



30 September 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 5 October 2020 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

PLEASE NOTE: no refreshments will be available

For any queries please contact Member Services:

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

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3 PRESENTATION

IN CONFIDENCE WM/WM/047 NO-ARC 21 ORGANISATION

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 EH/PHWB/005 KEEP WARM PACK PROVISION 2020

The Public Health Agency (PHA) has confirmed that it will continue with the Keep Warm Pack scheme across Northern Ireland. Keep Warm packs will be provided to Council in the normal way for distribution. The scheme is designed to ensure that the packs go to those most in need and for this reason the PHA provides a set of fixed criteria to be used in assessing referrals.

Members are reminded that in order to receive a Keep Warm Pack an individual must be experiencing fuel poverty, must not have received a Keep Warm Pack from another source and must fall into one of the following five categories.

- a) Adult with an underlying cold related illness, or illness that makes them more vulnerable in the cold e.g.:
- Asthma
 - Chronic bronchitis or emphysema
 - Coronary heart disease
 - Stroke and TIA
 - Disability that makes them less mobile
 - Any long term condition that worsens in the winter
- b) Rough sleeper (sleeping in overnight shelters or in the street)
- c) Family with children under 18 years of age
- d) People aged 65+ who are living alone and experiencing fuel poverty
- e) People aged over 70 and experiencing fuel poverty.

So that packs are distributed to those individuals who are most in need, the partner organisations listed below identify recipients, complete an application form making the referral and confirm that the key criteria have been met.

- Northern Health & Social Care Trust teams including social work, occupational therapy and Health Visitors, Midwifery team and Dementia Navigators.
- Floating support services for Adults including Cedar Foundation and Radius Housing.
- Support services for families including Home-Start and Sure Start services.
- Advice NI – local foodbanks, Churches – providing community support and advice.

Members may wish to note that partner organisation referrals to date have matched or slightly exceeded the number of packs provided.

RECOMMENDATION: that the offer of Keep Warm Packs from the Public Health Agency be accepted.

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

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.2 WM/WM/40 DAERA FUTURE RECYCLING AND COLLECTION OF WASTE OF A HOUSEHOLD NATURE IN NORTHERN IRELAND DISCUSSION PAPER

As reported to Members at September Committee, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has published a discussion document on the 'Future Recycling and Separate Collection of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland'.

This document targets both waste from households and businesses which produce mixed waste which is similar in nature and composition to waste from households. The aim is to help Northern Ireland achieve the targets of 65% municipal recycling rate and to reduce landfill rates to 10% both by 2035.

A response has been drafted for consideration and is **enclosed**. In summary, the key points set out in the response are set out below:

1. There should be greater enforcement of the current Food Waste Regulations (NI) 2015 to ensure obligated businesses segregate food waste for collection;
2. Businesses should be required to segregate their recyclable waste from residual waste so that it can be collected and recycled by waste collectors;
3. These measures should be introduced in such a way to minimise the cost burden on businesses and without increasing the financial burden on councils;
4. The capacity for residual waste from households should be restricted to help divert more material into the recycling waste streams in line with what has been adopted by Council – reduction to 180litre black bin;
5. Further evidence is required before Council could comment on the suggestion that all kerbside collections from houses and flats should receive a separate weekly collection service for food waste;
6. There should be a core set of dry recyclable materials collected at the kerbside across Northern Ireland from houses and flats and this should comprise of glass bottles and containers, paper and card, plastic bottles, plastic pots, tubs and trays, and steel and aluminium tins and cans and this should be kept under review and changes applied consistently and at the same time;
7. The separate collection of materials is supported to improve the quality and quantity of recyclable waste collected;
8. There should be national guidance to help establish greater consistency in recycling and waste collection services but this needs to be supported by capital and revenue support from Government.

As this is a Discussion Paper, further consultation will be sought from the Department and Council will have further opportunities to comment. The submission date for comments was 4 October 2020 although Members' comments from this meeting can be incorporated into the response.

RECOMMENDATION: that the response to the Future Recycling and Separate Collection of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland Discussion Paper is approved for submission to DAERA.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Contracts & Strategy Manager

Agreed by: Michael Lavery, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.3 L/GEN/070 DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES – STRATEGY FOR SPORT PRE-CONSULTATION

Members are advised that Officers have been actively engaging with the Department for Communities (DFC) in relation to the Strategy for Sport 2020 – 2030. The Strategy for Sport aims to build on the successful foundations of the Sport Matters Strategy which was published in 2009 and continues to guide Government policy on sport and physical activity.

The new strategy is due to be published in March 2021 and is being developed through a process of co-design with a wide range of stakeholders including Councils and local Community Planning Partnerships. A range of methods are being used to engage stakeholders including a pre-consultation survey. The organisations represented on the Community Planning Partnership have all received a copy of the document for individual responses and in addition, the Head of Leisure presented to the partnership at its September meeting, setting out an initial draft of the proposed Council response to the survey. A number of issues emerged from the subsequent discussion which have been incorporated into the draft response (enclosed).

These include:

- The impact of COVID – 19 on mental health and the role of physical activity in helping with mental health, financial challenges current/post pandemic and impact on programming and facilities
- Increasing participation in sporting and non-sporting physical activities
- Encouraging new entrants into physical activity through non-traditional routes (e.g. Parkrun, Couch 2 5k, open water swimming)
- Early years to old age participation
- Everybody Active Programme/Small Grants – What next?
- Balancing investment between participation & performance
- Support for sporting organisations to become more digitally advanced
- Support for people development and deployment (volunteers).

RECOMMENDATION: that the response to the pre-consultation survey relating to the Strategy for Sport 2020-2030 be approved.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.4 CE/GEN/079 COMMITTEE FOR THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE BREXIT STAKEHOLDER EVENT

Correspondence has been received from the Committee for The Executive Office, **enclosed**, regarding a Brexit stakeholder event.

The purpose of the event is to provide local councils with an opportunity to brief Committee Members on any issues and concerns they might have, as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union.

Two attendees are invited from each council; one senior official and one political representative. They will have an opportunity to meet with a small number of Committee Members for 30 minutes on Wednesday 4 November 2020, in Parliament Buildings, Stormont, from 2.00pm to 5.00pm.

Members' instructions are requested.

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 EH/PHWB/012 AGE FRIENDLY – WORLD HEALTH ORGANISATION ACCREDITATION

Members are reminded that Council made an application to join the World Health Organisation Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities (GNAFCC).

The application process was completed with a letter signed by the Mayor in October 2019, showing the Council's commitment to the Network cycle of continual improvement.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has confirmed that Council has been accepted as a member of the Global Network for Age Friendly Cities and Communities. As a member, the Council will be part of a growing global movement of communities, cities and other sub-national levels of government that are striving to better meet the needs of their older residents. Joining the Network requires a commitment to sharing and promoting the values and principles central to the WHO Age-friendly approach, which include involving older people in decision making around how to make their communities a place where people of all ages can live healthy and active lives.

These places make it possible for people to continue to stay in their homes, participate in the activities that they value, and contribute to their communities, for as long as possible

Council will implement the four steps to create age-friendly local environment; these are:

1. Involving older people and stakeholders in assessing the age friendliness of the Borough,
2. Strategic Planning to develop a shared vision of age friendliness,
3. Implementing and local age friendly action plan
4. Monitoring and evaluating this action plan.

Council will also be actively participating in the Network, including sharing experiences with other members. This is done by participating in both the UK and NI Age Friendly networks and utilising the online portal to tap into best practice from across the world. Every member of the Age Friendly Global Network is required to submit at least one example of age friendly practice per year.

Antrim and Newtownabbey was the first Council to apply to the Global Network since the Northern Ireland Regional Age Friendly Network was established in December 2018.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.2 EH/PHWB/017 MUDDY BOOTS RESROUCES – EDIBLE GROWING PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that the Muddy Boots online edible Growing Programme is anticipated to be available to residents in October 2020.

This programme was designed to assist participants to grow their own fruit, vegetables or herbs in whatever space they have available; pots, window boxes, gardens or allotments. Videos and 'Sow and Grow' guides were available and could be used by both novices and more experienced gardeners.

The Muddy Boots Online Experience, which will be available to all residents, will enable participants to grow fresh produce at home regardless of ability or available space, encouraging sustained participation in 'edible growing' as a lifestyle change.

Council has 105 salad starter kits which have been funded by Northern Healthy Lifestyles Partnership (NHLP), in partnership with Groundworks NI. These will be provided to the first 105 people who sign up to participate in the Muddy Boots Online programme.

The following link provides access to the online resources that are available to participants on the programme.

www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/muddybootsonlinetest

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.3 L/LEI/012, L/LEI/428 INTERMEDIATE FOOTBALL RESTRUCTURE PROJECT

Members are reminded that in September 2019, Council wrote to the Irish Football Association (IFA) to express concerns regarding the decision to implement the Intermediate Football Restructure Project. Subsequently Council invited the IFA to arrange for representatives to attend Committee to make a presentation on the issue but Officers were advised that the proposed restructuring of intermediate football was under further review.

Council has now received correspondence from the IFA enclosed through the Chief Leisure Officers Association (CLOA) advising that due to the financial impact of COVID-19 on the IFA and its key stakeholders, the planned restructure of the intermediate game is discontinued at this time.

RECOMMENDATION: that the correspondence be noted.

Prepared by: Matt McDowell, Head of Leisure

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.4 PK/GEN/178 CHANGES TO NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK

The National Cycle Network (NCN) in the UK is a network of walking and cycling routes connecting many parts of the country. It services around 30 million trips annually in Northern Ireland. Sustrans are the custodians of the network and have, over the past two years, been reassessing the quality of routes and have a vision of traffic free, accessible routes by 2040. This is to provide a consistent, safe experience for users with informed choices based upon a model applied across the UK.

As part of this exercise 80% (846 miles) of routes in Northern Ireland have been reclassified. These routes will be promoted as dedicated named routes. 6% (37 miles) have been removed, mainly on roads where traffic is high and road speeds are 35 – 40 mph or higher and some routes will be removed from the NCN network altogether as shown on the map **enclosed**.

Under these proposals no routes in the Borough would be removed but three routes would no longer be classified as NCN promoted routes but as '*named strategic routes*'.

Named Strategic Routes

- i. NCN route 94 (a circuit of Lough Neagh) would become known as *the 'Loughshore Trail'*
- ii. NCN route 96 (which connects Toome and Coleraine) would become known as *'the Lower Bann route'*.
- iii. NCN route 93 cuts across the Borough from Belfast to Larne and on around the coast would be renamed *'East to North West Coastal route'*.

All three of these largely on road routes would be referred to by their local familiar names. These routes are deemed important to local tourism and are significant in distance and scale.

Retained NCN traffic free routes

NCN route 9 and 93 Lagan and Lough Cycle Way would be retained as a traffic free route connecting Lisburn, Belfast and Jordanstown.

Sustrans has indicated that they wish the network to grow again as sections are brought up to a suitable off road standard and have noted the opportunities presented through capital funding available for Greenways as announced recently by the Department for Infrastructure.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.5 PK/GEN/140 WHITEABBEY GLEN

At the beginning of the COVID-19 lockdown the Parks team for the Whiteabbey area were approached by some local residents who were keen to volunteer their spare time to do a clean-up of the Glen over the coming weeks and months. Litter pickers and bags were supplied to the volunteers and waste removed.

The volunteers have carried on working in the Glen clearing paths, planting flowers - supplied by Council - and arranging storytelling sessions by local historians on past events and a history of Whiteabbey Village.

The group has been very creative using materials and items found in the Glen and re-using them to provide a colourful display which has improved the area and made it more colourful and welcoming.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Mark Wilson, Parks Manager

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.6 WM/WG/2 WINTER OPERATIONS PLAN

From November to April, the Council maintains a Winter Operations Plan to assist staff in delivering Council services as safely and efficiently as possible during the winter months. The Plan also includes provision for gritting services for all Council facilities and designated areas like town centres and car parks as well as the delivery of the waste collection services during adverse weather, and snow clearance operations.

The Plan is reviewed every year and this has been done this year and the potential impact of COVID-19 may need to be taken into account. The Plan, which is enclosed for Members' information outlines the notification procedure for gritting operations which will be activated if the designated officer believes there is a strong possibility of ice occurring based on Met Office warnings and media weather reports.

The procedure takes into account micro climatic differences across the Borough, for example, areas may be gritted in Glengormley due to sub-zero temperatures but there will be no requirement to do so in Crumlin as the temperature is above freezing.

The Plan aims to have Council facilities gritted before staff arrive at work and the main town centres to be serviced before shops and businesses open at 9am, although Members should be aware that gritting operations cannot take place during periods of heavy rain or snow.

The Plan also addresses the possible impact of adverse weather on the waste collection services. In the event of severe weather, road conditions will be assessed and operations revised to reflect the increased risks to staff and public safety.

During periods of heavy snow fall, clearance operations will be directed by a dedicated management team chaired by the Director of Operations. The removal of snow is dependant of the availability of resources although during heavy snow events, the street cleansing services may be suspended and staff re-allocated to clearance operations if deemed safe to do so.

All actions resulting from the Plan will be passed to the Communications and Customers Services section to ensure that Elected Members and the public are kept fully informed of Council operations.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management/Ivor McMullan,
Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.7 WM/WM/40 CIRCULAR ECONOMY PACKAGE POLICY STATEMENT

A UK wide Circular Economy Package (CEP) Policy Statement has recently been jointly published by the relevant UK Government Departments setting out the approach to transposing the 2020 CEP waste measures.

The statement and supporting documents can be found at the following link

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/circular-economy-package-policy-statement/circular-economy-package-policy-statement>

which sets out some background on the key aspects of the CEP and the changes which will be made to implement it across the UK.

In Northern Ireland, DAERA will be taking forward and introducing the relevant amendments to legislation in 2020.

The UK, Welsh, Scottish and Northern Ireland governments have decided to take the approach of issuing this public statement and not to run a formal consultation. The bulk of the 2020 CEP measures are relatively small technical changes and, where appropriate, the implementing legislation will simply adopt the same wording as that of the Directive.

As Strategies such as "Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland", Economy 2030 and Delivering Resource Efficiency are all currently being reviewed there will be opportunity to include CEP measures and provide further guidance going forward.

A key aspect and aim of the CEP is to increase recycling of waste of a household nature from households and other sources and DAERA has confirmed that they will be undertaking further policy work. The changes to this Policy Statement have no operational impact on Council services.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.8 PK/GEN/001/VOL3 COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAMME

An update on Commemorative Programme for 2019 and the year to date is enclosed.

During Quarters 1 and 2 of this year, whilst the commemorative programme was suspended due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, staff recorded requests made and these requests will be actioned in chronological order. Work on the commemorative programme has just recommenced and staff will continue to advise customers that their details will be recorded until implementation has caught up.

Carnmoney Cemetery is currently near capacity for the installation of benches and a survey of remaining sites is being mapped so that alternatives can be offered when space runs out in the near future.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Glenda James, Administration Supervisor

Agreed by: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations