



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD
AT ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON MONDAY 4 SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor J Burbank
- Committee Members (In person)** : Aldermen – L Clarke and J Smyth
Councillors – J Gilmour, AM Logue, H Magill, A McAuley, E McLaughlin, V McWilliam and M Ní Chonghaile,
- Committee Members (Remote)** : Alderman P Bradley
Councillors – R Foster, L O'Hagan, L Smyth and M Stewart
- Non Committee Members (In person)** : Alderman L Boyle
Councillors – R Lynch and B Webb
- Non Committee Members: (Remote)** : Councillors – A Bennington and M Goodman
- In Attendance** : Nicola Carruthers, Consultant, Keep Recycling Local
Philip Kennedy, Senior Client Executive, Open Strategic Communications
- Officers Present** : Director of Sustainability - M Lavery
Director of Parks & Leisure - M McDowell
Head of Parks Operations - P Mawhinney
Head of Waste Operations – D Purdy
Head of Waste Strategy & Sustainability – L Daly
Head of Leisure Operations – D O'Hagan
Head of Environmental Health & Wellbeing – C Kelly
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Manager – AM Duffy
Member Services Officer – C McGrandle

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

1 APOLOGIES

NONE

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE

3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Directors and Officers introduced themselves to the Members of the Committee as this was the first Operations Committee Meeting held in this term of Council.

4 PRESENTATIONS

4.1 G/MSMO/017 KEEP RECYCLING LOCAL

Members were reminded that they had previously approved a request from Keep Recycling Local to make a presentation on recycling and the circular economy. A copy of the requesting letter and presentation were circulated for Members.

The Chair introduced Nicola Carruthers (Consultant) from Keep Recycling Local and Philip Kennedy (Senior Client Executive) from Open Strategic Communications. Ms Carruthers provided an update to the meeting and responded to Members' queries.

The Chair and Members thanked Ms Carruthers and Mr Kennedy for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

Councillor Logue left and returned to the meeting during Item 4.2

4.2 WM/WM/037 VOL 2 COUNCIL WASTE COLLECTION PROPOSALS

The Director of Sustainability presented Members with details of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Waste Collection Proposals (circulated).

The Director of Sustainability responded to questions from Members in relation to the current two waste collection methods across the Borough and the plans to harmonise the waste collection services following previous Council approval. He advised it was anticipated funding would be approved by DAERA in the near future and a letter of offer would be taken to Council when it is received.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 G/MSMO/140 OPERATIONS COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

Members were reminded that Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council conducted its business through a traditional committee system where business was initially considered by one of its Committees forming a key component of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council's corporate governance framework.

In line with good governance arrangements, Terms of Reference (TOR) were required for each Committee. The previous terms TOR had been reviewed and updated to outline the Committee's core functions and define authority limits using a standardised format.

A Member's request to have changes tracked on documents made available to them was noted.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

Members approve the Operations Committee Terms of Reference.

ACTION BY: Liz Johnston, Deputy Director of Governance

5.2 EH/EHS/FC/008 PUBLIC ANALYST APPOINTMENT

Members were reminded that Belfast City Council had conducted a tendering process on behalf of the eleven Councils in Northern Ireland for Public Analyst Services. The tender which was awarded to the Public Analyst Services (Northern Ireland) Ltd in April 2021, for a two-year period ending on 31 March 2023, with the option of extension for a further two years until March 2025.

The contract had been operating satisfactorily and as a result it was proposed to action the extension clause for a further two years.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the contract with the Public Analyst Scientific Service be extended for a further 2 years, in line with the agreed contractual arrangements.

ACTION BY: Christina McErlean, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

5.3 EH/EHS/LR/011 SCHEME OF DELEGATION

Members were advised that following a recent restructure, it had been necessary to amend the delegated functions to include the Director of Sustainability; a copy of the Schedule was circulated.

In response to a Member's query the Director of Sustainability clarified the purpose of the scheme of delegation was to permit officers to carry out their service functions without having to bring them to Members for approval.

Proposed by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

the Schedule of Delegated Functions for the Director of Sustainability, Michael Lavery, be approved.

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

5.4 EH/EHS/011 HEALTH AND SAFETY SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024

Members were 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 required the Council to establish and maintain a planned Health and Safety activity programme on an annual basis.

A copy of the Health and Safety Service Delivery Plan 2023-2024 was circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and agreed that

the Health and Safety Service Delivery Plan 2023-2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Christina McErlean, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

5.5 EH/EHS/018 FOOD SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024

The Council was required to produce an annual plan showing how it intended to fulfil its statutory duties and deliver Food Control services (circulated).

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

Proposed by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and agreed that

the Food Service Delivery Plan 2023-2024 be approved.

ACTION BY: Christina McErlean, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

5.6 EH/EHS/006 SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE AND ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL FOR WARRANTED OFFICERS

Members were reminded that Councils in Northern Ireland carry out work on behalf of the Department of Justice in relation to the inspection of premises where explosives, namely fireworks and flares, were stored and sites where certain fireworks display were staged.

This allows the Department of Justice to request Warranted Officers (Environmental Health Officers) from the Council to carry out site inspections to ensure that explosive materials were stored in accordance with the Approved Code of Practice. Councils must then provide a written report of its findings to the Department within three weeks of receipt of the request to carry out an assessment. The site must be inspected again by the Council within the next five years. The service level agreement was in respect of:

- A. The Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2006 (as amended) in respect of persons registered to store hazard type 3 & 4 explosives as defined in Service Schedule 1; and
- B. The Explosives (Fireworks) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 (as amended) in respect of fireworks displays.

The current Service Level Agreement, previously agreed in 2018, had been reviewed and updated (circulated) to reflect an increase in the costs to the Councils associated with preparing consultation responses for application renewals of premises' registrations and requirements for storage of certain explosives such as fireworks and flares. The agreed fees were:

- £300 for work performed in relation to an initial registration,
- £270 for a renewal application,
- Associated mileage costs were also paid by the Department.

The Department would also pay the Councils for the time spent by a warranted officer in assessing a fireworks display application (either site visit assessment or desktop only assessment), including the administration time required. The Department either issued or refused to issue the display licence based on the recommendation of the warranted officer.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the Service Level Agreement with the Department of Justice for The Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (NI) 2006, and The Explosives (Fireworks) Regulations (NI) 2002 be approved.

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

5.7 L/GEN/073 JUNIOR PARK RUN

Members were reminded that Council currently supports three successful weekly senior parkrun events within the Borough located at Valley Park, Sixmilewater Park (Ballyclare) and Antrim Loughshore Park.

Council officers had recently met with Athletics Northern Ireland, parkrun, local sports clubs, and community representatives within the Antrim area to explore the potential launch of a junior parkrun at Antrim Castle Gardens. The event would be a free, timed 2 kilometre walk or run for 4-14 year-olds, organised exclusively by volunteers, to take place in local parks on Sunday mornings. The setup fee for the event would be £4,000 to cover equipment and marketing costs.

There was currently one other junior parkrun within the Borough based at University of Ulster, Jordanstown, which serviced demand in the urban Newtownabbey area. Officers also propose to explore future opportunities for a junior parkrun event at Sixmilewater Park, Ballyclare.

In response to a Member's query the Director of Parks and Leisure clarified that the junior park run was a separate event to the adult park run and required initial start-up costs.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

- (i) the use of Antrim Castle Gardens as a venue for a new junior parkrun on Sunday mornings be approved.**
- (ii) funding of £4,000 to establish a junior parkrun event at Antrim Castle Gardens be approved.**

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Manager & Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

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

Members were advised that during the second call for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme 2023/24 (June – July) a total of 28 applications were submitted. All 28 applications had been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations (circulated).

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

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	0	£0	£40,000
Grants to Clubs	4	£25,000	£13,348	4	£5,430	£6,222
Grants to Athletes	18	£40,000	£25,326	12	£6,484	£8,190
Grants to Coaches and Officials	5	£7,000	£2,596	5	£3,000	£1,404
Sports Event Grant	7	£40,000	£15,755	4	£19,605	£4,640
Defibrillator Grant	7	£18,000	£15,538	0	£0	£2,462
Allocation total	44	£170,000	£72,563	28	£34,519	£62,918
Fitness suite Gold Card	2	20 Applications	2	2	2 eligible	16 applications
Total spend to date including this call, if approved £107,082						

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
 Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed that

the Leisure Grant Aid Programme funding be approved.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager & Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

5.9 G/MSMO/067 NEWTOWNABBEY ROTARY CLUB

Members were reminded that in 2022, Council provided permission for the Newtownabbey Rotary Club to plant a bed of purple crocus plants in Hazelbank Park. The purple crocus was a symbol of the Rotary's worldwide campaign to eradicate Polio.

The Rotary Club had again contacted Officers to seek permission to plant a bed at two locations, namely Lilian Bland Park and Mossley Park, as well as requesting financial assistance of £195 which is 50% of the cost of the bulbs. The planting would be completed by Council's Parks team as part of their daily tasks (circulated).

Proposed by Alderman Bradley
 Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

Newtownabbey Rotary Club's request to plant a bed of crocuses at Lilian Bland and Mossley Park and for a contribution from Council of £195 towards the costs be approved.

ACTION BY: Angela Ross, Park Development Officer

5.10 CCS/REG/18 & CCS/REG/11 APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE / CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONIES

Members were advised that under the terms set out in the Marriage (Northern Ireland) Order and the Civil Partnership Act, Council were responsible for approving applications for locations for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships, known as a place approval. Place approvals last for a 3-year duration with the process requiring a public notice to be displayed for a three-week period at the applicants' location and a formal inspection conducted by the approving authority.

Council had received renewal applications from Dunsilly Hotel, Antrim and The Rabbit Hotel, Templepatrick. No objections had been received from the public notice, with the premises passing the formal inspection.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

the named premises, under the terms of the Marriage (NI) Order 2003 and the Civil Partnership Act (2004), to hold Civil Marriages be approved.

ACTION BY: Paula Redpath, Registrar

5.11 PK/GEN/021 ULSTER IN BLOOM COMMUNITY CHAMPION & NORTHERN IRELAND AMENITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY ACHIEVER AWARDS

Members were reminded that Council participate annually in Ulster in Bloom and Northern Ireland Amenity Council Best Kept Awards. Correspondence had been received from both competitions seeking nominations for the Community Champion award.

A maximum of three individual nominations could be made per Council and it was therefore proposed that the following nominations are made:

- David Child / Thelma Jamison: Carnmoney Community Group
- Richard Wallace: Ballynure Friendship Group
- Una Johnston: TIDAL Toome

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

nominations are made to the Translink Ulster in Bloom and Northern Ireland Amenity Council Best Kept Awards competitions 2023 as set out above.

ACTION BY: Angela Ross, Parks Development Officer

5.12 WM/FM/015 TRANSITION TO LOW, ULTRA LOW AND ZERO EMISSION FUELS

Background

Since 2019 Council had been committed to reducing its impact on the climate by cutting carbon emissions from its operations and facilities. The Council vehicle fleet was primarily fuelled by mineral diesel, which was one of the principal sources of carbon emissions into the environment.

Council approved a Fleet Strategy in October 2021, which detailed proposals for managing and improving the efficiency and effectiveness of fleet operations with considerations for reducing the carbon impact in line with Council's Climate Action Plan.

To date, Council had implemented the following measures to reduce the emission of carbon from the operation of its fleet:

- Replacement of 4 diesel vehicles with electric powered models;
- Piloting the use of Ultra Low and Zero Emission Vehicles;
- Piloting the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) in a proportion of the current fleet;
- Assessing the possible conversion of existing heavy fleet items to hydrogen fuel
progressing the potential for a partnership approach, with other public sector bodies, to share refuelling facilities;
- Driver training to encourage greater fuel efficiency during the operation of Council vehicles.

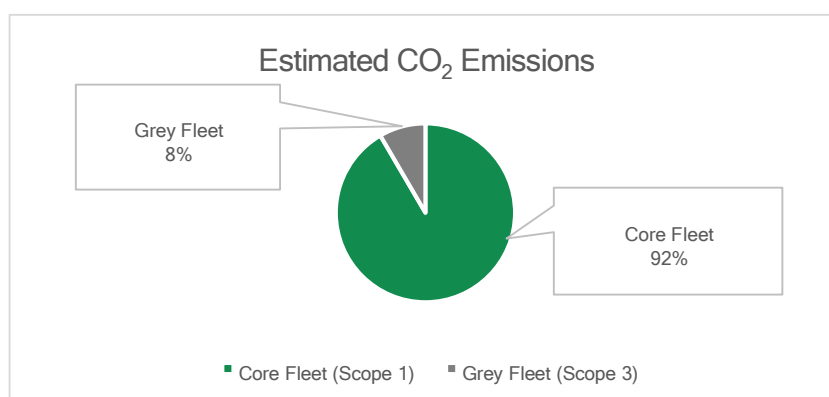
New Study

As part of the Fleet Strategy, Council approved the appointment of specialist support to carry out an analysis and review of the current fleet, grey fleet and infrastructure provisions in order to achieve the decarbonisation of our vehicle operations.

As part of this review, the following were to be established, a baseline for tonnage of carbon emitted from vehicles, an assessment on which alternative fuel option was deemed most suitable for the procurement of each type of vehicle, and what potential refuelling infrastructure was required.

The Report had been completed (circulated) and had calculated the current carbon footprint for Council to be 560,000 Kg per annum from both fleet and staff vehicles emissions and the breakdown was as follows:

Area	CO ₂ (KG)
Core Fleet	513,400
Grey Fleet (Business Miles)	47,220
Total CO₂ Emissions	560,620



As 92% of the CO₂ emissions was from Council owned fleet, this would be the main focus of mitigation measures initially.

The Report identified the following fuel sources as potential alternatives for Council as part of the decarbonisation of the fleet:

- Electric
- HVO Diesel (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil)
- Hydrogen
- BioMethane
- FAME Diesel (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester)

An assessment of the impact of each of these fuel types was carried out using the 5 factors as set out below:

	Electric	HVO	Hydrogen	Bio Methane	FAME
Emissions	5	4	5	2	1
Capital Cost	2	5	2	2	2
Running Cost	5	3	3	5	3
NI Fuel Availability	5	4	2	2	1
Infrastructure	3	3	2	2	1
Total Score	20	19	14	13	8

- 1 - Highly negative impact
- 2 - Negative Impact
- 3 - Neutral impact
- 4 - Positive impact
- 5 - Highly positive impact

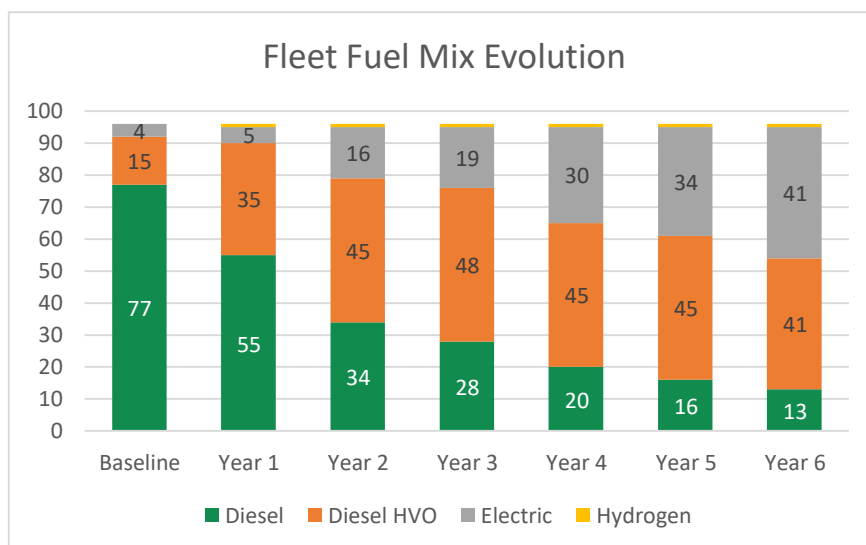
Based upon this assessment, these fuels, Electric, HVO and Hydrogen, had been evaluated for use by each vehicle category (small van, small sweeper, RCV, etc) and their individual vehicles' operational requirements (towing/non towing, daily mileage, etc).

As a result, it was proposed that the following fuel sources would be used for these vehicles.

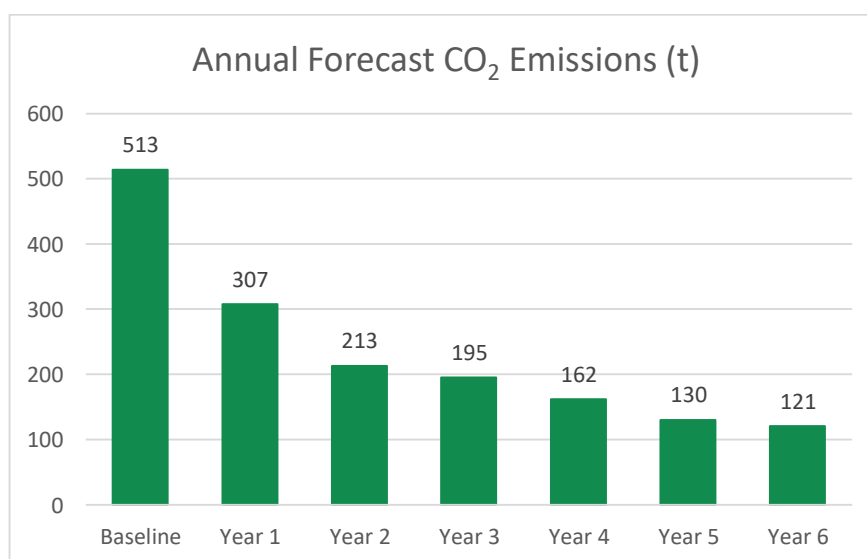
Type	Fuel Type
Small Van, Medium Van (Non-Towing), Large Van (Non-Towing), 3.5T Dropside,	Electric
Medium & large van (Towing), small & large sweeper, 4x4 Crew, specialised vehicles, box van, & 26T RCV	HVO
14T & 36T Hook Loader	HVO or Hydrogen

At present, these vehicles were diesel fuelled and while some vehicles could immediately change to HVO, others would transfer across at the scheduled

vehicle replacement (purchase) time. The graph below shows how the vehicle fuel mix would change over the next six years as replacement vehicles are purchased.



This mix of fuel types would result in a 76% annual decrease in CO₂ emissions within 6 years as shown below:



Over the next six years the cost of planned vehicle replacements as part of the normal fleet replacement programme would be:

- Diesel fuelled vehicles - £5.9 million of capital expenditure;
- Low emission vehicles - £6.8 million (including charging/fuelling infrastructure).

To date Council had allocated £2.7 million capital spend for fleet replacement expenditure over the next two years but an additional £630,000 funds would be required to allocated during the 2024-25 estimate process if the low emission vehicles were to be purchased. This equates to £157,500 additional MRP (Marginal Revenue Provision) to be budgeted for in 24/25.

Proposed by Alderman Bradley

Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

A decision is delayed until the Corporate Workshop when further data on whole life costs of the vehicles could be presented.

AMENDMENT

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor McAuley that

the additional funds of £630,000 for capital spend for fleet replacement expenditure over the next two years to purchase low emission vehicles be approved.

On the amendment being put to the meeting, 11 Members voted in favour, 4 against and 0 abstentions and it was agreed as the substantive proposal.

On the substantive proposal being put to the meeting 15 Members voted in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions and it was unanimously agreed that

the additional funds of £630,000 for capital spend for fleet replacement expenditure over the next two years to purchase low emission vehicles be approved.

ACTION BY: Lynda Gregg, Transport & Contracts Manager

5.13 WM/WM/40 CONSULTATION ON NORTHERN IRELAND'S 2030 AND 2040 EMISSIONS REDUCTION TARGETS AND FIRST THREE CARBON BUDGETS

The Northern Ireland Executive Office were seeking views on the 2023 and 2040 Emissions Reduction Targets, the first three Carbon Budgets and the Climate Change Committee (CCC) Advice report (The Path to a Net Zero Northern Ireland).

The consultation proposed 2030 and 2040 emissions reduction targets and five yearly 'carbon budgets'. These carbon budgets were legally-binding limits on the total amount of greenhouse gases that could be emitted in Northern Ireland for a five-year period and provide a way to benchmark Northern Ireland's progress in meeting climate goals.

- 2030 target - 48% emissions reduction by 2030 against the baseline;
- 2040 target - 77% emissions reduction by 2040 against the baseline;
- Carbon budget 1 2023-2027 - to be set at a level that has a 33% average annual reduction compared to baseline;
- Carbon budget 2 2028-2032 - to be set at a level that has a 48% average annual reduction compared to baseline;
- Carbon budget 3 2033-2037 - to be set at a level that has a 62% average annual reduction compared to baseline.

This consultation also presents an opportunity to seek views on the CCC Advice report which provides emission reduction pathways for the sectors specified in

the Act. The sectors in the Act were Agriculture, Land Use and Land Use Change, including Forestry (LULUCF), Transport, Buildings, Energy Production and Supply, Business and Industrial Processes, Waste Management and Fisheries.

The CCC's report sets out how best Northern Ireland could achieve its emissions reduction targets. The CCC advice was modelled based on a series of pathways/scenarios. This includes an updated Balanced Pathway (83% to net zero by 2050), supplemented with a 'Stretch Ambition' scenario (93% to net zero by 2050) and two 'Speculative' options (100% to net zero by 2050).

Whilst the Emission Reduction Targets and Carbon Budgets impact a range of Council activities, much of the advice provided by the CCC were outside the remit of our services. In addition, the Climate Act stated aim is 100% to net zero by 2050 and as stated above some of the recommended pathways/scenarios do not meet this target. The full consultation document was available at this link (www.daera-ni.gov.uk/consultations/carbonbudget).

Members may wish to respond on a corporate, individual, or party political basis.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and agreed that

Members respond on an individual or Party Political basis.

NO ACTION

5.14 WM/S/002 TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR OPERATIONS WORKING GROUP

Council operates both a Sustainability (previously climate action) Working Group and the Fairtrade Steering Group to ensure the delivery of aims of campaigns and nominations were required for these groups.

The Sustainability Working Group was comprised of a representative from each party and oversees the development of sustainability initiatives and the delivery of the Climate Action Plan. The Terms of Reference for the Sustainability Working Group were circulated. Previously the minutes from this Group were approved by the Policy and Governance Committee but following the creation of the Sustainability section, the Operations Committee would review the actions of the Group. The Group meets on a quarterly basis.

Antrim and Newtownabbey was an accredited Fairtrade Borough and part of the requirements of this accreditation was the provision of a Fairtrade Steering Group. Previously the Group comprised of a minimum of three Elected Members together with local community, business, and education representatives. The Group oversees activities during the annual Fairtrade Fortnight when a series of events and promotions highlight the Borough's continued support of Fairtrade. This Group usually meets at least 3 times per year. The Terms of Reference for the Fairtrade Steering Group was circulated.

It was proposed that Parties provide their nominations to the Sustainability Working Group to the Director of Sustainability by 18 September 2023 and volunteers for Fairtrade Steering Group be nominated at the Operations meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

- 1. the terms of reference for the Sustainability Working Group and Fairtrade Steering Group be approved**
- 2. the Party Representatives are provided for the Sustainability Working Group by 18 September 2023;**
- 3. nominations are made for the Fairtrade Steering Group.**

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

5.15 PK/GEN/034/VOL4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUB GROUP

At the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 2 August 2023, Members considered a detailed report. Arising from the meeting a series of recommendations were made for consideration by the Operations Committee and the minutes of the meeting were circulated

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 2 August 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

5.16 L/SAP/008/VOL3 SPORTS AWARDS WORKING GROUP MINUTES

Members were reminded that a working group made up of elected members and community sports representatives was established to progress Council's Sports Awards event. The Awards were scheduled for Wednesday 14 November 2023 at Theatre at the Mill. The minutes of the first meeting of the full working group were circulated.

Nominations for the 2023 Sports Awards were now open via Council website and the deadline for entries being 21st September 2023.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the minutes of the Sports Awards Working Group meeting of 9 August 2023 be approved.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Manager and Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager.

6 ITEMS FOR NOTING

6.1 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORTS - PARKS AND LESIURE

As agreed at the August Council meeting, quarterly budget reports would be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group. All financial reports would be available to all Members. A short presentation outlining the Operations Summary Budget Report was provided by the Director of Parks and Leisure who then responded to Members queries.

The overall financial position of the Council would be presented to the Policy & Governance Committee. Budget reports for Parks and Leisure for Quarter 1 – April to June 2023 were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.2 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORTS – WASTE MANAGEMENT & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

As agreed at the August Council meeting, quarterly budget reports would be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group. All financial reports would be available to all Members. A short presentation outlining the Operations Summary Budget Report was provided by the Director of Sustainability who then responded to Members queries.

The overall financial position of the Council would be presented to the Policy & Governance Committee. Budget reports for Sustainability for Quarter 1 – April to June 2023 were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.3 PT/CI/038 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24 - PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 1 – OPERATIONS

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

Members were 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.

A first quarter progress report for Parks, Leisure, Waste Management, Cleansing Services, Environmental Health and Sustainability was circulated for Members' information.

A short presentation on performance reports was provided by the Director of Parks and Leisure and the Director of Sustainability.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.4 EH/EHS/FC/012 DRINKING WATER QUALITY REPORT FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Members were reminded that Northern Ireland Water produced an annual report (circulated) to demonstrate water quality for each council in Northern Ireland based on the level of compliance for the physical, chemical and microbiological standards as laid out in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

For monitoring purposes, Northern Ireland Water's supply area is divided into Water Supply Zones, each of which supplies a maximum of 100,000 people. There are 7 Supply Zones in the Borough.

Water samples are taken randomly from customer taps in each Supply Zone and planned samples at Supply Points. In summary, the findings for the Borough were:

- Compliance rate at the customer tap was 99.9% compliant in 2022
- A minor exceedance of iron was found in Dunmore Point Antrim and Dorisland Whiteabbey on 3 occasions out of 104 samples taken, with the cause being undetermined. Resamples proved satisfactory, requiring no further investigation.

Overall, the report reflects that water quality in the Borough complies with the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (NI) 2017.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.5 EH/PHWB/012 POSITIVE AGEING MONTH

Members were reminded Environmental Health was actively involved in promoting Age Friendly initiatives within our community. A key initiative was the promotion of 'Positive Ageing Month' during October. The aim of Positive Ageing Month was to recognise and celebrate the valuable contributions that older people make to our local community and the wider Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough.

A dedicated booklet for Positive Ageing Month had been created and distributed, available in printed form and electronically. This informative booklet would highlight a range of events and activities scheduled to take place throughout the entirety of October. As well as publicising the booklet on social media, a link to the booklet would be circulated to groups and individuals by email through Council's Community Planning, Health and Wellbeing and Antrim and Newtownabbey Senior Forums databases. The booklet could be accessed starting mid-September through the following link:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/positive-ageing/>

Beyond the events calendar, the booklet would highlight groups that run throughout the year providing residents with an opportunity to explore and potentially engage in new activities. In conjunction with this, sections in the booklet provided by the Council's Parks and Leisure, Community Advice and Libraries NI would encourage individuals to embrace an active lifestyle, engage in learnings and foster meaningful connections.

Throughout Positive Ageing Month, a series of Health and Wellbeing events were planned. These events were tailored to each District Electoral Area (DEA) and would be hosted in local venues, with one event per DEA. Invitations to the events would be extended to the statutory, community and voluntary sectors.

The primary objective of these events would be to inform attendees about the Public Health Agency "Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing Model" offering insights into methods for enhancing or sustaining health and wellbeing. Representatives of community groups affiliated with the respective DEA would provide a brief overview, offering insights into their initiatives and activities. This would give residents the knowledge about the diverse opportunities available nearby, potentially inspiring them to discover and join new groups or activities.

Attendees would also have the opportunity to engage with a variety of stands hosted by, Police Community Safety Partnership (PCSP), Police Service Northern Ireland (PSNI), Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS), Community Advice, Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum and Libraries NI as well as Council's Leisure and Health and Wellbeing teams. Furthermore, residents would be able to avail of blood pressure and weight checks as well as an opportunity to get a free home safety check.

The table below provided the details of each event. Invites would be shared to these events across media platforms and were free to attend. Elected members would also receive invitations to the events within their specific DEA.

Date / Time / Locations:

	DEA	Venue	Date	Time
1	Antrim	Stiles Community Centre	2-10-23	10.30am-12.30pm
2	Glengormley	Lillian Bland Pavilion	6-10-23	10.30am-12.30pm
3	Ballyclare	Ballyclare Town Hall	11-10-23	10.30am-12.30pm
4	Dunsilly	Neillsbrook Community Centre, Randalstown	13-10-23	10am-12.00pm
5	Threemilewater	Mossley Pavilion	17-10-23	10.30am-12.30pm
6	Crumlin	Crumlin Leisure Centre	19-10-23	10.30am-12.30pm
7	Macedon	Valley Leisure Centre	26-10-23	10.30am-12.30pm

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.6 EH/PHWB/012 AGE FRIENDLY NEWSLETTER

Members were reminded that the Environmental Health was actively engaged in work to make the Borough a more Age Friendly environment. The approach taken aligns with the World Health Organisation's (W.H.O) framework comprising eight key domains; Outdoor spaces and buildings, Transport, Housing, Social participation, Respect and social inclusion, Civic participation and employment, Communication and information, Community support and health services.

Our aims were to develop communities where, as people grow older, they could lead independent and healthy lives, while stay engaged in their communities and remain socially connected and physically active.

One significant domain among the W.H.O's eight was Communication and Information. In order to enhance active ageing and sustained connectivity it was vital the residents in our Borough receive timely and practical information.

To fulfil this need, an Age Friendly Newsletter had been introduced:

'News for You, Age Friendly Newsletter, Antrim and Newtownabbey'.

Found at: <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/positive-ageing/>

In the creation of this newsletter, the Age Friendly officer had collaborated closely with partners of the Age Friendly Steering group, namely; Antrim and Newtownabbey Seniors Forum, Public Health Agency, Northern Ireland Housing

Executive and Northern Health and Social Care Trust in order to develop content that meets the communities' interests and needs.

Issued on a quarterly basis, with planned editions each January, April, July and October, each edition aims to highlight key activities running throughout the Borough. It serves as a platform to provide important seasonal safety messages. The newsletter would also contain information about Council activities and a space for Statutory, Community and Voluntary groups to showcase the range of events, services and activities accessible to residents.

The newsletter would be available both as a hard copy and on the Council website and would be promoted through various social media channels. To ensure inclusivity, the newsletter could be requested, in a range of alternative formats including; easy read and larger font versions. Furthermore, we would actively seek feedback following each edition to ensure the newsletter was meeting the needs of the readership.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.7 EH/EHS/CP/003 OFFICE FOR PRODUCT SAFETY & STANDARDS GRANT FUNDING FOR THE CAPACITY & CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAMME IN NORTHERN IRELAND: NON-FOOD PRODUCTS 2022/23

Members were reminded that since 2018, The Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS), the national regulator for product safety, had worked with councils in Northern Ireland to assist with the provision of advice and support to local businesses regarding their product safety responsibilities. This had included a grant funding arrangement either made directly to Council or through a Service Level Agreement with a lead Council.

An offer of grant funding of a maximum amount of £55,000 had been received for eligible expenditure in undertaking funded activities. This would be paid in financial year ending on 31 March 2024 directly to the Council.

The funded activities were listed in Annex 2 of the Agreement (circulated) and were for targeted and prioritised regulatory activity on non-food consumer goods to ensure a robust market surveillance across the UK.

The funding was used by Council to undertake a range of activities on non-food consumer products including to:

- build on previous product safety capacity and capability building work;
- ensure access to enforcement equipment and facilities;
- provide advice and support to local businesses to meet their obligations under product safety legislation for importing and appropriate labelling/marketing of goods;

- define work processes;
- develop officers' understanding of local supply chains and their associated risks;
- ensure adequate prioritisation of effort and resource against OPSS policy and national regulatory interests;
- ad hoc requests for case studies or other additional information.

The funding would be drawn down based on spend on the resource allocated to complete the specified activities above. Most of the work would be based on the 2023/2024 Consumer Safety Liaison Group work-plan and by allocating an existing full time equivalent Environmental Health Officer to this work.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley

Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.8 EH/EHS/LR/007 REVIEW OF DOG CONTROL ORDERS

Members were reminded that within the Borough, Dog Control Orders (DCOs) were currently in place and had proven largely effective in parks and open spaces in controlling the behaviour and activity of dogs.

Following the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 becoming law, both legacy councils introduced Dog Control Orders in 2013 and there were currently 8 in place

<http://www.antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/Residents/Dogs/Dog-Control-Orders>.

The legislation aims to facilitate a safe and harmonious co-existence between people and dogs. Every dog owner has the responsibility to ensure the welfare of their dog and ensure that their dog does not become a nuisance to others who enjoy parks spaces.

While the majority of dog owners are responsible, the Dog Control Orders established guidelines for dogs within a given area offering a balance between (i) areas where they can be off leads, (ii) areas where they are required to be kept on a lead, (iii) or restricted from specific areas.

These orders provide a basis with which to deal more effectively with dog fouling, nuisance dogs and the protection of children and others using our public spaces and facilities.

Section 42 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011, a Dog Control Order could be made in respect of any land which was open to the air and which the public were entitled or permitted to have access.

In the forthcoming months, a review of the existing Dog Control Orders across the Borough would be carried out in light of recent modifications and new additions to some parks. This review would adhere to the protocols outlined in The Dog Control Orders (Procedures) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012. It was envisaged that there would not be substantial changes to the existing control orders that were already in place but that proposed changes would reflect the dynamic surroundings.

Throughout the review process the efficacy of the current DCOs would be evaluated alongside relevant data to determine the necessity for any additional orders. The Council was bound to follow the guidance issued by DAERA:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/guidance-district-councils-dog-control-orders>

This guidance underscores the importance of striking a balance between the interests of dog owners and those impacted by dog related activities. This involves providing dog free zones, particularly for children, while affording dog owners access to areas where they could exercise their pets without undue

constraints. Members were reminded that two dog parks had been provided in recent years which offer dog owners additional spaces to exercise dogs off leads

The process necessitates the need for public consultation, which will identify the land to which the proposal applies, a summary of the order arrangements would be provided and a map depicting the area to which the order applies. All information would be made accessible to the public and a period of 28 days was allowed for visitors and residents to make representations on any proposed changes. The Council must consider representations received within the stipulated notice period. A further report would be brought to Members before the consultation process commences.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

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

Since April 2015, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council had acted as a Sub-Regional Lead Council responsible for the delivery of the Animal Welfare Service across the Northern Region (Mid and East Antrim; Antrim and Newtownabbey; and, Causeway Coast and Glens).

Since the introduction of the legislation in 2011, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) had consistently provided discretionary funding to Councils to deliver the service. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council as a Sub-Regional lead since 2015 had been granted funding by DAERA to deliver the Animal Welfare Service on behalf of the three respective Councils.

In July 2023, the Permanent Secretary for DAERA had written to Solace NI, informing them of a reduced budgetary allocation for 2023/2024. This allocation falls short of the resources needed to deliver all their existing programme commitments and in providing funding to others. DAERA had conveyed that unless this position changes, the Department would be unable to provide the same level of funding that had been available in previous years. Notably, the funding last year for all Councils was £1.2 million, with MEA receiving £350,000 based on service requirements. To bridge the funding gap, MEA had been utilising its own resources to support the three Councils from April 2023 until the present time, operating under the assumption that the Departmental funding would become available. The contribution from the Council to the sub-regional service was estimated to be around £140,000 for 2023/2024.

On the 23 August 2023, the Permanent Secretary for DAERA once more communicated with Councils (circulated) providing further clarity regarding the availability of funding. The communication affirmed that there would be no allocation of funds to Councils in this current financial year. It clarified that

the Department must discharge its own statutory responsibilities within the limits of its budgetary allocation and is unable to support Councils with their statutory responsibilities for non-farmed animal welfare.

As Council had a legal responsibility to provide this animal welfare service to non-farmed animals, there was a commitment to maintain the provision, and Officers were actively exploring potential options with MEA. It was envisaged that proposals for the delivery of the service would be presented at the next Operations Committee meeting.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.10 DIR/OPS/003 PREVENTATIVE MEASURES ON BRIDGES

Following a request at a previous meeting of the Operations Committee that the Department for Infrastructure be contacted regarding suicide prevention measures at bridges, a response had been received, from the Divisional Roads Manager, which was circulated.

Members' requests that a further letter be sent to the Department for Infrastructure expressing disappointment in their response and asking them to reconsider their position, were noted.

Proposed by Councillor McAuley
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the correspondence be noted.

ACTION BY: Vicki Kyles, PA to Director of Parks & Leisure

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A Member raised concerns about green/blue algae on the water in and around Lough Neagh and sought clarification on Council's statutory duty and any associated costs incurred by Council.

The Director of Parks and Leisure responded that those accessing the Lough are notified through signage and social media communications issued to the wider public and agreed to revert back to the Member on any additional costs incurred. He advised that communication had been received from DEARA confirming that the smell coming from the algae was not toxic.

The Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing responded that advice from the Food Standards Agency and Public Health Agency that fish caught on a recreational basis should not be eaten. Commercial fisheries are required to carry out risk assessments to ensure food is safe however there are no

commercial fisheries in the Borough. There are however commercial fishermen who provide fish to registered food business in the Borough and we are providing them with information.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure

An expression of warmth and sympathy was extended to Councillor McWilliam who attended this evenings meeting in the capacity of Vice Chair after the passing of her husband at the end of August.

Tributes were paid to the former Operations Director Geraldine Girvan complimenting her on the great service she provided over her 23 years' in Council.

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed

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

7 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

7.1 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/4/VOL10 Arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

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

- 29 June 2023
- 31 August 2023

Members were reminded that these documents were confidential and may be legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure so therefore Members should not disclose this information to any third party and the information must be kept secure.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

the papers be noted.

NO ACTION

7.2 IN CONFIDENCE PK/PG/006 JOHN STREET PLAYGROUND - PURCHASE OF SITE

Members were advised that the 15-year lease for the playground at John Street, Randalstown expired in May 2023. Initial discussions with the landowner resulted in a provisional offer to extend the lease for a further 15 years at an increased annual rental amount from £[REDACTED] to £[REDACTED].

Members were reminded that when considering this matter at April 2023

Operations Committee, a request was made for the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations to establish the potential for the land to be purchased instead of leased. Negotiations recommenced on that basis with the landowners subsequently agreeing to sell the land at the cost of £[REDACTED]. In line with good practice, Officers requested a sale valuation from Harry Clarke & Co who had also valued the land at £[REDACTED]. If approved, the Minimum Revenue Provision for the purchase would be £[REDACTED] per annum.

In response to a Member's query regarding the lack of play park provision in the Upper Hightown/Mayfield area, the Director of Parks and Leisure explained that this is challenging due to the availability of land in the area and that discussions with a local developer were ongoing with any further update provided at a later date.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
 Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and agreed that

the purchase of the land at John Street Playpark, Randalstown at a cost of £[REDACTED] be approved.

ACTION BY: Deirdre Nelson, Paralegal, Legal Services

7.3 **IN CONFIDENCE** CCS/CEA/013 PK/GEN/197 CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY UPDATE

The burial capacity as at 11 August 2023 across all cemeteries was set out in the table below:

Cemetery	No. of plots remaining	Current Average no. of plots sold PER YEAR (based on 3yr average)	Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)
Carnmoney	0	156	0.0
Ballyclare	624	70	8.9
Rashee	368	9	40.9
Sixmile	2144	60	35.7
Crumlin	430	10	43.0
TOTAL	3566	305	11.69

The estimated burial capacity for the Borough was currently 11.69 years.

Garden of Remembrance Plots/Columbarium (for burial of ashes only)	No. of plots remaining	Average no. of plots sold (based on 3 year average)	Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)
Carnmoney GOR	14	60	0.2
Ballyclare GOR	128	5	25.60
Mallusk	15	1	15.00

Members were reminded that a Garden of Remembrance for Sixmile Cemetery in Antrim had previously been approved, and would provide 160 plots when works were complete in autumn of 2023. Furthermore, Officers remain in correspondence with colleagues in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Belfast City Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council as these authorities were also seeking potential sites for cemetery provision and therefore the potential to work in partnership was being explored.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7.4 IN CONFIDENCE WM/ARC21/009 AWARD OF arc21 BRING BANK SERVICE CONTRACT

In May 2023, tender action was initiated by arc21 on behalf of member Councils based on the requirement for the renewal of the Bring Site Service Contract from 1st October 2023. This contract was required for the collection and processing of materials collected at Bring Sites across the Council Borough.

Tender documentation was issued publically via eTendersni, and advertised through Find A Tender and Local press. The tender was issued on 19th May 2023 and closed on 19th June 2023 at 5pm. As with previous contracts of this nature, the contract was divided into four material lots as follows:

Lot 1: collection and processing of Mixed Glass;

Lot 2: provision of textile collection banks, and collection and processing of Textiles;

Lot 3: collection and processing of Mixed Paper;

Lot 4: collection and processing of Mixed Cans.

The initial contract period was to begin on 1 November 2023 for a period of four years, with an initial option for extension up to two years, and a further optional two years extension to cover for unforeseen circumstances.

The conditions of contract stipulate the need to sort the collected materials for recycling, and for the delivery of service data including tonnages and end destinations for mandatory reporting and duty of care. Contractual conditions also include the provision for Out of Normal Working hours' service and Inspection only/ Inspection and repairs of Glass Banks (Lot 1) and Mixed Cans (Lot 4) when requested by the Council.

Payment arrangements are based on fixed cost service charges or an income fee per tonne, with revenue share built into the contract based on published market prices. All payments and credits would be subject to annual indexation.

Lots 1, 3 and 4 all received one tender submission, whilst Lot 2 received two tender submissions. The results of procurement evaluation identified the

following entities as the successful applicants for each lot, shown in the below table with the tendered cost/income, versus the incumbent entity and cost/income.

Lot	Current Contract	New Contract
1 – Mixed Glass	Enva Northern Ireland Ltd Current charge: £■■■ per tonne	Enva Northern Ireland Ltd Charge: £■■■ per tonne
2 – Textiles	Hotpursuits Enterprises T/A Cookstown Textile Recycling Current income: £■■■ per tonne	Hotpursuits Enterprises T/A Cookstown Textile Recycling Income: £■■■ per tonne
3 – Mixed Paper	McQuillan Environmental Current charge: £■■■ per tonne	McQuillan Environmental Charge: £■■■ per tonne
4 – Mixed Cans	Enva Northern Ireland Ltd Current charge: £■■■ per tonne	Enva Northern Ireland Ltd Charge: £■■■ per tonne

The full tender report was circulated for Members' information.

The current contract had been extended for one month to facilitate the ratification and award of the new contract.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth

Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the award of the arc21 Bring Site Service Contract for a period of 4 years from 1 November 2023, plus options to extend for a further four years, to the following companies by the lots listed below be approved:

Lot 1: Mixed Glass – Enva Northern Ireland Ltd at charge of £■■■ per tonne;

Lot 2: Textiles – Hotpursuits Enterprises T/A Cookstown Textile Recycling at an income of £■■■ per tonne;

Lot 3: Mixed Paper – McQuillan Environmental at a charge of £■■■ per tonne;

Lot 4: Mixed Cans – Enva Northern Ireland Ltd at a charge of £■■■ per tonne.

ACTION BY: Catherine Cunningham, Waste Contracts Manager

The Chairperson took the Supplementary Report at this point of the meeting.

7.5 IN CONFIDENCE PK/PG/005 ACCESS AND INCLUSION FUNDING PROGRAMME 2023/2024

Members were reminded that the Department for Communities (DfC) had administered the Access and Inclusion Funding Programme since the 2018/19. The Programme aimed to promote a more inclusive society by providing grant funding through local councils, enabling disabled people to participate more fully in arts, cultural, and recreational activities.

In the 2020/2021 fiscal year, a total of £120,000 was successfully secured from the Programme. This funding was utilised to create a sensory garden at Hazelbank Park and develop accessibility trails at Valley Park and

Threemilewater Park, with the Council providing matching funds. Furthermore, for the years 2021/2022 and 2022/23 respectively, £27,000 was secured to assist in the development of a new sensory garden adjacent to Antrim Forum and £30,000 for the installation of a Changing Places facility on the site.

For the Programme in the current year, DfC was particularly interested in receiving applications for sensory gardens and accessible equipment for play parks, as well as projects that would positively impact sustainability and address climate change. The maximum contribution from DfC for each project was £30,000, with a 10% contribution required from the Council, and all work must be completed by 31 March 2024.

Officers had identified the following Council projects that could be completed within the given timeframe:

1. Installation of a sensory garden at Memorial Park, Ballyclare;
2. Purchase and installation of additional accessible equipment for play parks.

It was estimated that each of the above projects would cost in the region of £[REDACTED], with Council required to provide a contribution of £3,000 for each.

In addition, Officers had been made aware that two local organisations also intend to submit an application to the fund. While there was no additional funding requirement from Council, the Department asked that Council work closely with any external organisation and submit the application on their behalf. All About Us - ASD Teens, based in Greystone, Antrim, were proposing an extension to their unit to allow for additional services. Parkview Hockey Club based in Doagh, were proposing to install accessible toilet and shower facilities at the clubhouse.

In response to Members' queries the Director of Parks and Leisure clarified that external organisations could avail of this funding opportunity and that applications would be assisted by Council Officers.

A Member's request that Officers inform former Alderman Girvan of the opening to the sensory garden at Memorial Park, Ballyclare, was noted.

Proposed by Councillor Smyth
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and agreed that

- (i) the development of a sensory garden at Memorial Park, Ballyclare, and purchase and installation of accessible play park equipment for selected Council play parks at an estimated cost of £[REDACTED] each with a Council contribution of £3,000 per project be approved; and**
- (ii) the applications of All About Us - ASD Teens, and Parkview Hockey Club to the Access and Inclusion Fund 2023/24 be approved by Council**

ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Parks Development Officer & Ellen Boyd Access and Inclusion Officer

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and agreed

that the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

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

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.

MAYOR

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