



2 April 2025

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 7 April 2025 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker", is written over a light blue circular stamp.

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](mailto:memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk)

## **A G E N D A**

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### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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- 3.1 Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards 2025
- 3.2 Leisure Grant Aid Programme
- 3.3 Parks and Open Spaces Sub Group
- 3.4 Business Plans 2025/26
- 3.5 Proposed Holiday Closures for Household Recycling Centres 2025-26
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- 3.7 Application for Grant of Occasional Entertainments Licence Randalstown Young Farmers Annual BBQ
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- 3.9 Application for Grant of Occasional Entertainments Licence Straid Young Farmers
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- 4.4 Tobacco Test Purchase
- 4.5 Correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure – Proposed Segregated Footway/Cycleway B513 O'Neill Road, Newtownabbey

### **5 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

### **6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

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- 6.4 arc21 Joint Committee Papers
- 6.5 Assembly, Uplift and Delivery of Various Waste Containers
- 6.6 Emergency Expenditure for Tree Work from Storm Eowyn
- 6.7 Provision of Power Washing and Specialised Cleaning Services
- 6.8 Framework for the Provision of Mechanical Services
- 6.9 Provision of Public Analyst Services
- 6.10 Harmonisation of Waste Collection Services in the Borough – Update
- 6.11 Antrim Forum Boiler Replacement
- 6.12 Appointment of Contractor to undertake Craigmore Household Waste Recycling Centre Site Improvement Works

### 3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

#### 3.1 L/LEI/001 LOCAL GOVERNMENT CHRONICLE (LGC) AWARDS 2025

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the submission to the 2025 Local Government Chronicle (LGC) Awards, and seek approval for nominees to attend the awards in Grosvenor House, London on 11 June.**

##### 2. Introduction

Members are reminded that the LGC Awards are a celebration of excellence in local government, run by the Local Government Chronicle.

##### 3. Awards Ceremony

Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre has been shortlisted for the "**Best Small Team of the Year**" award. As part of the selection process, Officers have been invited to participate in second-stage judging panels in April to present further details about the team and their achievements.

The winners will be announced at an award ceremony which will take place on **11 June 2025** at **Grosvenor House, London**.

##### 4. Recommendation

**It is recommended that approval be granted for the attendance of the Mayor, Chair of the Operations Committee or their nominees and relevant Council Officers at the ceremony at Grosvenor House, London on 11 June 2025.**

Prepared by: Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

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

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

### 3.2 L/LEI/002/VOL5 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

#### 1. Purpose

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

#### 2. Introduction

For the period 1 January – 28 February, a total of 14 applications were submitted. All 14 applications have been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations enclosed for Member's reference. Upon approval of the listed grants, the remaining committed 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	7	£45,000	£28,423	1	£1,575	£15,002
Grants to Athletes	51	£50,000	£48,000	5	£2,259	-£259
Grants to Coaches and Officials	14	£5,000	£3,852	1	£0	£1,148
Sports Event Grant	13	£40,000	£37,428	6	£18,625	-£16,053
Defibrillator Grant	6	£10,000	£8,428	0	£0	£1,572
<b>Allocation total</b>	91	£170,000	<b>£149,901</b> (includes £23,773 from previous financial year)	<b>13</b>	<b>£22,459</b>	-£2,360
Fitness suite Gold Card	14	20 Applications	14 applications	1	1	5 applications
Total approved spend to date including this call, if approved £172,362						

#### 3. Financial Position/Implication

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

If the proposed grants are approved, the total committed expenditure will exceed the budget by **£2,360**. However, since the programme operates on a rolling 12-month basis, any overspend will be carried forward to the **2025/26** financial year.

#### 4. Recommendation

**It is recommended that approval be granted for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme applications, for 1 January – 28 February 2025.**

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

### 3.3 PK/GEN/035/VOL5 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 11 March 2025.**

#### 2. Summary

At the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 11 March 2025, 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 11 March 2025 be approved.**

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

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

### 3.4 PT/CI/068 BUSINESS PLANS 2025/26

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the Sustainability and Parks & Leisure Directorate Business Plans 2025/26.**

#### 2. Background

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 the 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

In January 2025 the Council approved a strategic performance framework as part of the Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2025/26 (draft for consultation).

#### 4. Business Planning

Business planning plays a vital role in Council's performance management and delivery processes. It offers a more efficient and cohesive approach to monitoring and evaluating performance while improving overall visibility.

The purpose of the Directorate Business Plans are to:

- Demonstrate how each of the Directorates are supporting and achieving Council's priorities.
- Provide a clear sense of purpose of the Directorate and the challenges it faces.
- Illustrate how it is aligning its resources to meet the challenges ahead.
- Measure performance and hold ourselves to account to ensure we deliver for the Council and its residents.

Business Plans for the Sustainability and Parks and Leisure Directorates 2025-26 are included (**enclosed**) for Members' approval.

#### 5. Financial Position/Implications

As agreed as part of the Council's rate setting process.

## 6. Governance

Progress reports on the Council's Directorate Business Plans 2025/26 will be reported quarterly to the relevant Committees.

## 7. Recommendation

**It is recommended that Members consider and approve the:**

- **Sustainability Directorate Business Plan 2025-26**
- **Parks & Leisure Directorate Business Plan 2025-26**

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

### 3.5 WM/RC/001 PROPOSED HOLIDAY CLOSURES FOR HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES 2025-26

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed holiday closures for Household Recycling Centres for the 2025/26 period.**

#### 2. Background

Members are reminded that each year the proposed schedule of closures on Bank and Public Holidays for Council facilities are brought to the relevant committees for approval. A draft schedule of bank and public holiday closures is included (**enclosed**) for Members' reference.

#### 3. Proposed Changes

For the 2025/26 period, it is proposed that the opening hours of Household Recycling Centres remain unchanged, closing on 12 July, 25 December and 26 December 2025.

#### 4. Recommendation

**It is recommended that approval be granted for the proposed holiday closures for Household Recycling Centres for the 2025/26 period.**

Prepared and Agreed by: Darren Purdy, Head of Waste Operations

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

### 3.6 EH/EHS/LR/006 FIXED PENALTY FOR THE ELECTRICAL SAFETY STANDARDS FOR PRIVATE TENANCIES REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2024

#### 1. Purpose

**This report seeks approval to set the Fixed Penalty amount at £1,000 for offences under the Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, as applied by Article 68A of the Private Tenancies Order (Northern Ireland) 2006.**

#### 2. Background

As previously reported to Members, the Department for Communities (DfC) has informed Council that The Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 were enacted on 27 November 2024. These Regulations emanate from Section 10 of the Private Tenancies Act (Northern Ireland) 2022, and the intent is to reduce the risk of injury or death, caused by an electrical fault within private rental properties.

The compliance deadlines are as follows:

- New tenancies must be compliant from 1 April 2025.
- Existing tenancies must be compliant by 1 December 2025 or the date the first electrical inspection and testing is carried out.

The Regulations establish electrical safety standards for private rental properties, requiring landlords to;

- Ensure a rental property has its hardwired electrical installation inspected and tested by a qualified electrician every five years, or less if the most recent report specifies a shorter timeframe.
- Following the inspection, obtain a report from the qualified electrician confirming whether the property has met the industry standard and passed, or if the report identifies a fault take remedial action within the required timescale.
- Retain a copy of this report until the next inspection and test is due.
- Provide a copy of the report to the tenant within 28 days of receipt and also to the Council within 7 days on request.

#### 3. Key Issues

A landlord who fails to comply with any of their duties under the regulations commits an offence. Where an authorised officer of a Council believes that an offence has been committed, they may take the landlord to court for non-compliance (for which the maximum penalty is a level 5 fine of £5000) or impose a fixed penalty notice.

Councils currently have the authority to set the amount for fixed penalties on a local basis. When deciding the appropriate penalty level, Council must consider the deterrent effect of various amounts. Officers have collaborated with other Councils in Northern Ireland to establish a consistent fixed penalty

rate across all Councils. The proposed rate of £1,000 is the maximum allowable rate for a fixed penalty.

#### 4. Financial Implication

DfC has confirmed that Council will not receive any financial support for this function, as the legislation permits the Council to issue fixed penalty notices to offset enforcement costs.

#### 5. Summary

For breaches of the Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, Councils have the authority to set local fixed penalty amounts, taking into account their deterrent effect. It is proposed that across Northern Ireland all Councils will use a consistent penalty rate of £1,000 for fixed penalty offences relating to Electrical safety Standards.

#### 6. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the Fixed Penalty of £1,000 be set for offences under the Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, as per Article 68A of the Private Tenancies Order (Northern Ireland) 2006.**

Prepared by: Liam Nicholas, Environmental Health Manager

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

### 3.7 EH/EHS/LR/001, EL/063 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE RANDALSTOWN YOUNG FARMERS ANNUAL BBQ

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the report is to seek Members approval for an Occasional Entertainment Licence for the Randalstown Young Farmers annual BBQ, James Hughes farm, 47 Caddy Road, Randalstown, BT41 3DL.

#### 2. Introduction

An application has been received for the grant of an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Licence) for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s) and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
Miss Erin Crawford	47 Caddy Road, Randalstown, BT41 3DL	Singing, Music, Dancing or Entertainment of a like kind  Saturday 10 <sup>th</sup> May 2025, 20:30hrs – 01:00hrs  Number of persons No greater than 1000	EL063	New

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at the Operations Committee meeting.

Council 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 Council 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 renewal of an Occasional Entertainment Licence for the above event. This is an event that has been occurring annually at the same venue for over 8 years. In accordance with the Entertainment Licence Policy Members approval is now required in advance of granting the licence on an annual basis. There has been no previous issues or concerns regarding this event.

The operating hours for the event as detailed below;

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 20:30hrs - 01:00hrs

#### 4. Summary

Application for an Occasional Entertainment Licence has been received from Miss Erin Crawford for an event - Randalstown Young Farmers annual BBQ, James Hughes farm, 47 Caddy Road, Randalstown, BT41 3DL. In accordance with Council protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications a decision by Members is needed on the granting of the licence.

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Licence) be granted to the applicant, Miss Erin Crawford, Randalstown Young Farmers annual BBQ, James Hughes farm, 47 Caddy Road, Randalstown, BT41 3DL with the following conditions;**

- **That all relevant licensing requirements are met**
- **That statutory consultees have no objections to approval**
- **No objections are received following the statutory consultation period**

Prepared by: Kelly Squance, Environmental Health Officer

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

### 3.8 EH/EHS/LR/001, EL/213 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF OCCASIONAL ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE REHABILITY

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the report is to seek Members approval for an Occasional Entertainment Licence for an outdoor event at Rehability, 7-8 Norfolk Court, Antrim, BT41 2SF.

#### 2. Introduction

An application has been received for the grant of an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Licence) for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
Mr William Gould	7-8 Norfolk Court, Antrim, BT41 2SF	Singing, Music, Dancing or Entertainment of a like kind  Number of persons No greater than 300	EL213	New Application

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at the Operations Committee meeting.

Council 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 Council 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 Occasional Entertainment Licence (Outdoor) for the above named premises. In accordance with the Entertainment Licence Policy Members approval is now

required in advance of granting the licence. Members should note that this applicant was successfully granted an application for this charitable event in 2024 which promoted the activities of the organisation, and this licence would be for the same purpose as before.

The operating hours for the event are as detailed below;

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 13:00hrs - 17:00hrs

#### 4. Summary

An application for an Occasional (Outdoor) Entertainment Licence has been received from Mr Gould, Rehability, 7-8 Norfolk Court, Antrim, BT41 2SF. In accordance with Council protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications a decision by Members is needed on the granting of the licence.

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Outdoor Licence) be granted to the applicant, Mr Gould, Rehability, 7-8 Norfolk Court, Antrim, BT41 2SF.**

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

Prepared by: Jen McGrugan, Environmental Health Officer

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

### 3.9 EH/EHS/LR/001, EL/023 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF OCCASIONAL ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE STRAID YOUNG FARMERS

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the report is to seek Members approval for an Occasional Entertainment Licence for the Straid Young Farmers Annual BBQ, Cullyburn Equestrian Centre, 18 Cullyburn Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5BN

#### 2. Introduction

An application has been received for the grant of an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Licence) for the following area.

Licensee	Location of Premises	Type(s)and hours of entertainment	File Number	New Application or Renewal
Mr Gareth Baird	18 Cullyburn Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5BN	Singing, Music, Dancing or Entertainment of a like kind  Saturday 31st May 2025, 21:00hrs - 01:00hrs  Number of persons No greater than 800	EL023	New

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at the Operations Committee meeting.

Council 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 Council 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 renewal of an Entertainment Licence for the above event. This is an event that has been occurring annually at the same venue for over 8 years and further to review of the

Entertainment Licence policy, Council approval is now required in advance of granting the licence on an annual basis. There has been no previous issues or concerns regarding this event.

The operating hours for the event as detailed below;

Saturday 31st May 2025, 21:00hrs– 01:00hrs

#### 4. Summary

Application for an Occasional Entertainment Licence has been received from Mr Gareth Baird for an event - Straid Young Farmers annual BBQ, Cullyburn Equestrian Centre, 18 Cullyburn Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5BN. In accordance with Council protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications a decision by Members is needed on the granting of the licence.

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Licence) be granted to the applicant, Mr Gareth Baird, Straid Young Farmers annual BBQ, Cullyburn Equestrian Centre, 18 Cullyburn Road, Newtownabbey, BT36 5BN with the following conditions;**

- **That all relevant licensing requirements are met**
- **That statutory consultees have no objections to approval**
- **No objections are received following the statutory consultation period**

Prepared by: Kelly Squance, Environmental Health Officer

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

### 3.10 EH/EHS/LR/001, EL/070 APPLICATION FOR GRANT OF OCCASIONAL ENTERTAINMENTS LICENCE LYLEHILL YOUNG FARMERS

#### 1. Purpose

The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval for an Occasional Entertainment Licence for the Lylehill Young Farmers annual BBQ, Shane's Castle Estate, Antrim, BT41 4NB

#### 2. Introduction

An application has been received for the grant of an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Licence) for the following area.

<b>Licensee</b>	<b>Location of Premises</b>	<b>Type(s)and hours of entertainment</b>	<b>File Number</b>	<b>New Application or Renewal</b>
Miss Kirsty Wallace	Shane's Castle Estate, Antrim, BT41 4NB	Singing, Music, Dancing or Entertainment of a like kind  Indoor Occasional Licence (Marquee)  Saturday 7th June 2025, 21:00hrs – 01:30hrs  Number of persons No greater than 500	EL070	New

In line with the Council Protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications, approved in December 2016, the application must be considered at the Operations Committee meeting.

Council 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 Council 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 renewal of an Entertainment Licence for the above event. This is an event that has been occurring annually at the same venue for over 8 years. Council approval is now required in advance of granting the licence on an annual basis. There has been no previous issues or concerns regarding this event.

The operating hours for the event as detailed below;

Saturday 7th June 2025, 21:00hrs – 01:30hrs

#### 4. Summary

Application for an Occasional Entertainment Licence has been received from Miss Kirsty Wallace for an event - Lylehill Young Farmers annual BBQ, Shane's Castle Estate, Antrim, BT41 4NB. In accordance with Council protocol for the hearing of Entertainment Licence applications a decision by Members is needed on the granting of the licence.

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that an Entertainment Licence (Occasional Licence) be granted to the applicant, Kirsty Wallace, 139 Ballyrobin Road, Crumlin, BT29 4EG with the following conditions;**

- **That all relevant licensing requirements are met**
- **That statutory consultees have no objections to approval**
- **No objections are received following the statutory consultation period**

Prepared by: Kelly Squance, Environmental Health Officer

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

### 3.11 WM/S/003 SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP MINUTES

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the minutes of the Sustainability Working Group.**

#### 2. Background

The meeting of the Sustainability Working Group was held on 25 March 2025 and a copy of the minutes (**enclosed**) are attached for Members' approval.

At the meeting, Members were updated on the following:

- 1) Carbon Literacy Training options for Elected Members;
- 2) New Staff who have joined the Sustainability Directorate;
- 3) Sustainability Screening Tool;
- 4) Family Reuse Fayre Event update;
- 5) Green for Business.

#### 3. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the minutes of the Sustainability Working Group held on 25 March 2025 be approved.**

Prepared by: Claire Evans, Climate, Waste and Sustainability Officer

Agreed by: Leanne Smits, Waste Strategy and Sustainability Manager

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

## 4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 4.1 L/LEI/004/VOL2 SUMMER ACTIVITY PROGRAMME 2025

#### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Council's Summer Activity Programme for 2025.**

#### 2. Background

The Council organises a variety of activities across multiple locations throughout the Borough during the schools summer break, catering to children aged 6–12. A screening process is available for children with additional care needs (medical or disability-related) to ensure necessary accommodations are made whenever possible.

For several years, the Council has partnered with the Mae Murray Foundation to offer an Inclusive Summer Scheme, which provides specialized one-to-one care for up to 25 children per day. This year, the Council will expand its efforts with a Borough-wide Summer Inclusive Programme featuring activities such as sensory play, inclusive wheelchair games, adaptive biking, and arts and crafts.

In addition to its own programmes, the Council supports external summer initiatives through:

- **The Community Planning Department's Programmes and Activities Grant**, which last year provided funding to 17 groups at a total estimated cost of £34,000.
- **Accessibility and Inclusion Funding**, which offers up to £5,000 per applicant from a total fund of £25,000, available to Special Educational Needs (SEN) schools within the Borough.

This comprehensive approach ensures a diverse and inclusive range of summer activities for children across the Borough.

#### 3. Proposed 2025 Council Programme

Booking for Council-managed schemes will open on Wednesday, 21 May. Relevant information will be widely shared in advance through the Council's various communication channels.

The proposed 2025 Summer Scheme Programme is as follows:

<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Dates 2024</b>	<b>Times</b>
Six Mile Leisure Centre (Ballyclare)	21 July – 22 Aug	10am -3pm
Valley Leisure Centre	21 July – 22 Aug	10am -3pm
Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre (Arts and Crafts)	21 July – 22 Aug	10am – 3pm

Merville House	21 July – 22 Aug	10am – 1pm
Lilian Bland	21 July – 22 Aug	10am – 3pm
Thompson Primary School	21 – 25 July	10am – 3pm
Kilbride Church/St Brides	28 July – 1 Aug	10am – 3pm
Ballynure Methodist	4 – 8 Aug & 11 – 15 Aug	10am – 3pm
Hydepark Church	18 – 21 Aug	10am – 3pm
Crumlin Leisure Centre	19 – 21 Aug	10am – 3pm
Castle Gardens Outdoor Sport & Physical Activity Camp	5 - 7 August	10am – 3pm
Summer Inclusive Programmes	TBC	TBC
Sports Specific Camps (Athletics, Dance, Tennis & Football) Various centres	July & August	10am – 1pm

#### **4. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Kevin Madden, Sport and Physical Activity Programmes Manager, Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager and Ellen Boyd, Accessibility and Inclusion Officer

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

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

## 4.2 EH/EHS/LR/006 RENT REGULATION IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR IN NORTHERN IRELAND

### 1. Purpose

**This report aims to update Members on legislative changes regarding the frequency of rent increases in the Private Rental Sector.**

### 2. Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) commissioned the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) to carry out independent research on the impact of rent cuts/freezes to support its responsibilities under Section 7 of The Private Tenancies (Northern Ireland) Act 2022.

The research report from CIH for the Department for Communities concluded that the best way of relieving pressure on affordability for renters was by increasing housing supply and ensuring the benefit system adequately addresses housing costs.

### 3. Key Issues

To address affordability challenges in the Private Rented Sector, the Minister for Communities will enact Section 7 of the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022, limiting rent increases to once every 12 months, with a 3-month written notice. This will apply to all tenancies starting from 1 April 2025.

Under these provisions, a landlord cannot raise rent within 12 months of granting a tenancy or within 12 months of the last increase. A 3-month written notice, such as a Notice of Variation, must be provided.

If a landlord attempts to increase rent more than once within a 12-month period, the tenant is not required to pay the second increase. The increase will have no legal effect, and the rent remains unchanged. The landlord cannot enforce this increase in court or harass the tenant.

A landlord must follow legal procedures to evict a tenant, including issuing the correct notice to quit, and may need to apply to the Court for ejection proceedings.

### 4. Summary

From 1 April 2025, a private landlord cannot increase rent within 12 months of granting a tenancy or within the 12 months following the date of the last rent increase.

### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Liam Nicholas, Environmental Health Manager

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

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

#### 4.3 EH/PHWB/012 INTERGENERATIONAL ACTIVITY – BRINGING TOGETHER YOUNGER AND OLDER GENERATIONS

##### 1. Purpose

**The purpose of this report is to highlight to Members the ongoing work around intergenerational activity.**

##### 2. Background

Intergenerational activity extends beyond simply connecting younger and older generations together, it is a systemic approach to community development and improving wellbeing that recognises and values the contribution of all generations who live within the Borough. The Health and Wellbeing section of Environmental Health have taken on a role in supporting the growth of intergenerational approaches collaboratively and do this by co-ordinating approaches directly with interested parties.

These intergenerational activities align with the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing – a framework outlining five ways people of all ages can support and enhance their mental wellbeing: Give, Be Active, Connect, Keep Learning, and Take Notice. Every planned intergenerational activity will incorporate several of these steps, with "Connect" being a central focus as the two age groups come together to build meaningful connection

##### 3. Key Issues

Council's Age Friendly Officer is currently developing intergenerational guidelines that will be made available on the Council website. These guidelines can be utilised by any interested parties who are working with either younger or older age groups. They will provide advice on how to establish a project or programme, highlighting considerations for both age groups to ensure success.

The Age Friendly Officer will support groups interested in delivering intergenerational projects by finding and linking together interested groups. Presently, the Officer is supporting the Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum to deliver an intergenerational project within each District Electoral Area, details of which will be shared on Council social media.

One of the projects successfully concluded during the Christmas season involved a collaboration between Inniscoole Day Centre and Rathcoole Primary School. On 18 December 2024, participants from both groups gathered to create Christmas cards together, exchange them, and enjoy singing festive songs. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with the principal of Rathcoole Primary School remarking;

“This was brilliant. It also ties in with our Take 5 message as a school, so it would be super to use this messaging alongside it. I love the co-ordinated approach to it as I have tried to link up before, get too busy with other things, then it doesn't work.”

#### 4. Summary

The Age Friendly Officer will share the Intergenerational Guidelines and continue to coordinate and support intergenerational projects across the Borough. A dedicated webpage will be established to showcase intergenerational work, including examples of best practices within the Borough.

#### 5. Recommendation

**It is recommended that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health - Health and Wellbeing Manager

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

#### **4.4 EH/EHS/CP/004 TOBACCO TEST PURCHASE**

##### **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 local authorities 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 current legislation, it is illegal to sell cigarettes or tobacco or nicotine inhaling products (e-cigarettes and e-liquids) to anyone under 18.

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.

TCO's must conduct at least 100 advisory visits annually to retailers, including 70 test purchases, to ensure compliance with age-restricted sale legislation. In April 2024 and July 2024, advisory letters were sent to 141 retailers, and TCOs conducted 201 advisory visits from April to December 2024. Test purchase exercises have been completed in April, August, October and November of this financial year and reported to Members in June, November, December 2024, and January 2025.

##### **3. Key Issues**

In February 2025, TCOs carried out a test purchase exercise with twelve retailers, involving a young person under 18 who attempted to purchase tobacco or nicotine inhaling products. All twelve premises complied fully with the law.

This test purchase exercise concludes the 2024/2025 test purchase program, meeting the target of 70 test purchases completed during that period.

##### **4. Summary**

This was the fifth and final phase of the planned test purchase exercises for 2024/2025, marking the achievement of the 70 test purchase target for the period. On this occasion, all twelve premises fully complied with the law.

##### **5. Recommendation**

**It is recommended 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 Laverty, Director of Sustainability, Operations

**4.5 PK/GEN/144 CORRESPONDENCE FROM THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE – PROPOSED SEGREGATED FOOTWAY/CYCLEWAY B513 O’NEILL ROAD, NEWTOWNABBAY**

**1. Purpose**

**The purpose of this report is to present correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) regarding a proposed segregated footway/cycleway on O’Neill Road, Newtownabbey.**

**2. Background**

The Council has received correspondence from the DfI Active Travel Team outlining a proposal to develop a footway/cycleway along O’Neill Road, Newtownabbey.

The scheme aims to enhance active travel by improving safe walking and cycling infrastructure in the area. DfI anticipates that most of the footway/cycleway will be accommodated within the existing footpath and grass verge.

The Department has invited feedback from Officers and Elected Members on the proposal. Enclosed are the correspondence and associated maps for Members’ reference.

**3. Recommendation**

**It is recommended that the report be noted.**

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

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

**5 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

Any Other Relevant Business (AORB) may be taken at this point.