



27 November 2024

Committee Chair: Councillor V McWilliam

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor A McAuley

Committee Members: Aldermen - P Bradley, L Clarke, J McGrath and J Smyth

Councillors – J Burbank, R Foster, J Gilmour, AM Logue, E McLaughlin, H Magill, M Ní Chonghaile, M Stewart and S Ward

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 2 December 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker".

Richard Baker, GM MSc
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 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON
MONDAY 2 DECEMBER 2024**

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 PBS/PS/016 ESTATE SERVICES ENERGY UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation is to provide Members with an update on energy management across all Council facilities.

2. Introduction

Members are advised that David Blair, Head of Estate Services will make a short presentation on energy management.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

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

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 L/LEI/002/VOL4 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the recommendations set within the third call of the Leisure Grant Aid Programme.

2. Introduction

For the period 1 August – 31 October, a total of 37 applications were submitted. All 37 applications have been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations enclosed for Members' reference. Upon approval of the listed grants, the remaining balances in each funding category are outlined below:

Category	No. of apps	Budget	Approved spend to date 24/25	No. of apps.	Grants proposed	Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of application)
					(£)	
Capital Grants	0	£20,000	£0	0	0	£20,000
Grants to Clubs	4	£45,000	£15,758	2	£2,665	£26,577
Grants to Athletes	32	£50,000	£31,148	15	£12,044	£6,808
Grants to Coaches and Officials	4	£5,000	£1,790	9	£1,737	£1,226
Sports Event Grant	7	£40,000	£15,037	5	£21,019	£3,944
Defibrillator Grant	2	£10,000	£2,700	3	£4,368	£2,932
Allocation total	49	£170,000	£90,206 (includes £23,773 from previous financial year)	34	£41,833	£37,961
Fitness suite Gold Card	7	20 Applications	7 applications	3	2	11 applications

Total approved spend to date including this call, if approved £132,039

3. Financial Position/Implication

The approved budget for the 2024/25 programme is £170,000.

Should approval be given for the grants listed, the remaining balance would total £37,961

4. Recommendation

That approval be granted for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme, covering the period from 1 August – 31 October 2024.

Prepared by: Kevin Madden, Sport and Physical Activity Manager and Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

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

4.2 PK/GEN/035/VOL4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUB-GROUP

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 12 November 2024.

2. Summary

At the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 12 November 2024, Members considered a detailed report which provided a range of updates from the Parks section. The minutes of the meeting are **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 12 November 2024 be approved.

Prepared and Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

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

4.3 EH/EHS/LS/004 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF AN AMUSEMENT PERMIT FOR MR MICHAEL MULGREW-332 ANTRIM ROAD, NEWTOWNABBEY, BT36 5EQ

1. Purpose

The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval for grant of an Amusement Permit for Mr Michael Mulgrew for 332 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EQ.

2. Introduction

An application has been received for the grant of an Amusement Permit

Amusement Permit	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of Amusement Permit	File Number	New Application or Renewal
Mr Michael Mulgrew	332 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey BT36 5EQ	Authorising Gaming, by means of gaming machines Monday to Sunday 9am to 12am	LS.AP.4	New Application

In line with Council protocol for the hearing of Amusement Permits applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at the Operations Committee meeting.

The Committee can decide the following:

- i. Grant the licence;
- ii. Grant the licence with specific additional terms, conditions and restrictions;
- iii. Refuse the licence;
- iv. Defer an application for further consideration or to obtain further information.

If the Committee makes a decision against an Officer's recommendation, then Members must state their reasons for doing so. In such circumstances, a recorded vote will be taken.

3. Main Report

An application has been received for the Grant of an Amusement Permit for Mr Michael Mulgrew. This permit issuance is a change of operator. The Application process involves public consultation in a local newspaper for a period of 28 days from the date of 25th October, to date no objections have been received. Statutory consultation with Police Service of Northern Ireland sub-divisional commander was served by the applicant on 30th October 2024.

Appropriate character and financial standing of Mr Michael Mulgrew has been demonstrated by references submitted to Council. The premises at 332 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, to which the Amusement Permit applies, has previously been permitted and licensed by Council for gaming use over several years. There are no concerns regarding the suitability of its location.

The operating hours for the premises are detailed below:

Monday to Sunday 09:00 to 00:00

Following a review of the Amusement permit protocol, Council approval is now required in advance of granting a permit.

4. Summary

Mr Michael Mulgrew has submitted an application for the grant of an Amusement Permit for 332 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EQ. As per the Council protocol for the granting of an Amusement permit, a decision by Members is required regarding the approval of the Permit.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that an Amusement Permit is granted to the applicant, Mr Michael Mulgrew, 332 Antrim Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5EQ

with the following conditions:

- **That all relevant licensing requirements are met;**
- **That statutory consultees have no objections to approval.**

Prepared by: Kelly Squance, Environmental Health Officer

Agreed by: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4.4 WM/WG/002 WINTER GRITTING UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members on requested amendments to Winter Gritting areas for 2024/25.

2. Background

At the November Operations Committee, Members requested two additional areas be considered for inclusion in the Winter Operations Plan. A copy of the updated maps for Ballyrobert and Straid are **enclosed** for Members' information which outline the proposed areas to be gritted.

The original aim of the Council gritting service in towns and villages was to assist retailers by improving access during adverse weather conditions. It should be noted that there are no retailers in the areas proposed for gritting in Straid.

3. Financial Implications

There will be additional costs in adding these two areas to the gritting schedule. The final cost is dependent on the severity of the winter but it's envisaged that the inclusion of the two new areas will be approximately £3,000 per annum based on 25 services in the year.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the two additional gritting areas be approved.

Prepared by: Darren Purdy, Head of Waste Operations

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability and Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

4.5 WM/WM/037/VOL2 REVIEW OF BULKY WASTE COLLECTIONS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members a proposed changes to the bulky waste collections service.

2. Background

As Members will be aware, the bulky waste collection service is extensively used by residents within the Borough. Collections are booked by residents through the online booking system or by phone with approx. 16,000 bookings in 2023-24, with a predicted increase this current year.

The service is provided by three vehicles and six staff across the Borough, which currently runs over a four-day week and costs approximately £335,000 per annum, this equates to £20 per bulky collection.

The current policy outlines waste is only accepted from residents in the Borough, with a limit of three items collected per visit. Currently, there are no restrictions on the number of collections a resident can request in a year.

The table below shows the number of Bulky collections requested and closed in 2023-2024 and up to September 2024.

Year	Bulkies Requested
2023/24	15,802
2024/25 to Sept (Projected for 2024/25)	8,589 (17,118)

3. Key Issues

While Council is keen to keep the Bulky Collection Service accessible to all residents, data indicates continued high levels of usage from residents with over 20% using the service on an annual basis. While most residents are requesting one bulky per year, nearly 2,000 households (12%) do register multiple service requests.

The number of bulky requests is increasing annually and now requires additional Council resources, through supplementary crews and voluntary overtime, to maintain current service targets. Without a reduction in bulky requests, further staff and a vehicle would be required to meet the demand at an approximate cost of £100,000 per annum.

Officers have reviewed other council's bulky provision and all but one have a form of restriction through charging or the number of bulkies allowed.

Council	Fee	No of items collected
Mid East Antrim	Items priced based on size	3

Ards & North Down	£30.00/collection	6
Lisburn & Castlereagh	£10.00 – charge applies to 4 th collection	3
Mid Ulster	£5.40/collection	3
Newry Mourne Down	£12.00/collection	3
Causeway Coast & Glens	£5.00/item	-
Armagh Banbridge Craigavon	£10.20/lift	3

4. Proposed Options

As a result of the current and future pressures on the bulky waste services, the following options have been proposed to control the amount of bulkies requested by residents:

- a) Maintain the existing measures for the Bulky Collection Service - 3 items per collection, no limit on the number of collections;
- b) Introduction of a restriction for residents - one collection in a 12 month period for a maximum of 3 items with a £10 charge for any bulky collection thereafter in the 12 months;
- c) Introduction of a collection fee for residents - £10 for up to 5 items;
- d) Cost neutral service with the introduction of a collection fee for residents - £20 for up to 5 items.

The four options are outlined below with the costs of introducing the options and the advantages and disadvantages for each:

	Cost of implementation	Advantages	Disadvantages
<u>Option a</u> Maintain the existing measures for the Bulky Collection Service - 3 items per collection, no limit on the number of collections	Further resources required to keep the service at current levels of collection, redeployment from Street Cleansing and overtime costs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No change or restrictions for users; • No adverse publicity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of usage will continue; • Potential resulting in more resources required at a financial cost; • Extended waits for collection.
<u>Option b</u> Introduction of a restriction for residents - one collection in a 12 month period for a maximum of 3 items with a £10 charge for any bulky collection	Further resources may still be required, redeployment from Street Cleansing and overtime costs; Cost to review the online booking system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Should result in an improvement in collection waiting times; • Slight reduction in usage; 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • is likely to only reduce the multiple bulky requests and annual increase of bulky requests may continue.

thereafter in the 12 months	to restrict number of collections; May realise income from the additional bulky requests of approximately £14,000 per annum.		
<u>Option c</u> Introduction of a collection fee for residents - £10 for up to 5 items	Cost to review the online booking system to process payments; Potential income of £120,000 per annum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved waiting times for collection; • Reduce expenditure (fuel, vehicle and staffing); • Allow additional resources to be redeployed to street cleansing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Change to the service arrangements; • May lead to adverse publicity.
<u>Option d</u> Cost neutral service with the introduction of a collection fee for residents - £20 for up to 5 items	Cost to review the online booking system to process payments; Potential income of £160,000 per annum.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved waiting times for collection; • Reduce expenditure (fuel, vehicle and staffing); • Allow additional resources to be redeployed to street cleansing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant change to the service arrangements; • May lead to adverse publicity.

5. Financial Implications

At present, the cost of the current service is approximately £335,000 with Options 2-4 providing savings on the current costs.

6. Summary

The demand for and the cost of providing the bulky collection service is increasing annually and there is a concern that without amendments to the service, significant additional resources will be required. As a result, it is proposed to amend the current bulky waste collection service by introducing a fee of £10 for any request with an increase in the number of items allowed for collection from three to five, Option 3.

It is projected that this amendment to the bulky waste service will reduce operating costs and provide an income to Council to partially cover the cost of the service. If agreed, it is proposed to introduce the new bulky waste service from April 2025.

7. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members consider one of the above options.

Prepared by: Leanne Smits, Waste Operations Manager

Agreed by: Darren Purdy, Head of Waste Operations

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4.6 WM/WM/037/VOL2 SUPPLY OF CADDY LINERS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members a change in the supply of caddy liners to residents to provide greater control of their distribution.

2. Background

Members are aware that we currently provide a free of charge provision of food waste caddy liners for kitchen caddies as an incentive of recycling household food waste and implement behavioural changes in reducing food waste going to landfill.

Residents normally receive rolls of liners (30 bags per roll) by attaching a red tag to the handle of their brown bin from Council sites or alternatively, the bags can be collected from the Civic Centres and some community facilities. The cost of providing caddy liners is approximately £185,000 per annum.

3. Key Issues

There is a lack of control over the distribution of caddy liners especially through the red tag system with some residents permanently leaving the tags on their bins. As a result, Officers have been considering a range of options that maintain the free of charge supply of liners to residents but control the distribution.

Proposed Options:

	Advantages	Disadvantages	Cost of implementation
Option 1 Maintain the existing measures for the caddy liner provision - FOC service to residents where stock can be supplied at any time.	No change to the current service; No adverse publicity.	Lack of control on distribution; Continuing high levels of distribution and expense; Potential for shortages as a result of supplier delivery times.	No additional cost – maintain current spend of £185,000.
Option 2 Two rolls of liners provided free directly to the household via brown bin collection in spring and autumn (30 bags in a roll) each year and	Maintains free provision of caddy liners; Reduces misuse of service; Easier to maintain stock control.	There would be a perception from the public that Council is withholding caddy liners.	Potential cost avoidance of £70,000 per annum

availability to collect further rolls (foc) from Civic Centres and Leisure Centres.			
Option 3 Two rolls of liners provided free directly to the household via brown bin collection in spring and autumn (30 bags in a roll) each year and availability to purchase further rolls from Council facilities charged at £1.00 per roll.	Maintains free provision of caddy liners for most residents; Reduces misuse of service; Easier to maintain stock control; Opportunity for income generation.	May lead to adverse publicity; Could result in a slight reduction in food waste recycling.	Potential cost avoidance of £90,000 per annum and income of £30,000 from sale of bags.

4. Financial Implication

At present, the cost of the current service is approximately £185,000 with Option 2 and 3 reducing this to £105,000 and £65,000 respectively.

5. Summary

The cost of providing caddy liners is increasing annually and there is concern that a lack of control is leading to additional costs been incurred. As a result, it is proposed to amend the distribution method of the caddy liners by providing every household a free roll of liners twice a year as outlined in Option 2, with further liners available, free of charge, from Council and community facilities.

The caddy liners will be placed on the brown bins following collection during the designated delivery week which will be advertised beforehand to encourage presentation of brown bins. Supplies of caddy liners will be placed at designated Council and community facilities with residents restricted to one roll per person. This method of distribution would be introduced from April 2025.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the revised distribution of caddy liners be approved in line with Option 2, provision of a free roll of liners twice a year with further liners available from Council and community facilities.

Prepared by: Rebecca Clulow, Climate, Waste & Sustainability Officer

Agreed by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy & Sustainability

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

4.7 PK/GEN/180 PROPOSED CHANGES TO LEISURE SERVICES CHARGES 2025/26

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present options for changes to Leisure Services charges for the 2025/26 financial year.

2. Background

Pricing for Leisure Services is reviewed annually ahead of each financial year. A comprehensive Schedule of Charges, incorporating any proposed adjustments, is subsequently submitted for Council approval.

3. Pricing Review

The 2025/26 review considered the following factors:

- Significant increases in costs, particularly for staff and utilities.
- Ongoing capital investment in Council's Leisure Centres
- The high demand for leisure services, in particular at Antrim Forum and the Valley Leisure Centre

4. Proposed Options

The following options are proposed for the 2025/26 financial year:

Option 1:

- Increase in all leisure membership categories by £2 per month
- Increase in all golf membership categories by £30 per annum
- Inflationary increase in all other pricing

Option 2:

- Inflationary increase in memberships and all other pricing

5. Financial Considerations

It is estimated that the income generated from each option is as follows:

- Option 1 - £395,000
- Option 2 - £160,000

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members select a preferred option for changes to Leisure Services charges for the 2025/26 financial year.

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

4.8 PK/GEN/180 PROPOSED CHANGES TO BEREAVEMENT SERVICES CHARGES 2025/26

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed changes to Bereavement Services charges for the 2025/2026 financial year.

2. Background

Members are advised that pricing for Bereavement Services is reviewed annually ahead of each financial year, with a full Schedule of Charges, including any adjustments, subsequently submitted for Council approval.

3. Pricing Review

The 2025/26 review considered:

- Significant increases in costs, particularly for staff and utilities.
- Council's resident cremation rate being the second-lowest in the UK.
- The absence of a levy for burials on weekends and public holidays, despite additional costs incurred by Council.

4. Proposed Changes

The following changes are proposed for the 2025/26 financial year:

	Current	Proposed
Purchase of Grave (Resident)	£300	£350
Purchase of Grave (Non - Resident)	£1500	£1600
Re-Opening Of Grave (Resident)	£280	£350
Re-Opening Of Grave (Non-Resident)	£1100	£1200
Cremation (Resident)	£550	£650
Cremation (Non-Resident)	£950	£1000
Weekend & Bank Holiday Levy	N/A	£200

5. Financial Considerations

If approved, it is estimated that the income generated from the changes is £205,000.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that approval be granted for the proposed changes to Bereavement Services charges for the 2025/26 financial year.

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

4.9 PK/CP/001/VOL4 CARPARK CHARGES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to present Members with options for carpark charges for the 2025/26 financial year.

2. Background

In 2015, ownership of 11 carparks was transferred from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) to the Council. The carparks and their locations are as follows:

Location	Town/Village
Railway Street	Antrim
Market Square	Ballyclare
Whiteabbey Village	Whiteabbey
Castleway (Central)	Antrim
Harrier Way	Ballyclare
Bridge Street, Dublin Road	Antrim
Portglenone Road	Randalstown
John Street	Randalstown
Farmley Road	Glengormley
A2 Shore Road	Whiteabbey
Castle Street	Antrim

Currently, only three carparks charge for parking at a rate of £0.20 per hour. These are highlighted above for Members' reference.

In 2023/24, these three carparks generated approximately £70,000 in total income, which includes parking fees and penalty charge notices (PCNs) issued for non-compliance. An external contractor manages these carparks, receiving a payment of between 40% - 50% of income annually for cash collection, traffic warden patrols, and issuing PCNs.

3. Proposed Options

The following options are proposed for the 2025/26 financial year:

- **Option 1:** Maintain the current arrangement (do nothing).

- **Option 2:** Increase the hourly rate at the three existing chargeable carparks from £0.20 to £0.40.
- **Option 3:** Introduce charges at five additional carparks (highlighted above) and increase the hourly rate from £0.20 to £0.40.

4. Financial Considerations

It is estimated that the income generated from each option is as follows:

Option 1 - £70,000
Option 2 - £140,000
Option 3 - £650,000

Under Option 3, continuing with the current management model would incur additional costs for increased traffic warden patrols and PCN administration. Furthermore, implementing charges at five new car parks would require infrastructure investments, including ticket machines and enabling works, estimated at £100,000 (these costs would be capitalised). Officers are also exploring alternative solutions, such as technology-based systems, to reduce these car park management costs.

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members select a preferred option for carpark charges for the 2025/26 financial year.

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

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 WM/WM/033 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members that Council has successfully maintained the Environmental Management System (EMS), accredited to ISO14001 standard, in order to reduce the organisation's impact on the environment. In order to retain the ISO14001 accreditation, the EMS is audited annually by an independent external auditor.

2. Background

The EMS must meet specific criteria including a commitment by Council to meeting the requirements of environmental legislation and regulations, preventing pollution and striving for continued improvement in environmental performance.

3. Key Issues

The auditor completed her annual audit in October and has judged that Council has successfully maintained ISO14001 standard. The auditor stated that the continuous improvement displayed by Council was impressive, and the collaborative work across facilities and Departments to improve overall environmental performance was commended.

Another demonstration of Council's environmental performance was the achievement of the Gold Award in the Annual Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey 2024.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the report be noted.

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

5.2 EH/EHS/CP/004 TOBACCO TEST PURCHASE EXERCISE – OCTOBER 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Members about the results of test purchasing activities conducted concerning the sale of age-restricted products like cigarettes and tobacco.

2. Background

Members are reminded that Councils in Northern Ireland have a statutory duty to enforce the legislation relating to the sale of certain age-restricted products such as cigarettes and tobacco products. Under the Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, it is illegal to sell cigarettes or tobacco to anyone under 18. Since 1 February 2022, it is also an offence to sell nicotine inhaling products (e-cigarettes and e-liquids) to anyone under 18 as set out in The Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2016.

The Public Health Agency fund the employment of Tobacco Control Officers (TCO's) who work on behalf of District Councils in Northern Ireland to promote compliance with tobacco control legislation and to provide advice on compliance.

TCOs must conduct at least 70 visits annually to retailers, including test purchases, to ensure compliance with age-restricted sale legislation. In April 2024, advisory letters were sent to 141 retailers, and our TCOs conducted 177 advisory visits from January to April 2024. Test purchase exercises have been completed in April and August of this year and reported to Members in June and November 2024.

3. Key Issues

In October 2024, TCOs conducted another test purchase exercise across sixteen retailers, with a young person under 18 attempting to buy either tobacco products or nicotine inhaling products. Fifteen retailers fully complied with the age restriction laws, but one sold a nicotine inhaling product (vape) to the underage individual. This retailer was notified of the offence and agreed to provide additional training for staff on age-restricted sales, as well as receiving a written warning in accordance with Councils Enforcement Policy.

4. Summary

This was the third phase of planned test purchase exercises for 2024/2025, targeting 70 retailers. In this round, a written warning was issued to the owners of the retail shop that sold a nicotine inhaling product (vape) to a person under the age of 18.

5. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Prepared by: Gareth Thompson, Environmental Health Manager (Health & Safety, Consumer Protection, Tobacco Control)

Agreed by: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

5.3 EH/PHWB/012 POSITIVE AGEING MONTH OCTOBER 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of the seven Positive Ageing Month "Tea & Treats" events held throughout the Borough by Environmental Health, delivered by the Age Friendly Officer from the Health and Wellbeing team.

2. Introduction

Members are reminded that the Environmental Health section leads the Age Friendly agenda, celebrating Positive Ageing Month in October in recognition of the contributions that those over 50 years old make to our Borough.

3. Key Issues

Seven "Tea & Treats" events were held across each District Electoral Area, focusing on the Take 5 steps to wellbeing. Activities included bocchia, curling, quizzes, and refreshments. Attendees shared insights on ageing in the Borough. A total of 304 residents participated, with 100% finding the events beneficial and 78% valuing social connections most.

A Positive Ageing Month Booklet, listing over 100 community groups and events, was distributed both online and through 1,000 printed copies. The booklet is available online at;

[\(https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/age-friendly/positive-ageing-month/\)](https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/age-friendly/positive-ageing-month/)

In addition to "Tea and Treats," several other events were held, including a health fair at Antrim Library, a food program at Barron Hall for individuals living alone, dementia training for residents and staff, and the "Hop Aboard" day trip, on the train to Coleraine.

To highlight the contributions of community groups, four social media videos were created featuring participants from Greystone Library, St Bernard's Thursday Club, Sixmile Hub, and Breakaway Blues Community Group. These videos showcased efforts to reduce isolation and loneliness among older adults and have gained over 6,000 views.

For those unable to attend Positive Ageing Month events, the Council website provides an Age Friendly section with the "News For You" magazine and an "Ask the Age Friendly Officer" feature, where older residents can submit questions to the Age Friendly Officer.

A link is below;

[\(https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/age-friendly/ \)](https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/age-friendly/)

4. Financial Position

The Public Health Agency provided £1,000 to fund the seven Tea and Treat events.

5. Summary

Seven "Tea and Treat" events were held throughout October to celebrate the contribution older people make to the Borough with 100% positive feedback received. Social connections were the most valued aspect for 78% of participants.

6. Recommendation

That the report be noted.

Prepared by: James O'Kane, Health and Wellbeing Manager

Agreed by: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

5.4 PT/CI/065 BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25, BI-ANNUAL UPDATE REPORT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members to note the performance progress against the 2024/25 Business Plans for Parks, Leisure & Estate Services and Sustainability.

2. Background

Members are reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 puts in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

Specifically, the duties in the Act relate to Section 84(1), 85(2) and 85(9) whereby Council has a statutory duty to make arrangements to:

- Secure continuous improvement;
- Secure achievement of its improvement objectives; and
- Exercise its functions so that any Departmental specified standards are met.

3. Previous Decision of Council

The 2024/25 Business Plans for Parks, Leisure & Estate Services and Sustainability were approved in March 2024, with a subsequent agreement to provide performance updates against the Business Plans every six months.

4. Key Points

A six-month performance update on the 2024/25 Business Plans for Parks, Leisure & Estate Services and Sustainability, as of September 2024, is **enclosed** at Appendix 1 and Appendix 2, respectively.

Actions completed to date include:

- Publication of the Council Climate Action Plan
- Introduction of booking system for medium and large vans at Household Recycling Centres
- Delivery of Age Friendly events
- Completion of Antrim Forum refurbishment
- Completion of Monkstown 3G training pitch
- 29 Green Flags accreditations throughout Council's Parks & Open Spaces
- Multiple awards across Ulster in Bloom, Britain in Bloom, NI Best Kept, Ireland Best Kept

5. Recommendation

It is recommended that the performance progress update against the 2024/25 Business Plans for Parks, Leisure & Estate Services and Sustainability be noted.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Lesley Millar, Head of Organisation Development

Approved by: Helen Hall Director of Corporate Strategy