



9 June 2022

Committee Chair: Councillor N Kelly

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor N Ramsay

Committee Members: Aldermen – F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, M Girvan, J McGrath and J Smyth

Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, R Foster, J Gilmour, A Logue, J Montgomery and R Swann

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the **Operations Committee** will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Tuesday, 14 June 2022 at 6.30 pm.**

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

PLEASE NOTE: a fork buffet will be available in the Members Room from 5.20 pm

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301

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REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY, 14 JUNE 2022

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

3.1 EH/EHS/FC/019 MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DAERA) AND ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF CERTIFICATION OF CERTAIN PRODUCTS OF ANIMAL ORIGIN

Members are reminded that Council has responsibility for Products of Animal Origin, namely fish and composite products containing fish or eggs and Environmental Health is responsible for matters relating to these items within the Borough. The Department of Environment, Farming and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the Central Competent Authority for trade across the agri-food sector within the United Kingdom. In Northern Ireland, responsibility for governance and delivery of certification is delegated to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

A request has been received from DAERA for Council to consider entering into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in respect of the certification of Products of Animal Origin, for which Council has responsibility as set out above. The Department's need is for provision of support by Environmental Health Officers for official certification of Products of Animal Origin on its behalf in approved and registered establishments in the Borough.

The MoU, **enclosed**, has been developed by DAERA following liaison with Environmental Health representatives from all 11 Councils in Northern Ireland. Although there are currently no food businesses in the Borough requiring assistance with the product certification function, these arrangements need to be put in place should a relevant business start trading from the Borough.

Upon approval of the MoU, DAERA would authorise suitably qualified and trained Environmental Health Officers, employed by Councils, to provide Export Health Certificates and Support Health Attestations for the relevant products, to food business operators located within the Council area.

As the Competent Authority, and as part of standard governance procedures applied to all official certification issued on their behalf, DAERA would monitor the official certification issued by Councils against the agreed standards through an ongoing monitoring and assessment process.

In addition to routine monitoring of Council's certification activities by DAERA, there may be more intensive auditing in preparation for an incoming Third Country inspection of the Competent Authority export assurance procedures in place across Northern Ireland.

Key requirements of the MOU

As the nature of businesses within each council area differs, so do specific requirements for certification. Each Council has been requested to consider the following specific activities to be undertaken on behalf of DAERA:

- i. Provide supporting information relating to Official Controls on food hygiene, traceability and compliance to facilitate official certification by other Certifying Officers acting on behalf of DAERA.
- ii. Issue official Export Health Certification destined for Third Countries outside the UK and EU for fish, fishery products, including live bivalve molluscs, egg products and composite products containing fish and egg products of animal origin.
- iii. Issue Support Health Attestations within the UK, or to the EU, for fish and fishery products, including live bivalve molluscs, egg products and composite products containing fish and egg products of animal origin.

Whilst it is not a statutory requirement for Councils to provide certification and there is currently no funding from DAERA, it is however recognised that the Council could support local businesses through the process of certification as required. As outlined above, there would currently be no impact on Council resources and it is anticipated that should any relevant businesses be established in the Borough that the additional requirements can be met by existing staff.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the certification of certain Products of Animal Origin be approved.

Prepared by: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

3.2 EH/EHS/018 FOOD SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023

The Council is required to produce an annual plan showing how it intends to fulfil its statutory duties and deliver Food Control services.

A Food Service Delivery Plan 2022-2023 has been drafted for consideration and is **enclosed**. The Plan sets out how Environmental Health will address both Council's statutory obligations and act in an advisory capacity to assist businesses.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Food Service Delivery Plan 2022-2023 be approved.

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

3.3 EH/PHWB/005 HEATER LENDING SCHEME

Members are reminded that the remit of the Health and Wellbeing team includes helping to reduce the incidence and impact of fuel poverty.

The team supports residents in improving their knowledge, skills and circumstances in a number of ways:

- provision of guidance and assistance in applying for Energy Efficiency grants
- providing practical advice to manage and reduce energy costs
- through working closely with external agencies i.e. 'Make the Call' and 'Community Advice', ensuring that residents are in receipt of any financial assistance to which they are entitled

On average, around 12-15 calls per month are received from residents who are living without heat and are therefore experiencing severe or extreme fuel poverty. This is likely to rise. Whilst referrals are made to the appropriate Energy Efficiency grant schemes, even for urgent cases it can take up to four months for heating systems to be installed in these homes. The impact of severe fuel poverty on these households can include a significant impact on mental health or emotional and physical wellbeing. Where residents have other underlying health issues, these living conditions can be extremely detrimental to their overall health and wellbeing.

As with the Department for Communities' Affordable Warmth programme, the proposed Heater Lending Scheme will operate on a referral basis from Social Workers and from other health professionals or community organisations in the Borough. Referrals to Advice NI for financial assistance will also be included in the service.

An assessment will be completed for each referral on the basis of:

- currently living without heat; or
- not have a working heating system; or
- have a very ineffective heating system which is unable to maintain appropriate temperatures in the property i.e. a temperature of 20°C in the living room and 18°C in the bedroom

The draft Scheme, **enclosed**, will involve the purchase of energy efficient electric heaters by Council which would be loaned on a short term basis to those who meet the criteria. Individual 2 KW heaters have an approximate running cost between £3.40 - £5 per day depending on current energy costs. Householders would be advised on how to manage this cost and would be referred to other advice agencies for financial assistance as appropriate.

It is anticipated that the Heater Lending Scheme would encourage greater partnership working with other statutory and voluntary agencies, as it would provide practical assistance and be used as a short term solution to assist the most vulnerable residents in the Borough.

It is estimated that it would cost around £2,500 to buy thirty electric heaters and this cost could be met from existing Energy Efficiency Grants.

On return, the heaters would be inspected and annual Portable Appliance Tests carried out and they will then be able to be loaned to other vulnerable residents. This short term provision will assist residents while energy efficiency grants are being processed.

An evaluation of the scheme would be carried at the end of the first year. The Scheme has been screened for Section 75 and does not require an Equality Impact Assessment. The Screening forms are **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that the proposed Heater Lending Scheme and Equality Screening be approved, as set out above at an estimated cost of £2,500.

Prepared by: Alison Briggs, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Health & Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

3.4 L/LEI/002 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Following the first call for applications to the Leisure Grant Aid Programme (April – May 22), a total of 28 applications were submitted. All 28 applications have been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations enclosed.

Should approval be given for the grants listed, the balances remaining in each funding category are set out below:

Category	Approved to date 2022/23			Applications this call (1/04/2022-31/05/22)		Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of applications listed)
	No. of apps.	Budget	Approved spend to date 21/22	No. of apps.	Grants proposed (£)	
Capital Grants	0	£40,000	£0	0	£0	£40,000
Grants to Clubs	0	£50,000	£0	2	£1,100	£48,900
Grants to Athletes	0	£30,000	£0	17	£11,049.12	£18,950.88
Grants to Coaches and Officials	0	£5,000	£0	5	£237	£4,763
Sports Event Grant	0	£40,000	£0	1	£4,350.50	£35,649.50
Defibrillator Grant	0	£5,000	£0	1	£0	£5,000
Allocation total	0	£170,000	£0	26	£16,736.62	£153,263.38
Fitness Suite Gold Card	0	20 Applications		2	2 eligible	18 applications
Total spend to date including this call, if approved: £16,736.62						

RECOMMENDATION: that the grant awards set out in the enclosure are approved.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport and Physical Activity Programmes Manager

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations and Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks and Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

3.5 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – BELFAST ROAD, ANTRIM

A development naming application was received from Here Architects on behalf of Wilson & Mawhinney regarding the naming of a residential development at Belfast Road, Antrim. The development consists of 14 dwellings, these being a mixture of detached, semi – detached and apartments. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1. Hollowburn Grove – Historic ordinance survey maps refer to Hollowburn bridge a short distance from the site.
2. Six Mile Grove – The site was historically located alongside the Six Mile Water prior to the railway line.
3. Muckamore Grove – The site is located within the townland of Muckamore.

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that a name for the above development is approved.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

3.6 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – DOAGH ROAD/CARNMONEY ROAD NORTH JUNCTION

A development naming application was received from Debbie Aston on behalf of Vaughan Homes regarding the naming of a new development at the junction of Doagh Road/Carnmoney Road North. The development has approximately 44 dwellings, a mix of detached and semi-detached. The developer's proposed names and rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1. Bleacher's Meadow. We have researched the area and the use/past use of the buildings in the area of the Mill. This was used as an old Bleaching House over the years, strong history.
2. Spinner's Gate. We would like the name to have a connection to the mill and history of the area and have tried to use this information in choosing the name.
3. Flax Meadow. It is our intention to use linked names to the history of the mill, fabrics and materials to market the house types.

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that a name for the above development be approved.

Prepared by: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

3.7 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – DOAGH ROAD, BALLYCLARE

A development naming application was received from Patrick Morwood on behalf of Beechview Developments regarding the naming of a residential development off Doagh Road, Ballyclare. The development consists of 63 dwellings, these being a mixture of detached and semi – detached. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1. Barons Hall – In the 1820s the landowner was Lord Arthur Chichester, who became Baron Templemore.
2. Rectory Park – The site is 100m south of the former Kilbride Parish Rectory.
3. Rowan Park – John Rowan's forge was located 200m west of the site and he was the producer of most agricultural implements in the area in the mid-1800s.

Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names; the matter will be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that a name for the above development be approved.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

3.8 PK/CP/001/VOL4 MASTERPLAN FOR LEISURE AND COMMUNITY FACILITIES – RATHCOOLE

Members are reminded that a scheme to develop allotments in both Rathcoole and Crumlin has been approved and contractors appointed. Works are expected to begin this month, however, the Rathcoole project depends on resolution of land issues with the Education Authority and Northern Ireland Housing Executive at Rathcoole Primary School.

Officers have been assessing other sites in the area for suitable projects, should the land issues not be resolved. The green space in the Sir James Craig Park is one of the areas being assessed for suitability for allotments.

In addition, at a recent meeting of the Macedon DEA Engagement Forum on 25 May, Members were advised that the Primary School Board of Governors had identified the opportunity to partner with the Council in relation to development of community facilities at the school by relocating the nursery unit into the unused library area of the main school building. This would enable the nursery building to become a standalone community facility and, in addition, the school representatives proposed that the shale playing area at the back of the school building could be linked to the community facility to provide a substantial space for sport and recreation.

DEA Members at the meeting agreed that the most effective approach would be to commission a single masterplan for development of community and recreation space in Rathcoole in and around the Primary School and the Sir James Craig Park.

RECOMMENDATION: that a Masterplan for leisure and community facilities be developed for Rathcoole including the Primary School site and the Sir James Craig Park.

Prepared by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 PBC/BC/002 UPDATE ON PERFORMANCE REPORTS FOR PROPERTY AND BUILDING CONTROL

Members are reminded that performance reports for Building Services have been subject to review by the Head of Property and Building Services. Both the content and presentation of the performance reports for Committee have been reviewed in order to give Members a broader appreciation of details of performance within the Service.

The newly formatted report will provide an overview of Building Control applications received, plan assessment and inspection performance levels, Land and Property Services (LPS) partnership working and overall service income levels.

It is intended to reintroduce the performance reports on a quarterly basis, commencing September 2022, when the data for the first quarter of the financial year 2022/2023 will be presented. The Committee's views on the new format reports will shape the format of the reports going forward.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Stephen Hipkins, Head of Property and Building Services

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.2 EH/EHS/FC/011 SUPPORT FOR BUSINESSES – IMPLEMENTATION OF NATASHA’S LAW

Members are reminded that from **1 October 2021**, the labelling requirements for Prepacked for Direct Sale (PPDS) foods changed in Northern Ireland, Wales and England. This change to labelling helps protect consumers by providing potentially life-saving allergen information on packaging. The change in law follows the death of Natasha Ednan-Laperouse from anaphylaxis after she ate sesame in a baguette in 2016. PPDS food is that which is packaged at the same place that it is offered or sold to consumers and is in its packaging before it is ordered or selected.

Any business that produces PPDS food is required to label it with the name of the food and a full ingredients list with allergenic ingredients emphasised within the list. Businesses must check if their products require PPDS labelling and what they need to do to comply with the law.

In order to assist businesses to comply with the new requirements of Natasha's law, the Environmental Health Food team worked in partnership with the Food Standards Agency and Safefood (an all island agency, Safefood promotes healthy eating and food safety to consumers across the island of Ireland) and this partnership resulted in a series of short clip videos being produced.

Environmental Health Officers scripted the videos and participated in the filming, with the background set in the family run business, Kearneys in Randalstown. The videos have just been completed and are in final stages of editing and will be shared with other 10 Councils in Northern Ireland as a resource to share with food businesses to build compliance within their areas.

The video links are below:

PPDS 1

<https://vimeo.com/indiepicsclient/review/712076371/1bf2387471>

PPDS 2

<https://vimeo.com/indiepicsclient/review/712076481/3e524699ce>

PPDS 3

<https://vimeo.com/indiepicsclient/review/712076580/57a7de422d>

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.3 PK/GEN/186 QUEEN'S GREEN CANOPY

Following the Council's commitment to participate in the Queen's Green Canopy project, over 900 trees have been planted in the Borough. Details of all activities carried out through the initiative are set out below by category;

Platinum Copse

31 native trees of mixed species have been planted across the 7 DEAs; -

- Ballyclare – Sixmilewater Park
- Airport - Wallace Park
- Antrim – Round Tower
- Threemilewater – Threemilewater Park
- Dunsilly – Randalstown
- Macedon – Glas na Braden Glen
- Glengormley Urban – Sandyknowes Park

Creation/Dedication of Platinum Avenues

Platinum Avenues have been planted or dedicated in all but Airport DEA. the location of the Crumlin Platinum Avenue is on the site being developed for allotments and as this work is about to start, the Avenue cannot be planted. The Avenue will be planted on completion of the allotment project.

Ballyclare DEA

- Sixmilewater Park

Airport DEA

As above

Antrim DEA

- Steeple Park

Threemilewater DEA

- Mossley Pavilion grounds

Dunsilly DEA

- Randalstown –River Walk,

Macedon DEA

- Valley Park, Close to O'Neill Road Dog Park

Glengormley Urban DEA

- Lilian Bland Community Park

Schools Planting Project

Every school in the Borough was contacted and offered the opportunity to participate. The final list of participants is:

Antrim DEA

- Muckamore Nursery

Macedon DEA

- Abbots Cross Primary
- Whiteabbey Primary School
- Whitehouse Primary
- Kingspark Primary

Airport DEA

- Templepatrick Primary School

Ballyclare DEA

- Fairview Primary
- Doagh Primary
- Kilbride Primary

Dunsilly DEA

- Groggan Primary

Glengormley Urban DEA

- Hill Croft School
- Ballyhenry Primary

Threemilewater DEA

- Jordanstown School - pending (*works are currently underway in the school nature reserve, once these works have been completed trees will be planted and dedicated to the Queens Platinum Jubilee. This is anticipated to be completed in October 2022*)

Community Planting Projects

Residential homes and community groups in the Borough were contacted and offered the opportunity to participate in initiative. The final list of participants is:

Threemilewater DEA

- D Company Army Cadets based at Abbots Cross Army Reserve Centre

Ballyclare DEA

- Ballyclare Women's Institute
- Kilbride Church
- Kilbride Church Little Tots
- Hutchinson Care Home / Ballyclare Little Tots

Airport DEA

- Templepatrick Women's Institute

Dunsilly DEA

- Maine Fold/Groggan Primary

Glengormley Urban DEA

- Hutchinson Care Home

Dedication of Ancient Woodland

There were two woodlands in the Borough under Council ownership and both have been dedicated.

- Hazelbank Park
- Antrim Castle Gardens

Information on the activities completed in relation to the Queen's Green Canopy Initiative in the Borough has been provided to the Northern Ireland Committee as well as the Lord Lieutenant, Mr David McCorkell in signing off the initiative.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Angela Ross, Parks Development Officer

Agreed by: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks and Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.4 PK/CP/001/VOL4 HARRIER WAY CAR PARK RESURFACING

Members are reminded that as part of the approved car park refurbishment programme, works to off street car parks are being completed in four phases with Antrim Forum, Railway Street and a section of Central Car Park having been completed to date.

The refurbishment of Harrier Way Car Park in Ballyclare is included in phase two of the programme and commenced on 6 June 2022 for a period of 10 weeks. The works require that the car park will be closed for approximately the first 5 weeks with half reopening for public use after this time for a further 5-6 weeks.

The capital team has ensured that the closure has been communicated to traders, through AA signage on key routes into the town highlighting alternative parking as well as through regular updates on social media channels. Charges for the car park in the Square have been waived until the car park partially reopens at which point this will be reviewed.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks and Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.5 WM/SC/01 BIG SPRING CLEAN 2022 REVIEW

Members are reminded the weekend of 6 -8 May was designated as the Big Spring Clean Weekend, part of the Northern Ireland's largest community clean-up campaign. Council agreed to promote the Big Spring Clean Weekend as part of its Litter Action Plan as it enabled and equipped residents to complete a litter pick in their area to increase civic pride and to keep the Borough clean and tidy.

The aim of the Big Spring Clean Weekend was to increase participation in litter picking amongst residents who might not have been aware of the support provided by Council for this activity. The campaign was advertised to residents through Borough Life and various social media posts, with the further aim of increasing residents' awareness to reduce littering in the future.

To date over 300 people have participated in litter picks in the Borough as part of the Big Spring Clean and this included:

- 200 students from five schools;
- 80 residents from five community groups;
- Two local businesses;
- 70 individuals and families.

Participation in Big Spring Clean 2022 increased by over 100 participants compared to last year with over 200 bags of litter collected from across the Borough and images of the events are **enclosed**.

As reported previously, Henderson Foodservice supported the efforts in the Borough responded with loyalty cards to the value of 2 drinks given to all volunteers participating in the Big Spring Clean. In addition, the participants received a signed letter of thanks from the Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Leanne Smits, Waste Education and Awareness Officer

Agreed by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Contracts and Michael Laverty, Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.6 L/LEI/VLC/017 SKATE 100 PROGRAMMING

Following the very successful official opening of Skate100, Urban Sports Park at V36, programming is underway in partnership with the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) Skate Northern Ireland and Skateboard Great Britain.

Further to the funding from Peace IV through the Shared Space and Engagement Programme, planning for a series of introductory sessions is underway. An approach has also been made by a local commercial delivery provider to offer a summer scheme and this is being explored as a possible pilot scheme for the summer months. Further details will be provided.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport and Physical Activity Programmes Manager

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations and Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Parks and Leisure)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.7 EH/EHS/011 HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2022-2023

Members are reminded that monitoring guidance issued by the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland (HSENI) under Article 20 of the Health and Safety at Work Northern Ireland Order 1978 requires the Council to establish and maintain a planned Health and Safety activity programme on an annual basis.

A Health and Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022-2023 has been drafted for consideration and is **enclosed**. The Plan sets out how Environmental Health will address both Council's statutory obligations and act in an advisory capacity to assist businesses.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Health and Safety Service Delivery Plan 2022-2023 be approved.

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.8 WM/WM/37/VOL2 PLASTIC FILM AND FLEXIBLE PACKAGING RECYCLING COLLECTION POINTS

Following consideration of a Bryson pilot for kerbside collection of plastic film and flexible packaging at the April meeting of Committee, a discussion took place regarding the potential for plastic film and flexible packaging to be accepted in Household Recycling Centres in the Borough.

When plastic film and flexible packaging are collected together, it then needs to be sorted into the correct grades of plastic before it can be reprocessed. As this is resource intensive and has a significant impact on quality there is limited sorting and processing infrastructure in the UK which can result in the plastic being transferred across Europe to be recycled or more commonly the waste is used for energy generation at thermal treatment plants.

Following market engagement by Officers it has been established that there are currently no secure outlets for the collection and treatment of the plastic film and flexible packaging on the scale required by Council if they were to be collected at the Recycling Centres.

The contractors, we work with locally are unable to find reliable and sustainable recycling outlets for this type of waste. Waste can be sent to energy recovery rather than recycling and therefore Officers will continue to work with the industry locally to develop the potential for dedicated collections for the recycling or recovery of this material and will inform Members as and when these become available.

In the meantime, there are at least 8 locations in the Borough where residents can currently recycle plastic film and flexible packaging and these are part of the Repeat the Cycle campaign which aims to increase awareness and the amount of recycling of this waste stream. The campaign is organised by Recycle Now and Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) in association with local supermarkets. The following locations are registered as participating in the Borough:

Supermarket Location	Types of Plastic Waste Accepted
Tesco <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antrim • Crumlin • Newtownabbey • Northcott 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby, pet food, detergent and cleaning pouches • Biscuits and chocolate wrapping • Bread bags • Cereal liners • Cheese, Fish and meat wrapping • Crisp and sweet bags • Delivery bags • Frozen food bags • Multi-pack wrapping • Plastic carrier bags • Plastic film lids • Salad, pasta and rice bags • Toilet roll wrapping
Co-op <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ballynure • Beverley Road 	
M&S <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abbey Centre 	
The Food Warehouse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Newtownabbey 	

There are also number of Terracycle collection points in the Borough operated by local businesses and charities and the locations can be accessed at this website www.terracycle.com/en-GB/about-terracycle/. There are different drop off points for different materials and there would not be the capacity to deal with the scale of soft plastics which Council would require to be processed.

Members may wish to note that as set out in the Government response to the Extended Producer Responsibility consultation plastic, film and flexible packaging is to be collected for recycling from both households and businesses across the UK by 31 March 2027.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

4.9 WM/WM/40 CONSULTATION ON REFORMS TO THE PACKAGING WASTE RECYCLING NOTE (PRN) AND PACKAGING WASTE EXPORT RECYCLING NOTE (PERN) SYSTEM AND OPERATOR APPROVAL

As reported at the May meeting of Committee, the UK Government is consulting on the Packaging Recycling Notes (PRNs) and Packaging Export Recycling Notes (PERNs) System and Operator Approval.

A PRN or PERN is documented proof that packaging material has been recovered or recycled by an accredited recycling company and they were introduced to encourage more recycling and to place a higher value on recycling than disposal.

As previously stated, the PRN and PERN scheme does not directly affect Council and as the consultation was technical in nature arc21 responded on behalf of the member councils. The arc21 response, **enclosed**, has now been submitted.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet)

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations