



31 December 2025

Committee Chairperson: Councillor B Webb

Committee Vice-Chairperson: Councillor H Magill

Committee Members: Aldermen – P Bradley, L Clarke and M Cosgrove

Councillors – J Burbank, S Cosgrove, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, M Goodman, N Kelly, A McAuley, T McGrann, V McWilliam and A O'Lone

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Policy and Governance Committee will be held in the **Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre on Tuesday 6 January 2026 at 6.30pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Richard Baker".

Richard Baker, GM MSc
Chief Executive, Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

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

For any queries, please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301/028 9034 0107

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

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**REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE
POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING ON
TUESDAY 6 JANUARY 2026**

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 FI/FIN/11 ESTIMATES UPDATE PRESENTATION

1. Purpose

An update on the 2026/27 Estimates for the Organisation Development, Finance and Governance and Chief Executive's Directorates and Capital Financing will be presented at the meeting.

A summary of the financial position for the 2025/26 financial year and the current financial estimates for 2026/27 are **enclosed.**

2. Recommendation

It is recommended that the presentation be noted.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

Agreed by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 FI/FA/6 MINIMUM REVENUE PROVISION POLICY 2026/27

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide updates and obtain approvals for the Council's future financial planning and treasury management activities as required by the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011.

2. Background

Members are reminded that under the requirements of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011 and the Prudential Code, the Council is required to have regard to a number of reports and to approve a range of indicators and strategies prior to the prescribed date for striking the rates on 15 February 2026.

Under Regulation 6 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, Councils have a statutory requirement to charge to their general fund an amount of Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) which it considers to be 'prudent' in respect of the financing of capital expenditure.

A copy of the Council's MRP Policy 2026/27 is **enclosed** along with relevant screening forms **enclosed** for information.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) Policy 2026/27 be approved.

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

Agreed by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

4.2 FIN/GEN/2 COUNCIL RESERVES POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to approve the Council Reserves Policy (enclosed).

2. Background

Council maintains a number of reserves that are categorised as 'usable' and 'unusable'. Unusable reserves are maintained for statutory purposes and proper accounting practice. Usable reserves comprise General Reserves and various other reserves that have a specific purpose. It is important that General Reserves are maintained at an appropriate level to provide:

- a working balance;
- a contingency for unexpected events; and
- a means of building up funds to meet an expected requirement.

A listing of the current value, adequacy and use of all Council reserves is described in the policy.

All relevant screening has been completed and is enclosed for information.

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council Reserves Policy be approved.

Prepared by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Agreed by and Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

4.3 G-LEG-11 SURVEILLANCE CAMERA POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the updated surveillance Camera Policy (enclosed).

2. Main report

The review of the Policy by Officers did not entail major changes to the substance of the Policy. The following is a summary of the changes made to the Policy: updating the request forms; legislative updates; changes to Officer job titles; and reference to technology changes.

3. Governance

This policy has been equality screened, a copy of which is enclosed.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the updated Surveillance Camera Policy be approved.

Prepared by: Deirdre Nelson, Paralegal

Agreed by and Approved by: Paul Casey BL, Borough Lawyer (Legal, Land, Governance and Policy)

4.4 G-LEG-14/560 REQUESTS FROM NIE NETWORKS TO CARRY OUT WORKS ON COUNCIL LAND

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to inform Members about the requests from NIE Networks for access to Council land to carry out works at Springfarm Road, Antrim subject to them agreeing to the following (maps enclosed).

2. Introduction/Background

Officers have received two requests from NIE Networks to carry out works on Council land at Springfarm Road, Antrim. The requests from NIE Networks to carry out works are part of the upgrading of the existing electricity network and will ensure a more robust and resilient network within the Council area.

3. The proposed works

NIE Networks propose to remove a large section of 33000-volt overhead line currently crossing the playing fields at Springfarm Road, Antrim. This section of overhead line will then be replaced with 33000-volt underground cable, part of which will be on Council land. To facilitate these works, NIE Networks need to secure with Council an easement and the location of the easement is hatched green on the **enclosed** map.

An independent valuation was undertaken by Land and Property Services (LPS) who were appointed by NIE Networks to act as a 'fair and honest broker.' LPS have assessed the value of the proposed easement at £2,000.

NIE Networks also propose re-positioning the double pole, numbered 338 on the **enclosed** map, plus 2 stay wires on Council land as the underground cable will need this to connect to. NIE Networks have assured officers that the re-positioning of the double pole will be well away from the playing pitches that are currently on site. To facilitate these works, a wayleave agreement will be required with Officers from Parks, Facilities and Capital Development having said they have no issues with the works being undertaken on Council land.

The works are scheduled to commence Monday 13th April 2026 and will last for approximately 2 weeks.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that Members approve the requests from NIE Networks for access to Council land to carry out works at Springfarm Road, Antrim subject to them agreeing to the following:

- (a) A Grant of Easement is agreed between the parties.**
- (b) A Wayleave Agreement is agreed between the parties.**
- (c) Indemnify the Council for any liabilities associated with the works.**

Prepared by: Deirdre Nelson, Paralegal

Agreed by and Approved by: Paul Casey BL, Borough Lawyer (Legal, Land, Governance and Policy)

4.5 CCS/EDP/025 DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGN APPLICATIONS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to approve and note the Dual Language Street Sign applications as follows:

Stage 1

- No applications be noted

Stage 2

- Arthur Crescent, Newtownabbey, BT36 7AL be approved

Stage 3

- No applications be noted

2. Background

Members are reminded that in accordance with the Dual Language Street Sign Policy, adopted by Council on 30 May 2022 (**enclosed**), the following update outlines the current status of applications received.

3. Application Update

STAGE 1: PETITION VERIFICATION - there are no applications at Stage 1.

STAGE 2: RESIDENTS CANVASS - there is one application at Stage 2.

1. ARTHUR CRESCENT, BT36 7AL

The occupants of the above streets have been canvassed and meet the two thirds or more in favour of the erection of the second language street signs.

STAGE 3: STREET SIGN INSTALLATION – there are no applications at Stage 3.

Maps and costs are **enclosed** for information.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the Dual Language Street Sign applications at:

Stage 1

- No applications be noted.

Stage 2

- Arthur Crescent, Newtownabbey, BT36 7AL be approved

Stage 3

- No applications be noted.

Prepared by: Claire Webb, Accessibility and Inclusion Officer

Agreed by and Approved by: Helen Hall, Director of Organisation
Development (Interim)

4.6 PT/CI/071 CORPORATE PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2026/27 DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend to Members to approve the draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27 for consultation.

2. Background

Members are 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.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Annually, the Council produces a draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan for consultation. This sets out a range of robust performance targets, along with identified improvement objectives and a number of Statutory Performance Targets.

4. Key Points

The draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27 (enclosed) sets out a range of 7 Statutory targets, 6 improvement objectives and 37 performance targets.

The draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27 is subject to a 12-week public consultation, which will commence on 2 February 2026, for the purpose of obtaining feedback on improvement objectives from stakeholders.

A summary of the consultation responses will be presented for Members' information at the June 2026 Policy and Governance Committee. The feedback from the consultation will be considered for incorporation into the Plan prior to the publication of the final approved Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27, which will be published on the Council's website by 30 June 2026.

5. Section 75 Equality Screening

The Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27 has been equality screened, a copy of which is enclosed for information.

6. Recommendation

It is recommended that the draft Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2026/27 for consultation be approved.

Prepared by: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

Agreed by: Katherine Young, Organisation Development and Employee Engagement Manager

Approved by: Helen Hall, Director of Organisation Development (Interim)

5 ITEM FOR NOTING

5.1 G/MSMO/41 MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS (JUNE 2025 – NOVEMBER 2025)

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of Members' attendance for each of the Council meetings and Committee Member attendance for each of the Committee meetings, from June 2025 to November 2025, prior to publication on the Council's website.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are advised that in February 2017 at the Policy and Governance Committee meeting it was agreed that monthly attendance records for each of the Council and Committee meetings would be summarised on a six-monthly basis and published on the Council's website.

At the Policy and Governance Committee meeting in September 2024 it was further agreed that the summary attendance sheet would be updated to record in person and remote attendance at meetings.

A summary sheet has been prepared showing the total attendance for each of the Council and Committee meetings for the period 1 June 2025 to 30 November 2025 (**enclosed**).

3. Recommendation

It is recommended that the summary sheet recording Members' attendance for each of the Council meetings and Committee Member attendance for each of the Committee meetings for the period from 1 June 2025 to 30 November 2025 be noted and published on Council's website.

Prepared by: Member Services

Agreed by: Liz Johnston, Deputy Director of Governance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance and Governance

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

Any Other Relevant Business (AORB) may be taken at this point.