



29 November 2023

Committee Chair: Councillor J Burbank

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor V McWilliam

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

Councillors R Foster, J Gilmour, AM Logue, H Magill,
A McAuley, E McLaughlin, M Ní Chonghaile,
L O'Hagan, L Smyth and M Stewart

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 4 December 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

Richard Baker, GM MSc
Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: Refreshments will be available in the Café from 5.20pm

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301
memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

- 4.1 Draft Response to Department for Communities' Consultation on Private Tenancies Act 2022 on Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Electricity Safety Standards
- 4.2 Bye-Laws Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places
- 4.3 Department of Health & Social Care Consultation on Creating a Smoke-free Generation and Tackling Youth Vaping
- 4.4 Review of Cleansing Charges 2024-2025
- 4.5 Recycling Centre Arrangements
- 4.6 Leisure Grant Aid Programme

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

- 5.1 Performance and Improvement Plan 2023/24 - Performance Progress Report Quarter 2 – Operations
- 5.2 Budget Report Quarter 2 – April to September 2023
- 5.3 Positive Ageing Month – October 2023
- 5.4 Recertification of the Environmental Management System Accreditation
- 5.5 Environmental Benchmarking Success
- 5.6 Sports Awards 2023
- 5.7 Cottonmount Landfill Site Visit

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

- 6.1 Cemetery Burial Capacity Update
- 6.2 New Mossley Allotments

7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 EH/EHS/LR/006 DRAFT RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES' CONSULTATION ON PRIVATE TENANCIES ACT 2022 ON SMOKE, HEAT AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS AND ELECTRICAL SAFETY STANDARDS

The purpose of the report is to seek Members' approval on a corporate response to the Department for Communities (DfC) consultation on Private Tenancies Act 2022 on Smoke, Heat, and Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Electrical Safety Standards.

Members are reminded that Environmental Health are engaged in the regulation of the private rented sector. This is through the Council's statutory duties under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006 (as amended by the Private Tenancies Act and Housing Amendment Acts) as well as through statutory nuisance investigations. Council is also the enforcing authority for provisions to regulate landlord registration, security of tenancy deposits and licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

Members will be aware Section 1 – 6 of the Private Tenancies (NI) Act 2022, which came into effect on the 1 April 2023, is the main legislative framework for the regulation of private rented sector housing. The overarching objectives of the Private Tenancies Act are to make the private rented sector a safer and more secure housing option for a wider range of households, to ensure better regulation of the sector and offer greater protection to private renters.

DfC is now consulting on two further aspects:

1. Smoke, heat, and carbon monoxide alarms
(<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/the-fire-smoke-and-carbon-monoxide-alarms-northern>)

The proposed Regulations will set the standards for the number and type of smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in private rented properties and aim to reduce the risk of fire related incidents.

It is anticipated these Regulations will come into operation early next year and will apply to all private tenancies. There will be a lead-in time of 2 months for landlords to comply. After this 2 month period, it will be an offence for a private landlord to fail to comply with the duty to keep in repair and proper working order sufficient appliances for detecting smoke, heat and carbon monoxide.

2. Electrical Safety Standards
(<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/electrical-safety-standards-northern-ireland-202x>)

These proposed Regulations (NI) aim to reduce the risk of death and injury due to electrical faults in private rental properties with a legal requirement for electrical safety standards to be met during the period the property is let. This

will include electrical inspections which will be required to be completed by a qualified electrician at least every 5 years.

It will be an offence for the landlord not to comply with their duties. There is no indication of an implementation date at present but once commenced, it is anticipated there will be a lead-in time of 12 months for all tenancies to comply.

The Act creates new offences for which the Council will have powers to issue fixed penalty notices. The fixed penalty payable in respect of an offence is £500 for a smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarm offence and £1000 for an electrical safety offence. Members will be provided with a further update prior to implementation of the new legislative powers to agree fixed penalty levels.

In the proposed response, the Council states that;

- The Council generally agrees with the notes and guidance proposed by the Department;
- Consideration be given to the positioning of alarms in common parts of blocks of flats and high rise buildings that are not covered by the tenancy;
- The Council agrees that duties should be placed on landlords to provide evidence of electrical safety testing every 5 years and that a report should be produced and given to the tenant;
- Definition of a "landlord" within the proposed legislation for the purposes of enforcement is required;
- Consideration be given for the ability to charge the landlord for expenses incurred, such as expert advice from a qualified electrician when serving notices;
- The tenant should get a copy of any remedial notice served on a landlord;
- An appropriate lead-in period of one year for all existing tenancies to obtain first inspection is considered reasonable;
- Clarification and guidance on how the regulations apply to communal areas in rented buildings;
- The Department provide training for Council officers prior to the commencement of the regulations.

Draft responses to the consultations are **enclosed** for Members' review.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed response to the Private Tenancies Act 2022 on Smoke, Heat, and Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Electrical Safety Standards Consultations be approved.

Prepared by: Liam Nicholas, Environmental Health Manager

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4.2 G/LEG/052/VOL3 BYE-LAWS PROHIBITING THE CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR IN PUBLIC PLACES

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval for the amendment of the current Bye-Laws on Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places in the Borough.

At the March 2023 Operations Committee meeting, Members requested to realign the two legacy Council Bye-Laws in relation to the prohibition of consumption of intoxicating liquor in public places to reflect the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council boundaries. In addition, 14 areas identified by the PSNI as "problem areas" were to be included and changes in street names recognised; a copy of the proposed Bye-Laws is enclosed for Members' review.

It should be noted that the Bye-Laws will be enforced by the PSNI.

As per the statutory process, these proposed Bye-Laws have been put out for Public Consultation. Five responses were received and these are summarised below:

Responses to Consultation	Proposed Action
Approval for the Bye-laws	No further action required
That the Bye-laws were too strict (2 responses)	Comments are noted but no further action required
Clarification on the names of schools	School names amended
An additional street should be added	There is no independent evidence that there are issues with alcohol consumption in this area – no further action required

If approval is granted for the proposed Bye-Laws, the following statutory steps will be taken:

1. The proposed Bye-Laws are submitted to the Department for Communities for approval (preliminary approval has already been granted as part of normal process);
2. Public Notice of the proposed Bye-Laws is advertised in the local media; the proposed Bye-Laws come into effect after one month (unless DfC sets an alternate date).

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed Bye-Laws on Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places be approved.

Prepared by: Alison McDowell, Council Lawyer

Agreed by: Paul Casey, Head of Legal Services and Borough Lawyer
Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4.3 EH/EHS/CP/004 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CONSULTATION ON 'CREATING A SMOKE-FREE GENERATION AND TACKLING YOUTH VAPING'

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' approval on a corporate response to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) consultation on 'Creating A Smoke-free Generation And Tackling Youth Vaping'.

The UK Government is seeking views through consultation on proposed action to protect future generations from the harm of smoking, by creating the first smoke-free generation and to ensure the law is enforced. The consultation recognises the increased use of vapes by children, whilst recognising the role of vapes in stopping adults smoking. The UK Government are seeking views mainly on:

- How to create a smoke-free generation;
- Tackling youth vaping;
- How to enforce age of sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes.

A link to the consultation is provided below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping>

The consultation outlines proposed measures to address youth vaping, such as: restricting flavours, regulating point-of-sale displays, controlling packaging and presentation, considering restrictions on disposable vapes, evaluating regulations for non-nicotine vapes, addressing vape affordability and introducing enforcement measures like fixed penalty notices.

In the proposed response the Council states;

- That the Council agrees that anyone born after 1 January 2009 should never be legally sold tobacco products and that no one should be able to purchase tobacco products on their behalf;
- Warning notices stating "It is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009." be displayed by retailers when law comes into effect;
- Nicotine vapes should be sold in tobacco flavour only to reduce the appeal to young people;
- There is a restriction on flavours for non-nicotine e-liquids as the full health effects of vaping are not yet known;
- Vapes must be sold from behind the counter and not on display;
- Standardised packaging for vapes be used, prohibiting the use of imagery, colour and branding;
- The sale and supply of disposable vapes should be prohibited due to the environmental impact;
- An implementation period for restrictions on disposable vapes should be no less than 6 months after the law is introduced, in order to give businesses an opportunity to sell existing stock;
- Consideration be given on a similar regulatory framework for the sale on non-nicotine vapes;
- There is an increase in vape purchase cost to make them less affordable

- to young people;
- Enforcement powers include fixed penalties for businesses who breach age of sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes;
 - The fixed penalty amount should be greater than that suggested in the consultation, to reflect the current penalty of £250, in Northern Ireland for sale of tobacco products.

A draft response to the consultation is **enclosed** for Members' review. The response emphasises how these measures align with the Council's aim in creating a Borough that prioritises good health, wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed response to the Creating A Smoke-free Generation and Tackling Youth Vaping Consultation be approved.

Prepared by: Christina McErlean, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4.4 WM/WM/37/VOL2 REVIEW OF CLEANSING CHARGES 2024-2025

The purpose of this report is to set the Cleansing Charges for the coming financial year 2024-2025.

A review of cleansing charges is carried out annually for:

1. Trade Waste Collection Service;
2. Waste Collection Containers;
3. Re-Chargeable Cleansing Work.

The Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 places a duty on each district council to arrange for the collection of commercial waste from premises within its district if requested by the occupier of such premises to do so.

Anyone who requests Council to provide a commercial waste collection service is liable to pay a reasonable charge for the collection and disposal of such waste. Council charges commercial waste customers on a volumetric basis for the collection of their commercial waste (i.e. per bin size).

A schedule of Proposed Charges is **enclosed** for Members' consideration.

1. Trade Waste Collection Service

Council has not increased the waste charges for local businesses for over four years to assist them during COVID and the challenging economic environment. This has meant that inflationary staff costs and treatment rates have been absorbed. While businesses have benefited from this Council decision, it has meant that our trade waste charges have fallen below those charged in the private sector and other Councils.

As a result, it is proposed to increase waste collection charges by 10% in 2024-25 which equates to £0.61 per uplift of a 240L bin and £1.43 per uplift for 1100L bin. This price increase will generate approximately £60,000 of additional income through the trade waste collection service, whilst maintaining competitive rates.

Under current waste legislation, all movements of waste must be controlled through a Waste Transfer Note (WTN), which is provided by the Council on behalf of the trade customer. As previously, the cost of the WTN will be included in the collection rate. There is no increase in the cost of the WTN.

2. Waste Collection Containers

As with other waste costs, the Council has maintained its sale price for 240L and 180L residual waste (black) bins, £30 and £25 respectively, despite inflationary pressures. It is therefore proposed to replicate the 10% increase for black bin sales. Council only sells a small number of black bins per annum, approximately 1,200 units, so as a result there will only be a minimal increase in income.

3. Re-Chargeable Cleansing Work

Council does not charge for bulky waste collections, provided the waste items can be removed within 15 minutes. A small number (less than 10 per year) take more than 15 minutes and are therefore deemed as chargeable with rates starting at £24.34 for collections taking between 16 and 30 minutes to complete.

In line with previous waste charges reviews, the cost of this service has been frozen for the last four years and as a result, a 10% increase is proposed to cover inflationary costs that have been absorbed over the last few years. This means that collections taking between 16 and 30 minutes will now cost £26.77; this change will have minimal impact on residents.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Review of Cleansing Charges for 2024-2025 be approved.

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4.5 WM/WM/037/VOL2 RECYCLING CENTRE ARRANGEMENTS

The purpose of this report is to agree additional waste collection services to reduce pressure on the Council Recycling Centres over the festive period.

Members will be aware that additional waste collection capacity was provided at the Valley, Sixmile and Crumlin leisure centres over the festive period to reduce the demand on O'Neill Road, Bruslee and Crumlin Recycling Centres. This had the positive effect of reducing queuing times and traffic congestion in the locality of the Recycling Centres.

Last year's usage of the additional waste disposal locations has been analysed and the following arrangements are proposed to provide extra waste disposal capacity during the week after Christmas when site usage is at its highest:

- An additional temporary waste recycling facility is put in place at the Valley Leisure Centre car park in order to reduce traffic congestion at O'Neill Road and the wider area between Wednesday 27 December and Friday 29 December from 9pm – 4pm;
- Monitored skips to be located at Crumlin Leisure Centre on Wednesday 27 December to reduce expected queues at Crumlin Recycling Centre between 9am - 4pm;
- Monitored skips to be located at Sixmile Leisure Centre on Wednesday 27 December between 9am - 4pm to reduce the demand at Bruslee Recycling Centre.

There are extremely high levels of usage at the O'Neill Road Recycling Centre during the festive period and this impacts on traffic flow in the area. As a result, the additional capacity is being maintained for the majority of the week.

While it is felt that the additional resources for Bruslee and Crumlin Recycling Centres will only be required for the first day the centres reopen after the Christmas break, Officers will monitor the sites and will deploy the bin lorries if required. The other two sites, Newpark and Craigmore Recycling Centres, are expected to be able to manage the additional usage. Officers will assess the situation throughout the week.

The proposed additional services will be delivered using a combination of existing Council resources and hired equipment. The cost of the operation will be approximately £3,500 and is additional to the planned waste budget.

While all waste collected at the additional sites will be transferred to a materials recycling facility, where as much waste as possible will be removed for recycling or recovery, Council does achieve better recycling rates when the waste is collected at the Recycling Centres and therefore use of the additional sites will be kept to a minimum.

RECOMMENDATION: that the additional waste collection services over the festive period, at a cost of £3,500, be approved.

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

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

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

For the period August to October, a total of 30 applications were submitted. All 30 applications have been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations enclosed for Member's reference. Should approval be given for the grants listed, the balances remaining in each funding category are set out as follows:

Category	No. of apps	Budget	Approved spend to date 23/24	No. of apps.	Grants proposed	Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of application)
					(£)	
Capital Grants	1	£40,000	£0	1	£20,000	£20,000
Grants to Clubs	8	£25,000	£18,778	7	£10,920	-£4,698
Grants to Athletes	30	£40,000	£31,810	15	£11,926	-£3,736
Grants to Coaches and Officials	10	£7,000	£5,596	4	£343	£1,062
Sports Event Grant	11	£40,000	£35,360	1	£210	£4,430
Defibrillator Grant	7	£18,000	£15,538	1	£1,350	£1,112
Allocation total	72	£170,000	£107,082	30	£44,749	£18,169
Fitness suite Gold Card	4	20 Applications	2	1	0 eligible	16 applications
Total spend to date including this call, if approved £151,831						

Due to an increase in demand for both 'Grants to Clubs' and 'Grants to Athletes,' these categories are now oversubscribed. It is proposed to evenly distribute the remaining balance of £20,000 from the 'Capital Grants' category between these two categories. In each of the past three financial years, only one application for the maximum £20,000 Capital Grant was received, and this trend continues in the current 2023/24 year.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval be given for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme funding and that £20,000 remaining balance from the “Capital Grants” category is evenly split between “Grants to Clubs” and “Grants to Athletes” categories.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager & Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

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

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

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 PT/CI/049 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24 - PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 2 – OPERATIONS

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the delivery of performance indicators of the Sustainability and Parks and Leisure sections.

As agreed at the August Council meeting, quarterly performance reports will be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group.

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

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

Second quarter progress reports for Parks, Leisure (appendix 1), Waste Management, Cleansing Services, Environmental Health and Sustainability (appendix 2) are **enclosed** for Members' information.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Lesley Millar, Head of Organisation Development

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

5.2 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – QUARTER 2 APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2023

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the mid-year budgetary position of the Sustainability and Parks and Leisure sections.

Members are reminded that a Summary Budget Report would have been presented to the Policy and Governance Committee each month showing the financial performance of all departments of the Council and the overall Council financial position.

In a change to the budgetary reporting process, and to give more detailed financial information to the Committee or Working Group with responsibility for each Council department, a quarterly budget report will now be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group. All financial reports would be available to all Members.

Reports on financial performance will be presented as follows:

Committee	Department
Operations	Parks and Leisure Sustainability
Policy & Governance	Finance and Governance Organisational Development
Community Planning	Community Planning
Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group	Economic Development and Planning

The overall financial position of the Council will be presented to the Policy and Governance Committee.

Budget reports for Parks and Leisure and Sustainability for Quarter 2 – April to September 2023 are **enclosed** for Members' information. At present the Parks and Leisure budget is in an adverse position of £678,052 (11%) due to:

- Under estimation of repairs and maintenance costs at Leisure Centres and other operational facilities;
- Increase in Parks grounds maintenance costs above budgeted levels;
- Delay in opening of Crematorium and resulting impact on budgeted income.

The Sustainability budget is also in an adverse position of £655,486 (6%) and this is due to:

- Inaccurate profiling of green waste treatment costs;
- delay in harmonisation of waste collection services;
- under estimation of the repairs and maintenance costs at the Recycling Centres;
- Increase in waste arisings above estimated levels.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

Agreed by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

5.3 EH/PHWB/012 POSITIVE AGEING MONTH – OCTOBER 2023

The purpose of this report is to advise Members about the Council's activities during Positive Ageing Month.

Members are reminded that Environmental Health are responsible for delivering on the Age Friendly agenda. As part of this work, the Age Friendly Officer organises and promotes "Positive Ageing Month" in October. This annual event of activities celebrates the contribution older people make to our Borough.

For Positive Ageing Month 2023, Environmental Health hosted a 'Check In, Check Up' Health Fair event in each of the District Electoral Areas across the Borough. The Health Fairs aimed at helping residents get connected in their area and promoted awareness of local services.

A total of 217 attendees, including representatives from various statutory, voluntary, and community organisations, participated in these events. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the Council's Age Friendly initiatives and engage in practical demonstrations of armchair aerobics.

The Health Fair featured stands hosted by the Health and Wellbeing team, Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Libraries NI. The Council's Leisure Team also provided free health checks, measuring blood pressure and weight.

The events, held in each DEA, received excellent feedback with 94% of attendees giving it the highest ranking and providing valuable suggestions for improvement in the upcoming years. Attendees appreciated the wealth of information about local groups, many of whom were previously unaware of the numerous activities available in their locality.

To help residents 'Get Connected' a Positive Ageing Month booklet was created, with over 500 hard copies distributed during October. Further hard copies are available from the Environmental Health Section or online https://issuu.com/anborough/docs/positive_ageing_booklet_month_2023

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Kelly Doyle, Environmental Health Officer (Age Friendly)

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

5.4 WM/WM/049 RECERTIFICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ACCREDITATION

The purpose of this report is to advise Members that the Council has been externally audited against the requirements of the ISO14001 Environmental Management System and successfully retained the accreditation.

Members are reminded that the Council operates an accredited Environmental Management System (EMS) for all facilities and operations which was first achieved in 2015 and successfully retained ever since. The ISO 14001 Environment Management System provides both a framework which helps to reduce Council's impact on the environment and the opportunity for continuous improvement on the environmental performance of services.

The EMS was externally audited in October 2023 and the accreditation maintained. The audit found no areas of concern and the auditor provided a 'satisfactory' assessment and recommended the continuation of our certification. The auditor was impressed with the leadership and commitment levels across all sections, as well as the number of sustainable projects and initiatives that we are involved in. Furthermore, it was affirmed that our environmental management system remains relevant, effective, and perfectly aligned with ISO14001:2015 standards and certification has been re-awarded for another three years.

Going forward, Council will continue to work across all departments to deliver on actions, such as: the Climate Action Plan, Carbon Literacy, Active Travel, Social Value, Energy Efficiency, Botanical Borough, and reducing Waste and increasing Recycling. Council will also continue to lead by example by actively engaging our stakeholders to share in environmental awareness and best practice.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Joanna Pusz, Climate, Waste and Sustainability Officer

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

5.5 WM/WM/049 ENVIRONMENTAL BENCHMARKING SUCCESS

The purpose of this report is to advise Members that the Council has achieved platinum status in the annual Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey.

Members will be aware that the Council participates in Business in the Community's Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey which measures environmental performance across the government and business sectors in Northern Ireland in areas including energy, transport, biodiversity, water and waste.

Each year the scoring criteria becomes much stricter in order to achieve the best possible environmental performance and commitment to improvement from the participants.

This year's results have now been published and the Council has achieved Platinum status for 2023, the highest level possible, the only Local Authority to achieve this status. This achievement puts the Council's environmental performance alongside multi-nationals such as Coca Cola, Hellenic, Spirit Aerosystems and Seagate Technology (Ireland) Ltd.

RECOMMENDATION: that this report be noted.

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

5.6 L/SAP/008 SPORTS AWARDS 2023

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on Council's Sports Awards, which took place on 15 November 2023, at the Theatre at the Mill. Members are advised that these awards occur once every Council term. This year's event was the most popular to date, attracting over 100 nominations across 10 categories. The results of the 2023 Awards are as follows:

Club of the Year: Muckamore Cricket Club

Junior Team of the Year: St Ergnats Under 15 Gaelic Football Team

Senior Team of the Year: Ballyclare Rugby Football Club 1st XV

Coach of the Year: Cathy Carey (Ladies Gaelic Football)

Sportsperson of the Year with a disability: Gareth McNeilly (Golf)

Volunteer of the Year: Dominic McAtamney (Football)

Dr Jonathan Rea, MBE- Junior Sportsperson of the Year: Gemma McMeekin (Golf)

Janet Parkinson Award: Molly McKenna (Trampolining)

Adult Sportsperson of the Year: Mark Allen (Snooker)

There was also a new inductee into the Gallery of Sporting Legends, Harry Burns MBE, from Mossley Hockey Club. Harry was recognised for his successful 49-year hockey career which also included a total of 16 Caps for Ireland.

RECOMMENDATION: that report be noted.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager &
Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

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

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

5.7 WM/WM/37/VOL 2 COTTONMOUNT LANDFILL SITE VISIT

The purpose of this report is to notify members of a date for Members to visit Cottonmount landfill site in light of odour complaints by residents in the area.

Members recently requested a visit to Cottonmount Landfill Site in Mallusk operated by Biffa Waste Management. The proposed date for a possible visit is listed below, with the appointment during daylight hours for health and safety reasons:

- Wednesday 24 January 2024 – 2pm to 4pm

The visit will allow Members to see Biffa's Landfill operations and in particular odour mitigation measures, while presenting the concerns of residents.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Gillian McGrath, PA to the Director of Sustainability

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability