



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD AT ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON 10 JUNE 2024 AT 6.30 PM

- In the Chair** : Councillor V McWilliam
- Committee Members (In person)** : Aldermen – P Bradley, L Clarke, J McGrath and J Smyth
- Councillors – J Burbank, J Gilmour, A McAuley, E McLaughlin, H Magill, M Ní Chonghaile, and M Stewart
- Officers Present** : Director of Parks & Leisure Operations - M McDowell
Director of Sustainability Operations – M Lavery
Head of Parks Operations - P Mawhinney
Head of Waste Strategy & Sustainability – L Daly
Head of Leisure Operations – D O'Hagan
Head of Property Services (Interim) – D Blair
Head of Environmental Health & Wellbeing – C Kelly
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Officer – Christine McGrandle

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the June Operations Committee meeting and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor R Foster
Councillor AM Logue

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 4.4 – Alderman Bradley
Item 4.10 – Alderman J Smyth

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

3.1 EH/EHS/LR/010 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH ENFORCEMENT POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek Members' approval for the review of the Environmental Health Enforcement Policy in accordance with Council procedures.

2. Background

Members were reminded that the enforcement activity carried out by the Environmental Health team was delivered in accordance with an Environmental Health Enforcement Policy.

The Policy set out the principles and approach adopted in applying the legislation falling under the remit of Environmental Health to ensure effective, consistent and open enforcement.

3. Key Issues

The Policy sets out the principles and approach adopted in applying the legislation falling under the remit of Environmental Health to ensure effective, consistent and open enforcement.

As set out in the Policy, it was agreed that a review would take place every two years to ensure that it satisfies current legal requirements and customer expectations. This review was now due and had been completed (circulated) for Committee's consideration.

The latest amendments had been made to:-

- reflect the change in job title of the Director of Sustainability
- reflect the change in structure and removal of the Director of Operations and the Deputy Director of Operations

The revised policy had undergone Equality Screening and an Impact Assessment was not required.

4. Summary

The Environmental Health Enforcement Policy had been reviewed in accordance with the Council procedures. There were no substantial changes to the Policy, and changes made reflected staff structural changes.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the revised Environmental Health Enforcement Policy be approved.

ACTION BY: Colin Kelly, Head of Environment Health and Wellbeing

3.2 **WM/S/003 SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP MINUTES**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the minutes of the Sustainability Working Group.

2. Introduction/Background

The meeting of the Sustainability Working Group was held on 8 April 2024 and a copy of the minutes (circulated) were attached for Members' approval.

3. Key Issues

At the meeting, Members were updated on the following:

- 1) Climate and Sustainability Policy;
- 2) Actions, Adaptation and Mitigation Policy
- 3) Antrim and Newtownabbey's Carbon Footprint;
- 4) Carbon Literacy Training Programme;
- 5) Big Spring Clean Events
- 6) Northern Ireland Resource Network Membership.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and agreed that

the minutes of the Sustainability Working Group held on 8 April 2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Gillian McGrath, Personal Assistant to the Director of Sustainability

3.3 EH/EHS/018 FOOD SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2024-2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the Food Service Delivery Plan 2024-2025.

2. Key Issues

The Council was required to produce an annual plan showing how it intended to fulfil its statutory duties and deliver Food Control services, (circulated) a copy was included for Members' information. A review of the Food Service Delivery Plan for 2023-2024 had been undertaken and was circulated for Members' information.

The Plan set out how Environmental Health would address both Council's statutory obligations.

3. Summary

Environmental Health had a key role in securing the safety of food processed, manufactured etc. in the Borough. The plan's key focus was to demonstrate how the Council would meet its statutory obligations and duties related to food safety for the year 2024-2025.

The Food Safety Service Delivery Plan outlined key objectives for the Food Safety section including:

- I. the implementation of a thorough inspection regime;
- II. strategies for education and enforcement;
- III. a detailed approach to achieving these objectives within the current resource levels.

4. Financial Implications

The 2024/25 budget included financial provision to deliver the Food Service Delivery Plan.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

- a. the Food Service Delivery Plan 2024-2025 be approved;**
- b. the review of Food Service Delivery Plan 2023-2024 be noted.**

ACTION BY: Christina McErlean, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

3.4 EH/EHS/011 HEALTH & SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2024-2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the Health and Safety Delivery Plan 2024-2025.

2. Key Issues

Members were reminded that under Article 20 of the Health and Safety at Work Northern Ireland Order 1978 Council had to set out a planned Health and Safety activity programme on an annual basis.

A copy of the Health and Safety Service Delivery Plan 2024-2025 (circulated) was included for Members' information.

3. Summary

Environmental Health played a crucial role in ensuring the safety of employees and the public in business workplaces for which the Council had statutory responsibility. The primary aim of the plan was to outline how the Council would meet its statutory obligations and duties related to Health and Safety for the year 2024/2025.

The Health and Safety Service Plan detailed key objectives for the Health and Safety section including:

- the implementation of a comprehensive inspection regime;
- strategies for education and enforcement;
- a detailed approach to achieving these objectives within the current resource levels.

4. Financial Implications

The 2024/25 budget included financial provision to deliver the Health and Safety Service Delivery Plan.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke

Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the Health and Safety Service Delivery Plan 2024-2025 be approved.

ACTION BY: Christina McErlean, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

3.5 EH/EHS/002 SERVICE DELIVERY - WELFARE OF ANIMALS (NI) ACT 2011

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update to Members on the delivery of the Animal Welfare Service and to seek funding for the continued delivery of the service.

2. Background

Members were reminded that since April 2015, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEA) had acted as a Sub-Regional Lead Council responsible for the delivery of the Animal Welfare Service across the Northern Region (Mid and East Antrim; Antrim and Newtownabbey; and Causeway Coast and Glens). Previously the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland had received 100% funding, £1.25M, from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) for the cost of this service.

The Department had stated in written communication that it would no longer be able to provide funding support to Councils due to the reduction in DAERA budget. The Department had stated that their focus would be on discharging its own statutory obligations, with Animal Welfare (Non Farmed Animals) being a Council responsibility. Fermanagh and Omagh District Council were to review the Department's decision on behalf of the 11 Councils and had sought a judicial review of the decision.

3. Previous Decision of Council

In November 2023, Members agreed that Council approved the use of Council funds to finance the Animal Welfare service during 2023-24 to enable continued service delivery at a cost of approximately £140,000.

4. Key Issues

In April 2024, the Department wrote to Councils indicating that they had received an additional resource allocation, £625,000 for 2023-2024, which would be distributed to the 11 Councils as a contribution towards costs incurred in 2023-2024. It should be noted that this funding did not meet the cost of providing the service and Council funds were also required.

However, DAERA had stated that it remained their position that, in the absence of any additional future funding from the Northern Ireland Executive, finance would not be available for 2024-2025 or future financial years. Consequently, there would be no allocation of funds to Northern Ireland Councils in this current financial year. This would equate to approximately £140,000 for Council.

MEA had sought confirmation from Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Council that the necessary funds would be transferred to them for this year (2024-2025). As this animal welfare service to non-farmed animals was a statutory requirement, it was proposed to acknowledge MEA's request and Council would pay our contribution as Officers believe this was the most economically effective way of delivering the service at present.

As Members were aware, Officers had been reviewing Council spend in order to estimate the end of year outturn. Due to the uncertainty of the funding from DAERA, it was felt prudent to include the £140,000 contribution in the current figures and future years. This year, it was proposed to finance Council's for the service by holding the recruitment of Environmental Health staff until there was

clarity on the potential of external funding. Should the outcome of the judicial review find in favour of the Councils, a further report would be brought before Members for review.

5. Summary

In April 2024, DAERA informed the Northern Ireland Councils that they received an additional resource allocation of £625,000 for 2023-2024, to be distributed among the 11 Councils for expenses incurred that year. However, the Department also noted that without future funding from the Northern Ireland Executive, there would be no financial support available for 2024-2025 or future years.

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council (MEA) had requested confirmation from the Council and Causeway Coast and Glens Council that they would receive the necessary funds of £140,000 for 2024-2025 to maintain the current Animal Welfare Service. As the service was a statutory responsibility for Council, it was proposed that this continue to be the most efficient means of delivering the service.

The Director of Sustainability provided clarification on how the estimated sum of £140,000 would be spent in providing the service as part of the Council's statutory responsibility under the Welfare of Animals (NI) Act 2011.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

Council approve the current delivery mechanism for the Animal Welfare Service through Mid and East Antrim Borough Council at an estimated cost of £140,000 in 2024-25.

ACTION BY: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

3.6 L/GEN/005 DISCOUNT TO 3G PITCH TRAINING RATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval to discount 3G pitch bookings during the seasonal grass pitch maintenance period.

2. Background

Members were informed that grass-playing pitches would undergo rest and maintenance from May to September each year to preserve their condition and ensure their availability during the playing season. In recent years, the football playing season had been extended, resulting in increased wear on the pitches. With the season starting in late August, there was demand for pre-season training and matches as early as June.

In April 2023, approval was granted to discount 3G pitches to match the lower rates of grass pitches for matches during the summer months. Officers had

noted increased demand for grass pitches for summer training, leagues, and pre-season friendlies. While matches could be accommodated at the approved discounted rate, no such approval existed for training.

3. Proposal

It was proposed that the Council's 3G pitches be offered at a 50% discount on the training rate during July and August. Usage of 3G pitches declined significantly in the summer, and this discount would likely increase facility income during this period. This discounted rate would be available only to constituted clubs within the Borough.

Proposed by Alderman Bradley
Seconded by Councillor Magill and agreed that

approval be granted to apply a 50% discount to training rate for 3G pitch bookings during July and August.

ACTION BY: Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

3.7 **WM/WM/040 CONSULTATION RESPONSE RETHINKING OUR RESOURCES**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval on the draft response of the Consultation "Rethinking our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI".

2. Background

As Members were aware following discussion at April Committee, the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) was currently consulting on the future of resource management and recycling in Northern Ireland. The overall aim of the consultation was to improve the quality and quantity of household and non-household municipal recycling, reduce food waste, decrease the amount of waste we send to landfill and help enhance the services offered to households and businesses.

Officers had taken the views of Members, attended webinars and workshops, worked in collaboration with other organisations such as NILGA, arc21, LARAC and other Northern Ireland Councils to produce a draft response (circulated) which was included for Members' information.

As Members were aware, these proposals may have led to significant changes in collection requirements of waste, although they were broadly in line with the Council's waste collection harmonisation plans.

3. Main Points

Members would note that Officers had only proposed responses to questions applicable to Council services which it would be expected to provide. Some

of the proposals included in the consultation had limited evidence to justify their introduction and, where this was the case, it was proposed to ask for further clarification as part of the response.

The main points to note:

- Council agreed with the proposal to require a restriction in the amount of residual waste capacity for households of 90 litres per week, however we state that it would be up to individual Councils as to how this would be delivered i.e. 180L bins fortnightly currently provided to Newtownabbey residents;
- Councils should be required to collect a core set of dry recyclables from households, including glass bottles and containers, paper/card, plastics, and metal packaging, with flexible plastic packaging to be collected by March 2027, subject to funding being provided to assist with new collections;
- A default position that household dry recyclables should be collected separately, as per the wheelie box scheme, to ensure the quality of the recycled materials. A commingled bin collection would only be allowed following a comprehensive assessment.
- Further information was required for the measure of Quality as Northern Ireland would be the only devolved administration using this benchmarking tool;
- Further information was requested on the proposals to increase the collection of food waste from households including the possibility of weekly food collections, including compositional analysis after the introduction of the restriction of residual waste capacity;
- Council agreed that businesses and the wider non-household municipal (NHM) sector should be required to recycle a core set of recyclables, however requested information on how this would be applied and enforced as there was a concern there would be an increased burden on Council to deliver these services;
- Legislative and logistical concerns regarding the possibility of opening up household recycling points and recycling centres for NHM users had been noted.
- Funding would be required to assist Council and businesses to implement the collection schemes proposed.

4. Summary

Whilst Council supported the majority of the proposals set out in the draft consultation response, further clarification was required from DAERA on how these proposals would be implemented and enforced.

The proposed draft response (circulated) was presented to Members for approval for Council to submit before the deadline of Thursday 27 June 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Burbank and agreed that

the draft response for the Consultation “Rethinking our Resources: Measures for

Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI” be approved for submission.

ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Sustainability

3.8 PK/GEN/035/VOL4 GRASS CUTTING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to inform Members about the current grass cutting arrangements and to seek approval to conduct a review, with further recommendations to be presented at a future Operations Committee meeting.

2. Introduction

Members were aware that the responsibility for grass cutting on road verges, roundabouts, and various public spaces was shared among several organisations, including Council, the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive. A detailed list of locations, land ownership, and the organisations responsible for cutting grass in these areas across the Borough was circulated for Members' reference.

3. Background

Due to budget cuts by DfI, legacy councils had taken on the grass cutting of various roundabouts and verges, receiving approximately £29,000 annually from the Department. Following the merger of the legacy councils, this payment ceased, but the Council continued to maintain 69 locations (34 roundabouts and 35 verges), incurring costs that should have been covered by the Department.

4. Grass Management Sub-committee

In 2016, the Grass Management Sub-committee (now called the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-group) was established to address the impact of new Traffic Management Regulations and the reduction in grass cutting frequency by DfI in urban areas. Changes in regulations related to speed limits on adjacent or approaching roads had prohibited the Council from maintaining 14 roundabouts and 3 verges. The remaining 52 locations were still maintained by the Council during the grass cutting season. The specific locations were circulated for Members' reference.

5. Urban Grass Cutting

Since 2016, the Council had annually approved an arrangement with DfI to provide additional urban grass cuts in high-traffic areas throughout the Borough. Beyond the two cuts that were the Department's responsibility, the Council had provided an additional five cuts, incurring costs that had increased from £10,000 to £16,000 per cut in 2024, resulting in a total annual cost of £80,000 for the grass cutting of urban areas owned by the Department.

6. DFI Biodiversity Policy

Starting in 2023, DFI announced a new verge management approach across Northern Ireland's road network to protect and create habitats for biodiversity. Grass cutting had been significantly reduced, with a single swathe of 1.1 metres along strategic road verges cut twice per year, while sight lines at junctions were also cut at least twice a year. On rural roads, one cut was performed late in the growing season to allow flowers to set seed and pollinators to become less active.

7. Current Position

There was no standardised grass cutting approach across the Borough, with the frequency and quality of cuts varying depending on the responsible organisation. DFI had also announced a further reduction in grass cutting for the 2024 season, applying its biodiversity policy of a 1.1-metre swathe to areas within the urban grass cutting schedule.

8. Summary

Since 2015, Council had significantly increased grass cutting on land it did not own or have responsibility for. This included an annual payment of £80,000 to DFI for additional urban area cuts and an estimated £60,000 per annum for maintaining roundabouts and verges at 51 additional locations.

Proposed by Alderman Bradley
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

approval be granted for the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-group to conduct a review of all current grass cutting arrangements and report their recommendations to a future Operations Committee meeting.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 EH/PHWB/010 NORTHERN HEALTHY LIFESTYLES PARTNERSHIP FUNDING THE FOOD PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide Members with an overview of The Food Programme which was carried out during the 2023/2024 financial year.

2. Background

Members were reminded that Environmental Health received £6,000 funding for 'The Food Programme' from the Trusts Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership (NHLP), for 2022/2023 and 2023/2024. Learning sessions were conducted across the 7 DEA's in January and February 2023 successfully raised awareness among older adults about the importance of a nutritious diet and assisting with menu

planning and cooking skills. Building on this success, the programme was continued for 2023/2024, with a renewed focus on young and single parents.

3. Key Issues

The food programme targeted single parents with young children, who may have faced multiple barriers to affording a healthy diet for various reasons. These parents could also experience significant social isolation and were at risk of loneliness. Young mothers, in particular, had highlighted the isolation that comes with parenting at a young age and had expressed the need for supportive spaces where they can connect with others.

The Food Programme consisted of two parts; theory and practical. The theory sessions covered nutritious meal preparation, batch cooking, meal planning, reducing food waste, budgeting, and smart shopping. In the practical sessions, participants used air fryers to prepare healthy meals and each received an air fryer to take home.

To help foster new community relationships, the sessions were held in each of the 7 DEA's in local community centres and hubs which make them accessible to parents with limited transport options. In addition, the sessions were held at times to accommodate parents of school-aged children.

A total of 46 participants were recruited through referrals from stakeholders such as Sure Start, Home Start, local schools and via the Council's social media and website. Feedback was extremely positive with participants appreciating new connections, knowledge on reducing food waste, and the usefulness of air fryers.

Due to high interest, additional sessions were planned for June and October 2024 targeting both young parents and older adults. Any persons interested could register their interest for future sessions at;

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/the-food-programme/introduction/>.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The programme had been funded by the Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership (NHLP). Environmental Health received £6,000 for the delivery of the programme in 2022/23 and 2023/24. As there had been an underspend of £500, the further shorter programme would run in 2024/25 with the agreement of the NHLP.

5. Summary

To date this year, Environmental Health delivered 7 Food Programme sessions targeting young and single mothers in order to enhance their ability to provide cost-effective, nutritious meals. Due to the success of the programme, additional sessions were planned for later this year.

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.2 L/LEI/OO/007 SUPERCUP NORTHERN IRELAND FOOTBALL TOURNAMENT 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the 2024 SuperCup Northern Ireland Football Tournament.

2. Background

Members were reminded that since 2022, the Council had supported the SuperCup Northern Ireland (NI) Football Tournament through funding and by hosting games at Council playing pitches. The girls' section of the tournament was exclusively hosted within the Borough and attracted teams from around the world. Local football teams played a significant role in the tournament by providing volunteers, and the event would leave a lasting legacy, especially for girls' football in the Borough. All teams were accommodated within the Borough which provided significant economic benefit to local businesses, in particular hoteliers.

3. 2024 Tournament

This year's tournament would take place from 22-26 July 2024 and would feature sixteen teams across the Junior and Premier Sections. For the first time, English teams such as Manchester United, Aston Villa, and Wolverhampton Wanderers were confirmed to compete.

Games would be played across five venues within the Borough, including three Council-owned facilities: Cloyne Crescent, Monkstown; The Diamond, Rathcoole; and Chimney Corner, Antrim. Additional venues included Mossley Park and Dixon Park, Ballyclare.

The tournament draw was held on 22 May at the Theatre at the Mill. Fixtures and venue details were available at supercupni.com.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.3 PT/CI/049 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24 – PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 4 – OPERATIONS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members that the Performance and Improvement Plan 2023/24 Performance Progress Report Quarter 4 be noted.

2. Background

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

The Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2023/24 was approved in June 2023. This set out a range of robust performance targets, along with six identified improvement objectives and a number of Statutory Performance Targets.

3. Previous Decision of Council

As agreed at the August 2023 Council meeting, quarterly performance reports would be presented to the relevant committee or Working Group.

4. Main Report

Fourth Quarter performance progress reports for Parks and Leisure Services and Sustainability were circulated for Members' information.

5. Summary

The main points highlighted were:

- The temporary closure of the centre's main entrance had affected data collection, along with the refurbishment-related closure of the swimming pool, combined to have a negative impact on leisure usage figures.
- Council achieved Platinum status in the NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey;
- Target of 85% of general planning applications processed within 15 days of receipt;
- 60% recycling rate had been exceeded;
- Reduction in the cost of service per household for Waste Management and Environmental Health and Wellbeing services.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

the Performance and Improvement Plan 2023/24 Performance Progress Report Quarter 4 be noted.

NO ACTION

4.4 EH/PHWB/012 THREE YEAR AGE FRIENDLY ACTION PLAN CONSULTATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to inform Members that residents of the Borough were being consulted on the Council's Three Year Age Friendly Action Plan.

2. Background

Members were reminded that in October 2019, Council joined the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. This membership underscores the commitment to making Antrim and Newtownabbey a welcoming place for older adults promoting their inclusion to create a more age-friendly Borough.

An Age-Friendly Officer within the Environmental Health section was dedicated to this initiative, focusing on the eight domains of age-friendliness established by the WHO:

1. Outdoor spaces and buildings;
2. Transportation;
3. Housing;
4. Social Participation;
5. Respect and Social Inclusion;
6. Civic Participation and Employment;
7. Communication and Information;
8. Community Support and Health Services.

The Age-Friendly work was funded by the Public Health Agency (PHA) with a key component being the development of a three-year action plan. This plan aimed to benefit everyone living, working, and visiting the Borough as they age.

3. Key Issues

To develop the three-year action plan, a baseline questionnaire focusing on the eight domains was completed by 308 residents in 2023 to gather their views on age-friendly provisions in the Borough. Additionally, focus groups were held in each District Electoral Area (DEA) between September and December 2023, in collaboration with community organisations. These sessions allowed residents to share their perspectives on the issues faced by older people in the Borough.

The insights from the questionnaire and focus groups informed the development of the three-year action plan which outlined actions identified by older residents to improve the Borough's age-friendliness.

In March 2024, the PHA funded an independent facilitator to conduct seven in-person consultation sessions on the action plan. These sessions, held across each of the DEAs, provided residents with an opportunity to share their views on

the action plan. To ensure broader participation an online consultation would be available for 12 weeks until 24th July 2024;

<https://consultations.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/environmental-health/age-friendly-action-plan/>

To promote the consultation, a press release was issued to local media and an article was published in the summer edition of "News for You," the Council's age-friendly magazine. Throughout the consultation period, regular social media posts and a promotional video would encourage residents to participate. For those unable to access the online consultation, outreach sessions would be held between May and July at all libraries across the Borough where residents could receive assistance in completing the online consultation.

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/age-friendly/age-friendly-consultation/>

The findings from the consultation would be incorporated into the action plan and shared with Members over the coming months.

4. Financial Position/Implication

The Age-Friendly service was fully funded by the PHA, which provided £49,773 for the 2023/2024 period. This amount included a £3,000 enhancement for an independent facilitator to oversee the in-person focus groups.

5. Summary

A three-year Age-Friendly Action Plan had been developed to improve the lives of older people living, working, or visiting the Borough. The action plan was available online for consultation until 24th July 2024.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.5 PK/GEN/021 ULSTER IN BLOOM 2024

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on Council's submission for the 2024 Ulster in Bloom Competition.

2. Background

The Translink Ulster in Bloom competition had been coordinated by the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) since 2006. NILGA, the council-led representative body for local authorities in Northern Ireland,

included all 11 councils in Northern Ireland as members. The competition emphasised the collaboration between Councils and local community groups, focusing on three key areas of horticulture, environment, and community. The Council had enjoyed significant success in the competition, with consistent placings across all categories. Groups from Randalstown and Ballynure had even gone on to represent NILGA at the Britain in Bloom Awards.

3. Review of 2023 Awards & Submission for 2024

Officers had reviewed the judging feedback from the 2023 awards, which was detailed across the three scoring categories of horticulture, environment, and community. The review revealed that four areas, Straid, Glengormley, Ballyrobert, and Mallusk, were facing significant challenges in making improvements due to landscape issues and limited community involvement. Consequently, these areas would not be included in this year's submission. Instead, Officers were developing a detailed action plan for each area, which would include engagement with local community groups with the aim of building capacity and ensuring inclusion in future submissions. As a result, the Council would have 15 towns and villages included within the 2024 Ulster in Bloom submission.

Antrim	Ballyclare	Crumlin	Toome
Templepatrick	Ballynure	Parkgate	Killead
Randalstown	Doagh	Burnside	Ballyeaston
Carnmoney	Merville	Whiteabbey	

Proposed by Councillor Burbank
 Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.6 **EH/EHS/LR/007 DOG CONTROL LEGISLATION – INTRODUCTION OF XL BULLY SAFEGUARDING MEASURES**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the new safeguarding control measures for XL Bully dog breeds to be introduced in Northern Ireland by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

2. Background

On 5 March 2024, DAERA Minister Andrew Muir announced plans to introduce new control measures for XL Bully breed dogs in Northern Ireland to enhance public safety. This decision followed a number of fatal dog attacks in the UK involving this breed.

Currently, Northern Ireland has about 200 licensed XL Bully dogs, with 30 in Antrim and Newtownabbey. The number of licensed XL Bully dogs in Northern

Ireland had doubled in the last six months following the UK Government's announcement in September 2023 about banning these dogs in England and Wales.

It was proposed that the XL Bully breed would be added to the list of dangerous dogs under the Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 through the Dangerous Dogs (Designated Type) (Northern Ireland) Order 2024. This legislation would not ban XL Bully dogs outright but would make it illegal to breed, sell, gift, exchange, abandon, or permit them to stray. In addition, XL Bully dogs must also be leashed and muzzled in public. These measures were scheduled to take effect on 28 June 2024.

An "Exemption Register" scheme would allow owners to legally keep their dogs by obtaining an Exemption Certificate, which would require registering their dogs with the Council.

Representatives from the Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI) Northern Ireland Dogs Advisory Group (NIDAG) had been nominated to work with DAERA on implementing the new legislation and managing the Exemption Register. Regular liaison meetings were held fortnightly and the Council had representation on the working group.

3. Key Issues

3.1 Legislation Timeline

To prioritise public safety, DAERA plan to implement the new legislative provisions by the end of June 2024. The implementation timeline (circulated) was included for Members' information.

- **Stage 1 – May/June 2024:** The Dangerous Dogs (Designated Type) (Northern Ireland) Order 2024 was approved by the Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs Committee on 23 May 2024, and would be considered at the Executive Committee Meeting in July 2024. If approved, the legislation would be enacted in July 2024 (subject to change).
- **Stage 2 – July 2024:** The Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) (Northern Ireland) Order 2024 would follow.

Stage 1 of the new Regulations would provide for designation of XL Bully type dogs as the type appearing to be "bred for fighting or having the characteristics of a type bred for that purpose", as prescribed by Article 25A of The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. This would add XL Bully dogs to the existing list of dangerous dogs, which already included the breeds Pit Bull Terrier and Japanese Tosa.

As outlined above, these provisions would make it an offence to breed, sell, gift, exchange, abandon, or permit an XL Bully to stray. It would also be an offence to permit such a dog to be in a public area unless it was leashed and muzzled.

Stage 2 would enact both an Exemption Scheme to allow XL Bully owners to retain ownership of their dogs via the issuing of an Exemption Certificate, as well as a Compensation Scheme, which would facilitate dog owners to surrender their dog for humane destruction, should they not wish to comply with the requirements.

While the legislation aligns with the rest of the UK, Northern Ireland's application for an exemption certificate would differ as it is managed by local Councils.

3.2 Self-Certification Exemption Scheme

Owners of XL Bully dogs would need to self-assess their dogs against the DEFRA UK XL Bully Conformation Standard. If their dog meets the criteria, they must apply for an Exemption Certificate from Councils. The application window was expected to be open from 1 August 2024 to 31 December 2024 and from January 2025, it would be illegal to own an XL Bully dog without an Exemption Certificate.

The exemption scheme requires owners to:

- Pay a £92.40 application fee
- Have appropriate insurance
- Keep their dog leashed and muzzled in public
- Ensure their dog was neutered

3.3 Compensation Scheme

The Dangerous Dogs (Compensation and Exemption Schemes) (Northern Ireland) Order 2024 would include a compensation scheme for owners who choose to surrender their dogs for humane destruction, offering £100 plus £100 towards veterinary costs. This scheme would be fully managed by DAERA.

3.4 Guidance on the New Regulations

DAERA would provide guidance and support to help XL Bully owners understand the new regulations, including identifying XL Bully dogs using the DEFRA Conformation Standard. This information, along with advice on responsible dog ownership, would be widely disseminated.

3.5 Communication/Awareness Campaign

Council representatives from Environmental Health and Marketing and PR sections were collaborating with DAERA's Press team to ensure timely communication about the new restrictions, compliance steps, and support for XL Bully owners.

4. Financial Implication

The new legislative controls for XL Bully dogs would incur annual net costs for Councils. Councils were working with DAERA through the Chief Executives Body - SOLACE NI and NIDAG to manage these costs effectively and secure

funding for additional responsibilities. Financial considerations include:

- Administration of the exemption process
- IT system enhancements
- Training for Dog Control and Animal Welfare staff
- Kennelling costs for XL Bully breeds
- Legal expenses for enforcement activities

There were ongoing discussions with DAERA regarding financial support for Councils to implement the legislation.

5. Summary

The new legislative controls aimed to protect the public from risks posed by XL Bully dogs in Northern Ireland. NIDAG representatives would continue to collaborate with DAERA to ensure effective implementation and management of the XL Bully Exemption Register. A further report would be brought back to Members when the full details of the legislation and its implementation were known.

Proposed by Alderman Bradley
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.7 **L/LEI/SD/018 HEALTH INTERVENTION ACTION PLAN - UPDATE**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an annual update on Council's Health Intervention Action Plan.

2. Introduction/Background

Members were advised that Council approved the Health Intervention Action Plan (2022-27) in November 2022, a copy was circulated for Member's reference. The Action Plan was designed to increase regular and sustainable participation in exercise across all age groups, with the wider aim of tackling wider health issues in vulnerable and inactive groups.

3. Results 2023/24

Officers developed and coordinated delivery of a range Council led programmes as well as working in collaboration with relevant partner organisations, to facilitate the effective delivery of the Action Plan. During 2023/24 a total of 21,529 participated in these programmes, 112% above the overall target with a detailed breakdown as follows:

Programmes	Target	Actual
Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS)	180	179
Move More Cancer Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Programme	150	238
Age Friendly (Live Long, Fall's Prevention, Walking Netball, Aqua Fit and Nordic Walking)	8000	18,640
Exercise for Mental Health Programme	800	860
Respiratory Rehabilitation and Maintenance Programme	400	808
Cardiac Rehabilitation and Maintenance Programmes	800	432
Programmes for People with a Disability	400	372

Breakdown of external funding received to assist in the delivery of programmes:

Programme	Funded by	Total
Physical Activity Referral Schemes (PARS)	PHA	£31,156
Nordic Walking Programme	NHSCT	£3,000
Walking Netball Programme	NHSCT	£800
Falls Prevention Steady and Strong Programme	NHSCT	£1,500
Move More (Cancer Rehabilitation Programme)	Macmillan	£22,500
	Total	£58,956

4. Targets 2024/25

Programmes	Target 2024/25
Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS)	400 referrals 50% completers up to 200 per annum
Move More Cancer Rehabilitation and Rehabilitation Programme	150
Age Friendly (Live Long, Fall's Prevention, Walking Netball, Aqua Fit and Nordic Walking)	20,000
Exercise for Mental Health Programme	900
Respiratory Rehabilitation and Maintenance Programme	800
Cardiac Rehabilitation and Maintenance Programmes	600
Programmes for People with a Disability	400
Overall participants	23,050

Officers aimed to introduce three new programmes in 2024/25: Drug & Alcohol Addiction, Army Veterans and Active Pregnancy.

The Director of Parks and Leisure clarified that the report which referred to 'Army Veterans' should be amended to reflect that all veterans would be able to avail of the programme.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.8 EH/EHS/CP/004 TOBACCO TEST PURCHASE EXERCISE APRIL 2024

1. Purpose

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

2. Background

Members were reminded that The Health and Personal Social Services (Northern Ireland) Order 1978 made it illegal to supply cigarettes or tobacco products to anyone under the age of 18. Furthermore, as of 1 February 2022, it was also an offence under The Health (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 to sell nicotine inhaling products (including e-cigarettes and e-liquids) to individuals under 18.

The Public Health Agency funds Tobacco Control Officers (TCOs), who work on behalf of Councils in Northern Ireland to promote adherence to tobacco control legislation and offer compliance advice.

3. Key Issues

Throughout the year, TCOs in each Council area must conduct at least 70 visits to retailers of tobacco and vaping products, including test purchases, to ensure compliance with age-restricted sale legislation.

In early April 2024, a reminder letter was sent to 141 retail businesses outlining the requirements for both sets of regulations and informing businesses that test purchases would occur throughout the year. Between January and April 2024 TCOs conducted 177 advisory visits to businesses selling age-restricted products to help owners comply with the regulations.

At the end of April 2024, a test purchasing exercise was conducted. TCOs, accompanied by a young person under 18, visited 15 retailers in the Borough. The young person attempted to purchase either tobacco products (cigarettes) or nicotine inhaling products (vapes).

Out of the 15 premises visited, 11 were fully compliant with legislative requirements. However, 3 premises sold a nicotine inhaling product and 1 premises sold a tobacco product to an underage person without checking for age identification.

TCOs notified the management at the 4 premises about the illegal sales of tobacco products or nicotine inhaling products at the time of the visit. In response, all premises had agreed to provide refresher training to their staff on the sale of age-restricted products. Additionally, a written warning had been sent to each of the premises that sold a product to the underage person advising that any future violations would result in formal action in accordance with the Councils enforcement policy. A follow up test purchase exercise would be conducted on the 4 premises over forthcoming months to check compliance.

4. Summary

A recent test purchase exercise was conducted, marking the first in a series of planned visits for 2024/2025. Throughout this period, at least 70 premises would undergo test purchasing to ensure compliance with age-restricted product regulations.

During the recent test purchase exercise, 11 out of the 15 visited premises were fully compliant with legislative requirements. However, 3 premises sold a nicotine inhaling product, and 1 premises sold a tobacco product to an underage person. Written warnings had been sent to the 4 non-compliant premises, and a follow-up test purchase exercise would be conducted.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.9 L/GEN/070 NET PROMOTER SCORE - 2023/2024 RESULTS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the Net Promoter Score for Council's Leisure Centres.

2. Introduction

To gather customer feedback and measure satisfaction, the leisure service would use digital software to calculate a Net Promoter Score (NPS). This score was calculated from randomly sampling customers who use the leisure centres and asking them to rate the facilities on a scale of 1 to 10. Additionally, a second question would seek feedback on the reasons behind their rating, offering valuable insights for management to address.

3. Results 2023/24

Key results for the 2023/24 period were as follows:

- Total survey requests: 13,818

- Total responses: 2,362
- NPS: 63
- The most positively scored areas include "Facilities," "Staff," and "Courtesy."
- Ballyearl was the highest scoring centre with an NPS of 73.

For 2023/24, the overall NPS for all leisure centres was 63, a slight decrease from 64 in 2022/23. This minor decline was attributed to the extensive refurbishment at Antrim Forum, which caused significant disruptions. Despite this, the performance remained well above the UK leisure industry average of 34. The detailed results for 2023/24 and a summary of customer feedback were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.10 EH/EHS/FC/011 FOOD SAFETY INITIATIVES – ALLERGEN SEMINAR

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members of recent food allergen seminars aimed at assisting businesses to comply with legislation.

2. Background

Members were reminded that the Food Information Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014 came into effect on 13 December 2014. This meant that food business operators must:

- Provide allergen information to the consumer for both prepacked and non-prepacked food and drink;
- Manage food allergens effectively during food preparation.
- Ensure staff receive adequate training on food allergens.

3. Key Issues

Environmental Health routinely inspect food businesses and provide advice on food allergen management. During these inspections, it was found that some food businesses were not fully compliant with legislative requirements. Common areas of non-compliance noted were;

- Inaccurate allergen matrices – the information that businesses hold about what allergens were present in the dishes they serve;
- Staff not adequately trained on allergens;
- Lack of procedural controls in place for preparation of allergens and allergen-free meals.

To improve compliance levels, a regional allergen enforcement approach had

been agreed upon across the 11 Councils. This approach would be used during visits to businesses and follow-up visits resulting from failed food sample testing to ensure a consistent approach across Northern Ireland. This enforcement approach highlighted the need to support businesses by providing them with the necessary information to comply with legal requirements.

As part of this new coordinated approach, three food allergen awareness seminars were held at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre and attended by 163 people from 102 food businesses. The aim of the seminars was to raise food businesses awareness of their legal duties in terms of food allergens.

The seminars included an in-depth presentation by Environmental Health Officers and an interactive workshop with practical exercises, featuring real-life examples and a Q&A session. Evaluation forms were distributed and returned by 78% of attendees. The feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with 99% of participants rating the seminar as excellent or good.

Additionally, 81% reported a substantial improvement in their knowledge and understanding of allergens and food business responsibilities, while 19% noted a moderate improvement.

Overall, the seminars effectively enhanced participants' knowledge and provided practical tools to improve allergen management in food businesses. The seminar presentation and course material would be made available online on the Council's website to ensure that all food businesses in the Borough had access to the resources, aiding them to achieving full compliance.

The regional allergen enforcement approach would continue for the rest of the year and Environmental Health would continue to use enforcement and education tools to ensure compliance.

4. Summary

Three seminars were conducted with 163 people from 102 food businesses in attendance. The seminars aimed to assist business in complying with legislative requirements relating to allergen management, identify areas of non-compliance and an opportunity for food business operators to ask pertinent questions relating to their business to Environmental Health Officers. On evaluation, 99% of participants rated the seminar as excellent or good.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

4.11 WM/FM/018 VEHICLE HIRE REPORT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members about what vehicles were being hired by Council.

2. Background

At the last Operations Committee meeting, Members requested a report on the number of hire vehicles currently being used by Council. While Council had a fleet of over 150 vehicles, there were occasions when a vehicle or specialist equipment would need to be hired in.

Hire normally covered vehicles when they were undergoing essential reactive maintenance and a replacement was required for a particular duty. In general, these would be short-term hire periods.

When a vehicle had a mechanical defect, the Fleet Management Officers assessed whether it was economically advantageous to complete the repairs before they were approved i.e. did the cost of the repair outweigh the value of the vehicle? This assessment would be carried out with the management of the appropriate section to consider operational requirements.

3. Main Points

The table below showed the vehicle hire requirements for Council in May 2024:

Department	Type Vehicle	Type of Hire	Approx Cost of Hire	Reason for Hire
Parks	Cage Tipper Van	Short-term - seasonal	£1,800	Litter picking duties in parks areas over summer period
Parks	Large Crew Van	Short-term - seasonal	£1,800	Litter picking duties in parks areas over summer period
Parks	Large Crew Van	Short-term - seasonal	£1,800	Transporting summer staff throughout the Borough
Waste	Hookloader (large skip vehicle)	Short-term - est 1 week	£1,500	Council vehicle currently being repaired
Parks	Mechanical Digger	Long Term (Jan 2024) - procurement ongoing	£9,750	Replacement for stolen digger

Waste	Large Dropside Van	Long Term (Sept 2020) - procurement ongoing	£4,560 per annum	Replacement for 5.2T dropside disposed of due to uneconomical to repair Due to contractual issues, vehicle required to maintain waste bays at Craigmore Recycling Centre
Waste	Small Mechanical Shovel	Long Term (March 2023) - business case to be completed	£10,000 per annum	

The main points to note:

- Most of the vehicle and plant equipment hire were for short-term periods to meet essential operational requirements;
- Procurement had commenced to remove the need for the Parks' mechanical digger and Waste's dropside van;
- There was an ongoing economic appraisal to ascertain the best delivery method for the maintenance of the waste bays at Craigmore Recycling Centre.

A further vehicle hire report would be presented to Operations Committee on a quarterly basis.

4. Financial Implications

Financial provision had been made in the 2024-25 budgets for all fleet costs and this included the purchase, maintenance and hire expenditure.

5. Summary

In May 2024 Council had seven vehicles and plant equipment on hire. These were a mixture of long and short-term agreements with the relevant operational sections and the Fleet Management team monitoring the requirement for each item.

The Director of Sustainability confirmed that the report would be amended to make figures clearer with the intention of bringing a report to Committee on a quarterly basis.

In response to a Member's query regarding the hire of the mechanical shovel at Craigmore, the Director of Sustainability confirmed that Council were exploring various options for a more long term solution.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

The Chairperson reminded Members that any items in Any Other Relevant Business should be with Member Services by 12pm on the Friday before Committee Meeting in order to allow Officers time to prepare and provide a satisfactory response to Members.

The Head of Leisure confirmed the feasibility study of the redevelopment of the hockey pitch at V36 on behalf of St. Mary's Football Club would be completed by September 2024 with the intention of bringing a report back to Committee in October.

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed

that the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and the livestream and audio recording would cease.

5 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

5.1 IN CONFIDENCE WM/ARC21/4/VOL11 ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the most recent arc21 Joint Committee meeting.

2. Introduction

The arc21 Joint Committee met on a monthly basis and each month the papers were reviewed by the Operations Committee.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

All previous papers had been noted.

4. Main Report

The papers for the arc21 Joint Committee Meeting were circulated for:

- 30 May 2024

Members were reminded that these documents were confidential and may be

legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure so therefore Members should not disclose this information to any third party and the information must be kept secure.

5. Summary

The main issues from the May 2024 meeting were:

- The legal proceedings relating to the award of the BCC lot of the Interim Residual Waste Treatment were to continue;
- The deadline for the submission of tenders for the ANBC lot had closed and evaluation would commence after all the clarifications are completed;
- The procurement of the new Street Sweeping Waste treatment contract had been completed;
- A draft copy of the arc21 Corporate Plan had been published for circulation.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** PK/GEN/184 and PK/GEN/191 JET SKI ACCESS – ANTRIM LOUGHSHORE AND CRANFIELD

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend that jet-skis be prohibited from accessing Lough Neagh from Council-owned locations at Antrim Loughshore and Cranfield.

2. Background

Members were informed that access to Lough Neagh for jet-skis had previously been available from Council-owned land at Antrim Loughshore and Cranfield. At Antrim Loughshore, access was via a dedicated slipway for jet-skis, which was closed following the blue-green algae issues in the summer of 2023. At Cranfield, access was provided by a slipway adjacent to the disused jetty. In both locations, the Council lacks the ability to enforce any terms and conditions, including insurance requirements or penalties for inappropriate behaviour.

3. Ongoing Issues

The Council annually receive numerous complaints regarding jet-ski use at Antrim Loughshore. These complaints include:

- Disruption and negative impact on wildlife, particularly at the tornado platform and within the Sixmilewater River.

- Problems for boat owners moored at Antrim Boat Club, with jet-ski wakes affecting moorings.
- The proximity of jet-skis to non-powered activities such as swimming and paddle boarding.
- Confirmed reports of anti-social behaviour, including substance misuse in the area.

An independent water safety report commissioned by the Council aimed to reduce risks associated with the close proximity of powered and non-powered activities at Antrim Loughshore. One recommendation was to use buoys to create designated zones for swimmers and a clear channel for jet-skis to access the Lough. However, adherence to this recommendation had been poor, with some jet-skis remaining close to non-powered activity areas and instances of buoys being damaged or removed.

Recently, complaints from the local heritage group at Cranfield have highlighted concerns about the behaviour of jet-ski users, including reports of threatening behaviour towards the group.

4. Review of Options

Officers reviewed several options in an attempt to regulate jet-ski access to the Lough at Council locations. However, following consultations with local stakeholders and challenges related to access control, these options were not pursued further.

The Director of Parks and Leisure explained the reasons for the recommendation to prohibit jet-ski use at Council-owned locations and answered questions from Members on what measures would be used to enforce this.

Proposed by Councillor Burbank
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

jet-skis be prohibited from accessing Lough Neagh from Council-owned locations at Antrim Loughshore and Cranfield.

5.3 **IN CONFIDENCE WM/ARC21/012 ARC21 RECEIPT, PROCESSING, TREATMENT, RECYCLING AND DISPOSAL OF STREET SWEEPINGS CONTRACT**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the arc21 Receipt, Processing, Treatment, Recycling and Disposal of Street Sweepings Waste Contract.

2. Background

arc21 had tendered for a Provision of Receipt, Processing, Treatment, Recycling and Disposal of Street Sweepings Waste Contract on behalf of four of its constituent Councils, including Antrim & Newtownabbey. The existing street

sweeping disposal contract covered dewatering and landfill at £■■ per tonne but it was due to expire and Councils continue to require the provision of this waste treatment service.

3. Key Issues

The new supply contract had been procured by arc21, in accordance with the EU Open Procedure and a copy of the arc21 tender report was circulated for information.

The contract was divided into two council region-based lots due to the extensive operational requirements requested by Belfast City Council and were as follows:

1. Belfast City Council;
2. Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

The main elements of the service required included:

- the receipt and processing of Contract Waste at the Contractor's nominated Delivery Site(s) and Treatment Facility;
- the recovery, recycling and re-use of Recyclable Material to Final Destinations; and
- the management of information including the recording and reporting to the Authority of statistics in respect of Contract Waste.

The contract period would be three years with the possibility of an extension of any period up to a further four years.

One tender submission from one operator was received with a separate response for each of the two lots respectively. The submission was from the following waste operator:

- Irish Waste Services Ltd

The tender submission was evaluated in accordance with the criteria stated in the tender documentation. The weightings of the Cost and Technical assessment sections were 70% and 30% respectively.

Irish Waste Services Ltd achieved the overall highest score for both lots and was the most economically advantageous tenderer for lot 1 and lot 2 at the following rates:

Lot No	Area	Rate	Additional Costs
1	Belfast City Council	£■■ per tonne	Hourly out of normal working hours = £■■
2	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council,	£■■ per tonne	Hourly out of normal working hours = £■■

	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council		
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arc21 Joint Committee Approval

As per arc21's Terms of Agreement, the Contract was approved by the arc21 Joint Committee on 30 May 2024 and required ratification by the arc21 constituent Councils.

4. Financial Implication

While the new tendered rate, £■■ per tonne, was higher than the current one, £■■ per tonne, the new service would bring a range of environmental benefits with the street waste being reused and recycled rather than the current landfill only option. The increase in cost to Council had been estimated for in the 2025/25 budget.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
 Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

Council approve the award of Lot 1 & 2 for the arc21 Provision of Receipt, Processing, Treatment, Recycling and Disposal of Street Sweepings Waste Contract to Irish Waste Services Ltd, at the stated rates for a period of three years from the point of award including the option for extension of up to a further four years.

NO ACTION

5.4 IN CONFIDENCE L/LEI/00/008 IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION – NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for Council to act as the sponsor body in response to a request from the Department for Communities (DfC) regarding a land transaction between the Education Authority (EA) and the Irish Football Association (FA) for the development of a National Football Training Centre at Birch Hill Road, Antrim.

2. Introduction

DfC had recently approached the Council, requesting that it act as the sponsor body for a land transaction between the EA and the Irish FA. This transaction would aim to facilitate the development of a National Football Training Centre. Circulated correspondence provided further details for Members' reference.

The proposed National Training Centre would address the training and development needs of the National Football Teams and offer facilities that benefit the wider community and Northern Ireland as a whole. The proposed site encompasses approximately 60 acres at Birch Hill Road, Antrim, partially owned by both the EA and DfC.

Council had representation from two senior Officers on the Department's Steering Group, which would oversee all project-related actions.

3. Sponsor Body

The EA had identified the [REDACTED] as its preferred bidder through the Internal Market process, and the acquisition was now subject to the Community Asset Transfer process. These processes necessitate the identification of an appropriate sponsor body to be notified to Land and Property Services. A sponsor body was required when an internal market transfer was proposed to a party without compulsory purchase powers. This sponsor body must be a government department or district council with the relevant compulsory purchase powers for the land's intended use.

The Council had statutory powers to purchase lands for recreational purposes, subject to an approved business case. Therefore, the Department had requested that the Council agree to act as the sponsor body for the land transaction between the EA and Irish FA and confirm this position to Land and Property Services. Importantly, there would be no financial implications for the Council if it agreed to act as the sponsor body.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

approval be granted in principle, subject to an approved business case, for the Council to agree to the request from the Department for Communities to act as the sponsor body for the land transaction between the Education Authority and the Irish Football Association for the development of a National Football Training Centre at Birch Hill Road, Antrim.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Alderman Bradley
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.03 pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.