



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE
HELD IN ROUND TOWER CHAMBER, ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE
ON MONDAY 5 JANUARY 2026 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Councillor L O'Hagan
- Committee Members
(In person)** : Alderman L Clarke
Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, R Foster,
E McLaughlin and S Ward
- Committee Members
(Remote)** : Aldermen – L Boyle and P Bradley
Councillors – J Gilmour, AM Logue, A McAuley,
V McWilliam and M Stewart
- Non Committee
Members
(In person)** : Councillors – H Magill and B Webb
- Non Committee
Members:
(Remote)** : Alderman S Ross
Councillors – P Dunlop, R Lynch and Wilson
- Officers Present** : Director of Estates & Recreation - M McDowell
Director of Environment Services & Sustainability –
M Lavery
Head of Parks Operations - P Mawhinney
Head of Waste Strategy & Sustainability – L Daly
Head of Leisure Operations – D O'Hagan
Head of Environmental Health & Wellbeing – C Kelly
Head of Estate Services – D Blair
Head of Finance – R Murray
Deputy Head of Environmental Health – A Briggs
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Officer – L Irwin

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

1 APOLOGIES

Alderman J Smyth
Councillor N Kelly

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3 PRESENTATION

3.1 FI/FIN/11 ESTIMATES UPDATE PRESENTATION

1. Purpose

An update on the 2026/27 Estimates for the Estates and Recreation and Environment Services and Sustainability Directorates was presented at the meeting.

A summary of the financial position of the Directorates for the 2025/26 financial year and the current financial estimates for 2026/27 was circulated.

A Member sought and received clarification in relation to recycling costs and income.

Proposed by Councillor Foster

Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and agreed that

the presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

Alderman Clarke left and returned to the Chamber during Item 3.2.

3.2 EH/PHWB/017 ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH – HEALTH AND WELLBEING SECTION PRESENTATION

1. Purpose

This report provided Members with an overview of the activities and achievements of Environmental Health - Health and Wellbeing Team.

2. Background

Members received a presentation from the Environmental Health – Health and Wellbeing Team outlining the activities and achievements delivered (circulated). The presentation highlighted key projects, outcomes and performance information, providing Members with an overview of the team's contribution to supporting residents' health and wellbeing.

The presentation reflected the team's work in supporting residents across a range of areas, including Age-Friendly initiatives, Energy Efficiency, Home

Accident Prevention and Nutrition, and highlighted key projects and achievements.

A summary of the team's programmes, initiatives and interventions were circulated.

3. Summary

This report introduced a presentation to Members highlighting the Environmental Health – Health and Wellbeing Team's key projects, achievements, and contribution to supporting residents' health and wellbeing.

Members received clarification from the Officer in relation to referral to the Home Visiting Officer, how to access Keep Warm Packs, funded through the PHA and the growing demand for the home safety assessment service.

Proposed by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and agreed that

the report and presentation be noted.

NO ACTION

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 PK/GEN/223 HORTICULTURAL GRANT AID PROGRAMME

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval for the recommendations set within the 3rd Call of the Horticultural Grant Aid Programme.

2. Background

Members were reminded that the Horticultural Grant Aid Programme provided fully funded grants of up to £1,500 to support local community groups in delivering horticultural projects on land that was accessible to the general public within the Borough. Eligible applicants include constituted community groups, and schools, based within the Borough.

Successful applications were expected to demonstrate clear outcomes in relation to increasing community participation in planting and related horticultural activities and/or supporting the purchase of horticultural materials and features that contributed to the enhancement of public spaces.

3. Grant Programme – Third Call

A total of two applications were submitted during the third call for the Horticultural Grant Aid Programme. Each application had been comprehensively assessed and scored in accordance with the approved evaluation criteria.

Following detailed review and consideration, one application had been recommended for funding under the programme. The remaining application was not eligible as they had received funding in the first call of the grant programme.

The application was determined to have met the eligibility requirements and demonstrated strong alignment with the objectives of the scheme. A summary table outlining the application including key details and corresponding recommendations had been circulated for Members' information and consideration as part of the decision-making process.

4. Financial Position

The approved budget for the 2025/26 Horticultural Grant Aid Programme was £30,000. In May 2025, Council awarded a total of £16,440 and in November a total of £7,210 in grant funding, resulting in a remaining balance of £6,350.

Based on the assessment outcomes, and subject to Members' approval of the one recommended application, a further £1,419 would be allocated during this round of funding. This allocation would leave a remaining budget of £4,931 for the 2025/26 financial year. A full review of the 2025-26 Horticultural Grant Aid Programme would be completed with any new recommendations brought back to a future Committee meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed that

the allocation of funding under the Horticultural Grant Aid Programme – Call 3, totalling £1,419 for the period 6 November to 30 November 2025 be approved.

ACTION BY: Nadine Campbell, Parks Development Manager

4.2 **L/LEI/002/VOL3 MARY PETERS TRUST**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval to the Mary Peters Trust request for funding to support young athletes within the Borough.

2. Introduction

Members were reminded that the Mary Peters Trust provided financial support to young athletes from across Northern Ireland. Within the Borough the range of sporting disciplines supported in 2025/26 includes Golf, Motor Sports, Disability Sport, and Horse Riding. Correspondence had been received from the Mary Peters Trust, requesting financial support for its funding to local athletes. This correspondence was circulated for Members' reference.

3. Previous Decision of Council

Council support from 2018 to 2024 was £2,000 per annum, increasing to £2,500 in 2024/25 and 2025/2026.

Proposed by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and agreed that

a contribution of £2,500 funding to the Mary Peters Trust to continue with funding athletes from the Borough be approved.

ACTION BY: Kevin Madden, Sport and Physical Activity Manager

4.3 EH/EHS/LR/001 REVIEW OF ENTERTAINMENT LICENSING POLICY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update members on the review of the Entertainments Licensing Policy.

2. Background

Members were reminded that Environmental Health is responsible for inspecting and licensing places of entertainment in the Borough, ensuring compliance with safety standards and effective management of fire, crowd control, and other risks.

A draft Entertainments Licensing Policy was agreed by the Operations Committee on 6 February 2023. At the same time, new Conditions and Management Rules for Places of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment were approved and implemented.

3. Key Issues

A review of the current Entertainments Licensing policy had been carried out, to ensure that both the application process for customers and the administrative burden for both businesses and the Council remained effective.

The existing policy continued to reflect current processes and procedures for licence applications, carrying out inspections of premises, hearing by Operations Committee and the issuing of licences.

All elements of the existing document remained valid, with only the following minor amendments suggested.

Section 10.1 – Premises Profile and Risk Scoring

- Inspections would be guided by a risk-based approach, allowing officers discretion to determine frequency and type of inspection based on premises risk and compliance history.

Section 11.1 – Inspections

- Officers would aim to complete inspections within 21 days of receiving a valid application, while recognising that this was a target rather than a strict deadline.

The “Conditions and Management Rules for Places of Indoor and Outdoor Entertainment” guidance document agreed by Council in February 2023 had also been reviewed and remained valid, continuing to reflect current approach. No updates or amendments were required at this time.

A copy of the updated policy was circulated, with the above minor amendments highlighted in yellow.

4. Previous Decision of Council

In February 2023, Council approved the draft Entertainments Licensing Policy, including revised Conditions and Management Rules.

5. Equality and Rural Screening Requirements

A revised Section 75 Equality Screening and Rural Needs Assessment had been carried out (circulated) as part of this policy review. The assessments confirmed that the minor amendments to the Entertainments Licensing Policy did not have any adverse impact on equality groups or rural communities.

6. Summary

The review of the Entertainments Licensing Policy and associated guidance had identified only minor amendments. The policy continued to provide a framework for regulating live entertainment in the Borough.

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and agreed that

the reviewed Entertainments Licensing Policy be approved.

ACTION BY: Mark Sloan, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

4.4 WM/S/002 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS – SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN IRELAND

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to seek approval to retain the current level of funding to Sustainable Northern Ireland (SNI) for 2026-27.

2. Background

SNI worked with a range of stakeholders, including local councils, with the aim of promoting a sustainable low carbon future. Correspondence had been received from SNI (circulated) and it was proposed to contribute financial support of £6,000 for the incoming financial year, as we did last year.

Members were reminded that Council had provided support to SNI for a number of years and the membership gave access to quarterly networking forums, best practice case studies/decision making tools, training and consultation responses. SNI provided valuable access to information which was useful to the Sustainability Working Group.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and agreed that

the continuation of the current level of funding of £6,000 to Sustainable Northern Ireland for 2026/2027 be approved.

ACTION BY: Claire Evans, Climate, Waste and Sustainability Officer

4.5 EH/EHS/019 DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, ENVIRONMENT AND RURAL AFFAIRS (DAERA) DATA SHARING AGREEMENT

1. Purpose

A Data-Sharing Agreement (DSA) between DAERA and local Councils enabled the secure and lawful exchange of information for investigating and enforcing the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 and the Dogs (NI) Order 1983, in compliance with the Data Protection Act 2018 and UK GDPR.

2. Introduction

Members were reminded that Councils had statutory responsibility for enforcing animal welfare and dog control legislation. Effective enforcement often required sharing personal and sensitive data with enforcement partners.

DAERA's Veterinary Service and Animal Health Group (VSAHG) and Northern Ireland Councils were committed to collaborating on investigations, particularly regarding illegal puppy breeding and trafficking. This included routine checks at ferry terminals and follow-up activity to identify unlicensed breeders. Such illegal activity often involved dogs in poor health and unacceptable welfare conditions.

The proposed DSA formalised lawful, proportionate data-sharing arrangements between DAERA and all 11 Councils, supporting targeted investigation and enforcement. The draft agreement had been reviewed by Council Legal and Governance teams and was deemed legally robust and data protection compliant.

3. Key Issues

The proposed Data-Sharing Agreement (DSA) (circulated) provided a formal framework for the lawful and secure sharing of personal and sensitive data between DAERA and Councils to support enforcement of animal welfare and dog control legislation. It covered information such as transporter and vehicle details, travel dates, statements and reports from officers or vets, photographic

and CCTV evidence, conviction records, and intelligence relating to potential breaches of licensing, animal welfare, or planning regulations. The agreement set out clear requirements for data security, handling, retention, and restricted access, and established procedures for managing subject access requests, FOI/EIR requests, complaints, breaches, and staff training.

The legal basis for sharing was provided under UK GDPR, specifically Article 6(1)(e) – Public Task, and Article 9(2)(g) – Substantial Public Interest. The DSA would be reviewed annually, with a full review every three years or sooner if required by changes in legislation.

4. Summary

The DSA provided a secure, legally compliant framework for sharing personal and sensitive data between DAERA and Councils. It supported statutory enforcement under the Welfare of Animals Act (NI) 2011 and Dogs (NI) Order 1983, safeguards individual rights, and maintains public confidence in the handling of sensitive information.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the Data Sharing Agreement be approved.

ACTION BY: Mark Sloan, Deputy Head of Environmental Health

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 PK/PG/005 VOL 2 PROVISION OF REPLACEMENT PLAY PARK EQUIPMENT

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to provide an update on the Council's Play Park Refurbishment Project.

2. Background

Members were reminded that works had been progressing on the Play Park Refurbishment project, which was approved earlier this year. The project specification covered 34 Play Parks and was based on a Play Park Audit completed 12 months ago. In addition to this programme, two full replacement projects had already been completed at Kings Park and Rathcoole.

During the course of the project, it became evident that further works were required to deliver a more complete and safer environment for users. This was due to continued deterioration of materials and equipment, as well as additional issues identified through the annual ROSPA (Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents) safety inspections.

3. Financial Considerations

Council approved an initial budget allocation of £890K for this project. In addition, a previously approved recurring annual reactive maintenance budget of £200,000 remained available to cover additional works. Details of both the original and additional works required, broken down by DEA, were circulated for Member's reference.

4. Going Forward

Due to the additional works identified across multiple sites, the estimated completion date for the main project was mid-January 2026. Upon completion, Officers would carry out a full review of all Play Parks and prepare a report outlining any further works required at each site in the coming years. Following this review, Estate Services would develop a tender document for the ongoing maintenance of Play Parks covering a 3–4-year contract period. The previously approved recurring £200,000 play park maintenance budget would continue to fund these works on an annual basis.

Following a query from a Member in relation to John Street Play Park, the Head of Estate Services advised he would provide Members with a timeline for the replacement of equipment. He also confirmed that he would undertake a review, investigating the possibility of CCTV in play park areas due to anti-social behaviour and contact the security company to ensure gates were locked at the appropriate time.

The Head of Estate Services advised that the condition of play parks would be kept under continuous review following the completion of the current refurbishment programme. Any further works identified would be delivered on a phased basis, with every effort made to minimise disruption during the busy summer season.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed that

the report be noted.

ACTION BY: D Blair, Head of Estate Services

5.2 **EH/PHWB/012 WINTER WOOLLIES UPDATE**

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the recent Winter Woollies Campaign

2. Background

Members were reminded that the Winter Woollies Campaign 2025 provided hand-knitted and crocheted items, supplied by volunteers, to support the most vulnerable members of the community during the colder months.

3. Key Issues

Now in its fourth year, the Winter Woollies Campaign began with the Wool Drive, held from 1 July to 31 August 2025. Organised by Environmental Health, the drive diverted over 2,700 balls of wool, knitting needles, and crochet hooks from landfill. These materials were distributed to local community groups to encourage people of all ages to create warm clothing and help combat social isolation.

Winter Woollies collections took place at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre from 16 September to 14 November, gathering approximately 3,000 items that were distributed to 30 partner organisations. Donors had the option to include their contact details to receive a Thank You letter from the Mayor, with many attaching messages to their creations for recipients.

This year's campaign also encouraged the donation of 'trauma teddies' handmade teddy bears used to comfort children affected by traumatic events. Emergency service providers such as the police, fire service, and hospitals used these teddies to provide comfort and distraction to children experiencing upsetting events or difficult situations.

On 18 November, a Winter Woollies event at Mossley Mill celebrated the campaign's success. The event featured a Q&A session where donors and partner organisations discussed its positive impact. With a 100% increase in donations and eight additional partner organisations this year, Winter Woollies 2025 was a remarkable success.

A photo gallery showcasing the generosity of Antrim and Newtownabbey residents could be viewed at;

<https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/initiatives-for-our-community/winter-woollies/>)

Winter Woollies was promoted through knitting and crocheting groups, community organisations, Council social media, and local press.

4. Equality and Rural Screening Requirements

An Equality and Rural Needs Screening exercise had been completed in accordance with Council policy. No adverse equality or rural impacts had been identified.

5. Summary

The Winter Woollies Campaign continued to inspire residents to knit and crochet warm clothing for vulnerable members of the community. This year, approximately 3,000 items were collected and distributed to 30 partner organisations.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 EH/PHWB/019 INTERNATIONAL MEN'S DAY

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the International Men's Day event held at Mossley Mill on 19 November 2025, highlighting its role in promoting men's mental health and celebrating positive male role models in the community.

2. Background

At a previous Community Development Committee meeting, the Council recognised the importance of supporting men's mental health in alignment with International Men's Day. Members agreed, in principle, to deliver an event for staff and Elected Members reflecting the themes of International Men's Day.

3. Key Issues

On 19 November 2025, International Men's Day, Mossley Mill hosted a breakfast and podcast event to celebrate "positive male role models", highlighting the contribution of men who lead by example supporting, mentoring, and inspiring others through their actions and character.

The event was open to staff, schools, and members of the public, attracting 120 attendees. The live podcast, hosted by BBC Sport presenter Thomas Niblock, featured two speakers who shared inspiring local stories of resilience, determination, and leadership.

Speakers:

- **Mr Daryl Clarke** – Highlighted the work of Monkstown Boxing Club and discussed how the club improves health and wellbeing through sport. He reflected on how being part of the club provides a sense of belonging.
- **Mr Jonny Murphy** – Former professional rugby player turned star baker, spoke about his journey through professional sport, his transition to life after retirement, his discovery of baking, and the ways he maintained and protected his mental wellbeing.

Evaluation indicated extremely positive feedback, with 100% of respondents rating the event as excellent or very good. Examples of participant comments included:

"The podcasts were absolutely amazing and the two guests were inspirational. Thanks so much to Antrim and Newtownabbey Council for arranging this event."

“There was a good balance highlighting the challenges facing men but also acknowledging it shouldn't be all doom and gloom and the stigmas associated with being a man/masculinity.”

The podcast was recorded and is available to watch on the Council website: <https://antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk/residents/community-initiatives/international-men-s-day-2025/>

4. Financial Position

The event cost £7,500 and was funded through the Executive Office's Ending Violence Against Women and Girls programme.

A similar event was proposed for next year, subject to Members' approval. A further report would be presented to seek Members' formal approval.

5. Equality and Rural Screening Requirements

An Equality and Rural Needs Screening exercise had been completed in accordance with Council policy. No adverse equality or rural impacts had been identified.

6. Summary

The report summarised the International Men's Day event held at Mossley Mill on 19 November 2025, which featured a live podcast promoting positive male role models and highlighting mental health and wellbeing.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 WM/WM/040 WASTE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE ANNUAL UPDATE 2024-25

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to advise Members of Council's waste management performance 2024-25.

2. Background

Under the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, Council was required to submit waste data returns to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. These were completed on a quarterly basis throughout the year and were used by the NIEA to calculate Council's recycling rate and compliance with the relevant legislation.

The new legislative targets for Council under the Circular Economy Package were:

1. Recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035
2. Interim targets of 55% recycling rate by 2025 and 60% by 2030;
3. Maximum of 10% of municipal waste to be landfilled by 2035.

The annual waste data submission for 2024-25 had been verified and set out Council's performance for the year for both Household and Municipal waste.

3. Key Issues

A summary of the recently published results for Council for 2023/2024 together with the results from 2023/2024 were set out below. The results included the performance of all 11 Northern Ireland Local Authorities for reference.

	2023-24		2024-25		Ranking
	Tonnes	%	Tonnes	%	
Total Household Waste Arisings	79,663		82,198		3 rd largest tonnage
Household Waste Arisings to Recycling	47,330	59.4	46,770	56.9	2 nd household recycling rate (%) in Northern Ireland
Household Waste Arisings to Recovery	14,060	17.7	17,905	21.8	7 th largest % of household waste sent to recovery
Household Waste Arisings to Landfill	18,273	22.9	17,523	21.3	4 th largest % of household waste sent to landfill
Total Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings	106,040		109,028		3 rd largest tonnage
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recycling	66,006	62.2	64,851	59.5	1 st % of waste recycled in Northern Ireland.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recovery	15,679	14.8	20,868	19.1	7 th largest % of waste sent to recovery.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Landfill	23,451	22.1	22,472	20.6	4 th largest % of waste sent to landfill.

* Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) was ALL the waste that the Council collected i.e. commercial, street sweepings, recycling centres as well as household waste.

The table above showed the following:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey achieved the highest recycling rates for Councils in Northern Ireland for all waste collected and were second highest for Household waste collected;
- There was a decrease in recycling rates from 2023/24, however this was evident across all Councils in Northern Ireland;
- Overall waste arisings increased across the recovery waste streams, however there was a decrease in waste arisings being sent to Landfill. This indicates that new contracts were diverting waste from landfill and residents were continuing to manage their waste correctly, however waste production across the Borough was rising slightly.

The data demonstrated the high performance of the recycling across the Borough of Antrim and Newtownabbey, however with new contracts and collection systems in place and further innovation for future collected materials Council would continue the increase of recycling and diversion from landfill.

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

In response to a request from a Member, the Director agrees to provide information showing usage and waste tonnage collected at the Household Recycling Centres in the Borough over the Christmas period.

ACTION: M Lavery, Director of Environment Services & Sustainability

6 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

- 6.1 A number of Members raised issues in relation to bin collections in the area. The Director of Environment and Sustainability Services confirmed that the Director of Bryson Recycling was due to meet Council's Chief Executive that week and would be invited to attend the Council meeting in January to answer any questions Members had.

ACTION BY: M Lavery, Director of Environment & Sustainability Services

- 6.2 In response to a Member's query, the Director of Estates and Recreation advised he would consult with the security company in relation to timing of closure at Crumlin Allotments.

ACTION BY: M McDowell, Director of Estates & Recreation

- 6.3 Following a Member's concerns in relation to capacity issues at Craigmore Recycling Centre during the Christmas period the Director of Environment and Sustainability Services advised that similar issues were faced on an annual basis regionally and all resources had been utilised.

ACTION BY: M Lavery, Director of Environment & Sustainability Services

- 6.4 In relation to a query raised by a Member, the Director of Environment and Sustainability Services confirmed that further information would be provided on social media to raise awareness of the disposal of hot ashes.

ACTION BY: M Laverty, Director of Environment & Sustainability Services

- 6.5 In response to a Member, the Director of Estates and Recreation undertook to look at a different mechanism at the access gate to Carnmoney Hill.

ACTION BY: M McDowell, Director of Estates & Recreation

- 6.6 A Member raised concerns in relation to street cleansing operations taking place the day before bins were collected, the Director of Environment and Sustainability Services advised he would look at co-ordinating these services and assured an Officer was in place to monitor and report any littering issues.

ACTION BY: M Laverty, Director of Environment & Sustainability Services

- 6.7 Following a query from a Member, the Director of Environment and Sustainability Services outlined Council's Winter Resilience Programme and confirmed he would liaise with the Department for Infrastructure to get salt boxes refilled.

ACTION BY: M Laverty, Director of Environment & Sustainability Services

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED "IN CONFIDENCE"

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed

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

Councillor McAuley left the meeting at this point.

7 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

7.1 IN CONFIDENCE L/LEI/OO/009 DEVELOPMENT OF PITCH 5 AT V36, VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the outcome of the business case assessment relating to the proposed development of changing facilities at Pitch 5 at V36 to meet Irish Football Association (IFA) intermediate standards.

Following a full review of the strategic, operational and financial implications, alongside the availability of alternative intermediate-standard facilities within the Newtownabbey area, the business case concluded that the development

was not required and did not represent a justified investment for the Council at this time.

The report therefore recommended that no further work was undertaken on this project.

2. Background

In 2016, the Council agreed to explore potential locations for a home pitch for St Mary's FC, following their request for support via sale, lease or partnership. This need was reinforced as part of the 2023 Pitch Strategy.

A number of potential sites were explored, including a disused shale pitch at Valley Park and a shared-use opportunity with Integrated College Glengormley. The Club later proposed redevelopment of the hockey pitch at V36, which led to the commissioning of an independent feasibility study in June 2024.

At the December 2024 Council meeting, Members agreed to further explore two options for upgrading Pitch 5 at V36. This work was taken forward through the preparation of a detailed business case.

During this period, it was confirmed that intermediate-standard football provision in the Newtownabbey area is already available at Rathcoole Diamond, Mossley Pavilion and Monkstown, and that an additional new intermediate-standard 3G pitch at Abbey College was currently progressing.

This significant increase in provision had addressed the original strategic need that underpinned the proposed development at Pitch 5.

3. Summary of Business Case

The business case assessed several development options for Pitch 5, including the previously preferred Option 2.

However, the updated analysis demonstrated that:

- Intermediate-standard facilities were already available within close proximity to V36.
- The new Abbey College development would further enhance capacity for local clubs requiring an intermediate facility including St Mary's FC.
- The original need that drove the consideration of development at V36 had now been met through alternative projects.
- Proceeding with the works would duplicate existing provision and did not represent value for money.
- The strategic case for development cannot be made.

As a result, it was not recommended to develop an intermediate standard pitch and associated changing facilities at V36.

4. Financial Implications

As the recommendation was not to proceed, there were:

- No capital costs to be incurred.
- No additional revenue implications for the Leisure Services budget.

Proposed by Councillor McLaughlin
Seconded by Councillor Logue that

Council revisits the Officers' recommendation, with a further report to be brought back to Committee setting out how an intermediate-standard pitch could be delivered locally to benefit clubs in the Glengormley/Greencastle area, including renewed consideration of the potential redevelopment of the hockey pitch at V36.

An amendment was then put to the meeting.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam that

- a) The findings of the business case be noted, which concluded that the development of Pitch 5 at V36 to IFA intermediate standard was not required and would not represent value for money.
- b) The Council did not proceed with any development at Pitch 5.

On the amendment being put to the meeting 5 Members voted in favour, 7 against and 0 abstentions.

The amendment was declared not carried.

The substantive motion was then put to the meeting.

On the substantive motion being put to the meeting 7 Members voted in favour, 5 against and 0 abstentions.

The Motion was declared carried and it was agreed that

A further report is brought back to Committee setting out how an intermediate-standard pitch could be delivered locally to benefit clubs in the Glengormley/Greencastle area, including renewed consideration of the potential redevelopment of the hockey pitch at V36.

ACTION BY: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

7.2 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/4/VOL 11 arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the December Joint Committee meeting.

2. Introduction

The arc21 Joint Committee met on a monthly basis and each month the papers were reviewed by the Operations Committee.

3. Previous Decisions of Council

All previous papers had been noted.

4. Main Report

The papers for the arc21 Joint Committee Meeting were included (circulated) for Members information:

- 2 December 2025

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

5. Summary

[REDACTED]

In response to a Member's query, the Director stated that the findings of the Gateway Review Health Check were continuing to be considered and Members would be updated in due course.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin 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 8.11pm.

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.