

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

22 September 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, 28 September 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 September 2022 (Copy attached)
6. Minutes of Council meeting dated 24 August 2022 (Copy attached)
7. Minutes of Special Council Meeting dated 11 September 2022 (Copy attached)
8. Minutes of Committees
 - 8.1. Minutes of Planning Committee dated 6 September 2022 (Copy attached)
 - 8.2. Minutes of Environment Committee dated 7 September 2022 (Copy attached)
 - 8.2.1 Matter Arising – Item 20.1 - NOM on Naming and Signage Associated with Bangor Platinum Jubilee City Status (Report attached)

- 8.3. Minutes of Corporate Services Committee dated 20 September 2022 (Copy attached)
 - 8.4. Minutes of Community and Wellbeing Committee dated 21 September 2022 (Copy attached)
 - 8.5. Minutes of Audit Committee dated 22 September 2022 (Copy attached)
9. Consultation Documents
- 9.1. Consultation on Department of Education Consultation on Period Products (Free Provision) Regulations. Consultation document available at https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/consultation_finder. The consultation closes 16 October 2022 (Correspondence attached)
 - 9.2. Consultation on RQIA's Draft Strategic Plan 2022-27. Consultation document available at www.rqia.org.uk. Consultation closes on 17 November 2022. (Correspondence attached)
 - 9.3. Probation Board for Northern Ireland – Consultation on Draft Corporate Plan for 2023-26. Consultation document available at <https://www.pbni.org.uk/publication/probation-board-northern-ireland-draft-corporate-plan-2023-26>. Consultation is open for 10 weeks from 01 September 2022 (Correspondence attached)
 - 9.4. Every Child Department Of Education's Corporate Plan (2023-2028) Consultation. Document available at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/departments-educations-draft-2023-2028-corporate-plan>. Consultation closes on 15 November 2022 (Correspondence attached)
 - 9.5. Request for Delegated Authority to October Environment Committee - Consultation Response to Review of Drinking in Public Bye-Laws and Powers (Report attached)
 - 9.6. Consultation on the Housing Executive's Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25. Consultation document available at <https://www.nihe.gov.uk/Working-With-Us/Partners/Consultations>. Closing date for responses is 14 December 2022 (Correspondence attached)
10. Request for Deputations
- 10.1 St Anne's Primary School, Donaghadee (Report attached)
 - 10.2 Irish League of Credit Unions (Report attached)
11. GCSE Support Revision Programme (Report attached)
12. ITEM WITHDRAWN
13. Appointment to Outside Body - Northern Ireland Housing Council (Report attached)

14. Sealing Documents

15. Transfer of Rights of Burial

16. Notice of Motion Status Report (Report attached)

17. Notices of Motion

17.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor McClean and Alderman Smith

That Council notes the extraordinary life and achievements of the Rev. John McConnell Auld. 'Con' Auld was noted as a Princeton scholar, classics and divinity teacher, minister, artist, historian, politician, chorister, philanthropist and Mayor of North Down Borough Council; and that in recognition of the extraordinary life of Con Auld and his cultural and political contribution to the Borough and beyond, agrees to the request from his family to provide and site a memorial bench at the earliest opportunity.

17.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cathcart and Councillor Cummings

That this Council recognises the amazing work undertaken by care workers in caring for vulnerable people in our Borough, especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. It is deeply regrettable that care workers have received penalty charge notices (PCN) for parking on double yellow lines whilst performing their caring duties.

The Council therefore, agrees to write to the Infrastructure Minister to urge that the Department amends the Parking Enforcement Protocol to add that care workers, whilst on duty are added to the list of exemptions to restrictions to allow parking outside an address of who they are caring for, to ensure that they can provide essential care in a timely manner.

17.3 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Dunlop and Councillor Douglas

That this Council agrees:

- All pedestrians should feel safe on our pavements, yet street clutter can make walking and wheeling unsafe, forcing people onto the road which is dangerous;
- Street furniture should be clean, have a purpose and be consistent; and
- Street clutter should be removed.

Therefore, Council tasks officers to:

- Carry out an audit of street infrastructure including street signage, project information; posts, etc;
- Remove historic street clutter which has no current purpose or future benefit;
- Ensure relevant signage is cleaned and fit for purpose;
- Ensure signs have the appropriately-named Council on it, where this applies;

- Identify a nominated officer within the Council to lead on the audit to ensure items are listed and removed; and
- Write to the Department for Infrastructure to request they complete a similar de-clutter across the Borough.

17.4 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor T Smith and Councillor Cooper

This council abhors animal cruelty and believes an Animal Abuse Register would be of immense help in preventing those convicted of animal cruelty from owning or breeding animals.

Given the failure of Stormont to introduce a central register for all of N Ireland, this Council tasks officers to bring back a report detailing how it can set up a local animal welfare offenders register for this borough.

17.5 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman McIlveen and Alderman Armstrong-Cotter

Given the public health issues and the desire to encourage outdoor eating and entertainment in Conway Square, that officers look at humane means to address the pigeon problem in the Square to include a new bylaw to prohibit feeding of the birds in and around the Square and to erect in the meantime advisory signs to deter feeding of birds in the area.

Circulated for Information:

- DAERA Annual Progress Report 2021/22 (Correspondence attached)
- NI Libraries Quarterly Screening Report (Documents attached)
- The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (Correspondence attached)
- Letter from the Private Office of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on the Platinum Jubilee

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

- Shine Programme Extension (Report attached)
- Digital Transformation Flexible Fund Update (Report attached)
- Tender for Review of 5 Masterplans (Report attached)
- Marine Services Tender (Report attached)
- Rescinding Motion submitted by Councillor Irwin, Alderman Wilson, Alderman Irvine, Councillor Gilmour, Councillor MacArthur, Councillor McKimm, Councillor Greer and Councillor McKee

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

23. Newtownards Citizens Hub - Outline Business Case (Report attached)
24. Tender for the Supply, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Audio-Visual Equipment for Hybrid Meetings (Report attached)
25. LDP Draft Plan Strategy (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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

**LIST OF MAYOR'S/DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS
FOR SEPTEMBER 2022**

Thursday 1 September

14:30 hours Photo – Ards Historical Society – Newtownards Library

Friday 2 September

10:00 hours Photoshoot for Good Relations Week – Town Hall, Bangor

12:00 hours SERC Graduation Ceremony – Waterfront Hall, Belfast

Saturday 3 September

12:00 hours Photo – Annual Chilli Competition – Walled Garden, Bangor

13:00 hours West Winds 50th Anniversary – West Winds Estate,
Newtownards

Monday 5 September

19:00 hours Cheque Presentation from Borough Cup Final – Mayor's
Parlour, Church Street, Newtownards

Tuesday 6 September

16:00 hours Meeting with Michael Best from Bangor Academy – Mayor's
Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor

Wednesday 7 September

10:30 hours Action Mental Health Promote Awards Day – Enterprise Road,
Bangor

15:00 hours Launch of the Castlereagh Exhibition – North Down Museum,
Bangor

Thursday 8 September

10:30 hours Carers Event – Walled Garden, Bangor

13:00 hours Meeting with IEF / Ulster University re: Future Schools Toolkit –
Via Zoom

14:00 hours AONB Photography Competition – Via Zoom

18:00 hours Reception for Savate Youth Medallists – Mayor's Parlour, Town
Hall, Bangor

Sunday 11 September

14:00 hours Proclamation Event – Town Hall, Bangor

Tuesday 13 September

12:00 hours A Service of Reflection for the Life of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast

Sunday 18 September

17:30 hours Service of Remembrance for HM The Queen – War Memorial, Donaghadee

Tuesday 20 September

10:30 hours Visit to YMCA North Down – High Street, Bangor
 14:00 hours Visit by the Chairman of Croft Community – Mayor’s Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor
 17:30 hours Photo – Launch of Positive Ageing Roadshow Events – Town Hall, Bangor
 18:45 hours Tourism NI Drinks Reception and Dinner for Lux Clients – Culloden Hotel, Cultra

Wednesday 21 September

10:00 hours AGenda Strategic Plan Focus Group – Carnegie Library, Bangor
 19:00 hours Screening of Quo Vadis Aida? – The Web Theatre, North Street, Newtownards

Thursday 22 September

09:00 hours Launch of Bangor Business Awards – Clandeboye Lodge Hotel, Bangor
 12:00 hours **Deputy Mayor** – Senior Prize Distribution – Bangor Grammar School, Gransha Road, Bangor
 14:00 hours Opening of New Sensory Area – Comber Primary School – Darragh Road, Comber
 19:00 hours Remembering the Future: A Reflection on Northern Ireland and the Decade of Centenaries 1912-1922 – Via Zoom

Friday 23 September

11:00 hours CFC/Warehouse Community Advice Session – Glenford Way, Newtownards

Saturday 24 September

10:00 hours Greyabbey Classic Car and Bike Show – Village Hall, Greyabbey
 12:00 hours Tide and Turf Event – Portavogie
 13:00 hours Unveiling of Blue Plaque – Colin Blakely – Hamilton Road, Bangor

Monday 26 September

- 12:00 hours Allsorts Event: Human Trafficking – Via Zoom
 17:00 hours Join the Community: Future of Towns & City – Ards Blair Mayne
 Wellbeing and Leisure Complex – Newtownards

Tuesday 27 September

- 10:30 hours Photo Opportunity – Organ Donation Week – Town Hall, Bangor
 18:15 hours Photo Opportunity – Bangor Ladies Choir – Town Hall, Bangor

Wednesday 28 September

- 14:00 hours Translink Ulster in Bloom Results Event – Hill of O'Neill, Market
 Square, Dungannon

Thursday 29 September

- 11:30 hours Cloughey Ladies Probus – Coffee Morning (McMillan Cancer
 Support) – Kirkistown Golf Club
 ** 14:15 hours Unveiling of New School Defibrillator – Holywood Steiner School
 – Croft Road, Holywood
 18:30 hours Strangford Integrated College Awards Ceremony – Main Street,
 Carrowdore

Friday 30 September

- 10:00 hours Meeting with SERC – Mayor's Parlour, Town Hall, Bangor
 ** 11:00 hours Macmillan Coffee Morning – Bangor Aurora
 12:00 hours Home-Start AGM – Ann Street, Newtownards
 18:30 hours SEHSCT Volunteering Recognition Event – La Mon Hotel &
 Country Club, Belfast

ITEM 6**ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held remotely using Zoom on Wednesday, 24 August 2022 commencing at 7.00pm.

In the Chair:	The Mayor (Councillor Douglas)	
Aldermen:	Armstrong-Cotter	Keery
	Carson	McDowell
	Gibson	McIlveen
	Girvan	M Smith
	W Irvine	Wilson
Councillors:	Adair	Kendall (20:22)
	Blaney	MacArthur
	Boyle	McAlpine
	Brooks	McClellan
	Cathcart	McKee
	Chambers	McKimm
	Cummings	McRandal
	Edmund	Moore
	Gilmour	Smart
	Greer	P Smith
	Irvine	T Smith
	Irwin	Thompson
	Johnson	Walker
	Kennedy	

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

1. PRAYER

The Mayor (Councillor Douglas), welcomed everyone to the meeting and the Chief Executive read the Council prayer.

NOTED.

2. APOLOGIES

An apology for lateness had been received from Councillor Kendall.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor P Smith – Item 24 - Request from CRCP to install a timber shed at Comber Community Garden

Councillor Greer – Item 10.1 - Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Investment Plans Presentation.

Councillor Cathcart – Item 23: Civic/Office Accommodation Rationalisation and Newtownards Citizens Hub OBC Update (declared in-item and removed from discussion at 22:58)

NOTED.

4. MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor extended congratulations to all of Team NI who had competed in the recent Commonwealth Games in Birmingham. In particular, she drew attention to medal winners: Dylan Eagleson who won Gold, Ciara Mageean who won Silver, Rhys McClenaghan who won Silver, Barry McClements who won Silver, and Bethany Firth who won Gold, as well as other local competitors: Eve Walsh-Dun, Tanya Watson, Jack McMillan, Grace Davison, who lived and trained in the Borough. Their performance in the Games had brought great pride to the Borough and it was intended to host a Reception for the Athletes, hopefully in September or as soon as reasonably possible.

The Mayor highlighted what she felt had been an excellent Let's Rock event, which took place on Saturday 8 August 2022 in Ward Park, Bangor. She had attended alongside some fellow Councillors, and it had been wonderful to see so many people from the community out enjoying music in the park. She thanked all those involved in the organisation and recognised the work that had been done.

The Mayor was looking forward to the upcoming conferment of the Freedom of the Borough upon Gary Lightbody; the ceremony of which would take place on 30 August 2022 at Bangor Castle followed by an acoustic concert on 31 August 2022 at Bangor's McKee Clock Arena. She added that Gary was most deserving of the award and knew many of the Members were looking forward to attending such an exceptional event.

C.28.08.2022

11

Finally, it was with regret that the Mayor reported to Council the passing of Terry Neill, international football player and Manager of Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur Football Clubs, who sadly passed away at the age of 80 years last month. Terry had played for Bangor and attended Bangor Grammar School, and was later inducted into the Borough's Sporting Wall of Fame. He would be dearly missed.

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

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

(Appendix I)

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

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

6. MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 27TH JULY 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Copy of the above minutes.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Adair, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the minutes be agreed.

7. MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

7.1. Minutes of Planning Committee dated 2 August 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

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

8. CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS

8.1 Consultation on Audio and Video links for Court and Tribunal Hearings

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Hyperlink to an online consultation that was to be open for eight weeks from 29 July 2022 until 26 September 2022. Consultation documents available at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/audio-and-video-links-live-links>

RECOMMENDED that the Council considers this consultation.

8.2 Belfast Health and Social Care Trust - Observing & Celebrating Events Policy Consultation

C.28.08.2022

12

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Hyperlink to an online consultation that was due to close Tuesday 2th October 2022. Consultation documents were made available at <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/hsc/celebrating-observing-events-policy-bhsct> Consultation closes Tuesday 25 October 2022.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers this consultation.

8.3. Northern Ireland Electricity Cluster Methodology Review Consultation

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Hyperlink to an online consultation that was due to close Friday 9th September 2022. Consultation documents were made available at <https://www.nienetworks.co.uk/documents/regulatory-documents/cluster-methodology-review-consultation.aspx> Closing date 5pm on Friday 9th September 2022

RECOMMENDED that Council considers this consultation.

8.4. Northern Ireland Peatland Strategy - Consultation on the Equality Impact Assessment

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Hyperlink to an online consultation that was due to close Friday 4th November 2022. Consultation documents were made available at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/northern-ireland-peatland-strategy-equality-impact-assessment>.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers this consultation.

8.5. Consultation on The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) 2023-2028 Corporate Plan

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Hyperlink to an online consultation that was due to close 10th October 2022. Consultation documents were made available at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/consultation-exercise-on-the-main-proposals-for-in/> Consultation closes 10 October 2022.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers this consultation.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that items 8.1 to 8.5 be noted.

9. COURSES AND CONFERENCES

9.1. NAC UK Licensing Conference & National AGM, Nottingham, Friday 23rd to Sunday 25th September 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report on the National Secretary of the NAC who had invited members to its NAC Licensing Conference and regional AGM at Eastwood Hall, Eastwood, Nottingham on 23rd-25th September 2022.

C.28.08.2022

13

Information on the event was included in the correspondence and as well as a booking form. Delegate fees were £350+VAT, accommodation was £85+VAT per night, plus there would be costs associated with flights and travel.

RECOMMENDED that Council considered whether it wished to nominate a Member(s) to attend the NAC Licensing Conference and Regional AGM.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor T Smith, seconded by Councillor Gilmour, that Council note this report.

10. PRESENTATIONS

(Councillor Greer left the meeting at 19:10 due to a Declaration of Interest in Item 10.1).

10.1. Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Housing Investment Plans Presentation

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that Council refer this item to the Corporate Services Committee.

(Councillor Greer was returned to the meeting at 19:11).

10.2. Department for Infrastructure, Roads Southern Division, Roads Report 2021/22

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that Council refer this item to the Corporate Services Committee.

11. LETTER OF SUPPORT FOR BELFAST CITY COUNCIL AND ARDS CCE - FLEADH CHEOIL NA HÉIREANN (FESTIVAL OF MUSIC IN IRELAND)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- A report that outlined how Belfast City Council and Ards CCE (a non-profit organisation formed to promote and foster the love of Irish traditional music, song and dance) had requested a letter of support in their bid to host the Fleadh Cheoil nah Éireann (Festival of music on the island of Ireland), which had been running for over 60 years across the island of Ireland.

The goal of the Fleadh Cheoil was to establish standards in Irish traditional music through competition. There were various stages to the competition. In Ireland there have been county and provincial competitions leading to the All-Ireland Fleadh, which attracted overseas competitors. Although the Fleadh was a competitive event, it attracted tens of thousands of visitors every year and had been an exciting week encompassing competitions, sessions, ceili bands, concerts, pageants, drama and exhibitions.

Belfast City Council believed the event would hugely complement Belfast's UNESCO City of Music status. The final bid was in the process of being finalised and included

C.28.08.2022

14

reference to Bangor and Ards. If Belfast City Council was successful in securing the event, follow up meetings would take place with Ards and North Down on how they could benefit from the event.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves a letter of support in relation to Belfast City Council and Ards CCE's bid to host the Festival of Music on the island of Ireland.

Councillor Cooper proposed, seconded by Councillor T Smith, that the request be noted without further action.

Whilst referencing recent unfortunate occurrences that took place at a West Belfast Festival, Councillor Cooper advised that he did not want to create additional opportunities for the glorification of terrorism and that he did not know what the acronym Ards CCE stood for. Councillor Boyle referred to it as Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann (a group that promoted traditional Irish music and dance). Councillor Cooper believed the Fleadh would only benefit Belfast and objected to what he referred to as language that was of an all-Ireland basis which, as a Unionist, he would be objecting to and questioned the neutrality of the recommendation.

Councillor T Smith believed that Ards and Bangor had only been mentioned as a foot note, and though he supported an Ulster Fleadh in the past for Bangor, there was not enough information present in the report for him to be able to offer his support for the recommendation.

Councillor Irwin explained that Ards CCE members were residents of the borough and that it would be good to support all residents equally. Furthermore, she thought that an all-Ireland Fleadh would bring great footfall across Northern Ireland and so she would be supporting the proposal.

Alderman McIlveen advised that neither Ards CCE nor the Fleadh had any issues of controversies. However, he believed it was not right to assume all events of such nature would lead to unwanted behaviours.

The Chief Executive advised that at such an early stage, all information that had been forwarded from Belfast City Council was contained in the report.

Councillor P Smith referenced a Fleadh in Mullingar that had resulted in impressive footfall and revenue, including many visitors from overseas as well as the 2013 Londonderry/Derry success. As such, he believed a positive response should be sent to Belfast City Council as the Ards and North Down Borough could truly benefit.

Alderman Irvine supported Councillor Cooper's proposal, citing that it was predominantly a Belfast City Council issue and that the Ulster Fleadh had contained some sectarian singing and chanting. As such, he would require more information and clarity on the benefits to the Council area of supporting Belfast's bid.

Councillor Dunlop visited the Mullingar Chamber of Commerce the week after they held the Fleadh and discovered that over 600,000 guests had come to the area including many Americans who had availed of local amenities. He expressed shock

and disappointment at other Members' lack of support, especially given the benefits that may befall Ard and North Down if Belfast was successful.

Councillor McKimm agreed that a letter of support was the best option as it not only showed solidarity with another Council but also with cross-community relations.

Councillor McAlpine also agreed that Belfast's bid could benefit Ards and North Down.

To sum up, Councillor Cooper believed Belfast City Council had a history of intolerance to Unionism though advised his proposal was not retaliation but because not enough information had been supplied.

A recorded vote on Councillor Coopers proposal had been requested and the voting was detailed below:

<u>FOR (5)</u>	<u>AGAINST (26)</u>	<u>ABSTAIN (3)</u>	<u>ABSENT (6)</u>
Aldermen	Aldermen	Aldermen	Aldermen
Irvine	McDowell	Gibson	Armstrong-Cotter
	McIlveen	Keery	Carson
	M Smith		Girvan
	Wilson		
Councillors	Councillors	Councillors	Councillors
Cooper	Douglas	MacArthur	Kendall
Irvine	Blaney		McRandal
Kennedy	Adair		Thompson
T Smith	Boyle		
	Brooks		
	Cathcart		
	Chambers		
	Cummings		
	Dunlop		
	Edmund		
	Gilmour		
	Greer		
	Irwin		
	Johnson		
	McAlpine		
	McKimm		
	McClellan		
	McKee		
	Moore		
	Smart		
	P Smith		
	Walker		

C.28.08.2022

16

With five voting FOR, twenty-six AGAINST, 3 ABSTAINED and (6 ABSENT) the proposal FELL.

Councillor Boyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Irwin, that the original recommendation to note the report and write a supporting letter be agreed.

Councillor Boyle was disappointed such discussions had taken place over a support letter, especially considering the potential benefits that could come to Ards and North Down if Belfast's bid was to be successful. Councillors Irwin and Dunlop shared the sentiments of Councillor Boyle.

Councillor Cathcart recalled how Bangor had hosted the Ulster Fleadh in 2016 and that it had been great success without issue and so saw no reason why a letter of support would cause an issue.

Councillor Boyle advised that Unionists had nothing to fear in supporting a letter to Belfast City Council and that Councillors should grasp at opportunities that could benefit their Borough.

(Alderman Carson joined the meeting at 19:31)

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor Irwin, that the recommendation be adopted and a letter of support be sent to Belfast City Council.

(Alderman Irvine and Councillors Cooper and T Smith asked to be recorded as against the decision whilst Councillor MacArthur wanted to be recorded as abstaining.)

12. HYBRID COUNCIL MEETINGS - PROCUREMENT AND LEGISLATION

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- A report which had outlined that in May 2022 the Council had agreed to purchase equipment to support 2 semi-permanent installations, 1 in Bangor Chamber and 1 in Ards Chamber, which would have facilitated hybrid Council and Committee meetings. It was agreed that a report be brought forth to Council in August that would provide updates on the purchase and the estimated date by which the new system was to be operational.

Tender Exercise

The costs involved required the Council to issue a tender for interested companies to supply the necessary equipment. The Council's standard tender exercises took a minimum of 12 weeks to complete. The Procurement Manager and Multi-Media Officer met in June to agree the approach and timetable, which ran from 28 June to 11 October 2022.

Assuming a successful company was identified through the exercise, their appointment was to be approved by the Council in September, with installation/testing of the equipment taking place in October 2022.

Training and Operations

The equipment would have been new to Council staff and the operation of a hybrid meeting and would have also been new to many officers and Members. It was anticipated that training would be required for all those chairing meetings, as well as officers who assisted with the management of meetings.

As such, the earliest date that all Committee and Council meetings could move to the hybrid model was from 1 November 2022.

In the meantime, under an existing technical support contract, provision could be made for hybrid facilities to be set up for each committee and Council meeting in September and October. Based on covering 5 meetings in each month, one-off set up was to cost £817 for each meeting, plus officer time to support the recording on each occasion. Officers did not think that would be value for money. Training would have been required for all those chairing meetings.

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 empowered Councils to meet remotely. That legislation was temporary, with a requirement to be extended every six months. It was due to lapse in September 2022, but at a recent meeting of the Local Government Remote/Hybrid Meetings Legislation Working Group, assurance was provided by the Department for Communities that it was to be extended beyond that for another six months, which allowed Councils to continue meeting remotely. That was because permanent legislation was required to be made by Affirmative Resolution, passed by a sitting Assembly, which at the time of writing, was not in place.

Any further update on the draft legislation would be communicated to Council in due course.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report.

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

Councillor P Smith had hoped the hybrid model would have been in place by September as opposed to November but understood the issues around procurement. Both he and Councillor Boyle agreed that the proposed additional costs for hire would not have been good value for money.

Councillor T Smith wished to be recorded as against this proposal.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the recommendation be adopted.

13. ULSTER BANK CLOSURES IN COMBER AND HOLYWOOD

C.28.08.2022

18

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report on communications that had been sent to Ulster Bank in relation to planned closures of banking facilities in both Comber and Holywood. A Notice of Motion was debated at Council in June 2022 and agreed, stated:

“The Ulster Bank recently announced that it is closing nine branches across Northern Ireland in September and October 2022, two of which are in the Borough – Comber and Holywood. It is proposed that this Council writes to the Ulster Bank to express its total opposition to the closures and invites the Ulster Bank to a meeting to assess how the closure will affect not only the businesses in the high streets but also the local residents who are left with no banking facilities in these thriving and growing towns.”

Following that, a letter was sent from the Chief Executive on 14 July 2022 to the Chief Executive of Ulster Bank and she delegated the response to the Head of Retail Banking in NI at Ulster Bank, Mr Terry Robb. On 4 August 2022 a meeting was held with Mr Robb, chaired by the Mayor and attended by the following Councillors from the Comber DEA and Holywood and Clondeboye DEA: Councillor McRandal, Councillor Cooper, Councillor Cummings, Councillor McClean, Councillor P Smith and Councillor Greer.

In summary, the main concerns that Councillors raised, and responses were:

1. **The availability of ATMs:** Mr Robb explained that the continuance of the ATM lay with the new owner of the building. He confirmed that, as part of the research submitted to the FCA in relation to a branch closure, access to ATMs must be included, and that a number of free to use ATMs would still be available within the locality of both closure sites.
2. **Impact on vulnerable groups:** Mr Robb confirmed that, through their 'Banking My Way' service, all users who had registered as vulnerable would be targeted proactively and provided information on alternative physical banking locations including services offered by the Post Office. Mr Robb confirmed that each of those customers would be given the name of an individual member of staff who could answer queries directly rather than via a call-centre. Programmes were also run via an in-branch support specialist.

Following further questioning on educating and supporting vulnerable and elderly people in online banking, Mr Robb also confirmed that bespoke face-to-face education programme/workshops delivered by a specialist could be arranged for groups within the community. Mr Robb added that ahead of all closures, the Branch Manager was asked to contact a minimum of 6 community groups in their town which might be disproportionately affected. Mr Robb reiterated that, in terms of safeguarding and consumer regulations, digital banking was the safest way for vulnerable and elderly people to bank.

3. **The introduction of a Mobile Banking Unit:** Mr Robb confirmed that the use and locations for the Mobile Banking Unit were reviewed every six months, with the next review scheduled for December. Placement of a Mobile Banking

C.28.08.2022

19

Unit would consider factors such as proximity to other Ulster Bank branches within the locality.

4. **Impact on footfall and other services such as the Post Office:** Mr Robb confirmed that Ulster Bank would have ongoing discussions with the Post Office about how to best manage and deliver the service. As Ulster Bank had not closed a branch in the past 5 years, Mr Robb was unable to determine the exact impact the closure would have on footfall within the area.

When questioned about the lack of public consultation on the closure, Mr Robb confirmed that FCA rules did not require public consultation to take place in advance of a closure and that the Ulster Bank had completed the necessary desktop analysis. Mr Robb confirmed that the branch closures in Holywood and Comber would be going ahead as planned later in the year, but that no further closures would take place in 2022. Mr Robb stated that branch closures were happening across the banking sector.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report

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

Councillor P Smith was awaiting a letter from Mr Robb of Ulster Bank to clarify if the Comber Ulster Bank fast cash machine was to remain. Councillor Edmund was concerned that the closing of physical banks would cause great harm to the elderly who may not be as willing or able to access banks through mobile banking.

Councillor Boyle explained that in his constituency, the Portaferry bank had closed which had left locals with Kircubbin branch as the closest bank. It too had since closed meaning a long journey for Portaferry residents to travel to Newtownards.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Cummings, that the recommendation be adopted.

14. HERITAGE GRANTS (2022-23), ROUND 2

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from Community and Culture on heritage grants. The first round of Heritage Grants for 2022-2023, allocated £3,458 to 7 different organisations which left a budget of £1,542 for a second round of grants.

The second round of Heritage Grants opened in late May 2022 and closed at 12pm on Wednesday 27th July 2022. Five applications were received. Two members of the Arts and Heritage Panel, Robin Masefield and Billy Carlile, assessed the applications on 2nd August 2022, along with Heather McGuicken, Museum Manager.

As detailed in the table, each application was scored out of 100, with an agreed pass score of 55. Applicants could apply for up to £500 for their project.

Due to the value of the applications received compared as to the funding available, the panel recommended that three of the applications ranked second, third and

C.28.08.2022

20

fourth would not be awarded the full grant requested, as each application had weaknesses, e.g., had not strongly aligned the Heritage Service's strategic objectives or strongly demonstrated value for money.

The panel also recommended that the application from the Parish of Ballyphilip & Ardquin, was not supported, as the project had not adequately met the strategic objectives, outputs or value for money requirements and hence scored below the agreed pass mark.

Assessment Panel Recommendations

Organisation	Request ed	Project Title	Score	Award
Ards Historical Society	£500	Digitising slides and producing booklets/pamphlets	80	£500
Donaghadee Heritage Preservation Company	£500	Princess Victoria Disaster 70 th anniversary	60	£421
Seacourt Print Workshop	£500	Banking at Seacourt	60	£421
Auld Bangor Historical & Cultural Society	£500	Bangor Boats and Iconic Buildings	55	£200
Parish of Ballyphilip & Ardquin	£500	Gravestone Refurbishment	36	£0
Total	£2,500			£1,542

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the recommendations of the Heritage Grants Panel as detailed in this report.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the recommendation be adopted.

15. ARDS AND NORTH DOWN SPORTS FORUM GRANTS AUGUST 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report on Ards and North Down Sports Forum grant applications. Members would have been aware that on the 26th August 2015, Council had 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 that purpose.

The Council had 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.

C.28.08.2022

21

During June 2022, the Forum received a total of 17 grant applications, 3 Equipment, 3 Goldcard, 9 Individual Travel/Accommodation and 2 Club Travel/Accommodation. A summary of the **12** successful applications were detailed in the attached successful Equipment, Goldcard, Individual Travel/Accommodation and Club Travel/Accommodation Appendices.

For information, the annual budget and spend to date on grant categories was as followed:

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded June 2022	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	£250
Coaching	£3,000	£0	£2,028.75
Equipment	£11,000	*£1,703.30	£5,296.70
Events	£6,000	£0	£1,700
Seeding	£500	£0	£250
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£1,810.00	£7,459.52
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000
New category under development	£3,000	£0	£3,000
Goldcards proposed during the period June 2022 is 1.			

*The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **£5,296.70** was based on a proposed award of **£1,703.30** as was outlined in Successful Equipment Applications – for Approval. The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£7,459.52** was based on a proposed award of **£1,010.00** – for Noting and **£800** – for Approval, and withdrawn costs of £249.52.

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

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

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor McKimm, that the recommendation be adopted.

16. SPORT NI LOCAL AUTHORITY SPORTS SYSTEMS ENGAGEMENT SURVEY

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report that related to Sport NI which was designing a new investment programme to enhance and develop the sports system. The programme was to be aligned to Sport NI's corporate plan outcomes and underpinned by its four cornerstones. In developing its approach to future investment in a range of partners, Sport NI wanted to engage across the sports sector. As part of the engagement process, a series of surveys had been launched to gather feedback.

C.28.08.2022

22

The survey was an opportunity for Local Authorities to provide feedback on previous Sport NI investment programmes and to help shape and inform future investment.

Ards and North Down Borough Council was asked to complete and submit only one survey and therefore the proposed Survey Response had been completed by officers within Sports Development, Leisure and Community Planning. The deadline for completion was the end of August.

Additional Information

Sport NI's Corporate Plan Outcomes were:

Outcome One - People adopting and sustaining participation in sport and physical activity.

Outcome Two - Athletes among the best in the world.

In order to ensure that any strong Sporting System remained equitable and inclusive for all, Sport NI had established cornerstones for its work. The four cornerstones were as followed:

- Build a welcoming and inclusive sports culture, recognising the rights of everyone to access and participate in sport and physical activity;
- Promote wellness and wellbeing;
- Retain a duty of care to all those engaged in the Sporting System;
- Target sport in rural communities, in disadvantaged areas and amongst under-represented groups.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the proposed survey response at Appendix 1 and that it was submitted as part of the Sport NI's consultation process.

Councillor Boyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Cooper, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Boyle praised the efforts that had resulted in the survey, as did Councillor Cooper who added that on page 2, '*Council*,' should not be apostrophized and was unsure if page 7, questions 18-20 had been answered.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor Cooper, that the recommendation be adopted.

17. SEALING DOCUMENTS

Councillor Boyle proposed, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the Seal of the Council be affixed to the following documents: -

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

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

a) Grant of Rights of Burial 14326 – 14363

b) Agency Agreement: ANDBC& Dfl for provision of Off-Street parking Enforcement & Penalty Charge Notice Processing Service
Technical Specification for the provision of Car Park Management / Off Street Parking Enforcement and Penalty Charge Notice Processing Service to Councils

18. TRANSFERS OF RIGHTS OF BURIAL

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

THAT the following transfers be approved:-

- Brown/Williamson Clandeboye DX 1017
- Brown/Morrow Comber 10/6
- Brown/Morrow Comber 10/7
- Kelly/Johnston Clandeboye JX 3671

AGREED.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION STATUS REPORT

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- A Status Report in respect of Notices of Motion.

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 had been 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 Greer, that the recommendation be adopted.

20. NOTICES OF MOTION

20.1. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Adair and Councillor Thompson

That Council task officers to carry out a review of Play Provision in Loughries with a view to its inclusion in the Council's Play Strategy going forward.

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

20.2. Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor P Smith and Councillor Smart

That this Council notes with concern the significant impact rising energy costs are having on households across Northern Ireland; recognises the need for ongoing intervention from every level of Government and agrees to write to Her Majesty's Treasury to impress upon them in the absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Executive the need to urgently deliver the energy bills support scheme to households here.

Councillor P Smith proposed, seconded by Councillor Smart that this item be discussed at tonight's meeting given its urgency and Borough-wide impact. The Mayor accepted the request and agreed that the Motion be heard.

With reduced gas volumes, outages in French Nuclear Power Stations and the precipitating factor of the Ukraine war, Councillor P Smith explained that typical fuel bills were forecast to rise significantly over the coming months from £1277 to £4650 by January 2023. The financial hardships caused by rising fuel costs and inflation would be of great concern and difficulty for residents with decisions by some already being to decide between food and heating. Recent research indicated that Northern Ireland would be the most affected region on the UK with 72% of households in fuel poverty by January 2023. The government in England had announced a £650 means tested benefit and one-off pensioner payments to those aged 66 and over as well as a disability benefit available in Northern Ireland. However, a £150 rebate on Council tax had been availed of in England but an equivalent support had not been agreed in Northern Ireland due to no operating Executive.

Seconding the Motion Councillor Smart agreed with the sentiments of his colleague, providing an example of an elderly pensioner who had to make the decision between heating and eating and that this proposal would add some much needed pressure as residents of Northern Ireland deserved the same support as residents elsewhere throughout the UK.

Councillor Moore proposed an amendment, seconded by Alderman McDowell to the initial Notice of Motion, that Council also resolves to write to the Department for Communities to request a special fund for Councils in relation to the Cost-of-Living crisis in order to-

- a. provide for the direct provision of localised responses; and
- b. assist local community and voluntary organisations

Any such support would be additional to that provided by the Westminster Government and at Northern Ireland Executive level.

As this amendment had not been received sufficiently in advance as per Standing Orders and would be discussed at tonight's meeting as opposed to being referred to a Committee, it required Standing Orders to be suspended (which would require 80% of Members present and voting to agree). The suspension of Standing Orders

C.28.08.2022

25

was proposed by Councillor Moore and seconded by Alderman McDowell and since no objections were received, Standing Orders were suspended.

Councillor Moore advised that her amendment was to strengthen the original Notice of Motion whilst Alderman McDowell felt that the Council's efforts through the Covid-19 pandemic should be replicated during these difficult times to support as many people as possible.

Councillor McKimm gave thanks to the Councillors responsible for both the Notice of Motion and amendment and quoted figures of 300% uptakes from foodbanks as well as exemplifying the experience of an elderly individual who had to make the decision to no longer heat their home.

Councillor McKimm agreed that the subject should be a top priority for Stormont whilst Councillor Boyle spoke of the need for the Executive to be restored in order to assist and expressed disappointment that the most important issue at Westminster appeared to be the selection of a new Prime Minister as opposed to addressing the difficulties of citizens. A non-functioning Executive had also meant no budget had been agreed for DfC. Alderman McIlveen agreed that the subject of the Executive was a compounding factor and invited Councillor Boyle and his party to join his in challenging of the Protocol in order to correct its shortcomings as Northern Ireland was suffering.

(Councillor Kendall joined the meeting at 20:22)

Councillor T Smith believed having no functioning Executive to be a positive, claiming that Health Service issues and the housing crisis were faults of Stormont misrule and that most recent changes to legislation had been due to Westminster stepping in, such as the legalisation of abortion and gay marriage. He said that if the Executive was to start functioning again, the Protocol must go, and referenced his beliefs that First Minister Michelle O'Neill supported IRA campaigns which would stop many Unionists from agreeing to return. He summarised that while he supported the Notice of Motion and amendment, he would not be supporting the return of the Northern Ireland Executive.

Councillor Edmund agreed with Alderman McIlveen that the Protocol was the main factor in a non-functioning Executive and asked Councillor Boyle if his colleagues were still accepting their salaries.

Councillor Cooper supported the comments of Councillor Edmund, Alderman McIlveen and Councillor T Smith in supporting the Notice of Motion and amendment.

Councillor Adair did not believe discussions on the Notice of Motion should have any political references and spoke of calls to the Chancellor to reduce VAT on fuel and how such could not be implemented in Northern Ireland without input from the European Union.

Councillor P Smith was surprised at some of the discussion that had taken place. Ultimately, he believed the Notice of Motion and amendment were to support constituents in a timely manner before winter and that the Council should provide

C.28.08.2022

26

any support it could. He hoped that work on providing Northern Ireland with the same benefits as England would ensue.

As no objections were received, all Members were recorded as being in support of the Notice of Motion as amended.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor P Smith, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the Notice of Motion be agreed.

In addition, on the proposal of Councillor Moore, seconded by Alderman McDowell, that the Notice of Motion be amended to read that this Council notes with concern the significant impact rising energy costs are having on households across Northern Ireland; recognises the need for ongoing intervention from every level of Government and agrees to write to Her Majesty's Treasury to impress upon them in the absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Executive the need to urgently deliver the energy bills support scheme to households here.

That Council also resolves to write to the Department for Communities to request a special fund for Councils in relation to the Cost-of-Living crisis in order to-

- a. provide for the direct provision of localised responses; and**
- b. assist local community and voluntary organisations**

Any such support would be additional to that provided by the Westminster Government and at Northern Ireland level.

AGREED.

20.3 Notice of Motion submitted by Aldermen Keery and Alderman Irvine

That this Council writes and calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to reduce the speed limit down to 30mph at the A48 Cotton Road after the latest road accident and fatality.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Keery, seconded by Alderman Irvine, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Corporate Committee

20.4 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cooper, Councillor T Smith and Councillor Irvine

That this Council withdraws all funding to any sporting organisations with any political objectives or named references to terrorism in their constitution, club names, stadiums or competitions, and tasks officers to bring back a report outlining the specific relevant Council policy.

Councillor Cooper proposed, seconded by Councillor T Smith that this item be referred to the Corporate Committee.

Alderman McDowell referenced Standing Order 17.1: 1-2; that Notice of Motions should be clear in meaning and should be rejected due to his belief that the Chief Executive should seek legal advice on the wording of the Notice of Motion due to potential legal ramifications such as discrimination which he believed was in contradiction to Council Policy. He referenced Craigavon Council being taken to court in the 1980s due to an issue with the GAA.

The Chief Executive was satisfied with the conformity of the wording of the Notice of Motion and that it was commonplace to refer such subjects to their respective Committees where clearer detail behind the Motion could be sought and debated.

Alderman McIlveen reminded Members of Standing Order 29; that suspended Standing Orders were required to be reinstated prior to further discussion. Councillor McDowell proposed, seconded by Councillor T Smith, that Standing Orders be reinstated.

Upon reinstatement, Alderman McDowell proposed, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the Chief Executive take legal advice upon the matter of the Notice of Motion wording.

Councillor T Smith did not support the proposal citing that some Orange Lodges had previously not received funding due to being categorised as political organisations and asked, alongside Councillor Cooper, why Alderman McDowell had brought up GAA. Councillor Cooper explained that his Notice of Motion had no sectarian rooting or language and that the Notice of Motion should be passed onto Committee.

Alderman McIlveen, whilst referencing Standing Orders, stated that if the Chief Executive believed a Notice of Motion might cause issue, that he should then seek legal advice, but as he did not find issue with the wording on the Notice of Motion, it would not require legal advice and could be passed onto the relevant Committee.

Councillor McClean agreed that bringing solicitors into an issue that he trusted Members could deal with at Committee stage would be unwarranted.

Councillor Walker explained that Alderman McDowell had not been trying to stop movement on the Notice of Motion but instead was trying to ensure the Council was safeguarded.

Alderman McDowell called for a recorded vote.

On being put to the meeting with 12 voting FOR, 24 voting AGAINST, 2 ABSTAINING and 2 ABSENT, the proposed amendment fell.

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

FOR (12)	AGAINST (24)	ABSTAIN (2)	ABSENT (2)
Aldermen	Aldermen	Aldermen	Aldermen
Girvan	Armstrong-Cotter		
McDowell	Carson		
Wilson	Gibson		

Irvine
Keery
McIlveen
M Smith

Councillors

Douglas
Boyle
Dunlop
Greer
Irwin
McAlpine
McKimm
Moore
Walker

Councillors

Blaney
Adair
Brooks
Cathcart
Chambers
Cooper
Cummings
Edmund
Gilmour
Irvine
Johnson
Kennedy
MacArthur
McClellan
Smart
P Smith
T Smith

Councillors

Kendall
McKee

Councillors

McRandal
Thompson

On being put to the meeting with 24 voting FOR, 11 voting AGAINST, 2 ABSTAINING and 3 ABSENT, the original recommendation was CARRIED.

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

FOR (24)

Aldermen

Armstrong-Cotter
Carson
Gibson
Irvine
McIlveen
M Smith

Councillors

Adair
Blaney
Brooks
Cathcart
Chambers
Cooper
Cummings
Edmund
Gilmour

AGAINST (11)

Aldermen

Girvan
Keery
McDowell
Wilson

Councillors

Boyle
Greer
Irwin
McAlpine
McKimm
Moore
Walker

ABSTAIN (2)

Aldermen

Councillors

Douglas
McKee

ABSENT (3)

Aldermen

Councillors

Dunlop
McRandal
Thompson

Irvine
Johnson
Kendall
Kennedy
MacArthur
McClellan
Smart
P Smith
T Smith

RESOLVED, with 24 voting FOR, 11 voting AGAINST, 2 ABSTAINING and 3 ABSENT, the Notice of Motion was carried and would be referred to the Corporate Committee.

20.5 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Chambers and Councillor Brooks

We ask this Council to consider the urgent provision of sea rescue equipment to Cove Bay beach, known locally as the third beach, in Groomsport. A review into other locations around the Borough, should also be considered.

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

20.6 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Wilson and Councillor Douglas

That this Council notes the widespread move to low traffic neighbourhoods in city centres across the UK and Europe and tasks officers with producing a report detailing the steps involved in progressing a project for Bangor City Centre. The report should highlight the benefits that a low traffic neighbourhood can bring, including how it could support the Council's ambitions to revive local retail and hospitality, encourage active travel, support families, and play a positive role in tackling climate change. A preliminary consultation should also take place to obtain views and ideas directly from City Centre businesses, residents, and other relevant stakeholders.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman Wilson, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the Notice of Motion be referred to the Corporate Committee.

CIRCULATED FOR INFORMATION

(a) NI Housing Council Members Bulletin and Minutes dated 9 June 2022 (copies attached)

(b) Funding Innovation for Net Zero - Issue 5, Department for the Economy (copy attached)

C.28.08.2022

30

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Alderman McIlveen, that the items which were Circulated for Information be noted.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

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

RECESS

At this stage (21:00) the meeting went into recess and recommenced at (21:15).

NOTED.

21. MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING DATED 16 AUGUST 2022

*****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)

22. RECRUITMENT OF TWO DIRECTOR'S POSTS

(Employees were removed from the meeting in order to discuss Item 22 in detail)

*****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)

23. CIVIC/OFFICE ACCOMMODATIONS RATIONALISATION AND NEWTOWNARDS CITIZENS HUB OBC 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)

RECESS

At this stage (23:02) the meeting went into recess and recommenced at 23:12.

24. REQUEST FROM CRCP TO INSTALL A TIMBER SHED AT COMBER COMMUNITY GARDEN

*****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)

25. REQUEST FROM HOLYWOOD CRICKET CLUB

*****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)

26. PEACE PLUS APPLICATION

*****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)

27. UPDATE ON INDUSTRIAL DISPUTE

*****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 Councillor McKimm, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the public/press be readmitted to the meeting.

C.28.08.2022

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 00:35

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A special meeting of the Ards and North Down Borough Council was held in the Council Chamber on Sunday, 11 September 2022 commencing at 4.00 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair:	The Mayor (Councillor Douglas)	
Aldermen:	Gibson	McIlveen
	Irvine	M Smith
	Keery	Wilson
	McDowell	
Councillors:	Armstrong-Cotter	Kendall
	Blaney	MacArthur
	Boyle	McAlpine
	Brooks	McClellan
	Cathcart	McKee
	Chambers	McKimm
	Cooper	McRandal
	Edmund	Moore
	Gilmour	Smart
	Greer	Smith, P
	S Irvine	Smith, T
	Irwin	

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

1. PRAYER

The Mayor (Councillor Douglas) 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 Aldermen Carson and Girvan, Councillors Adair, Cummings, Dunlop, Edmund, Johnson, T Smith and Walker.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

NOTED.

4. TRIBUTES FOR THE LIFE OF HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Mayor began by indicating that this Special Council meeting had been called at what was a very sad time for our nation, to pay tribute to our late Sovereign, Queen Elizabeth II, and express our sympathies to the Royal Family.

She invited everyone to stand for two minutes of silence to reflect on the inspirational life and legacy of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

TWO MINUTE SILENCE

The Mayor stated that Members would be aware that Queen Elizabeth had passed away on Thursday 8 September 2022, aged 96 and the Mayor said that she would take a few moments to remember and celebrate the long and fulfilling life that The Queen had led.

When Princess Elizabeth was born it was never expected that she would become Queen. Her father was King George V's second son, so it was thought she would live the life of a minor royal. However, when her uncle abdicated the throne in 1936, he laid the path for her to become the longest-serving monarch in the history of the United Kingdom. She had been just eleven years old at the time of his abdication.

Elizabeth Alexandra Mary Windsor was born on 21 April 1926. Unlike other Royal babies of the period, she had not been born in a castle or palace, but rather in a house in Mayfair, London.

At the age of six years, Elizabeth had told her riding instructor that she wanted to become a "country lady with lots of horses and dogs".

She was said to have shown a remarkable sense of responsibility from a very early age. Winston Churchill was quoted as saying that she possessed "an air of authority that was astonishing in an infant".

The young princess briefly joined the Auxiliary Territorial Service (ATS) towards the end of the war, learning to drive and service a lorry. She participated enthusiastically at VE Day, joining the Royal Family at Buckingham Palace as thousands gathered in The Mall to celebrate the end of the war in Europe.

In 1947 she married Prince Phillip, and so began a union that was to last more than seventy-three years. We saw many examples of their very strong bond and sympathised with her in her grief at his passing in April 2021.

Queen Elizabeth began her reign on 6 February 1952. She learnt of her father's sad passing while on an official visit to Kenya at the age of twenty-five. Her Coronation did not take place until June 1953. On the eve of her Coronation, she made a radio broadcast to the Commonwealth in which she pledged her devotion to its people, saying "Throughout all my life and with all my heart I shall strive to be worthy of your trust." Reflecting back those were indeed the most fitting of words for a monarch whose first priority was service to the Crown and service to her people.

During her seventy years on the throne we were honoured to welcome Queen Elizabeth to the Borough on several occasions. Her most celebrated visit was with the Duke of Edinburgh in 1961. The Royal Yacht docked in Bangor Bay, and they enjoyed a number of engagements in the area, including one in Bangor Castle. Prince Philip raced in the Royal Ulster Yacht Club's Regatta and Her Majesty presented awards to some of the winners.

The Mayor went on to say that it was fitting to recognise the Queen's contributions to Northern Ireland's peace process, through both her words and her actions. She had visited Northern Ireland more than twenty times, but it was perhaps her visit to Dublin in 2011 that was most politically and historically significant. Her Majesty was the first British monarch to visit the city for more than one hundred years. She used the ground-breaking four-day trip to try to address the wounds of the past.

In remarks issued to mark the centenary of Northern Ireland in May 2021, Her Majesty the Queen said: "The continued peace is a credit to its people, upon whose shoulders the future rests."

The Mayor had been extremely proud that her first engagement as Mayor of Ards and North Down was celebrating The Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June 2022. During the superb Bank Holiday weekend of activities, she was fortunate to welcome the Queen's son, Prince Edward and his wife, Sophie, the Countess of Wessex, to the new City of Bangor – an accolade that had just been received through the Platinum Jubilee Civic Honours Competition. Like many in the Borough she was sure, she now looked back on that event and was extremely thankful to have been part of what was both a unique and very special occasion.

She acknowledged that many Members of the Council would wish to speak this evening and so wished to close by echoing the words of the new King Charles III. *"We mourn profoundly the passing of a cherished sovereign. I know her loss will be deeply felt throughout the country, the realms, and the Commonwealth, and by countless people around the world."*

She reminded Members that Books of Condolences for Her Majesty had been opened – both online and in hard copy form at the Town Hall in Bangor and Arts Centre/Town Hall in Newtownards and encouraged them to take the opportunity to leave their own personal tribute.

She invited the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Blaney to say a few words.

Councillor Blaney explained that his parents had served in the Royal Ulster Constabulary and on a few of the occasions when the Queen had visited Northern Ireland his father had driven the Queen's car. The memory of meeting her was an emotional one for him, as it was for the many others she had touched during her reign. As a Sovereign she was held by the nation, and the wider world most highly and had been the only monarch he had ever known. Her loss was in many ways quite scary since she had provided ongoing stability to the nation and she would be sorely missed. He paid tribute to her service and dedication to duty which had never faltered over many years. The Proclamation of the new King Charles III at Bangor Castle earlier that day had been a remarkable event and he encouraged everyone to take solace in the late Queen's words and hold what she did in high regard while having confidence for the future.

Speaking on behalf of the Democratic Unionist Party Group Alderman McIlveen was sure that some of his colleagues would wish to take the opportunity later in the meeting to offer their own condolences, to share their own memories and express their own grief at the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

He began saying that when The Queen was born it had not been envisaged that she would become our monarch. The abdication of her uncle, Edward VIII and the accession of her father to the throne meant that her life would take a very different course. It would be easy for naysayers to say that her life was one of unending privilege funded out of the public purse. However, hers was one of dedicated and unflinching public service which she dutifully executed for over seventy years as our Monarch, our Head of State, the Head of State of fourteen other countries at her death and Head of the Commonwealth of fifty-six nations. Perhaps the most famous woman in the world, the death of Queen Elizabeth made headlines across the globe resulting in an outpouring of grief in every corner of the world. She was more than just our Queen, she was The Queen. She seemed to be the embodiment of the words to our National Anthem: noble, gracious, long to reign over us.

That life was carried out in the glare of the public often painfully. Her life and the lives of her family picked over by the world's press. From the age of twenty-five when her father died, through the painful break ups of her children's marriages, the deaths of her sister, her mother, Princess Diana, and her husband, and national tragedies, she had unflinchingly served the nation.

While devoted to her duty, Her Majesty was also devoted to her Christian faith. While The Queen had been a constant in many of our lives for the past seventy years, her faith in Jesus Christ was a constant in her life. Her Christianity was more than just as the ceremonial head of the Anglican Church. She took the opportunity many times during her addresses to the nation and the Commonwealth to speak about her strong faith and during his tribute, just last year, on the passing of her dear husband the Duke of Edinburgh, he had mentioned:

The former Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, declaring that the Duke had said "the Queen and I are strong in Jesus Christ". It is wonderful to think that the two of them are reunited once more in the glory of heaven – for The Queen was saved.

On behalf of the Democratic Unionist Party Group, he expressed deepest and sincerest condolences to the new King Charles III and the wider Royal Family. Theirs was a personal loss and he hoped they would find comfort in the expressions of grief and warm memories of this amazing woman.

He concluded that as our nation entered the Carolean era, he wished King Charles III the strength and wisdom to fulfil his duties to the nation.

Alderman McDowell said that it was with profound sadness that the Alliance Party Group offered its heartfelt sympathies to the Royal Family at this sad time. Personally, his thoughts and prayers went out to the entire Royal Family in their grief. They were mourning a much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

While they had lost a matriarch, the entire country and indeed the Commonwealth had lost a person who had been a figure-head and leader for seventy years. Her loss would be keenly felt by many. Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II was one of the figures who came to define the 20th Century, as well as a large part of the 21st Century due, not only to her longevity, but her commitment and dedication to the country and Commonwealth. Most people in this country had only ever known her in the role of sovereign and it would be incredibly strange to not see her there carrying out her duties.

Throughout her reign, the Queen had worked tirelessly in service to the country and Commonwealth, receiving praise from all quarters for her selfless dedication to the role. That was only one of the aspects of her life which would remain as her lasting legacy, and he hoped it brought her family, and indeed all those grieving, some comfort at this sad time.

He said we would thank Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II for her unstinting public service to the United Kingdom. Her Majesty's dedication to duty and many charitable causes would not be forgotten and with the passage of time would be a cause for reflection and indeed celebration of her life.

In closing he wished our new King Charles III well for the future and a long and glorious reign as our new monarch.

Councillor P Smith spoke for the Ulster Unionist Party Group. On a personal note, he wished to thank the Mayor, the Chief Executive and the many Members who had contacted him to express their condolences on the sad death of his mother in Majorca last weekend. He had appreciated the kind words and support by him and the wider family circle.

His mother, Lorna, had been a tremendous royalist, and would have been greatly saddened to hear of Her Majesty's death. Like many families, every Christmas at 3 o'clock his family had to watch The Queen's Address to the Nation and his mother commented all the way through that broadcast about how well The Queen would have looked, what she was wearing, where she was sitting, and so on, until the ten minutes were up and the rest of the family had missed the message itself. Those

sorts of memories showed how The Queen brought together millions of people and provided, as we thought, and enduring figurehead for our nation.

In that context he wanted to address his remarks to the personal nature of the loss of Her Majesty and to remember the impact on the Royal Family. Firstly, The Queen was a mother, grandmother and a great grandmother and thoughts must be with them as they grieved her loss.

He went on to say that everyone had experienced the loss of a loved one – it is particularly raw for him at the moment as he mourned his mother – but it must be extraordinarily difficult for the Royal Family in the full glare of publicity with every deed and word reported around the world.

His thoughts were especially with our new King, Charles III, as he took on the weight of the monarchy whilst also grieving for his mother.

On behalf of the Ulster Unionist Group he extended sympathy to the Royal Family at this difficult time.

There was not much he could say in tribute to Queen Elizabeth that had not been said across the media in the past 48 hours. But one fact that he had read in the New Stateman stuck with him:

The Queen's last public act as Monarch took place on Tuesday when she had appointed a new Prime Minister. Liz Truss was Her Majesty's 15th Prime Minister during her 70 year reign. Prime Minister Truss was born in 1975. The Queen's first Prime Minister was Winston Churchill who was born in 1874 – which gave a remarkable context to the incredible length of The Queen's reign and the generations and eras it had spanned.

Councillor P Smith said that for him the Queen had encapsulated the best of British values, dignified, loyal, dutiful, decent, stoic, quietly patriotic and with a sense of humour that was best exemplified by her wonderful skit with Paddington Bear during her recent Jubilee.

It had been said that we would not see her like again.

She was not only the United Kingdom's Queen but the world's Queen. For 70 years she had served the nation in an exemplary fashion. May she rest easy, Her Duty Done.

Councillor McKee spoke for the Green Party Group and said that it was with sadness that we were meeting today. It was hard to imagine the United Kingdom without the Queen. She had been a great leader of our time, she lived what she believed and showed respect to all. She had a transparent intimacy with people and was a direct and astute communicator. She had been a valued peacemaker in Northern Ireland and had left us with much to celebrate in the hope of peace and reconciliation. In doing so she had brought hope to other peacemakers throughout the world. He hoped that she would rest in peace.

It was with a heavy heart that Councillor Cooper came to the meeting today in the wake of the passing of our greatest ever monarch of the United Kingdom, Queen Elizabeth II.

As others had paid their tributes, he could not help but think of all the occasions when Her Majesty had led our great nation with dignity and calm reassurance.

Of course, today marked the 21st Anniversary of the terrorist attack in New York, where so many tragically lost their lives and he could recall vividly Her Majesty reacting with dignity and elegance in the aftermath, making us all proud to have such a fine example of diplomacy, decency and indeed, humanity as our head of state.

Throughout the turbulent waters of life, Queen Elizabeth oversaw so many global events, including personal losses and national tragedies. Most recently losing her beloved husband after 72 years of marriage was an unparalleled loss, and undoubtedly took its unsurprising toll.

Her Majesty visited this part of the United Kingdom frequently, 25 times in all, 22 of which as monarch, reaching out across the divide and inspiring so many from all walks of life.

In what turned out to be her last detailed statement on Northern Ireland, in May 2021, she set out her concerns as well as her hopes for the future.

The Queen said "It is clear that reconciliation, equality and mutual understanding cannot be taken for granted, and will require sustained fortitude and commitment. During my many visits to Northern Ireland, I have seen these qualities in abundance, and look forward to seeing them again on future occasions."

He hoped everyone present could cherish those sentiments and ensure the next generation would read them and perhaps be inspired by the central message of hope.

Her love of the outdoors and a special fondness for dogs and horses was passed down by her late mother, with regular attendances at various horse racing venues throughout the years and the delight on her face when the famous colours finished first past the post was a joy to behold.

In her mid-twenties life was to change forever with the death of her father and she was thrust into a lifetime of service for the nation. Who could have guessed it would be so long and so devoted.

The Queen had travelled endlessly far and wide to countries near and far, representing the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth was truly astonishing and when put into context of the advancement of age and the ever-present security concerns, it showed just how special she was and how fortunate we were to have her as our Queen.

In closing he wished to express his sincere and heartfelt condolences to the entire Royal Family circle and put on record his pride in having had the honour to have

served Her Majesty, and how humbled he was by her loyal, stoic and unstinting service to all the people of the United Kingdom and beyond.

The world had lost a remarkable lady, our nation had lost its greatest monarch. She would forever be in our hearts and forever interwoven into our nation's history.

Councillor Boyle spoke on behalf of the SDLP and said that Thursday 8th September 2022 was a very sad day in many people's lives on learning of the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II. The Queen had dedicated her life to public service and was loved and admired by people around the world.

She was also a mother, grandmother and great-grandmother and equally dedicated her life to those roles within and for her family.

He noted a comment from the now Prince of Wales, Prince William, where he said: "She was by my side at my happiest moments, and she was by my side during the saddest days of my life".

The Queen demonstrated great leadership throughout her life from her service during the Second World War, where she served in the Auxiliary Territorial Service to providing comfort to the nation in the recent Covid-19 pandemic.

Her Majesty, through her remarkable seventy-year reign was always keen, either through advice, guidance or her personal decision making to do the right thing. We could all recall and remember those images where she sat as a lone figure at the funeral last year of her husband of seventy-three years, Prince Phillip in the same way that so many other families had to do for their loved ones during the pandemic.

He paid tribute to her being one of the most consequential figures of the last century being in public life for nearly one hundred years and as Queen since 1952.

The Queen was an important figure for many people on the island of Ireland where she was and would continue to be remembered by many in the years to come.

She must be acknowledged for playing an important role in helping to improve British/Irish relations with her 2011 visit to Ireland being a watershed moment being the first such visit by a British monarch since Irish Independence.

During the 2011 visit to Dublin the Queen made a number of significant gestures including speaking in the Irish language, visiting the Garden of Remembrance in Dublin which was dedicated to "all those who gave their lives in the cause of Irish freedom" as well as visiting Croke Park, a venue also stained with memories for the wrong reasons.

Throughout the Troubles the Queen called for an end to the violence that plagued Northern Ireland and urged reconciliation. She used her Christmas address in 1987 to condemn the Enniskillen bombing and praised survivor Gordon Wilson for his Christian stance in forgiving those who killed his daughter Marie and calling for no reprisals.

Like many families across Northern Ireland the Queen lost a loved one with her second cousin Lord Mountbatten murdered by the IRA at Mullaghmore, on the Mullaghmore Peninsula, Co. Sligo in 1979. The Queen never let that personal loss cloud her view of Northern Ireland or its people and she only strengthened her desire to see peace achieved.

Having lived a long life did not make it any easier to say goodbye to those we care about but he hoped that comfort could be found in the Queen's many achievements and her long lasting impact on these islands.

Whatever a person's view on Monarchy, the Royal Family or the Queen herself it was important that people show sensitivity and respect in the days and weeks ahead remembering that the Queen's passing was a sombre occasion for many people in Northern Ireland and indeed the whole world.

He finished by saying on behalf of the SDLP the thoughts of the party were with everyone who holds the Queen dear and particularly to the people of Northern Ireland at this very difficult time. He hoped that she would rest in peace.

Councillor T Smith said that it was with the heaviest of hearts that the Council met today since it was a meeting that everyone had hoped would never have to be called. While it was known that nobody could live forever, in our heads we someone thought that someone as special as Her Majesty could and we would have wanted to keep her just that little bit longer. The nation was still coming to terms with the shock and disbelief that the news had brought.

Even though most people never knew Her Majesty personally there could be no doubt that she was an incredibly important part of people's lives. She was not simply Head of State, as the cornerstone of the United Kingdom's constitutional and democratic system, but also as someone that we felt could unite and bring people together regardless of our many political divisions. We saw her as someone who was able to speak with authority, clarity and wisdom during times of turmoil and we looked to her as someone who always seemed to be a fixed point of stability in an ever changing world.

He went on to say that she was so much a part of our lives that we gladly welcomed Her Majesty into our homes each and every Christmas – to be part of that very special time of year when families and friends drew near to each other.

It was only a few months ago that we saw how Her Majesty continued to unite people not just across this nation but also across the Commonwealth of nations as people from around the world came together to mark and celebrate her Platinum Jubilee. The love and adoration felt and demonstrated for her at that time was palpable. The world recognised that it had undoubtedly lost a great woman and a remarkable Queen.

Her passing had left a void in our hearts but while this was certainly a time for mourning, a time for grieving, a time for the shedding of tears, it should also be a time for celebration – a celebration of a life, the like of which we would never see again.

His Majesty, King Charles III, said of his mother that hers was a life well lived – and we should remember that that life was a life dedicated to the service of others.

Speaking on her 21st birthday the young Princess Elizabeth had said,

"I declare before you all that my whole life whether it be long or short shall be devoted to your service and the service of our great imperial family to which we all belong"

Dedication, Service and Duty were not words that were heard very often in this world and indeed they were words that were often mocked and ridiculed as being outdated and old fashioned and yet those were words that she embodied – right up until the end and for which she was so deeply respected. He contrasted The Queen against many others who seemed to be focused solely on themselves.

He believed that we should learn from her example and should in the months and years ahead, commit to follow the great example of service that she had laid before us. He suggested that we must also remember that Her Majesty was also a woman of strong faith, faith in Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour. She believed firmly that to be absent from the body was to be present with her Lord. And indeed, more than that, she knew that in the life hereafter she would also be reunited with her one, true earthly love, Prince Philip.

As the Elizabethan age had drawn to a close Councillor T Smith, wondered what words of gratitude would be sufficient or adequate at this time and concluded that he could say nothing better than to echo the words of a small brown bear from Peru named Paddington who, not so long ago said,

"Thank you Ma'am, for everything."

Councillor McKimm was profoundly grateful for the opportunity on behalf of the constituents of Bangor Central to pay tribute to Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, at this time of deep sadness and deep national mourning.

It had struck him when thinking about Her Majesty the Queen that in life certain unexpected events could shape our lives in ways that we could never expect.

When King Edward VIII abdicated in 1936 a series of events were initiated that would forever change the life of Prince Albert and his daughter Princess Elizabeth. They, each in their own way, rose to a challenge that otherwise may not have come to their lives. Their dedication to the challenges they faced would shape the national life profoundly, setting an unmatched example of dedicated public service.

Upon her Coronation as a young woman coming into what was very much a man's world she appeared to those who observed her to be entirely undaunted. She oversaw a radical transformation of the monarchy and through televised programming she opened up her family and private life, bringing her life and reign into the homes of those she served.

Over the years she spoke candidly about her own struggles, declaring 1992 to be Annus Horribilis, in doing so bringing a sense of person and family to the role she was dedicated to.

She had visited over 100 countries, carrying out more than 21,000 engagements, met with 14 American Presidents and saw 15 British Prime Ministers come and go, and much more.

Her Majesty is on record saying, "Inevitably, a long life can pass by many milestones; my own is no exception". There was of course, those milestone celebrations of her reign in 1977, 2012 and 2022 all of which the public had special memories of.

Locally, in the city of Bangor many would remember her visits in 1961 and 2009 and in recent days he had heard many recollections of children leaving school in 1961 to wave flags as she passed by. One lady thought that the Queen was the Queen of the whole world.

On a further visit in 2011, she reached out with the hand of peace as a bridge builder and set us an example of how we could reach forward to create a better and more peaceful future in Northern Ireland.

Today, as we marked her passing and paid tribute to her life, we were reminded of the role model she had left us not only of her service but of her humanity.

Her Majesty said, "the values of leadership are universal and are often about finding ways of encouraging people to combine their efforts and work together" later saying "everyone is our neighbour, no matter what colour, race or creed they are."

He hoped that people would follow her example and lead and serve in ways that brought people together and inspire them towards greater inclusion and harmony.

As tributes poured in there had been many words that would capture Her Majesty's legacy.

As our Prime Minister, Liz Truss had said, "Britain is the country it is today because of her."

For Councillor McKimm, it would be her example as a servant that would remain with him, "I declare before you all that my whole life, be it long or short, shall be devoted to your service".

He had spoken with many of his constituents in the last few days who had wanted to tell their story of their meeting with Her Majesty, The Queen. Their stories differed, but one thing remained constant, in each instance the person who met her was made to feel that they were a someone, and not just an anonymous citizen. They remembered her smile, and her laugh, her broad knowledge of almost any subject, but most of all her innate capacity to make them feel honoured.

Some had not met her, like the older man who called him on Friday who said "I never met her, but we were married at the same time she married, our children were born at the same time. We held our grandchildren around the same time, and I, like her, lost the love of my life. Her Majesty, The Queen and I grew into old age together and now she has gone, I feel alone."

Another constituent had said, "She was our national treasure more than that she was like a mother to us and to the nation".

Jacinda Adhern Prime Minister of New Zealand said:

"Young or old, there is no doubt that a chapter is closing, and with that we share our thanks for an incredible woman we were lucky enough to call our Queen".

He finished by thanking the Queen for her service and the example she had set.

Councillor Gilmour rose to pay tribute to the much loved Queen Elizabeth II. She said that words could not describe the love, dedication and unwavering service the Queen had provided to the nation for her entire life. It had been a remarkable life that had spanned generations and had touched every corner of the world.

The nation had been deeply shocked and saddened by the sudden passing on Thursday evening particularly since Queen Elizabeth II had been a constant reassuring presence for most people's entire life. From her grandmother's generation who watched the Coronation on television, many, including her own grandmother, watching television for the first time that day. The generation who saw the young princess Elizabeth become Queen Elizabeth II and followed her throughout the triumphs and challenges of her reign through a changing world. The Queen's iconic image had been around most of us every day of our lives - not just for the big events like the state opening of parliament, Trooping of the Colour, the Platinum Jubilee or meeting heads of state but more simply from our money, our stamps, and by the wonders of television joining our families every Christmas Day. She had been a faithful servant to the end, appointing her 15th Prime Minister only days before her sad passing.

Councillor Gilmour recalled that she had once seen the Queen in person during the 2002 Golden Jubilee celebrations when she had made a visit to Northern Ireland. Security concerns being what they were her itinerary was not published for the trip so no one knew exactly where she was going. However, it was the week of the Balmoral Show and she thought that perhaps the Queen might attend so as a sixteen year old who should have been revising for GCSEs she disappeared off to the show with her sister placing a Union Flag in her pocket just in case. As the day had progressed, she could see a crowd gathering but could not get close enough to see what was going on. Not wanting to miss out on a potential sighting of Her Majesty the sisters jumped over a wall, ran across the show ring and climbed a fence and onto a platform cheering and waving her flag just in time to see the Queen approaching and as she passed Her Majesty looked over and smiled with that twinkle in her eye and waved. It was a simple thing, but it was a day she would never forget. She saw her Queen and was aware that the Queen had also seen her.

Beginning her life as the grand-daughter of the King, the abdication of Edward VIII placed Princess Elizabeth in line to be a future Queen and as our Queen she had grown to become the grandmother of the nation. It had been a privilege for the nation to have lived through her reign and witnessed first-hand her kindness, compassion, strength and that wonderful humour. Her three-year old's lasting memory would be of when Queen Elizabeth II had tea at the palace with Paddington Bear.

Councillor Gilmour was proud to have named her eldest child Elizabeth after our now late Queen, a strong and inspirational lady who we would never forget. There would be some very emotional times in the days ahead as we lay our late Queen to rest and the moving images from earlier today as she took her final journey from Balmoral brought the reality of the situation home. However, it was of comfort that the Queen had a strong and unwavering faith in the Lord and so she had gone to glory to be reunited with Him and her strength and stay, her beloved husband.

She offered her sincere sympathies to the Royal Family, for if we as a nation mourned, we must recall their loss of a mother, grandmother and great grandmother. She prayed that the new King may know the comfort and support of his family and the nation and that by the Grace of God may be reign for many years to come.

Alderman Irvine spoke of Queen Elizabeth II as being a remarkable woman and probably the greatest Monarch in history and was cherished, admired and respected right across the world. She had been inspiring in times of turmoil and remained steadfast and immovable at difficult moments in the life of the nation, such as during the Covid-19 pandemic. She lived with decorum and decency and was a great loss to the nation and her own family. Prime Ministers valued their audiences with her, and she had a strong faith in God to sustain her. She was now with her King in heaven, and he offered his deepest sympathy to the Royal Family.

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter had been deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and suggested she be known as Elizabeth the Great. She had written a poem which she read to Members.

In Memoriam of HM Queen Elizabeth the Second – Elizabeth the Great

The Elizabethan age is over
The Queen its pronounced "is gone"
The words we knew were coming
Have still made us come undone

For who could ever imagine
British life without our Queen
In each of our childhood memories
Her sparkling smile has forever been

An example of steadfastness and diligence,
of duty and selfless devotion
Of grace and kindness and loyalty
to reflect our national emotion

Her words of encouragement struck a chord
as she urged us all to hold on
'We will get through it', 'we will meet again'
and together we will overcome

When life seems hard - she reminded us
'The courageous do not lie down'
And so today we stand in our sorrow
As we await the passing of the crown
A little bear, a playful sketch
A glorious jubilee
A time of joy in our Britishness
How it meant so much to me

The precious words of that little bear
Resonate with many of us now
Thank you ma'am for everything
As we offer our final bow

And yet for me there's more hope
In something her Majesty held dear
The certain hope that we shall meet
In a different kind of Jubilee Year

For as she implored us to listen
To the message that set Christmas songs apart,
When highlighting the plight of 'what can we give'
She urged us to give Him our heart

She bowed to no one on this earth
Yet gladly kneeled to her King
And it's because of this truth I know
that one day a new song we'll sing

It's my certain hope that Elizabeth the Great,
I will in heaven soon meet
As we worship our King and with the greatest of joy
Lay our crowns at Jesus' feet.

Until that day I will treasure her memory
And keep her legacy living
Follow her example of duty and diligence
In this role that I have been given.

The national Anthem once easily sung
With heart and soul and voice
Is harder now to flip the words
To find the heart to press on and rejoice

And yet to love her and respect her
Is to know that we must carry on
And offer our heartfelt loyalty
To the heir she trained in her son

Today we honour her memory
Support her son as his reign now begins
With a heavy heart and yet with a steadfast oath,
I proclaim God save the King.

Councillor McClean had been saddened to hear about the passing of Queen Elizabeth II and referred to her constant goodness and never changing ways. He referred to Philip Larkins' Jubilee Poem:

In times when nothing stood
But worsened, or grew strange,
There was one constant good:
She did not change.

It had been said that when Queen Elizabeth II was on the Throne everyone could be assured that all would be well. She was a symbol of peace and when she was safe we could be too. The Queen offered unity to people and all people were now united in grief at her loss.

In difficult times the Queen had won over everyone even people who disliked politics they knew that the Queen was a figurehead who sat above that. The country mourned her now like it never could with a Prime Minister or anyone else. Councillor McClean believed that the new King Charles III had conveyed that all would continue to be well and he was confident that the Queen's son would more than meet the role he now held.

(Councillor Boyle left the meeting at 5.02 pm)

Councillor S Irvine asked to place on record his sympathy and heartfelt condolences to our new King, the wider Royal Family and the Great British people on the sad passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II. He was sure he, like many others, would find it difficult to adequately articulate just how much The Queen had meant to himself and many other people across the nation. Throughout her seventy-year reign she had dedicated her life to public service and had done so with the utmost dignity, integrity and humility, all the while demonstrating great leadership. She had become the most-admired, most-loved and most-respected Monarch in our history by instilling a great sense of pride throughout the nation. Her Majesty, The Queen, was an extraordinary and world-renowned public figure who lived a remarkable life and she would be remembered as one of the most prominent and inspiring leaders in history. Her life and legacy would be fondly remembered by many and she had set an example for everyone to follow.

Her visits to Northern Ireland always proved to be such a special occasion for so many people and having witnessed The Troubles here she played an important role

in restoring peace and reconciliation and often provided stability and reassuring words to us all in times of crisis.

She shared close relationships with many of today's political leaders, both locally and nationally, and also across the globe. However, as others had said before, she always rose above the turbulence of politics and by doing so she became an outstanding role model to many.

His hope was that all of our politicians would follow Her Majesty's lead by putting aside their party differences and try to do what was best for all people as we made our way through these current difficult and uncertain times. He hoped The Queen would rest easy since her service was now complete.

Alderman Keery thought that there was not much more that could be added to the comments about the remarkable life of Queen Elizabeth II and he spoke personally of having met her on four occasions. He had been struck by the interest she had shown and he would keep those memories precious as long as he lived.

Councillor Kennedy thanked the Council for holding this meeting so that Members corporately could express their feelings of loss. Like colleague Alderman Armstrong-Cotter he appreciated that while society had changed massively over her reign the nature and principles of the monarchy had remained constant and timeless. The Queen had said that she could not lead her people in to battle but that she could give them her heart. She sowed the seeds of devotion and commitment for others to follow. She regularly stressed the importance of her Christian faith and reliance on the teachings of Christ in which she found hope. Through her faith she believed in the fundamental framework of respect and the value of all people and viewing life through the prism of God's word, the Bible. She would be greatly missed and was now safe in the arms of her Saviour.

Councillor Cathcart thought that it was deeply poignant that after 2 ½ years of remote meetings the Council was having its first full Council meeting in the Council Chamber in person. The Council was meeting at the saddest of times. It had struck him how hard news of the Queen's passing had been to him and to many others around the world. Even countries which were proud republics were calling for days of national mourning and it seemed like the whole world was uniting in feeling the pain of her loss.

Earlier the previous week the Environment Committee discussed naming something in Bangor after her and her Platinum Jubilee and that would be a small token of appreciation to her. Many people have expressed that she made them feel special by looking directly at them when meeting, and that ability to connect with people would be greatly missed. He offered his deepest condolences to the Royal Family at this extremely difficult time and had confidence in the leadership of the new King Charles III.

Councillor Greer considered that Thursday 8th September 2022 would be a day we would always remember and what we were doing when we heard the sad news of the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II.

She had been at her parents' house when the news broke and the household had shed a tear at hearing the news and she could only describe the sense of loss as similar to that of losing a much-loved family member.

Queen Elizabeth II was the longest reigning woman in history and a role model for many female leaders both now and in the future. Common Purpose shared the following quotation on LinkedIn and she thought it was fitting for today 'Good leadership is an act of service, purpose, collaboration and resilience. As Head of State and Head of the Commonwealth, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II epitomised these qualities and more'.

She offered her deepest condolences to the Royal Family on the passing of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II and hoped that she would rest in peace.

Councillor Smart had been saddened and shocked by the Queen's passing and much had been said about her record of service that we were likely never to see again. She was a great encourager to many individuals and families across this world. She combined respect for progress while preserving the best of the past that he believed was so important. He looked forward to the new King's visit to Northern Ireland in the coming days and hoped that faith would provide some comfort to everyone in the days ahead.

Councillor Thompson described his personal shock on hearing about the loss of Queen Elizabeth II and he wished to offer his sincere condolences to King Charles III and the wider Royal Family. The Queen had been remarkable in that she had kept her pledge until her death. She wished the new King a successful and long reign and as his mother's son we were in good hands.

Councillor MacArthur explained that it was a poignant day, and was her first in the Chamber, the feeling was of sorrow on the passing of our nation's beloved Queen.

The outpouring of grief and love for the Queen had been evidenced across the Borough, country, nation and the world as well as within the Chamber today.

Whilst she was never privileged enough to have met the Queen, she felt that she knew her. She was the matriarch of our nation, the one constant in a changing and troublesome world. Her words during times of crisis and war, especially during the Troubles here in Northern Ireland, steadied the ship.

Her voice was always heard in in her family's home on Christmas Day and even though they were in the middle of enjoying dinner, they stopped and stood for the Queen. The conversation afterwards was always a deconstruction of her speech with everyone finally agreeing that all would be well with the world. Meanwhile the dinner was cold!

Those who met her commented on her warm smile, her engagement and interest in what was being said, even if she may have heard it hundreds of times before.

She questioned how could a Monarch, born into a life of entitlement and privilege, connect with us all in such a personal way? It almost seemed like a dichotomy! She

believed it was her faith in Christ which gave the Queen such fortitude in service. The Queen talked about her faith often, especially during her Christmas messages, which, we are told, she wrote herself. That faith was not something she wore like her array of hats (and there were many of those), but it was rather who she was.

Indeed, she had herself commented that Jesus of Nazareth provided a 'framework' for her and that guided how she led her life. So, despite being born into a life of privilege and power, she was not corrupted by it but chose, just like the Good Samaritan, to serve. She had continued to serve up until her death. At that point she had left her Crown not only at the gates of Balmoral Castle but at the feet of the King of Kings.

She asked how we should remember our late Monarch. As a role model, war hero, Girl Guide, diplomat, dog lover, horse enthusiast, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, sovereign but above all.... a servant of Jesus.

As her body would be laid to rest on Monday 19 September she considered that we should give thanks to God for a life well lived. Her prayer in 1952 was well and truly answered. Who would have thought that just a few days ago, we would be witnessing history come alive before us and a seamless transition between past and present.

Councillor MacArthur believed that our constitutional democracy was strong, it had stood the test of time and by God's grace it would continue to endure.

She wished the new King, Charles III, every blessing during his reign.

In closing Alderman Gibson remembered King George VI visiting Ballygowan Church many years ago and he had taken his grandchildren to see the Queen and the then Prince of Wales in 1990 and 1995. He had been saddened to hear of the Queen's passing and offered his condolences and best wishes to the new King Charles III.

5. THE NATIONAL ANTHEM

Council stood for the singing of the National Anthem.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 5.40 pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Planning Committee was held virtually on Tuesday, 6 September 2022 at 7.00 pm via Zoom.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman Gibson

Aldermen: Keery
McIlveen

Councillors:	Adair	McKee
	Brooks	McRandal
	Cooper	Moore
	Cathcart	Thompson
	Kennedy	Walker
	McAlpine (19:03)	
	McClellan (19:09)	

Officers: Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning (S McCullough), Head of Planning (A McCullough) Senior Professional and Technical Officer (G Kerr) and Democratic Services Officer (S McCrea)

1. APOLOGIES

An apology was received from Councillor P Smith and condolences were presented for his loss.

An apology was received from Councillor McClellan for lateness.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. MATTERS ARISING FROM MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 2 AUGUST 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2022.

RECOMMENDED that the minutes be noted.

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor McRandal, that the minutes be noted.

4. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

4.1 LA06/2018/0608/O - Housing development for 8 No. detached dwellings, garages, and associated site works at 47 Manse Road, Glastry, Kircubbin
(Appendices *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report outlining the planning application.

DEA: Ards Peninsula

Committee Interest: A Local development application attracting six or more separate individual objections which are contrary to the officer's recommendation

Proposal: Housing development for 8 No. detached dwellings, garages, and associated site works

Site Location: 47 Manse Road, Glastry, Kircubbin

Recommendation: Approval

The Senior Professional and Technical Officer outlined the detail of the application which sought outline planning permission for a housing development for 8 detached dwellings, garages, and associated site works at 47 Manse Road Glastry, Kircubbin. The application was appearing before members as it was an application that had received more than 6 objections contrary to an officer's recommendation. As the proposal was for an outline permission, it was the principle of development which was being considered and if found to be acceptable further details would be submitted at reserved matters stage.

Site and Surroundings

The site was located at 47 Manse Road, Glastry, Kircubbin and was approximately 0.6 hectares in size.

The settlement of Glastry was small and rural in character with the majority of existing dwellings being of traditional rural design. Glastry was mostly low density with existing buildings and dwellings well-spaced out and within generous plots

The site was located within the development limit of the small settlement of Glastry as defined in the Ards and Down Area Plan 2015. Although within development limits where there was a presumption in favour of development, the settlement and surrounding area was rural in appearance therefore any proposed development needed to reflect and be sensitive to the surroundings. The land on the opposite side of the road from the site was designated as a Local Landscape Policy Area (LLPA) incorporating the Presbyterian Church, Glastry House and surroundings therefore HED had been consulted on the proposal.

Given the material planning history, it was important to set out some context to the proposal and how it had evolved. The original proposal was for 15 dwellings which was found to be unacceptable as a portion of the proposed development lay outside the settlement limit and was within the countryside. The density was too high and was considered to represent overdevelopment of the site which would have been out of keeping with the character and established built form of the small settlement. Historic Environment Division also raised concerns regarding the impact of this original proposal on the setting of the adjacent listed church opposite the site.

Following lengthy negotiations, the proposal was finally reduced to 8 dwellings, all within the development limit.

This amendment also had a positive effect of the number of objections which had 14 objections to the original proposal and with no additional objections being received when the final scheme was re-advertised and neighbour notified.

As the application was for outline permission, the details of design would be submitted at a later stage if an approval is forthcoming.

The indicative layout showed two rows of detached dwellings positioned at a right angle to the Manse Road with a central green area onto which both rows of dwellings front. The two dwellings adjacent to the Manse Road, appeared to have been designed to have a double frontage on to both the Manse Road and the internal access roads. The specific design details of these dwellings could be considered at Reserved Matters stage to ensure that they provided an attractive frontage to both roads. The building line proposed was considered to be acceptable given that the established built form was characterised by buildings with a relatively close frontage to the road.

Each dwelling fronting the Manse Road would have a site frontage of over 50m which would provide a wide plot width between the two, reflecting the existing spacing between buildings and ensuring the low density feel of the area.

The central green area could also be landscaped and there was an opportunity to provide hedgerows along the road frontage of the site which would further help to soften the impact of the development and integrate it into its context. The application site was relatively level so there would be no issue with topography.

Contextual elevations of the development had been provided, which gave an indicative impression of the design, size and scale of the buildings and how they would appear within the setting of the listed church.

The dwellings were indicated as having a modest one and a half storey design which would be reflective of the rural setting of the small settlement and very much in keeping with existing adjacent dwellings.

As referred to earlier, 14 letters of objection had been received from 10 separate addresses, but it should be noted that no further objections were received in 2022 following re-advertisement and re-notifying of neighbours on the final amended scheme. Concerns expressed included areas such as; adverse impact on character and amenity of area and existing dwelling, size of development and excessive density, development outside settlement limit, impact on road safety and parking, inadequate utility infrastructure, development out of keeping with the LLPA, flooding, impact on setting of listed building, biodiversity, and asbestos (from the demolished building) and vermin.

All material issues had been addressed in the case officer report.

In summary, this proposal was considered to be acceptable on this site and would not cause any harm to the character or appearance of the area. The proposal had been significantly amended to be entirely located within development limits and reduced from 15 to 8 dwellings. All of the statutory consultees were content with the proposal and the objections raised had been fully considered in the officer's report.

RECOMMENDED that outline planning permission be granted.

Councillor Adair queried the possibility of street lighting given that similar projects elsewhere had resulted in frustrations by residents. The Senior Professional and Technical Officer advised that the application was only at the outline stage which addressed the principle of development but that DfI could provide conditions for street lighting. Alderman Gibson recalled the condition had been for a minimum of five houses in times gone by but could not speak with certainty as to contemporary regulations in that regard.

Councillor Cathcart referenced the privately owned status that the development would have and believed it could lead to issues for future residents with regard to maintenance issues. He asked how many iterations had occurred of the plans to their most recent state and when objections had been received. The Senior Professional and Technical Officer explained that it had gone through three iterations; from fifteen houses to eleven houses, to eight houses. Objections had been received at the first and second iterations but not at the third, however, the original objections still stood which pushed the threshold for referring to the Planning Committee. Councillor Cathcart believed if objections were received at each stage but not for the most recent iteration that it was safe to assume they were satisfied by the amendments. Alderman Gibson agreed that no objections had been received for the most recent plans but that did not mean that there were still not objections.

Councillor McAlpine shared Councillor Adair's concerns of street lighting and recalled that problems had existed at Glasry College for lighting and footpaths and that such issues would have to be discussed in Reserve Matters.

The Senior Professional and Technical Officer reminded Members that the application was only of outline in nature and that all an applicant was required to submit was a red-lined site but that more information had been shared to provide clearer indication as to future plans. The Head of Planning agreed, stating that the outlying application was to look at the red-line boundaries, and that access roads were for developments in excess of five dwellings which would normally be determined and adopted providing plans were of an appropriate standard. The Planning Department would contact the DfI at the next stage but The Head of Planning reiterated the need for plans to meet the DfI criteria.

Alderman McIlveen believed that individuals knew that they would be buying into private land and/or lanes as it was part of the Matter of Title that was explained to purchasers.

Councillor Thompson proposed, seconded by Alderman McIlveen that the recommendation be adopted, and outlying planning permission be granted.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Thompson, seconded by Alderman McIlveen that the recommendation be adopted and that outlying planning permission be granted.

4.2 **LA06/2022/0562/F - Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating) to front of 57-59 High Street Bangor**
(Appendices *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report outlining the planning application.

DEA: Bangor Central

Committee Interest: An application made by Council

Proposal: Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating)

Site Location: Front of 57-59 High Street Bangor

Recommendation: Approval

The Senior Professional and Technical Officer outlined the detail of the application for a change of use of parking spaces to a parklet (for a temporary period of 3 years) consisting of planters and an area of public seating to the front of 57-59 High Street Bangor. The application was before Planning Committee as it was a Council application and was one of a number of applications for parklets made by the Council across the borough. No letters of objection were received in relation to the proposal. The recommendation was to grant planning permission

The site occupied a location towards the bottom of High Street in the town centre and proposed area of townscape character and consisted of a couple of on-street parking spaces. The site was located on the northern side of High Street approximately 60m east from the rear of the Flagship Centre. As matter of good practice, Environmental Health was consulted, and no objections were raised. The proposal was 11m long and 2m wide open towards the footpath/shops to be enclosed with timber-effect cladding/planters along the roadside.

It was of a scale that would not detract from the adjacent buildings within the ATC, and it was not considered it to be a dominant feature on the street. Overall, it was not considered the proposal will detract from the surrounding character of the area.

The impact on road safety and parking had been fully considered in the case officer report. The proposal would result in the loss of 2 existing parking spaces. Given the temporary nature of the development and the proximity of the site to alternative parking provision (both on-street and in car parks in the vicinity) on balance, it was considered that the loss 2 parking spaces was not of such significance to warrant refusal of the application. DFI Roads had been consulted and did not consider the proposal to prejudice the safety of road users and pedestrians (subject to a number of conditions).

The parklet was proposed for a temporary period and a condition could be added to ensure the parklet be removed and land restored to its former condition within 3 years.

RECOMMENDED that planning permission be approved.

Councillor Cathcart proposed, seconded by Councillor McKee that the recommendation be adopted, and planning permission be granted.

Councillor Cathcart was excited to see the parklets being passed for approval given the applications had been placed two years ago.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Councillor McKee that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be granted.

4.3 LA06/2021/1365/F - Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating) to front of 115-119 High Street, Bangor
(Appendices *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report outlining the planning application.

DEA: Bangor Central

Committee Interest: An application made by Council

Proposal: Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating)

Site Location: Front of 115-119 High Street, Bangor

Recommendation: Approval

The Senior Professional and Technical Officer outlined the detail of the application, for a change of use of parking spaces to a parklet (for a temporary period of 3 years) that consisted of planters and an area of public seating to the front of 115-119 High Street, Bangor.

The application was before Planning Committee as it was a Council application and was one of a number of applications for parklets made by the Council across the borough. No letters of objection were received in relation to the proposal. The recommendation is to grant planning permission.

The site occupied a location at what would more locally be known as the top of High Street in the town centre. The site was part of a larger parking located between the public footpath and retail units on one side, and the public road on the other. The area was noted for several eateries and shops. As matter of good practice, Environmental Health was consulted, and no objections were raised

The proposal was 11m long and 2m wide open towards the footpath/shops to be enclosed with timber-effect cladding/planters along the roadside.

It was of a scale that would not detract from the adjacent buildings and would not be considered to be a dominant feature on the street. Overall, it was not considered the proposal would detract from the surrounding character of the area.

The impact on road safety and parking had been fully considered in the case officer report. The proposal was to result in the loss of 2 existing parking spaces. Given the temporary nature of the development and the proximity of the site to alternative parking provision (both on-street and in car parks in the vicinity) on balance, it was considered that the loss 2 parking spaces was not of such significance to warrant refusal of the application. DFI Roads had been consulted and did not consider the proposal to prejudice the safety of road users and pedestrians (subject to a number of conditions).

The parklet is proposed for a temporary period and a condition could be added to ensure the parklet was removed and land restored to its former condition within 3 years.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve planning permission.

Councillor Cathcart proposed, seconded by Councillor McClean that the recommendation be adopted, and planning permission be granted.

Councillor Cathcart spoke of the properties surrounding this particular parklet consisting of eateries and that the three year nature would allow for the Council to experiment with parklet success.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the recommendation be adopted, and that planning permission be granted.

4.4 LA06/2021/1366/F - Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating) to front of 78-80 Main Street, Bangor
(Appendices *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report outlining the planning application.

DEA: Bangor Central

Committee Interest: An application made by Council

Proposal: Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating)

Site Location: Front of 78-80 Main Street, Bangor

Recommendation: Approval

The Senior Professional and Technical Officer outlined the detail of the application for a change of use of land to a parklet for a temporary period of 3 years (consisting of planters and an area for public seating). The site was located to the front of 78-80 Main Street, Bangor. The application was before Planning Committee as it was a Council application. There were no objections to the proposal and the recommendation was to approve planning permission.

The site location was located with retail and business units one side and the public road on the other. An on-street parking bay was adjacent. The area had a busy town centre character with few residential properties nearby. The Parklet proposal was 7.3m long and 2.5m wide and was located within the town centre and prime retail core. As matter of good practice, Environmental Health was consulted, and no objections were raised. The impact on road safety and parking had been fully considered in the case officer report. Given the temporary nature of the development and the proximity of the site to alternative parking provision (both on-street and in car parks in the vicinity) on balance, it was considered that the loss of parking spaces was not of such significance to warrant refusal of the application. DFI Roads had been consulted and did not consider the proposal to prejudice the safety of road users and pedestrians (subject to a number of conditions).

The parklet was proposed for a temporary period and a condition could be added to ensure the parklet was removed and land restored to its former condition within 3 years.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve planning permission.

Councillor Cathcart proposed, seconded by Councillor McClean that the recommendation be adopted, and planning permission be granted.

Councillor Cathcart believed this application had been of an even better nature than others as it did not use car parking spaces.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Councillor McClean that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be granted.

4.5 LA06/2021/1370/F - Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating to front of 31-33 Regent Street, Newtownards
(Appendices *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report outlining the planning application.

DEA: Newtownards

Committee Interest: An application made by Council

Proposal: Change of use (temporary for 3 years) of parking spaces to parklet (consisting of planters and area for public seating

Site Location: Front of 31-33 Regent Street, Newtownards

Recommendation: Approval

The Senior Professional and Technical Officer outlined the detail of the application as a change of use of land to a parklet for a temporary period of 3 years (consisting of planters and an area for public seating) located to the front to 31-33 Regent Street Newtownards. The application was before Planning Committee as it was a Council application. There were no objections received in relation to the proposal and the recommendation was to grant planning permission.

The site was located in the town centre of Newtownards within the prime retail core on a wide section of pavement between the roadway and a row of traditional commercial properties. On-street parking bay was adjacent and west to the site. There was a public payphone and a couple of public benches in the immediate vicinity. The area was, at the time of writing, commercial in character with development for apartments occurring nearby. The proposal was 7.3m long and 3.3m wide. The structure was open towards the shops and enclosed by timber-effect cladding/planters on the two ends and along the roadside. As a matter of good practice, the Council's Environmental Health Department had been consulted and no objections were raised. The parklet was proposed for a temporary period and a condition could be added to ensure the parklet was removed and land restored to its former condition within 3 years.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve planning permission.

Alderman McIlveen proposed, seconded by Councillor Cathcart that the recommendation be adopted, and planning permission be granted.

Alderman McIlveen explained that this had been one of the first sites identified for a parklet location and was pleased to see it reach planning approval.

RESOLVED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Cathcart, that the recommendation be adopted and that planning permission be granted.

5. UPDATE ON PLANNING APPEALS

(Appendices *)

Councillor Adair left the meeting as he outlined he had a Declaration of Interest in Item 5.

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Head of Planning detailing the following:

New Appeals Lodged

No new appeals had been lodged since date of last report.

Decisions

The following appeal was upheld on 27 July 2022.

PAC Ref	2021/A0089
Application ref	LA06/2016/0105/F
Appellant	Mullahead Property Co. Ltd
Subject to Appeal	Change of use from external courtyard to function room to include new roof, external doors, ancillary mobile toilet facilities, associated site works and parking
Location	Quintin Castle, 3 Kearney Road, Portaferry

The Council had refused planning permission on 15th April 2021 for the above development for the following reasons:

I. The proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3, Access, Movement and Parking, Policy AMP 2, in that it would, if permitted, prejudice the safety and convenience of road users since it would lead to an unacceptable level of conflict by reason of the increased number of vehicles attracted to the site.

II. The proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3, Access, Movement and Parking, Policy AMP 2, in that it would, if permitted, prejudice the safety and convenience of road users since it would cause an unacceptable increase in traffic movements on the local road network.

III. The proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3, Access, Movement and Parking, Policy AMP 2, in that it would, if permitted, prejudice the safety and convenience of road users since it would lead to the unacceptable use of the local road network by large vehicles.

IV. The proposal was contrary to Planning Policy Statement 3, Access, Movement and Parking, Policy AMP 7, in that it has not been demonstrated that there is an adequate provision for car parking for the proposed development.

V. The proposal was contrary to Policy CTY4 of Planning Policy Statement 21, Sustainable Development in the Countryside in that access to the public road will significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic and therefore the nature and scale of the proposal is not appropriate for this rural location.

VI. The proposal was contrary to Policy TSM 7 of Planning Policy Statement 16, Tourism, in that access to the public road will significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic and that the existing road network cannot safely handle any extra vehicular traffic that the proposal would generate.

The Commissioner did not uphold any of the reasons for refusal listed above. It was found that subject to the agreement of a Sustainable Travel Plan and Service Management Plan, the proposal would not result in significant inconvenience to the flow of traffic on the surrounding road network on the basis of one event per day being held at Quintin Castle.

The Commissioner considered the main issues included whether the proposal would significantly inconvenience the flow of traffic on the surrounding road network and whether there is adequate provision for car parking and servicing of the development.

The Council's first refusal reason stated that the proposal would lead to an unacceptable level of conflict by reason of the increased number of vehicles attracted to the site. The Commissioner considered as the existing level of traffic on the local road network is so low, existing traffic would not be significantly inconvenienced by the appeal proposal therefore the first reason for refusal was not sustained.

The Council's second reason for refusal, also based on Policy AMP2, states that the proposal would cause an unacceptable increase in traffic movements on the local road network. The Commissioner found that the anticipated increase in peak traffic attending the site (around one extra car per minute over an hour) is within the capacity of the roads and that there were safe places for vehicles to pass if required.

The Commissioner considered that a planning condition could require a revised Event Management Plan specifying the means of encouraging the use of sustainable transport modes to be submitted to and agreed by the Council before the development comes into use and as he was of the opinion that the local roads could accommodate the projected increase in traffic and that the effects of this could be suitably managed through an Event Management Plan, the Council's second refusal reason, and related concerns of objectors, had not been sustained.

The third reason for refusal states that the proposal would lead to unacceptable use of the local road network by large vehicles. As a planning condition could require the agreement of a suitable Service Management Plan with the Council prior to the development coming into use this would ensure that any servicing routes respected the natural and historic environment of the castle grounds the Commissioner considered the concerns raised with regard to the servicing of the development were not determining and did not sustain the third reason for refusal.

As the Commissioner considered that the proposal complied with Policy AMP2 of PPS 3 due to no significant inconvenience to the flow of traffic it thereby followed that the proposal also complied with criterion (g) of Policy CTY4 and the fifth reason for refusal was therefore not sustained.

In addition, as there would be no significant inconvenience to the flow of traffic and the local roads could safely handle the increase in traffic, the sixth refusal reason relating to Policy TSM 7 of Planning Policy Statement 16: Tourism was not sustained.

In relation to car parking, the Commissioner was of the opinion that a total of 59 spaces would be required, a shortfall of five spaces. The Commissioner considered the shortfall of spaces to be within the flexibility envisaged under the fifth criterion of Policy AMP7 and attached weight to the appellant's willingness to incorporate more use of sustainable transport modes into the Travel Plan to be agreed with the Council before the new function room comes into use therefore the fourth reason for refusal relating to Policy AMP7 was not sustained.

Details of appeal decisions, new appeals and scheduled hearings can be viewed at www.pacni.gov.uk.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes this report

Councillor Cathcart proposed, seconded by Councillor McKee that the recommendation be adopted, and the report be noted.

Councillor Cathcart asked if any indications existed of sustainable travel plans to the location. The Head of Planning explained that oftentimes, commuters would choose

their own cars for travel and that Planning Officers were unsure as to how the Council could enforce any measures that would be outlined in such a travel plan. She made reference that the application had outlined that although there was two separate functions, the applicant had outlined that two functions would never be hosted at the same time. However this would be difficult to check.

It was at this time that a correction to the original report was identified, "*The Council had refused planning permission on 15th April 2021 for the above development for the following reasons*". The date of 16th April 2020 should have read 15th April 2021 and has since been corrected from the date of this meeting.

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

6. QUARTERLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

(Appendix *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Head of Planning stating that under the Local Government Act 2014, Council was required to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlined the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually (for publication 30 September 2022)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2022)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outlined how each respective Service would contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Reporting approach

The Service Plans would be reported to relevant Committees on a quarterly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1 (Q1)	April – June	September
Q2	July – September	December
Q3	October – December	March
Q4	January - March	June

The report for Quarter 1 2022-23 is attached.

Key points to note:

- 70 householder development decisions were issued, of which 67 were processed within the internal 8 week performance target, the other 3 being issued within the 15 week statutory performance indicator target.
- 2 approvals issued on Major Development applications which were for a replacement school in Crawfordsburn and 29no. dwellings at High Street in Holywood, which were processed in 28.8 weeks and 78.4 weeks respectively. The Holywood proposals was subject to a number of amendments including relating to trees and landscaping within the proposed Area of Townscape Character.
- 255 applications in the local category of development were submitted and 266 decisions issued of which 2 were refusal, which an average processing time of 23.0 weeks.
- Enforcement staff continue to work through the backlog of new cases opened during COVID, and number of alleged breaches of planning control continue to remain high.

RECOMMENDED that Council note this report.

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

7. RESPONSE FROM DFI REGARDING ROMPS

(Appendix *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning.

The Head of Planning summarised the below report to members.

Members would have recalled a Notice of Motion which was discussed at Planning Committee in May 2022 (Item 7e attached) and the correspondence which issued from Council to the Department for Infrastructure in relation to that Notice of Motion. At May's Committee meeting, following review of the initial response from DFI's Chief Planner (Item 7b attached), it was determined to write further to the Minister for Infrastructure disagreeing with the approach as outlined by the Department.

A further letter issued dated 19 July 2022 (attached at Item 7c) and the Minister, John O'Dowd, responded on 01 August 2022 (attached at Item 7d). The Minister had attempted to reassure the Council that implementation of ROMPs is still some way off and that there would be opportunity for detailed engagement with the Councils as local planning authorities prior to commencement and implementation.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the content of the response from the Minister for Infrastructure in relation to the commencement of ROMPs

Councillor McKee proposed, seconded by Councillor McRandal that the recommendation be adopted, and the report be noted.

Councillor McKee was glad to see a robust letter had been sent to the Minister outlining the Council's position and was concerned of environmental damage.

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

8. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT TO BELFAST CITY COUNCIL REGARDING LDP MODIFICATIONS

(Appendix *)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning.

Further to the report put before the Planning Committee on 7 June 2022 regarding Belfast City Council's (BCC) consultation in relation to the proposed modification of the BCC Draft Plan Strategy, it was agreed that a response would be delegated to Planning officers and a copy presented to Council. Officers reviewed the content of the PAC Report and its recommendations in respect of a modification, alongside the Council's proposed approach. It was considered appropriate to issue an acknowledgement as opposed to any detailed objection. A copy was appended for Members' information.

The Head of Planning updated Members on the Steering Group that had occurred earlier in the day for those that may not have been able to attend. The Belfast strategy had been returned from PAC to DfI with instructions to carry out modifications to the strategy to align with the growth aspiration being used with NI Water and other infrastructures.

RECOMMENDED that Council notes the submission of the attached response by way of acknowledgement to the consultation.

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

9. ITEM WITHDRAWN

It was noted that this item had been withdrawn.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Keery seconded by Councillor Cooper, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted item of confidential business.

10. REPORT ON NOTICE OF MOTION

(Appendix *)

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

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

11. QUARTERLY ENFORCEMENT REPORT

(Appendix *)

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

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 Alderman Keery, that the public/press be readmitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 21:00.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Environment Committee was held remotely via Zoom on Wednesday, 7 September 2022 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Alderman McDowell

Aldermen: Armstrong-Cotter
Carson
M Smith (7.15 pm)

Councillors:

Boyle	Johnson
Cathcart	Kendall
Cummings	MacArthur
Edmund (7.25 pm)	McAlpine
Greer (7.15 pm)	McKee
Irwin	Smart

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies for lateness were received from Alderman M Smith and Councillor Greer.

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair asked for Declarations of Interest and he himself declared an interest in:

Item 5 – Waste Re-Use Projects – Update Report

He explained that the Vice Chair, Councillor Kendall, would take on the role of Chair for that item.

NOTED.

3. Q4 SERVICE PLAN PERFORMANCE REPORTS

3.1 Waste and Cleansing Services

(Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that Members would be aware that the Council was required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil that requirement the Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlined the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually (for publication 30 September 2021)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2021)

The Council's 17 Service Plans outlined how each respective Service would contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Reporting approach

The Service Plans would be reported to relevant Committees on a quarterly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1 (Q1)	April – June	September
Q2	July – September	December
Q3	October – December	March
Q4	January - March	June

The report for Quarter 4 2021-22 was attached.

Key points to note:

- Where applicable, a number of targets/data were cumulative (as indicated), reflecting the 2021/22 year rather than the final three months (Quarter 4).
- The delivery of several targets was subject to Council approval for proposed service delivery changes not yet agreed and/or the approval of a business case where additional resources were needed.
- The Covid-19 pandemic continued to impact across the range of services delivered by Waste and Cleansing during Q4.

Key achievements:

- Despite the continuing impact of Covid-19 on staffing levels and the need to change service delivery methods to meet social distancing requirements, all waste collection services were delivered as scheduled, except for disruption caused by industrial action during March 2022.

Emerging issues:

- While the threat of further industrial action remained, there was the potential for major disruption to both waste collection and cleansing services during 2022/23.
- The spike in waste generation during the Covid-19 pandemic appeared to have ended with waste arisings falling towards pre-covid levels (down from 21,505 tonnes in Q4 – 2021 to 18,455 tonnes in Q4 – 2022, a fall of 3050 tonnes), whilst still remaining higher than the NI Council average especially at HRCs. The Council's recycling rate remained significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels.

Action to be taken:

- To help with the recovery of recycling rates, it was intended to recommence the waste education and awareness programmes with schools, community groups and other organisations.
- With the removal of remaining restrictions and controls introduced during the Covid pandemic to meet social distancing requirements a range of measures targeting contamination and misuse of wheeled bins could recommence. Other operational service management controls were also under consideration aimed at enhancing recycling participation.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

Proposed by Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Councillor Kendall, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor MacArthur referred to the spike in waste generation during the Covid-19 pandemic which appeared to have ended with the fall of 3050 tonnes of waste being generated and she asked how that compared with pre pandemic levels of waste. The Director did not have the figures to hand but explained that while there appeared to be a levelling of the spike, the level of overall waste arisings in the Borough as well as the amount of residual (non-recycled) waste were higher than that in other Councils and still well above 2019 levels.

Councillor Kendall praised officers for continuing household collections seamlessly over the past weeks despite the challenges the Council had been facing in connection with discussions with Union representatives and for the unbroken service throughout the past couple of years of Covid challenge.

Councillor Cathcart referred to the cleaning of the public realm areas and asked for an update on that since the Council had secured the new machine. He questioned if the machine had contributed to a real difference in terms of cleaning.

Officers had confirmed that the machine's effectiveness had been very good and there had been significant improvements to the cleanliness of streets due to its ability to perform a more thorough and deeper clean, although it was noted that it did take time. Obviously, an outdoor surface such as a town centre footway could deteriorate quickly if spillages, for example, occurred within a short time of the washing process. It was considered that resources would permit each town in the Borough to be cleaned up to three times per year. Overall, it was expected the new washing regime would make a significant difference to the appearance of the towns.

Councillor Cathcart continued hoping that the old machine could be used in between the deeper cleans for more superficial maintenance. The Director confirmed that would be the case and it was the intention of officers to commit to a sustained planned washing regime for the public realm areas of the towns in the Borough.

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

3.2 Assets and Property Services

(Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that Members would be aware that the Council was required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil that requirement the Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlined the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually (for publication 30 September 2021)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2021)

The Council's 17 Service Plans outlined how each respective Service would contribute to the achievement of the corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Reporting approach

The Service Plans would be reported to relevant Committees on a quarterly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1 (Q1)	April – June	September
Q2	July – September	December
Q3	October – December	March
Q4	January - March	June

The report for Quarter 4 2021-22 was attached.

Key points to note:

- The appointed consultant had now delivered the Sustainable Energy Management Strategy and Action Plan however officers must now work

though the document set key dates (and budget) for each action. Report to follow.

- The Biofuel Trial remained an ongoing project. The fuel was subject to a significant price increase soon after the Council agreed to implement the trial, making it unfeasible. Officers had then been awaiting the UK Government fuel supply framework to produce competitive costs, but no returns from NI were received. Officers were currently seeking updated costs from local suppliers to assess viability.
- Roadside audits were suspended during 21/22 due to Covid.
- Staff attendance was down due to the pandemic and several instances of long-term sick.
- Training courses completed were below target due to the inability to hold classroom-based activities during the pandemic.

Key achievements:

- All KPIs associated with the Council's core outputs were met or exceeded, despite significant challenges.
- Despite rising utilities costs and significant unplanned works (including Maypole replacement at £25k, remedial works following rockfall at North Road depot at £30k and unplanned asbestos removals at Ward Park at £25k) budgetary overspend was limited to just 2.95%.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

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

Councillor Cathcart asked the Head of Assets and Property Services if, in his opinion, the maintenance regime was adequate. In response the officer explained that a team of 12 staff and a wider supplement of contractors were used. There were particular difficulties currently with some staff on long term sickness absence, but generally if the full complement of staff was available the estate was well managed and maintained. Indeed, the KPIs indicated that there were no significant issues present.

He went on to state that proactive maintenance of the estate through the Council's strategy, had made a positive difference and was without doubt a benefit to the Borough. Currently higher property condition scores were being achieved with a smaller budget and that was expected to continue.

Councillor Cathcart was encouraged by those comments and stressed the importance of the work since it was so visual to ratepayers and that the environment in general looked better when that work was done properly. The officer agreed and remarked that it was a constant battle juggling priorities.

(Alderman M Smith and Councillor Greer entered the meeting at 7.15 pm)

Councillor MacArthur thanked the Head of Assets and Property Services for the responsiveness that they showed when interacting with Members. She shared what must be their frustration at times when coping with vandalism and since property was

so visual a quick response was normally necessary. She was aware that the team was doing its best and she appreciated that.

Councillor McKee agreed with those comments and paid tribute to officers who had dealt with approximately £80k of unbudgeted funds on emergency spend and had still managed to stay close to the target budget set.

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

3.3 Regulatory Services (Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that Members would be aware that the Council was required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil that requirement the Council approved the Performance Management Policy and Handbook in October 2015. The Performance Management Handbook outlined the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan Towards 2024 in operation)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually (for publication 30 September 2021)
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved April/May 2021)

The Council's 17 Service Plans outlined how each respective Service would contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Reporting approach

The Service Plans would be reported to relevant Committees on a quarterly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Quarter 1 (Q1)	April – June	September
Q2	July – September	December
Q3	October – December	March
Q4	January - March	June

The report for Quarter 4 2021-22 was attached.

Key achievements:

- Building Control was extremely busy but was meeting the increased demand and was therefore generating a larger than expected income. The Licensing Department also faced the increased demand of interpreting changing legislation and guidance from the NI Executive as well as being short staffed.

Staff right across Regulatory Services had performed extremely well in Q4 to meet those demands.

Emerging issues:

- The 'after use' surveys that all Regulatory Service users received had an extremely low uptake. That was important as our four customer service objectives used that data to report on performance. That was despite many attempts to encourage and make as easy as possible for people to access and fill out. Ongoing efforts would be made to promote customer feedback engagement.
- The education programmes had not developed as quickly as expected due to staff shortages and working with schools was still more challenging as a result of the pandemic recovery process.

Action to be taken:

- The Service Plan for 22/23 was currently being developed and early discussions were looking at more meaningful and qualitative ways to accurately gauge customer service performance.
- The organisation and Regulatory Services were exploring ways to speed up recruitment as well as widen our appeal to more people as a potential employer/career choice.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

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

In proposing the recommendation Councillor Kendall recognised the work that had been carried out and thanked officers for the report. Councillor McKee had nothing further to add to those comments.

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

4. ECO-SCHOOLS AWARDS 2022
(Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment dated 8 July 2022 detailing that most young people cared deeply about environmental issues and wished to make a positive change in the environment around them. The Eco-Schools programme provided an ideal way for fostering environmental awareness in the entire school in a way that linked to many curriculum subjects. The primary aim of the Eco-Schools programme was to educate and empower young people to make positive decisions and become change makers for an environmentally sustainable world.

The Eco-Schools Awards scheme provided a vehicle through which to promote sustainable living through whole-school action supported by learning resources, management tools and the internationally recognised Green Flag award scheme.

Ards and North Down Borough Council was an active and enthusiastic partner in the Eco-Schools programme and supported it both through the engagement of Council officers in the practical delivery and promotion of the scheme as well as financially through the highest tier 'preferential support' package amounting to c£11k per year. The latter equated to an investment of approximately forty-seven pence per pupil in the Borough and along with a range of key environmental education support benefit provided by KNIB/Eco-Schools it also covered the running costs of the 'Wheelie Big Challenge.' That combined teaching resources with practical actions and advice on how to improve the schools' performance in the sphere of waste management.

Eco-Schools Awards 2022

On 22 June 2022, the awards ceremony for the Borough was held in Ards Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex, where eight local Primary Schools were presented with their prestigious Green Flag Awards by the Mayor:

- Clandeboye Primary School
- Comber Primary School
- Holywood Primary School
- Kircubbin Primary School
- Londonderry Primary School
- St Comgall's Primary School
- St Mary's Primary School
- Towerview Primary School

Several other key awards were made during the ceremony to:

- Londonderry Primary School for achieving Ambassador status.
- Kircubbin Primary School for winning Eco-School of the Year for Ards and North Down Borough Council (award sponsored by Ni4kids)
- Londonderry Primary School for winning Biodiversity Champion (sponsored by Radius Housing)
- Loraine Hutton of Londonderry Primary School for winning Eco Teacher of the Year prize (sponsored by Twinkl Northern Ireland).





The event at Ards Blair Mayne was hugely successful, greatly enjoyed by pupils, teachers and all those involved with the Eco-Schools programme. Eco-Schools was a key element of the overall environmental education programme that Council relied upon in its mission to transform the attitudes and behaviours of school children and adults, complementing a range of other important initiatives that the Council runs/partnered in to achieve that outcome. Currently, the Waste and Litter topics had been the most successfully engaged in topics out of the eleven individual topics schools could choose from through the Eco-Schools programme – which augered well in particular for the campaign to inspire a recycling revolution across the Borough.



Attached at Appendix 1 is the Eco-Schools Impact Score Card for Ards and North Down.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

The Director advised Members that there had been discussions with local schools involved, and it was the Council's intention to invite some of the pupils to make a presentation to the Environment Committee about their work on the Eco Schools initiative. It was hoped that that would take place when physical meetings resumed later in the year.

Proposed by Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Councillor Irwin, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor MacArthur recalled that she had attended the recent Eco Schools award ceremony and noted that Ards and North Down Borough Council contributed £11k locally to schools which was considerably more than any other Council in Northern Ireland. She offered congratulations to teachers and schools for the programmes they had carried out and welcomed the contribution the pupils would make at a future committee. She also referred to the collaboration of four schools in Donaghadee who had worked together to examine water samples for a marine litter project under the Live Here Love Here programme.

Councillor Irwin also praised the Eco Schools initiative which she thought was hugely important particularly in respect of recycling and waste reduction and for encouraging the upcoming generation to make good environmental choices.

Councillor McKee congratulated the schools taking part and asked officers about the lapsed flags that he had noticed for some and if there was any support that officers or Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) could provide to help them get back on board.

(Councillor Edmund entered the meeting at 7.25 pm)

The Director gave his assurance to Members that the Council, along with KNIB, was working continually with schools to overcome the barriers that some of them faced in terms of keeping up this great environmental work. He added that everyone was aware that schools and teachers were under immense pressure and stress and had done fantastically well to date coping with many competing challenges over recent years. The Council remained mindful of that and would continue to engage with schools. He stressed that whilst green flag accreditation status may lapse from time to time for a school, usually the school was still actively engaged in the Eco-Schools programme.

Councillor Johnson echoed the comments of Members adding that while it was of course excellent that young people were engaged with environmental issues they were also developing skills in active citizenship and that in turn would make them positive participants in community life.

Councillor Kendall thanked officers and agreed with all the positive comments that had been expressed. She considered it an achievement in itself that over 30% of schools in the Borough were participating in the initiative and believed that Members would do all they could to help schools if necessary.

Councillor Boyle referred to the encouraging report which had made excellent reading and considered the work with schools to be a massive success story in this Borough when looking at the statistics. He congratulated all those who were

participating and noted that this would be the generation that would make wiser decisions about the environment throughout their lives.

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

(Having declared an interest in Item 5 Alderman McDowell left the meeting at 7.35 pm and Councillor Kendall took the role of Chair at that point)

5. WASTE RE-USE PROJECTS - UPDATE REPORT

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that Members would recall that over the past year the Council had implemented several projects aimed at pushing the management of certain waste arising in the Borough, further up the waste hierarchy.



- Community Paint Reuse Scheme
- White Goods Reuse Collection Service
- Household Furniture Reuse Collection Service

[Choose To Reuse 2022 | Ards and North Down Borough Council](#)

[Disposal of Paint | Ards and North Down Borough Council](#)

Community Paint Reuse Scheme

An estimated 50 million litres of the 320 million litres of paint sold in the UK each year goes to waste. The leftover paint was either thrown away or stored in homes or garages despite over 50% of it still being usable.

As well as being incredibly wasteful and harmful to the environment, paint disposal was very costly. In November 2021, the Council introduced a scheme whereby the general public and community organisations had been encouraged to collect surplus to requirements/unused paint that had previously been brought by others to the Council's HRCs for disposal.

The designated paint reuse collection point was initially introduced in Newtownards and following the success of the scheme Comber was added in June 2022. The scheme was to be further expanded to the Balloo HRC in September 2022 once the necessary receptacles were fitted out. The number of collection points must be kept limited to ensure that there was a sufficient amount of paint available for selection by those who wished to find paint that they could re-use; it was therefore not possible to spread designated collection points across all HRCs.



Paint Re-use scheme goes from strength to strength...Now available at Comber Household Recycling Centre!

News Items Publicised on Binovation App

Between November 2021 and June 2022, over 640 cans, estimated at 3,230 litres of paint, had been claimed by residents from the re-use scheme. That had saved carbon emissions estimated at around 9 tonnes of CO₂e, as well as avoiding a disposal cost to ratepayers of around £3k. Overall, the programme to reduce paint waste disposal via the Council's HRCs had led to a saving of over £11K over a 7-month period.

The initiative had proven to be very popular and was something which officers planned to build upon and encourage ongoing/wider adoption of a paint re-use culture amongst our communities as they grew in their appreciation of both the significant environmental and financial benefits.

White Goods Re-Use Collection Service

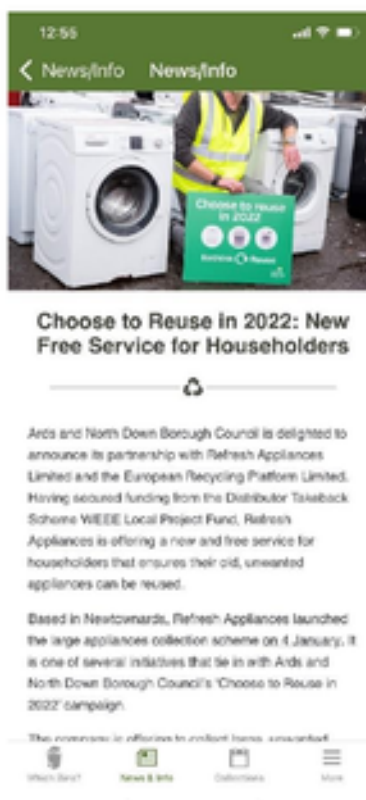
Every year an estimated two million tonnes of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) items were discarded by householders and companies in the UK, 40% of which comprised large household white goods appliances.

The Council partnered with Refresh Appliances in applying for an application to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Local Project Fund. Refresh Appliances was a local Social Enterprise Company based in Newtownards that provided a domestic appliance sales and repair service which included the remanufacture and repair of the large appliances. The company was contracted with the European Recycling Platform (ERP) to collect appliances from HRCs in the six Council areas of Arc21, including Ards and North Down.

One of the barriers to re-use of white goods appliances was the damage that was often caused to those items as they are transported by residents to HRCs and damage that occurred as they were moved around the sites themselves. In a bid to further improve the service to ratepayers and maximise the re-use outcomes for appliances, funding was secured to provide a direct collection service from householders for one year. The scheme was free of charge and launched on Tuesday 4 January 2022.

Large appliances, which were eligible for collection as part of the scheme were:

- Washing machines
- Tumble dryers
- Dishwashers
- Cookers and hobs



News Item Published on Binovation App

Bookings for collection by any resident of the Borough could be made directly through Refresh Appliances and officers also liaised where appropriate with Refresh in relation to bulky waste collection requests received by the Council, that included the eligible appliances.

Statistics to 22 June 2022 showed that 380 appliances were collected via the scheme, representing 22.8 Tons of WEEE - with a reuse rate of 38% (8.7 Tons). An average of around 63 collections were being carried out per month. Based upon the carbon savings of reusing a washing machine compared to recycling it, the overall carbon savings arising from the 8.7 tons of white goods reused in this scheme so far, was estimated at 17.9 Tons CO₂e (compared to 10.4 Tons CO₂e if the appliances had been recycled).

Once again, the scheme had proven to be hugely popular so far and would continue to be actively promoted by Council officers in collaboration with Refresh Appliances.

Freecycle Household Furniture Reuse Collection Service

Utilising underspend from the RCIF last year, the Council introduced a 12-week trial aimed at encouraging residents to donate and receive large household furniture items for reuse, rather than disposing of them.

Under the scheme, items listed by residents of the Borough on the openly/freely available 'Freecycle' platform, for collection from and delivery to homes within the Borough were eligible for a free transport service by the Council. That was designed

to promote willingness by residents to more actively consider the option of furniture 'reuse', by encouraging use of the existing 'Freecycle' platform and removing the 'barrier' of residents having to source a suitable means of transporting larger furniture items from the donor to the recipient homes.

[Freecycle: Front Door](#)



News Item Published on Binovation App



Local Press Article

In all of the Council's publicity around this scheme, residents were urged to first consider donating furniture items to locally based charities.

Unfortunately, despite the extensive publicity and promotion of the trial, only seven collections/delivery of furniture items for reuse were undertaken. That was very disappointing, and officers would continue to look at ways in which the Council could try to encourage and incentivise further reuse of household furniture items in the future. The resources that were put in place (van and operatives) were productively utilised when not undertaking the Freecycle deliveries, by supplementing the capacity to deliver the normal bulky refuse service.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

Proposed by Alderman M Smith, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman M Smith referred to the recycling initiative for household furniture and was disappointed to read that only seven households had used the service. She wondered if there had been any waste associated with that and the Director informed Members that surplus resource for that initiative had been productively redeployed to boost the bulky waste collection service – so no resources were in fact wasted.

Councillor MacArthur shared that disappointment in terms of the Freecycle initiative but recognised that it was a busy marketplace and that overall this was an encouraging report. The real success story was in paint recycling, and she wondered if that could be extended further by working with paint distributors. Paint was a very expensive item, and the sharing of paint was welcomed by many, some of whom, may be struggling with the rising costs of living.

The Director indicated that officers were expanding the initiative and would look at any options that were considered viable.

Councillor Cathcart praised the initiatives being taken, which were providing significant benefits in helping some with the rising cost of living and reducing the Council's costs of waste disposal. He was encouraged about the recycling of white goods and his mother had participated in that without his prompting, so he knew that the public was being kept aware of options.

Councillor Smart believed that some aspects of the report were fantastic in making environmental improvements and that the Council should be proud of its contribution to that. He requested that staff be congratulated on those achievements. He also asked how much of the donated paint was reused and how much was destroyed. The Director replied that approximately 3,200 litres of paint had been taken for reuse and that that was a very significant proportion of the paint available. He also referred to the partnerships the Council had with social enterprises who could distribute items such as furniture which was still in good/reusable condition and had been brought to HRCs.

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

(Alderman McDowell was returned to the meeting at 7.51 pm)

6. ADDITIONAL BIN COLLECTION VEHICLES AND STAFF RESOURCE

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that the following creation of the new Council in 2015, efficiencies were created by implementing an integrated approach to kerbside bin collections across the two legacy Council areas, facilitated by a new software system (Webaspx) that had been deployed very effectively over the past number of years to redefine and adjust collection routes as new properties had been developed and demand for kerbside bin collection services had changed/expanded in various parts of the Borough. That planned approach had meant that despite the number of residential properties in the Borough growing by 4,652 between 2015 and 2021 (per published DoF Housing Stock Statistics), the Council had been able to avoid the need for expansion of the complement of kerbside waste collection resources by more efficiently managing the combined legacy Council collection routes.

The point had now come whereby capacity to manage the legacy Council collection routes more efficiently (and thereby avoid expansion of the number of routes despite growing numbers of properties to be serviced), had been exhausted. Collection routes were now at capacity and beyond, placing rising pressure on the Council's ability to fulfil kerbside waste collections to all homes up to the standards expected. The collection service had become dependent on the use of a support vehicle to assist a number of rounds during certain periods and in particular the organic (brown bin rounds) during the grass growing season when the bin set out rate increased significantly.

To further guarantee continuity of those core/frontline services and continued high quality service delivery, two additional crews (initially two Category C drivers and two loaders, but ultimately also requiring two additional loaders as the new routes filled out further) plus two additional RCVs would be required.

Two main options were considered in the business case:

Option 1: Address additional service demands through continuation of ever-increasing overtime working and piecemeal catchup working across existing collection routes.

Option 2: Expand the complement of collection routes/crews by two.

Whilst Option 1 represented the lowest cost option over the 5-year period of the Business Plan, when the non-monetary benefit score was factored in Option 2 became the highest ranked option. Essentially, whilst theoretically the extra service demand could be managed through increased reliance upon overtime working and piecemeal delivery of bin collections to ongoing increases in residential properties, that was not deemed practicably viable in a manner that would deliver the required continuity and quality of service standards.

The estimated annual average cost of the extra bin collection resource required (financing of additional refuse collection vehicles and running costs, plus staff costs) over the 5-year period of the business case was £210k (£197k in year 1).

RECOMMENDED that approval is granted to make provision in the 2023/24 estimates process for the procurement of two additional Refuse Collection Vehicles and recruitment of an additional four waste collection operatives (2 Category C Drivers and two Refuse Recycling and Street Cleansing Operatives).

The Director referred to the report and stated that after the two Councils merged over seven years ago the legacy bin collection routes and crews had been merged. Since that time the officers and crews had carried out a fantastic job, being integrated efficiently across the new Borough. While the number of new properties within the Borough continued to increase, with significant associated additional rate income, efficiency planning of legacy resources meant no additional vehicles or crews had been required to date. However, it had now reached the stage where all potential efficiencies had been exhausted and the service was coming towards

tipping point - so additional resources were required to continue to deliver the Council's normal high standard of service.

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

Councillor Boyle put on record his thanks to the Director and to the Head of Waste and Cleansing and their teams for the service that had been provided over the previous years and in particular throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. He did not want to jeopardise the service which was so valued by ratepayers by stretching it unnecessarily and was happy to propose the recommendation. He asked that thanks be conveyed to all staff in the department for their great work.

In seconding the recommendation Councillor Cummings added his appreciation suggesting that Option 2 was the most practical response. In doing so it increased the capacity of the Council fleet and helped to serve a population that was continuing to grow. He asked about the training or availability of Category C drivers to drive the vehicles.

The Head of Waste and Cleansing stated that a recruitment exercise would be undertaken but that training would also be provided in house and that had been costed in the report.

Councillor Smart also expressed support for Option 2 stressing that this was an essential service, so it was absolutely right that further resources were allocated to it. He paid tribute to officers when thinking of the scheduling changes that the officers had put in place over the years which had run seamlessly and which gave him further faith in the proposal which was now being put forward.

The Chair, Alderman McDowell highlighted that the Environment Directorate had offered up a lot of the efficiency savings to the Council historically.

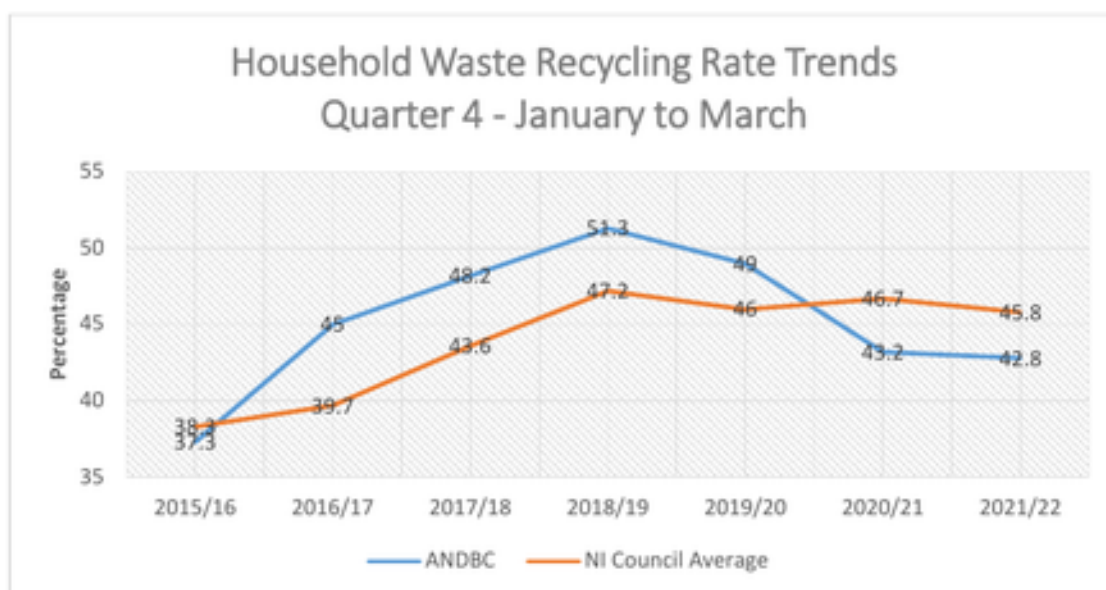
AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor Cummings, that the recommendation be adopted.

7. NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS, JANUARY TO MARCH 2022

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that the official waste management statistics for the final quarter of 2021/2022 (January to March 2022) had been released by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

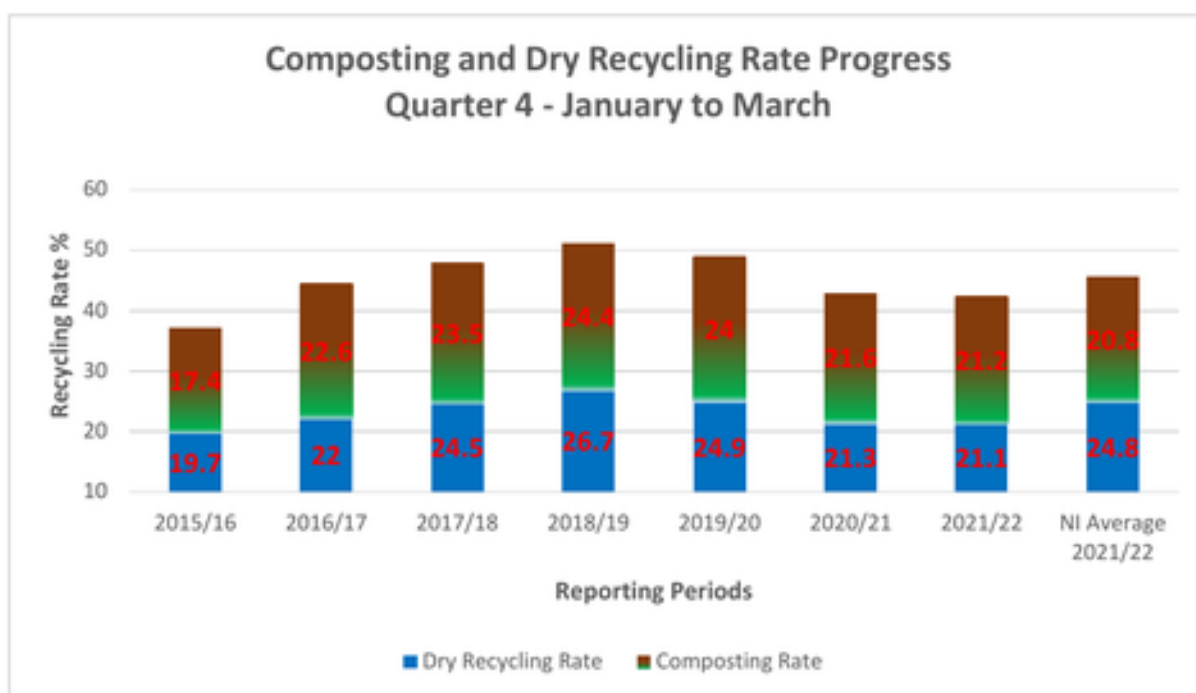
The significant headlines contained within the latest DAERA report showed that:

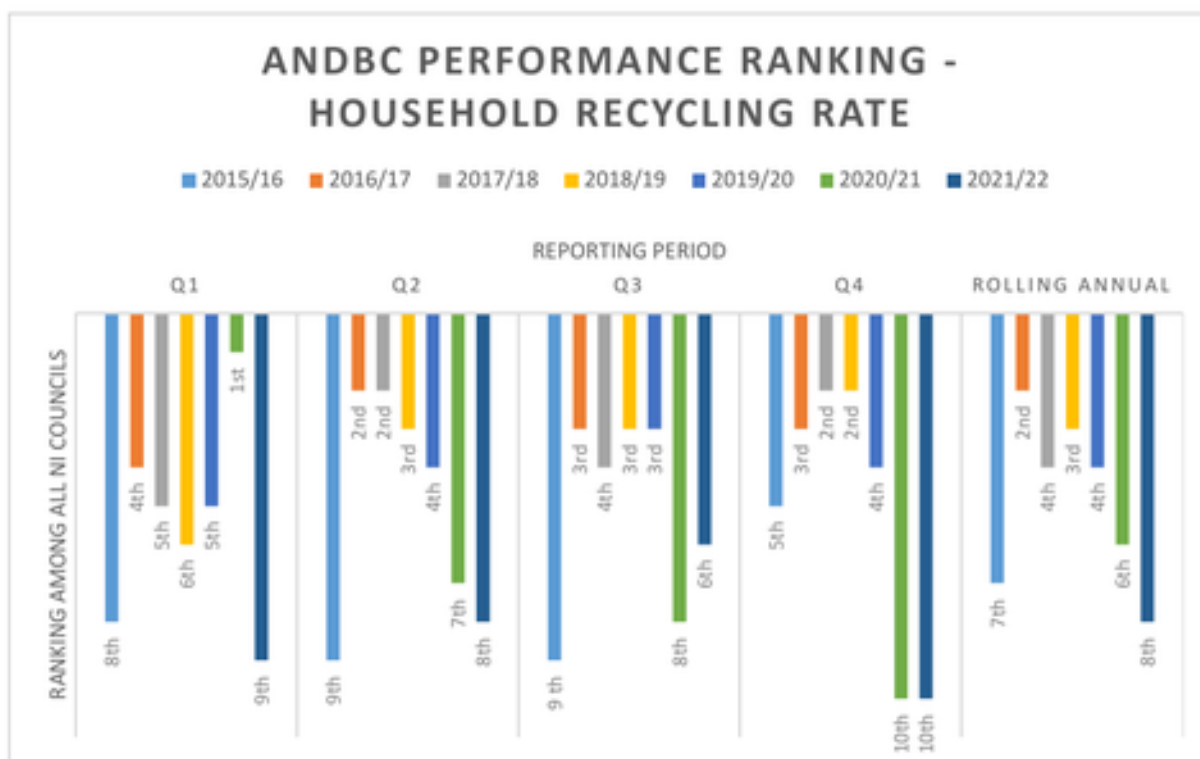
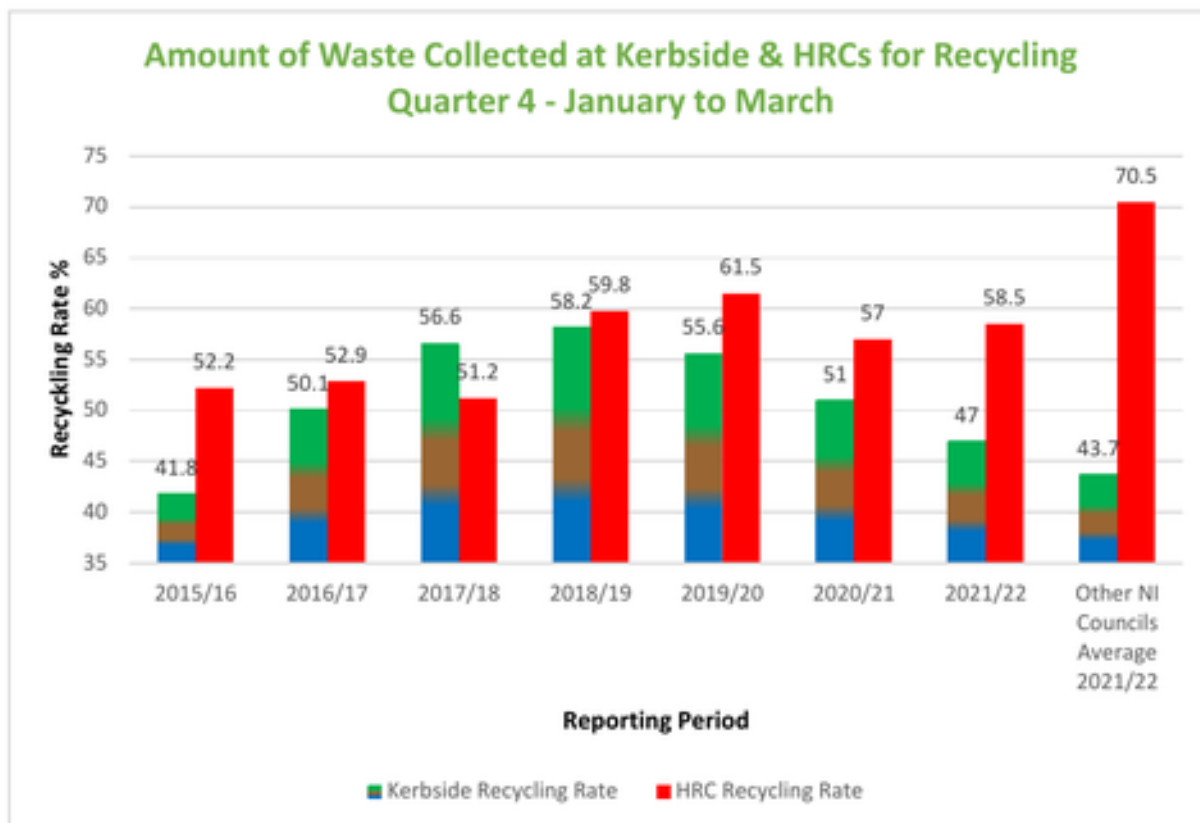
- i. The Council's household waste recycling rate **fell by 0.4%** compared to Q4 last year, (from 43.2% to 42.8%) and had now **fallen by 8.5%** compared to Q4 peak rate achieved in the 2018/19 year (from 51.31% to 42.8%).



- ii. The Council's household waste recycling rate of 42.8%, was 3% lower than the NI average of 45.8%.
- iii. The Council was ranked ninth out of the eleven NI Councils for its household waste recycling rate.
- iv. The Council's household waste composting rate fell by 0.4% - from 21.6% to 21.2%. The household waste dry recycling rate fell by 0.2% - from 21.3% to 21.1%.
- v. The Council's household waste composting rate of 21.2% was 0.4% higher than the NI average of 20.8%.
- vi. The Council's household waste dry recycling rate (i.e., recycling of items other than organic food and garden waste) of 21.1% was 3.7% lower than the NI average of 24.8%.
- vii. The Council's kerbside recycling capture rate of 62.4% for household compostable waste materials compared to a NI Council average of 59.5%.
- viii. The Council was at the bottom end of the performance table for 'dry' recycling rate, ranking tenth out of eleven Councils.
- ix. The Council received 36% more waste per capita at its HRCs compared to the average for other NI Councils.

- x. The amount of waste collected at the Councils HRC sites for recycling was significantly less than the average for other Councils – 58.5%, compared to an average rate of 70.5% for other Councils.
- xi. The amount of waste collected for recycling through the Council’s kerbside bin collection system was higher than the average for other Councils – 47%, compared to an average of 43.7% for other Councils. However, the kerbside recycling rate had fallen by 3.8% compared to the same period last year and the margin over the average kerbside recycling rate for all Councils, had fallen significantly.





This latest official Municipal Waste Management Statistics report presented further clear evidence that the Council's performance in relation to waste resource

management had suffered a significant sustained deterioration, both in absolute and relative terms.

The Council's rolling 12-month average recycling rate of 48.3% had fallen back from a high of 54.7% and was currently some 21.7% below the statutory recycling target of 70% by 2030 as set out in the recently enacted Climate Change Act (NI) 2022.

Officers were working on ways of contributing more effectively towards to the achievement of new statutory recycling and landfill targets whilst at the same time improving levels of customer service. Project teams would focus on both the HRC service and kerbside recycle bin service. With regard to HRCs, emphasis would be on more effectively implementing site operational controls such as checks at entry for all prospective site users, site layout and supervision arrangements to promote, support and enforce better separation of recyclable waste etc. Regarding kerbside bin service, the Council would be working to relaunch and strengthen recycling communications and bin monitoring protocols – with relaunch of the bin contamination warning label system where grey bins contained recyclable waste items. Further information on those two major campaigns would emerge in coming weeks.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

The Director introduced the report highlighting that Members would be aware that he had been in discussions with party leaders in terms of an immediate and longer-term plan in respect of this matter. A report would be brought to the Environment Committee in October outlining to Members the proposed way forward to attempt to regain the high ground that the Council once held before the Covid-19 pandemic struck, by pushing back up the rates of recycling in the Borough.

Proposed by Councillor Greer, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Greer thought that the results within the report had been disappointing and that the rates of recycling had been going in the wrong direction for some considerable time. She referred to additional waste through many residents continuing to work from home when they may have spent much more time working in Belfast for example prior to the pandemic. However, there was something that the Council was doing wrong compared to other Council areas as this Borough also had a much higher percentage of waste being disposed of at HRCs.

She went on to ask what the Council could do in the short term and reminded Members that a recycling rate of 70% needed to be achieved by 2030 and that the Borough would struggle to meet that target. The Director explained what was in place but was reluctant to pre-empt the information and debate which would be coming to the Committee next month. However, in summary it was planned to deploy resources to apply and enforce agreed access and recycling rules for HRCs and recycling engagement in kerbside bin collections much more rigorously. It was

hoped that programmes around that will be ready to launch by the end of November. That would also include a very significant information campaign around those two key strands of the Council's waste management service.

The Chairman encouraged Members to hold off discussion until the report was brought before them, but what had been spoken of gave a sense of direction.

Councillor Smart was in agreement that there was little joy in reading the report and that the Council was verging on sitting at the bottom of the scale when at a time it was leading the way in terms of recycling. That position was obviously unsustainable. He recognised that that position would not change overnight and would need a radical transformation. He believed that most residents of the Borough were prepared to play their part in helping but sometimes were not fully informed about what needed to be done.

Councillor Boyle was of the opinion that a definite changing of culture was needed. He was concerned that those neighbouring the Borough were using the Council's HRCs but stressed that there was something seriously wrong when HRCs in Ards and North Down were contributing almost as much to landfill as Belfast City Council. He agreed that hard decisions would need to be taken in the interest of the Borough's ratepayers.

Councillor Kendall reminded Members that the Committee had seen this coming for some time and thought that if householders were tightening their belts financially they would not be happy for their rates to be spent irresponsibly through excessive waste disposal costs. Members had a duty to ensure that did not happen, so would need to be brave and try to make the savings that were necessary.

Councillor Armstrong-Cotter looked forward to the report and believed that online messaging would be essential to bring people on board by showing them how much waste was costing and stressing that the Council was trying to do its best for ratepayers. This could not become a party-political matter but should be considered in context of the tough financial climate society at large was facing. Councillor MacArthur was in agreement with that, and the necessity to get out the stark messaging via social media. She highlighted the evidence she had personally witnessed of far too many people using HRCs to simply dump bags of mixed and waste into landfill skips, much of which was probably recyclable.

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

8. BALLYWALTER HARBOUR DAMAGE REPAIR SCHEME

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that Members would recall that on 7 December 2021 Storm Barra battered much of the British Isles and many areas within the Borough suffered flooding and storm damage.

Ballywalter Harbour was significantly damaged during the storm, with a huge hole being punched through the sea wall by the relentless wave action. The pier was closed off during the storm to prevent access due to the risk from large waves and the cordon remained in place afterwards due to the risk of collapse.



Initial Steps

Many elements of the wall/backfill and bitumen deck of the structure were in a very unstable condition and therefore susceptible to further collapse in the very near future. For that reason, officers acted quickly to remove unstable/exposed elements where possible and to stabilise the void and prevent any further loss of material.

The pier was reopened to fishermen only and a cordon left in place around the hole over the Christmas period.

In the New Year, the undermined/unstable section of the wall was demolished as it was deemed unsuitable and unsafe to repair. The unstable section measured approximately 20m long and 6m high. The Department for Agriculture, Environment

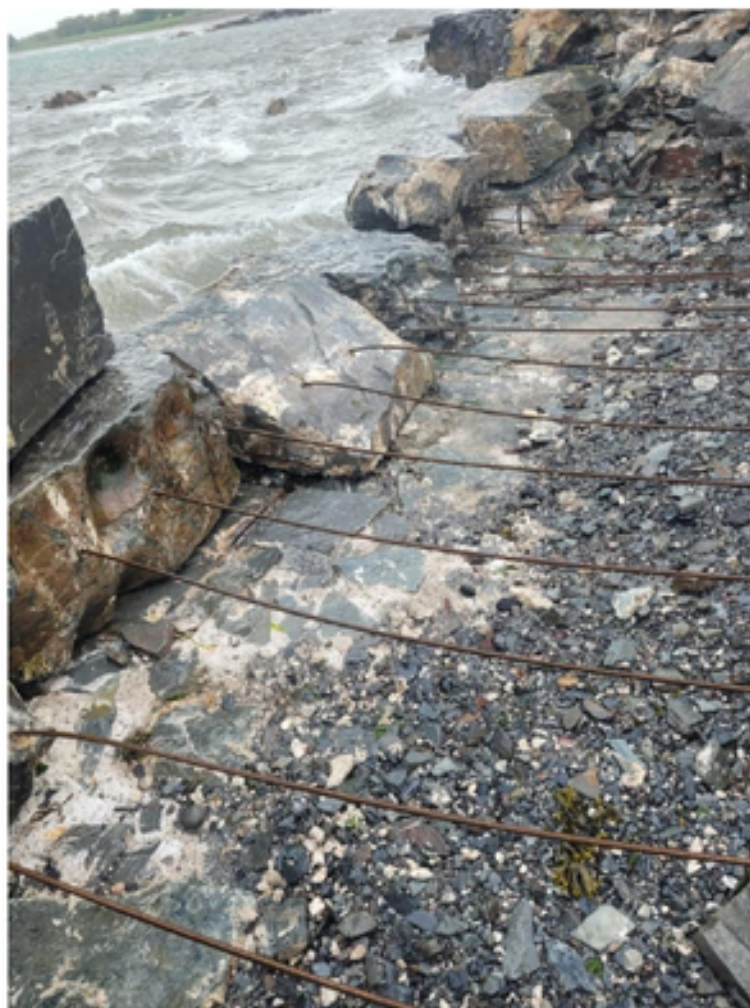
and Rural Affairs (DAERA) granted the Council an exemption to conduct those works but requested sight of the repair methodology and a Habitats Regulations Assessment to cover the works.

Design Phase

Developing permanent works to remediate the wall and pier took some time as appropriate fixing methods, reinforcement and mortar needed to be tested and selected. A consultant specialising in Marine Infrastructure was appointed to create a design, methodology and material specification. During the design phase, the necessary approvals and risk assessments, as required by DAERA, were prepared and subsequently approved.

Permanent Repair

On site works to repair the structure began in early May 2022. Each of the large stones at sea level were drilled and L shaped steel reinforcing bars were epoxy bonded into position. Those re-enforcing bars travelled through the wall and a concrete mass was poured below deck level on the inside to secure the stones into position. Furthermore, each stone was bedded in a specialist marine epoxy that dried quickly, bonded strongly and did not shrink or deteriorate over time.



L shaped reinforcing bars to anchor the stones in position

To add strength and reduce labour costs, the core in the between the inner and outer skins was filled with mortar and small rocks.



Core between inner and outer skins filled to remove voids

Finally, each joint was pointed with a quick drying epoxy mortar to prevent future water ingress.



Once the wall was completed the repairs to the bitmac surface were completed and the area reopened to the public. The works took approximately eleven weeks to complete with the final cost approximately £85k, which was expected to be sourced from capital budgets. That was inclusive of all consultancy, design and specialist materials needed.



RECOMMENDED that the Council notes this report.

Proposed by Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Edmund thanked the Head of Assets and Property Services and praised the completion of such a fantastic piece of work. He noted that the harbour had been in place since the 1600s and he hoped that the work that had been carried out would last well into the future. He was aware that the fishermen working in that area were glad to be able to use the harbour again. He said that since the initial collapse of the wall the Council team had worked fast to secure the area and had continued to collaborate with the fishermen there.

Councillor Boyle agreed with the previous comments and thanked officers for overseeing the problem at Ballywalter and the construction team for reinstating the wall. He asked that the thanks of Councillors be passed on to the team.

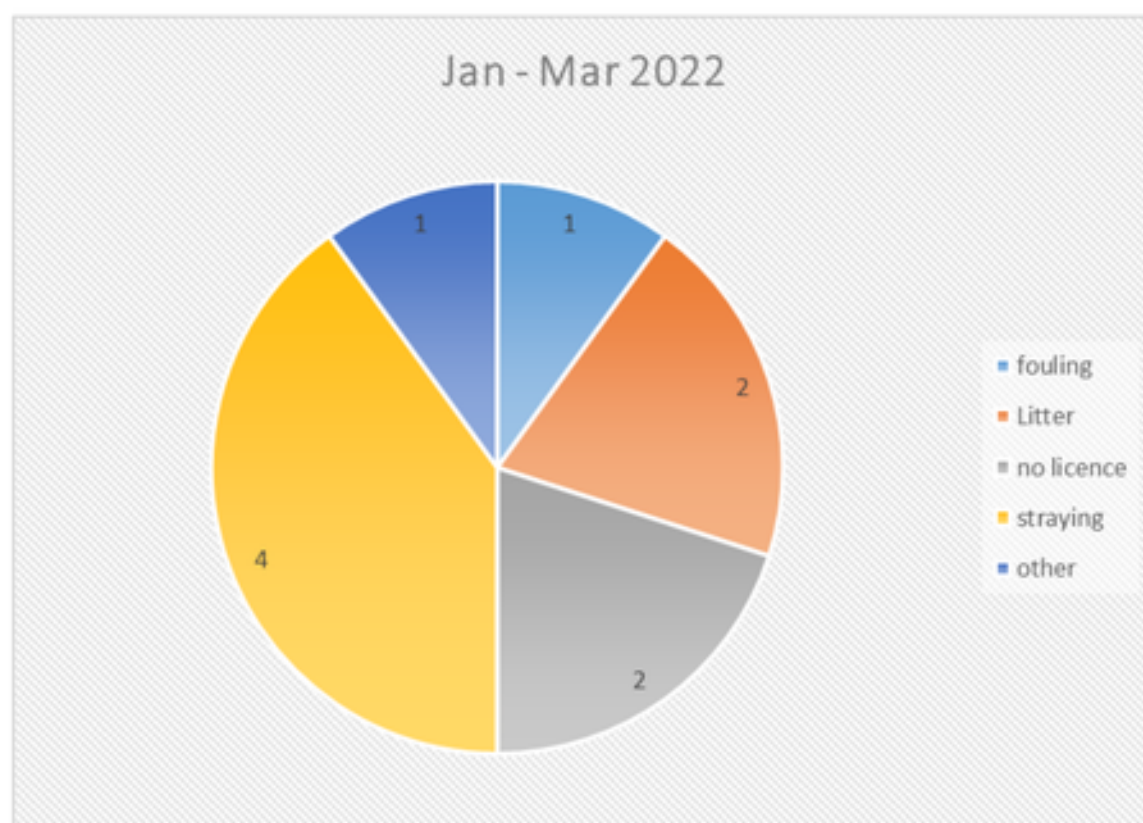
AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the recommendation be adopted.

9. RESULT OF COURT PROCEEDINGS - NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT TEAM

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that:

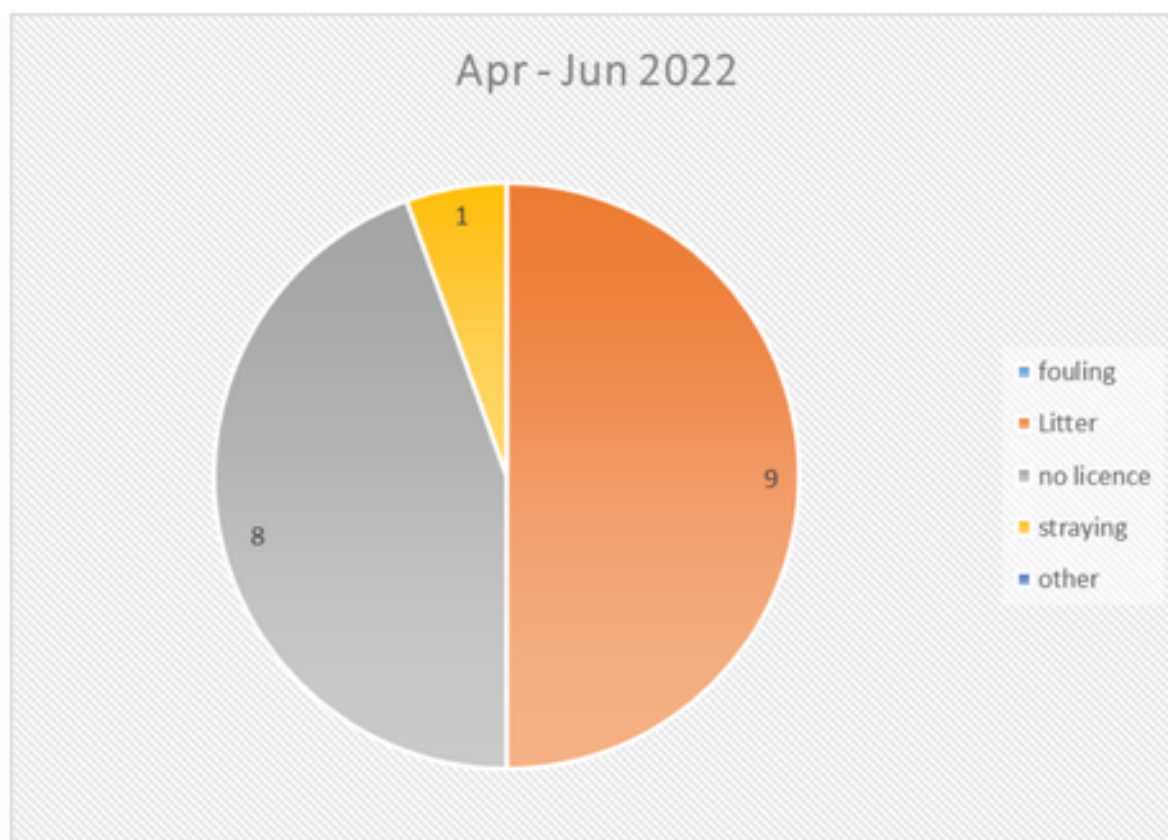
The following convictions were secured at Newtownards Magistrate's Court in the Quarters 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 and 1 April 2022 to 31 June 2022. See Appendix A attached.

In accordance with the instructions of the Resident Magistrate, the Council's solicitor would notify defendants upon first appearance in court in response to a summons, that they may seek to have the matter withdrawn upon payment of legal costs and any fixed penalty notice previously offered. The cases were then adjourned to permit a further opportunity for payment. That had resulted in a number of cases being settled and withdrawn on the day of court upon payment of all costs and fines.



The above pie chart outlined how many of each of the ten prosecution cases were in each category. They were disposed of by the court during the period January to March 2022 as follows:

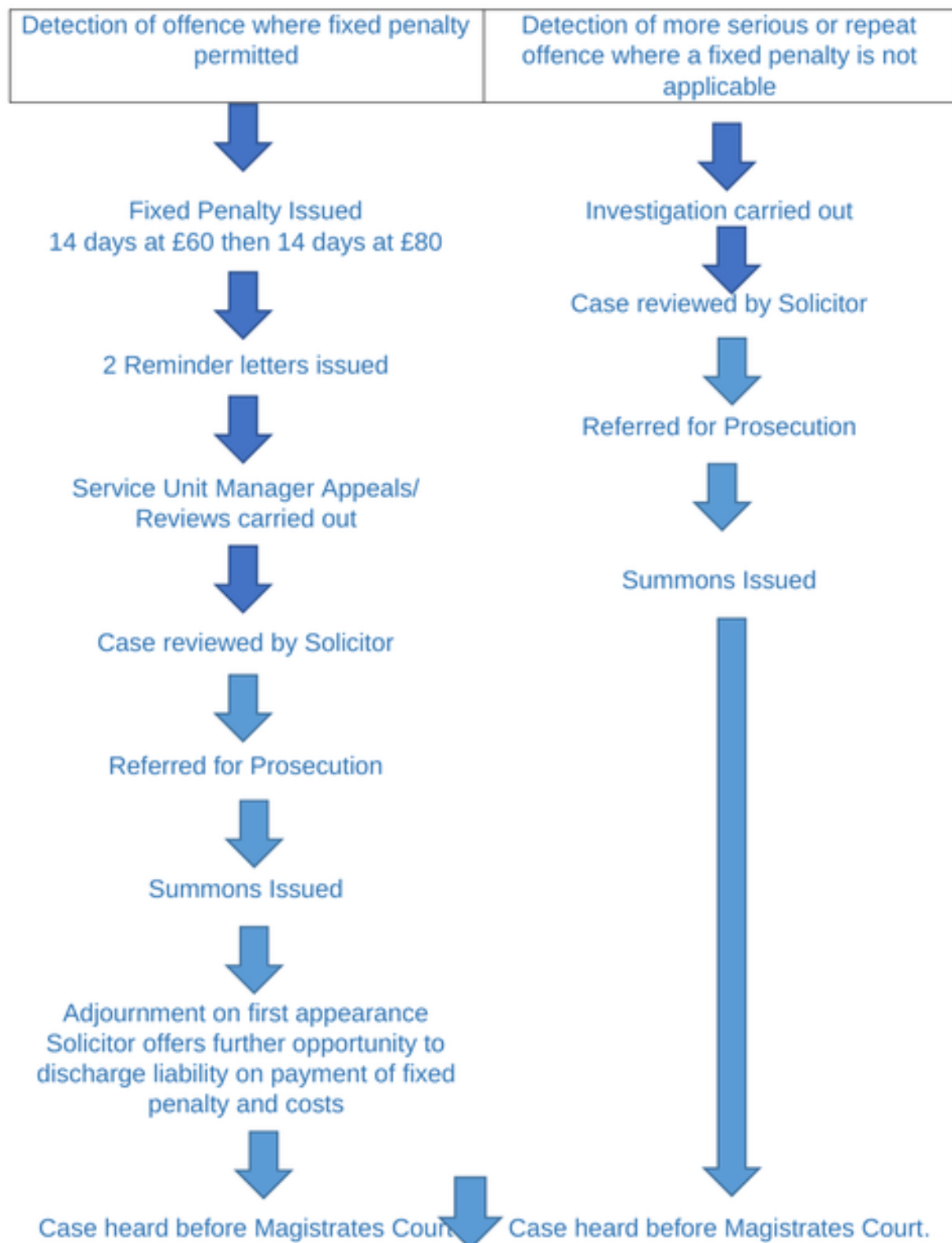
- One case was withdrawn as defendant's whereabouts are now unknown.
- Six cases were settled and withdrawn.
- Three convictions were obtained.



The above pie chart outlined how many of each of the eighteen prosecution cases were in each category. They were disposed of by the court during the period April to June 2022 as follows:

- Three cases were withdrawn as defendant's whereabouts were now unknown.
- Four cases were settled and withdrawn.
- Eleven convictions were obtained.

The enforcement process carried out by the Neighbourhood Environment Team was as follows:



Council Solicitor reports outcome and Environment Committee informed

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

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

10. BUILDING CONTROL Q4 ACTIVITY REPORT (1 JANUARY 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2022)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that the information provided in the report covered, unless otherwise stated, the period 1 January 2022 to 31 March 2022 (Quarter 4). The aim of the report was to provide Members with details of some of the key activities of Building Control, the range of services it provided along with details of level of performance. The report format had been introduced across Regulatory Services.

Applications

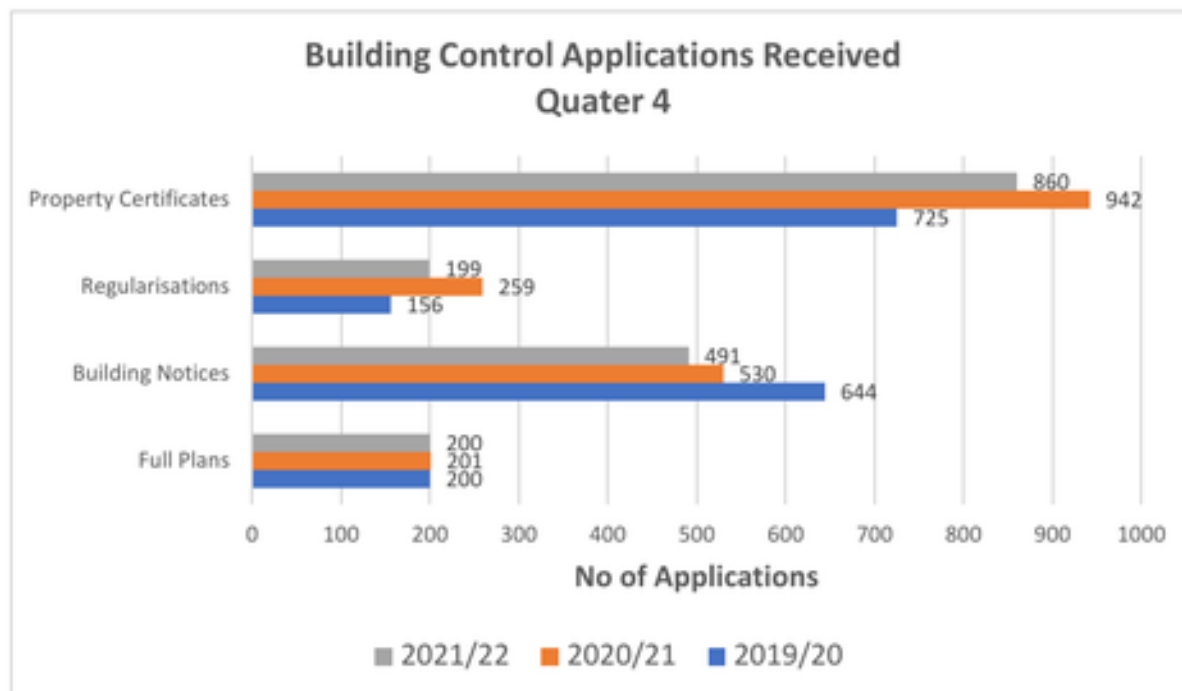
Full Plan applications were made to Building Control for building works to any commercial building, or for larger schemes in relation to residential dwellings.

Building Notice applications were submitted for minor alterations such as internal wall removal, installation of heating boilers or systems, installation of all types of insulation and must be made before work commenced. Those applications were for residential properties only.

Regularisation applications considered all works carried out illegally without a previous Building Control application in both commercial and residential properties. A regularisation application considered all types of work retrospectively and under the Building Regulations in force at the time the works were carried out.

Property Certificate applications were essential to the conveyancing process in the sale of any property, residential or commercial, and provided information on Building Control history and Council held data.

	Period of Report 01/01/2022 – 31/03/2022	01/01/2021- 31/03/2021	01/01/2020 – 31/03/2020
Full Plan Applications	200	201	200
Building Notice Applications	491	530	644
Regularisation Applications	199	259	156
Property Certificate Applications	860	942	725



The number of Full Plan applications received was very much determined by the economic climate, any changes in bank lending or uncertainty in the marketplace may cause a reduction in Full Plan applications. There were no direct internal means to control the number of applications received.

Regulatory Approvals and Completions

Turnaround times for full plan applications were measured in calendar days from the day of receipt within the Council, to day of posting (inclusive).

Inspections had to be carried out on the day requested due to commercial pressures on the developer/builder/householder, and as such any pressures on that end of the business reflected on the turnaround of plans timescale.

	Period of Report 01/01/2022 – 31/03/2022	Same quarter last year	Comparison	Average number of days to turnaround plan
Domestic Full Plan Turnarounds within target (21 calendar days)	51.9%	76%	↓	30
Non-Domestic Full Plan Turnarounds within target	70.0%	65%	↑	38

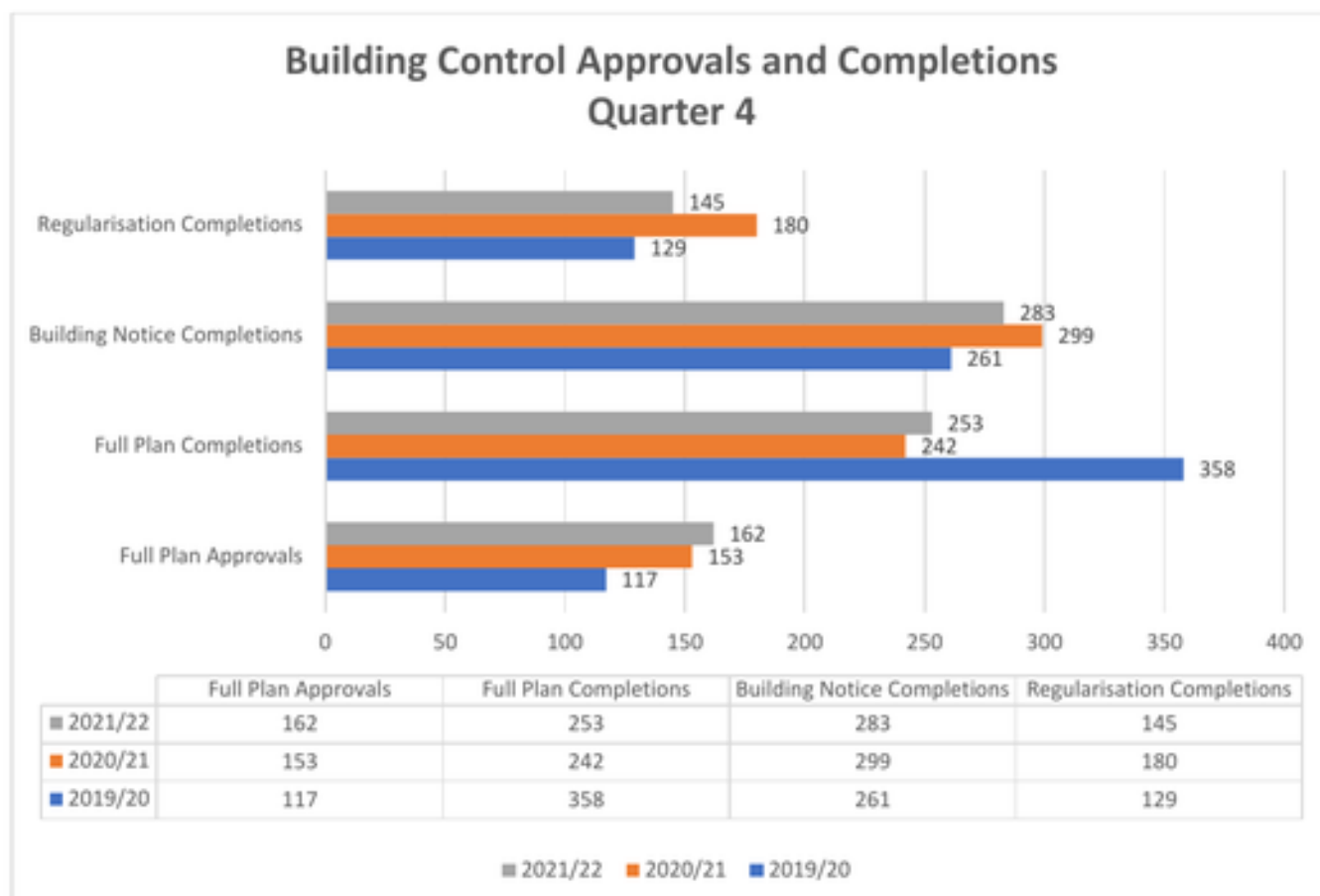
(35 calendar days)				
--------------------	--	--	--	--

Regulatory Approvals and Completions

The issuing of Building Control Completion Certificates indicated that works were carried out to a satisfactory level and met the current Building Regulations.

Building Control Full Plan Approval indicated that the information and drawings submitted as part of an application met current Building Regulations and works could commence on site.

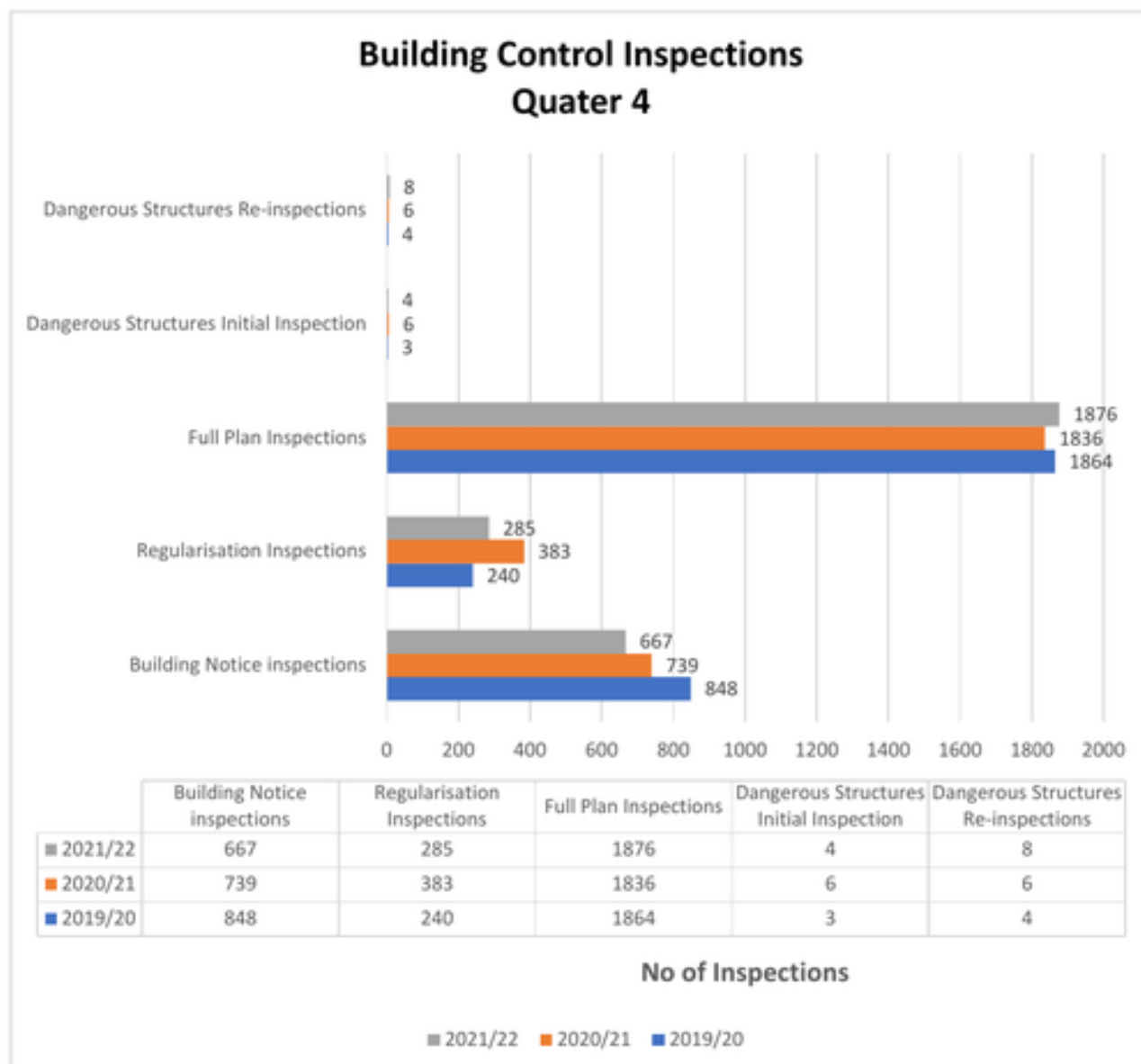
	Period of Report 01/01/2022 – 31/03/2022	01/01/2021 – 31/03/2021	01/01/2020 – 31/03/2020
Full Plan Approvals	162	153	117
Full Plan Completions	253	242	358
Building Notice Completions	283	299	261
Regularisation Completions	145	180	129



Inspections

Under the Building Regulations applicants were required to give notice at specific points in the building process to allow inspections. The inspections were used to determine compliance and for improvement or enforcement.

	Period of Report 01/01/2022 - 31/03/2022	01/01/2021 – 31/03/2021	01/01/2020 – 31/03/2020
Full Plan Inspections	1876	1836	1864
Building Notice Inspections	667	739	848
Regularisation Inspections	285	383	240
Dangerous structures initial inspection	4	6	3
Dangerous structure re-inspections	8	6	4
Total inspections	2840	2970	2959

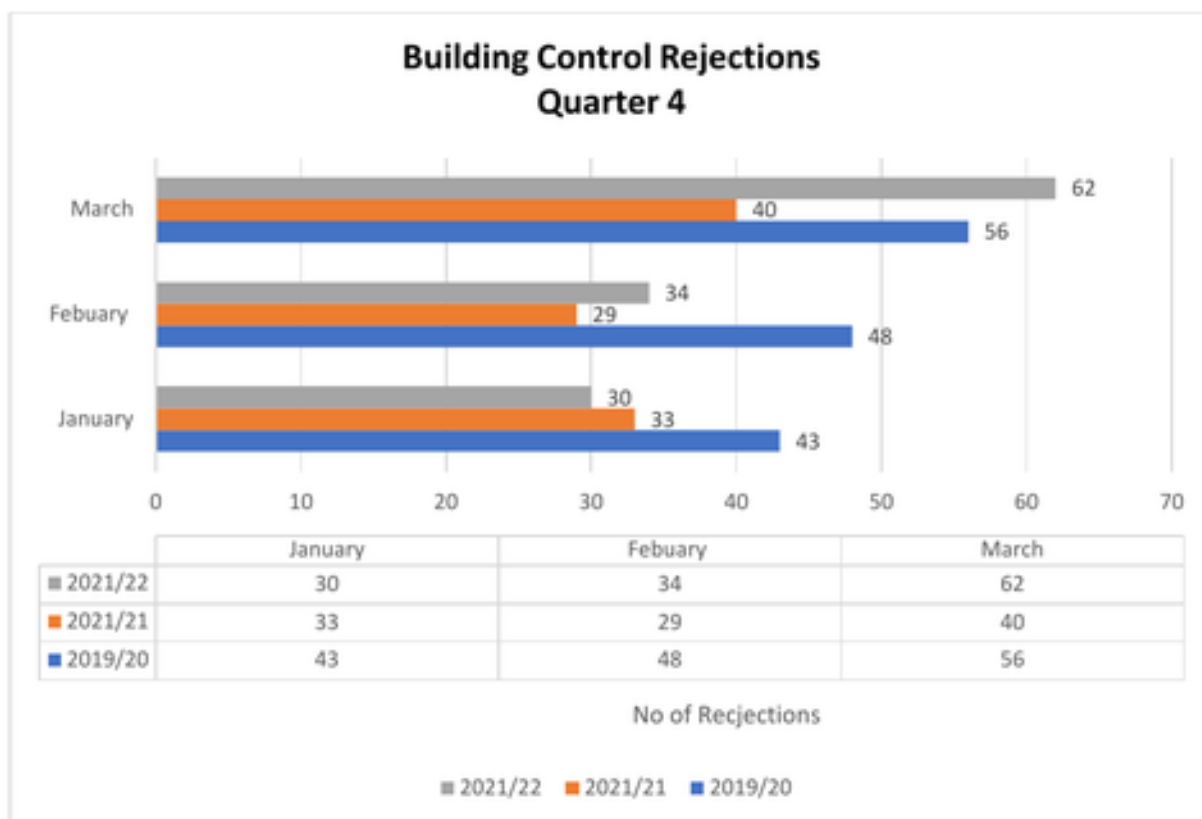


Non-Compliance

Where it was not possible to Approve full plan applications they were required to be rejected. Building Control Full Plan Rejection Notices indicated that after assessment there were aspects of the drawings provided that did not meet current Building Regulations. A Building Control Rejection Notice set out the changes or aspects of the drawings provided that needed to be amended. After those amendments were completed, the amended drawings should be submitted to Building Control for further assessment and approval.

	Period of Report 01/01/2022 – 31/03/2022	01/01/2021 – 31/03/2021	01/01/2020 – 31/03/2020
Full Plan Rejection Notice	126	102	147

Dangerous Structure Recommended for legal action	0	0	0
Court Cases	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0



RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

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

Councillor Cathcart noted that the Council's turnaround times for domestic full plans had fallen but looking at the number of applications there seemed to be roughly the same amount and he wondered about the reason for that. The Director could not give a definitive answer but thought that there were issues around unfilled staff vacancies. He agreed to come back to the Member on the matter when he had spoken with the Building Control Manager.

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

11. NEIGHBOURHOOD ENVIRONMENT TEAM Q1 ACTIVITY REPORT (1 APRIL 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2022)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that the information provided in the report covered, unless otherwise stated, the period 1 April to 30 June 2022. The aim of the report was to provide Members with details of some of the key activities of the Team, the range of services it provided along with details of level of performance.

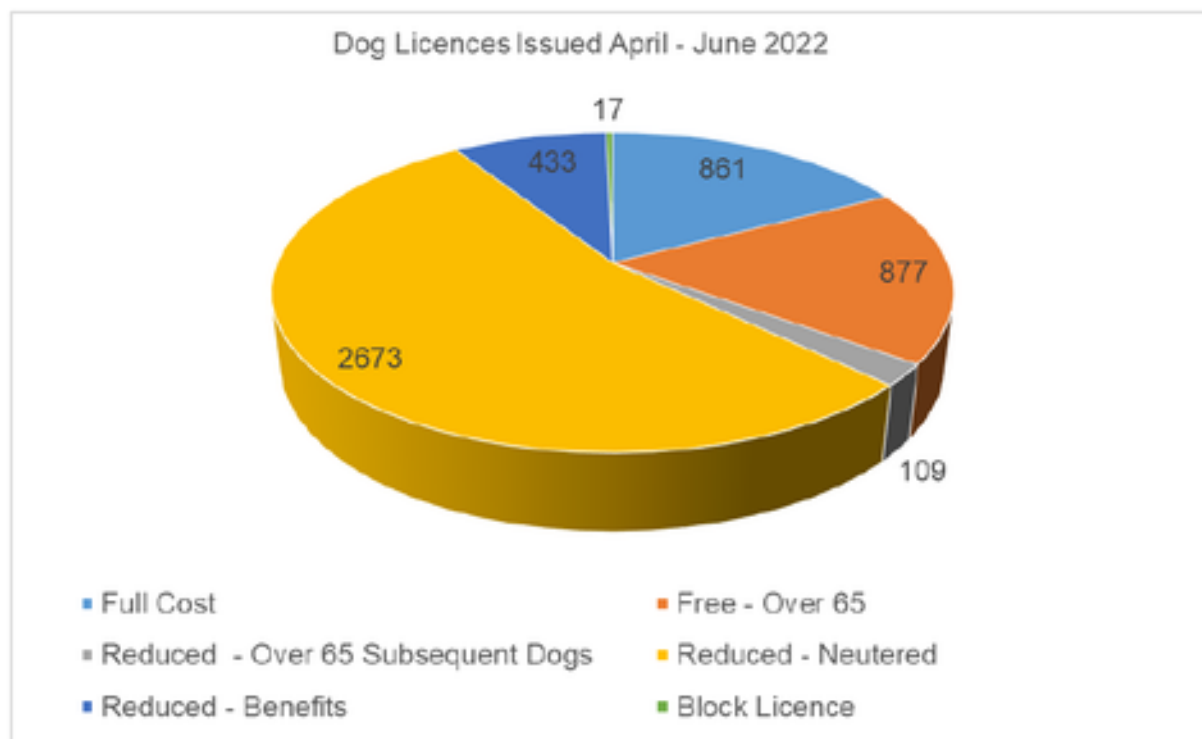
Applications to the Neighbourhood Environment Team

The Dogs (NI) Order 1983

It should be noted that those figures included block licences where one licence could be issued for multiple dogs in specific circumstances.


	Period of Report April – June 2022	Same 3 months April – June 2021	Comparison
Dog licences issued during the three months	4953	4610	↑

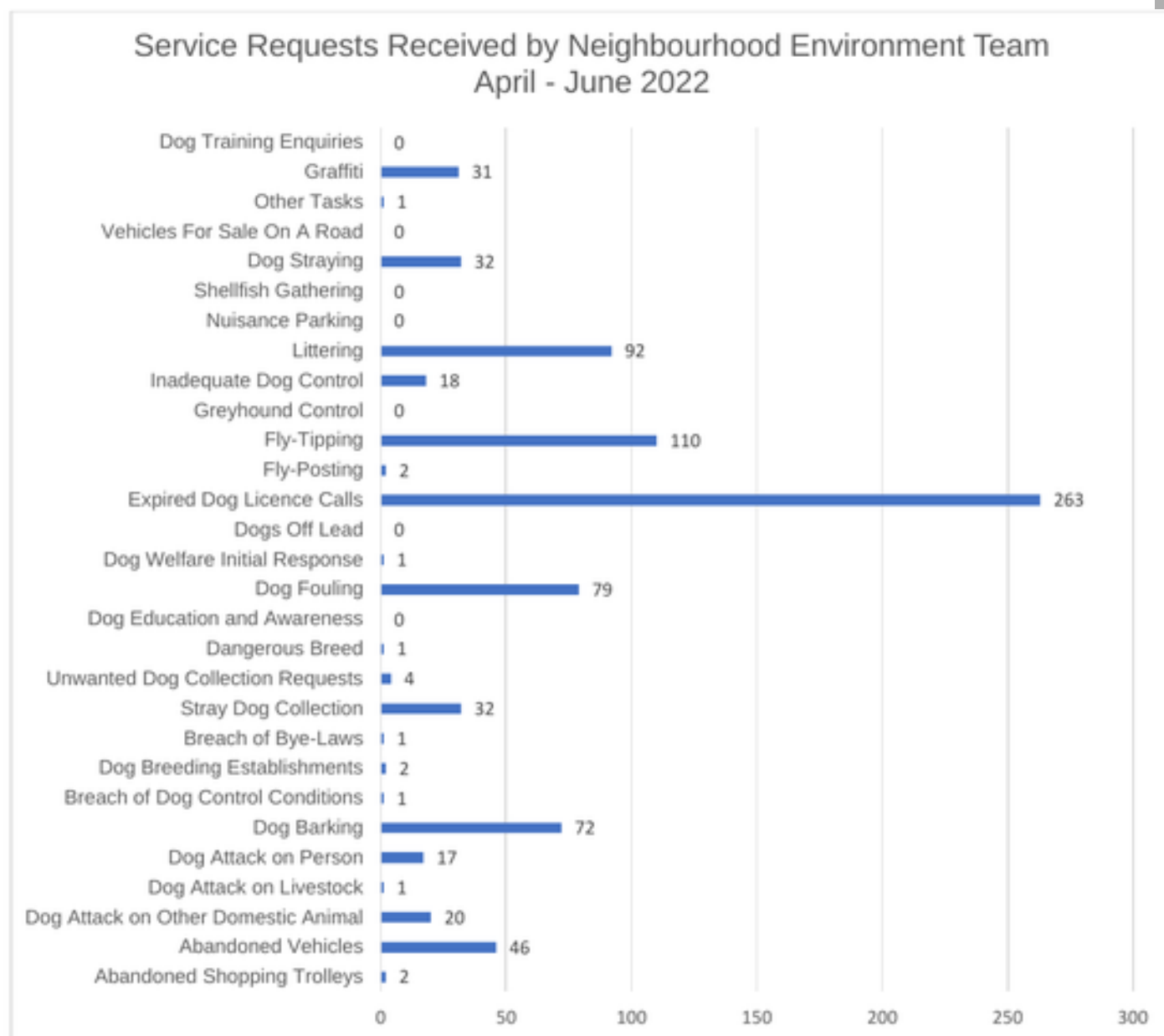
Concessionary licences remained at 82% of dog licences issued over the period. That included the categories of neutering (£5) / over 65 (Free – first dog) / over 65 subsequent dog (£5) and income related benefits (£5). Standard dog licence £12.50 and block licence £32.



Investigations

The Neighbourhood Environment Team responded to a range of service requests. In terms of time spent, some types of service requests would be completed immediately whilst others required a longer-term strategy to find a resolution. The total number of service requests had been outlined together with a sample of the types of requests received.

	Period of Report April – June 2022	Same 3 months April - June 2021	Comparison
Service Requests received the three months	832	1008	



Non-Compliance

Prosecutions





	Period of Report April – June 2022	Same 3 months April – June 2021	Comparison
Total Prosecutions	17	44	

The level of prosecutions during the same period last year included a back log of cases delayed due to Covid-19.

Fixed Penalty Notices

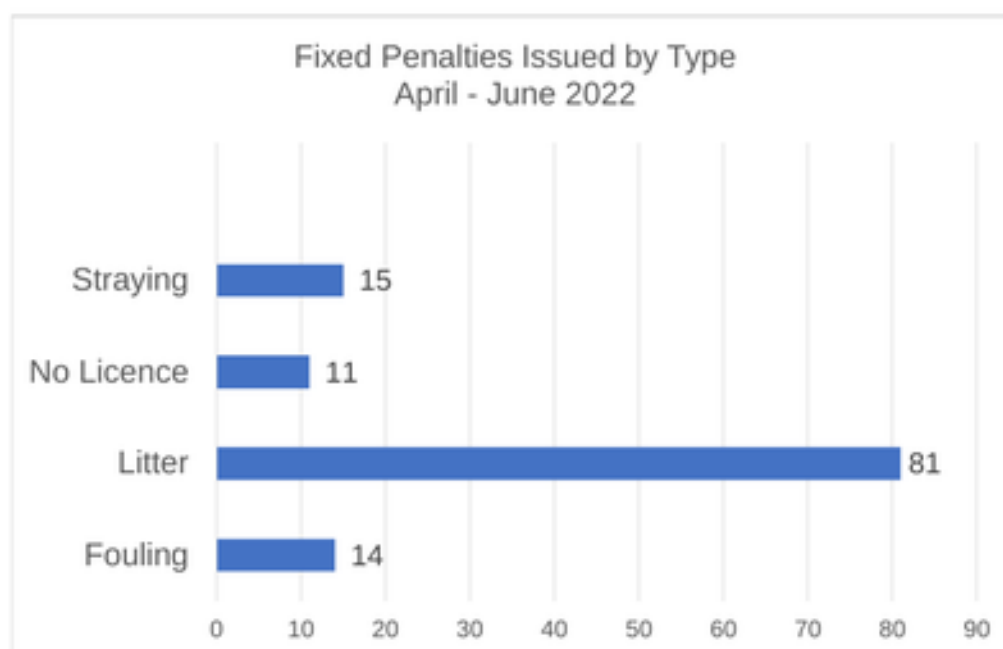
In addition to cases being prosecuted through the court, **121** fixed penalty notices had been issued in respect of various matters. That continued to demonstrate a sustained Council focus upon detecting and punishing those who persisted in committing environmental offences in the Borough and highlighted one patrolling outcome of the Neighbourhood Environment Team achieved despite the reduction in staffing levels due to sickness and vacant posts.

The main categories of fixed penalties were shown below. Other categories existed ie. breach of dog control conditions, exclusion order and off lead offences. The offer of an £80 Fixed Penalty Fine was an opportunity to discharge liability to prosecution. A payment period of 28 days was permitted. If paid within 14 days, the fine was discounted to £60. As staff recruitment and retention remained a challenge that had impacted on the number of notices issued during the quarter.

	Period of Report April – June 2022	Same 3 months April – June 2021	Comparison
Fouling	14	18	
Litter	81	99	
No Dog Licence	11	16	
Straying	15	8	

The following graphs demonstrate:

1. the total number of fixed penalties issued by the Neighbourhood Environment Team during each month of the period of report
2. the fixed penalties issued during the period of report by type



Appendix A to the report provided a street level location for each of the penalty fines issued during the period of report 1 April to 30 June 2022.

Environmental Education Programme – Preliminary Actions

The Neighbourhood Environment Team had traditionally undertaken an Education Programme for primary and post primary schools and also for youth and community groups. As Covid-19 restrictions eased, we now plan to reintroduce a new programme of environmental awareness subjects which would be delivered in house by Council staff and supported by external agencies where necessary. That educational workstream complimented the enforcement work and was aimed at encouraging behavioural change and reducing environmental crime across the Borough.

The Recycling Community Investment Fund (RCIF) would contribute £25k towards the programme as this budget was previously earmarked for the previous CLEAR programme which ended when the RADAR facility closed.

The Neighbourhood Environment Team was presently undertaking the detailed planning of a structured sustainable programme designed for communities and schools. It would be the intention to have three main strands to the Environmental Education Programme focusing on education and schools, education in the community, and education around waste and recycling.

The team would work closely with the corporate communications section in the design of a strategy and branding to maximise engagement with young people at a suitable level for each age range and impact the wider community with positive messaging which reinforced community and individual responsibility to better protect the environment.

The Council was developing and assessing the effectiveness of a programme which may include elements such as a series of engaging talks and presentations delivered on current environmental topics such as climate change, human impact on landscape, littering, marine microplastics, practical classroom-based fish conservation projects and rewilding. That part of the programme would be offered on a modular basis with schools that completed the most modules being eligible for an end of year outdoor event.



An example of rock pool finds during an outdoor school session

Additionally, a suite of initiatives would be offered to improve and enhance local communities. That would include support for beach clean ups, advice on community improvement projects, and liaising with Live Here Love Here to improve community engagement and to share experience and expertise.

It would be the intention to undertake promotional work and to engage with schools from September to December 2022 and begin with Year 8 presentations in schools in January 2023.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes the report.

Proposed by Councillor MacArthur, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the recommendation be adopted.

On proposing the recommendation Councillor MacArthur thought that under education some of the topics being covered had, in her opinion, been well done already.

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

12. GRANT OF AMUSEMENT PERMIT

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that the following application for an Amusement Permit had been received:

Premises: Oasis Gaming, 39 High Street, Newtownards

Applicant: Mr Martin Trimble, Gowan Heights, Belfast
Mr Gerald Steinberg, Ailsa Road, Holywood

Application for a **provisional licence** had been made under Article 108 (1) (ca) of the Order to provide gaming machines with a maximum cash prize pay-out of £25. Access to the premises would be restricted to over 18-year-olds only.

A **provisional licence** application was made before the premises were completed. Once completed to the Council's satisfaction the application would need to be brought back to the Council to confirm it.

Comment

The application had been publicly advertised as required by the Order and there had been no objections.

The PSNI had also confirmed that they did not have any objection to the provisional grant of the application.

Planning approval had also been granted for Oasis Gaming, 39 High Street, Newtownards.

Should the Council be minded to refuse the application or wish to impose further restrictions on the applicant then the Council was required to serve Notice on the applicant stating the proposed grounds for the refusal or additional restrictions. The applicant then had 14 days to inform the Council in writing of their desire to show cause, in person or by a representative as to why the application should not be refused or the additional conditions applied.

RECOMMENDED that the Council considers the application and confirms if they wish to grant or indicate their intention to refuse the application.

Proposed by Councillor Boyle, seconded by Councillor McKee, that the recommendation be adopted and that the application be approved.

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter put on record that she could not support the application. When it had come to the Council as a planning issue, she had been lobbied by a number of local businesses which were not happy with a licence being given for a location on one of the main streets of the town. It was for that reason that she could not add her name in support.

Other Members who also wished to oppose the application were Councillor Edmund, Councillor MacArthur and Councillor Cummings.

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

13. GRANT OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENCES

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

1. Field of Dreams – Stretch Tent

Applicant: Mr Greg Brown, 55 Gransha Road, Bangor

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 or any other entertainment of a like kind.

2. James Carrol Memorial Hall

Applicant: Mr Paul Greer, 9 Nairn Court, Newtownards

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

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

3. The Topsy Gypsy, 1-3 Court Square, Newtownards

Applicant: Mr Ben Stewart, 80 Belfast Road, Antrim

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. Alexander's, 57 High Street, Holywood

Applicant: Mr Ben Stewart, 80 Belfast Road, Antrim

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.

5. The Sandpiper Inn, 64 Main Street, Ballywalter

Applicant: Ms Karen Collins, 54 Sandhill Parade, Belfast

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: Any entertainment which consisted of or included any public contest, match, exhibition or display of - boxing, wrestling, judo, karate or any similar sport, billiards, pool, snooker or any similar game or darts.
Dancing, singing or music or any other entertainment of a like kind.
Machines for entertainment and amusement. Equipment for playing snooker or similar games.

Comment

All of the above applications had been publicly advertised and no objections had been received.

The PSNI and NIFRS had also advised that they had no objections.

RECOMMENDED that the Council grants the applications listed in the report.

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

14. GRANT OF PAVEMENT CAFÉ LICENCES

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that the following applications had been received for the grant of a Pavement Café Licences:

1. Suitor & Co

Applicant: Ms Victoria McAleese, 106 Willowbrook Park, Bangor

Venue: Suitor & Co Café, 45 High Street, Holywood

Day and hours of use:

Monday 08.30 - 16.00

Tuesday – Sunday 07.30 - 17.00

2. Lynchpin

Applicant: Mr Joseph McGowan, 10 Southview Street, Belfast

Venue: Lynchpin Café, 49 High Street, Holywood

Day and hours of use:

Wednesday – Sunday 09.00 - 17.00

3. The Woburn Arms

Applicant: Mr Thomas Bickerstaff, 52 Abbey Road, Millisle

Venue: The Woburn Arms Public House, 69 Main Street, Millisle

Day and hours of use:

Monday – Saturday	12.00 - 21.00
Sunday	12.30 - 21.00

Comment

The applications had been publicly displayed on the relevant premises for 28 days as required in the legislation. No objections had been received.

DFI Roads and the Planning Service had been consulted and where necessary the PSNI. No objections had been raised to those applications.

Under the agreed conditions of licence, the pavement cafes would be required to:

- only use the agreed area to be outlined in the licence,
- provide only the approved furniture,
- completely remove any furniture from the pavement at the end of each day's trading
- keep the area used for the café clean of litter and liquid spills.

RECOMMENDED that the Council grants the above licences.

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

Councillor Boyle was happy to propose the recommendation stating that businesses needed all the support that could be given to them.

Seconding the recommendation Councillor Cathcart asked if alcohol could be included in a pavement café licence and the Committee was informed that alcohol could only be served within the designated delineated licenced area of a premises.

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

15. GRANT OF STREET TRADING LICENCE

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that an application had been received for the grant of a Stationary Street Trading Licence, to trade at designated sites within the Borough:

Applicant: Mr William Cariaga Medina

Address: 35 Manse Gate, Newtownards

Goods to be supplied: Hot Food - Pizza

There were no objections to this application.

RECOMMENDED that the Council grants the Street Trading Licence.

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

16. PROPOSED STREET NAMING – WOODLAND AVENUE, WOODLAND GREEN, AND WOODLAND WALK, COMBER

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that a development comprising of 58 dwellings was currently under construction on lands at Ardara Grove, Comber.

The developer had suggested the names Woodland Avenue, Woodland Green and Woodland Walk to recognise the mature/veteran trees marking the site line at both the Northern and Eastern boundaries. The site also included a mature woodland to the South. The names were in keeping with the general neighbourhood.

RECOMMENDED that the Council:

- (a) adopt the street names Woodland Avenue, Woodland Green and Woodland Walk; and
- (b) accepts the general name and delegates acceptance of suffixes to the Building Control department.

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

17. PROPOSED STREET NAMING – CASTLELODGE GARDENS, COMBER

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that a development comprising of 22 dwellings was currently under construction on lands at Castlelodge Park, Comber.

The developer had suggested the name Castlelodge Gardens which was in keeping with the general neighbourhood.

RECOMMENDED that the Council:

- (a) adopt the street name Castlelodge Gardens; and
- (b) accepts the general name and delegates acceptance of suffixes to the Building Control department.

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

18. ON STREET ELECTRIC CHARGE POINT SCHEME UPDATE

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that Members may recall from previous reports on the subject that the UK government had established a capital grant funding scheme for installation of On Street Residential Charge Points. That was a UK wide £20M grant pot administered by the Office for Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV), and the scheme was extended into the current 2022-23 financial year. It was only available to Local Authorities and the funding available was for 75% of the capital costs of procuring and installing on-street residential charge points and associated dedicated parking bays (where applicable), in line with OLEV technical specifications. NI Local Authorities were eligible, like all other UK local authorities, to apply to the On Street Residential Charge Point Scheme (ORCS) - whilst central government departments such as the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) could not. That reflected the GB position (unlike NI) whereby Local Authorities were the statutory roads authorities; they owned and controlled the streets where the installation of the on-street residential charging infrastructure was to be installed under the ORCS. However, under the scheme Councils were also able to apply for funding from the ORCS to install residential charge points in public car parks (rather than on a residential street itself), provided the car park was located in a residential area where there was demand for residential EV charging and there was 24/7 access.

Last year, the then DfI Minister Nicola Mallon, announced that her Department would provide the 25% balance of funding to NI Councils that were successful in securing the 75% funding package from the UK ORCS – meaning that NI Councils would be able to play their role in delivering that type of infrastructure support for the transition to an Electric Vehicle society, at no cost to local ratepayers.

An NI EV Consortium Working Group was established in 2021 to facilitate the improvement of NI Councils' electric vehicle Charge Point Infrastructure. That working group contributed to the Councils' objective to net zero carbon in line with Government targets.

The scope of the EV NI Consortium Working Group was to create and develop a knowledge-based approach and share best practice from other UK and EU cities. Many of those cities had successfully implemented EV Charge point infrastructures within their local areas and the working group could benefit from those experiences.

Working Group membership was open to a number of public stakeholders such as ten Councils across Northern Ireland, Department of Infrastructure, NI Housing Executive and Sustainable NI. The Working group members would act as a key point of contact within their respective organisations, with the aim to share knowledge and best practice. A database of membership was maintained by Derry City and Strabane District Council.

Derry City and Strabane District Council co-ordinated the collation of a list of potential electric vehicle charge point sites from all Council areas within the Consortium.

Ards and North Down Borough Council had submitted a list of fifteen suitable Council car park sites, located widely across the Borough in Bangor, Newtownards, Holywood, Comber, Donaghadee, Groomsport, Portaferry and Kircubbin. Council officers had focussed upon suitable Council owned car parks, as those were deemed to be electric vehicle charge point sites that were most readily deliverable by the Council with the minimum of impediments and timeframes required.

That list was compiled following discussions with all relevant Service Units including Assets and Property and Licensing and Regulatory Services. Key considerations in those discussions were: proximity to residential properties that did not have access to off street parking (and therefore convenient home electric vehicle charging options), size of car park and if the location was already serviced by charge points and/or was on the list as a potential location for the EU Interreg FASTER project (The Faster Project - Sustainable Transition to EV's (fasterevcharge.com)).

The list was then assessed by NIE in terms of feasibility and current infrastructure suitability.

ORCS Application Update

A joint application was submitted to the ORCS Fund on the Consortium's behalf by Derry City and Strabane Council earlier in the year. Notification had now been received that the bid was successful, and Ards and North Down had secured funding for fifteen EV Dual Charge Point Installations, across nine Council owned off street public car park locations

Holborn Square, Bangor	2 x Dual Charge Point Installations
Central Avenue, Bangor	1 x Dual Charge Point Installation
Bingham Lane, Bangor	1 x Dual Charge Point Installation
Ann Street, Newtownards	2 x Dual Charge Point Installations
Kennel Lane, Newtownards	2 x Dual Charge Point Installations
West Street, Newtownards	1 x Dual Charge Point Installation
Mill Street Gasworks, Newtownards	2 x Dual Charge Point Installations
Church Road, Newtownards	2 x Dual Charge Point Installations
Manor Street, Donaghadee	1 x Dual Charge Point Installation
Meeting House Street, Portaferry	1 x Dual Charge Point Installation
Total	15 x Dual Charge Point Installations

That was excellent news, and the work of Derry City and Strabane Council in playing a co-ordinating role for the successful bid was to be commended. One particular benefit of the collaborative bid across the nine participating NI Councils was the ability to aggregate the costs associated with all of the various proposed installation sites; the Council benefitted in particular from that since although several of our proposed sites went above the cost cap provided for per site within the scheme, they were able to be approved through the collaborative bid process across all Councils.

Next Steps

The Council agreed back in June 2022 to its participation in a collaborative tender process managed by Derry City and Strabane, for the appointment of a suitable Electric Vehicle Charge Point Operator (CPO) to procure, install, operate and maintain the planned 124 charge points through a public procurement process within the Crown Commercial Services Framework: Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Solutions (ref No: RM6213). That tender process was ongoing presently and was expected to be completed by the Autumn with an appointment of a CPO in late September or early October 2022.

Further updates on the project would be brought to the Council as and when available.

RECOMMENDED that the Council notes this report.

The Director gave an overview of the report and explained that this was a good outcome and was testament to the collaborate working among the Councils. He was particularly grateful to Derry City and Strabane Council who had facilitated the work. He added that he believed the funding needed to be spent before the end of this financial year and the work tied in with the Council's own car parking strategy.

Proposed by Councillor Kendall, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Kendall welcomed the electric charge points and hoped to see some further investment in this technology soon. She thought it would be impossible not to support a movement to more sustainable ways of travel and looked forward to seeing the new charge points in place.

Councillor Boyle agreed and paid tribute to former Minister Mallon, Department for Infrastructure, for her support for the initiative.

Councillor Cummings gave his support particularly since there had been no cost to the Borough's ratepayers and the matter had been discussed now for many years. He was aware that Alderman McIlveen would be pleased to see this come forward and expressed some disappointment that Comber had missed out in this round of funding. He asked the Director if he could give an indication as to the assessment of the areas and how they had been chosen.

In response the Director explained that the assessment criteria had been fairly complex. The Council had decided to use land owned and controlled by itself to reduce the number of barriers to development, it needed to be close to residences without private off-street parking and there were various technical criteria laid down by NIE. The intention was to have a good spread of locations throughout the Borough. He added that through the Council's car parking strategy there was an intention to move forward with rapid chargers that would facilitate visitors and

commuters into the Borough. The Council was working to secure some of the rapid chargers through the Interreg Faster Project.

Councillor Smart congratulated the Director and his team and considered this to be a radical transformation in terms of the infrastructure needed. He welcomed the additional nine charge points for Newtownards for use by residents and visitors to the area.

Councillor Greer was encouraged by the collaborate working across Councils and hoped that that could continue with other projects. Councillor MacArthur agreed pointing to the dearth of charging points in Northern Ireland. She wondered how charging would work in practice and how the resource could reach a large number of users. She also hoped that the areas which had been unsuccessful for this round of funding could perhaps try again at some future point.

The Director of Environment explained that the fine details of the use of the charge points would be established in due course. One of the conditions was that they had to be located in areas with unhindered access to residents, including at night. He also considered that an application could be resubmitted in future funding rounds if unsuccessful this time.

RECESS 9.02 pm

RECOMMENCED 9.12 pm

(Councillor Kendall and Councillor Johnson left the meeting at 9.12 pm)

Councillor Edmund welcomed this positive step forward and hoped that there would be further charge points on the Ards Peninsula coastline in the near future to support both local residents and visitors to the area. He thanked Alderman McIlveen for bringing the Motion before the Council in the first instance.

The Director highlighted an error in the table of proposed charge points, indicating that the double charge point listed for Church Road Newtownards, should instead have read Church Street Holywood. Councillors Greer and Kendall welcomed that information.

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

19. PARTNERING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE REMOVAL OF SNOW AND ICE FROM TOWN CENTRE FOOTWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS

(Appendix V & VI)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Environment detailing that reference was made to correspondence (Appendix 1) from DRD Transport NI relating to proposals for renewal of a voluntary partnership arrangement in relation to clearance of town centre footways and pedestrian areas of snow and ice, which had

been in place for the past three years. That was administered under the auspices of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Council and the Department, and a request had been received for the partnership arrangement to be extended for another 3-year period.

Both legacy Councils had in the past, notably in the Winter of 2010, assisted with the clearance of snow and ice during a prolonged period of extreme weather which significantly affected accessibility around town centres and caused severe disruption to normal community and business activity.

Officers remained content that during periods of exceptionally prolonged, extreme weather conditions (e.g. such as those that prevailed in the Winter of 2010), when routine Council services had been disrupted and the Council personnel were as a consequence available, we could facilitate the spirit of the Memorandum.

RECOMMENDED that the Council agrees to renewal of the Memorandum of Understanding with DRD Transport NI for a 3-year period subject to the following conditions:

1. Any Council support in relation to snow and ice clearance from town centres will only be provided under exceptionally prolonged, extreme weather conditions when normal Council services have consequently been disrupted and personnel and other Council resources are available to divert to snow and ice clearance activities.
2. The schedule of agreed footways to be treated shall be as agreed by Transport NI with Council Officers and may change depending upon operational circumstances and resource availability.
3. Confirmation from the Council's insurers that it is content with the Council's engagement under the Memorandum.

The Director advised that this MoU had this in place for a number of years and demonstrates willing on Council's part to collaborate with another statutory agency to alleviate the impact on the local community of an extreme weather event.

Proposed by Councillor Edmund, seconded by Councillor Boyle, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor Boyle referred to the legacy arrangement with the Department for Infrastructure (Dfi) which had been unclear about which organisation was responsible for the clearance of streets from snow and ice. He hoped that the Council was not doing the work of the Department.

The Director recognised that a modest sum of funding was offered by Dfi but the Council only stepped in to clear snow and ice in exceptional circumstances, mainly to help clear the town centres when its own staff were unable to deliver other services such as street cleansing or bin collections and were therefore available for redeployment. There was a limit to what the Council was committing to. The intent

of the agreement was that the Department had the ultimate responsibility in terms of liability.

Councillor McAlpine pointed out that the legacy systems still appeared to be in place with legacy North Down having a list street names/locations and legacy Ards showing maps. She urged the Council to have one recording system to be in place to reflect the new Council area of Ards and North Down.

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

20. NOTICE OF MOTION

20.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Irvine and Keery

That this Council changes the name of Queen's Parade to Queen's Platinum Jubilee Parade in honour and recognition of the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.

Amendment Received from Councillor Cathcart

That this Council, in recognition of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and her conferment of City Status upon Bangor, agree to name an appropriate place or building within Bangor in her honour and that future Council Bangor entrance signs make reference to Bangor being a Platinum Jubilee City.

Alderman Irvine referred to his Motion and the intention to mark the 70th anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne and her honouring Bangor with City Status. He noted the amendment brought by Councillor Cathcart which in his opinion had the same general principle of his original Motion and he was happy to support the amendment.

Alderman Irvine said that it had not been his intention to be controversial with his Motion but on reflection the amendment would be a better way forward.

Alderman Irvine wished for a long-lasting recognition of the Queens Platinum Jubilee and the conferment of City Status upon Bangor. Those had been two significant events in history. He hoped that in the future there would be Council signs at the entrance of Bangor recognising that it had been a Jubilee City. The Queen's Platinum Jubilee had been hugely successful, and he believed there would be opportunities to name other streets or parks in this way in time perhaps around the newly developed Marine Gardens. He was content that officers bring back a report on the options that Members could look at.

Alderman Keery did not think that there was much further to add other than that it would be an appropriate gesture to mark the Platinum Jubilee. He believed that

there was no controversy around that and thought that it was something to which the Council could agree.

Proposed by Councillor Cathcart, seconded by Alderman Smith that the amended proposal be adopted.

Councillor Cathcart thanked Alderman Irvine and Alderman Keery for bringing the Motion and considered that it might be problematic to change a street name and he had gotten the impression that residents would not have been keen to add further to their Queen's Parade address. He referred to the history of Queen's Parade which had been named after Queen Alexandra in 1903 after a royal visit to Bangor. The nature of his amendment was to extend the possibilities and look at further options to pay tribute to the Queen and name something in her honour. He agreed that entrance signs to Bangor could be changed to reflect the City Status. The Platinum Jubilee had been a momentous occasion for Her Majesty the Queen, and he looked forward to a report coming back to the Committee.

Alderman M Smith was very pleased to second the amendment and hoped that officers would come back with a sensible way forward to mark Bangor's City Status in the Platinum Jubilee year.

Councillor Boyle had no problems supporting the amendment and thanked Councillor Cathcart for bringing it. He asked if the Director had any idea of the timescale for new signs to Bangor and believed that it would be right for that to happen as soon as possible. The Director stated that officers would take guidance from Members and look at options if that was the view of the Committee.

Councillor Cathcart was of the opinion that the signs could come in the longer term and in the short term a street or park could be named marking the Platinum Jubilee year and Alderman Irvine agreed with that. Councillor Cathcart suggested that the Town steering group could be involved in choosing a suitable location to name.

Councillor Smart was happy to support the amendment and viewed it as offering further and wider scope. The Platinum Jubilee had had a uniting effect across the nation and the service and dedication of Her Majesty over so many years should be marked. He suggested that elected Members of the Bangor Central Ward could also be part of a working group to give the subject further consideration and set out an historical marker.

Councillor MacArthur added her support to those comments and had hoped to second the amendment. She agreed that this would be an important historical marker.

(Councillor McKee left the meeting at 9.50 pm)

Alderman Irvine thanked Members for all their comments and helpful suggestions.

The Chair concluded the discussion emphasising that it would be very important to recognise the work of Queen Elizabeth II, and this was also a very important historical moment which should be recognised. It was therefore important in his view to take a bit of time to consider options and get something right and fitting to mark the occasion.

AMENDED MOTION AGREED.

20.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillors Chambers and Brooks

We ask this Council to consider the urgent provision of sea rescue equipment to Cove Bay beach, known locally as the third beach, in Groomsport. A review into other locations around the Borough, should also be considered.

Proposed by Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor Smart, that the Notice of Motion be adopted.

Councillor Chambers explained that he was a fairly frequent walker on the coastline between Ballyholme and Orlock but until recently it had never occurred to him that there was no safety equipment available in that area. That had been highlighted to him lately under traumatic circumstances when someone had got into difficulty in the water and local people had taken to the shoreline to help, attempting to use anything that they could find to come to assistance. It had been very stressful.

Members were aware that over the past few years there had been a marked increase in sea swimming and other water-based activities but along with those came an increase in danger and something as simple as a life ring could be the difference between life and death. He was aware that the same situation could apply to other areas of the coastline.

Councillor Smart gave his support in seconding the Motion and had first-hand experience of the real dangers of the sea both with increasing recreation in the water and a larger population. He thought that the onus was on the Council to do what it could to support people close to the sea and looked forward to what might come from a review.

The Chair asked Councillor Chambers if he would like a report to look at the policy and provision of sea rescue equipment throughout the Borough and the Member agreed but asked that Groomsport be considered in the first instance since that village had been the purpose of his Motion.

Councillors Edmund, Boyle and MacArthur also expressed their support for the Motion noting that the lifeboats had been busy this year so the Council should be proactive at looking at this for Groomsport with a further review for other parts of the Borough.

AGREED.

21. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Notified Business.

EXCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC/PRESS

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

22. REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRE CCTV SYSTEM

*****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)

23. PROPOSED LITTER CAM TRIAL – 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)

24. AURORA ROOF DEFECTS

*****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 Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Edmund, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 10.34 pm.

Unclassified

126

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	28 September 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	21 September 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below.
Subject	Supplementary Report - Item 20.1 Environment Committee, NOM on Naming and Signage Associated with Bangor Platinum Jubilee City Status
Attachments	

At the Environment Committee held on 8th September 2022, it was agreed to recommend the following amended to a Notice of Motion:

"That this Council, in recognition of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and her conferment of City Status upon Bangor, agree to name an appropriate place or building within Bangor in her honour and that future Council Bangor entrance signs make reference to Bangor being a Platinum Jubilee City."

In view of the nature and substance of the agreed amended motion and subject to approval of the recommendation from the Committee by Council, it is proposed that this matter be referred to the Administration and Corporate Communications Departments – and be managed and taken forward through the Corporate Committee.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council agrees to the proposal set out in this report.

ITEM 8.3

127

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A virtual meeting of the Corporate Services Committee was held via Zoom on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 19:00 hours.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor P Smith

Aldermen: Gibson McIlveen
Girvan Keery
Irvine

Councillors: Blaney Irwin
Chambers McKimm
Dunlop P Smith
Douglas T Smith
Greer
Gilmour

Officers: Director of Organisational Development & Administration (S Swanston), Director of Finance & Performance (S Christie), Head of Finance (S Grieve), Head of Administration (A Curtis), and Democratic Services Officer (S McCrea)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Alderman M Smith.

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. ITEM WITHDRAWN**4. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS NI CONFERENCE**

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

The following email was sent to all NAC Members on 22 August 2022

Dear NAC Members

You are cordially invited to attend a National Association of Councillors (NI Region) Conference taking place on Tuesday 27 September in the Glenavon House Hotel, 52 Drum Road, Cookstown, BT80 8JQ:

NAC at 30 years, Defining Our Positive Future

The Conference is planned to run from 9.30am to 4pm approximately and will be independently facilitated by Mr Derek McCallan, former CEO of NILGA. NILGA's current CEO, Ms Alison Allen, will also support the day.

An Agenda is currently being finalised and this along with further information will be forwarded in due course.

I do hope that you can attend this participative conference in-person, however if not, a hybrid format will allow NAC Members unable to travel to Cookstown to participate virtually.

Please note that non-Council nominated delegates that wish to attend in-person will need to seek clearance from their respective Councils.

Yours sincerely

Joe

*Cllr Joe Boyle
SECRETARY
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS
Northern Ireland Region*

The Council had 7 Elected Members nominated to the NAC as follows:

	2019/23
1	Alderman McDowell
2	Alderman Wilson
3	Councillor Boyle
4	Alderman Gibson
5	Councillor Thompson
6	Alderman Carson
7	Alderman Keery
8	-

RECOMMENDED that Council notes the attendance of the NAC Members, should they wish to attend in person, and considers if they wish to nominate any other Councillors to attend the conference.

On the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Councillor Blaney, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor T Smith asked to be recorded as against the recommendation.

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

5. REQUESTS TO LIGHT UP COUNCIL BUILDINGS IN SUPPORT OF UKRAINE
(LP37)

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

In response to the invasion by Russia of Ukraine in February 2022, and to show the Council's support for and solidarity with Ukraine, it was agreed at the March 2022 Corporate Committee (and subsequently ratified at March Council) by Members through the Party Group Leaders, Independents and single Member Parties to light up Council buildings blue and yellow on Friday 25th, Saturday 26th and Sunday 27th February 2022.

It was subsequently agreed by the Council to continue to light up its buildings in support and in solidarity with the people of Ukraine if there were no other scheduled events and it was agreed that the Corporate Services Committee would keep that under review at each Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDED that Council considers whether it wishes to continue to light up Council buildings in blue and yellow in support of Ukraine on dates when there are no other light ups programmed (and if so, that that would continue to be reviewed on a monthly basis at the Corporate Services Committee).

Councillor T Smith presented an amendment to the proposal:

We will also consider whether we should continue to light up council buildings at all, given the financial situation we are facing. A report on the cost of lighting up council properties will be brought back as soon as possible.

As the amendment was not seconded, the proposal fell. The Director of Organisational Development and Administration explained that both this and the next report sought permissions for future lighting of buildings but that both Conway Square and McKee lights were non-functioning and as such, lighting up may not be immediate, though it should be noted that the Head of Assets and Properties was looking into those issues.

On the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Alderman Keery, that the recommendation be adopted with Council continuing to light up Council buildings in support of the Ukraine conflict on dates when no other light-ups were programmed.

(Alderman McIlveen entered the meeting at 19:10 hours)

Councillor T Smith believed it necessary to get costings for lighting buildings especially during a cost-of-living crisis. Alderman McIlveen apologised for arriving

late and, in relation to non-functioning lighting, asked about additional costs for repairs. The Director of Organisational Development & Administration advised that an estimate could not be provided this evening and that this could be provided to the Alderman at a future date.

In relation to Councillor T Smith's earlier amended proposal, Councillor Gilmour advised that she would have been willing to second it given the new information received on building lighting and repairs. As such, she asked to amend the proposal to include the following:

A full report is brought back on the cost of lighting buildings and the costs or repairs to the lighting in recent years.

Both Aldermen Irvine and Keery as proposer and seconder respectively agreed with the addition. In summary, Alderman Irvine agreed that consumption of electricity was an important aspect and worthy of a report but also believed it important to show solidarity in lighting events such as that of Ukraine.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Irvine, seconded by Alderman Girvan that the recommendation be adopted and additionally that a report is brought back to Environment Committee to provide costings for both repairs and running of lighting up of buildings.

6. REQUESTS TO LIGHT UP COUNCIL BUILDINGS (LP37)

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

1. Anti-Slavery Day

Requestor

Richard Black – Modern Slavery Human Trafficking Branch, Department of Justice

Reason for request

To mark Anti-Slavery Day

Dates and colours

Lighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock red on 18th October 2022 and annually thereafter.

Background information

The purpose of Anti-Slavery Day was to acknowledge that millions of men, women and children continued to be victims of slavery, depriving them of basic human dignity and freedom, to raise awareness amongst young people and others of the dangers and consequences of slavery, human trafficking and exploitation and encourage them to be proactive in the fight against it and to draw attention to the work undertaken by all stakeholders to combat all forms of slavery, human trafficking and exploitation.

Does it meet policy requirements?

As the request had not meet the specific criteria set out in the policy (not based in or connected to the Borough), it required the consideration and approval of the Council.

2. World Arthritis DayRequestor

John McCormick – Northern Ireland Versus Arthritis

Reason for request

To mark World Arthritis Day

Dates and colours

Lighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock blue on 12th October 2022 and annually thereafter.

Background information

Around 42,000 people of all ages in North Down and Ards had arthritis, a condition that had a huge impact on people's lives but was often hidden and misunderstood. NI Versus Arthritis was asking councils in NI to "shine a light on arthritis by" lighting up blue for World Arthritis Day on 12th October 2022. They had provided the following information:

"The aim of World Arthritis Day is to highlight the massive impact of this debilitating condition and encourage people with the condition to get treatment and support. Versus Arthritis is a local and national charity that supports the 19 million people living with arthritis and related conditions across the UK (over 500,000 in Northern Ireland -around a quarter of the population). Musculoskeletal conditions are the biggest cause of physical disability in Northern Ireland...

...We have an active local peer support group that meets in Bangor once a month. World Arthritis Day is a fantastic opportunity to highlight the condition and the local support available, link to website at www.versusarthritis.org"

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.

3. Air Ambulance WeekRequestor

Damian McAnespie – Air Ambulance NI

Reason for request

To mark Air Ambulance Week 2022 – 5th to 11th September 2022.

Dates and colours

Lighting up Ards Arts Centre / Ards Town Hall and McKee Clock red on 9th September 2022 and annually thereafter.

Background information

A one-off lighting up request from Air Ambulance NI was approved by Council in August 2021, and as the request to light up Council buildings in 2022 was received on 2nd September 2022, this was being put to Council for retrospective approval.

Information provided by requestor:

"It's Air Ambulance Week 2022 and we want to raise awareness of the critical difference air ambulance services make, particularly our local service, provided by @NIAS and @AirAmbulanceNorthernIreland.

Each week on average, the air ambulance is needed in NI on 14 occasions. Air ambulance crews bring the skills and expertise of a hospital to the scene of an emergency, performing complex procedures using advanced equipment and drugs that improve survival rates.

This year alone (to end July 2022), the crew have been called on 414 occasions. Each mission requires fundraising of around £2750, so public support is crucial."

Does it meet policy requirements?

As this request did not meet the specific criteria set out in the policy (not based in or connected to the Borough), it required the consideration and approval of the Council.

RECOMMENDED that the Council considers:

1. The request to light up Council buildings red on 18th October 2022 to mark Anti-Slavery Day and annually thereafter.
2. The request to light up Council buildings blue on 12th October 2022 to mark World Arthritis Day and annually thereafter.
3. The request to light up Council buildings red on 9th September 2022 to mark Air Ambulance NI awareness and annually thereafter (retrospectively).

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

Councillor McKimm asked, in reference to part 1 of the recommendation, if the report's wording was stating that AND Borough did not suffer from issues of trafficking and slavery and cited some recent examples of charges within the Borough related to those subjects. The Director of Organisational Development & Administration explained that wording was because the requesting organisation was outside of the Borough. Councillor McKimm was concerned given that light-ups had occurred for other requesting organisations outside the Borough. However, the Director of Organisational Development & Administration explained that regardless of the wording in the report, the recommendation was to accept the three recommendations.

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

7. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

There were no items of any other notified business.

NOTED.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Dunlop, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted items of confidential business at 19:27 hours.

8. ESTIMATES 2023/24 CONTEXT REPORT

*****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)

9. DRAFT SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT 2021/22

*****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)

10. DISPOSAL OF LAND AT BLAIR MAYNE ROAD SOUTH

*****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)

11. 3G PITCH PORTAVOGIE – AGREEMENT RE FLOODLIGHT SUPPORT

*****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 Alderman McIlveen, seconded by Councillor Greer, that the public/press be re-admitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 21:01 hours.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A virtual meeting of the Community and Wellbeing Committee was held via Zoom on Wednesday 21 September 2022 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor Edmund

Aldermen: Carson
Irvine
Wilson

Councillors:	Chambers	MacArthur
	Irvine	Smart
	Johnson	T Smith
	Kendall (7.01pm)	Thompson

Officers: Director of Community and Wellbeing (G Bannister), Head of Community & Culture (J Nixey), Head of Leisure Services (I O'Neill), Head of Parks & Cemeteries (S Daye), Head of Environmental Health, Protection & Development (A Faulkner) and Democratic Services Officer (P Foster)

1. APOLOGIES

The Chairman sought apologies at this stage and apologies were received from Councillors Douglas, McRandal and Moore.

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Chambers – Items 17 & 18 - Aurora Pool Floors and Leisure Target Operating Model

NOTED.

3. CHRISTMAS FESTIVAL FUND 2022 (FILE CDV 35C)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that following from previous years, the Council operated a Christmas Festival Programme for the following towns and villages in the Borough who received Christmas Trees from the Council.

Villages –

Ballygowan
Ballyhalbert
Ballywalter
Carrowdore
Cloughey
Conlig
Greyabbey
Helens Bay
Killinchy
Kircubbin
Millisle
Portaferry
Portavogie

Towns –

Donaghadee
Comber
Holywood.

The two Switch-On Festivals in Bangor and Newtownards would continue to be delivered by the Tourism Section in 2022.

The Council invited applications for the 2022-23 Christmas Festival Fund with a closing date of 4pm on Monday 6 June 2022. By the closing date 15 applications were received 12 villages and three towns requesting a funding totalling £20,650.00. The maximum amount of funding for each of the villages was £1,000 and for the towns the maximum budget was £3,000. £11,650 went to applications from Villages with £9,000 going to applications from Towns.

The applications were assessed and scored by the Community Development Manager, Community Development Officer, and the Grants Officer using the following criteria.

Grant Criteria -	Points
Open and accessible	5
Community Participation	5
Volunteer Involvement	5
Opportunities to improve skills/training	5
Collaboration and partnership	5
Strong sense of Community	5
Value for money	5
Total	35

The assessment panel agreed a pass mark of 40% (score 14). The marks were totalled and calculated as a percentage.

All applications submitted were successful in attaining the pass mark and all received the full amount of grant requested.

Table 1 (VILLAGES)

	Name of group	Date of event	Time of event	Amount applied for	Score out of 35	Score as %	Amount Awarded
	Villages						
1	Ballygowan & District Community Association	03/12/2022	6-8.30 pm	£1,000.00	32/35	91.52 %	£1,000.00
2	Ballyhalbert Community Association	05/12/2022	7-9 pm	£1,000.00	27/35	77.22 %	£1,000.00

3	Ballywalter Community Action Group	01/12/2022	7-9pm	£1,000.00	33/35	94.38 %	£1,000.00
4	Carrowdore & District Community Association	10/12/2022	2-5 pm	£1,000.00	28/35	80.08 %	£1,000.00
5	Cloughey & District Community Association	01/12/2022	6.30pm	£650.00	27/35	77.22 %	£650.00
6	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	03/12/2022	3.30-5.30 pm	£1,000.00	34/35	97.24 %	£1,000.00
7	Greyabbey & District Community Association	09/12/2022	1pm	£1,000.00	31/35	88.66 %	£1,000.00
8	Killinchy & District Community Development Association	12/12/2022	6.30-9.30 pm	£1,000.00	18/35	51.48 %	£1,000.00
9	Kircubbin & District Community Association	07/12/2022	7-9 pm	£1,000.00	30/35	71.50 %	£1,000.00
10	Millisle & District Community Association	03/12/2022	6.30-9 pm	£1,000.00	28/35	80.08 %	£1,000.00
11	Portaferry Gala Fest	02/12/2022	6.30-8.30 pm	£1,000.00	28/35	80.08 %	£1,000.00
12	Portavogie Regeneration Forum	15/12/2022	6-6.30pm	£1,000.00	27/35	77.22 %	£1,000.00
	Total			£11,650.00			£11,650.00

Table 2 (TOWNS)

	Name of group	Date of event	Time of event	Amount applied for	Score out of 35	Score as %	Amount Awarded
	Towns						
1	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	24th Nov'22	6-8pm	£3,000.00	25/35	71.50 %	£3,000.00
2	Donaghadee Community Development Association	2-4th Dec'22	Various times	£3,000.00	29/35	82.94 %	£3,000.00
3	Hollywood & District Community Council	26/11/2022	12-6.30 pm	£3,000.00	28/35	80.08 %	£3,000.00
	Total			£20,650.00			£20,650.00

Members may have been aware that currently the Groomsport Village Association was having some difficulty in forming a committee in line with its constitution. Last year the Community Development team in conjunction with the churches in the area worked in partnership to successfully provide a light switch on in the village. Council should consider setting aside £1,000 from this year's Christmas Festival Fund for a similar partnership arrangement in Groomsport.

RECOMMENDED that the Council approves the assessment panel recommendations detailed in tables above and funds Christmas festivals at a cost of £20,650.

It is further recommended that Council approves £1,000 be set aside from the existing Christmas Festival Fund for a partnership arrangement for a Christmas lights switch on in Groomsport.

Councillor T Smith proposed, seconded by Councillor Chambers, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor T Smith, welcomed the recommendation which had followed on from an earlier Notice of Motion a few years ago. He took the opportunity to pay tribute to the hard work of all community groups.

Commenting as seconder, Councillor Chambers, also welcomed the recommendation particularly as Groomsport had missed out previously. He added that he, along with Councillor MacArthur, had been assisting a community group to become fully constituted in order to take matters such as this forward.

Councillor MacArthur thanked the 15 applicants for their submissions and welcomed the recommendation.

Concurring with those comments, Councillor Thompson stated this funding was vital and would go a long way for many of the groups which had the benefit of many volunteers. He added those funds would provide much needed assistance at what was a special time of the year.

The Chairman agreed with those comments and particularly noted the efforts made by volunteers.

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

4. HERSTORY - PEACE HEROINES PROJECT (FILE HER 13 09/22)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that Ards and North Down Borough Council had been approached by the Herstory Movement to partner on a timely, new education project, in celebration of the Peace Heroines of Northern Ireland. Founded in 2016, the Herstory movement told the stories of modern, historic, and mythic women.

Herstory and National Museums Northern Ireland were joining forces to create the Peace Heroines Project that would include an exhibition and schools programme, launching at the Northern Ireland Assembly, Stormont on the International Day of Peace on 21 September 2022. The exhibition would also be showcased at the United Nations Headquarters in New York this year. The project was funded by the Department of Foreign Affairs Reconciliation Fund and EU Erasmus+.

Ards and North Down Borough Council had been invited to participate and commission a new mural of a local peace heroine/s by the Borough based graffiti artist [FRIZ](#) (who recently completed the murals in Bangor (Mermaid on Bregenz House etc). This artistic medium had historically been used to antagonise and divide,

but this project would present murals that would educate, celebrate and inspire.

All 11 Councils in Northern Ireland were invited to participate in the project to mark the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement in April 2023. Northern Irish women from all walks of life played a vital role in the peace process and continue this cross-community dialogue long after the Good Friday Agreement was signed. They did everything from supporting victims of sectarian violence and victims' families, to lobbying politicians and organising mass protests.

Ireland's Ambassador to the UN, Geraldine Byrne-Nason, had cited that the role of women in the Northern Ireland Peace Process was a key United Nations case study but this essential story was not taught on the official school curriculum in Northern Ireland or the Republic of Ireland. The Peace Heroines project aimed to change that and introduce students to those legendary activists and inspire the next generation of peace builders.

Herstory would support the project to a value of £3,500 through subsidy from the Heritage Lottery Fund and seek match funding of £1,500 from each Council. They would also provide workshops for schools and community groups and officers were investigating the possibility of hosting the exhibition in 2023, however the size of the exhibition may prohibit this (28 panels measuring 1m x 2m).

Herstory would work with a local historian and women's groups from the Borough to identify local peace heroine/s and how she/they should be represented. A recommendation on a suitable location for the mural would be brought to Council when a shortlist of options had been identified. The Peace Heroines Project met objectives for both the Arts and Heritage and Good Relations Strategies, and the matched funding sought for the project could be met from both the Arts Service and Good Relations budgets.

RECOMMENDED that that Council supports the Peace Heroines project to a value of £1,500 met from both the Arts Service and Good Relations budgets.

Councillor Johnson proposed, seconded by Councillor Kendall, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Johnson, welcomed the recommendation and the ethos behind it, adding that it would provide an opportunity to celebrate history and focus on the role women played within that.

Commenting as seconder, Councillor Kendall, stated that this provided a wonderful opportunity to highlight the impact women had made in Northern Ireland and added that she looked forward to seeing the outcomes.

Councillor MacArthur sought clarification on whether it would be focus on women within the Borough or further afield.

The Head of Community & Culture confirmed that it would focus on those local heroines within the Borough and further details would be brought on the process to the Committee in due course in respect of the selection of those local heroines.

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

5. ARDS AND NORTH DOWN SPORTS FORUM GRANTS (FILE SD109) (Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that on the 26 August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £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 July 2022, the Forum received a total of 11 grant applications; 1 Equipment, 8 Individual Travel/Accommodation, 1 Club Travel/Accommodation and 1 Coaching. A summary of the 6 successful applications were detailed in the attached Successful Individual Travel & Accommodation Noting Report Appendix.

For information, the annual budget and spend to date on grant categories was as followed:

	Annual Budget	Funding Awarded July 2022	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	£0	£250
Coaching	£3,000	£0	£2,028.75
Equipment	£11,000	£0	£5,296.70
Events	£6,000	£0	£1,700
Seeding	£500	£0	£250
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	£800	£6,659.52
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000

New category under development	£3,000	£0	£3,000
Goldcards proposed during the period July 2022 is 0.			

*The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **£6,659.52** was based on a proposed award of **£800.00** – for Noting.

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

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

The proposer, Councillor Thompson, welcomed the report adding that the Sports Forum did a great job. While he noted a number of unsuccessful applications, he was aware that work remained ongoing by Officers to offer assistance to all applicants with their submissions.

Commenting as seconder, Councillor Kendall also welcomed the report and in particular noted the success of a number of applicants from Holywood. Referring to the unsuccessful application made by Safer Waters, she sought further clarity on that.

In response, the Director advised that applicants needed to be formally constituted as a Club and also recognised by Sports NI. He added that he would ask the Head of Leisure Services to be in touch with the Member to provide further clarification.

Alderman Irvine referred to the application submitted by Ballyholme Yacht Club which appeared to have been unsuccessful due to there being no confirmation of booking.

The Director advised the Member that the application for travel costs had not been successful as it was for attendance at a coaching event rather than a sports event and therefore outside of the Council's criteria.

At this stage Councillor T Smith stated that he would be abstaining on the matter.

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

(At this stage having declared an interest in the next item, Alderman Wilson was put on hold – 7.17pm)

6. SPORTS DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL GRANTS 2022 (FILE SD138)
(Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the Sports Development Capital Grant Scheme was available to sports clubs within the Borough. As members would be aware the Council had set aside £45,000 for the 2022/23 financial year and could award up to 50% of eligible capital costs with a maximum award of £5,000 in respect of any one project. Capital expenditure was defined as 'expenditure for technical assistance and/or purchase, improvement, restoration and construction of an asset related to the applicant organisation'.

Members would recall that the Sports Development Capital Grant Scheme would have historically opened for two tranches within any one financial year however in 2020/21 only one tranche was delivered due to Covid-19, with the process proving to be very successful. It was therefore proposed that the process of one tranche would continue and be kept under review. Therefore, this year's 2022/2023 Capital Grants programme opened on Monday 4 April 2022 and closed on Monday 25 July 2022.

The Council received 16 applications; all of which were received before the deadline time of 12 Noon. A club emailed after the deadline requesting permission to submit a late application, the panel agreed to reject this as guidelines state late applications were not accepted.

Eligibility screening of the 16 applications was carried out. Two applications failed to meet the eligibility criteria and therefore did not proceed to the assessment stage of the project.

Applications that met the eligibility criteria were then assessed against the following criteria (14 applications):

1. Benefits to the club/organisation and the local community; clearly detailing anticipated outcomes of the proposed project
2. Increasing Participation
3. Increasing participation within key target groups: Women and girls, disability, over 50's and socially disadvantaged areas/groups
4. Improving and/or sustaining activities within the club setting; and
5. Improving the health and wellbeing of club members and/or wider community.

Applications were assessed by the Acting Leisure Services Manager, Sports and Recreation Development Officer and NCLT/Serco's Sports Development Officer.

All 14 applications scored above the minimum threshold for funding and therefore were all proposed for funding subject to project management requirements being met where applicable and as highlighted in Appendix 1 (planning / License Agreement conditions). The 14 successful applications requested a total of £47,770.18 and it was proposed to award £46,364.74.

The potential overspend of £1,364.74 would be utilised from underspend within the Sports Development 2022/23 budget.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the decisions of the Assessment Panel which are listed in Appendix 1 Successful Applications and Appendix 2 Unsuccessful Applications.

Therefore, the total awarded funding for 2022/2023 Capital Grants was £46,364.74 subject to Project Management Requirements being met.

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

The proposer, Councillor Thompson, welcomed the Grants programme and noted the variety of Sports which had been successful in their applications.

Alderman Irvine commenting as seconder noted the significant amount of funding which had been awarded to those Clubs.

At this stage Councillor T Smith indicated that he wished to abstain on this matter.

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

(Alderman Wilson rejoined the meeting at this stage – 7.19pm)

7. DISPLAY BED APPLICATION (FILE PCA5) (Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that on the 27 February 2019 Council agreed a policy for the use of Display Beds in the Borough, this policy required officers to report to Council any applications received by external organisations.

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

The application was as follows and the proposed design of the display was included in the attached Appendix 1. The Parks team would endeavour to replicate the design as far as possible, however detail design may alter in order to facilitate installation. If necessary, the officer would liaise with the applicant if the installation may have to be significantly different from that proposed.

Name of Group / Organisation	Display Bed applied for	Proposed dates of display	Reason for the display
K9 Search & Rescue NI	Bangor Road entrance to Ballymenoch Park, Holywood	01/10/2022 - 31/10/2023	To commemorate K9 Search & Rescue NI's 5 year

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the above application for the display bed at Ballymenoch Park in Holywood.

Councillor Kendall proposed, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Kendall, commented that it gave her great pleasure to support the recommendation which would support such a worthy cause.

The seconder, Councillor MacArthur, concurred with those comments adding that was particularly fitting given that the founder of the organisation was from Bangor.

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

8. INSTALLATION OF CHATTY BENCHES (FILE PCA106)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the purpose of this report was to provide members with and update on the Boroughs Chatty Bench project and future installation plans across its Green Flag sites.

Ards and North Down was home to five Green Flag awarded sites, Castle Park, Londonderry Park, Kiltonga Nature Reserve, Linear Park and Ballymenoch Park. The accreditation was awarded on the standards of the parks from a community, environmental and biodiversity perspective. High standards in those areas could see local parks used by 10% of the population daily. This could be for a variety of reasons, whether it be for general enjoyment or even to improve health and quality of life.

The Parks Service had sought to build upon this eagerness to visit local parks, while providing areas that help improve people's lives from a physical and mental health perspective. In 2021, the Boroughs first 'Chatty Bench' was installed at Bangor Castle Walled Garden. The installation of this Chatty Bench had provided an opportunity for members of the community who may feel lonely, to interact with one another. Particularly emerging from prolonged periods of restrictions and lockdowns, the Chatty Bench gave people a pathway to reconnect with society. The bright colour of the bench offered an opportunity for passers-by to see a fellow member of the community who may want to talk. The Chatty Bench had not only helped to tackle loneliness within the community but has encouraged stronger relations and built upon an existing positive community ethos.

Based upon the success of the current bench, Parks Service hoped to install a further four Chatty benches across the remaining Green Flag sites and an additional bench at Ward Park. This would be an opportunity to help residents in other areas tackle loneliness at a park close to them. It would also help benefit the prestige of the Parks, by encouraging more of the community to enjoy and take advantage of the open space. To ensure the Chatty Benches were used to their full potential, Council would work with partners from South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, to develop a Quick Response or QR code. The code would be added to all benches and when scanned, would signpost users to other mental health support.

RECOMMENDED that that Council continues to support the Chatty Bench initiative and proceed with installation of five new benches at Londonderry Park, Kiltonga Nature Reserve, Ward Park, Linear Park and Ballymenoch Park.

It is also recommended that Officers engage with South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust to develop a signposting QR code to be added to all Chatty Benches and help promote the initiative.

Councillor R Smart proposed, seconded by Councillor Johnson, that the recommendation be adopted.

The proposer, Councillor Smart, welcomed the concept behind the Chatty Benches, commenting that they were a great way to get people together. He asked if the existing benches would be replaced or remain as they were.

In response, the Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that the existing benches would remain in situ and the report before Members was for the installation of new benches at other locations.

Commenting as seconder, Councillor Johnson commended that the initiative which he noted had been introduced during the Covid-19 pandemic adding that it had been a great addition to the Borough.

Alderman Wilson also welcomed the report adding that the initiative had helped to tackle issues of loneliness and isolation. Continuing, he noted to date that no benches had been installed in his own DEA area of Bangor West and suggested that consideration be given to the installation of a Chatty Bench at Stricklands Glen or the coastal path.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries reassured the Member that this was just the start of a long process and as such he would not rule out any location for the future and he would happily take on the Member's suggestion.

Referring to the use of QR Codes on the Chatty Benches, Councillor MacArthur asked if consideration had been given to including the South Eastern Health Trust's helpline number. Continuing, she also suggested that the, 'Here to Help,' App may also be of use.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries indicated that he was not aware of the, 'Here to Help,' App, adding that he had taken direction from the Council's Community Planning team. However, he added that nothing was out of the question for consideration and as such he would look into the app and see if a possible link could be made to it.

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

9. FUTURE COMMUNITY ORCHARD PLANTING (FILE PCA107)
(Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the purpose of this report was to provide members with and update on the Boroughs Orchard Planting initiative and future plans across its Parks & Open Space sites.

As part of an ongoing commitment to successfully implement the Councils agreed Tree and Woodland Strategy, the Park Service had been identifying potential sites on which community orchards could be planted. This had been carried out through a process of community engagement and internal site management.

The aim was to achieve a target of three new Community Orchards each year until 2032, identified on the Tree and Woodland Strategy Action Plan. During the 2021/2022 planting season the Council planted its first set of three orchards Greyabbey, Portaferry and Portavogie. It was proposed that the schedule of Community Orchard Plantings in 2022/2023 was:

Location	Size (M2)	Number of Trees
Londonderry Park, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	1200	50
Brice Park, Donaghadee Road, Bangor.	400	24
Cottown Park and Open Space, Newtownards Road, Six Road Ends.	1000	40

Parks Service hoped to provide new orchards in all towns and villages across the Borough so as many residents as possible could avail of the aforementioned benefits. Moving forward into planting season 2023/2024, potential plantings had been identified in Comber, Donaghadee and Carrowdore. Final recommendations on those sites would be developed through consultation with internal departments and community partners relevant to each area. An officer's report to update members would follow for the 2023/2024 orchard planting season.

Environmental Benefits

Trees played a significant role in improving environmental conditions and people's quality of life. Trees acted as carbon sinks and absorbed carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) and produce oxygen. In addition, trees filter, absorb and reduce pollutants. Trees could make the Borough a healthier, more attractive and more comfortable place to live and work.

Orchards had played an important role for hundreds of years. Opportunities existed through their installation to conserve local and threatened plant resources, by planting heritage food crop varieties that were suitable for local growing conditions.

Traditional orchards were a priority habitat and support the biodiversity action plan, because of the wildlife they attract. A variety of flora and fauna could be supported by this environment. Orchards were hotspots for biodiversity supporting many different species, including some species of conservation concern such as insects, birds, bees, bats, foxes and small mammals.

Community Benefits

Community orchards were an excellent place for people to come together, providing a community space for celebrations and were a source of food. They could be used as educational resources for local schools, community groups and the wider public. Trees in general could reduce stress and illness by providing psychological refreshment and a sense of wellbeing, creating character and a sense of place and permanence.

Orchards encourage healthy eating and outdoor activities improving wellbeing, as well as making towns, villages and neighbourhoods more pleasant places to live. Tree plantations of any type could symbolize community focal points and offer aesthetic, amenity and historic value and could act as landmark features within settlements and open countryside.

RECOMMENDED that Council continues to support the Community Orchard Planting initiative and proceed with planting at sites mentioned above.

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

Welcoming the recommendation, the proposer, Alderman Irvine, stated that it was an excellent initiative and one which he hoped would continue.

Councillor MacArthur commenting as seconder also welcomed the recommendation which was part of the Council's Tree and Woodland Strategy. Referring to the proposals for Cottown Park and Open Space, she asked what steps would be taken in respect of community engagement. She asked if any, 'friends of,' those communities would be included in such engagement.

(Councillor Kendall left the meeting at this stage – 7.29pm)

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries advised Members that the process had been undertaken in line with the Council's Community Development and in conjunction with local community groups and schools, which would be involved in the planting out and advised on how to properly maintain those community orchards going forwards. Continuing, he confirmed that there were many, 'friends groups,'

throughout the Borough including a very active group of volunteers at Bangor's Walled Garden. He also reminded Members that the Parks & Cemeteries section was currently undergoing some restructuring but he felt the project was a valuable one to both the Council and the local community.

Welcoming the initiative, Councillor Thompson noted that it would be rolled out throughout the Borough.

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

10. CONTROL OF GREY SQUIRRELS RESPONSE TO NOM (FILE PCA 79)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that following a Notice of Motion tabled at the Community and Wellbeing Committee in November 2019 and subsequent follow on reports in September 2020 and February 2021 outlining Councils position regarding the control of Grey Squirrels and the promotion of indigenous species on Council land.

The purpose of this report was to update members on the progress made by officers on the recommendations approved from the report in February 2021 as follows:

- 1. Approve for officers to urgently engage with Ulster Wildlife Trust, North Down Red Squirrel and Pine Marten Group and all other established Red Squirrel groups within the Borough to implement all appropriate approved control programmes as outlined in the Northern Ireland Squirrel Forum's Grey Squirrel Control Protocol, for grey squirrel populations on Council owned and managed lands.*
- 2. Agree to the inclusion of the Red Squirrel and Pine Martin species to be included in the revised Local Biodiversity Action Plan, and that the woodland management plans include the siting of appropriate boxes and native species tree planting*

Officers had met with the Ulster Wildlife Trust and the North Down Red Squirrel and Pine Martin group. Following discussions around the control of Grey Squirrels the following proposals were made by the group:

- Commencing with the Castle Park colony and in order to monitor the numbers within the park, a feeder and camera would be placed on site.

- Once numbers were established and the feeder attracting individual Grey Squirrels, a trap would be placed by the feeder to catch the animals.
- The trap would be inspected each morning by the group and any animals removed from site in accordance with the control protocols.
- Further monitoring would continue and, where appropriate, the control program would be rolled out to other sites where colonies had been identified.
- In proposing the above interventions, it was critical that there were positive explanatory communications around the issue and officers would be working with the groups to ensure that the public were made aware of the rationale behind the control program.
- In finalising the revised Local Biodiversity Action Plan, the Red Squirrel and Pine Martin species had been identified as priority species and targets would be in place to protect those.
- The Biodiversity Officer would be working alongside local groups regarding the installation of appropriate boxes based on survey outcomes.
- Native tree planting had commenced in line with the Councils Tree and Woodland Strategy and in the past year 15,000 native trees had been planted at various locations across the Borough.

Key Point

Members were advised that Council had been contacted by the Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs (DAERA) the application of the Invasive Alien Species (Enforcement and Permitting) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019 legislation. This placed a duty on landowners to control Invasive Alien Species present on their land. By adopting the proposals above, Council would be complying with this legislation.

RECOMMENDED that Council note the work carried out to date and approve the proposals outlined in the above report.

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

Welcoming the proposal, Councillor Thompson noted the proposals put forward by both the Ulster Wildlife Trust and the North Down Red Squirrel and Pine Martin

Group. He agreed the Council was going in the right of direction in respect of this matter which was necessary to protect the Red Squirrel population.

The seconder, Councillor McArthur, commented on the growing number of red squirrels on the Ards Peninsula, added that she was also aware of recent sightings in both Holywood and at Linear Park, Bangor. She agreed with the approach which the Council would be taking, adding that it was necessary to ensure the future of red squirrels.

At this stage Councillor T Smith asked what would happen to those grey squirrels once they were trapped as previously Members had been advised of how they would be destroyed.

In response the Head of Parks & Cemeteries advised that once grey squirrels had been trapped, they would be removed and destroyed at that point. He added that the Council did have a legal responsibility to remove grey squirrels from its land and as such, notice to that effect had been received from DAERA. The Officer indicated that he would be happy to discuss the matter in further detail with the Member and indeed any others at any stage.

On that basis Councillor T Smith stated that he could not support the recommendation on that basis, as the Council would effectively be destroying one species to save another.

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

11. CEMETERY BURIAL REGULATIONS AND REVIEW UPDATE **(FILE PCA28)**

(Appendix V)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the purpose of this report was to update members following the meeting of Community and Wellbeing Committee on 10 March 2021 regarding the request for a detailed report on current burial process, depth test and communications with Funeral Directors representing bereaved families.

The current process in line with the Burial Ground Regulations NI 1992 included ensuring that Council complied with the legal requirement for a minimum depth cover of soil following interment of coffins. In the opening of older graves within Council Cemeteries issues had been encountered regarding the ability to facilitate a burial within the legislative parameters. This had in some cases led to Council being unable to provide multiple burials in one plot.

In order to negate the distress caused to families the following measures were in place:

- Grave depth testing in advance of need was available upon request at a cost (currently) of £112. This enabled families to make an informed decision around further future burials.
- At the time of opening a grave where capacity issues were identified, officers contacted the Funeral Directors to advise on the impact of reduced capacity in advance of burial taking place. This allowed the family to make a decision on alternative options in the form of the use of a shallower coffin or opting for cremation and the interment of cremated remains.
- Where it was clear that the above options did not meet the families wishes an alternative grave was required. Within the last twelve-months there had been four instances where a family had to make such alternative arrangements that lead a complaint. In the last twelve-months the cemetery team had carried out 1,103 burials.

In order to further mitigate against issues impacting on burial capacity officers were currently working on the following:

- The integration of a new burial management system – Plotbox had been procured and was currently being integrated into the Service.
- Development of 'Standard Operating Procedures' appropriate to both the operational and administrative service.
- Development of a public facing document outlining processes involved in grave purchase – see proposal attached in Appendix 4.
- The use of technology to determine grave depths of historical graves whereby no depths were recorded has been trialled. To date this had been inconclusive in terms of accurate results and further technological solutions were being investigated.
- Reviewing the Rules for Burial Rules & Regulations – see proposal attached in Appendix 1.

The issue of shallow graves was having a detrimental impact on overall cemetery capacity which was already under significant pressure. In order to alleviate that impact officers had determined that where shallow graves had been identified due to

the existence of rock and poor ground conditions, those could be utilised for the interment of cremated remains. By utilising those grave plots, the Council reduced the number of full depth graves being sold for the sole use of interring cremated remains.

It was estimated that there were in the region of 400 plots which could be utilised in that manner, with each plot accommodating up to six sets of cremated remains. The proposed cost structure for those plots would be a 50% reduction in price compared to a full capacity plot i.e., that was currently for residents within Council area: £141 and Applicants residing outside Council area: £1,051. Those costs would be added to the Scale of Charges for cemeteries and would significantly reduce the costs of those interring cremated remains.

In addition, officers would suggest that Members considered an annual inflationary increase to be applied to the Scale of Charges using a percentage uplift based on the October 'Office of National Statistics Consumer Prices Index (CPI): All Items Index' s from 1st January each year. This topic in relation to charges for Council services generally would be examined further as part of the forthcoming budget setting processes that would shortly be getting underway.

RECOMMENDED that that Council notes the content of the above report and:

1. Approves the use of shallow graves for cremated remains with the cost structure outlined above i.e., 50% reduction in price compared to a full capacity plot.
2. Approves the proposed amendments to the Rules for Burial Grounds as outlined in Appendix 1 & 2

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

The proposer, Councillor Thompson, welcomed the report which addressed the problem with depths of graves which he was aware had been ongoing at a number of Council cemeteries.

The seconder, Alderman Irvine, referred to the late fee which would be charged if a funeral was more than 15 minutes late and asked if consideration would be given to external factors such as road works or delays at Roselawn Crematorium. Continuing, Alderman Irvine referred to a recent incident which had taken place at Clandeboye Cemetery involving a large crowd and sought clarification on that. In respect of depth testing, he acknowledged that in some cases, families may have

purchased graves a long time ago and as such, any issues with depth may only come to light at the time a grave is opened.

In response, the Head of Parks & Cemeteries advised that Late Charges were rarely issued adding that instead, they acted successfully as a deterrent to encourage funeral directors to ensure they operated on time. As a result, the number of late arrivals had significantly reduced. He added that if a funeral ran late, it would affect others such as staff who may be required at another site within the cemetery and also other families who may be waiting for another burial to take place. In respect of the large crowd gathering at Clandeboye Cemetery, the Officer stated that he was not aware of that and as such would be happy to discuss it with the Member in due course. Continuing, he added that it was hoped depth issues alluded to in the report would be alleviated with the introduction of new procedures, technology and software such as PlotBox.

Referring to the issue of grave capacity, Councillor Smart advised that he too had been contacted by a number of constituents about this matter and suggested that perhaps communication on this matter was an issue and something which needed to be addressed. He suggested that perhaps communication on this matter needed to be more direct going forward, particularly with those families trying to bury their loved ones.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries advised that the Council's point of contact was with the undertaker rather than the family and as such it would be difficult to make direct contact with them as suggested by the Member. The introduction of PlotBox had been a great addition to the Parks and Cemeteries section as it was GPS linked to tablet devices which enabled up to the minute information to be added to records at any given time. He added however that there still remained a large amount of work to be done in respect of burial records and their transfer to a digital format, but work was currently being carried out in this regard including the introduction of a new computer system.

Councillor Smart asked if it would be an idea to place an advertisement in the local press advising members of the public of those issues.

In response, the Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that information was posted regularly on the Council's Social Media outlets, had been covered in the press, the Borough Magazine and recent radio coverage. He added that it was not as big an issue as many had thought it was and only a few queries were received following these outreaches.

Referring to the late charges, Councillor Irvine asked who would be liable for any late charges which may be incurred.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that the undertaker would be liable as they would have the overall responsibility for the funeral arrangements.

In response to a query from Councillor MacArthur, the Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that undertakers would normally be given notice of any issues within 24hrs of a funeral being booked in.

Councillor T Smith also queried how cemetery matters were publicised as he was aware of the anguish matters such as this could cause to families who were already in a great deal of distress.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries reiterated that such matters were regularly publicised to members of the public and added that would continue to take place.

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

12. UPDATE ON PLAY PARK REFURBISHMENTS 2022-2023 (FILE CW4)
(Appendix VI)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that Ards and North Down Borough Council produced a Play Strategy 2021 – 2032 and within it, it was recommended that the Play Parks refurbishment budget be increased in order to enable more playgrounds to be updated each year. Those playgrounds scoring the lowest within the Annual Independent Inspectors Report would be prioritised for refurbishment. Also, within the Play Strategy it was recommended that budget be made available for the delivery of older children provision (Skate Parks, Pumps Tracks, Parkour, Multi Use Games Areas) based on a settlement hierarchy approach. Following a tender process Council had now procured Play and Leisure Services to design and build those play areas in the south of the Borough and Garden Escapes to deliver those in the north of the Borough. All of the designs complied with standards outlined in the tender document ensuring minimum levels of equipment for each Tier of playground, appropriate age specific equipment ratios, a minimum of 30% inclusive equipment etc, this was also consistent with the design guidance as outlined in the Play Strategy. Below was a list of playgrounds/areas that were scheduled for refurbishment or delivery this financial year 2022/23. It should be noted that due to the delay in securing contractors as part of the tender process and delays due to Covid, the refurbishment budget from the previous financial year 2021/22 was carried over and was also being spent this year.

Castle Park, Portaferry

Castle Park Portaferry was highlighted as one of the lowest scoring playgrounds in the Borough as well as being one of the oldest. While it was currently classed as being a Tier 1 playground it was now so old that it no longer conformed with the current standards of what would be considered a Tier 1 playground. As part of the Play Strategy it was outlined that there was the possibility of relocating the playground to a location on the Lough Shore Road. Following a public consultation exercise the majority of respondents indicated a preference for the playground to be kept in Castle Park. The work to deliver this playground would commence in September.

Main Street, Cloughey

In order to better serve the catchment area of Cloughey and increase tourist potential to the area it was proposed as part of the Play Strategy to upgrade the current Tier 2 playground to a Tier 1. Cloughey was also one of the lower scoring playgrounds as per the Independent Inspectors Report. Work on this would commence in October.

(While both Castle Park, Portaferry and Cloughey were scheduled for refurbishment this financial year, Rural Development Funding has been secured and that money will cover approx. 80% of the costs for the refurbishment of both playgrounds in Portaferry and Cloughey).

Aurora, Bangor

The Tier 2 playground at Aurora was also one of the lower scoring playgrounds. It was installed as part of the Aurora complex works at the time and would not be classified as being concurrent with what a normal Tier 2 playground was so the refurbishment works would bring it up to standard. Works on it were due to commence in September.

Johnny the Jig (Holywood)

Again, one of the lower scoring and older playgrounds and it would receive a full upgrade to bring it up to current Tier 1 standards. Work would commence in November and would be finished prior to the Christmas holidays.

Upper Crescent/Muckers Field, Comber

As indicated in the Play Strategy a public consultation exercise was proposed to establish where the local community would like the playground to be situated, with it either remaining in its current location or being relocated to Muckers Field. Following

the outcome of that public consultation exercise, which was currently ongoing, the playground would be delivered in the preferred location.

Tower Park Conlig

Tower Park, Conlig was also one of the lower scoring playgrounds and required updating as there had been some ongoing maintenance issues at the site. As a result of having the additional budget available as a result of the Rural Development Funding, it was determined that there would be the capacity for the contractors to undertake refurbishment works at this site. It was currently a Tier 2 and would be refurbished as a Tier 2. Works would commence in November and would complete in mid-December.

Groomsport (Splash Pads)

There had been issues with drainage and leakage at the paddling pool in Groomsport so given that there was additional budget available as result of the Rural Development Funding, it was determined that the existing paddling pool could be converted into a splash pad area similar to that at Pickie Park providing a significant upgrade to that facility.

Hollywood (Older children Provision)

As part of the Play Strategy, it was highlighted that there was a lack of older children provision in the Borough. Hollywood was identified as having the highest concentration of young people in the 13 to 17 year old demographic. Also, being the second largest town in the Borough it was currently lacking in any older children provision therefore the delivery of such a facility was considered a priority. To date consultation had taken place with the Hollywood Family Trust, through their Youth Team Leader at the Youth Centre who conducted a poll with the young people using the youth centre. Feedback was provided on where and what type of facility the young people preferred. Further consultation had also taken place with the Hollywood Children and Young People Network and Council received feedback on what and where they preferred in terms of provision. Further consultation was required with residents' groups and then an online survey was proposed. It should be noted that depending on the outcome of the consultation in terms of a preferred location and facility type, planning permission may be required. If that was the case, then the delivery may be delayed pending the determination of the planning application.

Finally, it was hoped that the recommended Play Development Officer would be approved and appointed in due course to allow the other aspects of the strategy to be delivered.

RECOMMENDED that that the Council note the updates and the design proposals.

Councillor Chambers proposed, seconded by Councillor T Smith, that we note the updates and the plan design proposals. Further, that a full report detailing the maintenance issues at Groomsport Paddling Pool, along with cost to repair these issues is brought to this Committee. A public consultation exercise should also be carried out before any work commenced at this particular location.

The proposer, Councillor Chambers, commented that the designs put forward all looked fantastic and added that each of the locations were worthy of refurbishment. He advised that he had circulated the proposals for Groomsport on social media and they had received a mixed response. While the majority were in favour of the proposals, there was also some concern that the aesthetics of the village could be detrimentally impacted. Continuing, he commented that the paddling pool was a very popular asset in the village and one which was well used by many families as it was considered to be so safe. Councillor Chambers indicated that he would be keen to look at all the available options particularly as there had been ongoing issues with leakage from the existing paddling pool for which a solution had never been found. He emphasised the importance of making sure this was the right thing to do for the village as what was being proposed would be a complete change of facility rather than an upgrade. He asked two questions, those being, would there be the potential for the new design to suffer from the same issues which had been ongoing for many years with the existing pool and secondly, had consideration been given to a hybrid design which would see the retention of a paddling pool element.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries advised Members that the design before them was a hybrid design which incorporated a small pool area in the form of a splash area. He added that it would be similar to that of Pickie Park which he added had been operating successfully without issue. He acknowledged that the existing paddling pool was well thought of by those in the village however it was frequently out of operation for long periods due to leakage issues and to enable the removal of glass and debris. He believed it was now at the stage where it needed to be replaced and as such, what had been incorporated into the proposals would provide a much upgraded, superior and more hygienic facility. The Officer advised Members that monies were being offered at short notice from Rural Development and if this funding was not spent by the Council this financial year it would be lost and as such unrecoverable. He also referred to the Council's recent decision not to appoint a Play Officer to deliver the Council's Play Strategy and as such, Officers were working with the limited resources they currently had.

Councillor Chambers asked if the Officer could foresee any issues with Planning being required for the proposals, given its close proximity to Cockle Row Cottages.

In response, the Head of Parks & Cemeteries commented that as they were effectively placing like-for-like, he would not anticipate any issues with Planning. He added that what was being proposed would be much more superior but recognised that it was generally the case that people did not like change.

Councillor Chambers noted the Officer had indicated the proposals could be held up as the result of this proposal and he sought clarity on what element of it could cause those delays.

In response, the Head of Parks & Cemeteries stated that the community consultation element would take time that was not planned for, given the short turn around time of approvals needing to move to on the groundwork and therefore the proposals needed to be agreed as soon as possible as there had already been a number of delays. He added that if the Council did not move on this matter now the money would be lost.

The seconder Councillor T Smith expressed his full support for the proposal but added that he did not like that Members were being forced to make a decision and sought clarity on how much funding had been provided.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that funding of £250,000 had been received by the Council.

Councillor T Smith commented that this was never part of the Council's Play Park Strategy and noted that within the report, it was not clear that a paddling pool element would be retained as part of the proposal. He asked why the report was only coming to Members now at this stage and sought clarity on when the funding had been received.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that funding had been received the previous month and therefore was unable to bring the report any earlier. Continuing, he informed members that they were complicated projects which required input from multiple services and added that while ultimately the decision lay with Members, any delay would have an impact on what Officers would be able to deliver.

Councillor T Smith expressed the view that communities should be involved as it was after all their play park and one which they were particularly fond of at Groomsport. He added that the Council should have fixed the leaking paddling pool years ago. Continuing, he reiterated his support for Councillor Chambers' proposal, adding that

swift consultation could be undertaken with a report brought back in time to be heard at the October Council meeting.

Councillor MacArthur agreed that the paddling pool at Groomsport was a much loved facility but she would have concerns that funding could potentially be lost given that it would have to be spent by March 2023. Referring to the plan, she welcomed the accessibility and sought an assurance that the paddling pool element would be retained.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that included within the plan was a small pool area within a splash pool. He added that the proposal before them was very much a superior upgrade as the existing paddling pool had not been operational on many occasions in the past three years since he had joined the Council, despite repeated attempts to repair it. He thought that it provided a marvellous opportunity to install a much superior product which was still a water feature and accessible for all.

Councillor MacArthur expressed the view that this had been sprung upon members and the local community. As such, she asked if Councillor Chambers would be willing accept an amendment to his proposal adding, "that an assurance be given that a paddling pool would be provided".

Councillors Chambers and T Smith indicated that they would be content to add that into the proposal.

Alderman Irvine welcomed the proposal for the Play Park at Aurora, Bangor and continuing, he referred to a number of older play parks at Skippingstone and Linnear Park, Bangor and sought an update on when those would be refurbished.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries advised the Member that officers were working through the Play Strategy and regularly updating members on progress. He advised that they were working within the current resources and budgets available to them and reminded Members that each project was externally assessed but it was officers' desire to target funding to where need was and where able to do so as part of that external process. He reassured members that eventually all Play Parks would be refurbished.

At this stage the Director confirmed that the Council was currently working with the owner of the ground at Linnear Park and the Play Park has been incorporated into plans he had for the area in question. He added that the need for planning permission had led to the delay but he added that plans were still progressing.

Alderman Wilson commented that while Councillor Chambers' proposal had been made with the best of intentions in mind, he was mindful of the comments made by the Officer that it could result in a loss of the funding. Therefore, he felt consultation could be more of a case of, "what do you think of this option which you could have had". He expressed the view that the proposal before them represented a superior upgrade and he acknowledged the sentimentality around the paddling pool which had been there for years. Turning to the amended proposal he asked the officer if this was something which could be delivered.

In response the Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed the project could be delivered if it was agreed at this meeting, however if it was not agreed, Officers would need to go back to the drawing board. He advised that suppliers and contractors were on standby and as such they would be unable to wait for instructions to proceed indefinitely. Any delays he added, would affect those timetables already in place and if this was not agreed, he stated that he could not guarantee that it would be able to be completed as he would need to check the availability of suppliers and contractors.

Alderman Wilson sympathised with the Officer given that the proposal could potentially jeopardise the projects and cause major delays.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries stated that one of the issues with play equipment was that it was extensively researched and that in itself took time. He added that the play equipment was bought online from companies and their design could not simply be altered. He added that Officers were working within the remit of the funding which had been granted and as such the proposal which had been made could put the project into jeopardy.

Alderman Wilson stated that he would be keen to see all the projects delivered for Summer 2023 adding that the proposals for Groomsport would be of huge benefit to the village and as such he would not wish to put that at risk by supporting the proposal.

Councillor Thompson stated that his first impressions of the proposal had been that they were all very good and he was therefore a little disappointed that members were not happy with the proposed scheme for Groomsport. He assumed that the concerns were around what was being proposed would not replicate what was already there and as such he suggested that the Council needed to move on and introduce new things and be more progressive. In his opinion the proposal before them would be a wonderful enhancement to the area and as such he would be voting against the amendment. He also acknowledged the problems with this type of funding which required a quick turnaround. At this stage, Councillor Thompson welcomed the proposals for Portaferry and Cloughey. In summing up, he expressed

the view that the proposal for Groomsport was an enhancement of what was currently there and as such he could not support the amendment.

At this stage Councillor T Smith quoted Standing Order 20.12 Explanations and noted that Councillor Thompson had suggested that both he and Councillor Chambers wished to hold onto the past but it was actually the case that what they were asking for was consultation. He added that they had originally been told there would be a small paddling pool but that was not clear from the drawings, hence the amended proposal.

Alderman Wilson then raised a point of order at this stage saying that you could not quote a Standing Order and then proceed to have a discussion.

At this stage the Head of Parks & Cemeteries clarified that what he had said was a small pool area.

Continuing Councillor Thompson stated that he would not support the amendment.

The Director at this stage clarified Standing Order 20.12 for members.

Alderman Carson expressed his support for the proposal and sought clarity that there were no amendments currently on the table and instead there was the proposal from Councillors Chambers and T Smith.

The Chairman confirmed that was the case.

Continuing Alderman Carson asked for clarification on when this matter was first brought to the Committee's attention.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed that tonight was the first occasion it had been brought to the Committee as funding received from DAREA the previous month had meant additional projects were able to be undertaken. He added that there had been significant consultation carried out throughout the entire process but advised that it would not be normal to carry out consultation for individual pieces of equipment.

At this stage Alderman Carson stated that he had been an elected member for 22 years and this was the first time in those 22 years that he had ever felt threatened by an Officer telling him and other Committee Members that if they did not vote in a certain way that funding would be lost.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries reassured Alderman Carson that he was in no way being threatening and instead he was asked for an opinion on whether or not the

project could be delivered if it was delayed, and he had said he was not sure that it could be. He added that if it was delayed, he would need to go back to the suppliers to see if they would be able to deliver to a new timetable and he reiterated that he was not threatening anybody.

The Director confirmed that his understanding of what the Officer had stated was a very grave concern that this project was time bound in respect of the funding and as such the projects need to be delivered by the end of March 2023. He added as the funding had come from DAERA there were a number of risks associated with that. It was incumbent on the officer to make the members aware of that risk and its magnitude.

Alderman Carson expressed the view that it was grossly unfair to members to be asked at such short notice for a major decision to be taken on funding of £250,000.

The Director advised that if they had been made aware of the funding before the start of the year, the process would have been different but given its short notice Officers were trying to avail of the opportunity, hence bringing it to Members' attention at the first opportunity. In this case, the circumstances had dictated the report being brought to members for the first time to this meeting, since being notified of the availability only a few weeks ago.

In response to a further query from Alderman Carson, the Director confirmed that the funding had been made available from DAERA.

At this stage Alderman Carson asked the Director to give him a call in the morning.

Councillor Smart commented that he was sure no one would wish to see the funding being lost and he noted the proposals before them which he felt were very impressive. He noted the current discussion which was around the paddling pool at Groomsport for which the village was well known, and he acknowledged that what was being proposed would be a substantial change to what was currently there. Continuing, he stated that given the tight timeframe and the associated risks in respect of the funding, he suggested that the DEA Members and the Officer met to consider the matter more fully in advance of the Council meeting at the end of the month.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries indicated that he would be happy to meet with the any of the Members at time to suit them.

At this stage the proposer Councillor Chambers welcomed the diverse range of views on this matter and he reassured Councillor Thompson that there was no hidden agenda to prevent the refurbishment of the area and instead rather the

opposite as stated earlier, he liked all of the designs which were an improvement on what was already there. Instead, he stated that he was simply bringing forward some of the concerns of local residents to the Committee. He sought clarification at this stage on whether or not there was a paddling pool area included in the new design.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries confirmed there was a small pool area in the new proposal put forward.

Councillor Chambers referred to the maintenance issues which had been ongoing at the paddling pool for many years and as such he would expect there would be ample information on that and any maintenance/repair work carried out. He sought further clarification on what the timeline would be for Groomsport.

The Head of Parks & Cemeteries indicated that he did not have an exact date, however, he stated that the companies supplying and installing their equipment would have their own timeline which would need to be adhered to. He added that if there were any delays, he would need to go back to them to reschedule. Continuing, he reminded Members that general consultation was carried out in respect of the removal of any piece of equipment from a Play Park and this report had simply been brought forward due to the availability of the funding.

At this stage, Councillor Chambers stated that given the Committee was being told this was a time sensitive matter and there was a risk of losing funding, he would like to amend his proposal. His amended proposal would be, "we note the updates and the design proposals. Furthermore, that a full report detailing the maintenance issues with Groomsport Paddling Pool that costs to repair this issue is brought to Committee and that an assurance is given that a paddling pool area is retained".

Councillor T Smith stated that he would be content to support the proposal given the information which had been provided.

At this stage, Alderman Wilson commented that as the proposal had now changed, he wished to receive some clarification on it. He stated that if a paddling pool area was not included within the new proposals, it could potentially scupper all of the projects. In essence, he was not sure that he could support the proposal until an assurance was given that the pooled area would replicate what Councillor Chambers wished to see installed.

In respect of the maintenance of the existing pool, the Head of Parks & Cemeteries stated that the existing pool was extremely old and needed replaced. This was an opportunity to do so and provide a much superior product in its place. The Council's building maintenance section had tried to fix the issues on a number of occasions

but he added that there had also been practical reasons why it had not been operational such as vandalism, to clear glass and to enable cleaning. On those occasions, it could be closed for a number of days. He added that the replacement facility would be cheaper for the Council to run and was environmentally friendly.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor Chambers, seconded by Councillor T Smith, with 6 voting FOR, 4 voting AGAINST, 1 ABSTENTION and 5 ABSENT, that we note the updates and the design proposals. Furthermore, that a full report detailing the maintenance issues with Groomsport Paddling Pool that costs to repair this issue is brought to Committee and that an assurance is given that a paddling pool area is retained.

13. FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2022-2023 (FILE CW22)
(Appendix VII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the Food Service Plan had been produced as a requirement of the Food Standards Agency Framework Agreement on Official Feed and Food Controls. All Local Authorities were required to provide a plan of the Council's Food Control function for the Borough and review on an annual basis.

In response to the Coronavirus pandemic the Food Standards Agency published a recovery plan which provided a framework for delivering controls up to 31 March 2023. This was to help Councils emerge from the pandemic which resulted in disruption to the Food Control Service's ability to deliver their full range of official controls. This Food Service Plan focused particularly on the resource available to carry out the requirements of the FSA recovery plan and other required Official Controls.

The Plan was attached in the Appendix for Council approval and a year-end update would be provided to the Council.

RECOMMENDED that Council approve the attached Food Service Plan for 2022/23.

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

At this stage the Director advised Members that this was the first meeting for the Council's new Head of Environmental Health, Protection & Development, Ms Adele Faulkner.

The Chairman welcomed the Officer to the meeting on behalf of the Committee.

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

14. CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON THE FOOD HYGIENE RATING ONLINE DISPLAY REGULATIONS 2023 (FILE CW39)
(Appendix VIII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme was a key public health measure and an important commercial driver for businesses to achieve and maintain compliance with existing food hygiene law. It provided transparency to consumers about the hygiene standards in food outlets at the time of inspection by District Councils food safety officers. This allowed consumers to make informed choices about where they ate out or shopped for food.

In October 2016, the operation of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme in NI became statutory with District Councils being responsible for its operation and enforcement. Food Hygiene Ratings (FHR) were determined by Councils following inspections carried out to verify compliance with food hygiene laws. Food businesses were given a rating from 0 (urgent improvement necessary) to 5 (very good) which reflected the food hygiene standards found at the time of inspection. Currently businesses must display their rating on a prominent place and it was also available on the Food Standards Agency Website.

With an increasing trend for consumers to purchase food online, a key provision within the Food Hygiene Rating Act (NI) 2016 was for online display of food business Food Hygiene Ratings to further increase the accessibility of this information. The Food Standards Agency had launched a consultation on the draft regulations which would provide the legal framework requiring food businesses to display FHRs online. Details of the consultation are available at <https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/the-food-hygiene-rating-online-display-regulations-northern-ireland-2023>. The Council had submitted the attached consultation response to the consultation which closed on 9 September 2022.

The response indicated that the Council was broadly supportive of online FHR and had raised issues with the capacity for enforcement, timing of the commencement of the Regulations and some technical areas for clarification.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the attached Food Standards Agency's Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display) Regulations (NI) 2023 consultation response.

Councillor Smart proposed, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that the recommendation be adopted.

Councillor MacArthur asked if there was the capacity for staff to undertake the required number of inspections.

In response, the Head of Environmental Health, Protection & Development informed Members that the Plan had been developed in line with the amount of resources which were available. She indicated that Officers would have set targets to meet with some inspections taking place in the evening.

Both Councillor MacArthur and Alderman Irvine asked if online food businesses including Apps such as 'Just Eat' were required to display their food hygiene ratings.

The Head of Environmental Health, Protection & Development advised that the display of those ratings online was not a requirement however she was aware that many businesses chose to do so regardless. She added that on matters such as this, Officers would refer to the Food Standards agency for support and advice on enforcement.

Referring to the matter of enforcement, Councillor Thompson noted the concerns about the Council's ability to be able to carry out that role due to funding issues and sought further clarity on that.

By way of response the Head of Environmental Health, Protection & Development indicated that was something which would need to be taken into consideration when service planning for the future. Having said that, Officers were anticipating that many businesses would comply with the requirements. She added that it would also be important for the Council to be made aware of the run in time for this. If funding was to become an issue, a 'project type approach' would need to be adopted by Officers as they may not have the capacity to monitor websites and as such there may be a need to realign resources accordingly.

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

RECESS

At this stage (9.00pm) the meeting went into recess for ten minutes and recommenced at 9.10pm)

NOTED.

15. CONSULTATION RESPONSE ON DAERA INTERTIDAL HAND-GATHERING OF SHELLFISH (FILE EHPD4)

(Appendix IX)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: - Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that DAERA had launched a consultation and call for evidence on Intertidal hand gathering of shellfish in NI. Details of the consultation could be found at <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultation/shellfishgathering2022> and the closing date for responses was 1st September 2022.

Intertidal hand gathering of shellfish referred to the collection of wild shellfish from the shore without the aid of mechanised equipment. In Northern Ireland this was predominantly for periwinkles but also included cockles, native oysters and blue mussels. The activity was common and was undertaken for both personal consumption and as a commercial activity.

There was a common law right for members of the public to gather shellfish from the shore for their personal consumption. Shellfish gathering undertaken as a commercial activity and sold into the food chain must comply with appropriate food safety requirements. Both personal and commercial gathering were also subject to some local geographical restrictions.

The purpose of the consultation was to seek the views of stakeholders on potential management options to ensure that the gathering of shellfish was conducted in a sustainable manner including a closed season, minimum landing size and a personal consumption limit. Given Ards and North Down Borough Council's rich fishing heritage and extensive coastline, the Council had submitted the attached consultation response to the consultation which closed on 1 September 2022.

The response indicated that the Council was broadly supportive of the sustainable approach included in the proposals and asked for clarification on the proposed enforcement authority.

RECOMMENDED that Council approves the attached Evidence on Intertidal hand-gathering of Shellfish in NI consultation response.

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

The proposer, Councillor Thompson, welcomed the consultation expressing his full support for the proposed Council's response.

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

16. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

16.1 ACCESS TO DOGS TO NORTH DOWN MUSEUM COURTYARD – UPDATE ON TRIAL PERIOD

The Head of Community & Culture referred to an earlier decision for a trial period to enable access to dogs to the North Down Museum Courtyard. Surveys had been undertaken during the trial period and while some concerns had been raised in respect of hygiene and those who were nervous of dogs, the majority of comments had been positive. As there were apprehensions of potential for negative impacts during the winter months it was intended to continue with the trial and to carry out surveys throughout that period. She confirmed that as such officers were seeking permission for the trial arrangements to remain in place.

Councillor T Smith proposed, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the trial period to enable access to dogs to the North Down Museum Courtyard area continue throughout the winter months.

Alderman Carson expressed his support for the continuation of the trial adding that he was aware some people would be nervous around dogs and as such he asked who would be responsible while the dogs were in the restaurant.

In response the Head of Community & Culture reminded members that the trial was just to enable access to dogs to the Courtyard at the North Down Museum rather than into the restaurant. She added that the dogs were brought in through the main museum entrance to access the Courtyard through a pair of fire doors.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor T Smith, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the trial period to enable access to dogs to the North Down Museum Courtyard area continue throughout the winter months.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED, on the proposal of Councillor Smart, seconded by Councillor MacArthur, that the public/press be excluded from the meeting.

17. AURORA POOL FLOORS (FILE CW24)

*****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. LEISURE TARGET OPERATING MODEL (FILE CW148)
(Appendix X)

*****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)

CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

NOTED.

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC/PRESS

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

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 10.00pm.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A meeting of the Audit Committee was held virtually via Zoom on Thursday 22 September 2022 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT:-

In the Chair: Councillor Greer

Alderman: Armstrong-Cotter

Councillors: McAlpine (7.05pm)
McClellan (7.05pm)
Thompson

Independent Member: Mr P Cummings

In Attendance: ASM – C Hagan
Deloitte – C McDermott
Deloitte – D Kinsella
NIAO – F Magowan

Officers: Director of Finance and Performance (S Christie), Head of Finance (S Grieve) and Democratic Services Officer (R King)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from the Chair, Councillor Gilmour, Alderman Wilson, Councillor Irwin and the Chief Executive.

NOTED.

2. CHAIRMAN'S REMARKS

In the absence of the Chair, the Vice Chair, Councillor Greer, would chair the meeting.

She welcomed everyone to the meeting including the internal and external auditors from the Northern Ireland Audit Office, ASM and Deloitte. In particular she welcomed the new independent member, Mr Paul Cummings, who was attending his first meeting of the Audit Committee.

NOTED.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chairman asked for any Declarations of Interest and the following were declared:

Ms C McDermott and Mr D Kinsella – Item 12 – Internal Audit Contract Tender.

NOTED.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MEETINGS

(a) Audit Committee Minutes from June 2022 (Appendix I)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above minutes.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the minutes be noted.

(b) Follow Up Actions (FILE AUD02)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Finance and Performance detailing that in line with best practice, the purpose of the report was to make the Audit Committee aware of the status of outstanding recommendations or any outstanding actions from the previous Audit Committee meetings.

There was one item from the previous committee.

Item	Title	Action	Officer	Status
December 2021				
8	Terms of Reference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Amend to include changes following Annual Meeting 	Head of Finance	Complete

RECOMMENDED that the Committee notes the report.

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

5. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

(a) 2022/23 Progress report to 30 June 2022 (FILE 260501-03) (Appendix II)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Finance and Performance detailing the following information:

Context

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Part 12 put in place a new framework to support continuous improvement in the delivery of council services. The Council was required each year to determine its priorities for improvement which

were aligned to the Community Plan and Corporate Objectives and to publish these in the format of an Improvement Plan by 30 June in each year..

Following internal discussion and review of the most recent Resident Survey conducted in June 2021 it was concluded that with minor alterations to Improvement Objectives 2 and 3 the 2021/22 Improvement Objectives should be rolled forward to 2022/23 and any incomplete actions would be brought forward. This approach aligned to feedback from the NIAO regarding continuity and the ability to track performance on our objectives.

	PIP 2021/22	PIP 2022/23
Improvement Objective		
1.	We will grow the economy and create jobs	We will grow the economy and create jobs
2.	We will improve the cleanliness of the streets in our borough by targeting dog fouling incidents:	We will improve the cleanliness of the streets
3.	We will improve the recycling rates from Household Recycling Centres	We will improve the Borough's recycling rates
4.	We will support our business and residents to protect and improve their health and wellbeing	We will support our businesses and residents to protect and improve their health and wellbeing
5.	We will use technology to drive change	We will use technology to drive change




There were a corresponding 38 measures including 7 Statutory Indicators and 6 self-imposed indicators, all were included in the Council's Service Plans and were monitored and reported on quarterly through each Service's respective Standing Committee.


It should be noted that this report reflected performance of the PIP 2022/23 only and was not necessarily representative of the overall performance of the organisation.

The following table gave an assessment of the status across all measures in the PIP for Quarter 1 2022/23 (1 April – 30 June 2022).

Performance Assessment Key

The key outlined below provided definitions for the three Red, Amber, Green (RAG) status levels which had been chosen to measure progress.

RAG Status	Definition
	Target/standard, actions and measures are of concern and are mostly falling short of plan
	Target/standard, actions and measures are mostly on track, but some are falling short of plan
	Target/standard, actions and measures are on track

	Rescheduled/no progress owing to impact of Covid
---	--

Corporate Plan PEOPLE priority	Improvement Objective	No of measures			
					
PROSPERITY	▶ We will grow the economy and create jobs	-	-	-	12
ENVIRONMENT	▶ We will improve the cleanliness of the streets	-	1	-	2
	▶ We will improve the Borough's recycling rates	-	1	-	-
LIFE	▶ We will support our businesses and residents to protect and improve their health and wellbeing	-	-	-	5
EXCELLENCE	▶ We will use technology to drive change	-	-	-	4
STATUTORY INDICATORS	▶ Municipal Waste	-	1	-	2
	▶ Economic Development	-	-	-	1
	▶ Planning	-	3	-	-
SELF-IMPOSED INDICATORS	▶ Resident Satisfaction	-	-	-	1
	▶ Prompt Payment of Invoices	-	-	-	3
	▶ Average number of working days lost per employee	-	-	1	-
	▶ % staff attendance	-	-	-	1
	▶ Average days lost per employee	-	-	-	1
	OVERALL	-	6	1	31

This section of the report detailed each measure report Red or Amber status with supporting commentary from the relevant Service. This section focused on the Improvement Objectives that had measures reporting Red or Amber outcomes in the period.

Prosperity / Planning

- **EX.01.PL01.001 Number of weeks to process local applications from date valid to decision or withdrawal**
 - 255 applications in the local category of development were submitted and 266 decisions issued of which 2 were refusal, which an average processing time of 23.0 weeks.
- **EX.01.PL01.002 Number of weeks to process major applications from date valid to decision or withdrawal**
 - 2 approvals issued on Major Development applications which were for a replacement school in Crawfordsburn and 29no. dwellings at High Street in Hollywood, which were processed in 28.8 weeks and 78.4 weeks respectively. The Hollywood proposal was subject to a number of amendments including relating to trees and landscaping within the proposed Area of Townscape Character.
- **EX.01.PL07.001 % progress of all enforcement cases to target conclusion within 39 weeks of receipt of complaint (i.e. case closure, date on which Enforcement Notice or Breach of Condition Notice issued, summons to court (date solicitor instructed))**
 - Enforcement staff continue to work through the backlog of new cases opened during COVID, and number of alleged breaches of planning control continue to remain high.

● Environment

- **EN.02.RS02.002 Redesign the delivery model for the Environmental CLEAR programme to year 8's**
 - The education programme was still in development
- **EN.04.WC01.001 Develop Strategy for improving recycling rates across HRCs**
 - Progress on the development of the strategy had been stalled pending a workshop with Elected Members.
- **EN.01.WC02.001 % of household waste recycled, reused and composted**
 - With the majority of Covid measures now withdrawn, the Council would be undertaking an extensive Communications Campaign around the householders kerbside recycling requirements and recommencing kerbside checks for contamination/recyclables in residual waste bins, in an effort to increase recycling rates towards the 60% target.

▲ Excellence

- **PF.03.Council.01 % staff attendance**
 - The overall absence figure for Quarter 1 was 6.93%, 4.85% attributable to long term absence and 2.08% to short term absence. There continued to be an impact due to Covid-19, with 2% of absences being attributable to the virus, and this was reflected in the inflated short term absence figure. If Covid-19 related absences were excluded from the figures, then the overall absence figure for the quarter represents 5.73%. Those on long term sick continued to undergo consultations at Occupational Health to assess their medical condition. Employees attended regular meetings to review their progress and fitness for work and to discuss any measures which can be done to enable them to return to work in a timely manner.

RECOMMENDED that the report is noted.

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

(Councillor McAlpine and Councillor McClean joined the meeting – 19.05)

6. EXTERNAL AUDIT

(a) Draft Report to Those Charged with Governance (Appendix III)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above report dated 13 September 2022.

Ms Hagen (ASM) outlined the above report to members, highlighting the findings and recommendations within in it.

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter asked if the Director of Finance and Performance would like to respond to the report.

. Overall, the Director felt that it reflected on what had been a good year. He acknowledged there were recommendations and a response would be sent to the NI Audit Office the following day. In terms of the recommendation in relation to procurement, he added that this was somewhat frustrating as management were well aware of procurement policy and the need to acquire approval from Members to

step outside of the policy. Officers had kept a good grasp of that to date and he did not want to see it slip. Overall though he felt the report had been positive.

Councillor McClean proposed, seconded by Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, that the recommendation be adopted.

The Chair asked if members would see Management's response to the report and it was confirmed by the Director that the report which would include those responses would be before Members at the December 2022 Committee meeting.

Councillor Thompson noted that funds for the Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre had not yet been transferred to Council from DfI and the Director explained that this had been frustrating. Officers had been in contact with DfI who were advising that they still had some processes to conclude before the funds could be transferred. The Director of Finance and Performance advised that the issue would now be escalated to expedite the matter to a conclusion.

Councillor Thompson felt that action would help.

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

(b) Audited Financial Statements for 2021/22 (Appendix IV)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above report.

The Head of Finance outlined the above report.

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

7. INTERNAL AUDIT

(a) Internal Audit Progress Report 2022/23 (Appendix V)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above report dated September 2022.

Mr Kinsella (Deloitte) outlined the above report to the Committee.

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor McClean, that the recommendation be adopted.

i. Service Review - Strategic Capital Development (Appendix VI)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above report dated September 2022.

Ms McDermott (Deloitte) provided Members with an overview of the above report.

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter commented on what she felt was a positive internal audit and felt that it showed officers were getting on board. She noted the Priority 3

recommendation within it and felt that matters in that category were easily rectified. Overall the report was the most positive that the Member had seen in a while.

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the report be noted.

ii. **Planning for new ways of working in post Covid environment**
(Appendix VII)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Copy of the above report dated August 2022.

Ms McDermott outlined the above report to the Committee.

Mr Cummings queried the internal auditors' advisory approach and Ms McDermott explained that it was about coming in earlier to review a new policy or identify a weakness or significant risks, for example, before a policy became established. Mr Kinsella added that Deloitte had been moving towards an advisory approach during the last couple of years where management of organisations were asking auditors to come in early.

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter proposed, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

Alderman Armstrong-Cotter commented on what she had noted to be a significant piece of work that had flagged up potential ramifications that she hadn't considered. Councillor Thompson felt that some of the content in the report had been telling and took the view that staff should be coming back to working in the same environment.

Councillor McClean pointed to the wider discussions that were taking place around the future of the Council's estate and asked if the report had considered its current status and where that needed to be in future, along with staff absences.

The Director of Finance and Performance indicated that the Office Rationalisation OBC had been presented to Members recently and in that management had made assumptions around ways of working which had included staff/desk ratios etc. It was envisaged that the two could run in parallel and management would have benefited from a further eighteen months to two years of learning what a flexible organisation looked like since the start of the Covid-19 Pandemic by the time decisions around offices would be required to be made. In terms of staff absences, sickness absence figures had fallen since staff were able to work from home and management would learn more from the current phase where more hybrid working was being carried out.

In terms of the advisory approach, the Director found it beneficial as it offered valuable insight from those involved with working with multiple organisations.

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the report be noted.

8. CORPORATE GOVERNANCE (Appendix VIII)

(a) Corporate Governance Risk Register (FILE AUD02)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED:- Report from the Director of Organisational Development and Administration stating that as members would be aware, the Corporate Risk Register (CRR) was a live document which was amended as required to reflect new or changing risk factors. The CRR was currently being revised to facilitate improved reporting on risks and progress on risk improvements, and to bring it in line with the revised Risk Strategy. The reformatting of the CRR was currently being tested. The format and content would be consulted on before being finalised in October.

The outworking of the CRR aimed to:

- Ensure substantial risks were reflected in both Service Risk Registers (SRR) and the CRR.
- Improve on the identification and recording of risks, controls and actions. Risks identified in Service Risk Registers were now aligned with CRR risks and the current review would ensure that risk improvements, made or required, were clearly recorded in the SRR with target completion dates, where applicable. Whilst the SRRs would not be directly reported to Council, the risks and actions detail would facilitate improved reporting of the CRR to Audit Committee.
- Assign Risk Owners, for each risk in the CRR. The Risk Owner would be a Director who would be responsible for an identified risk through all the stages of the risk methodology, including reporting and escalation. A Head of Service lead would also be identified to support the Risk Owner.
- Assign a Risk Appetite for each CRR Risk. This would ensure that risks exceeding the tolerance threshold identified are escalated for review.
- Ensure CRR risk descriptions remain relevant.

In the current review of risks, the removal of COVID-19 as a stand-alone risk (CR14) was recommended however this risk would remain to be identified within CR6, Health and Safety, to ensure that this risk continued to be appropriately assessed, monitored and controlled.

Two new temporary risks were being considered for addition due to potential financial and reputational impacts:

- The integration of legacy North Down sporting facilities through the insourcing project.
- Aurora defects.

RECOMMENDED that the report be noted.

AGREED, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor Thompson, that the recommendation be adopted.

9. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

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

NOTED.

EXCLUSION OF PUBLIC/PRESS

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Alderman Armstrong-Cotter, seconded by Councillor McAlpine, that the public/press be excluded during the discussion of the undernoted items of confidential business.

10. SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS UPDATE (FILE 231329)

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

11. FRAUD, WHISTLEBLOWING AND DATA-PROTECTION MATTERS

(Appendix VI)

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

12. INTERNAL AUDIT CONTRACT TENDER (FILE AUD02)

(Appendix VII)

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

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

13. MEETING WITH NI AUDIT OFFICE & INTERNAL AUDIT SERVICE IN THE ABSENCE OF MANAGEMENT

IN COMMITTEE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

AC.22.09.2022 PM

182

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

RE-ADMITTANCE OF PUBLIC AND PRESS

AGREED, that the public/press be readmitted to the meeting.

TERMINATION OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 20.12

From: DE School Attendance <attendance@education-ni.gov.uk>

Sent: 22 August 2022 13:41

Subject: Department of Education Consultation on Period Products (Free Provision) Regulations

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good afternoon,

The Assembly recently made a ground-breaking piece of legislation called the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (Northern Ireland) 2022. The Act places importance on respect for dignity and aims to remove financial barriers to accessing period products. The NICS is working collectively to implement the Act.

Schools and other educational premises are specifically referenced in the Act and it was acknowledged during the Assembly's consideration of the Bill that nobody should miss out on their education because they don't have access to period products. This resonates with the DE's Pilot Scheme to Address Period Dignity in Schools which seeks to support confident attendance at school, primarily through the provision of free period products.

The first step along the way to implementing the new law is for Departments to specify which of their bodies will be legally required to make sure free period products are available for use on their premises. DE's draft proposals will ensure that there is provision in schools, EOTAS settings, pupil referral units, youth settings and specified office accommodation.

In relation to schools – the proposals place legal duty with The Education Authority in terms of controlled schools; with boards of governors of voluntary and grant maintained integrated schools; and with proprietors of independent schools.

The Consultation will run for 8 weeks from 22 August 2022 to 16 October 2022.

The Department of Education is consulting with its 'Public Service Bodies' and also welcomes views from its wider stakeholder base.

The consultation can be accessed here:

https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/consultation_finder/?sort_on=iconsultable_modifieddate&sort_order=descending&advanced=&keyword=department+of+education

Dale Heaney
Tackling Educational Disadvantage Team

From: Malachy Finnegan

Sent: 23 August 2022 17:11

Subject: Consultation on RQIA's Draft Strategic Plan 2022-27 - Launching on 25 August 2022

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

"This email is covered by the disclaimer found at the end of the message."

Dear Colleague,

Consultation on RQIA's Draft Strategic Plan 2022-27

RQIA is seeking views on its Draft Strategic Plan 2022-27, through a 12 week public consultation, commencing on Thursday 25 August and closing on 17 November 2022.

This consultation sets out to engage with all stakeholders on the core purpose of RQIA, our strategic objectives as Regulator, and actions we plan to take to deliver on those objectives.

We wish to engage with people who use health and social care services and their carers, care professionals, those from health and social care service providers and the general public, and to listen to their views and experience. We will reflect on what we learn, and review and develop our plans and policies to take account of what is important to people.

From Thursday, you can access the Consultation documents on our website at: www.rqia.org.uk, and I would encourage you engage in this consultation.

Kind regards,

Briege Donaghy

Chief Executive

The Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority
7th Floor, Victoria House
15-27 Gloucester Street,
Belfast
BT1 4LS

From: Whitten, Ivor <Ivor.Whitten@probation-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 01 September 2022 12:56
To: Mayor's Office <mayors.office@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk>
Subject: Probation Board for Northern Ireland Corporate Plan 2023-26 Consultation

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.



Address: 80-90 North Street, Belfast, BT1 1LD
Switchboard: 028 90 522522
Website: www.pbni.org.uk
Twitter: @PBNI News

Max Murray CBE Board Chair

01 September 2022

Dear Mayor Cllr Karen Douglas

The Probation Board is carrying out a consultation on its Draft Corporate Plan for 2023-26. The Plan sets out the strategic direction for the organisation over the next three-year period.

The challenges faced over the last Corporate Planning period have been unprecedented. The COVID-19 pandemic and pace of recovery is highly likely to increase demand for probation services and how this is being planned for, managed and resourced is an important element of the next Corporate Planning period.

Like all public services, Probation is also likely to face challenging financial settlements over the coming three-year period. Any pressures on budget are likely to impact upon our service delivery. It is imperative we find ways to mitigate the impact of financial constraints on our front-line delivery over the next three years to maintain our practice standards, which is how we protect the public.

At the same time, we are working with people whose needs are becoming increasingly complex. Staff are working with more people many of whom are suffering from poor mental health and addictions. Tackling the root causes of offending behaviour necessitates building strong partnerships across the statutory, community and voluntary sectors.

There are a number of significant workforce issues which will continue to be relevant over the coming Corporate Planning period. This includes the need for the organisation to have modern, fit for purpose pay structures in place to enable us to attract suitable candidates and, more importantly, retain experienced social work staff.

Mindful of these challenges We have identified four strategic priorities which are :

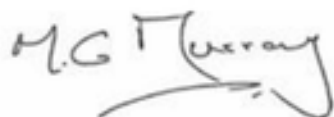
- **Our People** – we will develop, support, and empower our staff to improve service delivery.
- **Our Services** – we will deliver an effective, quality statutory probation service to reduce reoffending.

- **Our Funding** – we will prioritise our budget to maximise service delivery.
- **Our Partnerships** – we will develop our partnerships to help make communities safer.

We would be keen to have your organisation's views on our draft Plan and any feedback you have in particular about the strategic priorities. You can download the Corporate Plan consultation document from <https://www.pbni.org.uk/publication/probation-board-northern-ireland-draft-corporate-plan-2023-26>

If you wish to respond you can email info@probation-ni.gov.uk or alternatively we would be happy to arrange to speak to you about your feedback. The consultation is open for 10 weeks. We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M.G. Murray', with a stylized flourish underneath.

Max Murray CBE

Board Chair

ANDREW SCOTT
Director of Corporate Services & Governance



Rathgael House
43 Balloo Road
Rathgill
Bangor
BT19 7PR
Tel: 028 91279808
Email: andrew.scott@education-ni.gov.uk

20 September 2022

EVERY CHILD: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION'S CORPORATE PLAN (2023-2028)

I am writing to advise you that the Department of Education has today launched a public consultation on its draft Corporate Plan. The draft Plan has been developed following extensive engagement with stakeholders and we hope that once finalised, it provide clarity to staff and all our stakeholders on our focus over the coming years.

The draft Corporate Plan will provide the Department with a clear strategic focus in the medium-to-long term. It outlines our priorities and will help us focus our efforts on making the best difference for children and young people in the context of finite resources. This is distinct from the ongoing [Independent Review of Education](#), which is ongoing – the Department will align with any agreed recommendations from this in the future.

The draft Corporate Plan proposes a new, simpler, more child-centred vision for the Department, with **five** new strategic priorities which, for the most part, are guided by its responsibilities under the [Programme for Government \(PfG\) draft Outcomes Framework](#), the [Children and Young People's Strategy \(CYPS\)](#), the [Consolidated Covid-19 Recovery Plan, A Fair Start](#), and the [New Decade, New Approach \(NDNA\)](#) agreement. These new strategic priorities also take account of the feedback generated from extensive internal and external engagement to date.

This consultation is available on Citizen Space and will be open from 20 September to 15 November 2022. Your opinion matters to us in informing our strategic direction, and I would encourage you to participate. Further information on how to participate can be found at <https://www.education-ni.gov.uk/consultations/department-educations-draft-2023-2028-corporate-plan>.

If you require further information regarding the consultation please contact DEcorporateplan@education-ni.gov.uk and we will be happy to assist.

I hope that you will avail of this opportunity to contribute to this important piece of work and to provide your views, which will help shape our future strategic direction and improve outcomes for children and young people.



Andrew Scott

Unclassified

189

ITEM 9.5**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	28 September 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	22 September 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below.
Subject	Request for Delegated Authority to October Environment Committee - Consultation Response to Review of Drinking in Public Bye-Laws and Powers
Attachments	

The Department for Communities has issued a pre-consultation letter to Council in relation to a proposed review of drinking in public byelaws and powers.

Since the closing date for receipt of responses is 14th October 2022, it is proposed that the October meeting of the Environment Committee be granted delegated powers to agree and issue a Council response to this pre-consultation letter.

Recommendation

It is recommended that approval is granted for the proposed delegated authority.

An Roinn
PobalDepartment fur
Commonities

190

From: Liam Quinn**Causeway Exchange
1-7 Bedford Street
Belfast
BT2 7EG**Telephone: (028) 9082 3140
e-mail: liam.quinn1@communities-ni.gov.uk
Date: 14 September 2022

Dear Chief Executive

DRINKING IN PUBLIC BYE-LAWS AND POWERS

As you may be aware, the Department for Communities (DfC) is a member of the Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) Legislation Review Delivery Group, alongside representatives from the Department of Justice (DoJ), the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Court and Tribunal Service (NICTS), Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), Northern Ireland Federation of Housing Associations (NIFHA) Belfast City Council (BCC) and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (SOLACE).

DfC has policy responsibility for Drinking in Public bye-laws which are made under Section 90 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 (the Act). By virtue of Section 91(1) of the Act, bye-laws do not have any legal effect until they are confirmed by the Department.

As part of the ongoing ASB Legislation Review, DoJ and DfC are planning a joint public consultation on ASB. I am seeking your views on the following:

- the effectiveness of the operation of the current bye-laws prohibiting the consumption of alcohol in public places;
- potential additional powers which the Council considers may assist Council officers and PSNI address the problems caused by drinking in public places. Councils may wish to consider having access to enforcement powers e.g. fixed penalty notices;
- the proposals contained in Articles 68-72 of the Criminal Justice (NI) Order 2008, which were to replace the current bye-laws, whether these proposal would address on-street drinking problems; or



Department for
Communities
www.communities-ni.gov.uk

An Roinn
Pobal

Department fur
Commonities

191

- whether Articles 68-72 should be amended to include powers of seizure or disposal of open and/or closed containers of alcohol and to have joint enforcement powers as opposed to police-only as it currently stands.

Councils views on these issues, or any alternative options suggested, will be used to inform proposals within the consultation document which is expected to issue early next year.

I would be grateful if you could return your response by 14 October 2022.

Yours sincerely

Liam Quinn
Assistant Director of Local Government and Housing Regulation

Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Year 1 (2022/23) Business Plan

Dear Consultee,

The Housing Executive is pleased to present our Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Year 1 (2022/23) Business Plan for public consultation.

Our draft plan covers the period 2022/23 – 2024/25 and acknowledges the challenging planning context facing the Housing Executive. As this situation continues to evolve we will update the relevant sections of the plan, prior to final publication, where deemed appropriate.

We have developed this draft plan through extensive consultation and engagement with a broad range of partners and stakeholders to help identify key themes and objectives for the three year period covered by the plan. This involved consultation and engagement with key partners and experts across the housing sector, local government agencies, with community based organisations, and of course with our tenants and customers.

As a result of this, we developed the Housing Executive's draft corporate plan with six high level objectives, a three year high level action plan (detailing some key initiatives we will undertake in the coming years) and a one year business plan. Further information on these are detailed in the document.

In order to further shape and refine our draft Corporate Plan we are undertaking a 12 week public consultation exercise and we would welcome your views and feedback on the strategic direction the organisation has outlined in the draft plan.

We have identified four key areas that we would like to receive feedback on. These are outlined in the consultation response template.

If you would like to provide a response to the strategy please complete the consultation response template and email this to business.performance@nihe.gov.uk

Consultation closes on **Wednesday 14th December at 5pm.**

For further details on the draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Business Plan or if you would like to request any of the documentation in an alternative format please contact John Goudy (john.goudy@nihe.gov.uk or email business.performance@nihe.gov.uk)

Many thanks

John Goudy
Senior Planning and Performance Manager
Housing Executive
Planning and Performance Unit (5th Floor)
2 Adelaide Street
Belfast
BT2 8PB

Freedom of Information Act 2000

Confidentiality of Consultations

The Housing Executive will publish a summary of responses following completion of the consultation process. Your response, and all other responses to the consultation, may be disclosed on request. The Housing Executive can only refuse to disclose information in exceptional circumstances. Before you submit your response, please read the paragraphs below on the confidentiality of consultations and they will give you guidance on the legal position about any information given by you in response to this consultation.

The Freedom of Information Act gives the public a right of access to any information held by a public authority, namely, the Housing Executive in this case. This right of access to information includes information provided in response to a consultation. The Housing Executive cannot automatically consider as confidential information supplied to it in response to a consultation. However, it does have the responsibility to decide whether any information provided by you in response to this consultation, including information about your identity should be made public or treated as confidential.

This means that information provided by you in response to the consultation is unlikely to be treated as confidential, except in very particular circumstances. The Lord Chancellor's Code of Practice on the Freedom of Information Act provides that:

- The Housing Executive should only accept information from third parties in confidence if it is necessary to obtain that information in connection with the exercise of any of the Housing Executive's functions and it would not otherwise be provided.
- The Housing Executive should not agree to hold information received from third parties "in confidence" which is not confidential in nature.
- Acceptance by the Housing Executive of confidentiality provisions must be for good reasons, capable of being justified to the Information Commissioner.

For further information about confidentiality of responses please contact the Information Commissioner's Office (or see the website at: <http://www.informationcommissioner.gov.uk/>).

Deputation Request Form

A 'deputation request' refers to a person or group of persons asking to appear in person before the Council or a Council Committee in order to address the Council or Committee (as the case may be) on a particular matter.

The procedure governing deputations is contained within section 12 of the Council's Standing Orders, a copy of which is set out below.

If you wish to make a deputation request, please complete this form and return it to Ards and North Down Borough Council via the following email address: member.services@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk, providing us with a contact email or postal address and contact telephone number when doing so (please do not include your personal contact details on this form – see privacy notice below).

Please note that it will be for the Council to decide whether to accede to your request and, if it does, to determine when and where the deputation will be heard. The Council will draw upon the information you provide in this form in order to reach its decision, therefore you are encouraged to clearly outline the topic of your request and the reason why you wish to raise the matter before the Council or a Committee.

Applicant Details

I/we apply to Ards and North Down Borough Council to make a deputation and should this application be successful, I/we agree to comply with section 12 of the Council's Standing Orders.

Name of person(s) making the deputation request:	John Hennessy
Date of request:	24/08/22
If making the deputation on behalf of an organisation or a group of individuals, name of the organisation / individuals:	St. Anne's Primary School, Donaghadee
Name of Committee (if known) to which you wish to make your deputation:	

Please summarise below (continuing onto an additional page if required) the subject matter of your deputation request and the reason why you wish to raise the matter before the Council or a Committee.

In December 2021, the parents of pupils at St. Anne's Primary School voted overwhelmingly to begin the process of transforming the school to Integrated status.

A Development Proposal and Case for Change was submitted to the Education Authority in March 2022, followed by consultation with local schools in April.

In June 2022, the Department of Education began a public consultation which closes on October 14, 2022.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I would appreciate a little time to update Council on our progress to date, to share the huge support within the community for Donaghadee's first Integrated Primary School, and to answer any questions from Councilors about the Proposal.

I would also like to ask Councilors to write in support of our Transformation proposal to the Department of Education's public consultation.

Extract from Ards and North Down Borough Council's Standing Orders, Version 8, September 2021

12. Deputations

(1) Deputations, from any source, shall only be admitted to address the Council provided the Chief Executive has received seven working days notice of the intended deputation and a statement of its objective, and subject to the agreement of the Council.

(2) In the case of an emergency, deputations, from any source, shall only be admitted to address the Council provided the Chief Executive has received one working day's notice of the intended deputation and a statement of its objective, and subject to the agreement of the Mayor.

(3) The deputation shall be confined to the presentation of a statement, or copy of resolutions, and shall not make more than two short addresses by any two members of the deputation. The totality of the address shall not exceed 10 minutes followed by a maximum 15 minutes question and answer session.

(4) Deputations should not be repetitive and, where possible, issues of a similar or linked nature should be contained in one deputation. Where a deputation has made a presentation to the Council, the Council will decline to accept another deputation on the same issue from the same individual or group for a period of six months.

(5) No further discussion or proposals beyond questions shall take place at a Council or Committee meeting until after the deputation has withdrawn. Any subsequent proposal made should be limited to a request for officers to bring back a report on the matters raised by the deputation.

Privacy notice – how we will use information about you

Ards and North Down Borough Council is a Data Processor under the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) for the personal data it gathers when receiving and administering deputation requests.

You are providing your personal data to the Council whose lawful basis for processing it falls within the following three categories:

- a) **Consent** - you consent to the information being processed for the specific purpose of the Council considering your deputation request;
- b) **Public task** - the processing is necessary in order for the Council to consider your request in line with its Standing Orders which were established under the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014; and
- c) **Legitimate interests** - the processing is necessary for your legitimate interests (or the legitimate interests of a third party) in order that Council may consider your deputation request.

The personal data you provide when making a deputation request may be shared internally within the Council with staff who are involved in decision making and administration in respect of Council and Committee meetings. This includes both the data contained within this form and any other data, such as an email address or other contact details, we may gather when you send the form to us.

The information you provide on this form only will be provided as a report to Council and potentially thereafter as a report to a Committee (depending on whether Council accedes to your request). Any such report will not usually be heard 'in confidence' and therefore the report will also be published on the Council website prior to the meeting. Members of the press and public may attend the Council (and Committee) meeting at which the report is discussed. An audio recording and written minute will be made of the meeting and both will be published on the website.

Your personal data will not be shared or disclosed to any other organisation without your consent, unless the law permits or places an obligation on the Council to do so.

Personal data is held and stored by the Council in a safe and secure manner and in compliance with Data Protection legislation and in line with the Council's Records Retention and Disposal Schedule.

If you have any queries regarding the processing of your personal data, please contact:

Data Protection Officer
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Town Hall, The Castle
Bangor
BT20 4BT
Email: dataprotection@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk
Tel: 0300 013 3333

Unclassified

198

ITEM 10.2**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	28 September 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	13 September 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Request for Deputation from Irish League of Credit Unions
Attachments	

A request to make a deputation has been received from Mr Martin Fisher of the Irish League of Credit Unions, requesting an opportunity to engage and present to Council Members to discuss the importance of credit unions within Northern Ireland.

An application was received, stating the following:

"The ILCU is the main trade and representative body for credit unions on the island of Ireland with 85 affiliated credit unions in Northern Ireland. We have presented to a number of other councils (and the NILGA Executive) and we would appreciate the opportunity to brief elected officials at Ards and North Down on the credit union movement in Northern Ireland. The short briefing will include background, credit union facts and figures for Northern Ireland overall and within the council area, credit union strengths and challenges, cost of living crisis, our social impact and educational initiatives as well information on our policy manifesto.

"We have a close working relationship with the other credit union trade body in Northern Ireland, the Ulster Federation of Credit Unions (UFCU) who have also give short briefings alongside the ILCU to other councils.

Unclassified

199

"We would kindly request that UFCU be considered as part of any briefing request (subject to their availability) as well. We believe it would be beneficial for elected officials to hear from both credit union trade bodies."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council considers the deputation request from Irish League of Credit Unions for hearing at the Corporate Services committee.

Unclassified

200

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	28 September 2022
Responsible Director	Director of Regeneration, Development and Planning
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Economic Development
Date of Report	19 August 2022
File Reference	ED90
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	GCSE Support Revision Programme
Attachments	

Building upon the highly successful Easter School operating in West Belfast for over 20 years, Ards and North Down Borough Council was approached by Belfast City Council in 2019 as it was exploring extending this provision outside the city. The intention of the project was to engage young people (Year 12) who had the potential to achieve a grade C in GCSE English and Maths but who were at risk of not achieving this.

The Economic Development Section made several approaches to the schools in the Borough where GCSE levels of achievement from A* to C in Maths and English fell below 50% of the regional average (Movilla High School; Bangor Academy and 6th Form College; Strangford Integrated College; Nendrum College), in order to assess their interest in the programme.

Two schools responded to express interest and participated in the programme: Strangford Integrated College and Nendrum College. Despite some delays due to the pandemic in implementing the scheme, this was done successfully in 2021 and this report is an interim evaluation of the work that was delivered in the above-mentioned schools.

Unclassified

201

Programme Delivery

West Belfast Partnership Board agreed the following delivery approach with both Colleges:

- Face to face Maths and English GCSE delivery would begin in the Autumn Term 2021 at both Strangford College and Nendrum College.
- Fifty students would participate (twenty-five at each College).
- The Colleges would identify those students most in need of GCSE revision support.
- All outcomes within contract would be achieved and partnership working efforts would seek to bring as much additionality as possible to ensure the outcomes.
- The majority of participants would be Year 12 students, with a small number of Year 11 students identified and support for Year 13 students who did not achieve in Year 12.
- Year 11 and Year 13 are additional to the original contract in order to provide support to make up for almost two academic years of lost learning. It is anticipated that the numbers of Years 11 and 13 will be no more than 20% of the overall participant numbers. This flexible approach will ensure that students most in need of support will have access to additional classes.
- Participating students would benefit from twenty hours of GCSE support in English or Maths.

Programme Objectives

The objectives of this programme are to:

- Contribute to improving GCSE attainment levels.
- Engage with and develop relationships with schools, educators and parents/guardians that will result in securing their commitment and 'buy in'.
- Address specific learning needs for GCSE Mathematics and English students by providing targeted and focused out of school hours learning support interventions.
- Ensure that each young person receives the supports required within Maths and/or English.

Expected Outcomes

- Increased % in the number of students maintaining predicted Grade C.
- Increased % in the number of students exceeding their predicted Grade.
- Increased % in the number of students attaining Grade C or above.
- 70% participation rate by students (i.e. attendance at GCSE Support classes).

Unclassified

202

- 67% of participating students achieving Maths and English at Grade C or above (this data will be available in September of the new academic year).

Participant Criterion

The GCSE Maths & English Support Programme would be open to young people:

- Attending Strangford Integrated College or Nendrum College.
- In Key Stage 4 (Year 11/12) studying towards GCSE English and Maths.
- At high risk of not achieving GCSE Maths and/or English at Grade C but have the potential to achieve this.
- Referred into the programme from teachers/educators that can evidence/show projected grades ensuring suitability for the programme.

It was anticipated that the majority of young people participating would be students who are entitled to Free School Meals and / or live in areas of disadvantage.

Programme Quantitative Data

The tables below present the quantitative data showing student participation in the GCSE English GCSE Support Programme (both Colleges) and the Maths GCSE Support Programme (Nendrum College).

Strangford College: English				
Subject	No. of Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %
English	25	25	B x 1 C x 12 C/D x 5 D x 5 E x 2	18 x 100% 4 x 90% 2 x 80% 1 x 70% Average: 95.6%

Nendrum College: English				
Subject	No. of Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %
English	12	12	C x 4 C/D x 2 D x 6	12 x 100% Average: 100%

Nendrum College: Maths					
Subject	Tier	No Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %

Unclassified

203

Maths	13 x Foundation	13	13	C x 6 C/D x 3 D x 2 E x 2	11 x 100% 1 x 90% 1 x 80% Average 97%
-------	--------------------	----	----	------------------------------------	---

The table below provides an overall summary of the quantitative data.

Overall Totals for Strangford and Nendrum				
Subject	No Students	Year 12	Predicted Grade	Attendance %
English	37	37	B x 1 C x 16 C/D x 7 D x 11 E x 2	97.8%
Maths Foundation Tier	13	13	C x 6 C/D x 3 D x 2 E x 2	90%
Totals	50	50		Average: 95.2%

Super Output Areas and Free School Meal Entitlement

Using the postcodes supplied, it was possible to identify students living in the 30% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas. The Application Forms also identified those students in receipt of Free School Meals. The table below shows the students living in the 30% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas, those who receive Free School Meals or both.

College and Programme	Top 30% SOA and FSM	Top 30% SOA and FSM %	Top 30% SOA	SOA %	FSM	FSM %
Strangford English (n=25)	2	8%	3	12%	3	12%
Nendrum English (n = 12)	2	16.7%	3	25%	2	16.7%
Nendrum Maths (n = 13)	5	33.3%	2	15.4%	1	7.7%
Total	9	18%	8	16%	6	12%

Unclassified

204

Twenty-three students that participated in the GCSE Support Programmes either live in one of the top 20% most disadvantaged Super Output Areas in NI, are in receipt of Free School Meals, or both. This represents 46% of the total number of participating students.

GCSE Support Programme outcomes

The table below considers the extent to which the Programme objectives were met:

Programme Objectives	Comment
Contribute to improving GCSE attainment levels	At time of writing this report exam grades have just been released but these have not yet been collated into a full review report. However, student and Tutor assessment of progress suggests that the objectives are likely to be achieved. When available, a full report will be brought back to Council.
Engage with and develop relationships with schools, educators and parents/guardians that will result in securing their commitment and 'buy in'	Fully met, as demonstrated by high level of attendance from all students. 47 (n=48) students said they were treated well by the tutors (1 student was unsure). The majority of students believed this was an environment in which they could learn effectively.
Address specific learning needs for GCSE Mathematics and English students by providing targeted and focused out of school hours learning support interventions.	Yes – evidenced by Teacher comments who were 'able to target areas of weakness'. All students identified benefits, with 47 (n=48) students said they improved in English or Maths. The majority of students said they benefitted from: * learning new things, skills and methods * going over things they didn't understand before * things being explained in different ways so they understood more * studying and learning about topics they were unsure about
Ensure that each young person receives the support required within Maths and/or English.	Yes – evidenced by Tutors assessing that every student progressed in English or Maths; which was also the assessment of the students about their own progress.

Furthermore, the majority of students reported that they felt more confident about studying English or Maths, that they received the support they needed, and that the GCSE Programme was useful.

Unclassified

205

Student Participation Criterion

As agreed with West Belfast Partnership Board at the outset, fifty Year 12 students participated in the Programme (twenty-five at each College), which was delivered face-to-face with groups of students and was delivered over twenty hours.

All the participant criteria were met. Each participating student was assessed by their English or Maths Teacher, with every Programme application form stating that each student was 'at significant risk of not obtaining a Grade C in English without additional support'. Those students on a predicted Grade C were 'within 5% points of Grade D'. In addition, 46% of students lived in the top 30% most deprived areas, were in receipt of Free School Meals, or both:

- 18% of students lived in the top 30% most deprived areas and were in receipt of Free School Meals
- 16% of students lived in the top 30% most deprived areas
- 12% of students were in receipt of Free School Meals

Additional Feedback from Nendrum College

"I want to take this opportunity to thank you and your team for your help and support in allowing us to facilitate these additional sessions for students. Students responded so positively to them, and parents were very appreciative and thankful that their children were able to access additional support.

"While in context of Covid disruption this funding for additional teaching support has been particularly welcome, we would love to see further opportunities going forward to be able to facilitate additional support to students so that they can achieve their best. While we await student's results in August, the consensus is that those students who have been involved with this additional support really have developed their skills and have a much better chance of gaining their Grade C. We would love to be able to offer this support going forward so that other students can also avail of this opportunity'

"Many thanks".

*Email to WBPB Education Manager
from Vicky Thompson, Vice Principal, Nendrum College*

Other teachers also expressed the hope that the GCSE Support Programme can be delivered again in the next academic year, with the additional hope that the Programmes could start in the Autumn Term.

Unclassified

206

Conclusion

While students across NI have received their GCSE results further analysis now needs to be done to review how these relate to each school and the interventions that have taken place. A full review will take place over the coming months and once the GCSE results are taken into consideration and fully analysed, the West Belfast Partnership Board will produce a final evaluation report in order to inform the council of the following objectives:

- Increased % in the number of students maintaining predicted Grade C.
- Increased % in the number of students exceeding their predicted Grade.
- Increased % in the number of students attaining Grade C or above.

Despite the absence of this information in the report, it is clear from the initial findings, as above, that the programme has had a significant impact on the pupils and that attendance and interest in this initiative has been very high.

It is obvious from the above school testimony that the programme has been welcomed and that the two schools which formed part of this pilot programme would like to see it continue.

Belfast City Council has confirmed that they have secured a one-year extension to the programme for the 2022-23 academic year with the programme re-starting in the Autumn.

The initial commitment to this programme from Ards and North Down Borough Council in 2019 was £14,363.69 at a cost of £287.27 per pupil.

Given the uncertainty resulting from the pandemic around the delivery of the programme in the past two years, a business case seeking reduced funding for £9,000 in order to support an additional year for this pilot programme was agreed as part of the estimates process for this year. Therefore, the funding is available, from existing budgets, to continue delivering this programme for another year for approximately 30 pupils.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council approves:

1. Participation in the GCSE Support Revision Programme for the academic year 2022-23, with the two participating schools, Nendrum College and Strangford Integrated College, at a cost of £9,000 on the basis on the evidence provided in this report.
2. The Economic Development section proceeding with the signing on a Service Level Agreement with Belfast City Council and West Belfast Partnership Board to deliver the 2022-23 programme as specified in point 1.

Unclassified

207

3. The Economic Development section bringing back a report on the full achievements and impact of the GCSE Support Revision Programme once it is finalised by the delivery agent.

ITEM 12

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	28 September 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	14 September 2022
File Reference	
Legislation	
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Not Applicable <input type="checkbox"/>
Subject	Appointment to outside body – Northern Ireland Housing Council
Attachments	

At the Council's meeting in June, appointments were made to Sub-Committees, Working Groups and Outside Bodies by way of nomination. In error, one body was not listed for appointment, the Northern Ireland Housing Council.

The vacancy arose following the election of Nick Mathison MLA to the Assembly. This position would be up until the Annual Meeting in 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council proceeds to appoint a Member to the Northern Ireland Housing Council by way of nomination.

ITEM 16

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Council/Committee	Council
Date of Meeting	28 September 2022
Responsible Director	Chief Executive
Responsible Head of Service	
Date of Report	14 September 2022
File Reference	
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 – SEPTEMBER 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 in June 2022. Further report to follow in the Autumn.
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.	On draft agenda for CSC October 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
						(September 2022).	
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 October 2020. Further report to come back (September 2022).	On draft agenda for CSC October 2022.
16/01/20	Installation of CCTV for Donaghadee with costings	Alderman Keery	Council – January 2020	Environment Committee – February 2020	Agreed	Reported to EC September 2022.	To be ratified at September Council.
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. Expected follow up needed to

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
							Executive Office (TBC)
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							
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
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	October/November 2022	EQIA closes 30 August 2022. Report expected once outcome known.
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							
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
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 April 2022. Report prepared for September 2022 but deferred to October 2022 C&W Committee	Further report to follow C&WC October 2022.
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	Councillor Douglas & Alderman Wilson	Council November 2021	Regeneration & Development December 2021	Agreed	Report update at Oct/Nov R&D Committee	Consultation with Town Advisory Group currently taking place and outcome will be reported to future meeting.

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
	Council addressing how this can be achieved as a pilot for the Borough.						
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 (TBC).
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	Response from DfI Minister reported to Sept Planning Committee	Response noted, subject to ratification at September Council.
20.01.22	Stand4Trees and Tree Protection Orders	Councillors Kendall and McKee	Council February 22	Planning Committee – March 22	Agreed	Reported to Sept Planning Committee	Cttee agreed to receive quarterly updates re:TPO requests and outcomes and number of applications for consent to carry out works

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
							to protected trees, similar to quarterly Enforcement updates, delivered in Committee. Subject to ratification by Sept Council.
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 to Nov R&D Committee	
13.04.22	Environmental damage caused by modern day packaging	Councillors McRandal and Douglas	Council – April 2022	Environment Committee – June 2022	Agreed - ratified by June Council		Report to be brought back - TBC.
14.04.22	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)	Report prepared for September 2022 C&WC	Report to follow at C&W Committee - October 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
						but deferred to October	
10.05.22	Discussions with EA re redevelopment of the play area fronting Victoria Primary School as a potential Peace Plus project for Ballywalter	Councillors Adair and Edmund	Council – May 2022	Community and Wellbeing June 2022	Agreed (to be ratified at June Council)	TBC	Peace Plus details/project not confirmed. Officers will bring back report thereafter.
17.05.22	2028 Centenary of the internationally renowned Ards TT races. Asking Council how best to commemorate this important sporting anniversary.	Alderman McIlveen and Councillor Kennedy	Council – May 2022	Community and Wellbeing June 2022	Agreed (to be ratified at June Council)	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee – further detail TBC	
	RESCINDING MOTION Purchase of equipment by Council to support hybrid meetings for Bangor and Ards Chambers. To be in place onsite for 1 September 2022.	Alderman McDowell, Councillors Cummings T Smith, Greer McRandal	Council – May 2022	Heard at Council Meeting May 2022	That all meetings take place onsite/hybrid from 1 September 2022 or as	Update report considered at Council in August and further update report to be brought to	

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
		Walker & McKee			soon as possible after that date.	September Council.	
19.05.2022	Business case for redesign of the parallel sports pitches and facilities at Park Way, Comber	Councillors Cummings and Johnson	Council – June 2022	Referred to Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022 – deferred to October 2022		Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee – further detail TBC	
20.06.2022	Review of health and safety process re community groups	Councillors MacArthur, Brooks, T Smith and Kennedy	Council – June 2022	Referred to Corporate Services Committee – Sept 2022			On draft CSC October agenda.
20.06.2022	Report exploring the possibility of introducing a policy that shows commitment to supporting the wellbeing of our workforce by ensuring appropriate support is	Councillor Greer and Councillor McKee	Council – June 2022	Referred to Corporate Services Committee – Sept 2022			On draft CSC October agenda.

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
	available to anyone undergoing IVF.						
21.06.2022	Widening the Council's use of digital technology (in particular QR codes) to promote and provide information about statues, built heritage and monuments	Alderman McIlveen and Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Council – June 2022	Referred to Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022 –	deferred to C&W Committee - October 2022	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee – further detail TBC	.
21.06.2022	Engagement with relevant community stakeholders to ascertain community need and desires in respect of the Queen's Leisure Complex	Councillors Kendall, McRandal and McClean	Council - June 2022	Referred to Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022 –	deferred to C&W Committee - October 2022	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee – further detail TBC	
5.07.2022	That this Council changes the name of Queen's Parade to Queen's Platinum Jubilee Parade in honour and recognition of the 70th	Alderman Irvine & Keery	Council – July 2022	Referred to Environment Committee - September 2022	Amdt agreed.		Sept 2022 - Recommendation to Council that item is referred to

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
	<p>anniversary of the Queen's accession to the throne.</p> <p>*** Amendment Received from Councillor Cathcart</p> <p>That this Council, in recognition of Her Majesty's Platinum Jubilee and her conferment of City Status upon Bangor, agrees to name an appropriate place or building within Bangor in her honour and that future Council Bangor entrance signs make reference to Bangor being a Platinum Jubilee City.</p>						Corporate Services Committee and Report to be brought to a future meeting - TBC
19.07.2022	This Council notes with concern that a number of planted trees in urban settings along roads which have died or have been removed but not replaced;	Alderman McIlveen & Councillor Cathcart	Council – July 2022	Referred to Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022	Deferred to C&W Committee - October 2022	Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee –	Meeting with Dfl Roads and DAERA to be organised. Officers will bring back a

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
	<p>Notes the importance of environmental and social benefits of such trees in the built environment;</p> <p>Notes that DfI Roads formerly had a partnership arrangement with Belfast parks for the replacement of trees but that this partnership ended some time ago;</p> <p>That Council officers are tasked with opening discussions with DfI Roads and DAERA with a view to exploring the possibility of a partnership which will involve the supply and replacement of lost trees in the Borough and then providing a report to Council for further consideration.</p>					further detail TBC	report thereafter.

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
22.06.2022	That Council task officers to carry out a review of Play Provision in Loughries with a view to its inclusion in the Councils Play Strategy going forward.	Councillor Adair and Councillor Thompson	Council – August 2022	Referred to Community and Wellbeing Committee – September 2022 – deferred to October 2022		Officers considering report to be brought back to future Committee – further detail TBC	
29.6.2022	That this Council notes with concern the significant impact rising energy costs are having on households across Northern Ireland; recognises the need for ongoing intervention from every level of Government and agrees to write to Her Majesty's Treasury to impress upon them in the absence of a functioning Northern Ireland Executive the need to urgently deliver the energy bills support scheme to households here.	Councillor P Smith and Councillor Smart	Council – August 2022	Agreed to accept NOM to be heard at Council and amended to include: This Council also resolves to write to the Dept. for Communities to request a special fund for Councils in relation to the Cost-			

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
				of-Living crisis in order to- a. provide for the direct provision of localised responses; and b. assist local community and voluntary organisations Any such support would be additional to that provided by the Westminster Government and at Northern Ireland level.			

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
5.7.2022	That this Council writes and calls on the Minister for Infrastructure to reduce the speed limit down to 30mph at the A48 Cotton Road after the latest road accident and fatality.	Aldermen Keery and Irvine	Council – August 2022	Corporate Committee – September 2022			On the agenda for CSC, October 2022
29.07.2022	That this council withdraws all funding to any sporting organisations with any political objectives or named references to terrorism in their constitution, club names, stadiums or competitions, and tasks officers to bring back a report outlining the specific relevant council policy.	Cllrs Cooper, T Smith and Councillor Irvine	Council – August 2022	Corporate Committee – September 2022			On the agenda for CSC, October 2022
3.08.2022	We ask this council to consider the urgent provision of sea rescue equipment to Cove Bay	Cllrs Chambers and Brooks	Council August 2022	Environment Committee – September 2022		Report to be brought back to future 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
	beach, known locally as the third beach, in Groomspoint. A review into other locations around the Borough, should also be considered.						
14.08.2022	That this council notes the widespread move to low traffic neighbourhoods in city centres across the UK and Europe and tasks officers with producing a report detailing the steps involved in progressing a project for Bangor City Centre. The report should highlight the benefits that a low traffic neighbourhood can bring, including how it could support the Council's ambitions to revive local retail and hospitality, encourage active travel, support families, and play a	Alderman Wilson and Councillor Douglas	Council August 2022	Corporate Committee – September 2022			On the agenda for CSC, October 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
	positive role in tackling climate change. A preliminary consultation should also take place to obtain views and ideas directly from City Centre businesses, residents, and other relevant stakeholders.						

From: DAERA Equality <equality@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Sent: 24 August 2022 09:57
To: DAERA Equality <equality@daera-ni.gov.uk>
Subject: DAERA Annual Progress Report 2021 -2022

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Consultee,

Please see attached the link to DAERA's Annual Progress Report for 2021/22.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/annual-progress-reports-equality-commission-daera>

Please let the Equality Unit know if you:

- require an accessible/alternative format
- wish to update contact details
- no longer wish to receive our emails and would like to be removed from our consultee list

The Unit's contact details are:

Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Equality Unit
Staff Engagement, Equality & Diversity Branch
Jubilee House
111 Ballykelly Road
LIMAVADY
BT49 9HP
Telephone: 028 7744 2027
Email: Equality@daera-ni.gov.uk



Chief Executive
Jim O'Hagan BA, MSc, PGCE, CGMA, FCMA

Please respond to
Libraries NI
Business Support
2nd Floor Portadown Library
24-26 Church Street
Portadown
BT62 3LQ
t: 028 38399440
w:www.librariesni.org.uk

Dear Sir/Madam

Quarterly Policy Screening Report

In accordance with Libraries NI's commitment to publish a quarterly report listing policies screened and screening outcomes, please find attached a summary for the period **Apr – Jun 2022**.

The screening documentation for the policies listed in the summary can be viewed in the Equality section of the Libraries NI website:

[Quarterly Screening Reports Apr-Jun 2022](#)

The policies can be viewed in the Policies and Procedures section of the Libraries NI website:

[Policies and Procedures](#)

For further details please contact:

Heather Gardiner

Data Protection Officer

Libraries NI

Ballymena Regional Administration Office

25-31 Demesne Avenue

Ballymena, BT43 7BG

t: 028 2566 4135 |v: 6102 4135

|e: Heather.Gardiner@librariesni.org.uk |w: www.librariesni.org.uk

Consultee Contact Details

To ensure that the contact details Libraries NI holds about your organisation are correct please inform us if any of the following have changed:

- Named person and/or relevant post holder within your organisation;
- Postal or e-mail address;
- Telephone number.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Desi Miskelly".

Desi Miskelly

Director of Business Support

Libraries NI Headquarters: Lisburn City Library, 23 Linenhall Street, Lisburn, Co Antrim, BT28 1FJ

w: www.librariesni.org.uk e: enquiries@librariesni.org.uk t: 028 9263 5322 f: 028 9263 5329

The Northern Ireland Library Authority

Quarterly Report on the Screening of Policies in Accordance with Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998

Apr - Jun 2022

Policy	New / Revised Policy	Policy Aim	Brief Description	Screening Outcome
Adoption Leave Policy	Revised	The policy aims to provide a clear framework and application process within which staff working for Libraries NI are expected to adhere to when applying for adoption leave and pay	The policy ensures staff have access to adoption provisions and know the eligibility requirements for adoption leave and pay.	Screened out for EQIA without mitigation
Anti-Fraud Policy	Revised	Seeks to ensure that Libraries NI has a zero tolerance towards fraud and loss.	Details responsibilities regarding the prevention of fraud and loss within Libraries NI. It applies to staff, members of the public, Board Members and contractors.	Screened out for EQIA without mitigation
Code of Conduct for Board Members	Revised	To ensure that the Libraries NI Board and individual Board Members operate within a framework of good practice at all times.	The code, based on the model 'Guidance on Codes of Practice for Board Members of Public Bodies' (Cabinet Office, 2004), also reflects new legislation and government guidelines.	This policy was screened out for EQIA without mitigation
Conflicts of Interest Policy	Revised	To ensure that Board Members and staff discharge their duties in a manner that is honest, fair and unbiased and that decision-making is open and transparent.	Provides a framework for managing actual, potential or perceived conflicts of interest in a consistent and transparent manner.	Screened out for EQIA without mitigation

Policy	New / Revised Policy	Policy Aim	Brief Description	Screening Outcome
Smoke Free Workplace	Revised	The policy aims to ensure that Libraries NI meets the requirements of the Smoking (NI) Order 2006 and subsequent amendments.	The policy establishes a clear policy on a smoke free environment in premises, public places, and certain vehicles. It provides guidance for managers and a commitment to provide support to staff who wish to stop smoking.	Screened out for EQIA without mitigation

The screening documentation can be viewed in the **Equality** section of our website: [Quarterly Screening Outcome Report Apr-Jun 2022](#)

The policies can be viewed in the **Policies and Procedures** section of our website: [Policies and Procedures](#)

If you require further information please contact:

Heather Gardiner

Data Protection Officer

Libraries NI

Ballymena Regional Administration Office

25-31 Demesne Avenue

Ballymena, BT43 7BG

t: 028 2566 4135 | v: 6102 4135

| e: Heather.Gardiner@librariesni.org.uk | w: www.librariesni.org.uk



6 September 2022

Dear Colleague,

RQIA Annual Report and Accounts, 2021-2022

I wish to advise that RQIA, Northern Ireland's independent regulator of health and social care services, has published its Annual Report and Accounts. These give an overview of RQIA's activities and performance for the period 1 April 2021 to 31 March 2022.

This Report covers a period of sustained change and progress for RQIA, amidst the considerable pressures faced across health and social care in Northern Ireland.

During the year, our key achievements include:

- Working collaboratively across the health and social care system in the regional response to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Conducting over 1,700 inspections across regulated services, mental health and learning disability services and hospital services, and publishing our Inspection findings on our website.
- Publishing a series of Review reports including:
 - Services for Vulnerable Persons Detained in Northern Ireland Prisons
 - Out-of-Hours Urgent Care Services
 - Review of Governance in Independent Hospitals and Hospices in Northern Ireland.
- Continuing the Expert Review of Records of Deceased Patients of Dr Watt in collaboration with experts from Royal College of Physicians.
- Embedding collaborative working and partnership arrangements with key partners including the Commissioners for Older People and Children, and those representing service users and families and lived experience.
- Reviewing our position on publication of children's services inspection reports, in partnership with stakeholders (the resulting proposals are currently open for [public consultation](#)).

RQIA, 7th Floor
Victoria House
15-27 Gloucester Street
Belfast BT1 4LS

Tel 028 9536 1111
Email info@rqia.org.uk
Web www.rqia.org.uk
Twitter @RQIANews

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Silver

Throughout this time, RQIA has striven to ensure that all health and social care services are safe, effective, compassionate and well-led, and are listening carefully to patients and service users so that they can deliver improved person centred care.

Internally we have worked to build a resilient and responsive organisation with a renewed sense of purpose, with strong governance arrangements, and a committed and skilled workforce. I acknowledge the professionalism of our staff, thank them for their hard work and dedication.

During the year, the Authority, working closely with RQIA's senior management team, has worked to reframe our strategic purpose and direction. We wish to move to an outcomes-based approach, using effective partnerships with stakeholders, and close engagement with service users and their families, to deliver on what is important to people.

At present, we are consulting on our [Draft Strategic Plan](#), which sets out our future direction. We very much welcome the views of all our stakeholders - patients, service users and the public, as well as all those working in health and social care - in shaping the way ahead.

You can access a copy of our Annual report and Accounts on [RQIA's website](#).

Yours sincerely,



Briega Donaghy
Chief Executive

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

The Queen has asked me to thank you for your kind message sent on the Seventieth Anniversary of Her Majesty's Accession.

In return, The Queen sends her best wishes to you all for a most enjoyable Platinum Jubilee year.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria Tuke'.

Victoria Tuke
Head of Private Office

