



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 6 SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair:** Alderman M Girvan
- Members Present:** Aldermen - F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, J McGrath and J Smyth
Councillors - A Bennington, R Foster, J Gilmour, L Irwin, N Kelly, J Montgomery, R Swann and R Wilson
- Non Committee Members:** Councillors – P Dunlop, A McAuley, N Ramsay, S Ross and B Webb
- In Attendance:** John Fullerton - Director, Gravis Planning
Oliver Watts - Project Manager, Translink
Andy Musgrove – Senior Programme Manager, Babcock
- Officers Present:** Deputy Chief Executive of Operations (Interim) - G Girvan
Deputy Director of Operations (Leisure & Parks) - M McDowell
Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Building Control and Property) (Interim) - C Todd
Deputy Director of Operations (Waste and Fleet) – M Lavery
ICT System Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Officer - S Boyd

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

In order to protect public health during the current COVID-19 emergency it was not possible to allow the public or the press to physically attend the meeting. The public and the press can access those parts of the meeting which they are entitled to attend via livestream (a link to which is on the Council website). The meeting minutes and audio recording would be published on the Council's website.

1 APOLOGIES

Councillor AM Logue

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 DIR/OPS/003 PRESENTATION BY TRANSLINK

The Chairperson welcomed representatives from Gravis Planning, Translink and Babcock to the meeting via Zoom.

John Fullerton, Director, Gravis Planning, Oliver Watts, Project Manager, Translink, and Andy Musgrove, Senior Programme Manager, Babcock, provided an update to Members, as part of their wider Communications Plan, on their refurbishment of the existing rail infrastructure in Whiteabbey, and, responded to Members' questions.

Following a number of issues raised by some Members Mr Watts indicated that; the planned Network Utilisation Strategy Consultation which would address the issue of halts would be shared with Members and the request for an improved timetable following completion of the works would be raised with their Operations Team.

In relation to other queries it was confirmed that any stones from the removal of a bridge would be re-used by Translink at other locations and that any surplus may be made available to Council for use in local projects. In response to a query on the reinstatement of a wall and access at Whitehouse Park, the Member was reassured that this matter would be addressed.

The Chairperson and some Members commended Translink on their on-going and effective engagement with local community groups with regard to the works being carried out and thanked the representatives for their presentation, following which they left the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 EH/PHWB/003 AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME – SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENT

Members were reminded that the Affordable Warmth Scheme is funded by the Department for Communities, and aims to support the most vulnerable in the community in terms of heating and energy efficiency.

The Affordable Warmth scheme aims to mitigate the effects of fuel poverty in households living in severe or extreme fuel poverty. It targets low income households in eligible private housing and delivers home energy efficiency improvement measures to these qualifying households.

The Department for Communities has developed an interim Service Level Agreement (SLA) (circulated) for 2021/22. Either party, can terminate the SLA with three months' notice in writing. A longer term SLA between Councils and

Department for Communities is to be developed for 2022 pending a report from the Business Consultancy Services (BCS).

The Service Level Agreement is based on an annual budget of £16m and this will translate to 3,555 homes across the region being assisted and 5,333 energy efficiency measures provided.

Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement, Local Councils are responsible for the targeting of households which are most in need, determining eligibility for the Scheme and submitting regular referrals to Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Under the terms of the Service Level Agreement, Council is committed to undertake the following:

- With the consent of the targeted householder, conduct a survey to collate and verify financial information to confirm eligibility for the scheme.
- Contribute to the objectives and performance indicators by maintaining a steady rate of 30 +/- 3 completed first time surveys to their local NIHE Grants Office monthly. This equates to approximately 360 annually.
- Endeavour to ensure the number of self-referrals do not exceed 20%.

The Affordable Warmth Scheme is built on successful partnership working and The Service Level Agreement cements this approach.

Proposed by Alderman McGrath
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed

that the Service Level Agreement be approved.

*ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Interim)
Environmental Health, Property and Building Services*

4.2 EH/EHS/002 DAERA CONSULTATION ON THE INTRODUCTION OF ADDITIONAL ANIMAL WELFARE PROTECTIONS FOR SERVICE ANIMALS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (FINN'S LAW)

Members were reminded that correspondence (circulated) received in June from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' (DAERA) Animal Welfare and Identification Branch, in relation to proposals for the introduction of Finns Law to Northern Ireland. Council resolved at its meeting on 30 June that a corporate position be adopted on the issue.

Finn's Law refers to amendments made to Animal Welfare legislation in England and Wales following an attack on a Police Service Dog that was seriously injured when on duty with his handler. The dog was stabbed repeatedly by the offender before he turned his attack on the dog's handler who was also seriously injured.

Prior to the amendment of the Animal Welfare Act 2006, defendants charged under section 4 of the Act were able to argue that they were justified in applying force against a service animal in self-defence and that, as a result, they had not committed the offence of causing unnecessary suffering. The amendment ensured that whether someone causing harm to a service dog was protecting a person, property or another animal this would be disregarded when considering whether or not the suffering caused to the service dog was unnecessary.

Similar amendments were made in Scotland to the Animals and Wildlife (Penalties, Protections and Powers) (Scotland) Act 2020.

The Department considers it appropriate that service animals in Northern Ireland should be afforded the same level of protection as in the rest of the United Kingdom and that the necessary steps should be taken to align the legislative powers.

In consulting on proposed changes to the legislation in Northern Ireland, the Department acknowledges that it is at least conceivable that a service dog could behave less than impeccably during an incident. For example, during an incident, it is possible that a service dog might not be under full control of an officer, could become too aggressive, ignore their handler's commands or it might not be on active duty. It is not considered that additional protection should be afforded in these circumstances. The consultation proposes that added protection is only afforded to service animals when they are on active duty, that is, where they are under the control of an officer and being used by that officer in the course of the officer's duties and in a way that is reasonable.

Although dogs are currently the only service animals in Northern Ireland, it is proposed that any added protection given should be broad enough to apply to all species of service animal. This should ensure adequate flexibility in the event of other animals being deployed to service duties in the future. Further, the consultation proposes that the law should be sufficiently wide to provide protection to any dogs used by other persons that may from time to time have the powers of a police constable.

The consultation is seeking views on whether or not the sentencing powers currently available for causing unnecessary suffering to service animals in Northern Ireland should be increased. In 2016, after consultation with Councils and other key stakeholders, the maximum penalty in Northern Ireland for causing unnecessary suffering to an animal was increased from six months' imprisonment to five years, which at that time made it the most stringent penalty across the United Kingdom and Ireland. It is considered that this stringent penalty is sufficient for offences committed against service dogs injured in the course of their duties.

In summary, it was proposed that Council adopted the following position in relation to the specific issues raised.

Do you agree with the proposal to give service animals in Northern Ireland additional protection?

Yes

Do you agree that, where service dogs are injured in the course of active duty, there should be no requirement to consider whether the conduct that caused the suffering was carried out in order to protect a person, property or another animal?

Yes

Do you agree with the Department's proposals regarding the animals that should be given additional protection?

Yes

Do you agree with the Department's proposal that it should be able to add to the service animals that are to be given additional protection?

Yes

Do you agree that the safeguards proposed by the Department are sufficient?

Yes

Do you consider it necessary to increase the penalties for causing unnecessary suffering to a service animal?

Yes

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded Alderman Clarke by and agreed

that the response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs' consultation on the introduction of additional animal welfare protections for service animals in Northern Ireland (Finn's Law) be approved.

ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations, Environmental Health, Property and Building Services (Interim)

4.3 L/LEI/002 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Members recalled that in May 2021, the reopening of the Leisure Grant Aid Programme was approved following its suspension in March 2020 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Since reopening in June 2021, a total of 39 applications have been submitted. All 39 applications have 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 are set out below:

Category	Budget	Applications this call (01/06/2021 – 31/07/2021)		Funding Balance
		No of apps	(£) Recommended	Subject to recommendation
Capital Grants	£40,000	0	£0	£40,000
Grants to Coaches and Officials	£15,000	10	£300	£14,700
Grants to Clubs	£20,000	7	£16,820	£3,180

Sports Event Grant	£40,000	5	£11,975	£28,025
Defibrillator Grant	£5,000	1	£1,494	£3,506
Grants to Athletes	£50,000	14	£7,500	£42,500
Totals	£170,000	39	£38,089	£131,911
Fitness Suite Gold Card	20 Gold Cards available	2	1 recommended for approval 1 not eligible	19 remaining
Total spend to date including this call, if approved £38,089				

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
 Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed

that the grant awards as set out in the enclosure be approved.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Deputy Director of Operations (Leisure & Parks) & Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager

4.4 PK/BIO/044 CORRESPONDENCE - REVIEW OF BATHING WATERS

Members were reminded that correspondence had been received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEARA), circulated, advising that the Department intends to formally review Northern Ireland's bathing waters in 2022 and is seeking nominations for locations that should be included.

Following the review in 2017, there were no areas in the Borough identified as having swimmers in sufficient numbers to qualify as nominated Bathing Waters. However more recently, and particularly, during the 18 months since the COVID-19 pandemic, open water swimming has increased in popularity. Some locations within the Borough, most notably the Antrim and Jordanstown Lough Shore Parks (including Hazelbank), have seen an increase in groups and individuals participating in open water swimming.

The Department has indicated that in order to inform its review it is keen to establish which sites are likely to be nominated and as such is pre consulting with Councils prior to public consultation in the autumn.

In order to be for a nominated location to be considered as a formally identified bathing water, a number of criteria must be met including:

- provision of initial usage evidence at the site (the selection criteria for candidate sites is over 45 bathers on at least one occasion or over 100 beach users on at least two occasions across a review period)
- evidence that bathing is not prohibited or inadvisable for reasons of safety
- provision of information about site facilities for example, signage, litter collection, site access, car parks, life guards, changing facilities
- confirmation from an appropriate body that it is willing to take on responsibility as the bathing water operator

Following a nomination, the Department surveys the nominated locations to determine if they meet the criteria. In the event that survey verifies the

numbers, etc. the Department then undertakes a public consultation with a recommendation that the candidate site be formally identified as a bathing water.

If approved, Council would then become a bathing water operator and take on the statutory responsibilities required by the regulations. The Guidance for Bathing Water Operators in Northern Ireland was circulated.

In summary, the responsibilities which Council would assume as an Operator include:

- ensuring that signage at the bathing water includes the required information
- In the event of pollution incidents/abnormal situations/exceptional weather events that could be considered a risk to human health
 - consult with the Department
 - inform the pollution hotline
 - take appropriate management measures to protect bathers health;
 - provide information to the public;
 - where necessary, remove any waste;
 - if necessary, issue temporary advice against bathing
- Where the Department has issued a notice requiring compliance with the Bathing Water Regulations
 - comply with and implement the measures which are specified in the notice;
 - provide the Department with any information it requires in carrying out its functions under the Bathing Water Regulations.
 - display the current classification of the bathing water provided by DAERA and where appropriate, any advice against bathing.
- Where a bathing water receives a poor classification:
 - in the following bathing season, signs must display the appropriate classification and the symbol advising the public against bathing be used including provision of information stating why the site is not recommended for bathing.

The deadline for notifying the Department of any nominations was 20th August, however, due to the short turnaround Officers have indicated to the Department that Council would be asked to consider the nomination of Antrim and Jordanstown Lough Shore Parks (including Hazelbank) and that once a decision has been made they will be notified.

Following questions from a number of Members, regarding the responsibilities Council would assume if the nominated areas were designated as Bathing Waters, the Deputy Chief Executive agreed to seek confirmation from the Department that the responsibility was limited to a requirement for signage to be put in place clearly indicating what facilities are available, rather than the provision of facilities. It was also agreed to seek information from other Councils which already have designated bathing waters, and to contact Lough Neagh Partnership.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Irwin and agreed

that the item be deferred pending clarity from the Department (DAERA) on Council's responsibilities in the event of the two areas being designated as Bathing Waters and that an update be provided at the September meeting of Council.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive of Operations

Due to technical difficulties Councillor Kelly left and re-joined the meeting during the following Item.

4.5 WM/WM/40 CALL FOR EVIDENCE: PLAN TO ELIMINATE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN NORTHERN IRELAND

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is developing a plan to eliminate plastic pollution in Northern Ireland, further to the commitment made by the Northern Ireland Executive in the New Decade, New Approach document, published in January 2020. The Call for Evidence document was circulated.

The Department recognises that the throwaway culture around plastic and the pollution this causes must be addressed. A total of 78% of all marine litter found on Northern Ireland beaches is made up of discarded plastics and around 80% of this originates from land resources. The impact is also felt by Council with over £2M per annum spent in the fight against litter through our education, enforcement and cleansing services, a significant proportion of which is plastic.

The purpose of the Call for Evidence is to help the Department identify new and effective measures to tackle and eliminate plastic pollution. Actions submitted may be brought forward for inclusion in the draft Plan for further consultation later in the year.

A response, circulated, has been drafted for consideration. In summary, the response outlines the actions already taken by Council including:

- Kerbside collection of plastics
- Support in Kind Scheme for community and individual litter picks
- Awareness raising through talks
- Take away pilot
- Provision of litter bins
- Cleansing and enforcement

The response goes on to propose a range of new measures for possible inclusion in the draft Plan of which the following are a small number of examples:

- Encourage a transition from conventional to reusable carrier bags;
- Consider the Introduction of levies or charges for single use plastic items with exemptions for recyclable or compostable items;
- Increase funding for Council's to implement awareness and enforcement campaigns on plastic litter;
- Provide funding for the development of plastic reuse infrastructure and incentive driven measures.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the draft response to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Call for Evidence on a Plan to Eliminate Plastic Pollution in Northern Ireland be approved.

ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contract Manager

Alderman McGrath left the meeting during the following Item.

4.6 WM/WM/37 ZERO WASTE STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN

Members recalled that one of the actions in Council's Climate Change Action Plan is to 'Explore becoming a zero waste organisation'. To be considered a zero waste organisation, Council must reduce, reuse, recycle and recover the waste produced as far up the waste hierarchy as economically and environmentally feasible, with no materials going directly to landfill.

Council already excels in terms of waste management with one of the highest recycling rates in Northern Ireland. A summary of current performance is as follows:

- Household waste being sent to landfill has decreased by over 50%, and the household recycling rate increased by over 15% over a 10-year period;
- Only 23% (23,931 tonnes) of Council collected waste is being sent directly to landfill without treatment;
- All collected waste streams are treated (recycled or recovered) before final disposal except for domestic residual waste (black bins).

In order to further improve performance and meet the requirements of no direct landfilling of waste, it is proposed to develop a Zero Waste Strategy to ensure all elements of the waste stream are covered. The Strategy would include an Implementation Action Plan (IAP) to move the treatment of waste up the Waste Hierarchy and it is likely that the following measures will be included:

1. Proposals for waste prevention initiatives and increased reuse of materials left at the Recycling Centres with cooperation from the third sector;
2. Introduction of the wheelie boxes and 180L residual waste bins in the Antrim area as this will result in higher recycling rates and increased diversion from landfill;
3. Possible increase in the capture of food waste with the introduction of a trial caddy collection service for residents living in flats or apartments;
4. The successful conclusion of the interim residual waste treatment contract procurement would mean that the 23,931 tonnes of black bin waste

collected in the Borough would be treated through recycling and recovery processes.

This would be in addition to the 13,983 tonnes of recycling centre and commercial residual waste that is currently sent for treatment and recovery, so a total of 37,914 tonnes would be diverted directly from landfill.

The introduction of treatment processes before landfill up to and including Action 4 would mean that Council could be considered a zero waste organisation. There would continue to be an onus on Council to move waste treatment up the waste hierarchy e.g. waste currently being recovered, recycled instead. The Zero Waste Strategy should be completed for consideration in December 2021.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed

that Council develops a Zero Waste Strategy including an Implementation Action Plan as set out above.

ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Waste Contracts & Strategy Manager and Catherine Cunningham, Waste Development Officer.

4.7 PBS/BC/003/VOL2 STREET NAMING – CIRCULAR ROAD, JORDANSTOWN

A development naming application was received from Patrick Morwood on behalf of O'Kane Group regarding the naming of a residential development at Circular Road / Shore Road, Jordanstown. The development consists of 3No detached dwellings which will be accessed off Shore Road. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan (circulated).

1 – The Farthings – The house which has occupied the site from 1919 was called The Farthings.

2 – Loughwood – The site occupies what used to be a woodland approach to a large house called Edenmore. This private estate had a small gate lodge and a small wood which was heavily planted with deciduous trees. Many of these trees remain around the boundary of the site.

3 – Loughlands – This describes the strip of land immediately landward of the coastline with a close proximity to the sea. The site would have been considered as Loughlands before the dual carriageway was built.

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.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that The Farthings be approved as the name for the development.

ACTION BY: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

4.8 PBS/BC/003/VOL2 STREET NAMING – MAIN STREET, DOAGH

A development naming application was received from Claire Coulter on behalf of Rural Housing Association regarding the naming of a residential development at Main Street, Doagh, Ballyclare. The development consists of 6 apartments. The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan circulated.

1 – Riverside Court – The apartments are being built at the junction of Riverside and Main Street and the scheme is designed around a courtyard style.

2 – Riverside Mews – The apartments are being built at the junction of Riverside and Main Street and the scheme is designed around an open yard which is reflected in choosing Mews

3 – The third option is that the apartments are styled Apartments 1-6, 14 Main Street, Doagh.

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.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan

Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed

that Riverside Court be approved as the name for the development.

ACTION BY: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

4.9 PBS/BC/003/VOL2 STREET NAMING – MAGHERALANE ROAD, RANDALSTOWN

A fully valid development naming application from Docherty Architectural Services, on behalf of Marald Prime Developments, regarding the naming of a residential development at Magheralane Road, Randalstown was received on 9 July 2021. The development consists of 137 units, a mix of detached, semi-detached and town houses.

The development names and developer's rationale have been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's location map and site plan circulated

1 – Chestnut Manor – following on from other local developments named Oaks, Ashdale, Brambles

2 – The Pines – as above

3 – The Laurels – as above

Members were reminded that an existing development in Randalstown is named Laurel Park.

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.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that Chestnut Manor be approved as the name for the development.

ACTION BY: William Richmond, Principal Building Control Surveyor

5 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

5.1 EH/EHS/FC/016 COVID AWARE SCHEME

Members recalled that as part of the Council's recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, a Coronavirus: Covid Aware Confidence Mark scheme was developed for businesses in the retail and hospitality sectors in the Borough.

The scheme aimed to promote confidence in customers who visited the businesses by demonstrating that all the required steps to prevent spread of the Covid-19 were being taken.

Premises were assessed by Environmental Health staff to ensure compliance with the criteria which included:

Retail

- Control of numbers in store
- Provision of hand sanitiser at the entrance
- Floor markings for social distancing
- Prominent display of a face covering sign

Hospitality

- Display of the maximum number of customers permitted in areas where alcohol may be served
- Provision of hand sanitiser at entrance
- Contact details for each household
- Prominent display of a face covering sign

Once the appropriate measures were in place, businesses could display a certificate/sticker demonstrating that they were part of the scheme.

A total of 287 from across the Borough have participated in the scheme.

Proposed by Alderman Agnew
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 PK/GEN/003 BEE IMPORTATION TO NORTHERN IRELAND

As agreed at the May meeting of the Operations Committee, correspondence has been sent to both the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), in support of the Ulster Beekeepers Association, setting out our support for their concerns over the importation of bees from mainland Europe.

Responses have been received from both organisations (circulated), stating that they acknowledge the concerns and will continue to work with beekeepers and their associations around the issue.

Proposed by Alderman Agnew
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 PK/GEN/183 PROVISION OF BICYCLE STANDS

Members recalled that in February 2021, approval was given for the installation of bicycle stands at a number of locations in the Borough. As a result, 125 Bicycle stands have been installed throughout 34 different locations at a total cost of £23,430. Locations and a selection of pictures were circulated for Members' information.

The full amount has been met from the Department for Communities (DfC) Revitalise fund.

Proposed by Alderman Agnew
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 PBS/BC/002/VOL2 BUILDING CONTROL MATTERS FOR THE PERIOD MAY & JUNE 2021

BUILDING REGULATIONS

The following submissions under Regulation 9, 10, 11, 12, 13 & 14 of the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended) were received.

Applications Received

Full Plans – 118

Building Notices – 325

Regularisation Certificates – 118

Full Plans

Approvals – 100

Rejected applications requiring resubmissions – 128

Commencements & Completions

Commencements – 595

Completions - 563

Inspections - A total of 2446 Site Inspections were carried out.

Regularisation Certificate - 117 Regularisation Certificates issued.

Building Notice- 292 Completion Certificates issued

Property Certificates

Received – 634

Issued - 594

Income

Plan Fees Received for Month	£19523.25
Inspection Fees Invoiced for Month	£52408.26
Building Notice Fees Received for Month	£31508.00
Regularisation Fees Received for Month	£11563.20
Property Certificate Fees Received for Month	<u>£44450.00</u>
TOTAL	£159452.71

Projected Income To Date

£164,622

Year to Date Actual Income

£255,610

Postal Numbering & Development Naming

Numbers of official postal numbers issued – 217

LPS Partnership

Property details surveys completed - 92

Proposed by Alderman Agnew

Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.5 G/FM/009 FLEET MANAGEMENT STRATEGY 2022 - 2027

Members were aware that responsibility for Fleet Management was transferred to the Waste Management section in April 2021. The need for a Fleet

Management Strategy was identified on transfer and this is currently being finalised for consideration in October.

The Strategy will set out how fleet will be managed to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of Council's fleet operations. It will cover a five-year period as this will give flexibility in light of emerging technologies and available charging infrastructure. It will include:

- fit for purpose vehicles to meet the requirements of required operations;
- vehicle replacement schedules;
- maintenance of high standards of health and safety in the operation;
- maintenance provision
- options to reduce the carbon impact of fleet operations in line with Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

In tandem with planning for the reduction in carbon impact, Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure at council facilities will be reviewed as well as any other re-fueling requirements associated with emerging technologies.

Proposed by Alderman Agnew
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

7 Any Other Business

Following a question from a Member the Deputy Director of Operations (Leisure & Parks) provided an update to Members on steps taken in relation to improving security at the Glengormley War Memorial.

In response to a query for plans for bicycle stands at Central Car Park Antrim, the Deputy Chief Executive indicated that this could only be assessed following the partial re-surfacing of the car park and other planned developments at Castle Mall.

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed

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

6. ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/4/VOL8 arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

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

- June 2021
- August 2021

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 Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed

that the papers be noted.

NO ACTION

6.2 **IN CONFIDENCE** CCS/CEA/013 CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY UPDATE

Members were reminded that in January 2018 the Council agreed that the policy relating to the pre-sale of new burial rights be amended so that, with immediate effect, these will only be sold for immediate burial and that pre-selling will end, except in cases where terminal illness has been confirmed.

The burial capacity within Council cemeteries is set out in the table below (as at 31/07/2021).

Cemetery	No. of plots remaining	Average no. of plots sold (based on 3yr average)	Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)
Carnmoney	0	156	0
Ballyclare	828	30	27.6
Rashee	432	9	48.0
Sixmile	2290	53	43.2
Crumlin	472	10	47.2
TOTAL	4022	258	15.59

Garden of Remembrance Plots	<i>(for burial of ashes only)</i>		
Carnmoney	Council approved at its August meeting the development of a Columbarium at the Carnmoney Cemetery which will cater for burial of ashes.		
Ballyclare	128	5	25.5
Mallusk	15	1	15

The estimated burial capacity for the entire Borough is currently just under **15 years**.

Proposed by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed

that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan, Deputy Chief Executive, Operations (Interim

6.3 IN CONFIDENCE PK/GEN/117 PLAY PARK – CITY OF BELFAST PLAYING FIELDS, MALLUSK

Members were reminded that the potential to work in partnership with Belfast City Council to develop a play park on an area of land in the area of the city of Belfast Playing Fields was to be explored. Initial discussions were undertaken and were subsequently stalled due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In the meantime, the developer of a site on Park Road has indicated a willingness to make a contribution of £100,000 for a playground in order to meet planning requirements for their site. Officers have contacted Belfast City Council to progress discussions for the site at the Playing Fields and a detailed report including estimated costs for development of a play park will be brought for consideration in due course.

Proposed by Alderman Agnew
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

In closing the meeting, the Chairperson drew Members' attention to Councillor Hamill being very ill and his family's request for prayers for his recovery would be welcomed.

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Bennington 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 7.43 pm.

MAYOR