



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

- In the Chair** : Councillor J Burbank
- Committee Members (In person)** : Aldermen – L Clarke and J Smyth  
Councillors – J Gilmour, AM Logue, H Magill,  
E McLaughlin, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile,  
and M Stewart
- Committee Members (Remote)** : Alderman P Bradley  
Councillors – R Foster, A McAuley, L O'Hagan and  
L Smyth
- Non Committee Members: (Remote)** : Councillor B Webb
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive – R Baker  
Director of Sustainability – M Lavery  
Director of Parks & Leisure - M McDowell  
Head of Environmental Health & Wellbeing – C Kelly  
ICT Systems Support Officer – J Wilson  
Member Services Officer – C McIntyre  
Member Services Officer – E Skillen

**CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the December Operations Committee meeting, extending a welcome to the new Chief Executive, Mr Richard Baker. He reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

**1 APOLOGIES**

None

**2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

### **3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

None

### **4 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

#### **4.1 EH/EHS/LR/006 DRAFT RESPONSE TO DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITIES' CONSULTATION ON PRIVATE TENANCIES ACT 2022 ON SMOKE, HEAT AND CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS AND ELECTRICAL SAFETY STANDARDS**

Members were reminded that Environmental Health were engaged in the regulation of the private rented sector; this was through the Council's statutory duties under the Private Tenancies (NI) Order 2006 (as amended by the Private Tenancies Act and Housing Amendment Acts) as well as through statutory nuisance investigations. Council was also the enforcing authority for provisions to regulate landlord registration, security of tenancy deposits and licensing scheme for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO).

Section 1 – 6 of The Private Tenancies (NI) Act 2022, which came into effect on the 1 April 2023, was the main legislative framework for the regulation of private rented sector housing. The overarching objectives of The Private Tenancies Act were to make the private rented sector a safer and more secure housing option for a wider range of households, to ensure better regulation of the sector and offer greater protection to private renters.

DfC was now consulting on two further aspects:

1. Smoke, heat, and carbon monoxide alarms  
(<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/the-fire-smoke-and-carbon-monoxide-alarms-northern>)

The proposed Regulations would set the standards for the number and type of smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarms to be installed in private rented properties and aimed to reduce the risk of fire related incidents.

It was anticipated these Regulations would come into operation early next year and would apply to all private tenancies. There would be a lead-in time of 2 months for landlords to comply. After this 2 month period, it would be an offence for a private landlord to fail to comply with the duty to keep in repair and proper working order sufficient appliances for detecting smoke, heat and carbon monoxide.

2. Electrical Safety Standards  
(<https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/dfc/electrical-safety-standards-northern-ireland-202x>)

These proposed Regulations (NI) aimed to reduce the risk of death and injury due to electrical faults in private rental properties with a legal requirement for electrical safety standards to be met during the period the property was let. This would include electrical inspections which would be required to be completed by a qualified electrician at least every 5 years.

It would be an offence for the landlord not to comply with their duties. There had been no indication of an implementation date at present but once commenced, it was anticipated that there would be a lead-in time of 12 months for all tenancies to comply.

The Act would create new offences for which the Council would have powers to issue fixed penalty notices. The fixed penalty payable in respect of an offence was currently £500 for a smoke, heat and carbon monoxide alarm offence and £1000 for an electrical safety offence. Members would be provided with a further update prior to implementation of the new legislative powers to agree fixed penalty levels.

In the proposed response, the Council would state that;

- The Council generally agreed with the notes and guidance proposed by the Department;
- Consideration be given to the positioning of alarms in common parts of blocks of flats and high rise buildings that were not covered by the tenancy;
- The Council agreed that duties should be placed on landlords to provide evidence of electrical safety testing every 5 years and that a report should be produced and given to the tenant;
- Definition of a 'landlord' within the proposed legislation for the purposes of enforcement was required;
- Consideration be given for the ability to charge the landlord for expenses incurred, such as expert advice from a qualified electrician when serving notices;
- The tenant would get a copy of any remedial notice served on a landlord;
- An appropriate lead-in period of one year for all existing tenancies to obtain first inspection was considered reasonable;
- Clarification and guidance on how the regulations apply to communal areas in rented buildings;
- The Department provide training for Council officers prior to the commencement of the regulations.

Draft responses to the consultations were circulated for Members' review.

A number of queries were addressed by the Director of Sustainability and Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing.

Proposed by Alderman Bradley  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmore and agreed that

**the proposed response to the Private Tenancies Act 2022 on Smoke, Heat, and Carbon Monoxide Alarms and Electrical Safety Standards Consultations be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Liam Nicholas, Environmental Health Manager*

#### 4.2 G/LEG/052/VOL3 BYE-LAWS PROHIBITING THE CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR IN PUBLIC PLACES

Members were reminded that at the March 2023 Operations Committee meeting, Members requested to realign the two legacy Council Bye-Laws in relation to the prohibition of consumption of intoxicating liquor in public places to reflect the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council boundaries. In addition, 14 areas identified by the PSNI as 'problem areas' were to be included and changes in street names recognised; a copy of the proposed Bye-Laws were circulated for Members' review.

It should be noted that the Bye-Laws would be enforced by the PSNI.

As per the statutory process, these proposed Bye-Laws had been put out for Public Consultation. Five responses were received and summarised below:

| <b>Responses to Consultation</b>                | <b>Proposed Action</b>  |
|---|---|
| Approval for the Bye-laws                       | No further action required  |
| That the Bye-laws were too strict (2 responses) | Comments are noted but no further action required   |
| Clarification on the names of schools           | School names amended  |
| An additional street should be added            | There is no independent evidence that there are issues with alcohol consumption in this area – no further action required |

Should approval be granted for the proposed Bye-Laws, the following statutory steps would be taken:

1. The proposed Bye-Laws would be submitted to the Department for Communities for approval (preliminary approval had already been granted as part of the normal process);
2. Public Notice of the proposed Bye-Laws would be advertised in the local media; the proposed Bye-Laws come into effect after one month (unless DfC sets an alternative date).

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the proposed Bye-Laws on Prohibiting the Consumption of Intoxicating Liquor in Public Places be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Alison McDowell, Council Lawyer*

#### **4.3 EH/EHS/CP/004 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CONSULTATION ON 'CREATING A SMOKE-FREE GENERATION AND TACKLING YOUTH VAPING'**

Members were advised that the UK Government was seeking views through consultation on proposed action to protect future generations from the harm of smoking, by creating the first smoke-free generation and to ensure the law was enforced. The consultation recognised the increased use of vapes by children, whilst recognising the role of vapes in stopping adults smoking.

The UK Government were seeking views mainly on:

- How to create a smoke-free generation;
- Tackling youth vaping;
- How to enforce age-of-sale legislation of tobacco products and vapes.

A link to the consultation was provided:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/creating-a-smokefree-generation-and-tackling-youth-vaping>

The consultation outlined proposed measures to address youth vaping, such as restricting flavours, regulating point-of-sale displays, controlling packaging and presentation, considering restrictions on disposable vapes, evaluating regulations for non-nicotine vapes, addressing vape affordability and introducing enforcement measures like fixed penalty notices.

In the proposed response the Council stated;

- That the Council agreed that anyone born after 1 January 2009 should never be legally sold tobacco products and that no one should be able to purchase tobacco products on their behalf;
- Warning notices stating "It is illegal to sell tobacco products to anyone born on or after 1 January 2009" be displayed by retailers when the law comes into effect;
- Nicotine vapes should be sold in tobacco flavour only to reduce the appeal to young people;
- There is a restriction on flavours for non-nicotine e-liquids as the full health effects of vaping are not yet known;
- Vapes must be sold from behind the counter and not on display;
- Standardised packaging for vapes be used, prohibiting the use of imagery, colour and branding;
- The sale and supply of disposable vapes should be prohibited due to the environmental impact;
- An implementation period for restrictions on disposable vapes should be no less than 6 months after the law was introduced, in order to give businesses an opportunity to sell existing stock;
- Consideration be given on a similar regulatory framework for the sale on non-nicotine vapes;
- There should be an increase in vape purchase cost to make them less affordable to young people;
- Enforcement powers could include fixed penalties for businesses who breach age-of-sale legislation for tobacco products and vapes;

- The fixed penalty amount should be greater than that suggested in the consultation, to reflect the current penalty of £250 in Northern Ireland for sale of tobacco products.

A draft response to the consultation was circulated for Members' review. The response emphasised how these measures aligned with the Council's aim in creating a Borough that prioritised good health, wellbeing and environmental sustainability.

A number of queries were addressed by the Director of Sustainability and Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing.

Proposed by Councillor Logue  
Seconded by Councillor Smyth and agreed that

**the proposed response to the 'Creating A Smoke-free Generation and Tackling Youth Vaping' Consultation be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Christina McErlean, Deputy Head of Environmental Health*

#### **4.4 WM/WM/37/VOL2 REVIEW OF CLEANSING CHARGES 2024-2025**

Members were advised that the purpose of the report was to set the Cleansing Charges for the coming financial year - 2024-2025.

A review of cleansing charges was carried out annually for:

1. Trade Waste Collection Service;
2. Waste Collection Containers;
3. Re-Chargeable Cleansing Work.

The Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 placed a duty on each district council to arrange for the collection of commercial waste from premises within its district if requested by the occupier of such premises to do so.

Anyone who requested Council to provide a commercial waste collection service would be liable to pay a reasonable charge for the collection and disposal of such waste. Council charged commercial waste customers on a volumetric basis for the collection of their commercial waste (i.e. per bin size).

A schedule of Proposed Charges was circulated for Members' consideration.

##### **1. Trade Waste Collection Service**

Council had not increased the waste charges for local businesses for over four years to assist them during COVID and the challenging economic environment. This had meant that inflationary staff costs and treatment rates had been absorbed. While businesses had benefited from this Council decision, it had meant that Council's trade waste charges had fallen below those charged in the private sector and other Councils.

As a result, it was proposed to increase waste collection charges by 10% in 2024-25 which would equate to £0.61 per uplift of a 240L bin and £1.43 per uplift of a 1100L bin. This price increase would generate approximately £60,000 of additional income through the trade waste collection service, whilst maintaining competitive rates.

Under current waste legislation, all movements of waste must be controlled through a Waste Transfer Note (WTN), which was provided by the Council on behalf of the trade customer. As previously, the cost of the WTN would be included in the collection rate; there was no increase in the cost of the WTN.

## **2. Waste Collection Containers**

As with other waste costs, the Council had maintained its sale price for 240L and 180L residual waste (black) bins, £30 and £25 respectively, despite inflationary pressures. It was therefore proposed to replicate the 10% increase for black bin sales. Council only sold a small number of black bins per annum, approximately 1,200 units, so as a result there would only be a minimal increase in income.

## **3. Re-Chargeable Cleansing Work**

Council does not charge for bulky waste collections, provided the waste items can be removed within 15 minutes. A small number (less than 10 per year) take more than 15 minutes and are therefore deemed as chargeable with rates starting at £24.34 for collections taking between 16 and 30 minutes to complete.

In line with previous waste charges reviews, the cost of this service had been frozen for the last four years and as a result, a 10% increase was proposed to cover inflationary costs that had been absorbed over the last few years. This meant that collections taking between 16 and 30 minutes would now cost £26.77; this change would have minimal impact on residents.

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**the Review of Cleansing Charges for 2024-2025 be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Sustainability*

## **4.5 WM/WM/037/VOL2 RECYCLING CENTRE ARRANGEMENTS**

Members were reminded that additional waste collection capacity was provided at the Valley, Sixmile and Crumlin leisure centres over the festive period to reduce the demand on O'Neill Road, Bruslee and Crumlin Recycling Centres. This had the positive effect of reducing queuing times and traffic congestion in the locality of the Recycling Centres.

Last year's usage of the additional waste disposal locations had been analysed and the following arrangements were proposed to provide extra waste

disposal capacity during the week after Christmas when site usage would be at its highest:

- An additional temporary waste recycling facility would be put in place at the Valley Leisure Centre car park in order to reduce traffic congestion at O'Neill Road and the wider area between Wednesday 27 December and Friday 29 December from 9pm – 4pm;
- Monitored skips to be located at Crumlin Leisure Centre on Wednesday 27 December to reduce expected queues at Crumlin Recycling Centre between 9am - 4pm;
- Monitored skips to be located at Sixmile Leisure Centre on Wednesday 27 December between 9am - 4pm to reduce the demand at Bruslee Recycling Centre.

There would be extremely high levels of usage at the O'Neill Road Recycling Centre during the festive period and this would impact on traffic flow in the area. As a result, the additional capacity would be maintained for the majority of the week.

While it was felt that the additional resources for Bruslee and Crumlin Recycling Centres would only be required for the first day the centres reopened after the Christmas break, Officers would monitor the sites and deploy the bin lorries if required. The other two sites, Newpark and Craigmore Recycling Centres, were expected to be able to manage the additional usage; Officers would assess the situation throughout the week.

The proposed additional services would be delivered using a combination of existing Council resources and hired equipment. The cost of the operation would be approximately £3,500 and would be in addition to the planned waste budget.

While all waste collected at the additional sites would be transferred to a materials recycling facility where as much waste as possible would be removed for recycling or recovery, Council did achieve better recycling rates when the waste was collected at the Recycling Centres and therefore use of the additional sites would be kept to a minimum.

The Director of Sustainability responded to a Member's query and confirm that the requirement for additional provision at Craigmore would be monitored.

Proposed by Councillor Logue  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**the additional waste collection services over the festive period, at a cost of £3,500, be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Sustainability*



#### 4.6 L/LEI/002/VOL4 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Members' approval was sought for the recommendations set out within the third call of the Leisure Grant Aid Programme. For the period August to October, a total of 30 applications had been submitted. All 30 applications had been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations (circulated) for Member's reference. Should approval be given for the grants listed, the balances remaining in each funding category were detailed as follows:

| Category   | No. of apps | Budget          | Approved spend to date 23/24 | No. of apps. | Grants proposed | Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of application) |
|--|-------------|-----------------|------------------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|
|  |             |                 |                              |              | (£)             |  |
| Capital Grants   | 1           | £40,000         | £0                           | 1            | £20,000         | £20,000  |
| Grants to Clubs  | 8           | £25,000         | £18,778                      | 7            | £10,920         | -£4,698  |
| Grants to Athletes   | 30          | £40,000         | £31,810                      | 15           | £11,926         | -£3,736  |
| Grants to Coaches and Officials                                | 10          | £7,000          | £5,596                       | 4            | £343            | £1,062   |
| Sports Event Grant   | 11          | £40,000         | £35,360                      | 1            | £210            | £4,430   |
| Defibrillator Grant  | 7           | £18,000         | £15,538                      | 1            | £1,350          | £1,112   |
| <b>Allocation total</b>  | <b>72</b>   | <b>£170,000</b> | <b>£107,082</b>              | <b>30</b>    | <b>£44,749</b>  | £18,169  |
| Fitness suite Gold Card  | <b>4</b>    | 20 Applications | 2                            | 1            | 0 eligible      | 16 applications  |
| Total spend to date including this call, if approved, £151,831 |             |                 |                              |              |                 |  |

Due to an increase in demand for both 'Grants to Clubs' and 'Grants to Athletes,' these categories were now oversubscribed. It was proposed to evenly distribute the remaining balance of £20,000 from the 'Capital Grants' category between these two categories. In each of the past three financial years, only one application for the maximum £20,000 Capital Grant was received, and this trend continued in the current 2023/24 year.

In response to a Member's query relating to a specific grant application, the Director of Parks and Leisure agreed to look into the matter and provide further information to the Member.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
 Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**approval be given for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme funding and that £20,000 remaining balance from the "Capital Grants" category is evenly split between "Grants to Clubs" and "Grants to Athletes" categories.**

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

## **5 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

### **5.1 PT/CI/049 PERFORMANCE AND IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2023/24 - PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT QUARTER 2 – OPERATIONS**

Members were updated on the delivery of performance indicators of the Sustainability and Parks and Leisure sections.

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

Members were reminded that Part 12 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 put in place a framework to support the continuous improvement of Council services.

The Council's Corporate Performance and Improvement Plan 2023-24 was approved in June 2023. This set out a range of challenging performance targets, along with six identified improvement objectives and a number of Statutory Performance Targets.

Second quarter progress reports for Parks and Leisure as well as Waste Management, Cleansing Services, Environmental Health and Sustainability were circulated for Members' information.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

### **5.2 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – QUARTER 2 APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2023**

Members were updated on the mid-year budgetary position of the Sustainability and Parks and Leisure sections.

A Summary Budget Report had been presented to the Policy and Governance Committee each month showing the financial performance of all departments of the Council and the overall Council financial position.

In a change to the budgetary reporting process, and to give more detailed financial information to the Committee or Working Group with responsibility for each Council department, a quarterly budget report would now be presented to the relevant Committee or Working Group; all financial reports would be made available to all Members.

Reports on financial performance would be presented as follows, with the overall financial position of the Council to be presented to the Policy and Governance Committee:

| <b>Committee</b>                      | <b>Department</b>                                    |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Operations                            | Parks and Leisure<br>Sustainability                  |
| Policy & Governance                   | Finance and Governance<br>Organisational Development |
| Community Planning                    | Community Planning                                   |
| Our Prosperity Outcome Delivery Group | Economic Development and Planning                    |

Budget reports for Parks and Leisure and Sustainability for Quarter 2 – April to September 2023 were circulated for Members' information. At present the Parks and Leisure budget was in an adverse position of £678,052 (11%) due to:

- Under estimation of repairs and maintenance costs at Leisure Centres and other operational facilities;
- Increase in Parks grounds maintenance costs above budgeted levels;
- Delay in opening of Crematorium and resulting impact on budgeted income.

The Sustainability budget was also in an adverse position of £655,486 (6%) and this was due to:

- Inaccurate profiling of green waste treatment costs;
- delay in harmonisation of waste collection services;
- Under-estimation of the repairs and maintenance costs at the Recycling Centres;
- Increase in waste arisings above estimated levels.

Both Directors responded to a number of queries in respect of the reasons for budget variances as referred. The Director of Sustainability agreed to seek clarification from the Department on the availability of the funding and highlight the impact on the harmonisation of waste collection services.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*ACTION BY: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability*

### **5.3 EH/PHWB/012 POSITIVE AGEING MONTH – OCTOBER 2023**

Members were reminded that Environmental Health were responsible for delivering on the Age Friendly agenda. As part of this work, the Age Friendly Officer would organise and promote 'Positive Ageing Month' in October. This annual event of activities celebrated the contribution older people make to our Borough.

For Positive Ageing Month 2023, Environmental Health hosted a 'Check In, Check Up' Health Fair event in each of the District Electoral Areas across the Borough. The Health Fairs aimed at helping residents get connected in their area and promoted awareness of local services.

A total of 217 attendees, including representatives from various statutory, voluntary, and community organisations, participated in these events. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the Council's Age Friendly initiatives and to engage in practical demonstrations of armchair aerobics.

The Health Fair featured stands hosted by the Health and Wellbeing team, Policing and Community Safety Partnership, Community Advice Antrim and Newtownabbey, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service and Libraries NI. The Council's Leisure Team also provided free health checks, measuring blood pressure and weight.

The events, held in each DEA, received excellent feedback with 94% of attendees giving it the highest ranking and providing valuable suggestions for improvement in the upcoming years. Attendees appreciated the wealth of information about local groups, many of whom were previously unaware of the numerous activities available in their locality.

To help residents 'Get Connected', a Positive Ageing Month booklet was created, with over 500 hard copies distributed during October. Further hard copies would be available from the Environmental Health Section or online at [https://issuu.com/anborough/docs/positive\\_ageing\\_booklet\\_month\\_2023](https://issuu.com/anborough/docs/positive_ageing_booklet_month_2023)

Proposed by Councillor Gilmore  
Seconded by Councillor Logue and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

#### **5.4 WM/WM/049 RECERTIFICATION OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM ACCREDITATION**

Members were reminded that the Council currently operated an accredited Environmental Management System (EMS) for all facilities and operations which was first achieved in 2015 and successfully retained ever since.

The ISO 140001 EMS provided both a framework which sought to help reduce Council's impact on the environment and the opportunity for continuous improvement on the environmental performance of services.

The EMS was externally audited in October 2023 and the accreditation maintained. The audit found no areas of concern and the auditor provided a 'satisfactory' assessment and recommended the continuation of our certification. The auditor was impressed with the leadership and commitment levels across all sections, as well as the number of sustainable projects and initiatives that Council were involved in. Furthermore, it was affirmed that Council's EMS remained relevant, effective, and perfectly aligned with ISO14001:2015 standards and certification had been re-awarded for another three years.

Going forward, Council would continue to work across all departments to deliver on actions, such as the Climate Action Plan, Carbon Literacy, Active Travel, Social Value, Energy Efficiency, Botanical Borough and reducing Waste and increasing Recycling. Council would also continue to lead by example by actively engaging our stakeholders to share in environmental awareness and best practice.

Proposed by Councillor McWilliam  
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **5.5 WM/WM/049 ENVIRONMENTAL BENCHMARKING SUCCESS**

Council currently participated in Business in the Community's Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey which measured environmental performance across the government and business sectors in Northern Ireland in areas including energy, transport, biodiversity, water and waste.

Each year the scoring criteria became much stricter in order to achieve the best possible environmental performance and commitment to improvement from the participants.

This year's results had now been published and the Council had achieved Platinum status for 2023, the highest level possible, the only Local Authority to achieve this status. This achievement had put the Council's environmental performance alongside multi-nationals such as Coca Cola, Hellenic, Spirit Aerosystems and Seagate Technology (Ireland) Ltd.

Proposed by Councillor Magill  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmore and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **5.6 L/SAP/008 SPORTS AWARDS 2023**

Members were reminded that Council's Sports Awards had taken place on 15 November 2023, at the Theatre at the Mill. These Awards occurred once every Council term with this year's event being the most popular to date, which attracted over 100 nominations across 10 categories. The results of the 2023 Awards were detailed as follows:

**Club of the Year:** Muckamore Cricket Club

**Junior Team of the Year:** St Ergnats Under 15 Gaelic Football Team

**Senior Team of the Year:** Ballyclare Rugby Football Club 1<sup>st</sup> XV

**Coach of the Year:** Cathy Carey (Ladies Gaelic Football)

**Sportsperson of the Year with a disability:** Gareth McNeilly (Golf)

**Volunteer of the Year:** Dominic McAtamney (Football)

**Dr Jonathan Rea, MBE- Junior Sportsperson of the Year:** Gemma McMeekin (Golf)

**Janet Parkinson Award:** Molly McKenna (Trampolining)

**Adult Sportsperson of the Year:** Mark Allen (Snooker)

There was also a new inductee into the Gallery of Sporting Legends, Harry Burns MBE, from Mossley Hockey Club. Harry was recognised for his successful 49-year hockey career which also included a total of 16 Caps for Ireland.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke

Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **5.7 WM/WM/37/VOL 2 COTTONMOUNT LANDFILL SITE VISIT**

Members were reminded of the decision to arrange a visit to Cottonmount Landfill Site in Mallusk, operated by Biffa Waste Management, in light of odour complaints by residents in the area. A proposed date for a possible visit was provided, with the appointment during daylight hours for health and safety reasons:

- Wednesday 24 January 2024 – 2pm to 4pm

The visit would allow Members to see Biffa's Landfill operations and in particular odour mitigation measures, while presenting the concerns of residents.

Proposed by Councillor Ní Chonghaile

Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

*NO ACTION*

## **7 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Following queries from a number of Members, the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations agreed to provide a further report to the January Operations Committee updating Members on the progress of assisting St Mary's Football Club in acquiring their own home pitch.

**ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations**

**PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Alderman Smyth 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 PK/REG/013, PK/GEN/197 CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY UPDATE**

Members were updated on the burial and interment of ashes capacity in Council's cemeteries. The capacity as of 1 November 2023 for Council's active cemeteries and Gardens of Remembrance were detailed below:

| <b>Cemetery</b> | <b>No. of plots remaining</b> | <b>Current Average no. of plots sold PER YEAR (based on 3yr average)</b> | <b>Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)</b> |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Carnmoney       | 0                             | 156  | 0.0  |
| Ballyclare      | 606                           | 70   | 8.7  |
| Rashee          | 365                           | 9  | 40.6   |
| Sixmile         | 2121                          | 60   | 35.4   |
| Crumlin         | 419                           | 10   | 41.9   |
| <b>TOTAL</b>    | <b>3511</b>                   | <b>305</b>   | <b>11.51</b>                                       |

| <b>Garden of Remembrance Plots/Columbarium (for burial of ashes only)</b> | <b>No. of plots remaining</b> | <b>Average no. of plots sold (based on 3 year average)</b> | <b>Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)</b> |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--|
| Carnmoney GOR   | 97                            | 60   | 1.6  |
| Ballyclare GOR  | 128                           | 5  | 25.60  |
| Mallusk   | 15                            | 1  | 15.00  |

Members were reminded that the approval for a Garden of Remembrance at Sixmile Cemetery in Antrim was previously granted. Upon completion in Spring 2024, the Garden of Remembrance would offer 160 plots. Additionally, Officers were in ongoing communication with counterparts in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Belfast City Council. Both Councils were actively seeking potential sites for cemetery provision and the possibility of collaboration was currently being explored.

Members' concerns were noted in relation to inadequate car parking provision at Crumlin Cemetery and of the urgency of addressing the low burial capacity in Newtownabbey side of the Borough.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth  
Seconded by Alderman Bradley and agreed that

**the report be noted.**

NO ACTION

## **6.2 IN CONFIDENCE PK/GEN/064 NEW MOSSLEY ALLOTMENTS**

Members' approval was sought for a lease renewal for land at New Mossley Allotments and were advised that the land was owned by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which had extended an offer for a 5-year lease renewal at an annual cost of £[REDACTED]. This cost aligned with a recent land valuation conducted by Land and Property Services and remained consistent with the costs from previous years.

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Gilmore and agreed that

**a 5 year lease renewal for land at New Mossley Allotments at a cost of £[REDACTED] per annum be approved.**

*ACTION BY: Glenda James, Parks Administration Manager*

### **PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'**

Proposed by Councillor Foster  
Seconded by Councillor Logue 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.

The meeting concluded at 7.22pm.

---

**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.***