



29 December 2020

Committee Chair: Councillor R Foster

Committee Vice-Chair: Alderman T Burns

Committee Members: Aldermen – F Agnew, L Clarke, M Girvan, J McGrath and J Smyth
Councillors – J Archibald, A Bennington, J Gilmour, N Kelly, A Logue, T McGrann, V McWilliam and R Swann

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A remote meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Monday 4 January 2021 at 6.30pm.**

All Members are asked to attend the meeting via "Zoom".

To ensure social distancing, it is only possible to facilitate 11 Members in the Council Chamber. Priority admission will be given to Committee Members on a first come, first served basis. This does not affect the rights of any Member participating in the meeting.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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3 PRESENTATION

3.1 PK/GEN/182 LIVING WITH WATER PROGRAMME – AN INTEGRATED PLAN FOR DRAINAGE AND WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT IN GREATER BELFAST

Following a report considered at the November Operations Committee, it was agreed that representatives from the Department of Infrastructure (Dfi) be invited to make a presentation, updating Members on the proposed Living with Water Programme.

Members are reminded that that the Living With Water Programme is an Integrated Plan for drainage and wastewater management in Greater Belfast area, which covers parts of Newtownabbey.

The Living with Water programme as outlined is intended to be an holistic approach to the management of drainage and wastewater from upper catchment management to urban SuDS, storage and direct defences. It recognises the essential role played by Waste Water Treatment Works and the need for significant investment in these facilities whilst at the same time identifying a range of other catchment based projects which could also impact positively on the current and future challenges of managing water.

The Department launched the public consultation on this proposed approach in November 2020 with a closing date of 29 January 2021.

Simon Richardson and Stuart Wightman from the Department for Infrastructure will be in attendance via Zoom to make the 10-minute presentation to ensure compliance with social distancing.

RECOMMENDATION: that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Member Services

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 EH/EHS/LR/001 LICENSING FEES - 2020/2021

Businesses within the Borough have faced an unprecedented year to date, in terms of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of those requiring entertainment licences have either been unable to trade or had limited trade due to restrictions.

Businesses have been asked to reapply as normal before their old licences expire - to enable their existing licences to continue as well as facilitating renewals with minimum bureaucracy once restrictions on providing entertainment are eased. This situation remains, and it seems reasonable to exempt businesses from the annual fee and keep the existing licensing period the same. Once COVID restrictions ease, businesses can resume trade without any additional barriers.

Correspondence has been received from the Department for Communities indicating that, to further support the hospitality sector, Council may consider waiving fees with regard to entertainment licensing and claim the loss of income.

RECOMMENDATION: that businesses within the Borough are exempt from the annual licensing fee for 1 year given the significant impact of the COVID pandemic, and that fees are waived.

Prepared by: Helen Harper, Environmental Health Manager (Environment)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.2 EH/EHS/LR/007 REVIEW OF THE FOOD LAW CODE OF PRACTICE, FOOD LAW PRACTICE GUIDANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE COMPETENCY FRAMEWORK IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Members are reminded that Councils in Northern Ireland have a statutory responsibility to enforce legislation relating to food safety.

The Department of Health has the legislative remit to issue Codes of Practice (the Code) concerning the execution and enforcement of food law by District Councils. The Code requires regular review and revision to ensure that it reflects current priorities, policy, and legislative requirements so that the delivery of food control activities by Councils remain effective, consistent, and proportionate.

In addition, the Food Standards Agency (FSA) is consulting on changes to the accompanying Practice Guidance and Competency Framework.

The Code sets out instructions and criteria to which District Councils in Northern Ireland must have regard when discharging their duties in relation to the delivery of official food control activities. The Food Standards Agency is required to consult on amendments to the Code prior to implementation.

Details of the Consultation can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/review-of-the-food-law-code-of-practice-food-law-practice-guidance-and-implementation-of-the-competency-framework-northern>

Officers have drafted a response for consideration, **enclosed**, the key points of which are to recommend:

1. Modernisation of the baseline knowledge, skills, and experience requirements to enable a wider cohort of District Council professionals to undertake official food controls and other official activities, which the current Code restricts.
2. Replacing existing competency requirements with the Competency Framework, which defines competency by activity rather than by role for Enforcement Officers.
3. Introducing a provision to enable the Food Standards Agency to be more responsive in issuing instructions, whereby Councils may legitimately depart from the Code, in limited circumstances.
4. Updating the Code to reflect the Official Control Regulation (EU) 2017/625 and implications of exiting the European Union, where the negotiated position is known.
5. Simplification, clarification and alignment of the Code and the Practice Guidance with those for England to promote consistency in the interpretation and implementation of food control activities.
6. Inclusion of other minor amendments to keep pace with current practices.

Finally, the draft response highlights concerns at the shortened consultation period for what is a complex and important issue. Due to the need for some of the amendments being required in time for European Union exit preparations, the Food Standards Agency has opted for a reduced consultation period of 6 weeks ending the 10 December 2020 as opposed to the normal 12 week consultation. The FSA has therefore requested that responses are submitted by 10 December 2020 subject to ratification by Councils. Final approved responses to be submitted by 31 January 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: that the draft response to the Consultation on the Review of the Food Law Code of Practice, Practice Guidance and Competency Framework be approved. Officers to submit draft, as requested by 10 December and forward approved response by 31 January 2021.

Prepared by: Colin Kelly, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 L/LEI/00/004 CONSULTATION - SPORT NORTHERN IRELAND CORPORATE PLAN 2020-2025

Members are advised that Sport Northern Ireland recently published its Draft Corporate Plan 2020-25 for consultation.

A Corporate Plan - public consultation session will be held on the evening of Thursday 14 January 2021 at 6.30pm via Zoom.

In order to get log in details for the consultation interested parties need to RSVP to Laura Carland lauracarland@sportni.net and the details will be provided in advance. Details of the Consultation document can be found at: <http://www.sportni.net/corporate-plan-2020-2025/>

All sports clubs on the Council's database have been emailed about the event and Officers will bring a draft response to the Consultation to the Operations Committee for consideration in due course.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.2 L/LEI/SMW/005 SOLAR DEMONSTRATION - PROJECT PROPOSAL

Members are reminded that in February 2020 Council approved a proposal from a company called Start Solar, for provision of a demonstration project installing solar panels in a facility. The project was one of three demonstration projects, one in a manufacturing setting, one in the hospitality sector and one in a council's premises. Installation of the solar panels were at cost price and in return, the Company requested that they could use the site to promote the panels/technology through pull up stands, for example, on the premises promoting.

Sixmile Leisure Centre was subsequently identified as being suitable and although the installation was delayed due to COVID-19, the system has now been installed and a report on the performance of the panels will be brought for Members' information in due course.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.3 L/LEI/002/VOL2 VIRTUAL PHYSICAL ACTIVITY PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that the Leisure Service usually delivers a range of health intervention programmes. These include; Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS) – whereby individuals with relevant health issues are referred for prescriptive exercise; the Macmillan Move More programme for cancer patients and survivors; an Active Pregnancy programme; cardiac and pulmonary programmes and most recently an activity programme to promote improved mental health. All of these programmes have been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic due to facility closures and also the vulnerable nature of the customers referred.

Officers recently secured £10,000 of funding through Sport NI and the Northern Lifestyles Partnership to assist in the delivery of virtual physical activity programmes for vulnerable groups of people. The funding facilitated the creation of two new virtual programmes:

- i. A health intervention programme to reach people in the groups referred to above who cannot come to leisure settings
- ii. An 'Open for All' programme which includes various junior sports sessions, junior dance, as well as senior citizen classes.

The guiding principle was to be able to deliver programming virtually that participants could complete safely at home, before returning to leisure settings once restrictions allow. Approximately 40 virtual activity classes were recorded for this purpose in mid-December 2020 and will be launched online in early January 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Commercial and Programming Manager

Agreed by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.4 CE/GEN/79 NORTHERN IRELAND ASSEMBLY REPORT ON EVIDENCE FROM COUNCILS ON IMPACT OF EU EXIT

Following the presentation of evidence to the Committee for the Executive by the Chair, Councillor Foster and the Head of Environmental Health on concerns or issues as a result of the UK's exit from the EU, the report on the evidence received is **enclosed** for Members' information.

Written submissions were sent to the Committee in advance outlining the main concerns together with a summary of oral submissions.

At a further meeting on 25 November 20, the Committee for the Executive Office agreed to table a motion for debate in the Assembly. This has not yet been tabled.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.5 EH/PHWB/007 EAT CLEVER RESOURCES – NUTRITIONAL PROGRAMME

An innovative programme - Eat Clever -designed, developed and delivered to residents by the Nutrition and Wellbeing Officer, from legacy Newtownabbey Borough Council, is being translated into an online web-based resource.

This follows the success of the Muddy Boots online programme which has been beneficial in light of COVID-19 restrictions. The Eat Clever programme was previously facilitated face to face, however, transferring it online makes the information available to a wider audience and ensures safe delivery of up-to-date resources for residents.

Good dietary choices are critical to having optimal health and well-being and the ability to make good dietary choices is dependent on a range of factors. The Eat Clever programme is designed to develop the knowledge and skills needed to make these healthy dietary choices.

The online programme includes the following topics:

- Nutrition,
- Planning for balanced meals,
- Food safety,
- Food preparation, and
- Cooking skills.

The information provided will help with an understanding of what healthy eating is, and how it can be achieved through menu planning, choices when shopping and the preparation of healthy balanced meals.

The revised Eat Clever Programme is scheduled to be launched on the Council's website in January 2021.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Principal EHO (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations