We are blessed with significant rainfall to keep our rivers full most of the time, but during times of drought we have to be careful how much water we draw from some sources or they may become depleted, which could harm the environment or cause interruptions to the water supply. Enhanced powers to limit water-use during times of drought or high demand will help us to protect our supplies when they are under threat.

As Minister for Infrastructure, I am excited to hear your views on these important topics so that we can better manage how we handle flooding, how we protect our rivers and the sea from pollution, and how we can conserve and responsibly use the precious water resources that we all share.

NICHOLA MALLON

Minister for Infrastructure

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water

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Executive Summary

This consultation focuses on nine key policy areas where the Department for Infrastructure (“the Department”) considers that current policy could benefit from change. These include providing additional powers, rectifying loopholes and strengthening existing powers. They are as follows:

- **Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures:** During times of water shortage NI Water’s ability to take preventative action is limited to imposing a temporary hosepipe ban. This is done under Article 116 of the 2006 Order. A hosepipe ban only applies to the watering of private gardens and washing of private motor vehicles with a hosepipe. The focus of the powers can be ineffective as NI Water can ban the washing of cars and watering of gardens, but may not put a similar restriction on power washing surfaces or filling swimming pools with hosepipes. Such practices put excessive pressure on the network during periods of high demand for treated water, for example during periods of unusually hot weather, as we have seen in recent years. NI Water feels constricted on an operational level by its inability to restrict water usage for certain purposes, which puts the supply of water to the public at risk.
- **Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works for flood risk management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS):** NI Water can enter onto private land for various purposes, for example, to lay pipes or to investigate potential breaches of water quality or contamination, but it currently has no powers to enter land to construct sustainable drainage and flooding remedial schemes beyond the laying of pipes. This means that if there was a group of houses susceptible to flooding which could be prevented by the construction of a sustainable drainage system (SuDS) or some other form of natural flood risk management on nearby land, NI Water could not act without the landowner’s permission. New powers in this area would enable NI Water to carry out those types of works, other than traditional pipes, on private land to improve the resilience of the wider drainage network.
- **Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments:** This is to provide a power to enable the Department, in the future, to issue guidance on the use of SuDS, in order to ensure that SuDS become the preferred means of dealing with surface water. Guidance could specify design requirements, as well as set out how SuDS could be approved. The Department may also wish to set out maintenance requirements for SuDS. Consideration is being given as to whether any guidance should be by regulation i.e. set out in legislation, or non-statutory guidance.

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water

- **Powers for NI Water to adopt certain drainage infrastructure, which is in private ownership and was constructed prior to 1st October 1973:** Drainage infrastructure is either adopted for maintenance purposes or in private ownership. Whoever owns the drainage infrastructure is responsible for maintaining it. The 2006 Order specifically excluded NI Water from making a declaration to take responsibility for, often referred to as “adopting”, privately-owned drainage infrastructure which was constructed prior to 1st October 1973. It is the Department’s opinion that in certain circumstances, there will be benefit in NI Water being able to adopt and maintain sections of privately-owned drainage infrastructure in cases, for example, where NI Water considers that its adoption would lead to a more efficient drainage system or the private drainage infrastructure is already being utilised by NI Water for drainage purposes.
- **Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections:** A misconnection is when a source of foul water, like a washing machine, is incorrectly connected to a stormwater drain. This can lead to polluted water contaminating rivers and beaches. NI Water currently has powers to disconnect and prosecute the owner of the property where this has occurred, but it cannot repair the misconnection and recover the cost unless the owner consents. It is considered that an option for NI Water to repair the misconnection and recover the costs should be available. This would enable quicker remedial action to be taken and to prevent pollution and environmental damage. It is also considered that such environmentally critical work should not be dependent on the owner’s permission.
- **Powers for NI Water to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register:** The Statutory Charges Register provides purchasers of land, and their solicitors, with an easy method of checking whether a property is affected by certain statutory restrictions which could not easily be discovered otherwise. For example, matters relating to planning permission, burdens or easements, bonds and tree preservation orders. In the 2006 Order, a power was not included for NI Water to add Article 161 agreements and bonds to the register. Article 161 agreements are agreements between the developer and NI Water which set out the requirements and standards that must be met to enable NI Water to adopt the sewerage infrastructure. This was a power that NI Water’s predecessor, Water Service had. NI Water receives numerous enquiries and requests for information about Article 161 agreements and the adoption status of developments, many of which could be avoided if the information was available on the Statutory Charges Register. The Department therefore proposes that NI Water should have the power to add Article 161 agreements and bonds to the register.

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- **Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures:** The Department has trialled an initial scheme for research purposes on providing grant funding to homeowners in flood risk areas to enable them to protect their homes against flooding. The Department does not have the power to provide grant funding beyond the end of the initial research scheme. The opinions of the public are, therefore, welcomed in helping the Department to decide whether to implement a substantive grant scheme and, if so, how it should be implemented.
- **Powers to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners to facilitate flood storage:** In certain parts of Northern Ireland, towns and cities in downstream areas would significantly benefit if, during periods of significant rainfall, flood waters could be stored on a temporary basis, in green/open areas. New powers would enable the Department to provide compensation arrangements for affected landowners whose land is required to store flood waters.
- **Technical amendments to enable future amendment of subordinate legislation - Powers for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009:** This is to address gaps in the Department's regulation-making powers as a result of EU exit, specifically section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972, which was repealed by the European Union Withdrawal Act 2018.

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Consultation aims

The consultation aims to give those who have an interest in the specific policies under consideration and those who have an interest in the water sector, in general, an opportunity to provide comments on the Department's proposals. It aims to outline the Department's approach and to seek views on the proposals for legislative change.

Your views will help to shape the final policy and legislative proposals to be brought to the Northern Ireland Executive for decisions.

Information on how to respond to the consultation is available below. A separate list of the consultation questions is provided in **SECTION 12**.

The closing date for responses is Friday 3rd June 2022. All responses received by the closing date will be considered by the Department.

SECTION 1: Consultation Arrangements.

1. Consultation Arrangements

Timetable

- 1.1 This consultation document will be available for comment and response for a period of 12 weeks from 11th March 2022 to 3rd June 2022. The document can be viewed, downloaded and responded to from the consultation section of the Department's website: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/water-flooding-and-sustainable-drainage-consultation>.
- 1.2 Following the consideration of consultation responses, a consultation report will be prepared.

How to respond

- 1.3 We would welcome your views on the proposals for future legislation. Responses to the questions at SECTION 12: List of Consultation Questions, should be made via the link at 1.1 above. Alternatively, responses can be e-mailed to waterpolicy@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk or posted to the address below:

Water, flooding and sustainable drainage consultation
Water and Drainage Policy Division
Department for Infrastructure, Room 122, Clarence Court,
10-18 Adelaide Street, BELFAST BT2 8GB

We will acknowledge receipt of your correspondence.

Alternative Formats

- 1.4 For audio impaired users, telephone: (028) 9054 0822 (text relay prefix 18001).

Additional, or paper, copies of this document can be obtained, free of charge, upon request using the e-mail address above or downloaded from the consultation section of the Department's website: <https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/water-flooding-and-sustainable-drainage-consultation>. The consultation document can also be made available in alternative formats or languages on request.

Please note that responses to the consultation must be received by Friday 3rd June 2022. All responses received by this date will be considered.

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Regulatory Impact Assessment

- 1.5 Regulatory Impact Assessment (RIA) screening exercises have been carried out for each of the policy options which identified no direct or indirect impact upon businesses.
- 1.6 The RIA screening identified no direct or indirect impact upon the community or voluntary sectors.
- 1.7 Therefore, the RIA screenings carried out found that full RIAs were not required.

Rural Needs Impact Assessment

- 1.8 Rural Needs Impact Assessments have been completed for the relevant policy options and no barriers to the delivery of these policies were identified for rural areas. Nor were any additional costs identified for delivering these policies to rural areas. No additional steps were identified which need to be taken to ensure a fair rural outcome.
- 1.9 No need for an alternate rural delivery mechanism was identified for these policies.
- 1.10 With respect to preparing for the delivery of these prospective changes in legislation, no necessary changes were identified for rural communities. In particular, affording residential properties additional protection against flooding will benefit both urban and rural communities in flood-risk zones.

Equality Impact Assessment

- 1.11 Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) screening exercises were carried out for each of the proposed policy changes. No impacts were identified on any S75 groups.
- 1.12 Therefore, the EQIA screenings carried out found that full EQIAs were not required.
- 1.13 Copies of the screening forms can be viewed on the Equality Section of the Department's website.

Human Rights Impact Assessment

- 1.14 Human Rights screening was carried out for all the proposed policies and it was established that the policies do not engage any Convention rights.

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Data Protection Impact Assessment

- 1.15 Data Protection screening was carried out for all the proposed policies and it was established that the policies do not engage GDPR rules for the Department.

Confidentiality of Consultation Responses

- 1.16 A summary of responses will be published following completion of the consultation process. If you would prefer your comments not to be published, please indicate this when responding.
- 1.17 Requests for non-publication of responses will be respected but, in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, cannot be guaranteed. For further information about the confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office.

Next Steps

- 1.18 After consideration of all the responses received by the deadline, a Consultation Report will be prepared.

SECTION 2: Background.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Department is seeking views on a number of policy proposals to improve how water, sewerage, and flooding services are delivered in Northern Ireland. The proposals being consulted on will need to be implemented by introducing new legislation. The public's views will play a key part in this process and we welcome your comments on the policy proposals contained within this consultation paper.
- 2.2 The policy areas under consideration largely relate to improvements in processes for NI Water and for new and improved ways to reduce flood risk. The following sections set out the reasons for the proposed changes and also provide more details on what the Department would like to achieve.
- Legislation**
- 2.3 The main pieces of legislation governing water and sewerage services here are the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 ("the 2006 Order") and the Water and Sewerage Services Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.
- 2.4 The Drainage (Northern Ireland) Order 1973 ("the Drainage Order") is the main piece of legislation used by the Department in relation to drainage schemes, the maintenance of watercourses and sea defences, and the financing of certain works.

SECTION 3: Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures.

3. Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures

Introduction

- 3.1 NI Water is responsible for managing the water supply in Northern Ireland. NI Water takes raw water from reservoirs, lakes, and rivers which it then treats to make it safe for the public to use. During times of water shortage, NI Water may introduce restrictions on water use. Water shortages, as a result of drought or high demand, can lead to public health issues, damage to the environment and negative impacts on businesses. Drought occurs as a result of a shortage of rainfall and leads to a drop in reservoir, lake and river levels. This can cause environmental damage and a reduction in raw water available for NI Water to treat and supply to the public. High demand for treated water can be caused by increased customer use; as occurred during the unusually high temperatures of the summers of 2018, 2020, and 2021. It can also be caused through leakage from pipes both underground and in customers' property due to rapid freezing and thawing causing them to burst.
- 3.2 NI Water has taken steps to ensure incidents like these do not immediately lead to water shortages and can implement measures to alleviate pressures in areas of shortage, but in extreme situations, restrictions on usage may be necessary. If NI Water is of the opinion that there is a serious deficiency of water available for distribution, or the threat of a serious deficiency exists, it can prohibit or restrict the use of hosepipes for watering private gardens and washing private cars. However, NI Water does not have the power to restrict the use of hosepipes for other purposes. NI Water cannot currently stop people from power washing surfaces or filling paddling, swimming pools or garden fountains. The current powers may not be sufficient to manage high demand events, putting at risk the supply of water for the population.

The Issue

- 3.3 Climate change is contributing to forecasts of hotter, drier summers with more frequent droughts and increasingly extreme weather incidents. These changes could put a severe strain on existing water resources, which would require NI Water to implement restrictions to conserve water supplies and protect the environment.

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- 3.4 Any changes to NI Water's powers need to be sufficiently wide-ranging and flexible to meet future challenges. They also need to be reasonable and appropriate to the circumstances. There also needs to be sufficient oversight to instil public confidence in the measures being taken. The Department would like to avoid situations where water restrictions are seen to be applied unfairly and unreasonably. For example, filling a private swimming pool with a garden hose uses far more water than watering a private garden or washing a car.

Proposal

- 3.5 The Department wishes to gather the public's views on extending NI Water's powers to temporarily ban the use of hosepipes during periods of water shortage, depending on the circumstances. Certain uses could be chosen, as appropriate, to be included in any hosepipe ban and could be added to or removed, as the need dictates.
- 3.6 The Department is not currently proposing to extend NI Water's hosepipe ban powers to businesses (non-domestic purposes). However, consideration is being given to providing a power which would enable the Minister to include limited non-domestic purposes, similar to provisions included in the legislation in England and Wales, as explained below.

Rationale

- 3.7 In England, Scotland, Wales, and the Republic of Ireland, various domestic and non-domestic restrictions are available to water undertakers and government ministers.
- 3.8 In the Republic of Ireland all responsibility to impose restrictions rests with the water undertaker. Under the Water Services Act 2007, the water services authority may make an order, after giving notice to the public, to restrict or prohibit the use of water drawn through a hosepipe for:
- watering a garden
 - watering recreational parks or sports grounds, either generally or any particular type of such park or ground
 - irrigating or spraying crops, either generally or any particular type of crop
 - washing a mechanically propelled vehicle or a trailer.

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- 3.9 The water services authority may also, by order, restrict or prohibit the use of water used for the provision of a commercial washing service for a vehicle or trailer; or for filling or replenishing a swimming pool, artificial pond, lake or similar application.
- 3.10 In Scotland full responsibility rests with the Minister. Under the Water Resources (Scotland) Act 2013, Scottish Water may propose to the Scottish Ministers that they make a water shortage order. The water saving measures which may be included in an order, after giving notice to the public, include:
- refraining from using a hosepipe or sprinkler to water a garden or plants.
 - refraining from using a hosepipe or pressure washer to clean a private motor vehicle; private leisure boat; domestic path, patio or other artificial outdoor surface.
 - refraining from using a hosepipe to draw water for domestic recreational use to fill or maintain a domestic pond and to clean the exterior of domestic premises.
 - refraining from filling or maintaining a swimming pool; paddling pool; ornamental fountain; and non-domestic pond.
 - refraining from watering outdoor plants on commercial premises; and from watering a fairway on a golf course.
 - refraining from using water to clean a vehicle or boat (other than a private motor vehicle or private leisure boat); an aircraft or railway rolling stock; non-domestic premises; and industrial plant.
 - refraining from operating a mechanical vehicle washer and operating a cistern in an unoccupied or closed non-domestic building.
 - refraining from using water to suppress dust at non-domestic premises.
 - such other measures as Scottish Water or the Scottish Ministers consider to be necessary or expedient.
- 3.11 In England and Wales, under the Water Industry Act 1991, powers to implement domestic water restrictions reside with the water undertaker. The water undertaker may, after giving notice to the public, implement temporary use bans, to prohibit the use of water

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for watering gardens and cleaning private motor-vehicles using hosepipes but may also include:

- watering plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool;
- drawing water, using a hosepipe, for domestic recreational use;
- filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain;
- cleaning walls, or windows, of domestic premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe; and
- cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.
- Additionally, in England and Wales, the Minister may make legislation to add non-domestic restrictions to the above list of restrictions available to the water undertaker, as well as remove specific restrictions from the list.

- 3.12 The Department believes that the expansion of NI Water's current powers with a more comprehensive list of domestic purposes would be more effective in managing high demand events that put at risk the supply of water to the population.
- 3.13 Consideration is also being given to providing a power for the Minister to make legislation to add non-domestic restrictions or remove domestic purposes, if the Minister deems it necessary. This would increase the flexibility of prohibitions available to NI Water, whilst providing ministerial oversight.
- 3.14 In England and Wales, public notice must be given of restrictions, as well as a means for the public to make representations about such restrictions. This gives the public, and businesses; if any non-domestic uses are to be included, an opportunity to object to the restrictions. The period of notice is not specified, only that the period should reflect the level of restrictions being proposed.
- 3.15 In Scotland, 14 days' notice must be given to allow the public to make representations about any proposed restrictions.

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- 3.16 In the Republic of Ireland, any proposed restriction may come into force as soon as it is published in a newspaper and broadcast on a radio or television channel available in the area.
- 3.17 In Northern Ireland, a hosepipe ban must be advertised in two local newspapers to give the public prior notice, before it comes in to operation.
- 3.18 NI Water has raised concerns that a period for representations, for any proposed restrictions, may delay their implementation for up to 2-3 weeks, leaving it powerless to act quickly in a time of emergency.
- 3.19 It has been suggested that domestic restrictions could be expanded, similar to the list of restrictions available in England and Wales, but without the period for representations.

Your views:

- 3.20 It is proposed to add the following activities to the list of uses that NI Water may include in a hosepipe ban, in addition to its current ability to prohibit or restrict watering private gardens and washing private motor cars:
- watering plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe;
 - cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe;
 - filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool;
 - drawing water, using a hosepipe, for domestic recreational use;
 - filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe;
 - filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain;
 - cleaning walls, or windows, of domestic premises using a hosepipe;
 - cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe; and
 - cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.

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Consultation Question 1

Do you agree that the following list of activities should be included in the list of uses that NI Water may temporarily prohibit or restrict as part of a hosepipe ban, in addition to its current ability to prohibit or restrict watering private gardens and washing private motor cars?

- watering plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool;
- drawing water, using a hosepipe, for domestic recreational use;
- filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain;
- cleaning walls, or windows, of domestic premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe; and
- cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.

SECTION 4: Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works for flood management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

4. Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works for flood management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS)

Introduction

- 4.1 NI Water has powers to enter premises for various purposes, with or without the permission of the landowner. This includes surveying, sampling and testing, for both water and sewerage purposes; it also includes entering land to search for water sources and to lay pipes for water and sewerage purposes on private land.
- 4.2 In addition, NI Water may also enter land for other purposes, with the permission of the landowner.
- 4.3 However, NI Water does not have the right to enter private land for the purposes of carrying out flood management works and/or sustainable drainage works, beyond laying pipes.
- 4.4 Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures such as flood storage seek to sustainably manage land within river catchments to provide flood storage during storm events, in order to lower peak river flows and reduce the risk of flood damage. They seek to store or slow down floodwaters to allow the flood event to be discharged in a controlled manner over a longer duration.
- 4.5 Natural flood management schemes may take the form of ponds, dams, and sustainable drainage systems, often referred to as SuDS. These natural features bring additional benefits of reducing pollution, improving the landscape and encouraging wildlife.
- 4.6 Natural flood management or SuDS may not be feasible in every case but, in certain circumstances, it may be an effective solution to alleviate flooding. At present, such solutions can only be progressed with the permission of the landowner. In considering natural flood management and SuDS, a key area will be the responsibility for ongoing maintenance and liability.

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- 4.7 England and Wales amended their legislation and introduced Article 114A as an amendment to the Water Industry Act 1991 by way of the Water Act 2014, stating that:

“Sewerage undertakers may construct, on their own or on another’s land, drainage systems for the purpose of reducing the volume of surface water entering public sewers or the rate at which it does so.”

“A sewerage undertaker may maintain and operate a drainage system constructed by it.”

- 4.8 Additionally, the legislation in England and Wales gives the sewerage undertaker the option to maintain the constructed drainage system but does not require the undertaker to maintain the system.

The Issue

- 4.9 To alleviate flooding and drainage problems it is important that NI Water carries out work in a sustainable way, simply moving the flood water further downstream may only transfer the problem to another area. This need to manage our water and flood water in a more sustainable manner is being considered through the Department’s Living With Water Programme, which proposes to sustainably manage flood risk in the Greater Belfast area. Natural flood risk management and SuDS can help to resolve the problem, as during exceptionally heavy rainfall that leads to flood conditions, these natural solutions can retain excess water and release it in a controlled way after the event. This reduces the rate at which water drains from one area to the next and helps to prevent the capacity of drainage systems being exceeded by excess flows.

Proposal

- 4.10 The Department wishes to gather the public’s views on providing NI Water with new powers to enter onto private land for flood management purposes, including sustainable drainage works.

Rationale

- 4.11 Providing NI Water with such powers will enable it to carry out works on private land beyond laying pipes and to construct schemes to relieve flooding.
- 4.12 The option to maintain the constructed drainage system would allow NI Water to adopt SuDS or other flood management works,

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to ensure that the drainage systems continue to operate efficiently and are appropriately maintained. However, NI Water would not be required to maintain all those works at public expense, if it were preferable to have the works maintained by another party.

Your views:

- 4.13 It is proposed to provide NI Water with new powers to enter onto private land for the purposes of carrying out sustainable drainage works with or without the permission of the landowner; and for NI Water to have the option to maintain the constructed drainage system.

Consultation Question 2

Do you agree that NI Water should be given a new power of entry onto land to enable it to carry out works beyond the laying of pipes, such as flood management or sustainable drainage schemes?

SECTION 5:
Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments.

5. Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments

Introduction

- 5.1 Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) are designed to manage flood and pollution risks from water, and are often used in urban areas. They offer benefits to water quality, biodiversity and public amenity.
- 5.2 There are two main varieties of SuDS - hard and soft. Hard SuDS include things such as oversized pipes and large storage tanks which hold floodwaters and release them slowly into the sewerage infrastructure or watercourse to avoid overwhelming the system during periods of heavy rain. These types of SuDS are already catered for in legislation and, if constructed in accordance with agreed standards, may be adopted and maintained by NI Water. As a result, they are becoming more popular. Therefore, any future guidance would not focus on those types of SuDS.
- 5.3 However, soft SuDS, as they are often referred to, include natural drainage solutions such as ponds, swales and rainwater gardens, etc. and are less common due to the uncertainty around their construction standards, approval and maintenance. These operate in a similar manner to those mentioned above, with the pond or swale, etc. filling with rainwater and then slowly soaking into the ground, over a period of time, or slowly being released by a control mechanism into a watercourse or the sewerage infrastructure.
- 5.4 As drainage technology continues to develop, the Department is seeking to promote the use of soft SuDS. This will help to relieve pressure on the stormwater sewerage system, reducing the need to expand existing infrastructure, or lay new, pipes. It will also help protect properties from flooding during heavy rainfall events. Soft SuDS can also offer a focal point to an outdoor space for residents to enjoy green space, exercise and relax. These types of SuDS will be the focus of any future guidance.

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The Issue

- 5.5 The Department wishes to have a power to enable it, in the future, to introduce new arrangements on the use of SuDS, in order to ensure that SuDS become the preferred means of dealing with surface water in new developments, without the need to make or amend primary legislation. These new arrangements could specify the design requirements approval procedures. The Department may also wish to set out maintenance requirements for SuDS. The current lack of SuDS guidance is seen by some developers as a deterrent to the use of SuDS and may be hindering their use. The Department is considering whether future guidance, when developed, should be non-statutory guidance or set out in legislation. Other places, such as Wales, have created both guidance and SuDS approval bodies in order to facilitate and increase their use.

Proposal

- 5.6 The Department wishes to amend the Water and Sewerage Services (Northern Ireland) Order 2006 to provide a power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments. This may be by regulation or by non-statutory means, once all the necessary research and policy development has been carried out. The new arrangements may include issues such as the design and approval of SuDS, as well as maintenance requirements.

Rationale

- 5.7 By providing such an enabling power, the Department will be able to prepare regulations and/or guidance to set out clearly all requirements, policies and procedures in relation to SuDS, without the need for time-consuming and costly primary legislation. It would ensure that SuDS become the preferred means of dealing with surface water and remove the current confusion around the use of SuDS that exists due to the lack of clear guidance, which is hindering the widespread use of SuDS - especially soft SuDS options like ponds, lakes, swales and rainwater gardens.

Your views:

- 5.8 It is proposed to provide the Department with a power to introduce arrangements to make sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) the preferred drainage solution in new developments, by regulation or by non-statutory means.

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Consultation Question 3

Do you agree that the Department for Infrastructure should be given a power to issue future arrangements and guidance on the design, approval, and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems to make SuDS the preferred means of dealing with surface water?

**SECTION 6:
Powers for NI Water to adopt
certain drainage infrastructure,
which is in private ownership
and was constructed prior to
1st October 1973.**

6. Powers for NI Water to adopt certain drainage infrastructure, which is in private ownership and was constructed prior to 1st October 1973

Introduction

- 6.1 The majority of drainage infrastructure in Northern Ireland is either designated or adopted. This means it is maintained by either DfI Rivers, DfI Roads, or NI Water. However, significant elements of the drainage infrastructure have not been designated or adopted and are held in private ownership. In many cases, these elements of the drainage infrastructure are piped or culverted and already communicate with, or connect to, publicly maintained drainage infrastructure.
- 6.2 On occasions, sections of privately-owned drainage infrastructure can form an important element of the drainage infrastructure network. Circumstances can arise where adopting specific sections of private drainage represents value for money and is of benefit e.g. in helping to prevent internal flooding of properties. In instances where NI Water adopted sections of private drainage infrastructure important to its network, responsibility and maintenance costs would then rest with NI Water, rather than the landowner.
- 6.3 While NI Water has powers to make a declaration and adopt drainage infrastructure which was constructed post 1st October 1973, the 2006 Order specifically excludes any sewer or works which was completed before 1st October 1973, from being adopted.

The Issue

- 6.4 In some circumstances, NI Water would seek to take responsibility for sections of privately-owned drainage infrastructure which are important to the effective operation of its network.

Proposal

- 6.5 The Department wishes to gather the public's views on providing a power for NI Water to adopt, where required and where it represents value for money, critical sections of privately-owned drainage infrastructure which were constructed prior to 1st October 1973.

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water

Rationale

- 6.6 By providing these powers, NI Water would be able to adopt and maintain drainage infrastructure, where a need has been identified which represents value for money.

Your views:

- 6.7 It is proposed to provide NI Water with a power to adopt critical components of existing privately-owned drainage infrastructure which was constructed prior to 1st October 1973.

Consultation Question 4

Do you agree that NI Water should be permitted to adopt and maintain sections of privately-owned drainage infrastructure constructed prior to 1st October 1973, which are critical to the effective operation of its network?

SECTION 7: Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections.

7. Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections

Introduction

- 7.1 Any water from households and businesses that has become contaminated must be connected to a sewerage pipe leading to the local wastewater treatment works to be treated. Contamination can occur for many reasons but in domestic situations this is usually through toilets, washing machines, showers and sinks.
- 7.2 Rainwater from roofs and other surfaces drains into stormwater drainage systems; many of which run parallel to sewerage pipes, and ideally then flow to a local watercourse and eventually to the sea, bypassing the wastewater treatment works.
- 7.3 A misconnection occurs when a source of contaminated water is incorrectly connected to the stormwater drainage system which can lead to the pollution of local rivers and beaches. For example, a washing machine being plumbed into a stormwater drain.
- 7.4 When NI Water becomes aware of a misconnection, it has a number of powers available to rectify it. In the majority of cases, the landowner will correct the problem once they are made aware of it. Alternatively, NI Water has the power to correct the error and recover the costs from the landowner, with the landowner's permission.
- 7.5 Problems arise if the landowner refuses to rectify the misconnection themselves and also refuses to give NI Water permission to correct the error. In such instances, NI Water's only recourse is to disconnect the pipe and prosecute the landowner.

The Issue

- 7.6 NI Water believes it would benefit from a power to fix the misconnection and to recover the cost of the work from the landowner in circumstances where the landowner refuses entry. There are two main reasons behind this thinking. Firstly, it avoids the need to disconnect the appliance, rendering it unusable and potentially leaving the owner without a washing machine or other facilities. Secondly, it allows misconnections to be rectified more quickly before they can do further environmental damage.

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water

Proposal

- 7.7 The Department wishes to gather the public's views on providing a power for NI Water to fix misconnections and recover costs in cases where the landowner refuses permission.

Rationale

- 7.8 NI Water will be able to stop the misconnection quickly, remove the source of the pollution and, therefore prevent further environmental damage. It will also be able to seek recovery of the costs for doing so.

Your views:

- 7.9 It is proposed to provide a power to NI Water to fix misconnections and recover costs in cases where the landowner refuses permission.

Consultation Question 5

Do you agree that NI Water should be given the power to enter private premises to fix drainage misconnections and recover the costs from the landowner, when the landowner refuses entry and also refuses to fix the misconnection themselves?

SECTION 8: Power for NI Water to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register.

8. Power for NI Water to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register

Introduction

- 8.1 Developers of two or more properties must enter into an agreement, with an associated bond, with NI Water guaranteeing that the water and sewerage infrastructure, relating to their development, will be constructed to an agreed standard and that it will subsequently be adopted into public ownership. This provides reassurance to the public and their representatives that a property owner will not be burdened with ongoing maintenance and costs involved with the drains, sewers and other features such as pumping stations, within the development.
- 8.2 The Statutory Charges Register contains various charges, burdens, agreements and bonds, enabling the public and their representatives to check if there are any charges on the property or any issues that may need to be resolved prior to purchase.

The Issue

- 8.3 At present, NI Water is not entitled to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register. When NI Water was first established in 2007, the power to register such agreements was not provided for in legislation. NI Water's predecessor, Water Service, had that power prior to 2007, when it was a public service.
- 8.4 As a result, NI Water receives numerous enquiries and requests for information about Article 161 agreements and the adoption status of developments, many of which could be avoided if the information was available on the Statutory Charges Register. This has created a significant administrative cost to NI Water.
- 8.5 It is proposed that NI Water should have the power to add Article 161 Agreements, and the associated bond documents, to the Register.

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Proposal

- 8.6 The Department wishes to gather the public's views on providing NI Water with a power to register Article 161 Agreements and bonds in the Statutory Charges Register.

Rationale

- 8.7 This proposal to amend the legislation would greatly reduce the need for direct enquiries, reduce the administrative burden on NI Water, and also prevent the accumulation of statutory charges applications which cannot be registered.

Your views:

- 8.8 It is proposed to provide a power to NI Water to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register.

Consultation Question 6

Do you agree that NI Water should be provided with a power to enable it to register Article 161 adoption agreements and bonds in the Statutory Charges Register?

SECTION 9: Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures.

9. Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures

Introduction

- 9.1 The Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme (HFPGS) was developed to assess in real terms the value for money, public interest, and the appropriate process and delivery mechanism for grant funding of individual property protection measures.
- 9.2 The HFPGS is designed to encourage the owners of residential properties that have flooded before and/or are located within known flood prone areas, to modify their properties to make them more resistant to flooding.
- 9.3 The scheme is specifically aimed at residential properties that have flooded internally in the past, continue to be exposed to frequent flooding, and cannot benefit from a separate Flood Alleviation Scheme in the medium term.

The Issue

- 9.4 The Department is responsible for the HFPGS. However, the Department does not have powers under legislation to provide grants beyond initial schemes for research purposes. The Department has completed its evaluation of the initial scheme and has concluded that the HFPGS has demonstrated both a need for, and benefit from, a property level protection grant scheme.

Proposal

- 9.5 The Department wishes to determine if there is a public interest in continuing a HFPGS and, if so, what it should focus on. To develop a substantive scheme will require legislation to provide the power for the Department to provide grant funding for this purpose.

Rationale

- 9.6 An analysis of the Post Project Evaluation, alongside responses to this consultation, will help the Department determine whether legislation should be provided to enable it to introduce a substantive Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme to residents of properties susceptible to flooding, and who meet defined eligibility criteria.

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water

Your views:

- 9.7 It is proposed to provide powers to enable the Department for Infrastructure to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures.

Consultation Question 7

Do you agree that legislation should be provided to enable the Department for Infrastructure to introduce a substantive Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme to residents whose properties are susceptible to flooding, and who meet defined eligibility criteria?

**SECTION 10:
Powers to provide for
easements and additional
compensation arrangements
for affected landowners to
facilitate flood storage.**

10. Powers to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners to facilitate flood storage

Introduction

- 10.1 DfI provides infrastructure schemes to protect towns and cities from storm flows from rivers in order to mitigate flood risk. However, to continue to provide hard engineered solutions on their own, in some circumstances may be very expensive to the point of making some schemes unaffordable on a cost versus benefit analysis. And in some cases they may become aesthetically unacceptable, given their required height and location. Other solutions, such as flood storage works, may also be required, to complement hard engineered solutions. These greener solutions are often dependent on the use of private land, such as farmland, and where private land is required for flood storage, additional compensation arrangements to facilitate agreements with affected landowners will be required.
- 10.2 The Executive's Sustainable Water - A Long Term Water Strategy (LTWS) for Northern Ireland (2015-2040), sets a clear framework for action which will facilitate the implementation of a range of initiatives aimed at delivering a sustainable water sector in Northern Ireland. This includes Natural Flood Management (NFM) measures which seek to store or slow down floodwaters through measures such as flood storage.
- 10.3 Flood storage, as a flood risk management option, is designed to attenuate flood flows to restrict peak flows downstream by storing the flood volume so that the floodwaters are discharged in a controlled manner over a longer duration. It is a measure that is particularly appropriate where hard defences are inappropriate or as a complement to such defences, making them more resilient to climate change.

The Issue

- 10.4 Northern Ireland does not have specific flood management legislation similar to other parts of the UK. For example, the Flood Risk Management (Scotland) Act 2009 makes provision for

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the assessment and sustainable management of flood risks. This legislation provides specific powers to enter into agreements or arrangements with landowners for the purposes of managing land in a way which can assist in the retention of flood water or slowing the flow of such water.

- 10.5 The Drainage Order provides powers for works to be carried out to allow for land to be periodically flooded as part of flood storage measures. It also provides powers to acquire land (by agreement or compulsorily) or to lease land or dispose of any land vested in the Department. However, it does not provide powers to create easements, an option that would allow land to be periodically flooded as part of flood storage measures. A drainage easement agreement between the Department and a landowner would provide the Department with certain rights over a specific area of land for flood storage purposes without the need to purchase it. The landowner would retain ownership of the land and the easement would stipulate any restrictions on the landowner's use of the lands well as setting out the responsibilities of each party.
- 10.6 The Drainage Order also does not include powers to provide for compensation arrangements that would allow for payments to affected landowners for flood storage purposes, over a long period of time. Such payments would compensate landowners who have agreed to their lands being used for flood storage during periods of heavy rain.

Proposal

- 10.7 The Department wishes to obtain the public's views on the provision of powers to create easements and additional compensation arrangements that would help facilitate agreement with landowners for use of their land for flood storage purposes.
- 10.8 The Department would propose to enter into long-term agreements with landowners to allow for works to be carried out to enable their land to be used for flood storage purposes during periods of heavy rain. The proposal would be restricted to areas where schemes have been identified as beneficial in mitigating flood risk and which represent value for money.
- 10.9 In allowing their land to be used for flood storage purposes, the landowner would be paid compensation. For example, an amount per year for allowing land to be periodically flooded.

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10.10 The periods that land would be required for flood storage purposes are likely to be variable, for example, a need might arise once a year, numerous times a year or not at all, depending on the weather. The landowner would be able to continue to use the land, when it is not being utilised for flood storage purposes, subject to certain restrictions.

Rationale

10.11 There is a pressing need for solutions, such as flood storage works, to complement hard engineered solutions and provide further protection to properties and people in communities subject to flooding. In order to implement flood storage measures, the Department will need to access privately owned land belonging to private landowners and establish compensation agreements.

10.12 In areas such as Belfast, Derry, Newry and Omagh, the need for flood storage has been identified as a possible element of the overall flood solution. Flood storage, in various guises, will be integral to the Department's plans for future flood protection. This includes the recently published "Living with Water in Belfast" a £1.4 billion 12 year investment plan for drainage and wastewater management within the Greater Belfast area. Work is also underway to develop a strategic drainage infrastructure plan for Derry. Proposed measures in these plans include greener drainage solutions including flood storage.

10.13 It is recognised that to progress work in this area, additional powers will be required to provide for easements and compensation arrangements for affected landowners who have agreed to long term adjustments to their land that will enable the storage of flood waters and mitigate the risk of flooding.

Your views:

10.14 It is proposed to provide powers to enable the Department to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners for agreeing to their land being used for flood storage purposes.

Consultation Question 8

Do you agree that powers should be provided to enable the Department for Infrastructure to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners, who have agreed to long term adjustments to their land to facilitate storage of flood waters and help mitigate the risk of flooding?

**SECTION 11:
Technical amendments to
enable future amendment of
subordinate legislation - Powers
for the Department to amend,
update or revoke the Drainage
(Environmental Impact
Assessment) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 2017
and the Water Environment
(Floods Directive) Regulations
(Northern Ireland) 2009.**

11. Technical amendments to enable future amendment of subordinate legislation - Powers for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

Introduction

- 11.1 Two technical amendments are also proposed. These would address gaps in the Department's regulation-making powers as a result of EU exit, specifically section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972.

The Issue

- 11.2 Section 2(2) gave powers to the Department to amend, update or revoke regulations in line with changes to EU legislation.
- 11.3 Much of the Department's subordinate legislation was made using Section 2(2) powers which were repealed by the European Union Withdrawal Act 2018. Action was taken to ensure all relevant existing statute was protected and this has meant that the statute book remains fit for purpose but the Department is unable to make further amendments without new Primary legislation powers.

Proposal

- 11.4 The proposal is to include a power to amend, update or revoke specific regulations which were made using section 2(2) powers. Those regulations are the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

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Rationale

- 11.5 Without the power for the Department to amend, update or revoke specific regulations which were made using section 2(2) powers it would be necessary to make any changes by way of primary legislation.
- 11.6 The use of primary legislation to make changes to these specific regulations would be time-consuming, expensive and an inefficient use of NI Assembly time and resources.

Your views:

- 11.7 It is proposed to provide a power to enable the Department to amend, revoke or replace the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009.

Consultation Question 9

Do you agree with the proposal to provide a power for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009?

SECTION 12: List of Consultation Questions.

12. List of Consultation Questions

SECTION 3:

Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures

Consultation Question 1

Do you agree that the following list of activities should be included in the list of uses that NI Water may temporarily prohibit or restrict as part of a hosepipe ban, in addition to its current ability to prohibit or restrict watering private gardens and washing private motor cars?

- watering plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool;
- drawing water, using a hosepipe, for domestic recreational use;
- filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain;
- cleaning walls, or windows, of domestic premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe; and
- cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.

SECTION 4:

Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works for flood management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

Consultation Question 2

Do you agree that NI Water should be given a new power of entry onto land to enable it to carry out works beyond the laying of pipes, such as flood management or sustainable drainage schemes?

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SECTION 5:

Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments

Consultation Question 3

Do you agree that the Department for Infrastructure should be given a power to issue future arrangements and guidance on the design, approval, and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems to make SuDS the preferred means of dealing with surface water?

SECTION 6:

Powers for NI Water to adopt certain drainage infrastructure, which is in private ownership and was constructed prior to 1st October 1973

Consultation Question 4

Do you agree that NI Water should be permitted to adopt and maintain sections of privately-owned drainage infrastructure constructed prior to 1st October 1973, which are critical to the effective operation of its network?

SECTION 7:

Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections

Consultation Question 5

Do you agree that NI Water should be given the power to enter private premises to fix drainage misconnections and recover the costs from the landowner, when the landowner refuses entry and also refuses to fix the misconnection themselves?

SECTION 8:

Power for NI Water to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register

Consultation Question 6

Do you agree that NI Water should be provided with a power to enable it to register Article 161 adoption agreements and bonds in the Statutory Charges Register?

Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water

SECTION 9:

Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures

Consultation Question 7

Do you agree that legislation should be provided to enable the Department for Infrastructure to introduce a substantive Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme to residents whose properties are susceptible to flooding, and who meet defined eligibility criteria?

SECTION 10:

Powers to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners to facilitate flood storage

Consultation Question 8

Do you agree that powers should be provided to enable the Department for Infrastructure to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners, who have agreed to long term adjustments to their land to facilitate storage of flood waters and help mitigate the risk of flooding?

SECTION 11:

Technical amendments to enable future amendment of subordinate legislation - Powers for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

Consultation Question 9

Do you agree with the proposal to provide a power for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009?



Department for
Infrastructure

An Roinn
Bonneagair

www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Response to DFI Consultation:**'Water, Flooding and Sustainable Drainage: Improving How We Manage Water'**

on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council

Section 3**Powers for NI Water to implement wider water shortage measures****Consultation Question 1**

Do you agree that the following list of activities should be included in the list of uses that NI Water may temporarily prohibit or restrict as part of a hosepipe ban, in addition to its current ability to prohibit or restrict watering private gardens and washing private motor cars?

- watering plants on domestic or other non-commercial premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning a private leisure boat using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining a domestic swimming or paddling pool;
- drawing water, using a hosepipe, for domestic recreational use;
- filling or maintaining a domestic pond using a hosepipe;
- filling or maintaining an ornamental fountain;
- cleaning walls, or windows, of domestic premises using a hosepipe;
- cleaning paths or patios using a hosepipe; and
- cleaning other artificial outdoor surfaces using a hosepipe.

Response:

The Council recognises that current provisions for NI Water to deal with potential water shortages are limited. Climate change is likely to contribute to more frequent pressures on water resources and there is a need to address means to ensure supplies needed for essential purposes.

SECTION 4:

Powers for NI Water to enter onto private land to carry out works for flood management purposes including construction of sustainable drainage systems (SuDS).

Consultation Question 2

Do you agree that NI Water should be given a new power of entry onto land to enable it to carry out works beyond the laying of pipes, such as flood management or sustainable drainage schemes?

Response

The Council is not expressing a view in relation to extending or creating a new power of entry for NI Water.

However, it is recognised that if flood management and sustainable drainage schemes are to be successful, the maintenance of the schemes needs to be provided for in a clear and unambiguous way. The issue of maintenance of SuDS schemes is critical to their ongoing effectiveness and should be determined at this stage.

The expectations of many people need to be managed in that temporary flooding of grass areas etc, is seen as a problem, whereas with SuDS it is the visible sign of the management of flood water. This could have both cost and reputational issues in relation to Council maintained or managed grounds, and the demands by the public to alleviate such issues.

In the agricultural setting, the approach to land maintenance would be somewhat different to what traditional agricultural practice would dictate, and therefore it is considered that clear partnership should be established before works are imposed.

SECTION 5:

Provision of an enabling power for the Department to introduce arrangements to encourage developers to use sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred drainage solution in new developments

Consultation Question 3

Do you agree that the Department for Infrastructure should be given a power to issue future arrangements and guidance on the design, approval, and maintenance of sustainable drainage systems to make SuDS the preferred means of dealing with surface water?

Response

It is one of the objectives of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement for NI (SPPS) to 'promote sustainable development through encouraging the use of sustainable drainage systems for new development and redevelopment schemes.'

In view of this, the Council, through the formulation of the LDP shall consider appropriate planning policy around the use of SuDS. However, until such time as regulatory legislation and guidance is put in place by DfI on design specifications and forward maintenance arrangements, such a policy may be difficult to implement and enforce. Failure to adequately maintain the SuDS system could result in poor performance, effectively nullifying the benefits of the installation of the SuDS in the first place.

Currently problems are encountered when seeking to develop lands to which the existing combined drainage system is at capacity,

The provision of SuDS is an effective method of dealing with such stormwater drainage, and if required under legislation (in the absence of adequate storm sewer

provision) would provide for future better managed development. Further potential benefits would be had for the public purse by the reduction in drainage infrastructure required, and volume of waste water to be treated.

In order to be effective, proposals should be assessed as part of the approval system at an early stage. It would be preferable that such requirements were required by legislation rather than by guidance.

It is acknowledged that SuDS can vary in size and composition. The appropriateness of a SuDS solution will be determined by the local characteristics of each site including its size, topography, geology, hydrogeology, flood risk and the available discharge points (rivers, drains or sewers). The integration of a variety of different techniques usually provides the best solution, however it is acknowledged that at present in most cases 'hard SuDS' will be the preferred drainage solution for developers as these are currently adopted by NI Water. Further work is required to establish an assessment system/body for SuDS and around the ownership and ongoing maintenance of "soft SuDS".

All parties require clarity around the ongoing maintenance of soft SuDS infrastructure. Well designed and implemented soft SuDS provide advantages in terms of enhancing nature conservation, providing amenity areas, potential to enhance biodiversity and reduced energy demand in addition to the reduction in flooding issues and improvement in water quality.

SECTION 6:

Powers for NI Water to adopt certain drainage infrastructure, which is in private ownership and was constructed prior to 1st October 1973

Consultation Question 4

Do you agree that NI Water should be permitted to adopt and maintain sections of privately-owned drainage infrastructure constructed prior to 1st October 1973, which are critical to the effective operation of its network?

Response

Where the adoption of private infrastructure is considered of benefit, then the date of construction should have little influence on the decision. As such this permission would be of benefit. It is suggested that consideration be given to allowing for intervention by NIW to adopt private drainage systems that are inadequate or regularly fail, creating a risk to public health or pollution of the environment.

SECTION 7:

Enhanced powers for NI Water to deal with drain and sewer misconnections

Consultation Question 5

Do you agree that NI Water should be given the power to enter private premises to fix drainage misconnections and recover the costs from the landowner, when the landowner refuses entry and also refuses to fix the misconnection themselves?

Response

Such powers could be of benefit. Such access powers would allow for quick and cost-effective remediation of misconnections which are a source of pollution.

SECTION 8:

Power for NI Water to register Article 161 agreements in the Statutory Charges Register

Consultation Question 6

Do you agree that NI Water should be provided with a power to enable it to register Article 161 adoption agreements and bonds in the Statutory Charges Register?

Response

It is considered that this would be of benefit.

SECTION 9:

Powers for the Department to grant fund Homeowner Flood Protection measures

Consultation Question 7

Do you agree that legislation should be provided to enable the Department for Infrastructure to introduce a substantive Homeowner Flood Protection Grant Scheme to residents whose properties are susceptible to flooding, and who meet defined eligibility criteria?

Response

This would be of benefit.

SECTION 10:

Powers to provide for easements and additional compensation arrangements for affected landowners to facilitate flood storage

Consultation Question 8

Do you agree that powers should be provided to enable the Department for Infrastructure to provide for easements and additional compensation

arrangements for affected landowners, who have agreed to long term adjustments to their land to facilitate storage of flood waters and help mitigate the risk of flooding?

Response

This proposal ties in with the response to Question 2 and would be necessary to allow progress in this aspect of storm water control and to bring on board landowners, without whose partnership this is unlikely to be successful.

SECTION 11:

Technical amendments to enable future amendment of subordinate legislation - Powers for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009

Consultation Question 9

Do you agree with the proposal to provide a power for the Department to amend, update or revoke the Drainage (Environmental Impact Assessment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 and the Water Environment (Floods Directive) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2009?

Response

The Council offers no comment in relation to this point.

Unclassified

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ITEM 12**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	25 May 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	13 May 2022
File Reference	CX210
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Annual Meeting Arrangements
Attachments	Draft agenda

Background

This report considers the arrangements, given the continuing Covid19 pandemic, for the holding of the Councils Annual Meeting. Public health guidance requires a risk assessment to be carried out of public spaces. The current risk assessment of the Council Chamber would permit up to 16 members (including the Mayor).

A full Council meeting would require accommodation large enough for approximately 50 attendees plus the public and press, whilst the Annual Meeting could proceed with a reduced but quorate number and so the option of holding it physically in the Chamber is more feasible. This was the same arrangement as in 2021.

Recommended for consideration

It is recommended - dependent upon all Members not attending agreeing to voluntarily send their apologies - to proceed with the Annual Meeting on 1 June 2022 at 11am in the Council Chamber, Bangor Castle.

Unclassified

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A draft agenda for the meeting is attached. The substantial items of business being: Mayor's Review, appointments to the Positions of Responsibility including the position of Mayor and Deputy Mayor. The most suitable course of action regarding the election of an Alderman position is to be confirmed.

The Positions of Responsibility do not require a Council decision or vote, as they are dealt with through the Party Nominating Officers and their allocation has been agreed in 2019. However, the allocation of places to outside bodies, which would require votes, would be taken to the next full Council meeting on 29 June.

Therefore, it is recommended that the physical Annual Meeting be attended by the
Outgoing Mayor, Councillor Brooks
Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Adair
Incoming Mayor, Councillor Douglas
Incoming Deputy Mayor, Councillor Blaney
Nominating Officers for the four largest Parties
An Independent/Single Member Party,

Plus 7 Members decided using the d'Hondt method:

3 DUP

2 Alliance

2 UUP

This number would mean the meeting would be quorate (10 Members required) and would remain so if up to 6 Members needed to leave the room for any reason. The Chief Executive and a minimal number of support staff would also attend.

The meeting would be broadcast through a live YouTube broadcast, with a link provided on the Council's website, meaning other Members could watch (but not participate) in the meeting as could members of the press and public.

Party Group Leaders are asked to gain the support of their Groups so that voluntary apologies would be tendered accordingly.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agree to the proposals set out in this report for the holding of a physical Annual Meeting on 1 June 2022.

Unclassified

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Item 15.1**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	25 May 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	09 May 2022
File Reference	CX62
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Attendance at Harkin Summit in Belfast - 7 th and 8 th June
Attachments	Conference Programme

The Harkin Summit will be hosted in Belfast on the 7th and 8th June 2022. It represents a global platform for senior international leaders across Business, Government, Public and Third Sectors to discuss and share best practice on advancing disability employment at a macro level.

Senior delegates include Microsoft, Twitter, BBC, PayPal, LinkedIn, Danske Bank, Ulster Bank, US Department for Labor, several visiting governments, and international disability organisations. The cost to attend the Summit is £250.

The Chief Executive has been invited to an Executive Reception hosted by Belfast City Council and Department for Communities in Belfast City Hall on the evening of 7th June. This provides an opportunity to network with senior summit delegates, Public Sector and Council officials, local and international Business leaders, and Political Representatives.

RECOMMENDATION

It is Recommended that the Council considers sending a Member(s) to the Harkin Summit in Belfast on 7th and 8th June 2022 at a cost of £250 per person.

Registration

To confirm your participation in Harkin Belfast 2022, please register by **31 May 2022**.

If you have any questions about the registration process, or require assistance registering for the Summit, please contact a member of our events team by emailing HarkinBelfast@event-ful.co.uk or telephoning 004428 9043 4320.

Online credit card payments are securely handled by Stripe and we accept the following payment methods Visa / Mastercard / American Express.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

[TERMS AND CONDITIONS](#)

Delegate Packages

EARLY BIRD RATE: Ended 15 April 2022.

Belfast Package (£250)

This package is for those attending the the ICC Belfast in person. It includes:

- Admission to personalised programme for each day of the Summit, including the plenary sessions and networking opportunities
- Access to online portal to view recordings of all live-streamed sessions during and after the conference (catch-up facility for any content missed or parallel sessions not attended)
- Digital copies of all presentations post event
- Refreshments, light snacks and lunch during the conference

Virtual Package (£250)

This package is for virtual access to the Summit content, streamed online. It includes:

- Online access to all sessions, including the plenary and parallel sessions
- Access to an online portal to view recordings of all live-streamed sessions post-Summit (catch-up facility for any content missed or parallel sessions not attended)
- Digital copies of all presentations post event

Notes

- Any complimentary ticket allocation can be activated by inputting a code during the standard registration process.
- There will be no charge for anyone who is accompanying a delegate in a support role.

Contact Us

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If you experience any difficulties or need any assistance registering online, please contact a member of our events team who can make your reservation for you over the phone or by email.

Harkin Belfast Events Team

Telephone: 004428 9043 4320

Email: HarkinBelfast@event-ful.co.uk

Programme

Harkin Belfast has attracted an impressive number of internationally renowned keynote speakers and content from over 40 presenters.

Our two-day programme will offer multiple content items across each time slot, giving delegates a rich choice of options to create their own personalised agenda based on what is most relevant to them.

Content is also categorised under six themes which can be referenced from the drop down menu above or by [clicking here](#).

Clicking on the paper title will reveal more information on the content, theme and speaker. This information will then help delegates to select their personalised programme during the registration process to reserve their spaces.

Key - Room Allocation

Hall 1 (Main stage)

Hall 2A

Meeting Room ONE

Hall 2B

Meeting Room TWO

Meeting Room THREE

Event Time - (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisb... ▾

<u>Tuesday, June 7, 2022</u>	<u>Wednesday, June 8, 2022</u>			
	Hall 1 (Main Stage)	Hall 2	Meeting Rooms	Networking Space
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Day ONE Registration			
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Welcome to the Harkin Summit			
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	KEYNOTE Charlotte McClain-Nhlapo from World Bank			
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Keynote concludes. There is be a short comfort break between sessions to allow delegates move to meeting spaces.			
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Session ONE			
	BBC: Reframing disability at the BBC for workforce and content	Drake University: Competitive, Integrated Employment: The Driver of Long-Term Value Creation	British Council: Supporting pupils with SEND to live and thrive in society and the world of work.	

	Hall 1 (Main Stage)	Hall 2	Meeting Rooms	Networking Space
		Texthelp: Three lessons educators can teach us about bringing disability into the mainstream	Centene: Leveraging External Partnerships to Drive Enterprise-Wide Disability Strategy	
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Session one concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Session TWO			
	PayPal: Dare to dream - new ways of working are emerging	Association Handicap Senegal: Mainstreaming disability into the diversity and inclusion agenda	Griffin-Hammis Associates: Promoting Communities of Economic Growth through Partnership	
		Indiana University: Working from the Outside: Advancing Governmental Action Through Planning, Advocacy, and Support	Mentoring moments at Harkin Belfast (1 of 4) FULLY BOOKED	
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Session two concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
12:20 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch will be served in two sittings (12.30 and 13.30). Please book your preferred slot during registration.			
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Session THREE			
	Microsoft: A system wide partnership developing modern technology and accessibility skills of work coaches	Dragons' Den meets Harkin Belfast	Mentoring moments at Harkin Belfast (2 of 4) FULLY BOOKED	Lunch (First sitting)
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Session three concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	Session FOUR			
	NICS: Incorporating Social Value into Public Procurement	Benetech, India: The Pandemic as a Catalyst for Digital Learning and Employment in India		Lunch (Second sitting)
		SCOE & LMU: California's Collective Momentum Toward Realizing Inclusion, Belonging, and a Family Sustaining Wage		
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Session four concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Session FIVE			
	Moving beyond the Niche: Women leading in disability mainstreaming	Congo Handicap: Disability & livelihood services' access DR Congo	Montserrat Association: Human Rights, Disability and the British Overseas Territories	

	Hall 1 (Main Stage)	Hall 2	Meeting Rooms	Networking Space
		Leonard Cheshire: Accessible Technology for an Inclusive Workforce in the COVID-19 Context. Innovations and Learnings.	One More Percent: Changing Public Narratives Around Disability Through Solutions Journalism	
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Session five concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
3:30 PM - 4:15 PM	Session SIX			
	UN & USICD: Understanding CRPD Article 32 and Article 27	Being your own boss: Disability and self-employment	Danske Bank: How Danske Bank UK has embedded disability as an integral element of its award-winning work	
		National Disability Authority: Intersection of data and cultural change	USEL: The future of Government Contracts for organisations with a social purpose and how we can support it	
4:15 PM - 4:30 PM	Session six concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
4:30 PM - 5:15 PM	LinkedIn: Driving change in the world of work by amplifying the voices of disabled Changemakers			
5:15 PM - 5:20 PM	Day one concludes			

Programme

Harkin Belfast has attracted an impressive number of internationally renowned keynote speakers and content from over 40 presenters.

Our two-day programme will offer multiple content items across each time slot, giving delegates a rich choice of options to create their own personalised agenda based on what is most relevant to them.

Content is also categorised under six themes which can be referenced from the drop down menu above or by [clicking here](#).

Clicking on the paper title will reveal more information on the content, theme and speaker. This information will then help delegates to select their personalised programme during the registration process to reserve their spaces.

Key - Room Allocation

Hall 1 (Main stage)

Hall 2A

Meeting Room ONE

Hall 2B

Meeting Room TWO

Meeting Room THREE

Event Time - (UTC+00:00) Dublin, Edinburgh, Lisb... ▾

[Tuesday, June 7, 2022](#)
Wednesday, June 8, 2022

	Hall 1 (Main Stage)	Hall 2	Meeting Rooms	Networking Space
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM	Day TWO Registration			
9:30 AM - 9:45 AM	Day TWO Opening Address			
9:45 AM - 10:15 AM	KEYNOTE Yazmine Laroche, Deputy Minister for Public Accessibility, Canada			
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	Keynote concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
10:30 AM - 11:15 AM	Session SEVEN			
	Twitter: #UntilWeAllBelong: Twitter's journey to becoming the most inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible company in the world	Kainos: Inclusive Design in Technology	Arts, Disability and the Pandemic - a creative response	

	Hall 1 (Main Stage)	Hall 2	Meeting Rooms	Networking Space
		NCPEDP, India: Lack of data and invisibility of persons with disabilities	Humanity & Inclusion: Michelin's Journey towards a Disability Inclusive Employer, a thriving global collaboration with Humanity & Inclusion	
11:15 AM - 11:30 AM	Session concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Session EIGHT			
	Disability Employment Australia: A National Disability Employment Strategy - from policy to practice to demonstrable improvement	STEP: Role of Corporate Sector towards Disability Inclusion in Global Development Agenda 2030 (SDGs)	Drake University: Targeted Life Skills Training of Youth to Facilitate a Diverse Workforce of the Future	
			Mentoring moments at Harkin Belfast (3 of 4)	
12:15 PM - 12:30 PM	Session eight concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
12:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Lunch will be served in two sittings (12.30 and 13.30).			
12:30 PM - 1:15 PM	Session NINE			
	International Labour Organisation: Digitalising disability employment - CANCELLED	Specialisterne: How autistic people in N Ireland are changing the dialogue around diversity and inclusion.	Mentoring moments at Harkin Belfast (4 of 4)	Lunch (First sitting).
	NICS: Disability Employment in Northern Ireland - Data informing Strategy, Policy and Public Sector Change			
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM	Session nine concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	Session TEN			
	The Valuable 500: Fear, C-Suite and Progression	NICS: Skills for a 10X Economy - How do we maximise inclusion and accessibility?		Lunch (Second sitting).
2:15 PM - 2:30 PM	Session ten concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
2:30 PM - 3:15 PM	Session ELEVEN			
	US Department of Labor: Facilitating a Disability-Inclusive Economic Recovery	Boardroom Apprentice: Take Your Seat	Scottish Government: Co-production and the voice of lived experience - the Scottish experience	

	Hall 1 (Main Stage)	Hall 2	Meeting Rooms	Networking Space
		University of Kelaniya: SEE Inclusion - SEE the Gaps Project in Sri Lanka: Critical reflections on the journey so far.	Special Olympics: Evaluating Inclusive Programming to Drive Change Globally: Experiences from Special Olympics Unified Champion Schools	
3:15 PM - 3:30 PM	Session eleven concludes. Delegates transition to their next item and room.			
3:30 PM - 5:00 PM	Keynote: Judy Heumann			
5:00 PM - 5:15 PM	Harkin Belfast 2022 concludes			

Unclassified

226

DRAFT

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	25 May 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	19 May 2022
File Reference	CX62
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Attendance at NAC UK Summer Conference in Southport - 24-26 June
Attachments	Invitation

Background

The National Association of Councillors Conference on Emergency Planning and Resilience will be hosted in Southport from 24-26 June 2022.

The Association exists to promote and enhance the role of councillors and to help elected members to be as effective as possible in carrying out their responsibilities.

Attendance is at a cost of £350 +VAT for a delegate, plus travel and subsistence.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council consider nominating Members to attend the NAC UK Summer Conference in Southport from 24-26 June 2022.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORSConference**Emergency Planning & Resilience**

The Bliss Hotel, Southport

24th-26th June 2022

Delegate Booking Form

Name of Delegate.....

Organisation

Delegate's Email

Telephone Number.....

Authorising Signature.....Order No if reqd.....

Printed Name.....

Position.....Organisation.....

INVOICE, email address for invoice.....

To Register – Complete the delegate details above, and either: -Email a copy of this form to
 Generalsecretary@nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

or Post form to NAC Bookings, Council Offices, 6 Goatbeck Terrace, Langley Moor, Co. Durham DH7 6JJ

Delegate Fees: £350 plus VAT – Metropolitan, County, Unitary, Borough & District Councils

£295 plus VAT - Town, Parish and Community Councils

Accommodation is available for delegates at the Conference Hotel at the special NAC Conference Delegate rate of £85 plus VAT per night. If you book the hotel direct the rate will be £135 inc VAT The accommodation fee is payable by delegate on arrival at the hotel unless otherwise indicated on the booking form.

Delegate Accommodation Friday & Saturdays nights YES / NO

Local Authority to be billed direct for accommodation YES / NO

Please note that double and family rooms are also available (prices available on request)

Booking Condition: Please note that a charge is payable on any bookings cancelled. These charges will be kept to a minimum and will be in accordance with cost incurred by the NAC.

ITEM 16**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	25 May 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	18 May 2022
File Reference	CG 12172
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Notices of Motion
Attachments	Notices of Motion - Status Report

Please find attached a Status Report in respect of Notices of Motion.

This is a standing item on the Council agenda each month and its aim is to keep Members updated on the outcome of motions. Please note that as each motion is dealt with it will be removed from the report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council notes the report.

NOTICE OF MOTIONS UPDATE – MAY 2022

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
DATE RECEIVED	NOTICE	SUBMITTED BY	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	COMMITTEE REFERRED TO	OUTCOME OF COMMITTEE WHERE NOM DEBATED	MONTH IT WILL BE REPORTED BACK TO COMMITTEE	OTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
31/05/15	Permanent recognition of Rory McIlroy in Holywood	Councillor Muir	24/06/15	Corporate Services Committee – October 2015	Agreed	June 2022	Update sought at Jan 22 Council – to be reported to CSC
21/1/19	Shelter at slipway in Donaghadee	Councillor Brooks & Cllr Smith	Council – January 2019	Environment Committee	Agreed	TBC	
25/9/19	Report on feasibility of holding annual remembrance service for those lost to suicide	Councillor Martin	Council – October	Corporate Services – November 2019	Agreed	Reported to CSC January 2020. Further report to come back	
16/01/20	Closing of a public right of way at Andrew Shorefield, Groomsport	Alderman Keery	Council – January 2020	Corporate Committee – February 2020	Agreed	Reported to CSC in March and	

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
DATE RECEIVED	NOTICE	SUBMITTED BY	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	COMMITTEE REFERRED TO	OUTCOME OF COMMITTEE WHERE NOM DEBATED	MONTH IT WILL BE REPORTED BACK TO COMMITTEE	OTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
						October 2020. Further report to follow.	
16/01/20	Installation of CCTV for Donaghadee with costings	Alderman Keery	Council – January 2020	Environment Committee – February 2020	Agreed	TBC	
27/2/20	Council opposes money spent on Irish Language Act	Councillor Cooper	Council- June 2020	Corporate Committee – August 2020	Agreed	SoS reply reported to and noted by Nov 2020 CSC	Letters sent to SoS and NICS Perm Sec. SoS reply reported to CSC. NICS Perm Sec reply awaited.
3/3/20	Management of Sand Dune Systems in Cloughey and Portavogie	Councillor Adair	Council – June 2020	Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2020	Agreed	Report due by June 2022.	Coastal Erosion Forum meeting took place and information to be considered for scoping

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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							out report to be brought back to Members. Site meeting attended 8 April 2022
20.10.20	"I would like to task officers to produce a report to consider what could be a more environmentally friendly and benefit the wellbeing of the community for the use of the disused putting green on the Commons and play park at Hunts park in Donaghadee . Following the success of the Dog park in Bangor and the demand for a Dementia garden, both should be considered as options in the report. The process should involve consultation with the local community."	Councillor Brooks	Council October 2020	Community & Wellbeing Committee – December 2020	Agreed	TBC	Officers to liaise with Regeneration and consideration of Masterplan and also take into account play strategy local consultation when it takes place in Donaghadee and bring back a report thereafter.

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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19 April 2021	Flying of Union Flag on all Council buildings and war memorials all year round. Flags at half mast on death of any monarch or any other member of the Royal Family or Prime Minister of the UK for the period of mourning.	Councillor Cooper	Council April 2021	Corporate Committee – September 2021	NOM as amended agreed at March 2022 Council	TBC (awaiting EQIA)	EQIA to be carried out
10 May 2021	That officers are tasked to bring back a Report on how the Council might approach a Climate Change Action Plan and perhaps including - but not limited to - a review of all Council long-term investment, a Borough-wide engagement via an Innovation Lab, a Conference of Ideas, and values-based recommendations for next steps.	Councillors Walker & Egan	23 June 2021	Environment Committee – October 2021 (deferred from September Committee)	Agreed	TBC	

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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20.10.2021	That officers bring back a report to consider the option of transferring responsibility for bins which are currently the responsibility of the Parks Section into the Environment Directorate.	Alderman McIlveen & Councillor Cathcart	Council November 2021	Community & Wellbeing December 2021	Agreed	Report to C&WC 13th April 2022	Further report to follow
3.11.2021	That this Council, in liaison with the Department for Infrastructure, will seek permission for and explore a source of funding in order to make an artistic feature of the steps which lead from Princetown Road to Queen's Parade at Bangor seafront as part of Bangor Town regeneration, and brings back a report to Council addressing how this can be achieved as a pilot for the Borough.	Councillor Douglas & Alderman Wilson	Council November 2021	Regeneration & Development December 2021	Agreed	Update at Sept/Oct R&D	Consultation with Town Advisory Group currently taking place and outcome will be reported to future meeting.

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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01.12.21	That this Council recognises the need for an additional park and ride to serve the Ards Peninsula and agrees to lobby Translink and the Department of Infrastructure to seriously consider this facility, which would further reduce vehicle movements within the Borough and assist our residents to continue to reduce the Borough's carbon footprint.	Councillor Thompson and Councillor Edmund	Council – December 2021	Corporate (deferred from January to February CSC)	Agreed	May 2022	Responses from DfI and Translink noted by May Committee (to be ratified by May Council)
31.12.21	Coastal and Storm Damage to Ballywalter Harbour, repair costs and reinstatement costs	Councillors Adair and Edmund	Council January 22	Environment February 2022	Agreed	TBC	Report to be brought back
10.1.22	Review of Old Minerals Permissions (ROMPs). For Department to implement, administer and deliver ROMPs	Councillors McKee and Kendal	Council January 22	Planning Committee February 22	Agreed	May 2022	Letter issued to DfI Minister. Response to May Committee.

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
DATE RECEIVED	NOTICE	SUBMITTED BY	COUNCIL MEETING DATE	COMMITTEE REFERRED TO	OUTCOME OF COMMITTEE WHERE NOM DEBATED	MONTH IT WILL BE REPORTED BACK TO COMMITTEE	OTHER ACTION TO BE TAKEN
18.1.22	Refugees Sanctuary in the Borough	Councillors McKimm, Dunlop, Smart and Mathison	Council January 22	C&W February 22	Agreed	TBC	Refugee strategy and report to be brought back
19.1.22	Queen's Platinum Jubilee Funding	Councillor Cooper and Alderman Menagh	Council February 22	Corporate Committee – March 22	Agreed	TBC	Letters sent to NIO and Ministers. NIO have advised DCMS will reply.
20.01.22	Stand4Trees and Tree Protection Orders	Councillors Kendall and McKee	Council February 22	Planning Committee – March 22	Agreed	Planning Committee Jul/Aug 2022	Awaiting legal advice to be brought back to Council
1.02.22	Park and Ride at Bangor Sportsplex	Councillor Chambers and Alderman Smith	Council February 22	Corporate Committee – March 22	Agreed	TBC	Letter sent to Translink. Response awaited.
02.03.22	400 th anniversary of Kirkistown Castle	Councillors Adair and Edmund	Council – March 22	Community and Wellbeing Committee – April 22	Agreed (as amended)	Report to May C&WC	

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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09.03.22	Resurfacing Bridge Road South, Helen's Bay	Councillor Greer, Johnson, Kendall & McRandal	Council – March 22	Corporate Services Committee – April 22	Agreed	TBC	Letter issued
09.03.22	Calls for Council responsibility for a devolved Regeneration Budget	Councillor Walker and Alderman McDowell	Council - March 22	Regeneration and Development Committee – April 22	Agreed	Update at Sept/Oct R&D	HOR to: 1. Draft letter to Minister; 2. Outline to RDC, a united engagement campaign with other Councils, SOLACE & NILGA, to secure Ministerial support.
23.03.22	Flood lighting and running track, Cloughey	Councillor Boyle and Alderman Carson	Council – March 22	Community and Wellbeing Committee – April 22	Agreed (as amended)	TBC	

TO BE POPULATED BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES							
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6.04.2022	Community trails at Carrowood Carrowdore	Councillors Adair & Edmund	Council – April 2022	Community & Wellbeing Committee – May 22	Agreed (to be ratified by April Council)		
12.04.2022	Comber TT Soapbox Race	Councillor P Smith, Councillor Cooper and Councillor Cummings	Council – April 2022	Corporate Committee May 2022	Amended (to be ratified by April Council)		Report to be brought back
13.04.2022	Environmental damage caused by modern day packaging	Councillors McRandal and Douglas	Council – April 2022	Environment Committee – June 2022			
14.04.2022	Locking up schedule for Playparks	Alderman Irvine and Alderman Keery	Council – April 2022	Community & Wellbeing Committee May 2022	Agreed (to be ratified by April Council)		
19.04.2022	Light up our council buildings in green (the colour of the Samaritans)	Councillors Dunlop & McKimm	Council – April 2022	Corporate Committee May 2022	Agreed (to be ratified by April Council)		

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS UK CONFERENCES/EXECUTIVE/GENERAL MANAGEMENT MEETINGS FOR 2022 AND UPDATE FOR NI MEETINGS

Please see dates below for the National Association of Councillors UK Conferences and Executive/General Management Meetings for 2022. Further details for each event will be circulated in advance.

For all enquiries and bookings please contact the NAC UK General Secretary directly:

Councillor Brian Nelson, National Association of Councillors
0191 3789947 or 0779 1574879 - generalsecretary@nationalassociationofcouncillors.org

NAC National Conferences 2022 – for all NAC Members		
DATE	LOCATION	DETAILS
25-27 Feb	Glasgow Best Western Hotel	Community Empowerment
8-10 April	Royal Hotel Scarborough	Leisure & Tourism
24-26 June	Bliss Hotel Southport	Emergency Planning & Resilience
23-28 Sept	Eastwood Hall Nottingham	Regional AGM & Conference
25-27 Nov	Mickleover Hotel Derby	National AGM & Conference

NAC National Executive/General Management Meetings - for NAC Delegates only		
DATE	TIME	VENUE
30/05/2022	10-30am	South Shields Town Hall
12/10/2022	10-30am	Civic Centre, Wolverhampton

Below is a reminder of the dates for the Northern Ireland Members' Meetings with venue updates.

For enquires and bookings contact the NAC NI Regional Office on 028 9181 9413 or by email:
office@nac-ni.org

NAC Northern Ireland 2022 Meeting Dates – for all NAC Members		
Meeting times: 11am start to approximately 1pm		
DATE	VENUE	LOCATION
26 January	Ards Business Hub	Ards & North Down
16 March	Craigavon Civic and Conference Centre	Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon
25 May	The Clayton Hotel	Belfast City Centre
20 July	Civic HQ Cloonavin Coleraine	Causeway Coast & Glens
21 September	The Guildhall Londonderry	Derry City & Strabane
21 October *AGM*	The Glenavon House Hotel	Cookstown
16 November	Enniskillen Town Hall	Fermanagh & Omagh

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS

Office: 028 9181 9413

Email: office@nac-ni.org

Web: www.nac-ni.org

Sketrick House - Jubilee Road - Newtownards BT23 4YH

IMPORTANT – THIS AFFECTS YOUR PROPERTY

Ards & North Down Borough Council
Town Hall
The Castle
Bangor
BT20 4BT

Historic Environment Division
Heritage Buildings Designation
Branch
Ground Floor
9 Lanyon Place
Town Parks
Belfast
BT1 3LP
Direct Tel No: 9056 9281

Our Ref: HB24/04/101

Date: 6th May 2022

Dear Sir/Madam

**NOTICE OF LISTING OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL
OR HISTORIC INTEREST**

**ADDRESS: LIME KILNS ADJACENT TO NO 8 SPRINGVALE ROAD,
BALLYWALTER, BT22 2PE**

I refer to previous correspondence regarding the above property.

Following consultation with Historic Buildings Council and your local district council it has been decided to list the above property under section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 which states that *'the Department shall compile lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest'*. Your building has been listed at grade B1 and the extent of the listed structure is outlined in red on the map attached to the enclosed formal Notice of Listing. Where this letter refers to building(s), this term includes all types of structures.

I would draw your attention to the explanatory notes on the reverse of the Notice which places certain responsibility on the owner, for example, a listed building has to be maintained in a way appropriate to its character and cannot be altered or demolished without prior approval. It also explains that certain controls also apply to structures which are within the curtilage of a listed building.

I attach a copy of the report previously sent to you which explains our understanding of the current heritage value of the building in more detail. This report, which may have been amended to reflect comments received during the consultation period, will be published (with the exclusion of internal information) on our website in due course. If you have details of the history of the property additional to that contained in the report, I should be most grateful if you would make this information available to me and I will ensure that it is considered by the appropriate architect. Buildings such as yours make a particular contribution to Northern Ireland's heritage and to the character of our communities. One of the main purposes of placing them on the List is to ensure that they receive special consideration.

The Department provides advice on maintenance in the form of technical notes which can be accessed from our website www.communities-ni.gov.uk or forwarded to you upon request. Our network of area conservation architects would also be happy to discuss proposals for repair or change with you at an early stage.

If you would like to find out more about Northern Ireland's historic buildings in general and the work of this Department to protect and promote this legacy in particular, this information is also available on our website.

Yours faithfully



TINA CLARKE

Enc Listing Notice
 Map
 Second Survey Report (HBC)

NOTICE THAT A BUILDING HAS BECOME LISTED**IMPORTANT ---- This communication affects YOUR PROPERTY**

Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011
Buildings of special architectural or historic interest

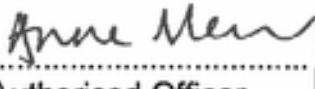
Ards & North Down Borough Council
Town Hall
The Castle
Bangor
BT20 4BT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the building known as Lime Kilns adjacent to No 8 Springvale Road

Situate in Ballywalter, BT22 2PE

has been included in the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest in that area, compiled by the Department for Communities under section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 on 6th May 2022

Dated 6th May 2022


.....
Authorised Officer

For Explanatory Note see over

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Listing of buildings of special architectural or historic interest

This notice is addressed to you as owner or occupier of the building named, which has been included in one of the lists of buildings of special architectural or historic interest prepared under section 80 of the Planning Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 (the "Act") by the Department for Communities ("the Department"). The lists are compiled by the Department as a statutory duty, on the advice of a committee of people including architects and historians interested in historic buildings ---- the Historic Buildings Council.

This notice does not call for any action on your part unless you propose at any time to demolish the building or to do any works (either to the exterior or to the interior) which would affect its character. In that event you will need to seek "listed building consent", that is to say, the consent of the council to the work you wish to do. Certain buildings are exempt from this requirement, notably ecclesiastical buildings in use for the time being for ecclesiastical purposes.

You should however note that it is an offence under section 85(1) of the Act to carry out any of those works without obtaining listed building consent. It is also an offence under section 85(5) to fail to comply with any condition attached to a listed building consent. A conviction for an offence could result in a fine, imprisonment or both.

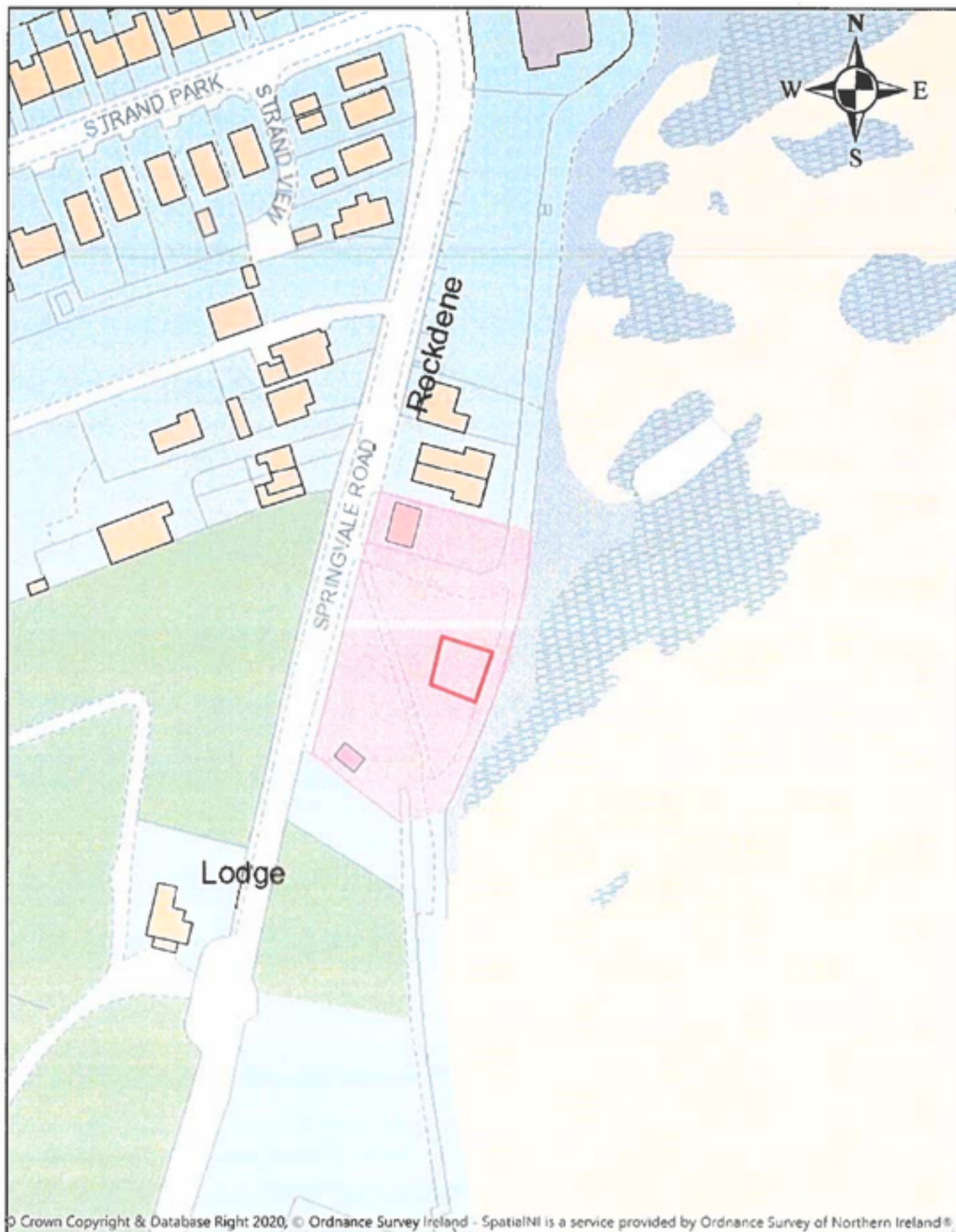
Where works which are urgently necessary in the interests of safety or of health or for the preservation of the buildings are carried out without consent it is a defence to prove that ----

- (a) it was not practicable to secure safety or health or the preservation of the building by works of repair or works for affording temporary support or shelter;
- (b) the works carried out were limited to the minimum measures immediately necessary; and
- (c) notice in writing justifying in detail the carrying out of the works was given to the council as soon as reasonably practicable. (section 85(7) of the Act).

Your attention is drawn to section 80(7) of the Act which provides that objects or structures described in that section within the curtilage of a listed building are entitled to the same protection as the building.

There is no right of appeal as such against the listing of a building but if the council should refuse consent for the carrying out of any proposed works, or grant it subject to condition, section 96 of the Act provides a right of appeal to the Planning Appeals Commission. You are not precluded at any time from writing to the Department claiming that the building should cease to be listed on the ground that it is not in fact of special architectural or historic interest; and any such claim, with the evidence supporting it, will be carefully considered.

If at any time you propose to take any action which may affect the character of your building, you should refer to the provisions of Chapter 1 Part 4 of the Act and the Planning (Listed Buildings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. Further details can be obtained from your council.



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**Listing Map Lime Kilns Adj
to No 8 Springvale Rod
Ballywalter**

Title: HB24/04/101

Scale: 1:1,250

Date Printed: 26 April 2022

Drawn By: JMCL



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CHAIR
Councillor Anne-Marie Fitzgerald

The Housing Centre
 2 Adelaide Street
 Belfast BT2 8P8

T: (028) 9598 2752
 E: kelly.cameron@nihe.gov.uk
 W: nihousingcouncil.org

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MAY HOUSING COUNCIL BULLETIN

The Northern Ireland Housing Council met on Thursday, 12th May 2022 at 10.00 am via Conference Call.

For Information, a report of the attendance is undernoted:-

Present by Video Conferencing

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Allan Bresland	Derry City & Strabane District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City (Arrived Meeting @ 10.30 am)

Apologies

John Finlay	Causeway Coast & Glens Borough
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough Council

There were no apologies

Discussions on the undernoted matters took place as follows:-

Report from Paul Price & David Polley from the Department for Communities on the Housing Top Issues.

A summary of the current / emerging issues are outlined *as follows*:-

- Social Newbuild starts
- Co-ownership
- Programme for Social Reform
- Fundamental Review of Social Housing Allocations Policy
- Reclassification of Northern Ireland Social Housing Providers
- Supporting People Delivery Strategy
- Homelessness Strategy
- Regulation of the Private Rented Sector
- Increasing Housing Supply
- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- NIHE Rent Increase
- ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020
- Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax
- Programme for Government (PFG) Outcomes Framework

- Long term rent trajectory
- Affordability of social rents

Members also received an update on the Housing Executive's Budget 2022/23 and the year ahead.

Once the minutes of the meeting are ratified at the June Meeting, they can be accessed on the Housing Council website: www.nihousingcouncil.org

The next Housing Council Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, 9th June 2022 at 10.00 am via conference call.

Should you require any further information or have any questions regarding the content.

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489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council

**Minutes of the 489th Meeting
of the Northern Ireland Housing Council held on
Thursday 10th March 2022 at 10 am via Zoom**

Present

Anne-Marie Fitzgerald	Fermanagh & Omagh District (Chair)
Mark Cooper	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough (Vice Chair)
Nick Mathison	Ards & North Down Borough
Jim Speers	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough
Michelle Kelly	Belfast City
Amanda Grehan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City
Mickey Ruane	Newry, Mourne & Down District
Tommy Nicholl	Mid & East Antrim Borough
Catherine Elattar	Mid Ulster Borough

In Attendance:

David Polley	Department for Communities
Heloise Browne	Department for Communities
Grainia Long	Chief Executive, Housing Executive (Joined @ 11.00 am)
Colm McQuillan	Director of Housing Services (Joined @ 11.15 am)
Andy Kennedy	Assistant Director Asset Strategy, NIHE
Elma Newberry	Assistant Director, Land & Regeneration Services
Kelly Cameron	Secretary (Housing Executive Secretariat)

Apologies:

Paul Price	Department for Communities
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1.0	<p><u>Welcome</u></p> <p>The Chair welcomed David Polley and Heloise Brown from the Department for Communities, and the Presenters Andy Kennedy and Elma Newberry from the Housing Executive.</p> <p>It was noted that Grainia Long would be joining Members later in the Meeting.</p>	
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2.0	<p><u>Declarations of Interest</u></p> <p>Alderman Speers declared an interest as he was a Board Members in the Richill Scheme referred to in the Presentation.</p>	
3.0	<p>To adopt the Minutes of the 488th Housing Council Meeting held on Thursday, 10th February 2022</p> <p>It was proposed by Alderman Bresland and seconded by Alderman Speers and resolved, that the Minutes of the 488th Meeting of the Housing Council held on Thursday 10th February 2022 be approved and signed by the Chair.</p>	
4.0 4.1	<p><u>Matters Arising</u></p> <p>Page 4 Item 8.0 – Discretionary Housing Payments</p> <p>Members had received the following information on the number of identified Discretionary Housing Payment (DHP) cases that have ended between April and November 2021.</p> <p>Claims that have ended due to the two year rule have been brought back on if they are still eligible, in line with the recent policy changes.</p> <p>In the past financial year, 1,624 DHP awards ended due to the two year rule; however, all awards have now been reviewed and if the claimant is still eligible their DHP award has been reinstated to at least the 50th percentile of their Local Housing Allowance (LHA).</p>	
5.0	<p><u>Forward Workplan</u></p> <p>The workplan was noted.</p>	Secretary

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6.0

Presentation from the Housing Executive on how the Housing Executive is addressing Derelict/Void Properties

Andy Kennedy and Elma Newberry gave a presentation on how the Housing Executive is addressing Derelict/Void properties (Copies of the Slides are appended to these Minutes)

Andy Kennedy assured Members that out of approximately 500 vacant/derelict stock that the Housing Executive are pro-active and all identified stock is in the process of being actioned ie. demolition, improvements, sale or redevelopments. Vacant/Derelict stock is not being left to blight an area.

Several Members reiterated the need for further investment in these run down properties that could be restored or improved.

Elma Newberry gave an insight into the Housing Executive's current legal framework, current process and innovative solutions.

A number of Members had welcomed 'Living over the Shops' initiative and would welcome a similar scheme to be implemented in the future.

Councillor Mathison had raised the issue in relation to the Housing Executive using their powers to address vacant properties across all sectors, in particular in the private sector, which are blighting an area and causing issues for neighbouring properties.

Also, Councillor Mathison referred to a number of isolated vacant terrace properties, particularly in town centres, which are in a poor state of repair which causes a significant impact on the neighbour's on a row of terraces and all the related issues that are associated with these properties. ie. water, pests and anti-social behavior. He stated that the Councils Environmental Health team incurs significant costs seeking court orders to carry out repairs and public health issues.

Mrs Newberry confirmed that the Housing Executive has the powers, and she asked Councillor Mathison to provide her with specific addresses and for her examine to determine the best way forward for those properties.

Members noted that there is a change in Community Planning, particularly in town centres and looking at innovative ways to revitalise the centres, how to get people living in the town centres.

Councillor Mathison asked if more could be done in relation to enhancing the legislative powers and if there is a bigger role for local Councils ie fitness standards, transfer of vesting powers etc.

David Polley assured Members that Housing Associations do refurbish and bring back into use empty homes. In response to the unfitness standard, Members noted that the Department will be reviewing the unfitness standards in the next mandate across all tenures.

Declaration of Interest - Alderman Speers declared an interest as he was a Board Members in the Richill Scheme referred to in the Presentation.

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	<p>He expressed his disappointed to learn that the Town Heritage Initiative grant will be ending in 2025, he added that it was a very successful and economical scheme, for a relative small contribution from the housing budget. Alderman Speers felt that with Town Centres changing alternative Initiatives should be examined for the future, in order to rejuvenate and revitalise the Town Centres.</p> <p>Mr Polley agreed that this is an opportunity to change the town city centres living with more focus on housing led regeneration.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Andy Kennedy and Elma Newberry for their very informative presentation.</p>	
7.0	<p><u>Housing Executive's Emerging Issues</u></p> <p>Ms Long spoke in detail to her circulated report, which provided the Housing Council with an update summarising a range of strategic, major or routine matters, including any emerging issues. A summary of the current / emerging issues were outlined under the headings as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NIHE Budget Bid and Budget Uncertainty 2022/23 • Rents • NIHE Revitalisation Programme - Progress Update • Supporting People Strategy • Sustainable Development Strategy • Derry & Strabane LDP Draft Plan Strategy • Low income Rates Relief for Owner Occupiers • Cavity Wall Insulation Action Plan • Tenant and Customer Services Committee • Homelessness Strategy 2022-25 • Regulation of the Private Rented Sector • Increasing Housing Supply • Affordable Warmth Scheme • NIHE Rent Increase • ERDF Investment for Growth and Jobs Programme 2014 -2020 • Housing Executive historical debt and exclusion from having to pay Corporation Tax • Programme for Government (PfG) Outcomes Framework • Long term rent trajectory • Affordability of social rents • Update on Ukraine Arrivals in Northern Ireland <p>Councillor Cooper welcomed the additional budgetary funding of £16m and requested a breakdown by Council area as to how this additional resources is going to be allocated by the Housing Executive.</p>	G Long

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Ms Long explained that the Housing Executive submitted a bid to the Department for additional funds for existing programmes, therefore the majority of the funding will be planned for the maintenance programme.

In response to Councillor Mathison question in relation to the impact the rent freeze will have on programme etc, Ms Long explained that it is £13m less will have an impact, an update will be given next month when the budget has been finalised.

Ms Long offered Members a Presentation on the Housing Executive's Budget 2022/23 and the year ahead.

Secretary

On behalf of Councillor Kelly, Councillor Mathison raised an issue in relation to the scheme for non-ACM cladding which been passed by Finance to DfC to scope out, and DfC has delegated to NIHE. He added that residents are being served with huge bills for remedial works being issued to address cladding issues as required by fire safety regulators. On behalf of Councillor Kelly he referred particular to Arc Apartments in East Belfast, but the general concern is that this scheme is moving at a much slower pace than when a scheme was rolled out for ACM cladding last year.

Ms Long explained the Housing Executive was directed by the DfC to scope the administration of the scheme and gave assurance that there has been several correspondence on this issue and she is aware of many residents directly affected by this situation.

Alderman Grehan asked if the additional £16m to off-set the £13m loss from the rent freeze. Ms Long explained that the £16m was part of a bid submitted by the Housing Executive and doesn't off-set the rental loss they are two separate parts of the budget. She added that the rental income covers response and planned maintenance.

Secretary

Also, Alderman Grehan asked what percentage of Housing Executive tenants will benefit from the rent freeze, given the majority of tenants are in receipt of housing benefits. Ms Long undertook to provide Members with a recent Assembly Question response.

In response to Alderman Grehan, Ms Long explained that the Afghan and Syrian Resettlement scheme have worked well and were well planned and accommodation was identified and settle people locally and it was a housing led approach on their arrival and their support. At present, the numbers arriving from Ukraine are unknown but will be a different scheme, it will not be housing led because there isn't the temporary accommodation available and no supply of additional accommodation. The Housing Executive is currently looking at suitable accommodation and identifying all available capacity.

The Chair thanked Ms Long for her comprehensive Report.

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9.0	<u>Housing Starts February 2022</u> Members noted the Report.	
10.0	<u>Date and Venue of next Meeting</u> It was agreed that at the Meeting scheduled for Thursday, 14th April at 10 am via Zoom.	

The Meeting concluded at 11.50 am.

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Appendix A



Action on Vacant/ Derelict NIHE properties

Housing Council 10th March 2022

Andy Kennedy
Assistant Director, Asset Strategy

www.nihe.gov.uk



Introduction

- **Vacant/derelict NIHE properties are not a significant issue**
- **Now mostly limited to interface locations, redevelopment areas and isolated rural cottages**
- **Addressed via our Strategic Option Appraisals programme**
 - Consideration of reinstatement, sale, demolition, redevelopment
- **Demolition subject to Board & DfC approval**

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Reinstatement



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Disposal



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Demolition and new build



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Housing
Executive

Addressing Vacant/Derelict Homes

Elma Newberry
Assistant Director Land & Regeneration Services

489th Meeting of the Northern Ireland Housing Council
Thursday 10 March 2022

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Question from Housing Council

- Do NIHE / DfC have a vacant /derelict property strategy?
- What is the current legal framework for NIHE to address vacant properties which are blighting an area?
- What NIHE's strategy for the issue and are there gaps in resource/legislation?

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Content

- **Strategic Housing Authority**
 - Background
 - Legislative Framework
 - Current Process
 - Innovative Solutions

- **Landlord Services**

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NI House Condition Survey

	1991	1996	2001	2006	2011	2016
Total stock	574,300	602,500	647,500	705,000	760,000	780,000
Vacant dwellings	30,300	29,000	31,900	40,300	54,700	28,500
% vacant	5.3%	4.8%	4.9%	5.7%	7.2%	3.7%

Vacant Stock – 2016 HCS

Source: Northern Ireland House Condition Survey

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NI House Condition Survey

	2006		2011		2016	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Location^{1,2}						
All Urban	12,800	53.1	x	40.0	x	32.0
All Rural	11,400	46.9	21,100	60.0	11,100	68.0
Tenure						
Owner Occupied	7,500	31.0	x	13.0	x	34.6
Private Rented & others	2,200	8.9	x	7.1	x	13.3
Social Housing	600	2.5	x	0.4	x	<1
Vacant	13,900	57.6	28,000	79.5	x	52.1
Dwelling Age						
Pre 1919	15,000	62.3	18,500	52.5	9,300	57.1
1919 - 1944	3,800	15.5	x	16.7	x	15.5
1945 - 1964	2,500	10.1	x	5.0	x	4.8
1965 - 1980	900	3.9	x	11.2	x	6.7
Post 1980	2,000	8.2	x	14.6	x	16.0
All Unfit Dwellings	24,200	3.4	35,200	4.6	16,400	2.1

x denotes a small number (generally 25 or less unweighted); where this is the case, caution should be applied when reporting proportion. <1% in a cell indicates that the number of dwellings in a particular category was 0. As the survey was a sample survey, it is possible that there were dwellings in the category (showing as <1%) but none were selected as part of the sample. Caution should be used when quoting these proportions.

Table 5.1: Unfitness - key figures, 2006 - 2016

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Legislative Framework

- **Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1981**
- **Large Scale Unfitness**
 - Declaration of clearance areas
 - Redevelopment and vesting
 - Group repair scheme / Housing Action Areas
- **Small Scale Unfitness**
 - Demolition / Closing Orders
 - Repair Notices
 - Article 63

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Redevelopment Area



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Small scale vesting

- 167-175 Broadway



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Article 63



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Notice Served



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Heritage in Housing 2015 - 2022



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HIH - 4 High Street, Donaghadee

Before HIH

After HIH



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HIH - 10 Waterloo St, L'Derry

Before HIH



After HIH



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Village Catalyst
Community Focused Regeneration

Housing
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Village Catalyst Programme

