



1 February 2023

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 **Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre on Monday 6 February 2023 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

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

**For any queries please contact Member Services:
Tel: 028 9448 1301 or 028 9034 0107**

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 WM/WM/37/VOL2 REVIEW OF WASTE COLLECTION POLICY

The Waste Collection Policy (**enclosed**) has been in place since February 2015 and is reviewed on a regular basis and updated as agreed. The Policy provides a framework for the collection of waste in the Borough and is required to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the service.

Following review, no changes are recommended to the policy. The EQIA screening document has been reviewed and does not require amendment.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Waste Collection Policy 2023 be approved.

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

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

4.2 WM/WM/033 REQUEST FOR ECO-SCHOOLS SUPPORT 2023/24

Council has received a funding request, **enclosed**, from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) for the Eco-Schools Programme for 2023/24. KNIB co-ordinates the Programme, which aims to combine pupils learning with action on improving the environmental performance of the school.

The Eco-Schools Programme is extremely popular in the Borough with 79 schools now registered and of these 47 schools achieving the highest level, Green Flag accreditation. In addition, Ballycraigy and Fairview Primary Schools are recognised as Ambassador Schools.

In 2022-2023 £10,942 in financial support was agreed with many schools engaging with the Council through Eco-school topics such as waste and recycling, biodiversity and climate change. Currently 8 schools across the Borough have participated in the Wheelie Big Challenge workshop to take practical action to improve their school by actioning the 5 Rs – Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle.

A summary of the Eco-Schools engagement in 2021-22 is included (**enclosed**) which shows that three local schools were able to access £7,500 of funding from the Eco-Schools relationship.

The funding request for 2023/24 includes two funding options:

Option 1: Support of the Programme at a cost of £10,942 which includes Wheelie Big Challenge, Eco Schools and core running cost of the programme including a dedicated Field Officer in our Council area and allows schools to access additional funding provided through Eco-Schools for projects such as Wrigley Litter Less campaign.

Option 2: Support for the Eco-Schools Programme at a cost of £2,975 – which includes Eco Schools communication, training and development to all schools in the Borough.

In keeping with Council's commitment to Climate Change and the importance of the school setting in influencing young people's behaviours, Officers are proposing that Option 1 offers the most effective proposition. There may be an opportunity to hold an Eco-Schools Awards Ceremony during the year and this will be considered when required.

Members may wish to note that the funding is matched by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves funding in the amount of £10,942 for the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Eco-Schools Programme including the Wheelie Big Challenge in 2023/24.

Prepared by: Leanne Smits, Waste Operations Manager

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

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Waste Operations

4.3 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – ANTRIM ROAD, TEMPLEPATRICK

A development naming application was received from Martin Canning on behalf of Brayfield Developments regarding the naming of a residential development off Antrim Road, Templepatrick. The development consists of 44 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 developer's application, location map and site plan enclosed.

1. Upton (Hall / View) – Captain Henry Upton purchased the castle in 1625 which is located opposite the site.
2. Norton Hall – Castle Upton was constructed around 1610 by the Norton family.
3. Adam (Hall / View) – Castle Upton was remodelled in the 1780s by Robert Adam.

Members may wish to note that there is currently a development called 'Upton Court' nearby.

In order to rationalise postal numbering, it is requested that officers are given delegated powers to add suffixes to the overall development name if required.

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 Council approves a name for the above development.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

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

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.4 L/GEN/005, PK/GEN/180 SCHEDULE OF CHARGES AND PRICING POLICIES, PARKS AND LEISURE 2023 - 2024

Members are reminded that a review of pricing is normally carried out annually for the Parks and Leisure services. Having carried out a review it is proposed that prices for 2023/2024 remain unchanged. The Schedule of Charges and Pricing Policies are **enclosed**.

The EQIA screening document has been reviewed and does not require amendment.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Schedule of Charges and Pricing Policies for Parks and Leisure for 2023/2024 are approved.

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations and Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

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

4.5 L/LEI/002 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Members are advised that during the third call for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme (November – December 22), a total of 24 applications were submitted. All 24 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	No. of apps.	Budget	Approved spend to date 22/23	No. of apps.	Grants proposed	Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of application)
					(£)	
Capital Grants	1	£20,000	£20,000	0	£0	£0
Grants to Clubs	11	£19,714.28	£10,350	5	£9,308.28	£56
Grants to Athletes	40	£38,993.72	£29,264	8	£8,200	£1,529.72
Grants to Coaches and Officials	16	£1,792	£1,792	2	£0	£0
Sports Event Grant	8	£85,000	£46,326	5	£38,646.68	£27.32
Defibrillator Grant	3	£4,500	£3,000	1	£1,500	£0
Allocation total	79	£170,000	£110,732	21	£57,654.96	£1,613.04
Fitness suite Gold Card	9	20 Applications	4 eligible	3 Applications	3 eligible	11 applications
Total spend to date including this call, if approved £168,386.96						

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

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

4.6 EH/EHS/LR/001 ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING POLICY

Members are reminded that Environmental Health inspects and licences places of Entertainment in the Borough to ensure that required standards of safety are maintained and that there are suitable provisions in place for the effective management of fire, crowd control and other safety risks.

Since the creation of the 11 councils in 2015, the guidance used by the 2 legacy councils has not been reviewed pending the issuing of amended Model Terms, Conditions and Restrictions by the Department for Communities (DfC), which may be specified in Entertainment Licences. In 2022 DfC issued these documents, and as a result, Officers have carried out a review of the Council's policies and procedures for licensing premises in the Borough. Revised Conditions and Management Rules for Places of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment are **enclosed**.

The draft Entertainments Licensing Policy, also **enclosed**, will streamline the application process for customers and ease the administrative burden for both businesses and the Council.

The draft Policy sets out how the Council will regulate and improve the licensing of live entertainment provided in both local venues and outdoor spaces thereby ensuring the safety and wellbeing of local residents and visitors. The Policy has been Equality screened and a Rural Needs Impact assessment completed and these are **enclosed**.

The entertainment licensing regime helps to ensure that undue disturbance to residents in the surrounding areas is prevented. The Policy provides a single set of basic rules to inform the decision making process for entertainment licensing in the Borough to ensure a proportionate and fair approach to processing each entertainment licence application received.

Correspondence was received in December 2022 from DfC as part of its ongoing review of the Entertainments Licensing system. This correspondence, **enclosed**, and the recommendations that it contains have been incorporated into the draft Policy.

Requirements in relation to documentation, consultation with the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) and the Council's Planning Service are also outlined in the correspondence. It also indicates when a noise impact assessment may be required and that an application must be accompanied by the appropriate fee.

In order to direct resources to those premises where there is a greater safety risk and where large crowds are more likely and those events that may give risk to disturbance of local residents, premises are categorised into high, medium and low risk. This helps to determine frequency of inspections required by Council officers and provides a method for practical enforcement/intervention specific to each premises.

All applications for a new Entertainments Licence or variation to an existing licence will be brought to Full Council for decision as normal. Applications for the renewal or transfer of a licence will be dealt with by officers under the Council's Scheme of Delegation. However, where there has been a request to make oral representations to Council in relation to an application, or objections have been received, then the application will be brought to Full Council for a decision.

RECOMMENDATION:

- (i) that the draft Entertainment Licensing Policy and Conditions and Management Rules For Places Of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment be approved together with the Equality Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment.**
- (ii) that the correspondence from the Department for Communities on the Entertainment Licensing Review Recommendations be noted.**

Prepared by: Helen Harper, Deputy Head of Environmental Health (Environment)

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

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.7 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – RELIEF ROAD PHASE 2 - BALLYCLARE

A road naming application has been received from Shane Cooke of Ballyclare Developments Ltd regarding the naming of phase two of the Ballyclare Relief Road.

The naming of phase one of the road was approved as Jubilee Road at the Council meeting in August 2022. Phase one links Templepatrick and Doagh Roads. Phase two, which is a continuation of the road, will link Doagh and Rashee Roads.

The developer has proposed that the approved name for the new section of road space be Jubilee Road, now that the second phase has been completed. The developer's application and site plan are **enclosed**.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval be given for the naming of phase two of the Ballyclare Relief Road as Jubilee Road.

Prepared by: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

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

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan: Director of Operations

4.8 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – RASHEE ROAD, BALLYCLARE

Following consideration of a development naming application at the January meeting of Committee, it was agreed that the application be referred back to the developer.

Members are reminded that a development naming application was received from Justin McClay on behalf of Ballygood Estates Ltd regarding the naming of the residential development off Rashee Road, Ballyclare. The development consists of 150 dwellings, these being a mixture of detached, semi – detached and townhouses. The developer has submitted a new set of options as set out below. The developer's application, location map and site plan are **enclosed**.

1. Mossfield – The site is located in an area which was traditionally known as Moss Road. Historically, residents travelled the road to gather moss from the fields and hillsides to use in their homes for various purposes.
2. Harriers – East Antrim Harriers is a running club based in Ballyclare which was formed in 1907. They have been recognised and honoured for their significant contribution in promoting sport in Ballyclare.

In order to rationalise postal numbering, it is requested that officers are given delegated powers to add suffixes to the overall development name if required.

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 Council approves a name for the above development.

Prepared by: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

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

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.9 EH/EHS/LR/001 ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING FEES 2023-2024

Members are reminded that due to businesses within the Borough having faced an unprecedented period of financial instability as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, Council approved the exemption of the annual fee for the renewal of an Entertainments Licence.

Council initially waived the annual fee for the renewal of an Entertainments Licence for the financial year 2020/2021, and again in May 2021 for the year 2021/2022. The value of the income to Council from these annual fees is around £23,000 per year.

In November 2022, the Department for Communities stated in correspondence to all councils, **enclosed**, that:

'The reduced licence fees have undoubtedly helped ease some of the financial burden for businesses in the hospitality industry, however, with the removal of all remaining COVID-19 restrictions earlier this year, licence holders will by April 2023 have had a year to get back on a normal trading footing. The Department is of the view that there is no need to continue with this easement beyond the end of the 2022/23 financial year and therefore with effect from 6 April 2023 fees for renewal entertainment licences will revert to pre-April 2021 levels.'

RECOMMENDATION: that fees for Entertainment Licences are reinstated from 6th April 2023.

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

Agreed and approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.10 L/GEN/077 PITCH STRATEGY

Members are reminded that in June 2021, Council approved the development of a pitch strategy, in line with Council's Recovery Plan. Subsequently Officers appointed Strategic Leisure Limited to complete the Strategy as work had already been undertaken through a Sport Northern Ireland funded initiative for all 11 councils in 2016 relating to playing pitch assessments.

The updated strategy included identification of over/under-supply, gaps in provision, key issues to be addressed, as well as stakeholder consultations, audit, benchmarking and final recommendations. The final version of the Pitch Strategy is **enclosed** for approval.

RECOMMENDATION: that approval be given for the Pitch Strategy.

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations and Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

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

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 WM/WM/040 CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT CIRCULAR ECONOMY STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

The Department for the Economy (DfE) is seeking views on the draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland. The draft Strategy sets out a vision that by 2050, Northern Ireland will have an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy where business, people and planet flourish, with responsible production and consumption at its core.

The overarching target for the Strategy is to halve Northern Ireland's annual material footprint per person, currently 16.6 tonnes, to 8 tonnes by 2050, which is what the United Nations recommends people need to live sustainably. The draft Strategy sets out how this can be achieved through measures like:

- switching to materials that can be reused;
- increasing use of fuels that can be replenished;
- designing things to be kept in use for longer and reducing waste.

The Circular Economy impacts a range of Council sections and Waste Operations Officers will co-ordinate internally and with colleagues from the other councils to draft a response which will be presented to March operations for comment. The consultation document is available on the following link, <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/circular-economy-strategy-northern-ireland> with the closing date for submission 20 March 2023.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

5.2 WM/WM/037/VOL2 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTIONS

Members are reminded that in 2022 collection points for the donation of good quality pre-loved toys for families for Christmas operated at each of the five Household Recycling Centres in partnership Habitat for Humanity.

Following from the success of a pilot in 2020 and increased collections in 2021, it was recognised that there was a significant demand and need for the scheme. Collections were brought forward this year and started in November 2022, allowing more time for residents to donate pre-loved toys. As in previous years, the collected toys were repaired, cleaned and sold on at reduced prices in Habitat for Humanity's ReStore shops and in addition, two pop-up shops were established at Rathcoole and Muckamore in conjunction with the Community Planning team.

Habitat for Humanity were delighted with the quality, range and types of toys that were donated and in total 6,235 toys were donated, providing toys for children in many families across the Borough and diverting over 4.4 tonnes of waste from landfill, doubling from last year's collections and diversion rates.

Any toys remaining after the Christmas period have been donated by Habitat for Humanity to local groups identified by the Community Planning team, including play-groups, nurseries and Women's Aid, to ensure that all toys donated reached children in the Borough.

Due to the demonstrated need for the initiative and the growing success, collections will be arranged again in 2023 in partnership with Community Planning, commencing in November.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Waste Operations

5.3 WM/WM/040 GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME CONSULTATION

In June 2021, the UK Government, the Welsh Government and Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in Northern Ireland consulted on the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for single use drinks containers. The aim of the DRS will be to assist with the UK's move towards a circular economy with resources protected and kept in use for as long as possible and waste is minimised.

Council responded at the time of the consultation and our views have been considered, along with others, and the Governments response has been published (**enclosed**). The main points of the Governments response are:

The key highlights from the response are:

- The Deposit Return Scheme will be introduced from October 2025;
- Single-use drinks containers from 50ml to 3 litre containers (All-in) will be in scope of the Deposit Return Scheme;
- Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) bottles, steel cans and aluminium cans will be included for England, Northern Ireland, and Wales;
- Glass bottles will be included for Wales only;
- Retailers selling in scope containers in store will be required to host a return point, where consumers can return the empty container and be given their deposit refund, subject to some specific exemptions that retailers can apply for. Where containers are sold online, we intend to require large grocery retailers to offer consumers a takeback service for those containers;
- Containers sold in a closed loop environment, such as in pubs, hotels, restaurants and cafes, then the retailer will not be obligated to pass on the deposit to the consumer where the drink in the container is consumed on site.
- A Deposit Management Organisation (DMO) will be appointed to manage overall operation of the Deposit Return Scheme;
- The DMO will be responsible for setting the deposit level;
- Local authorities can collect the drinks containers that end up under their management and receive the full unredeemed deposit;
- Collection (not recycling) targets set at 70% in year 1, 80% in year 2 and 90% in year 3, for each nation. DMO will be fined if it doesn't meet collection targets. Materials targets from year 3 minimum of 85% collection rate.

As waste is a devolved issue in the UK, the separate Governments have introduced differing regulations in relation to DRS. In addition, Republic of Ireland is also introducing a similar scheme and main points of all the schemes are set out in the table below:

	Northern Ireland	England	Wales	Scotland	Republic of Ireland
Start Date	October 2025	October 2025	October 2025	August 2023	February 2024
Materials in Scope	Drinks Containers made of Plastic (PET), Steel, & Aluminium	Drinks Containers made of Plastic (PET), Steel, & Aluminium	Drinks Containers made of Plastic (PET), Steel, Aluminium, & Glass	Drinks Containers made of Plastic (PET), Steel, Aluminium, & Glass	Drinks Containers made of Plastic (PET), Steel, & Aluminium
Size of In Scope Containers	50ml to 3L Plastic & Metal Drinking Containers	50ml to 3L Plastic & Metal Drinking Containers	50ml to 3L Plastic, Metal, & Glass Drinking Containers	50ml to 3L Plastic, Metal, & Glass Drinking Containers	150ml to 3L Plastic & Metal Drinking Containers
Deposit Management Organisation	DMO for England & NI	DMO for England & NI	DMO for Wales	DMO for Scotland	DMO for Ireland
Deposit Rate	TBC	TBC	TBC	£0.20	15c - 150ml to 500ml inclusive; 25c - 500mls to 3 litres

The areas highlighted are the elements of other schemes that aren't the same as those planned for Northern Ireland.

DRS has an implication for Council recycling services as it may result in residents removing DRS applicable drinking containers from kerbside recycling schemes. Digital reclaim systems are being considered to allow the householder to obtain their deposit from their household while still using the Council kerbside services, although an agreed mechanism has not been identified.

The legislation to introduce DRS is being developed and a further update will be provided to Members as required.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Waste Operations

5.4 EH/PHWB/005/VOL 2 COST OF LIVING OIL CLUBS AND OIL STAMPS UPDATE

Following discussion regarding oil stamps and oil clubs at the Corporate workshop, an update on both is set out below.

The Council's Oil Stamp Scheme continues to be a popular way for residents to budget for their heating oil. In the period April to December 2021, a total of £82,000 worth of stamps were sold in the Borough. This rose to £132,500 for the same period in 2022, an increase of 62%.

The Council currently has 37 oil stamp retailers signed up to the scheme in the Borough and within the last six months, 4 new retailers have signed up. These include Boyd's Mace, Roguey Road and Main Street, Toomebridge; Centra, Islandbawn and Muckamore Credit Union.

Northern Ireland households are receiving £600 to help with their energy bills with distribution between 16 January and 28 February 2023. Residents can use this to purchase oil stamps at any of the participating oil stamp retailers.

A current list of oil stamp retailers across the Borough can be accessed at:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/oil-stamps/oil-stamp-retailers/>

Members are also reminded that there are a number of oil clubs operating across the Borough. These clubs, which were established by local community groups, co-ordinate orders for domestic heating oil in the local area and are able to negotiate discounts with the oil suppliers by buying in bulk. The clubs are an effective way of helping communities to purchase heating oil at a reduced cost and the Council's oil stamps can be used as payment. The clubs currently operating are Burnside (Burnside and Doagh), Duneane (Toome), Monkstown (operating in a 1.5 mile radius of Monkstown) and Ollardale, Ballyclare.

Details of all established oil clubs can be found at:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/oilstamps/>

In addition to community groups or groups of residents setting up their own groups, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive runs a regional Oil Buying Network about which residents can find more information at:

<https://www.nihe.gov.uk/community/ni-energy-advice/oil-buying-network>

Members are also reminded that the Environmental Health team is supporting residents through the recently launched booklet 'Warm and Well' which can be accessed via the Council's website at:

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/residents-community-information/cost-of-living/>. Hard copies of the booklet are also available from Civic Centres and Leisure Centres.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

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

Agreed by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.5 L/LEI/SD/012 PHYSICAL ACTIVITY REFERRAL SCHEME (PARS)

Members are reminded that Council have a contract with the Public Health Agency (PHA) for the provision of a Physical Activity Referral Scheme (PARS).

Correspondence has been received (**enclosed**) to advise that the contract will not cease on 31st March 2023 as previously notified, and will continue into 2023/24, recognising the challenging environment that providers are currently having to operate in and operational costs. This will allow Council to plan services for 2023/2024.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

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

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

5.6 PK/BIO/046 TREE PLANTING GRANTS 2022

Members are reminded that in 2021, as part of the "One Million Trees" programme, funding was secured from the Department of Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA) Small Woodland Grants programme, with a total of 6,185 native tree species planted on various Council-owned lands throughout the Borough.

Funding (at 75%) was also secured at that time from the Woodland Trust's More Hedges and More Wood Grants Schemes. The letter of offer was then withdrawn due to tree supply shortages.

These applications were resubmitted to the Woodland Trust in December 2022, and funding has now been secured for 300m of new native hedgerow to be created at the Threemilewater Park (3,000 whips and 50 large trees), and for 0.2 hectares (800 trees) of new woodland to be created at the Valley Park on lands adjacent to Longlands.

DAERA also made a call for applications, under its "Small Woodland Grants Scheme" for tree planting works in 2022. Officers reviewed the list of possible sites that were identified in liaison with DEA members, however, none of the remaining locations fulfil the criteria for this grants programme of being at least 0.2 hectares in size. A further review of Council land will be carried out by Officers for future consideration.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

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

5.7 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 are reminded that since 2018, The Office for Product Safety & Standards (OPSS), the national regulator for product safety based at Westminster, has worked with councils in Northern Ireland to enable them to undertake market surveillance and provide advice and support to local businesses regarding their product safety responsibilities as part of the UK's exit from the European Union. This has included a grant funding arrangement either made directly to individual Councils or through a Service Level Agreement with a lead Council.

Whilst there has been a delay in awarding grants for the period 1 July 2022 to 31 March 2023, an offer of grant funding of a maximum amount of £55,000 has been received for eligible expenditure in undertaking funded activities. This will be paid in financial year ending on 31 March 2023 directly to the Council.

The funded activities are listed in Annex 2 of the Agreement **enclosed** and are for targeted and prioritised regulatory activity on non-food consumer goods to ensure robust market surveillance across the UK.

The funding is 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 will be drawn down based on spend on the resource allocated to complete the specified activities. Most of the work has already been completed in the 2022/2023 work-plan by allocating an existing full time equivalent Environmental Health Officer.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

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

Agreed by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.8 EH/PHWB/013 COMMUNITY RESUSCITATION – AUTOMATED EXTERNAL DEFIBRILLATORS

Members are reminded that since 2019 the Health and Wellbeing team have continued to work with the Northern Ireland Ambulance Service (NIAS) and other stakeholders to raise awareness of community resuscitation and access to Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs).

Across the United Kingdom every year, there are approximately 30,000 out of hospital cardiac arrests. According to the British Heart Foundation, less than 1 in 10 people survive a cardiac arrest if it happens outside hospital. Performing cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can double or triple the chance of someone surviving an out of hospital cardiac arrest.

Northern Ireland has a Community Resuscitation Strategy, aimed at increasing the survival rate of those who suffer an out of hospital cardiac arrest. The objectives include raising public awareness, CPR training and improving the availability of and access to AEDs across Northern Ireland. The Strategy further promotes awareness of the *Survival Chain* as a series of necessary immediate steps to save the life of someone having a cardiac arrest:

1. Call 999 for assistance
2. Commence CPR
3. Access the nearest AED

The Circuit is the United Kingdom's new national defibrillator network, which pinpoints the location of defibrillators. This network is key in making sure that, should a cardiac arrest occur, the nearest working defibrillator can be accessed quickly. As defibrillators are registered, their location and status is instantly synchronised with the emergency services' systems. If AEDs are not registered with the network, then the emergency services will not be aware of where they are or how to access them. The Circuit is therefore vital in ensuring that people on the scene of a cardiac arrest can get to the nearest working AED quickly, as the 999 operator can identify where the nearest device is situated.

The Council has 26 AEDs in the Borough and these are currently being registered with the new network. It is planned that Health and Wellbeing staff will support community groups and sports organisations that have received funding from Council to purchase a defibrillator, to register their device on The Circuit which can be accessed via the following link - <https://www.thecircuit.uk/>.

An Action Plan for increasing awareness, access to defibrillators and to improve community resuscitation skills is also being prepared and will be brought to a future meeting of the Operations Committee.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

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

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

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

5.9 PBS/PS/001 SHORT TERM ENERGY ACTION PLAN – MORE SUSTAINABLE ACTION UPDATE

Following the short term Energy Action Plan - More Sustainable Action, being considered at the December meeting of Council following discussions at the Corporate Workshops, an update is **enclosed** for Members' information.

In summary, the Energy Champions have been appointed and baseline electricity usage has been provided with a target to reduce consumption by up to 5%, in line with the Corporate Improvement Plan, **enclosed**. We are exploring providing similar baseline information for gas and electricity. Usage will be monitored and reported quarterly. In addition, pop up stands have been put in place in key reception areas, posters are also in place in the top 5 energy using sites and are being rolled out across the remainder. Individual building action plans are also underway.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations