



4 January 2023

Committee Chair: Councillor N Kelly

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor N Ramsay

Committee Members: Aldermen – F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, M Girvan,
J McGrath and J Smyth

Councillors –J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, R Foster,
J Gilmour, A Logue, J Montgomery and R Swann

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre on Monday 9 January 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dixon".

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: Refreshments will be available in the Café from 5:20pm

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

4 PRESENTATION

4.1 Draft Rates Estimate Update 2023/24

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5.3 Parks and Open Spaces Sub Group

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6.2 Promotion of Responsible Dog Ownership

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6.4 Northern Ireland LARAC Representative

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**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON
9 JANUARY 2023**

4 PRESENTATION

4.1 FI/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATES UPDATE 2023/24

An update on the 2023/2024 Estimates for the Operations Department will be presented at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION: that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

Agreed by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations,
Michael Lavery, Director of Waste Operations,
Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 PK/BIO/011 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS – SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN IRELAND

Correspondence has been received from Sustainable Northern Ireland (**enclosed**) requesting a financial contribution of £6,000 for the incoming financial year. Members are reminded that Council has provided support to Sustainable NI for a number of years.

Sustainable NI works with a range of stakeholders, including local councils, with the aim of a sustainable low carbon future. Members are reminded that Council has two Members who sit on the All Party Group for Sustainable Development, Councillors Lynch and Webb.

Sustainable NI provides valuable access to information which is useful to the Sustainability Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION: that a contribution of £6,000 is made to Sustainable Northern Ireland for financial support for 2023/2024.

Prepared by: Paula Robinson, Executive Officer to the Director of Operations

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.2 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – RASHEE ROAD, BALLYCLARE

A development naming application has been received from Justin McClay on behalf of Rashee Road Developments regarding the naming of a residential development off Rashee Road, Ballyclare. The development consists of 150No. dwellings, these being a mixture of detached, semi – detached and townhouses. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1. Paper Mill – Ballyclare was the home of papermaking for over 200 years. The Paper Mill employed 800 workers at its peak before closure in 1951. We feel, given the history and location, this name is in keeping with the area
2. Mill Heights – Given the location and history of Ballyclare as a paper production /paper mills, we think this would work as it is in keeping with the area.
3. Milltown Green – Given the location and history of Ballyclare as a paper production / paper mills, we think this would work as it is in keeping with the area

In order to rationalise postal numbering, it is requested that officers are given delegated powers to add suffixes to the agreed development name. Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval is given for the naming of the above development.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environment Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.3 PK/GEN/035/VOL4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUB GROUP

At the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 13 December 2022, Members considered a detailed report. Arising from the meeting a series of recommendations were made for consideration by the Operations Committee and the minutes of the meeting are enclosed.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 13 December 2022 be approved.

Prepared by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Agreed and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

5.4 PK/GEN/003/VOL2 REQUESTS FROM NIE NETWORKS TO CARRY OUT WORKS ON COUNCIL LAND

Officers have received a notice of intended entry from NI Water to carry out works on Council land at Neilsbrook, Randalstown as per the statutory obligations outlined in the Water and Sewage (NI) Order 2006.

NI Water propose to upgrade the Neilsbrook Wastewater Pumping Station, which is located at the end of the Mainebank cul-de-sac. The main work will be at the pumping station. However, there is a short section of sewer to upsize on the existing inlet sewer, which crosses through our section of land. A dashed line on the map, (**enclosed**), marks the location of the new sewer pipe.

The overall scheme is programmed to last approximately 47 weeks (Award October 22 with completion September 23) but this section of sewer work is programmed to commence on 1st February 2023 to 31st March 2023.

To accommodate these works, NI Water proposed that the width of the wayleave should be 15 metres where structures permit and with an additional allowance for 3 metres for adverse ground conditions.

These works are to be covered by a 1.5 metre wide easement and it has been agreed that NI Water will carry out all excavation and reinstatement for these works.

Officers are obtaining a valuation of the wayleave from Land and Property Services to see what cost NI Water will have to pay the Council for the said wayleave.

Officers had liaised and would continue to liaise with NI Water or the appointed contractor for NI Water, to oversee the works.

RECOMMENDATION: that Members, subject to NI Water paying the necessary cost of the wayleave to the Council, approve the requests from NI Water for access to Council land to carry out works at Neilsbrook, Randalstown subject to them agreeing to the following:

- i. A Grant of Easement is agreed between the parties.**
- ii. Indemnify the Council for any liabilities associated with the works and to reinstate Council land to its current condition.**

Prepared by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations and Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer

Agreed and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

6 ITEMS FOR NOTING

6.1 PK/GEN/088 CORRESPONDENCE FROM GUIDE DOGS NORTHERN IRELAND

Members are reminded that at November 2022 Committee, approval was granted to allocate time in Council's dog parks for exclusive use of Guide Dogs. Correspondence (**enclosed**) has been received from Guide Dogs Northern Ireland thanking Council for taking the motion forward, and how this support will be invaluable to service users.

They have also reiterated their support for working in partnership in future.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence be noted.

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, PA to Director of Parks and Leisure

Agreed and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

6.2 EH/GEN/008 PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Members are reminded that as part of the Litter Strategy workshop, an action arising was to review the provisions that exist to promote responsible dog ownership.

Most dog owners across the Borough do act responsibly in relation to the behaviour of their dogs in public. However, to encourage the few that do not, a new awareness campaign has been developed to highlight the particular issues that arise in a specific area.

The campaign branding, (**enclosed**), can be produced in leaflet, poster or signage format. These will then be used as required in targeted areas where complaints have been received, including Council parks and green spaces, so as to have the greatest impact and encourage buy in from the whole community to help tackle the irresponsible behaviour.

The messaging addresses not only the issue of dog fouling but also dogs that are off lead in Dog Control Areas, or dogs not being kept under control when on or off lead and which can be alarming for people, including elderly and younger children who may not be comfortable around dogs.

Research has shown that messaging, especially in signage or poster formats, has the most impact when only displayed for short periods and then removed when the irresponsible behaviour improves. It is therefore intended to adopt this approach in targeted complaint hotspot areas rather than a blanket approach of signage for the whole Borough.

In addition, where residents wish to set up a Dog Watch Scheme in their area, the Enforcement Team will be able to assist with support material to help with the roll out. For Members' information, a Dog Watch Scheme involves - liaison with either a Neighbourhood Watch or willing community group, the installation of signs/stencils, additional patrols and engagement with dog walkers as well as provision of dog bags and promotion of the scheme.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Mark Sloan, Environmental Health Manager (Licensing and Enforcement)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

6.3 WM/WM/040 WASTE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE ANNUAL UPDATE 2021-22

Under the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, Council is required to submit waste data returns to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. These are completed on a quarterly basis throughout the year and are used by the NIEA to calculate Council's recycling rate and compliance with the relevant legislation.

The new legislative targets for Council under the Circular Economy Package are:

1. Recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035
2. Interim targets of 55% recycling rate by 2025 and 60% by 2030;
3. Maximum of 10% of municipal waste to be landfilled by 2035.

The annual waste data submission for 2021-22 has been verified and sets out Council's performance for the year for both Household and Municipal waste.

A summary of the recently published results for Council for 2021/2022 together with the results from 2020/2021 are set out below. The results include the performance of all 11 Northern Ireland Local Authorities for reference.

	2020-21		2021-22		Ranking
	Tonnes	%	Tonnes		
Total Household Waste Arisings	78,090		80,680	Up 3.3%	4 th largest tonnage
Household Waste Arisings to Recycling	44,454	56.9	48,571	60.2	Highest household recycling rate (%)
Household Waste Arisings to Recovery	12,305	15.8	12,764	15.8	7 th largest % of household waste sent to recovery
Household Waste Arisings to Landfill	21,331	27.3	19,345	24.0	6 th largest % of household waste sent to landfill
Total Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings	95,468		106,804	Up 11.9%	3 rd largest tonnage
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recycling	54,522	57.1	67,049	62.8%	Highest % of waste recycled.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recovery	14,382	15.1	14,134	13.2%	8 th largest % of waste sent to recovery.

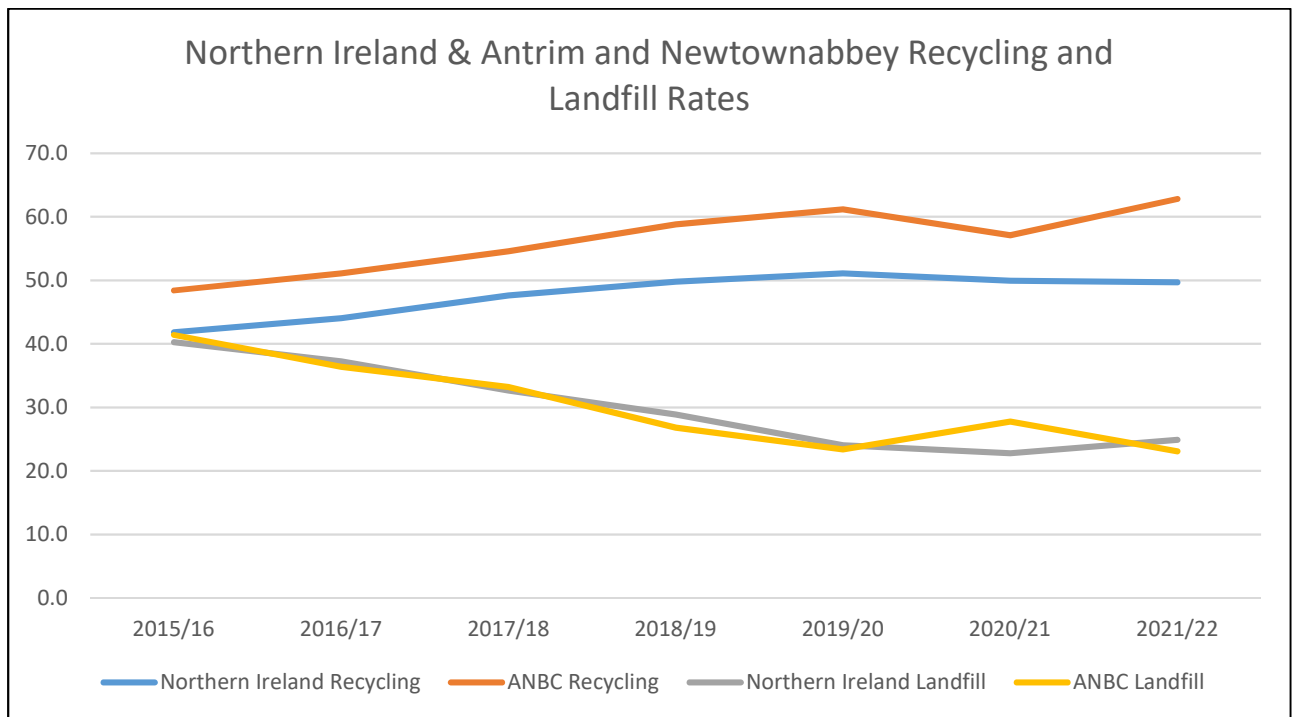
Municipal Waste Arisings to Landfill	26,564	27.8	24,700	23.1%	7 th largest % of waste sent to landfill.
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* Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) is ALL the waste that the Council collects i.e. commercial, street sweepings, recycling centres as well as household waste.

The table above shows the following:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey achieved both the highest Household Recycling Rate, 60.2%, and the highest Municipal Recycling Rate, 62.8%, in 2021/22;
- While waste arisings did increase, the amount of waste landfilled was reduced on the previous year.

The graph below demonstrates how recycling rates for Northern Ireland have plateaued, however Antrim and Newtownabbey achieved an increase in the amount of waste recycled by residents and have maintained a rate well above the Northern Ireland average.



RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Waste Operations

6.4 WM/WM/037 NORTHERN IRELAND LARAC REPRESENTATIVE

The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee, LARAC, represents local authority views in waste and recycling issues in the UK. Membership is made up from local authorities in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and Council has been a member since 2015.

LARAC seeks to influence UK waste policy for the benefit of its members and it provides information services which has helped Officers gain insight into best practice from across the UK.

Earlier this year, Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts was invited to speak at the annual LARAC Conference in England on how Council had achieved some of the highest recycling rates in the UK. As a result of the presentation, Lynsey has been invited to become the Northern Ireland representative for the organisation. The role will not affect Lynsey's current position with Council and all parties should benefit from the arrangement. Lynsey has accepted the position, which will run for an initial 12-month period. The position is a further demonstration of Council's standing in the local authority waste sector.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

6.5 PBS/PS/001 ELECTRIC VEHICLE FORUM UPDATE

An Electric Vehicle (EV) webinar forum addressing the topic of EV charging in Northern Ireland was attended by the Head of Property and Building Services in December. This strategically important webinar was attended by Councils and consisted of a panel including a number of electric vehicle charge point operators, Northern Ireland Electricity, the Department for Infrastructure, the Northern Ireland Utility Regulator and the Electric Vehicle Association of Northern Ireland (EVANI) – a group which promotes Electric Vehicles (EV) in Northern Ireland and represents the interests of users.

Discussions included the origins of Northern Ireland's charging network, its development over the past 10 years and an assessment as to why the infrastructure roll out in Northern Ireland is lagging behind other parts of the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

As previously reported to Committee, there are significant obstacles to the roll out of electric vehicle charge points in Northern Ireland and the most important of these - lack of suitable grid capacity together with prohibitive grid connection costs were discussed. To illustrate this point, the table below offers shows costs in Northern Ireland.

Grid Cost Comparison:

Scenario	Total cost of Primary Substation Upgrade + 11kV Network upgrade	Approx cost of Primary Substation Upgrade to customer	Approx costs of 11kV network upgrade to customer	Approx cost of dedicated connection (e.g. 500m 11kV cable & new customer substation)	Total cost customer has to pay to connect
NI	£2M + £1M	£2M	£1M	£200k	£3.2M
GB (current regulations)	£2M + £1M	£200k (2/20 x £2M)	£400k (2/5 x £1M)	£200k	£900k
GB (from March 2023)	£2M + £1M	£0	£0	£200k	£200k

Timeframes for grid connection consultations are also problematic with three month waiting times in Northern Ireland compared to four weeks in Great Britain.

Despite these challenges, there is significant private sector interest in developing the EV charge point market in Northern Ireland.

During the webinar, key commercial charge point operators including ESB, EasyGo and Weev presented updates on their investment plans with new charging infrastructure in the pipeline for all areas across Northern Ireland including development of charging hubs. In addition, Members may wish to note that ESB confirmed that they now expect tariffs to be introduced on their network before the end of March 2023.

The introduction of tariffs is seen as a necessity for all commercial business models and this will accelerate the commercial roll out of charge point provision in the NI market.

On a separate but related note, an EV Infrastructure Action Plan for Northern Ireland, was published by the Department for Infrastructure in late November 2022. It can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/ev-infrastructure-action-plan-2022.pdf>.

The Plan recognises the obstacles outlined above includes the following actions:

Action	Expected results	Lead	Key Stakeholders	Target
Future Proofing Electrical Capacity at key strategic sites along Key Transport Corridors	Increased provision of charging infrastructure along key transport corridors Phase 1: Production of report identifying locations along key transport corridors Phase 2: Implementation of Phase 1 report	DfE	NIEN, UR, DfI	Phase 1: January 23 - June 23 Phase 2: June 23 - December 25
Review of Connection Costs	More Charge Point Operators(CPOs) entering the charging market	UR	DfE, NIEN, DfI	Completed end 2023
Establishment of oversight group to ensure co-ordinated approach to EV Infrastructure	Evaluation of provision to ensure coverage addresses target of 25 miles from a Rapid charger	DfI	DfE, NIEN	January 2023
Paying for Charge	Improved network use, less blockages and more CPOs entering the market	ESB	EVANI, DfI	December 2022
Consumer Priorities	Development of a 'Code of Practice' for NI	CCNI	EVANI, DfE, DfI	December 2024
EV Charging at Park and Ride Sites	Provision of appropriate charging infrastructure at Park and Ride sites to facilitate en route charging and public and shared transport	DfI	NIEN, DfE, Translink	Feasibility Study June 2023 First operational charge points April 2024

Members are reminded that specialists, EVP Solutions, have been appointed to assist Council in planning for the decarbonisation of its fleet and they will take into account the impact of the issues raised in the Department for Infrastructure's Action Plan. It is anticipated that a report will be provided for Committee's consideration in February or March 2023.

As reported to Committee in December, the On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) application submitted collaboratively with a number of other councils for the year to 31 March 2022 has been successful and a Letter of Offer has been issued for the sites enclosed, however, as the business model for delivery of the project is yet to be determined, approval was given for Council to participate in pre-tender engagement with Charge Point Operators subject to appropriate contractual arrangements being agreed. Furthermore, on receipt of notification from the Energy Savings Trust of a further £20 million in funding to improve the Electric Vehicle infrastructure across the United Kingdom for 2022/2023, approval has been given to

develop a further application, if this proves feasible, with Committee to be kept updated to facilitate a final decision being made by Council. Officers are currently working on proposed locations and any suggestions by Members can be explored and incorporated if viable.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Stephen Hipkins, Head of Property and Building Services

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

