

October 25th, 2024

NOTICE OF MEETING

You are requested to attend a meeting of the

Mid and East Antrim Environment and Economy Committee

to be held on **Monday, 28th October 2024 at 6:30 pm** in **Council Chamber, The Braid, 1-29 Bridge Street, Ballymena** and via remote access.

Yours sincerely



Valerie Watts
Interim Chief Executive, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Agenda

1 NOTICE OF MEETING

2 APOLOGIES

3 DECLARATION OF INTEREST

Members and Officers are invited to declare any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interests, including gifts and hospitality, they may have in respect of items on this Agenda.

4 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION

4.1 Eco-Schools Report 2023-24 Academic Year - circulated

 *Eco-Schools Report 2023-24 Academic Year.pdf* *Page 1*

 *Appendix 1.pdf* *Page 7*

 *Appendix 2 MEA.pdf* *Page 8*

4.2 Response from DAERA re Enforcement Powers - circulated

 *Letter to DAERA Minister - Enforcement Powers.pdf* *Page 13*

 *Letter to DAERA re Enforcement Powers - response.pdf* *Page 14*

4.3 Climate Mitigation & Adaptation Reporting 2023-24 Update - circulated

 *Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Update.pdf* *Page 15*

 *Appendix 1 - Summary Overview of Plans action progress 2023_24.pdf* *Page 24*

 *Appendix 2 - CSAP 2023-24 Year-End Report.pdf* *Page 26*

 *Appendix 3 - MEA Adaptation Plan 2023-24 Year-End Report.pdf* *Page 52*

4.4 Proposed New Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities - circulated


 *Proposed new Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at MF.pdf* *Page 59*

 *Appendix 1 - The Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities.pdf* *Page 63*

 **Appendix 2 - LARAC_Draft_Response_DAERA_Sampling Reporting Material Facilities NI.pdf** *Page 86*

 **Appendix 3 - MF Definition.pdf** *Page 92*

4.5 Caddy Liner Review - circulated

 **Caddy Liner Review.pdf** *Page 93*

 **Appendix 1 Tonnage Comparison 2022 - 2024.pdf** *Page 97*

4.6 Amateur Grassroots Funding Progress Update - circulated

 **Amateur Grassroots Funding Progress Update.pdf** *Page 98*

4.7 THI Update - circulated (23.10.24)

 **Townscape Heritage Initiative Update.pdf** *Page 102*

 **Appendix 1 THI Project Board Minutes Feb 2024.pdf** *Page 107*

4.8 Economic Development Activity Update - circulated

 **Economic Development Activity Update.pdf** *Page 112*

4.9 PEACEPLUS Update - circulated

 **PEACEPLUS Update.pdf** *Page 130*

4.10 Ballymena BID Update - circulated

 **Ballymena BID update.pdf** *Page 133*

4.11 Pop Up Shops - circulated

 **Pop-up Shops.pdf** *Page 138*

4.12 Global Entrepreneurship Week - Planned Events - circulated

 **Global Enterprise Week 2024.pdf** *Page 143*

4.13 STEM Interventions Programme Update - circulated

 **STEM Interventions Programme Update.pdf** *Page 149*

4.14 Sub-Regional Economic Plan Update - circulated

 *Sub Region Economic Plan Oct report final.pdf* *Page 153*

 *Sub-Region Economic Plan - Appendix 1.pdf* *Page 158*

4.15 Street Naming for New Development, Belfast Road Carrickfergus – circulated

 *Street Naming Report Development at Belfast Road Carrickfergus.pdf* *Page 164*

 *Appendix 1 Application to name a street redacted.pdf* *Page 166*

 *Appendix 2 Site Location Plan.pdf* *Page 169*

 *Appendix 3 Site Layout.pdf* *Page 170*

4.16 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2024/25 - moved from Closed Item 7.11 (circulated 23.10.24)

 *Rural Business Development Grant Scheme.pdf* *Page 171*

5 ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO COUNCIL

6 TABLED QUESTIONS

Closed Committee - In accordance with Council policy, representatives of the Press will not be in attendance for this section of the Meeting.


7 ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION / DECISION – CLOSED COMMITTEE


7.1 Residual Waste Disposal Risks - circulated

 *Residual Waste Disposal Risks.pdf* *Not included*

7.2 Memorial Safety Report - circulated

 *Memorial Safety Report.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 Memorial Safety Topple Testing 2024 - Specification.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 2 Request Form - Memorial Safety Sept 24.pdf* *Not included*

7.3 Business Case for Building Management System - circulated

 *Business Case - Renewal of Maintenance Contract.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - Business Case for BMS Maintenance Contract.pdf* *Not included*

7.4 Business Case for Renewal of Electrical Maintenance Contract - circulated


 *Business Case for Renewal of Electrical Maintenance Contract.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 - Business Case - Renewal of Electrical Maintenance Contract.pdf* *Not included*

7.5 Business Case for CSS Framework Fuel - to follow

7.6 Surplus land transfer from Department/Tullygarley River Walkway - circulated

 *Transfer of surplus lands - Tullygarley River Walkway.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 233 acres Surplus Land for Disposal by DfC..pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 2 - 16.25 acres land to acquire adjacent to Tullygarely Riverside Walkway.pdf* *Not included*

7.7 Surplus land transfer from Department/Ballee Cemetery Potential Extension Site - circulated

 *Transfer of surplus lands at Ballee - Ballee Cemetery potential extension site.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 1 233 acres Surplus Land for Disposal by DfC.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 2 43.14 acres land to acquire adjacent to Ballee Cemetery.pdf* *Not included*

 *Appendix 3 - Trial Pit Location.pdf* *Not included*

7.8 PEACEPLUS Innovation Challenge Fund Application - circulated

 *PEACEPLUS Innovation Challenge Fund Application.pdf* *Not included*

7.9 Acquisition of former Danske Bank building, 21-23 High Street, Carrickfergus through the City Deal Project – circulated

 *Acquisition of former Danske Bank building, 21-23 High Street, Carrickfergus.pdf* *Not included*

 *Danske Bank Report.pdf*

Not included

7.10 I4C City Deal Project Update – circulated

 *i4C City Deal Project Update.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 1 KPMG - i4C Operator Procurement Update.pdf*

Not included

7.11 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2024/25 - moved to open - Item 4.16 (23.10.24)

7.12 Economic Appraisal for Gobbins Rockfall Management - circulated (24.10.24)

 *The Gobbins Economic Appraisal.pdf*

Not included

 *Gobbins annual maint EA 18 Oct 2024.pdf*

Not included

7.13 Glenarm Quarry Update - circulated (23.10.24)

 *Glenarm Quarry Update.pdf*

Not included

 *Appendix 1 - Quarry site sketch design proposal.pdf*

Not included

Open Committee

8 Forward Plan for Environment & Economy Committee - circulated

 *E&E Committee - Forward Plan Template v11.pdf*

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KEEP NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL

Report on the Eco-Schools Programme

For supporting councils

October Report for the Period:

September 2023 – June 2024

Present situation of the programme

On 1st September 2024, the programme had 1,127 schools in Northern Ireland, which is 100% of schools. The total number of live Green Flag awards is 473 which represents **42% of schools**. This figure has **increased by 9%** since the last year's report.

In addition to the Eco-Schools Green Flag, schools can also achieve intermediate accreditation by obtaining Bronze and Silver self-assessed award status, with at present 853 (increase of 1) schools having achieved a Bronze level and 754 (increase of 4) having achieved a Silver level.

We have seen a 5% reduction from 30% to 25% in lapsed schools in just the past academic year.

Green Flag Schools

We assessed 259 schools and awarded 258 schools with Green Flags in Northern Ireland from April 2024 – June 2024. Current total Green Flags is 473 out of 1,127 schools.

Workshops and Support Meetings delivered

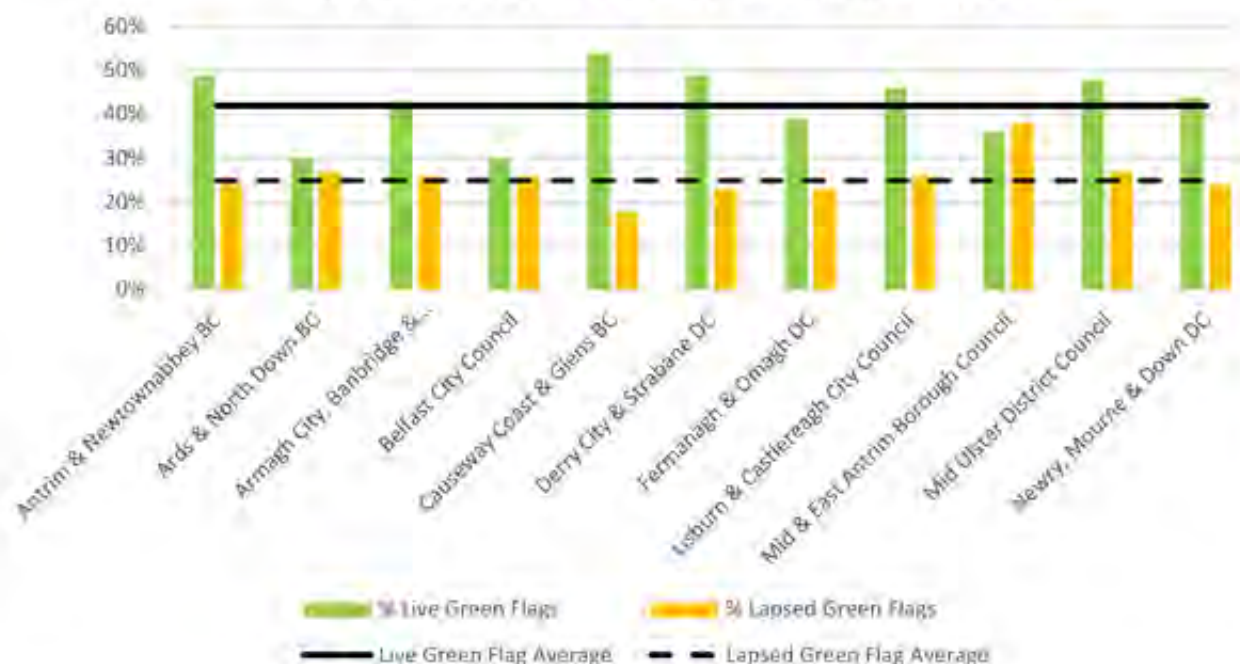
In total the team delivered 231 workshops & 372 teacher meetings across the country to support schools, pupils and and teachers on their Green Flag Journey.

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Eco-Schools overview for Academic Year 2023-24



Please see the attached appendix 1 for specific breakdown of each council

Eco-School's Team

With success of additional corporate partners and councils coming increasing support of the Eco-Schools programme we have been successful in expanding our staff team. We have two Environmental Education Coordinators Michelle Gallagher and Alice Buchanan now in post. We have 6 active Field Officers. Each Field officer is responsible for particular schools in particular council areas and funding from councils has determined the amount of support available from the field officers in each area. We hope to continue to source further funding to support more feet on the ground in the form of Field Officers right across the country.

Response to the Field Officers support

We continue to receive an overwhelmingly positive response from our schools in relation to the Field Officer support available to them. The field officers are able to deliver in person workshops and support on a daily basis to the schools in their assigned council areas.

Please see appendix 1 attached to view the breakdown of these statistics for your council area.

Eco-School's 30th Year Celebration Award Event

We liaised with corporate partners this year to organise and fund a 30th celebration for the Eco-Schools awards across 2 days (19th & 20th June) at Stranmillis College. councils in Northern Ireland. We were successful to bring along partners such as, DAERA, our councils, RiverRidge, Learn Play Nexus, Housing Executive, Energia, The Weatherbies, The Ireland Fund and Translink for the Transport. We worked closely with our team of delivery partners to host a series of workshops for those in attendance. We had support from The Weatherbies, NI Water, RSPB, Environmental Street Furniture and our internal Climate Action Team & Earth Hub Team here at Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. Workshops delivered were:

- Young Reporters for the Environment x 2

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- Earth Hub trial
- Carbon Literacy Overview
- Early Years Climate Action with The Weatherbies
- Nature Walk x 2
- NI Water session

Invitations arrived with council members, chairs, lord mayors and deputy Mayors, youth guest speakers and many of our partners in attendance. Across the 2 days, we had approx. 400 attendees at our ceremonies. In addition to the Green Flag award we gave out additional awards:

- Eco-Teacher of the Year
- Eco-Schools of the Year
- Eco-Pupil of the Year
- Wheelie Big Challenge

We will plan on resuming individual ceremonies the following year in June 2025. We continue to thank councils for their support on these along with our corporate sponsors.

Eco-Schools Newsletter

The monthly Eco-Schools newsletter is aimed at all Eco-Coordinators, Eco-Schools sponsors and delivery partners in Northern Ireland. The newsletter contains news, examples of good practice, statistics, case studies, workshop, environmental education activities, campaigns, training opportunities and latest awards. **Please send through any content by the 15th of the month for inclusion.**

We have continued to see much greater uptake from personalised emails coming from the field officers directly to the teachers in their council areas. This has proven to be much more effective this academic year in comparison to opens of our newsletter however, we will continue with our newsletter.

Eco-Schools cluster group meetings and support workshops

Cluster Group Meetings remained over the Zoom platform as both delivery partners and teachers felt they were much more accessible to them all. Therefore, this academic year we hosted 12 Cluster Group Meetings with a total of 222 attendees over the ZOOM platform.

Moving forward we at Eco-Schools will continue to organise all Cluster Group Meetings. The same process will remain: Once a date is organised we will contact the council and delivery partners to engage with us and then invite our teachers in your council area along to attend. We will continue using ZOOM as our platform. If there is a specific focus you would like for the meeting, we can discuss this in advance and be sure to focus on this area.

We will continue to offer 17 online workshops for teachers in line with our DAERA agreement. Three Action Plan Clinics and three Green Flag application clinics, topic focused online workshops to increase teacher confidence around these topic areas and resource support training. Registration links and advertisement of these workshops will be sent out in our newsletters, emails, website and social media. We have an updated online calendar to allow teachers to plan in advance for the upcoming academic year: [2024/25 EE Clinic Calendar \(knib.app\)](#)

Eco-Schools Northern Ireland Website and Social Media Platforms

Eco-Schools Northern Ireland has continued to maintain and use the website to the best of its ability to ensure projects, campaigns, contacts, resources and Green Flag support is readily available and current.



Councils have been asked to provide information so that we can update individual pages for each council. Details of council contacts can be found at the following link: <https://www.eco-schoolsni.org/cgi-bin/partners?instanceID=1h>

Eco-Schools have active **Facebook**, **Twitter** and **Instagram** accounts.

- ❖ Facebook: Likes 4.5K; Followers 5K; 314K impressions
- ❖ Instagram: Followers 1,055; Reach 14.3k+
- ❖ Twitter: Followers 3,303

We have continued to add videos to an **Eco-Schools NI YouTube channel** to share all online content created such as educational webinars and workshops for our teachers and young people.

Resources to support New Programme Guidance

We now have two Environmental Education Coordinators and we hope to deliver further teacher training in the form of clinics to help build teacher confidence around teaching about the environment and climate change. New teaching resources have been and will continue to be developed throughout the year to ensure we hit our internal target of 50% of schools with live Green Flags by 2025, 5 year ahead of the UN Greening Education partnership target by 2030.

Added Value to the Schools in Your Council

There are a range of other opportunities available to schools to improve their environmental education credentials through the Eco-Schools team that provide added value to the Council investment in the Eco-Schools programme. **Please see the attached appendix 2 for specific details relating to your Council area:**

Young Reporters for the Environment (YRE)

Young Reporters for the Environment gives young people aged 11-25 a platform to research environmental issues and promote solutions through investigative reporting, photography, and video journalism. It is an international programme, accredited by the Foundation for Environmental Education, with 360,000 reporters in 45 countries. Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful is the National Operator for the programme, which is open to schools across Northern Ireland, including your Council area. The YRE is run here as part of the Wrigley Litter Less Campaign to encourage positive behaviour change towards littering and the 6Rs.

Young reporters at post primary level are asked to investigate an environmental issue, propose solutions, report their findings in an article and inform others by sharing this through as many media outlets as possible. Themes explored in the past included litter and waste with an emphasis currently on the topical issues of single use plastics and the climate crisis. The programme effectively engages and equips young people to tell stories, building their communication and critical thinking skills and competencies.

We have made efforts to secure a part funder to allow support for YRE to grow across NI this academic year. We have been fortunate to secure another year of funding from the Housing Executive and are grateful for their continued support.

Wrigley Litter Less Campaign (WLL)

Schools are being asked to choose one criterion among three possible criteria (weight of litter in the school grounds; weight of paper recycled in the school; weight of dry recyclable material). Eco-Schools has requested expressions of interest from schools, including those in your Council area. There was a £100 incentive to the first 15 accurate reports returned to us. Therefore this year Eco-Schools gave out £1500 between the 15 winners.



Coastal Schools Workshop

With the support of our Tackling Plastic Team at KNIB we successfully delivered a Coastal Schools workshop looking at the dangers of plastic in the ocean. The pupils also receive OSPAR Marine Litter Survey Training and survey a transect of their local beach. The delivery of this project is carried out by the field Officers and is becoming increasingly popular each year with 24 workshops carried out in the academic year. This workshop was not funding for this upcoming academic year.

Tackling Fast Fashion Workshop

With the support of our Tackling Fast Fashion Team at KNIB the Field Officers have successfully delivered a Fast Fashion practical workshop across 56 schools in NI this year. We hope this programme will continue to help with Post primary engagement.

Climate Campaigning Workshop

We continued to promote our post primary Climate Campaigning workshop to ensure young people could learn how to use their voice in a productive way to be heard around their Environmental and Climate concerns. The Field Officers have successfully delivered a Climate Campaigning practical workshop across 10 schools in NI this year. We hope this programme will continue to help with Post primary engagement.

Northern Ireland Housing Executive Schools Energy Efficiency Awareness Programme.

We have embarked on another year of the Energy Efficiency Awareness Programme with NIHE. We look forward to launching this year's competition.

Radius Housing Productive Biodiversity Gardens Project

We supported 22 Productive Biodiversity Garden Project in 22 schools across the country in this shared education project to increase Biodiversity on their school grounds on their journey towards a Green Flag. They were involved in the planning, planting and harvesting of a productive biodiversity garden. The harvesting events happened in November 2023 along with shared education and community litter picks. We worked with radius and have secured one more year funding to host an intergenerational Biodiversity project across 6 areas in Northern Ireland this academic year.

Wheelie Big Challenge

The Wheelie Big Challenge is a practical initiative that helps schools learn about and implement the waste topic, thus helping achieve the Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. The Wheelie Big Challenge programme combines teaching resources with practical actions and advice on how to improve the school's performance around the waste management 6 R's – **Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Repair and Recycle**. Provision of a toolkit enables young people to also take this learning beyond the school grounds, having the added benefit of encouraging improved household recycling. This initiative has run in a number of Council areas over the past couple of years and has significantly contributed to Eco-Schools Green Flag accreditation for participating schools. Please contact a member of the Eco-Schools team if you are interested in running this scheme in your Council area. For those councils involved the team have already engaged schools in your council area for September. We delivered 56 workshops.

Game Changer & The Right Focus

We support the promotion and recruitment of two of Trócaire's programmes; Game Changers and The Right Focus. Teachers are offered training to help guide them through the programmes addressing the Global perspective Topic and focusing on issues such as Global Justice.

ETwinning – International School Pairing

We have continued to promote the FEE network and platform designed for allowing schools to pair internationally on Environmental and Climate issues.



Live Here, Love Here

There is a big push on schools to participate in 'Adopt a Spot' and 'Big Spring Clean' this will also help towards their application for Green Flag status and there is no reason this cannot be a starting point for all schools to get involved. We hope to see this reduce litter in local council areas and in and around school grounds which would be hotspots for litter and in time with education see a reduction of waste.

Carbon Literacy Training

Teachers and pupils are now able to avail of the accredited Carbon Literacy Training provided by KNIB.

OCNNI Level 2 Certificate in Reducing Carbon Footprints through Environmental Actions

Our continued support of this GCSE equivalent to post primary schools. Schools are provided with all teaching materials required and training in the form of Carbon Literacy to ensure confidence in teaching these modules. Please see a reminder of the units below:

Within this Certificate are the 5 awards everyone helped us pull together:

1. OCNNI Level 2 Award in **Reducing Carbon Footprints through Environmental Action (core module)**
2. OCNNI Level 2 Award in **Biodiversity Recovery**
3. OCNNI Level 2 Award in **Climate Campaigning**
4. OCNNI Level 2 Award in **Tackling Single Use Plastic Waste**
5. OCNNI Level 2 Award in **Tackling Fast Fashion**

Please view the full specification here: [Specification OCN NI L2 Award-Cert in Reducing Carbon Footprints through Environmental Action.pdf](#)

Belfast Climate Commission Youth Working Group

Our Environmental Education Manager plays an active role on the Youth Working Group.

Education for Sustainable Development Forum

Our Environmental Education Manager has taken on the role of Chair in the ESD Forum.

Earth Hub

KNIB is leading on a new one stop online hub for Environmental Education on Action in Northern Ireland and Eco-Schools will be the first programme at KNIB to move to this new platform. The Environmental Education Manager has been involved from inception to planning phases and now she is working closely with the Earth Hub development team to ensure when the platform is ready it will be a smooth transition for all involved. A lot of time and effort has went into this project over the last year working in partnership with Data Intellect to ensure we have the best platform possible to take action and track impact. Our goal is to move all our schools across to the platform next academic year.



Appendix 1

Council Area	% Live Green Flags	% Lapsed Green Flags	Live Green Flag Average	Lapsed Green Flag Average	Number of GF per council	Total Schools	Lapsed schools
Antrim & Newtownabbey BC	49%	24%	42%	25%	36	74	18
Ards & North Down BC	30%	27%	42%	25%	21	71	19
Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	43%	26%	42%	25%	56	130	34
Belfast City Council	30%	26%	42%	25%	54	179	47
Causeway Coast & Glens BC	54%	18%	42%	25%	53	99	18
Derry City & Strabane DC	49%	23%	42%	25%	43	87	20
Fermanagh & Omagh DC	39%	23%	42%	25%	41	104	24
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council	46%	26%	42%	25%	26	57	15
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council	36%	38%	42%	25%	27	74	28
Mid Ulster District Council	48%	27%	42%	25%	58	121	33
Newry, Mourne & Down DC	44%	24%	42%	25%	58	131	31

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Appendix 2

September 2023 – June 2024

Teacher Meetings: 19

Teacher Meetings	Date
St Louis grammar	10/10/2023
Dunclug PS	10/10/2023
Ballymena Academy	10/10/2023
Carnlough Primary School	10/10/2023
Harryville Primary	10/10/2023
Ulidia Integrated College	13/10/2023
Moorfields	21/11/2023
Carnaghts PS	21/11/2023
Larne and Inver	23/11/2023
Larne High School	23/11/2023
St Brigids Ballymena	12/07/2023
St Macnissis Larne	05/01/2024
Harryville PS	25/01/2024
St Louis Grammar	25/01/2024
St Marys Portglenone	26/01/2024
St Louis Grammar	02/07/2024
Acorn Integrated PS	20/02/2024
St Marys Portglenone	27/02/2024
Woodburn PS	27/02/2024

Workshops

Fast Fashion: 1

School	Type	Class	Date
Moorfields Primary School	Primary	p7	17/01/24

Wheelie Big Challenge: 16

School	Type	Date
Braidside Integrated PS	Primary	02/02/2024
Carnaghts PS	Primary	12/03/2024
Carnlough IPS	Primary	20/02/2024

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Dunclug Primary School	Primary	22/11/2023
Fourtowns PS, Ahoghill	Primary	23/02/24
Harryville Primary School	Primary	22/11/23
Larne and Inver PS	Primary	16/01/24
Larne High School	Secondary	16/01/24
Moorfields Primary School	Primary	17/01/24
St Louis Grammar, Ballymena	Grammar	12/12/23
St Macnissi's PS	Primary	02/08/24
St Mary's PS, Portglenon	Primary	23/02/24
Sunnylands Nursery	Nursery	01/03/24
Woodburn PS	Primary	14/03/24
Sunnylands PS	Primary	14.03.24
Gracehill	Primary	20/03/24

Coastal Schools: 3

School	Type	Date
Larne High	Secondary	23/11/23
Carnlough CIPS	Primary	1st half - 10/11/2023, 2nd half - 17/10/2023
Ulidia Integrated College	Secondary	1st half - 6/10/2023, 2nd half - 13/10/2023

Schools to register and complete the Litter Less Campaign: 1

School Name
St Louis Grammar School

Total Current Green Flag Schools June 2024: 27/74 = 36%

School	Type
Acorn Integrated Primary School	Primary
Carnaghts Primary School	Primary
Dunclug Primary School	Primary
Fourtowns Primary School	Primary
Harryville Primary School	Primary
Larne and Inver Primary School	Primary
Larne High School	Secondary

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Linn Primary School	Primary
Moorfields Primary School	Primary
St Louis Grammar School	Grammar
St Macnissi's Primary School	Primary
St Mary's Primary School	Primary
Victoria Primary School	Primary
Woodburn Primary School	Primary
St Patrick's Primary School	Primary
St Patrick's Primary School	Primary
Braidside Integrated Primary School	Primary
Carniny Primary School	Primary
Carnlough Controlled Integrated Primary School	Primary
CASTLETOWER SCHOOL	Special
Central Integrated Primary School	Primary
Eden Primary School	Primary
Gracehill Primary School	Primary
Islandmagee Primary School	Primary
Seaview Integrated Primary School	Primary
Sunnylands Nursery School	Nursery
Ulidia Integrated College	Secondary

Green Flags awarded in June 2024: 14

Schoolname	Type
Acorn Integrated Primary School	Primary
Carnaghts Primary School	Primary
Dunclug Primary School	Primary
Fourtowns Primary School	Primary
Harryville Primary School	Primary
Larne and Inver Primary School	Primary
Larne High School	Secondary
Linn Primary School	Primary
Moorfields Primary School	Primary
St Louis Grammar School	Grammar
St Macnissi's Primary School	Primary
St Mary's Primary School	Primary
Victoria Primary School	Primary
Woodburn Primary School	Primary

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Lapsed Green Flags in June 2024: 28

School Name	Type
Silverstream Primary School	Primary
Clough Primary School	Primary
Ballymena Nursery School	Nursery
Camphill Primary School	Primary
Kells & Connor Primary School	Primary
Whitehead Primary School	Primary
Millquarter Primary School	Primary
St Anthony's Nursery School	Nursery
Ballykeel Primary School	Primary
St Colmcille's Primary School	Primary
Buick Memorial Primary School	Primary
St Anthony's Primary School	Primary
Clough Primary School Nursery Unit	Private
Kirkinriola Primary School	Primary
Carrickfergus Model Primary School	Primary
Upper Ballyboley Primary School	Primary
St Nicholas' Primary School	Primary
The Country Playgroup	Other
The Diamond Primary School	Primary
Oakfield Primary School	Primary
Carrickfergus Grammar School	Grammar
Moyle Primary School	Primary
Clough & District Community Playgroup	Other
Broughshane Primary School	Primary
St John's Primary School	Primary
St Paul's Primary School	Primary
Ballymena Primary School	Primary
Hazelbank Primary School	Primary

Our goal is to reengage the 13 who have expired most recently (in the last 3 years) and maintain current numbers to see the council area moving towards 54% of active schools and sitting above the UN Greening Education Partnership global target of 50% of all schools.

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Special Awards received in June 2024

- Eco-School of the Year – Harryville Primary School
- Eco Pupil of the Year – Emily Crooks, Year 10, St Louis Grammar School
- Eco Teacher of the Year – Debbie Powel, Larne & Inver Primary School

Current Ambassador Schools in June 2024

- Ulidia Integrated College

Wheelie Big Challenge winners in June 2024

- 3rd Prize (£200): St MacNissi's Primary School Larne
- 2nd Prize (£300): Larne and Inver Primary School
- 1st Prize (£500): Moorfields Primary School

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Emailed to: andrew.muir@mla.niassembly.gov.uk

26 September 2024

Mr Andrew Muir
Room 219
Parliament Buildings
Stormont
Belfast
BT4 3XX

Dear Minister,

Re: Introduction of Enforcement Powers for Councils

At the Full Council meeting on the 2nd September 2024, Elected Members of Mid and East Antrim Council approved the recommendation to formally request delegated enforcement powers under sec 46 Environmental Protection Act 1990 to issue fixed penalty notices (FPNs) to residents who fail to comply with the Council's policy to remove their waste bins from the public highway after emptying and delegated authority under Sec 2 of the Controlled Waste (Duty of Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 to serve notice on businesses to provide evidence that they are disposing of their waste legally.

Currently the enforcement powers being sought sit within your department and are administered by enforcement officer in DAERA. However, Members agreed that given the issues needing to be addressed, (bins on highways and/or noncompliance of a business's duty of care for safe disposal of waste) are local issues it is more cost effective and efficient that contraventions be resolved locally by officers employed by Mid & East Antrim Council.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Valerie Watts'.

Valerie Watts
Interim Chief Executive

[Answer reply to:](#)

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The Braid
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Ballymena BT43 5EJ

Ballymena Office
Ardoevlin
80 Galgorm Road
Ballymena BT42 1AB

Carrickfergus Office
Museum & Civic Centre
11 Antrim Street
Carrickfergus BT38 7DG

Larne Office
Smiley Buildings
Victoria Road
Larne BT40 1RU

Planning Office
County Hall
182 Galgorm Road
Ballymena BT42 1QL

Interim Chief Executive
Valerie Watts

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**From the Office of the
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Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

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Our Ref: COR-1608-2024
Date: 09 October 2024

Dear Valerie

INTRODUCTION OF ENFORCEMENT POWERS FOR COUNCILS

Thank you for your letter dated 26 September making reference to the Environmental Protection Act (EPA) and the Duty of Care Regulations in respect of enforcement measures to issue fixed penalty notices and serve notice on businesses.

The Department has considered your request and would advise that the provisions referenced in section 46 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 on removal of waste bins from the public highway after emptying only apply to Scotland. The Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 does not contain equivalent express powers. You may want to consider whether your Council, in consultation with your legal advisers, has other suitable powers available to it to address this issue.

Consideration to amend the Controlled Waste (Duty of Care) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2002 would require a sound policy rationale to divert available resource. The Department will assess any evidence provided to demonstrate the scale of the issue and the level of support for action from district councils across NI before further consideration will be given to amend primary legislation. Introducing these amendments would require a significant use of Departmental resources and potentially a substantial amount of Assembly time.

Yours sincerely

ANDREW MUIR MLA
Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs

Sustainability at the heart of a living, working, active landscape valued by everyone.

If you are deaf or have a hearing difficulty you can contact the Department via the Next Generation Text Relay Service by dialling 18001 – telephone number.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE
We invest in people Standard



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Climate Mitigation and Adaptation Update Report
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Catherine Hunter, Environmental Education Officer
Approver:	Shaun Morley, Director of Operations

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the Council's climate mitigation and adaptation actions, progressed through the Climate & Sustainability Action Plan and the MEA Adaptation Plan.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 came into operation in June 2022 and includes requirements for local government. DAERA have also introduced new climate reporting regulations, which will require Council to report on climate mitigation every three years, first report due October 2025 and on climate adaptation every five years, first report due March 2026.
- 2.2. This reporting will be critical to aid government to inform effective policy and enable timely and effective climate action across Northern Ireland, to achieve the ambitious carbon reduction targets set out in the Act and to reduce the adverse impact of climate change on the environment, economy and society.
- 2.3. To provide relevant data and evidence to deliver on these requirements, Council developed and is delivering actions within the Climate & Sustainability Action Plan (CSAP) 2023-27 and the MEA Adaptation Plan (MEAAP) 2023-27.
- 2.4. This report provides a 2023/24 summary of progress across the 93 actions set out in the CSAP and the 36 actions set out in the MEAAP.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

Climate & Sustainability Action Plan – 2023/24 mitigation update

- 3.1. Council's Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2023-27 (Link 1) was approved by Council in March 2023. It sets out how we will address climate change in Mid and East Antrim over the next five years. It highlights our vision and commitment to meet 93 objectives across 6 themes to achieve our targets:



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

- 30% reduction in council operation emissions by 2030
- Decarbonize small vehicles in our fleet by 2030
- Council operation emissions to net zero by 2040
- Supporting the borough to net zero by 2050
- Climate resilience in our buildings, public spaces and infrastructure

It is aligned to the strategic priorities in Council's Community and Corporate Plans and the Programme for Government draft Outcomes.

- 3.2. The content below is a sample of progress updates across this Plan spanning the six key themes. Full report is available at Appendix 2.
- 3.3. Of the 93 actions within the Plan, 95 indicators are green (delivered/delivering), 32 are amber (progressing) and 9 are red (not yet delivered).



3.4. Examples of green and red indicators:

Theme	Green	Red
Good governance and community leadership	Climate and Sustainability educational programme delivered throughout 2023/24 with in-schools talks and community group presentations. Financial support to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to deliver Eco Schools within MEA primary/secondary schools which includes topic of 'Climate'. Hosted Eco Schools Cluster Meeting in October 2023 to engage schools early on to become involved / continue involvement in Eco Schools programme. Hosted Eco Schools Awards 2023 in The Showgrounds in June 2023 - Elected Members and Mayor presence. Range of stakeholder engagement presentations to a wide range of audiences including The Carson Project, IESE, SOLACE, APSE, the Inner Wheel, U3A, Rotary Clubs etc.	16 policies in total went through Committees during Q1 of 2024/2025 – 3 (19%, target is 100%) had Climate & Sustainability screening attached including draft Council Events Policy & Programme, Corporate Plan 2024-2028 % Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25.
Protecting the Environment	Conservation Grazing Plan implemented for ECOS Nature park (19ha) to allow for ongoing sustainable management of this flood plain site. Ahoghill Nature Park - regeneration of wet woodland 0.1ha Creation of Urban Forest - Ballymena involving local volunteers 0.1ha.	No red indicators.
Economy	An energy efficiency booklet with top tips for cost saving was disseminated to the town centre businesses in Carrickfergus, Larne and Ballymena. In addition, under the Town Centre Shop Improvement Grant scheme the town centre businesses were able to avail of grant support of up to £4,999 for shop front improvements that included introducing energy saving measures. 5 applicants availed of the grant support to introduce energy saving measures; 1 business from Larne and 4 from	No red indicators.



	Ballymena. Measures included new windows and new doors.	
Transport	Fleet fuel emissions for 2022/23 were 723,504 litres, 7220570 kWh and therefore 1,754.3 CO ₂ e emissions. Fleet fuel emissions for 2023/24 were 698,433 litres, 6906953 kWh and therefore 1,852.8 CO ₂ e emissions. This demonstrates a 3.6% reduction in fuel usage and overall a 4.3% reduction in carbon emissions (CO ₂ e).	No red indicators.
Resource Management	Council officers (Enforcement Officers and Environmental Education Officer) along with Arc21 have delivered 45 in-schools talks and 6 community group presentations over 2023/24.	2023/24 year end recycling = 50.64%. However, without a major waste service change/intervention, it is unlikely that 55% by 2025 will be achieved. Recycling performance has increased gradually over the last number of years, however incremental increases will be harder to achieve without a policy reform / change e.g. review of Food Waste Regulations, adoption of Common Collections Guidance with a core set of materials, and the implementation of waste harmonisation for waste/recycling collections. This is being progressed with DAERA.
Buildings and Energy	Castle St and Bridge St public realm improvements and LED lighting completed by February 2024.	On adoption of the Local Policies Plan (LPP), monitor % planning permissions granted on zonings in line with the Key Site Requirement to include soft SuDS measures. LPP has not yet been adopted.



- 3.5. Council signed the Business in the Community NI Climate Action Pledge [Link 2] in 2022, to reduce its scope 1 and 2 (oil, gas, electricity and fleet fuel) gas emissions by 30% by 2030 from 2019/20 baseline and review its scope 3 emissions (water, business and commuter miles) with a view to improve upon monitoring and reporting. Council has already reduced scope 1 and 2 emissions by 18% compared to the baseline, with further projects being delivered to meet the 2030 target.

MEA Adaptation Plan – 2023/24 adaptation update

- 3.6. Council's MEA Adaptation Plan 2023-27 was approved by Council in March 2024. It aims to:
- increase resilience of our services, people, operations, assets and estate to respond to the impacts from climate change.
 - lead by example and work collaboratively to ensure resilience and deliver effective climate adaptation.
 - raise awareness and empower local communities and businesses to respond to the impacts of climate change to deliver effective adaptation.

It is aligned to the strategic priorities in Council's Community and Corporate Plans and the Programme for Government draft Outcomes.

- 3.7. Of the 36 indicators within the Plan, 26 are green (delivered/delivering), 5 are amber (progressing) and 5 are red (not yet delivered).



- 3.8. The content below is a sample of progress updates across this Plan spanning the six key themes. Full report is available at **Appendix 3**.

Theme	Green	Red
Good governance and community leadership	Emergency Planning Implementation Group (EPIG) adopted a new approach to exercising for 2024 which centres on a discussion framework, gap analysis and action escalation protocol to SMT. Within the 2024/25 plan this approach will be used for extreme weather events and cyber-attack. In addition to prompting review & improvement of BCPs, the approach makes it possible to report through to SMT the inherent gaps (knowledge, resources, training) from which a decision as to when and how an exercise would benefit Council most. The first topic explored has been extreme weather. This has led to the GIS mapping of all council facilities against flood risk data initially, to be continued for other extreme weather scenarios.	A framework to establish how an annual summary report will be collated has yet to be established. This will include a wide range of metrics, with data collation from multiple sources, both within Council and with external partners. Council is currently seeking advice from Sustainable NI on how best to structure this report, and to ensure the correct metrics are included. (this indicator is noted as amber in Appendix 3 however, as initial discussions have begun).
Protecting the Environment	Spatial dataset identifying natural capital within Council estate – Council's GIS Officer has undertaken a pilot review of Carnfunnock Country Park to determine the habitats on site and therefore the carbon sequestration potential. This could be rolled out across the rest of Council's estate. DAERA have not yet specified if carbon offsetting will be considered in the future, and instead are focusing on carbon emission reductions.	No red indicators.
Economy	Regular review of management plans - MEACO - Environmental Monitoring System and gallery storage provision: Mid-Antrim Museum has undergone the renewal process to retain full accreditation status with an outcome expected by August 2024. Carrickfergus Museum will be invited to renew full accreditation status in July 2024 with a submission required by December 2024. Arthur Cottage and Interpretative Centre has been deemed eligible to apply for accreditation, which must be completed by January 2027.	Council is awaiting the launch of the new Tourism NI Sustainable Tourism Strategy which will then inform the MEA Sustainable Tourism Strategy. This will be considered within 2024/25. (this is amber in Appendix 3 as the Tourism team have begun preparation work for Council's new strategy).



Transport	No indicators.	No indicators.
Resource Management	<p>Our maintenance schedules are reflective of any extreme weather events as we monitor the forecasts ahead and adjust our schedules accordingly for example hot spells will require more regular watering of our plants, where as a sustained heavy rain period means we can reduce same. We also use a sustainable water source as we have two bore holes . If we have a storm event then staff would be restricted in their maintenance operating in safer sites and not tree areas where there may be a risk.</p> <p>Some of our higher risk sites would be closed if we get a severe weather warning and liaise with our Parks Development Staff re same. We would also change our maintenance schedules to deal with any severe snow event and most of our team would be deployed to deal with same. In regards to evidence of work carried out staff timesheets record all work streams for any given week.</p>	<p>Council currently has a Winter Maintenance Schedule and extreme weather protocol for bin collections. Further work is required to develop this further, to incorporate all types of extreme weather-related impacts to service delivery. This will be reviewed in 2024/25. (this indicator is amber in Appendix 3 as the waste team will use the existing Winter Maintenance Schedule and expand out to include all extreme-weather related impacts).</p>
Buildings and Energy	<p>Undertake a review of Council self-generation, the capacity and the opportunity of use across multiple sites - A review of all existing renewable generation assets has been completed, with recommendations made on repair or replacement. When completed this would bring councils solar generation assets to 9 arrays, with planned delivery of a further 4 generation / storage projects in 24/25. Council also generate energy from Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units at leisure centre sites, a ongoing review has highlighted opportunity for replacement of one of the existing assets, with planned maintenance of other units ensuring future performance. Council are also exploring investment opportunities in new heat pumps, or replacement where generation capacity was lost due to mechanical failure.</p>	<p>A mechanism to capture data and evidence on extreme weather-related repairs/clean ups has not yet been established. A cost code to log these costs was suggested, however as no budget assigned to the code, officers unlikely to use this. Ongoing discussions with Finance team on how best to capture the financial aspects of repairs/clean ups attributed to extreme weather-related impacts. Checks would take place in larger sites but possibly not documented.</p>



4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. **Legal Implications** – The Climate Change Act (NI) 2022 requires net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 and requires local authorities to report on their progress. Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 place requirements on Council to report on climate mitigation and adaptation.
- 4.2. **Financial Implications** - delivering climate objectives will reduce Council's expenditure on operational resources and expenditure on repairs following extreme weather events.
- 4.3. **Human Resources** – environmental performance and reduction in carbon footprint is the responsibility of a set number of officers, however with increasing pressure, additional resource will be required.
- 4.4. **Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan** - Planet - Council are leading by example to reduce the impact of services on the environment and protecting it for future generations.
- 4.5. **Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact** – delivery of this portfolio of work contributes to achieving net zero carbon emission targets set out in the Act.
- 4.6. **Political and Reputational** - there is significant political and community interest in and demand for action on climate change. Delivering on climate demonstrates good environmental, economic and social governance, reduces business risk and improves Council's reputation.
- 4.7. **Good Relations** - Council will build on already-established partnerships with key statutory and non-statutory stakeholders including local communities, to help shape the future, adapting to climate change and living in a more sustainable manner.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. Continue delivery and report progress on the actions within the Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2023-27.
- 5.2. Continue delivery and report on progress on the actions within the MEA Adaptation Plan 2023-27.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1. Elected Members are asked to note Council's role within the climate change legislation and to support ongoing work to provide a solid evidence

and data base for climate reporting under the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.

7. Appendices / Links

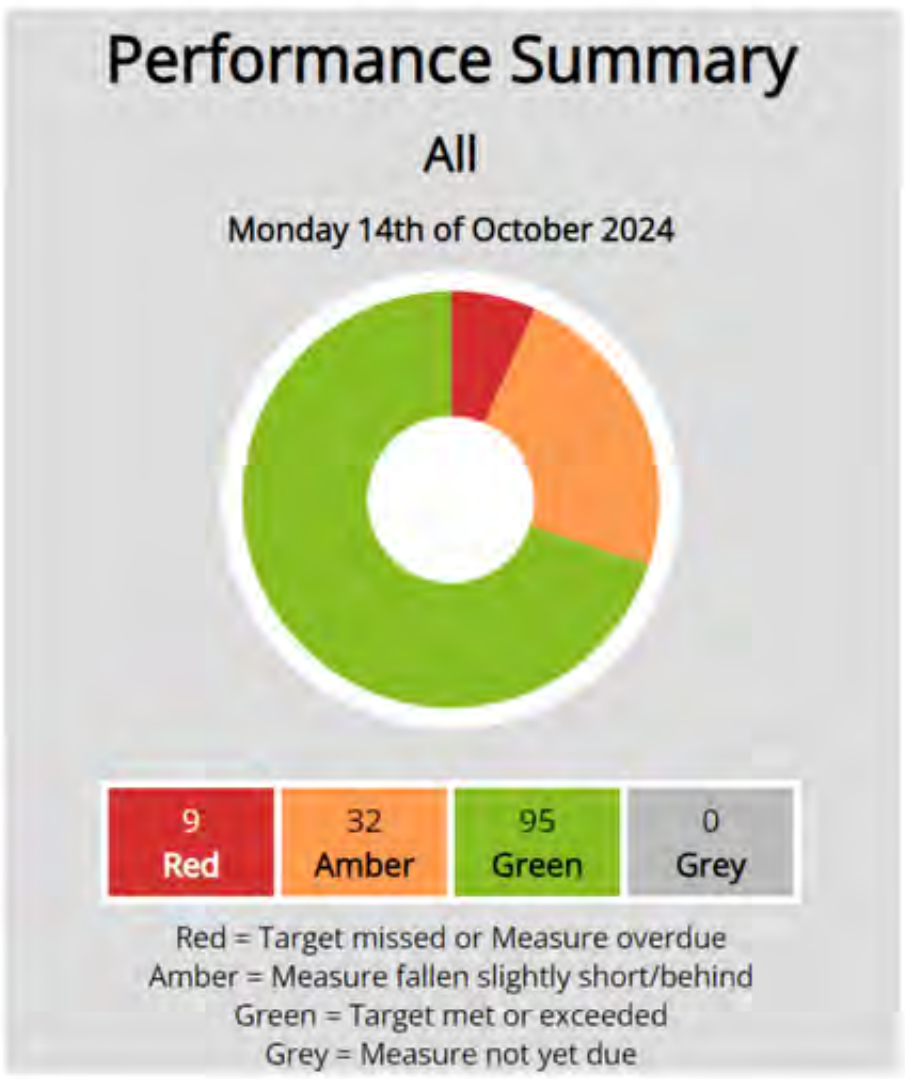
- Appendix 1 Summary Overview of Plans Action Progress 2023 24
- Appendix 2 CSAP 2023-24 Year End Report
- Appendix 3 MEA Adaptation Plan 2023-24 Year End Report

Link 1 <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/council/policies-and-documents/climate-change-sustainability/climate-sustainability-environment-reporting/>

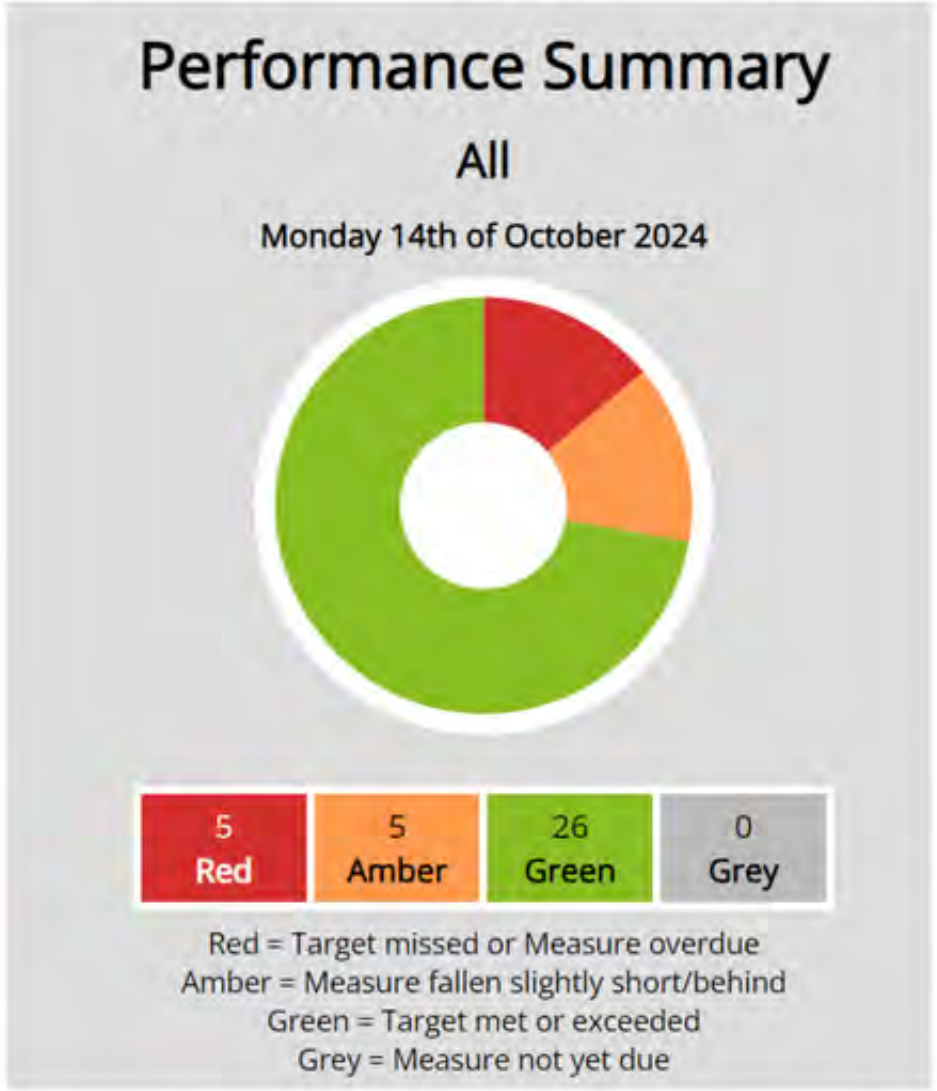
Link 2 <https://www.bitcni.org.uk/programmes/climate-action-pledge/>

Appendix 1 – Overview of Climate & Sustainability Action Plan action progress 2023/24 and MEA Adaptation Plan action progress 2023/24

Climate and Sustainability Action Plan 2023/24



MEA Adaptation Plan 2023/24



Department : All

Monday 14th of October 2024

Community Planning and Development		
BRCD01 : BRCD - To establish I4C physical hub, supporting future innovation activity in the Borough and clean technology needs across NI. Targeting BREEAM 'Excellent' rating which will embed sustainability at all stages of proposal.		
Establishment of the I4C Innovation and CleanTech Centre	Target Progress	Progress with Development of the Green
	Notes:	1 Funding - Department of Finance approval of Outline Business Case (OBC) received - November 2023 - Contract for Funding (CfF) is under development. Building Design - Procurement process for Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) completed in June 2024 and appointment pending. Building Operator - Consultant appointed to assist Council with procurement of operator for I4C building - December 2023 - Pre-Market Engagement process carried out and completed in February 2024. - Strategy for operator procurement prepared - March 2024 - Operator procurement process commenced - May 2024 (Due to complete December 2024)
BRCD02 : BRCD - Expansion at the Gobbins proposal targeting BREEAM infrastructure 'Excellent' rating on the building development. Measures to improve sustainability will be included in design and delivery		
Achieving BREEAM 'Excellent' rating	Target Progress	Preparation for delivery Green
	Notes:	1 Funding - Department of Finance approval of Outline Business Case (OBC) received - November 2023 - Contract for Funding (CfF) is under development. Building Design - Procurement process for Integrated Consultant Team (ICT) completed in June 2024 and appointment pending. Building Operator - Consultant appointed to assist Council with procurement of operator for I4C building - December 2023 - Pre Market Engagement process carried out and completed in February 2024. - Strategy for operator procurement prepared - March 2024 - Operator procurement process commenced - May 2024 (Due to complete December 2024)
BRCD03 : BRCD - Carrickfergus Regeneration Project to regenerate, reposition and rebrand the town of Carrickfergus. Measures to improve sustainability will be included in design and delivery.		
Achieving BREEAM 'Excellent' rating on the building development	Target Progress	Preparation for delivery Green
	Notes:	1 BREEAM Excellent target included in ITC Tender Docs, Project registered for BREEAM Infrastructure.
Development		
BRCD03 : BRCD - Carrickfergus Regeneration Project to regenerate, reposition and rebrand the town of Carrickfergus. Measures to improve sustainability will be included in design and delivery.		
No. of increased GVA and jobs for Northern Ireland	Target Progress	Green

Notes:

1 McAdam Design were appointed in November 2023 to lead the ICT for the design of the Carrickfergus Regeneration Project. Design proposals to date include: • Looking at options to better connect the castle with the town centre. • Consideration of various locations in and around the town centre as a the location for a visitor centre. • Adaption of the Civic Centre and Town Hall complex to provide an arts venue. • Development of the Castle as a world class visitor attraction • Interpretative plans around the historic walls including a lighting scheme. The Department for Infrastructure and Council's Planning team are working together on the Eastern Transport Plan which is being developed to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure capacity for the future. McAdam Design have undertaken topographical survey work and 3D modelling of the Carrickfergus town centre. This will create a baseline upon which accurate design work can be developed. A Conservation Management Plan has now been completed. This plan indicates which interventions are acceptable to the heritage assets within the town. Public Engagement is ongoing with recent meetings held with Positive Carrickfergus, the North Street Traders, and the internal Council cross departmental working group to ensure a joined-up approach to any work planned to Carrickfergus. A public engagement strategy has been developed and a series of 6 workshops are planned for the next 12 months commencing in June 2024. The second engagement event is planned for the 28th of August 2024. The council team are working with BT to see how through the project digital infrastructure and connectivity within the town can be improved. This will not only benefit the City Deal project but the wider town. KPMG have been employed to assist council with the determining the Operator models. This work is currently being finalized.

No. of regeneration of Carrickfergus town centre.

Target

Progress

Green

Notes:

1 McAdam Design were appointed in November 2023 to lead the ICT for the design of the Carrickfergus Regeneration Project. Design proposals to date include: • Looking at options to better connect the castle with the town centre. • Consideration of various locations in and around the town centre as a the location for a visitor centre. • Adaption of the Civic Centre and Town Hall complex to provide an arts venue. • Development of the Castle as a world class visitor attraction • Interpretative plans around the historic walls including a lighting scheme. The Department for Infrastructure and Council's Planning team are working together on the Eastern Transport Plan which is being developed to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure capacity for the future. McAdam Design have undertaken topographical survey work and 3D modelling of the Carrickfergus town centre. This will create a baseline upon which accurate design work can be developed. A Conservation Management Plan has now been completed. This plan indicates which interventions are acceptable to the heritage assets within the town. Public Engagement is ongoing with recent meetings held with Positive Carrickfergus, the North Street Traders, and the internal Council cross departmental working group to ensure a joined-up approach to any work planned to Carrickfergus. A public engagement strategy has been developed and a series of 6 workshops are planned for the next 12 months commencing in June 2024. The second engagement event is planned for the 28th of August 2024. The council team are working with BT to see how through the project digital infrastructure and connectivity within the town can be improved. This will not only benefit the City Deal project but the wider town. KPMG have been employed to assist council with the determining the Operator models. This work is currently being finalized.

No of wellbeing benefits for residents

Target

Progress

Green

1 McAdam Design were appointed in November 2023 to lead the ICT for the design of the Carrickfergus Regeneration Project. Design proposals to date include: • Looking at options to better connect the castle with the town centre. • Consideration of various locations in and around the town centre as a the location for a visitor centre. • Adaption of the Civic Centre and Town Hall complex to provide an arts venue. • Development of the Castle as a world class visitor attraction • Interpretative plans around the historic walls including a lighting scheme. The Department for Infrastructure and Council's Planning team are working together on the Eastern Transport Plan which is being developed to ensure that there is adequate infrastructure capacity for the future. McAdam Design have undertaken topographical survey work and 3D modelling of the Carrickfergus town centre. This will create a baseline upon which accurate design work can be developed. A Conservation Management Plan has now been completed. This plan indicates which interventions are acceptable to the heritage assets within the town. Public Engagement is ongoing with recent meetings held with Positive Carrickfergus, the North Street Traders, and the Internal Council cross departmental working group to ensure a joined-up approach to any work planned to Carrickfergus. A public engagement strategy has been developed and a series of 6 workshops are planned for the next 12 months commencing in June 2024. The second engagement event is planned for the 28th of August 2024. The council team are working with BT to see how through the project digital infrastructure and connectivity within the town can be improved. This will not only benefit the City Deal project but the wider town. KPMG have been employed to assist council with the determining the Operator models. This work is currently being finalized.

Notes:

Regeneration

CAP01 : Develop opportunities for promoting and encouraging sustainable water management

No. of water diversion / holding proposals (green roofs, permeable paving, soakaways, tree planting, pond and wetlands) considered at design stage of new projects

Target	Total number of new proposals
Progress	Amber 11

Notes:

1 No projects are applicable to date for water butts – however some Capital projects are benefiting from water saving technologies such as sensor taps and we are also looking into waterless urinals. We can review if this will be applicable to include as part of the designs for Browns Bay toilet block, Islandmagee. Tree planting, paving and green roofs considered for all projects where relevant.

CAP02 : Ensure town centres regeneration contributes to climate action by reducing emissions, investing in low carbon transport and creating more greenspaces

No. of public realm improvements / regeneration projects delivered in partnership with Council, DFC and DFI

Target	Total number of projects delivered
Progress	Green

Notes:

1 Castle St and Bridge St public realm improvements completed by February 2024

CAP03 : Examine lighting approaches in design of public & civic space which contributes to a low carbon environment

Lighting upgrades complete across town centres

Target	11
Progress	Green

Notes:

1 Castle St and Bridge St street lighting upgraded to LED

Capital Plan

CAP04 : Ensure sustainable principles are integrate into all major construction and refurbishment projects (over £3m) at the design phase, incorporating it into both the business case and project specification

Evidence of sustainable principles included in design phase	Target: Yes Actual: Yes	Yes Yes
	Notes:	1 Camfunnock Country Park Levelling-Up project is currently working towards Passivehaus accreditation and this will be monitored at each RIBA Stage.
Evidence of whole life carbon assessments to costing and evaluating build and retrofit options.	Target: 1 Progress: Amber	1 Amber
	Notes:	1 There are no other projects applicable to date for whole life carbon assessments. We will continue to develop Camfunnock Country Park to PassiveHaus accredited standard. (This is difficult to incorporate in a project and not something we have completed before – unsure of the benefit outside of Passivehaus accreditation.)
CAP05 : New build extensions or refurbishment projects in excess of £1,000,000 and 1,000m2 will be subject to a formal assessment and will be expected to achieve Plus certification, where appropriate. All other new build, extensions or refurbishment projects will adopt key sustainable practices and wider sustainability requirements.		
No. of projects achieving Plus certification	Target: No. of projects achieving Plus Progress: Amber	No. of projects achieving Plus Amber
	Notes:	1 The delivery of Camfunnock Country Park Levelling up project is incorporating Passivhaus design and certification in the delivery of the new visitor centre and caravan amenity block. The project is currently at detailed design stage. Any new projects on the Capital Plan going forward that meet the criteria will be considered for certification going forward.
No. of projects adopting sustainable practices	Target: Total number of projects adopting Progress: Amber	Total number of projects adopting Amber
	Notes:	1 There are currently 13 projects within the FY24/25 Capital Plan that will be adopting sustainable principles in the delivery. This will range from improved thermal performance of buildings, renewable energy and sustainable materials. This will remain under review and maximised where feasible.
CAP06 : Construction Stage: Manage construction waste in line with the waste hierarchy of reduce, re-use and recycle through sustainable design		
Number of projects incorporating reused and recycled construction material	Target: 5 Actual: 5	5 5
	Notes:	1 2 MUQAs - recycled plastics 3 Play parks - recycled materials including recycled rubber and equipment. contains recycled plastics
Use of locally sourced and recovered materials	Target: Yes Actual: Yes	Yes Yes
	Notes:	1 The specifications for the delivery of projects within the FY24/25 Capital Plan will include where possible the use of locally sourced and sustainable materials.
CAP07 : Require the design of buildings to incorporate climate resilience and flood proofing measures in at risk locations		
Reduction in development within flood risk locations	Target: Yes Actual: Yes	Yes Yes
	Notes:	1 As part of the due diligence checks and as part of the design process, where possible development will be minimised in areas deemed a flood risk location. This will be mitigated through good design principles, planning and liaison with statutory bodies.

<p>Increase in use of sustainable drainage</p>	<p>Target: Yes Actual: Yes</p>	<p>Yes Yes</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Sustainable drainage is included in the Greenisland FC new car park project. This will also be included where possible in other Capital Projects with the FY24/25 Capital Plan.</p>		
<p>CAP08 : Design Stage: incorporation of increased greening e.g., through installation of green walls/roofs etc, use of SuDS, where possible</p>		
<p>No. of designs incorporating green walls/roofs, use of SuDS</p>	<p>Target: Total number of designs Progress: Green</p>	<p>Total number of designs Green</p>
<p>Notes: 1 3no projects completed by Regeneration in Ballymena, Larne and Carrick which incorporated green walls under the DfC Covid recovery scheme. SUDS drainage included in Greenisland FC car park. Small portion of green roofs included in the Carnfunnock LUF Project.</p>		
<p>CAP09 : Deliver a flagship project which maximises sustainable design principles and use of sustainable construction materials</p>		
<p>Delivery of Carnfunnock Country Park refurbishment.</p>	<p>Target: Preparation of design and delivery Progress: Amber</p>	<p>Preparation of design and delivery Amber</p>
<p>Notes: 1 The delivery of this project is ongoing, it is currently in detailed design phase and the specification is following sustainable and passivhaus principles.</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;">Climate Change Sustainability</p>		
<p>CCS01 : Further realise the efficiencies and sustainable benefits of agile working, encouraging virtual meetings and effective journey management</p>		
<p>% reduction in business miles annually</p>	<p>Target: 5% Actual: 5%</p>	<p>5% 5%</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Council officers have established a baseline of business miles in 2022/23. 2023/24 saw a slight decrease in the total miles travelled due to agile working, digital online meetings etc. 2022/23 = 291,256 business miles 2023/24 = 283,436.2 business miles</p>		
<p>% reduction in commuting miles annually</p>	<p>Target: 5% Actual: 0%</p>	<p>5% 0%</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Council adopted a new Agile Working Policy for all employees from September 2020 reflecting the change of work/home working balance due to covid-19. This provided employees with more flexibility to work from home, therefore reducing commuting miles. From April 2023, all employees were required to work a minimum of 2 days in-office. From April 2024, all employees are required to work a minimum of 3 days in-office. Due to the changes in the Agile Working Policy, commuting miles have increased between 2022/23 and 2023/24. 2023/24 will be the baseline year for this Plan.</p>		
<p>CCS02 : Ensure that climate change risks are appropriately addressed within our risk management and business continuity process</p>		
<p>Climate change risks are included in the risk register</p>	<p>Target: 5% Actual: Yes</p>	<p>5% Yes</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Climate Change Risks were reviewed in March 2024 by the Environmental Education Officer, including specific updates on what has been delivered to mitigate these.</p>		

<p>Every service area's Business Continuity Plan includes climate change threats.</p>	<p>Target: Yes Actual: No</p>	<p>Yes No</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Due to Council's Corporate Risk Manager leaving Council, and no officer taking over this position, risks in general in Council are not being reviewed adequately. This includes climate-related risks.</p>	
<p>CCS03 : Engage and influence the pension scheme provider on fossil fuel divestment</p>		
<p>Report from pension scheme on % fossil fuel divestment</p>	<p>Target: 100 Progress: 100</p>	<p>100 Amber</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Discussions are ongoing within Council between finance, Elected Members and SMT on pension fund investments. Whilst officers and Elected Members are open to discussions, the general agreement is to continue with investments, part of which include fossil fuel-derived returns. Further research and discussion is required as more evidence and return of investment data is provided for alternate pension portfolios.</p>	
<p>CCS04 : Investigate best practice to collate emissions from Council's supply chain</p>		
<p>Evidence of engagement with supply chain</p>	<p>Target: Evidence of emissions to reduce Progress: Green</p>	<p>Evidence of emissions to reduce Green</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 This stage for Council to collect carbon emissions from the Supply chain has been postponed indefinitely</p>	
<p>CCS05 : Implement actions within Council's Adaptation Plan to reduce the impacts of extreme weather and improve health and well being</p>		
<p>No. of Initiatives to enhance and promote the benefits of green open spaces and the landscape quality</p>	<p>Target: Total number of initiatives Progress: Green</p>	<p>Total number of initiatives Green</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Over 2023/24 a number of initiatives were delivered to enhance and promote the benefits of green, open spaces and landscape quality, in collaboration with the Parks Development Team, including: • 58,610 trees planted on public land 2023/24. • Support for red squirrel conservation programmes at Carnfunnock Country Park. • Fairtrade status for the Borough retained. • Total of 5 community fridges providing important resource for those who need it and a facility for businesses and local growers to reduce food waste. • 3 x Green Flag awards retained (Eder Allotments Gardens, Carnfunnock Country Park, Ecos Nature Park). • 1 x Green Flag community award retained for Shellinghill Park & Millennium Walk in Cullybackey. • 3 x Seaside awards retained (Carnlough, Ballygally, Browns Bay). • Success at Ulster in Bloom 2023 with Cullybackey securing first prize in the large village category and selected for entry into Britain in Bloom 2024. • 3 x schools completed Forest School programme (6 sessions per school = 18, approximately 80 pupils engaged). • 3 x schools completed Schools Growing Club programme (6 sessions per school = 18, approximately 80 pupils engaged). • 3 programmes ran to engage people with their local environment involving 194 participants:- o Natural connections Photography o Health oceans, healthy minds o Plot to plate o 79 events held engaging with over 2000 participants. • 218 active allotment holders.</p>	
<p>No. of Community Resilience Groups / Initiatives</p>	<p>Target: Total number of groups/initiatives Progress: Amber</p>	<p>Total number of groups/initiatives Amber</p>

Notes:

1 The Community Resilience Toolkit was developed from funding from the Regional Community Resilience Group (RCRG) in partnership with Derry and Strabane District Council. This toolkit will be shared with not only already-established MEA Community Resilience Groups (primarily Ballymena area), but also general MEA Community Groups. Council has a database of known community groups and we will contact them in 2024/25 to make them aware of the toolkit. This work will be supported by a number of stakeholders including RCRG, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (via Community Group Carbon Literacy Training etc) and Council officers.

CCS06 : Develop cross departmental collaborations and partnerships to assist with resources of funding for climate action

No. of cross-departmental collaborations and partnerships

Target:

Total number of collaborations and

Progress

Green

Notes:

1 Council officers continue to collaborate on a range of carbon emission reduction projects including: • The HyTech NI Project represents a collaboration between Mid & East Antrim Borough Council, Queen's University Belfast, Ulster University and industry underpinned by £15million funding leverage from the NI Complementary Fund. The Outline Business Case for the project has been submitted to InvestNI for appraisal and the partners are expecting an approval decision in late 2024. The Universities are leading on the creation of a hydrogen technology accelerator to support NI companies to innovate and expand in the emerging hydrogen economy, while Council and its local industry partners plan to implement a series of hydrogen testbed demonstrators in Ballymena around the themes of mobility/transport, gas blending and skills training over a four-year funded period. These demonstrators will serve as pathway finder projects in the transition to net zero and position the Borough as a hub for manufacturing and supports in the future hydrogen economy. • The Hydrogen Training Academy (HTA) continued to be operational in 2023/24 with accredited training delivery being led by Northern Regional College throughout 2023/24. The pilot project finished in March 2023 but Council continues to work in partnership with NRC and other HTA partners on delivery of the OCN accredited Level 3 in Hydrogen Technologies and Applications, providing the H2 Gas Safe Lab and equipment for the H2 Fuel Cell Skills Lab to support the training delivery. There have now been more than 200 trainees accredited through the Hydrogen Training Academy including 70 at Level 5 and more than 130 at Level 3. More than 200 organisations and 500 people have engaged in the HTA project since November 2021, and the HTA partners continue to develop the offering and provide access to the bespoke training labs for stakeholders from both public and private sector. • In April 2023, Council secured £294,454 from Innovate UK under the Fast Follower strand of the Net Zero Living Programme to deliver a two year 'MEANZ' Business project from 1 July 2023 to June 2025. This 'MEANZ Business' project provides an additional staff resource and full programme of activity which includes social, economic and technical support. The project supports both Council and businesses to achieve a higher level of net zero readiness and increased capacity, helping to realise organisational sustainability targets faster and support the national transition towards net zero. To date, the project has included delivery of a tailored programme of engagement, support and dissemination on net zero to a range of stakeholders, with a focus on targeting c400 relevant businesses in the Borough and will continue until June 2025 with activities such as: A Net Zero Insights webinar series, best practice visits, a consumer engagement and customer behaviour research exercise, a Council led data and digitalisation project focusing on emissions reporting, a NZ skills mapping exercise, a capacity building programme for Council Planning Officers in relation to net zero and renewables and finally, support for the CleanTech Collaborative Growth Network and implementation of a joint decarbonisation project with a group of local companies. • Plans to regenerate, reposition and rebrand the town of Carrickfergus have moved a step closer after a funding agreement was sealed for the rollout of the £42m project. A key strand within the Belfast Region City Deal under the 'Tourism and

Regeneration' pillar, the Carrickfergus Regeneration is one of three projects in Mid and East Antrim that will collectively benefit from more than £80m investment as part of the City Deal. The Carrickfergus project will firmly place the town on the map as an authentic, heritage-led, tourism hub, and a 'must-visit' starting point to the internationally acclaimed Causeway Coastal Route. This project will be delivered to BREAAAM 'Excellent' standard for sustainability. • Over £6million has been allocated to Camlinnock Country Park from the UK government's Levelling Up Fund. Levelling up is a UK government regional development plan. It is aimed at improving economic performance outside the south-east of England. The scheme is most closely associated with the north of England but is funding projects throughout the UK. The key components of the project will include construction of a new visitor centre which will house a retail shop, café, meeting rooms and bathroom facilities, overlooking the coastline. Works commence in September 2024. • Conservation grazing programme implemented at Keeran Moss peatland as per conservation management plan. The enables sustainable management of this important habitat and reduces the need for mechanical management. • 58,610 trees planted on public land 2023/24. Waste Reduction Schemes including MEA School Uniform Scheme, MEA Christmas Toy Container Scheme, MEA Community RePaint Scheme etc which has reduced carbon emissions. Council also works through the Emergency Planning Implementation Group (EPIG) to consider climate-related risks to both Council services and local communities and has co-designed a Community Resilience Toolkit to educate residents on potential risks, to identify gaps in knowledge/access to equipment e.g. snow shovels and to bring communities together to help them help themselves.

CCS07 : Engage with schools and community groups to increase knowledge and support the waste hierarchy and circular economy to meet our waste and climate targets

<p>No. of events run by council to promote reduce, re-use, recycling and circular economy</p>	<p>Target Progress</p>	<p>Total number of events Green</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 4 Waste Reduction Schemes MEA School Uniform Scheme MEA Christmas Toy Container Scheme MEA Community RePaint Habitat for Humanity - DIY products sold on at low cost Northern Ireland Resource Network Lunchtime seminar on local reuse/repair opportunities (March 2024).</p>	
<p>No. of communications campaigns to increase re-use, repair and recycling</p>	<p>Target Progress</p>	<p>Total number of campaigns Green</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Range of communication campaigns delivered throughout 2023/23; Recycle Week 2023 (October) Food Waste Recycling Campaign 2024 (February) Food Waste Action Week 2024 (March) Reuse campaign comms around School Uniform Scheme, Christmas Toy Container, Community RePaint etc. Continual campaigns throughout the year on promoting recycling of dry recycling and food waste streams.</p>	

CCS08 : Encourage communities to engage in climate education and participate in sustainable initiatives

<p>No. of climate education programmes promoted</p>	<p>Target Progress</p>	<p>Total number of climate education programmes Green</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Climate and Sustainability educational programme delivered throughout 2023/24 with in-schools talks and community group presentations. Financial support to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful to deliver Eco Schools within MEA primary/secondary schools which includes topic of 'Climate'. Hosted Eco Schools Cluster Meeting in October 2023 to engage schools early on to become involved / continue involvement in Eco Schools programme. Hosted Eco Schools Awards 2023 in The Showgrounds in June 2023 - Elected Members and Mayor presence. Range of stakeholder engagement presentations to a wide range of audiences including The Carson Project, IESE, SOLACE, APSE, the Inner Wheel, UJA, Rotary Clubs etc.</p>	

No. of sustainable initiatives delivered	Target	Total number of sustainable initiatives
	Progress	Green
Notes: 1 Financial support to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Live Here Love Here Small Grants Scheme 2023 - 10 projects supported to deliver environmental improvement projects including sustainability themes.		

CCS09 : Upskill our workforce on climate change and encourage an agile corporate culture of resource efficiency in the workplace

No. of employees who have received Carbon Literacy Training	Target	350
	Actual	250 -
Notes: 1 Funding for training is not available to roll out further Carbon Literacy Training. Key staff and Elected Members undertook training from March 2023 until September 2023. 2024/25 training budget may be possible.		

Communications

COM01 : Implement a collaborative approach to delivering the climate change agenda to local communities

No. of communications and PR to raise awareness of climate and sustainability agenda	Target	Total number of comms and PR
	Progress	Green
Notes: 1 Approx. 20 PR's issued throughout the year linking in with Council's awareness of climate and sustainability agenda.		

Monitor the effectiveness of climate change engagement through digital platforms	Target	Ongoing monitoring of
	Progress	Green

Events

CPD01 : Improve promotion, marketing, and communication of sustainability-themed procurement activities, policies and processes as appropriate

No. of sustainability and climate themed events	Target	Total number of sustainability themed
	Progress	Amber -
Notes: 1 sustainability is built into each event without the being the main theme. There are fewer single use plastics on site. Recycling waste points		

CPD02 : Reduce consumption of single-use plastic (SUP) within Council and events

% reduction in single-use plastic	Target	10%
	Actual	10%
Notes: 1 The Events Team uses a minimum number of plastic cable ties and laminate signage. Everything else is reused. Food trader applications have a criterion which favours compostable materials to serve food		

CPD03 : Improve promotion marketing and communication of sustainability themed events

Evidence of sustainability criteria used in events	Target	Yes
	Actual	Yes
Notes: 1 Public transport is a priority. We no longer print glossy flyers (all digital). Recycling points. Traders selected by their environmental attitude (compostable items, cooking oil deposit, packaging etc)		

Community Planning and Development

CPD04 : Support communities to access funding for climate action projects to sustainably manage their environment e.g., environment grant

No. of funded climate action projects delivered

Target
Progress

Total number of funded climate action projects delivered
Green

Notes: 1 The DEA Staff team continue to support the CVS groups to develop and deliver projects primarily through the Cluster Programme.

Policy

CS01 : Ensure that sustainable development and climate change are used as a guiding principle in Council plans, policies and strategies

100% of new or reviewed policies screened for sustainability

Target
Actual

100%
18%

Notes: 1 16 policies in total went through Committees during Q1 of 2024/2025 – 3 (18%) had Climate & Sustainability screening attached. Policy Name C&S Screening attached. Review of Benra Golf Course and Mini-Golf - Financial Review No Draft Personal Protective Equipment Policy No Draft Council Events Policy & Programme Yes Waste Efficiencies No Corporate Plan 2024-2028 Yes Performance Improvement Plan 2024-25 Yes Update on Review of Good Governance: Transforming Mid and East Antrim Borough Council No Policy Briefing No Update on Council Events No Debt Management Policy No Fixed Penalty Notices for Litter and Dog Fouling Offences No Mid and East Antrim Tourism, Arts and Culture Interim Plan 2024 - 2027 No Review of Pricing for Booking Parks and Open Spaces No Review of Pricing for Pitch Bookings No Organic Waste Collection – Limitations and Charges No Policies - Raising Concerns Policy, Fraud Policy, Fraud Response Plan No

Economic Development

ED01 : Support the business community to adopt energy efficiency practices and progress towards net zero carbon emissions by 2050

No. of business mentoring/information/education sessions delivered

Target
Progress

Total number of business mentoring/information/education sessions delivered
Green

Notes: 1 7 total business engagement sessions completed under MEANZ Business activity between 1 July 2023 and 31 March 2024.

ED02 : Work in partnership with academia and employers to help shape future Cleantech skills interventions.

Development of course materials in partnership with academia partners and employers

Target
Progress

Production of course materials
Green

Notes: 1 L2 and L3 accredited hydrogen course materials developed by NRC. Funded by DfC under MEA LMP.

ED03 : Using the Belfast Regional City Deal to drive low carbon growth and transformational change

Secure funding for i4C innovation and cleantech centre

Target
Actual

Yes
Yes

Notes: 1 Funding approved by funder for £20m, still awaiting contract for funding, ICT team being appointed and PPOE

No. of hydrogen trial test-bed projects established

Target
Progress

Total number of hydrogen test-bed projects established
Amber

Notes: 1 OBC for Hytech project still under appraisal, approval expected late 2024, 3 test bed projects in the process of being established.

ED04 : Explore low carbon initiatives for town centre business/property owners to introduce low carbon practices

Deliver successful introductions of low carbon initiatives

Target
Progress

Number of low carbon initiatives
Green

Notes:

1 Creation of an energy savings guide with useful tips, guidance and support with links to relevant sites and contacts, the guide was disseminated to town centre businesses and also available on pdf format. Roll out of revitalise shop grants, applicants could apply for new efficient external lighting, replacement windows/doors for energy efficiency. Reusable shopping bags given out at town centre events.

ED05 : Work in partnership with academia and employers to promote career opportunities in the Cleantech sector through a series of school engagement activities

No. of schools engagement events to promote the Cleantech/environment/science sector to schools

Target
Progress

Total number of schools
Green

Notes:

1 Wide programme of schools and company engagement events undertaken including Science Summer School. 13 engagement events delivered relating to sustainability, science, cleantech and environmental aspects.

ED06 : Provide business with opportunities to learn new skills and develop a knowledge and education of opportunities within the Cleantech sector

No. of training courses/practical training delivered

Target
Progress

5
Green

Notes:

1 1 hydrogen training course delivered by NRC in qtr 1 to 10 participants

No. of businesses participating in clean tech initiatives

Target
Progress

15
Green

Notes:

1 Collaborative Growth Network Meetings held on 12 April, 17 May and 28 June 2024 - attendees included Smiths Engineering, TST, IPC, Ryobi, Moore Concrete, GES, Firmus, Dowds, Clarke. Hydrogen Innovation Initiative event/IDNI Workshop/HyTech NI Board Meeting - Jans Group, Dinsmore, RJ Kerr, TopGlass, Kilwaughter, Port of Lame, Translink. TOTAL = 16

ED07 : Examine town centre incentives for business/property owners to introduce low carbon practices

No. of successful introductions of low carbon incentives and uptake

Target
Progress

Total number of successful
Green

Notes:

1 • An energy efficiency booklet with top tips for cost saving was disseminated to the town centre businesses in Carrickfergus, Lame and Ballymena. • In addition, under the Town Centre Shop Improvement Grant scheme the town centre businesses were able to avail of grant support of up to £4999 for shop front improvements that included introducing energy saving measures. • 5 applicants availed of the grant support to introduce energy saving measures: 1 business from Lame and 4 from Ballymena. Measures included new windows and new doors

Harbours and Marinas

FAC01 : Work in partnership with Ulster Wildlife to re-introduce native oyster beds to Glenarm and Carrickfergus marinas

No. of oyster beds introduced

Target
Progress

Total number of oyster beds
Green

Notes: 1 Oyster nursery in Glenarm Marina developing well and being monitored by Ulster Wildlife. Plans now taking place to replicate this project in Carrick Marina.

FAC02 : Introduce natural solutions for oil spills in Harbours and Marinas

No. of oil spills cleared with polysorb (target 0)

Target

0

Actual

5

Notes: 1 Polysorb microbes used on 5 (total) very small oil spills at Carrickfergus Marina, Carrickfergus Harbour and Glenarm Marina. Product very effective when given adequate time. In process of agreeing a contract with Polysorb whereby they will provide a Tier 1 Spill Response for MEA at no upfront cost and at pre-agreed prices. Polysorb were also nominated for an award (see attached email from Andrew Brines).

Facilities Management and Maintenance

FAC03 : Support the roll out of the EV infrastructure in the Council estate and across the Borough

No. of new EV charge points

Target

Total/cumulative EV chargepoints

Progress

Amber

Notes: 1 MEA Energy Manager serving as chair on procurement team for ORCS public charging infrastructure project bringing 127 double chargers across 10 council areas 12 of which to MEA. Has also secured upgrades to 6 ESB double chargers with planning for a further 3. This is on track to deliver 42 public charge points to MEA residents before the end of the next financial year.

FAC04 : Improve the energy efficiency of Council buildings to help deliver carbon reduction targets and reduce costs

Reduction in Carbon Emissions

Target

Total carbon emissions reduction

Progress

Green

Notes: 1 Energy Efficiency projects delivered 23/24 LED lighting - Amphitheatre, Sullatober HRC, all carparks in Larne & all carparks Ballymena, Ballymena HRC & Nursery Energy Projects 2024-25 LED lighting – Seven Towers Leisure Centre, The Showgrounds, People's Park, Carrickfergus car parks

FAC05 : Maximise the use of renewable energy sources to help deliver carbon reduction targets and reduce costs

Reduction in Carbon Emissions

Target

Yes

Actual

Yes

Notes: 1 Renewable projects delivered 23/24: 200kWp total Solar Arrays - Springwell multi-storey car park, Sullatober Waste Transfer, Larne LC, Carrick LC. 24/25 - Solar PV - The Braid, Waveney Rd Household Recycling Centre (HRC) & Nursery, Portglenone Marina, Battery Storage - Sullatober HRC, Springwell St.

Facilities M & M and Harbours & Marinas

FAC06 : Embed good practice energy management approaches into facility and building management decisions

Evidence of use of good practice energy management approaches in decision making

Target

Evidence of good practice

Progress

Green

Notes:

1 Council continues to monitor electricity and energy usage across the estate. In 2023/24 Council has reduced its energy consumption by 9% compared to previous year (and by 18% compared to 2019/20 baseline year) due to energy efficiency measures. 2023/24 energy usage was 21,102,645 kWh compared to 2022/23 energy use of 22,840,333 kWh. Council also continues to use an Invest to Save budget to roll out energy efficiency programmes including LED lighting upgrades and also installation of renewable technologies including solar PV. Battery storage options are also being researched e.g. ECOS Sustainability Hub. Overview: Energy Projects 2023-24 LED lighting - Amphitheatre, Sullatober HRC, all carparks in Larne & all carparks Ballymena, Ballymena HRC & Nursery Solar PV - Springwell multi-storey car park, Sullatober Waste Transfer, Larne LC, Carrick LC Energy Projects 2024-25 LED lighting - Seven Towers Leisure Centre, The Showgrounds, People's Park, Carrickfergus car parks Solar PV - The Braid, Waveney Rd Household Recycling Centre (HRC) & Nursery, Portglenone Marina. Battery Storage - Sullatober HRC, Springwell St, ECOS Sustainability Hub & Ballymacvea Landfill will possibly go into the next year.

FAC07 : Ringfence an 'Invest to Save' budget to ensure sufficient investment in energy efficiency / renewable technologies which in turn reduces financial and carbon costs

No. of projects within 'Invest to Save' portfolio

Target:

Total number of projects/invest

Progress

Amber

Notes:

1 £350k secured 23/24 with a further £250k investment for 24/25 further resourcing being considered in 24/25 with increased budget being required as interim and final Net zero targets are approached

FAC08 : Reduce water consumption

Water usage per square metre of Council estate

Target:

Progress

Green

Notes:

1 Records have been created to inform consumption, which can inform rate of usage per building with extrapolated daily average consumption. This can be broken down to m2 but not the best metric to compare buildings due to differing service provision. Consumption trends are falling as a whole across council estate with notable savings when compared to baseline.

No. of measures to reduce water consumption

Target:

Total number of measures

Progress

Green

Notes:

1 Water saving technology is now being introduced in capital and minor works projects. Actual number is unknown at this time as being specified as projects arise, but becoming a standard that will be imbedded in policy / strategy

Desktop review of water consumption across the estate

Target:

Yes

Actual

Yes

Notes:

1 Desktop review completed, with accompanying report. Recommendation's being considered and acted upon.

FAC09 : Deliver an energy efficiency education programme to Council Staff

No. of staff attending online energy efficiency module

Target:

Total number of staff attending

Progress

Amber

Notes:

1 Training rolled out across online platform with good staff engagement, follow up invites to proceed to pick up remaining staff as mandatory training

FAC10 : Asset efficiency - identify Council buildings with poor thermal performance and/or occupancy and propose recommendations for efficiency

No. of buildings identified having poor thermal performance

Target
Progress

Total number of buildings with
Green

Notes: 1 All occupied buildings efficiency assessed both in terms of fabric and performance. Analysis of energy consumption and performance scored with building rated in terms of energy and carbon costs.

Reduction in Carbon Emissions

Target
Progress

Total carbon emission reduction
Green

Notes: 1 Carbon reduction in buildings has been achieved through investment in both energy efficiency measures and renewable technology solutions. The resulting carbon reduction over baseline is significant in not only baseline comparison but also year on year comparison.

Harbours and Marinas

FAC11 : Work in partnership with Ulster Wildlife to re-introduce native oyster bed to Glenarm and Carrickfergus marinas

No. of educational programmes

Target
Progress

Total number of educational
Green

Notes: 1 Ulster Wildlife team have educated volunteers once per week during the weekly clean, count and measurement of the oysters. They have also involved the local Primary School in Glenarm as well as some local Environmental Groups.

Number of oyster beds introduced.

Target
Progress

Total number of oyster beds
Green

Notes: 1 1 Oyster Nursery in place and thriving at Glenarm Marina. Location for 2nd Nursery has been decided as Carrickfergus Harbour instead of the Marina. Cages have been fitted but there was an issue with importing the Oyster Larvae from mainland UK. This is now planned for April 2025.

Procurement

FIN01 : Include environmental and social value weightings in procurement policy

Employ a social value officer

Target
Actual

Yes
Yes

Notes: 1 A social value officer is has now been employed in Council.

Evidence of environmental and social value weightings in awards

Target
Actual

No
Yes

Notes: 1 This KPI has been put back to 31/03/2025 for 2024/2025.

FIN02 : Investigate best practice to collate emissions from Council's supply chain

Evidence of engagement with supply chain

Target
Actual

No
No

Notes: 1 This KPI will also have to put back and as per our discussions with Joe should be deleted as we are in no position to agree to this KPI.

Building Control

PBC01 : Administer and enforce relevant building regulations as they relate to fitness of materials and conservation of fuel and power

No. of inspections of commencement of works in relation to new/replacement boilers/heating systems to all building types

Target:
Progress

Total number of inspections:
Green

Notes: 1 992 Building Regulation application commencement inspections for projects with 'heating' or 'boiler' in description fields in the period 2023/2024.

No. of inspections of commencement of works in relation to upgraded loft insulation/cavity wall insulation to building types.

Target:
Progress

Total number of inspections:
Green

Notes: 1 767 Building Regulation application commencement inspections for projects with 'insulation' in description fields in the period 2023/2024.

PBC02 : Actively participate within Northern Ireland Building Control, Building Standards and the Regulations Advisory Committee to lobby for proportionate minimum acceptable standards in respect of energy efficiency, sustainability of building materials and implementation of energy from renewable sources in new, altered or extended building projects.

Attendance record for Council Building Control Staff

Target:
Actual

3
3

Notes: 1 Although participation in 23/24 was minimal due to management personnel changes, Building Control staff have now committed in 24/25 to participate in NI wide forums of BCNI (managers monthly meetings), Property Services Liaison Group meetings (bi-monthly) and a recent working group for the review of Building regulation fees.

Log improvements to Building Regulations implemented over time as they relate to energy efficiency, sustainability of building materials and implementation of energy from renewable sources where building work is carried out under Building Regulations

Target:
Actual

Yes
Yes

Notes: 1 Although no new Building Regulations have been forthcoming in 23/24 in relation to energy efficiency, a consultation on same was published in late 2023 with a view to issuing new guidance late 2024. This new guidance would be moving NI more in line with GB. Monitoring of the introduction of the new guidance is on-going and when produced, this will be communicated to officers and included in this report next year.

PBC03 : Utilise the knowledge and experience of Building Control Staff as a consultee in capital projects and facilities maintenance proposals as they relate to Councils building portfolio to reduce energy use

Numbers of consultation requests made by Council stakeholders e.g., Assets, Capital works, Facilities Maintenance

Target:
Progress

Total number of consultation:
Green

Notes: 1 3 requests made Capital works - Glenarm Barn & conversion of WCs at Wellington Court Facilities Team - Alterations to GRO building in Larne

Planning

PBC04 : Ensure the planning system protects the natural environment, biodiversity and ecosystems (LDP Natural Heritage policies)

Number of planning applications approved in International, National or Local Sites

Target:
Progress

Total number of applications:
Green

Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.

PBC05 : Preserve carbon storage in peatland by applying a presumption against commercial peat extraction (Policy MIN7)

Number of planning applications approved for commercial peat extraction (target 0)

Target:	0
Actual	0

Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.

PBC06 : Use the planning system to prevent new developments locking residents into car dependency

Evidence of established practice

Target:	1
Progress	Amber 1

Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.

PBC07 : Ensure the needs of pedestrians and cyclists are considered in development

Evidence of established practice

Target:	11
Progress	Amber 11

Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.

PBC08 : Ensure proposals for car parks provide secure, direct and safe access and movement for pedestrians and cyclists (Policy TR7)

Evidence of established practice

Target:	11
Progress	Amber 11

Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.

PBC09 : Ensure development proposals have taken account of the efficient use of energy, water and other resources, and where feasible and practicable integrate micro-generation and passive solar design. (Policy GP1e v.)

Include in draft Plan strategy, and upon adoption in late 2023, become establish practice

Target:	11
Progress	Amber 11

Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.

PBC10 : Reduce dependence on fossil fuels and encourage a renewable energy mix (Policy RE1)

Include in draft Plan strategy, and upon adoption in late 2023, monitor the megawatts of renewable energy development approved by Planning Department in reporting year (by renewable energy type).

Target:	1
Progress	Amber 1

Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.

PBC11 : Encourage sustainable drainage systems to be included in all development proposals, where feasible and practicable (Policy GP1e v.)

<p>Include in draft Plan strategy, and upon adoption in late 2023, become established practice</p>	<p>Target: 1 Progress: Amber</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.</p>		
<p>PBC12 : Ensure development proposals within areas of surface water flood risk include sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) as the preferred means of drainage (Policy FRD4)</p>		
<p>% Planning permissions granted within areas of surface water flood risk which include SuDS measures</p>	<p>Target: 1 Progress: Amber</p>	<p>Total % of planning permissions</p>
<p>Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.</p>		
<p>PBC13 : Ensure proposals for surface level car parks include sustainable drainage (SuDS) (Policy TR7)</p>		
<p>% Planning permissions granted for surface level car parks which include SuDS measures</p>	<p>Target: 1 Progress: Amber</p>	<p>Total % of planning permissions</p>
<p>Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures/evidence for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.</p>		
<p>PBC14 : Identify opportunities for 'soft SuDS' solutions to be included as Key Site Requirements in housing and economic zonings in the LPP</p>		
<p>On adoption of the Local Policies Plan, monitor % planning permissions granted on zonings in line with the Key Site Requirement to include soft SuDS measures</p>	<p>Target: 1 Progress: —</p>	<p>Total % of permissions granted on</p>
<p>Notes: 1 This target relates to LPP zonings - it cannot be monitored until the LPP has been adopted.</p>		
<p>PBC15 : Ensure no development on a site at risk from flooding or where it would cause or exacerbate flooding elsewhere (Policy GP1d v.)</p>		
<p>Include in draft Plan strategy, and upon adoption in late 2023, become established practice</p>	<p>Target: 1 Actual: —</p>	<p>1</p>
<p>PBC16 : Consider development proposals on floodplains only by exception (Policy FRD1)</p>		
<p>No. of Planning permissions granted on floodplains against policy (target 0)</p>	<p>Target: 0 Progress: Green</p>	<p>0</p>
<p>PBC17 : Require development proposals >1ha or >25 units to provide public open space as an integral part of the development (at least 10% of site area) (Policy OSL4)</p>		
<p>The number of planning permissions granted that meet the public open space requirements of Policy OSL4</p>	<p>Target: 1 Progress: Amber</p>	<p>Total planning permissions</p>
<p>Notes: 1 The LDP was adopted on 16 October 2023, as a result the policies have only been in place for 5 months of this monitoring year and accurate figures for the 23/24 monitoring year cannot be calculated.</p>		

Parks Development

PDV01 : Invest in nature-based solutions that work for towns making the council estate and public realm more climate change ready through enhancing green spaces, urban greening and adaptable planting regimes.

Increase hectares of publicly accessible land managed sustainably	Target: Progress	Total hectares increased annually Green
Notes:	1 Conservation Grazing Plan implemented for Ecos Nature park (19ha) to allow for ongoing sustainable management of this flood plain site. Ahoghill Nature Park - regeneration of wet woodland 0.1ha Creation of Urban Forest - Ballymena involving local volunteers 0.1ha	
No. of community projects supported	Target: Progress	Total number of community Green
Notes:	1 1 Community project supported - Ballymena Urban forest	
PDV02 : Protect and restore, where possible, peatlands and degraded soils on the Council estate or in partnership across the Borough		
No. of hectares of peatland restored	Target: Progress	Total hectares of peatland Green
Notes:	1 8ha restored at Keeran moss	
Carbon emissions reduction from peatland and restored soils	Target: Progress	Total carbon emission reduction Amber
Notes:	1 Keeran Moss is the Council's only peatland site. Works have been completed to restore this habitat however calculations are not yet available to measure carbon store.	
PDV03 : Develop a Tree and Woodland Management Strategy to include tree planting, tree health maintenance and woodland management to increase tree cover across the borough to enhance biodiversity, increase carbon store and support ecosystem services		
No. of trees planted on Council land	Target: Actual	2000 2000
Notes:	1 Total of 2000 trees planted on council land	
No. of trees planted on public & private land through MEABC support	Target: Actual	58810 58810
PDV04 : Support local communities to implement sustainable projects in local areas.		
No. of achieved bronze level sustainable food places across borough	Target: Progress	Total number of achieved bronze Amber
Notes:	1 While the Council have made significant progress in terms of sustainable food, with community fridges across the borough, the bronze level award was not achieved. However, it is hoped that there will be scope to achieve this within the Plan lifetime. Opportunities may exist with Council's Economic Development team through Peace Plus funding to deliver a new 'Plate to Plate' programme.	
Achieve gold in medium term	Target: Progress	0 Amber
Notes:	1 Although Council did not achieve Bronze level in 2023/24, works will progress to obtain this within the lifetime of this Plan. Following this, Council will hope to be in a position to achieve Gold level in the medium term (2025/25 - 27).	
No. of community fridges across the Borough	Target: Progress	Total number of community Green

Notes: 1 5 fridges

No. of supported opportunities for sustainable community projects.

Target

Total number of opportunities

Progress

Green

Notes: 1 allotments in Larne, Carrick and Greenisland community garden at Harryville.

PDV05 : Work in partnership with DFI to encourage walking and cycling through investment in additional infrastructure and creation of linkage opportunities

No. of km of new multi-trails

Target

Total kms of new greenway

Progress

Green

Notes: 1 Bracknamuckley Multi-use trail opened encouraging local outdoor recreation opportunities.

PDV06 : Update the Cycle Routes Masterplan and include walking routes to promote walking and cycling and promoting this across the Borough

Delivery of update Masterplan.

Target

Total kms of new greenway

Progress

Green

Notes: 1 bracknamuckley Multi-use trails

PDV07 : Identify funding opportunities and grants available for outdoor activities to improve health and wellbeing of residents within the Borough

No. of outdoor initiatives

Target

Total number of outdoor initiatives

Progress

Green

Notes: 1 • Support for red squirrel conservation programmes at Carrfunnock Country Park. • Fairtrade status for the Borough retained. • Total of 5 community fridges providing important resource for those who need it and a facility for businesses and local growers to reduce food waste. • 3 x Green Flag awards retained (Eden Allotments Gardens, Carrfunnock Country Park, Ecos Nature Park). • 1 x Green Flag community award retained for Shellinghill Park & Millennium Walk in Cullybackey. • 3 x Seaside awards retained (Carnlough, Ballygally, Browns Bay). • Success at Ulster in Bloom 2023 with Cullybackey securing first prize in the large village category and selected for entry into Britain in Bloom 2024. • 3 x schools completed Forest School programme (6 sessions per school = 18, approximately 80 pupils engaged). • 3 x schools completed Schools Growing Club programme (6 sessions per school = 18, approximately 80 pupils engaged). • 3 programmes ran to engage people with their local environment involving 194 participants:- o Natural connections Photography o Health oceans, healthy minds o Plot to plate o 79 events held engaging with over 2000 participants. • 218 active allotment holders.

Number of playpark investment projects

Target

1

Actual

1

Notes: 1 5 replacement play parks completed

Number of events of held to increase usage of parks, open space and walks.

Target

Total kms of new greenways and

Progress

Green

Notes: 1 Bracknamuckley forest

PDV08 : Work with Translink, Sustrans and other key stakeholders to provide education and participation initiatives to encourage active, public and shared modes of transport

No. of educational initiatives to encourage cycling

Target

Total number of programmes

Progress

Amber 1/1

Notes: 1 Council officers have continual, ongoing engagement with DfL, Sustrans etc to identify opportunities to deliver education initiatives. Plans are being prepared for engagement opportunities in 2024/25 which will be dependent on resource and budget.

Environmental Health

PUB01 : Air quality - monitor and review air quality in accordance with the NI Air Quality Strategy

Compliance through an updated Air Quality Action Plan

Target	Yes
Actual	Yes

Notes: 1 Air Quality was monitored across the Borough and reviewed against NI Air Quality Objectives for 2023/2024 period.

PUB02 : Cleanliness - continue to deliver and shape effective enforcement and education on Clean Neighbourhood matters through collaborative practices

No. of complaints received in relation to litter, fly tipping and dog foul each year.

Target	Total number of
Progress	Green

Notes: 1 Litter complaints 41 , Fly Tipping complaints 323 and Dog Foul complaints 217. These figures may contain duplicate reports of the same incident and not all complaints will be validated upon investigation

PUB03 : Raise awareness of energy efficiency measures and other support to tackle fuel poverty in the borough

No. of initiatives to promote energy efficiency and address fuel poverty

Target	Total number of initiatives to
Progress	Green

Notes: 1 The EH Service delivered 37 awareness talks/events(@ 630 attendees), 6 slow cooker sessions (124 attendees), 13 air fryer sessions (263 attendees) and 4 schools (96 pupils) completed the Energy Detectives Programme. In addition energy efficiency information was provided in each quarterly ezine, circulated widely throughout the borough.

Public Protection, Health and Wellbeing

PUB04 : Implement actions within Council's Adaptation Plan to reduce the impacts of extreme weather and improve health and well being

No. of initiatives to enhance and promote the benefits of green open spaces and the landscape quality

Target	Total number of initiatives to
Progress	Green

Notes: 1 • Conservation grazing programme implemented at Keeran Moss peatland as per conservation management plan. The enables sustainable management of this important habitat and reduces the need for mechanical management. • 58,610 trees planted on public land 2023/24. • Support for red squirrel conservation programmes at Carnfunnock Country Park. • Fairtrade status for the Borough retained. • Total of 5 community fridges providing important resource for those who need it and a facility for businesses and local growers to reduce food waste. • 3 x Green Flag awards retained (Eden Allotments Gardens, Carnfunnock Country Park, Ecos Nature Park). • 1 x Green Flag community award retained for Shellinghill Park & Millennium Walk in Cullybackey. • 3 x Seaside awards retained (Carnlough, Ballygally, Browns Bay). • Success at Ulster in Bloom 2023 with Cullybackey securing first prize in the large village category and selected for entry into Britain in Bloom 2024. • 3 x schools completed Forest School programme (6 sessions per school = 18, approximately 80 pupils engaged). • 3 x schools completed Schools Growing Club programme (6 sessions per school = 18, approximately 80 pupils engaged). • 3 programmes ran to engage people with their local environment involving 194 participants: o Natural connections Photography o Health oceans, healthy minds o Plot to plate o 79 events held engaging with over 2000 participants. • 218 active allotment holders.

<p>No. of community Resilience Groups / Initiatives</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Progress</p>	<p>Total number of community</p> <p>Green</p>
<p>Notes: 1 There are currently 4 CRGs in the borough supported by officers. During the period, reference to the CR pilot helped to broaden the concept of CR with these groups beyond extremer weather, which had been the initial focus.</p>		

PUB05 : Work with multi-agency partners to increase capacity to respond to severe weather events and to increase community resilience

<p>No. of multi-agency response interventions delivered as a result of severe weather</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Progress</p>	<p>Total number of multi-agency</p> <p>Green</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Whilst there were no requirement for a multi-agency response over the past 12 months (zero incidents) the EH Service responded to reports of flooding in line with the SEFA scheme. Council was advised that the SEFA was open on 7 occasions over the period. NB. One of these relates to period 15.03.23 to 24.04.23. Officers completed 60 flooding assessments of which 9 were deemed to be eligible.</p>		

PUB06 : Support communities to build local resilience through the creation of community lead resilience hubs including the ability to respond to climate change risks

<p>Complete the RCRG Resilience Pilot with selected communities</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Actual</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Notes: 1 This work was facilitated by consultants and concluded successfully.</p>		

<p>Contribute learning to Regional Resilience Toolkit</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Actual</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Regular updates on the MEA pilot were provided to both the second pilot and the wider Regional Group. This resulted in requests for presentations to RCRG and the All Ireland Conference.</p>		

<p>Implementation of RCRG Regional Resilience Toolkit across the Borough and linking with multi-agency partners</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Actual</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Notes: 1 There was not been sufficient time in the period to undertaken anything other than development and community engagement. Implementation needs to take account of ongoing developments in wider policy direction and funding.</p>		

PUB07 : Ensure that climate change risks are appropriately addressed within our risk management and business continuity process

<p>Every services area's Business Continuity Plan includes climate change threats</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Progress</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Amber</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Ongoing engagement with all service areas to continually review Business Continuity Plans. Captured during Emergency Planning Implementation Group (EPIG) meetings throughout the year. Further attention needed to ensure plans reflect climate change threats. ArcPro Climate Project work ongoing between Environmental Education Officer and GIS Officer to identify assets / facilities most at risk from extreme weather-related impacts. Ongoing learnings from regional group RCRG and review of recent case studies e.g. Newry flooding.</p>		

Tourism

TOUR01 : Develop a localised Sustainable Tourism Strategy based on Tourism NI's new strategy

<p>Delivery of new strategy</p>	<p>Target: Progress</p>	<p>Proportion of new strategy: Green</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Interim Plan developed in-house by the Tourism, Arts & Culture team with approval from SMT and the Neighbourhood & Communities Committee in May 2024</p>		
<p>TOUR02 : Complete an audit of local businesses to assess sustainability credentials and share best practice</p>		
<p>No. of businesses engaged</p>	<p>Target: Progress</p>	<p>Total number of businesses: Amber (1)</p>
<p>Notes: 1 The audit of businesses was delayed as the new Tourism NI sustainability programme has not yet been launched and any audit would need to capture detail relevant to the proposed accreditation / approach. This will be developed further in 2024/25 and is an ongoing process.</p>		
<p>TOUR03 : Develop a new outreach and support programme to engage with local businesses to promote sustainability</p>		
<p>No. of businesses engaged in the programme</p>	<p>Target: Progress</p>	<p>Total number of businesses: Amber (1)</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Business support will be developed around learnings gathered from the audit to ensure support is meaningful. This is being developed in 2024/25 and therefore the process is ongoing.</p>		
<p>TOUR04 : Increase awareness of free to use sustainability tool kits</p>		
<p>No. of communications about the sustainable toolkit</p>	<p>Target: Progress</p>	<p>Total number of copies, annually: Green</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Regular ezine content is issued to the Tourism and Hospitality database, promoting sustainable events, toolkits and webinars</p>		
<p>TOUR05 : Encourage the hospitality industry by encouraging compostable packaging, reducing single-use plastic</p>		
<p>No. of initiatives to promote awareness and provide information on alternatives to single-use plastics</p>	<p>Target: Progress</p>	<p>Total number of initiatives to: Green</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Ongoing communication through business database.</p>		
<p>Waste Management, Parks, Cemeteries and Open Spaces</p>		
<p>WMO01 : Invest in nature-base solutions that work for towns making the council estate and public realm more climate change ready through enhancing green spaces, urban greening, and adaptable planting regimes</p>		
<p>Removal of use of peat compost from parks and open spaces</p>	<p>Target: Actual</p>	<p>Yes: Yes</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Peat compost only being used in the Nursery plant production, there are no current alternatives for this.</p>		
<p>% reduction use in pesticides</p>	<p>Target: Progress</p>	<p>Total % reduction, annually: Green</p>
<p>Notes: 1 Ongoing reduction year on year. Use of chemicals limited to cemeteries. Cemetery sprays reduced from 3 to 2 per year. In 2024, introducing sustainable land management pilot alongside DfI. Pollinator pilot will extend into sustainable management of verges.</p>		
<p>WMO02 : In house growing of plants (nursery) to allow sustainable planting</p>		

All plants grown in house	Target: Yes Actual: Yes	Yes Yes
Notes: 1 All bedding, Trough and basket plants grown inhouse for Mid Antrim. We also supply plants to Carrick and Larne		
WMO03 : Develop opportunities for promoting and encouraging sustainable water management		
No. of reduction of water schedules and water intensive planting schemes across parks and green spaces	Target: Progress	Total number of reductions in water Green
Notes: 1 Watering scheme brought back in-house to ensure greater control over watering schedules and practices to conserve resources. Planting schemes reviewed annually and reduced year on year.		
Investigate alternative sustainable water supply opportunities	Target: Actual	Yes Yes
Notes: 1 Use of water butts to supply rain water on sites where there is no water supply.		
Waste Management		
WMO04 : Decarbonise small fleet (<7.5 T) by 2030		
Completion of pilot scheme, trailing leasing options	Target: Progress	Completion of HVO trial over Amber
Notes: 1 Council is running an HVO trial over Summer/Autumn 2024. Nat Woodside, Transport Manager, has secured testing equipment from Belfast City Council, so pre, during and post-testing of tail pipe emissions can be undertaken. Following the trial, a report will be taken to the Environment and Economy Committee to present results.		
% reduction in carbon emissions from Council fleet annually	Target: Progress	Total carbon emissions (reduction) Green
Notes: 1 Fleet fuel emissions for 2022/23 were 723,504 litres, 7220570 kWh and therefore 1,754.3 CO2e emissions. Fleet fuel emissions for 2023/24 were 698,433 litres, 6906953 kWh and therefore 1,852.8 CO2e emissions. This demonstrates a 3.6% reduction in fuel usage and overall a 4.3% reduction in carbon emissions (CO2e).		
WMO05 : Trailing new technology to decarbonise the fleet		
No. of completed trials	Target: Progress	Total number of completed trials Amber
Notes: 1 Council is currently undertaking a HVO trial across a range of fleet (Summer/Autumn 2024). Results will be presented to Elected Members. Based on the success, the aim will be to procure HVO for all vehicles, going forward. This will require a budget allocation in the 2025/25 budget. Council is also in discussions with Michelin regarding Connected Fleet telematics. See attached report.		
No. of new technology rolled out	Target: Progress	Total number of new technologies Green

Notes:
 1 In October 2023, Council rolled out Route Optimisation. This rationalised the existing bin collections route with the aim to reduce the total number of vehicles / staff needed, and to reduce both fuel and carbon emissions. Route optimisation was successfully rolled out. Ongoing research is being undertaken by the Transport Manager to see what other technologies are available to help decarbonise the fleet. Hydrogen, hybrid and EV are being considered. The Transport Manager recently joined a new Fleet Decarbonisation Working Group made up of representatives from all NI Councils.

% in reduction in carbon emissions from Council fleet annually

Target:	Total carbon emission reduction
Progress	Green

Notes:
 1 Council is working with DfI on the development of the new Eastern Transport Plan, which incorporates MEA. This is the ground-level delivery plan which stems from the DfI Transport Strategy 2035. From this Strategy, the Transport Manager and the Environmental Education Officer are developing a new MEA Transport Strategy, which will incorporate elements of the existing MEA Fleet Strategy 2023-2027. Through the Baltor system, officers are able to interrogate fleet fuel usage throughout the year: 2019/20 (baseline) = 714,228 litres, 7,120,853 kWh, 1,853 tCO2e 2020/21 = 713,089 litres, 7,102,366 kWh, 1,816 tCO2e 2021/22 = 766,639 litres, 7,651,057 kWh, 1,926 tCO2e 2022/23 = 723,504 litres, 7,220,570 kWh, 1,851 tCO2e 2023/24 = 698,433 litres, 6,906,953 kWh, 1,773 tCO2e Council set an objective within the ISO14001 Environmental Management System in 2023/24 to reduce fleet fuel by 5% each year. 2023/24 saw a 3.6% reduction, so further savings will be needed in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

WMO06 : Implement route optimisation software across waste collection services

% reduction in carbon emissions from Council fleet annually

Target:	Total carbon emission reduction
Progress	Green

Notes:
 1 Through the Baltor system, officers are able to interrogate fleet fuel usage throughout the year: 2019/20 (baseline) = 714,228 litres, 7,120,853 kWh, 1,853 tCO2e 2020/21 = 713,089 litres, 7,102,366 kWh, 1,816 tCO2e 2021/22 = 766,639 litres, 7,651,057 kWh, 1,926 tCO2e 2022/23 = 723,504 litres, 7,220,570 kWh, 1,851 tCO2e 2023/24 = 698,433 litres, 6,906,953 kWh, 1,773 tCO2e Council set an objective within the ISO14001 Environmental Management System in 2023/24 to reduce fleet fuel by 5% each year. 2023/24 saw a 3.6% reduction, so further savings will be needed in 2024/25 and 2025/26.

No. of drivers trained in Eco Driving

Target:	Total number of drivers trained (m)
Progress	Green

Notes:
 1 Eco Driver Training (as part of GPC training modules): 2023/24 74 staff trained, 2024/24 61 staff trained, with 9 remaining (before end of August 2024) – see attached GPC Module outline (spreadsheet and PDF).

WMO07 : Implement circular economy principles in tyre management

% reduction in carbon emissions from responsible tyre management

Target:	Total carbon emission reduction
Progress	Green

Notes:
 1 Over 2023/24 Council has reduced carbon emissions through the Michelin tyre contract by 9.6 tonnes CO2e.

% reduction in tyre purchase

Target:	Total % reduction in tyre purchase
Progress	Green

Notes: 1 Through the Michelin Sustainable Tyre Contract, Council reduced the amount of new tyre material purchase by 4.4 tonnes.

WMO08 : Ensure the sustainable management of waste including the promotion of the waste hierarchy and circular economy

% increase of recycling rate of municipal waste

Target

Total % change in recycling rate of

Progress

Amber 1 |

Notes: 1 2023-24 year end recycling performance = 50.64%. Council continues to promote reuse (via a range of waste initiatives including the MEA School Uniform Scheme, MEA Christmas Toy Container, MEA Community Re-Paint Scheme, contract with Habitat for Humanity who sell on low cost DIY items diverted from landfill. Council also promotes recycling through dedicated communication campaigns, in-school talks, community group talks etc. Council also responded to a range of DAERA-led consultations on the circular economy and waste minimisation.

WMO09 : Standardise household waste and recycling collection models and commit to making recycling easier for our community

% increase of recycling rate of municipal waste

Target

Total % change in recycling rate of

Progress

Amber 1 |

Notes: 1 2023/24 year end recycling = 50.64%. Council has responded to a significant DAERA-led consultation on Rethinking our Resources (June 2024) which included proposals for standardising kerbside waste/recycling collections. Council commissioned Waste Resources Action Programme (WRAP) to undertake a assessment of 4 models of kerbside collections including co-mingled, source-segregated options alongside restricting residual. Council officers hosted a special Waste Harmonisation meeting with Elected Members to present options. Director of Operations advises to wait until publication of consultation response to inform decision on which option to adopt.

WMO10 : Meet the 55% recycling rate target of municipal waste by 2025 within the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020

% increase in the recycling rate of municipal waste

Target

55%

Actual

50.64% 1 |

Notes: 1 2023/24 year end recycling = 50.64%. However without a major waste service change/intervention, it is unlikely that 55% by 2025 will be achieved. Recycling performance has increased gradually over the last number of years, however incremental increases will be harder to achieve without a policy reform / change e.g. review of Food Waste Regulations, adoption of Common Collections Guidance with a core set of materials, and the implementation of waste harmonisation for waste/recycling collections. This is being progressed with DAERA.

WMO11 : Meet 60% recycling target of municipal waste by 2030 within the Waste (Circular Economy) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2020

% increase in the recycling rate of municipal waste

Target

60%

Actual

50.64% 1 |

Notes:

1 Council has achieved 50.64% recycling at year-end 2023/24. However without a major waste service change/intervention, it is unlikely that 60% by 2030 will be achieved. Recycling performance has increased gradually over the last number of years. however incremental increases will be harder to achieve without a policy reform / change e.g. review of Food Waste Regulations, adoption of Common Collections Guidance with a core set of materials, and the implementation of waste harmonisation for waste/recycling collections. This is being progressed with DAERA. Should waste harmonisation be rolled out, Council could achieve 60% by 2030, provided a strong communication campaign is delivered alongside informing residents of the recycling requirements.

WMO12 : Cleanliness - continue to deliver and shape effective enforcement and education on Clean Neighbourhood matters through collaborative practices

No. of litter talks given in schools and community groups each year

Target

Total number of talks provided

Progress

Green

Notes:

1 Council officers (Enforcement Officers and Environmental Education Officer) along with Arc21 have delivered 45 in-schools talks and 6 community group presentations over 2023/24.

Department : All

Monday 14th of October 2024

Climate Change Sustainability						
CCS01 : Liaise with Northern Ireland Environment Link (NIEL) to help develop a bi-annual survey of public perception of risk, resilience and preparedness of climate impact.						
Bi-annual Survey	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>Collaboration with :</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Progress</td> <td>Green</td> </tr> </table>	Target	Collaboration with :	Progress	Green	
Target	Collaboration with :					
Progress	Green					
	Notes:	1 Council's Environmental Education Officer continues to liaise with NIEL on a range of climate-related issues including engagement with the agri-sector. NIEL are aware Council would like involvement in the design of the next RESIL Risk Survey for NI.				
CCS02 : Development of a new climate Adaptation Plan using the NI Adapts Planning toolkit (Climate NI)						
Production of Adaptation Plan	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actual</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Target	Yes	Actual	Yes	
Target	Yes					
Actual	Yes					
	Notes:	1 Council's Environmental Education Officer developed the MEA Adaptation Plan in partnership with Climate NI using their NI Adapts Planning toolkit. This was approved by Elected Members in March 2024. Actions have been uploaded onto the Decision Time platform.				
Corporate Services Directorate						
CSD01 : Review staff working location, flexible working (in response to severe weather), with consideration - to reduce unnecessary commuting from home to an office location as part of the scheduled office rota.						
Fixed Agenda item at Agile Working Group Meetings.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actual</td> <td>No</td> </tr> </table>	Target	Yes	Actual	No	
Target	Yes					
Actual	No					
	Notes:	1 The Agile Working Group is no longer operational.				
New process of formal review carried out by Line Managers to advise staff who can work from home, do so on those days for H&S reasons, reducing unnecessary commuting in difficult situations.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Progress</td> <td>Amber</td> </tr> </table>	Target	Yes	Progress	Amber	
Target	Yes					
Progress	Amber					
	Notes:	1 A new process has not yet been established. Line Managers currently use discretion when assessing extreme weather conditions and permitting staff to work from home (where possible). A new process will be considered within the lifetime of this Plan.				
CSD02 : Include climate change impacts and severe weather events in Risk Assessments (RA) for festivals & events.						
Regular review of Risk Assessments for events.	<table border="1"> <tr> <td>Target</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Actual</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table>	Target	Yes	Actual	Yes	
Target	Yes					
Actual	Yes					
	Notes:	1 Risk assessments are updated for each event, every year				
Digital Innovation & Procurement						
DIP01 : Undertake risk assessment of ICT systems / equipment and develop business case for virtual servers, generators and relocation, where necessary.						

Development of the Risk Assessment (RA).		Target	Yes
		Actual	—
DIP02 : Include weighting mechanism in service contracts valued above £138,760 and construction contracts valued above £5,336,937			
Number of contracts with this weighting mechanism included (p/year).		Target	Total number of
		Progress	Green
		Notes:	1 Included in Gov funded projects only
Economic Development			
ED01 : Deliver a net zero innovation project to remove non-technical barriers to achieving net zero within the Council estate			
Delivery of the Innovate UK-funded MEANZ Business Project		Target	Yes
		Actual	Yes
		Notes:	1 Project progressing as planned across 4 different workstreams - Industry Insights Programme, Corporate Decarbonisation Programme, Industry Decarbonisation Programme and Future Ready Programme. 2 year funded project to be completed by June 2025
Facilities M & M and Harbours & Marinas			
FAC01 : Embed climate adaptation in plans, policy and asset management, to improve the climate resilience of buildings and infrastructure			
Reduction in extreme weather-related repairs / clean ups		Target	Evidence of reduction
		Progress	Red
		Notes:	1 A mechanism to capture data and evidence on extreme weather-related repairs/clean ups has not yet been established. A cost code to log these costs was suggested, however as no budget assigned to the code, officers unlikely to use this. Ongoing discussions with Finance team on how best to capture the financial aspects of repairs/clean ups attributed to extreme weather-related impacts. Checks would take place in larger sites but possibly not documented.
FAC02 : Continue premises inspections; roof inspections, or reactive inspections after a strong wind event, on all or prone buildings & consider strengthening the roof on any buildings that are prone to damage			
Regular reporting on building inspections following storm events		Target	Yes
		Actual	Yes
		Notes:	1 Checks would take place in larger sites but possibly not documented - need to develop mechanism to capture this data/evidence properly.
FAC03 : Maintain and refurbish existing buildings and assets to improve resilience to extreme weather events and longer-term effects of climate change using best practice guidance and research			
Ongoing programme of maintenance works incorporating resilience principles.		Target	Yes
		Actual	No
		Notes:	1 Not yet begun. Discussion in relation to what resilience principles are needs to occur. Then integration of these principles can be considered.
FAC04 : Improve ventilation, cooling and shading in Council-owned properties, where possible.			

<p>No. of new ventilation cooling and shading interventions within Council buildings</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Progress</p>	<p>Total number of new</p> <p>Amber 5/5</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Facilities are currently reviewing existing ventilation cooling and shading interventions to determine their effectiveness. Going forward, these learnings will inform future installations across our estate. Facilities are continually reviewing new products and will consider the most effective products for future installations.</p>	
<p>FAC05 : Integrate climate change considerations into Premises Management Assessment templates</p>		
<p>Review and update of templates</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Actual</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>No</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 This action has not yet been progressed. This will be considered in the 2024/25 workstream.</p>	
<p>FAC06 : Ensure air conditioning servicing on a regular basis. Review provisions of air conditioning units</p>		
<p>Annual conditioning servicing</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Actual</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Council's Facility Maintenance team have a detailed programme of works which includes annual air conditioning servicing. Certificate evidence is available on the P drive / Facilities Maintenance / Certificates.</p>	
<p>FAC07 : Undertake a review of Council self generation, the capacity and the opportunity of use across multiple sites.</p>		
<p>Log of renewable energy (self dependency).</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Actual</p>	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 A review of all existing renewable generation assets has been completed, with recommendations made on repair or replacement. When completed this would bring councils solar generation assets to 9 arrays, with planned delivery of a further 4 generation / storage projects in 24/25. Council also generate energy from Combined Heat and Power (CHP) units at leisure centre sites, a ongoing review has highlighted opportunity for replacement of one of the existing assets, with planned maintenance of other units ensuring future performance. Council are also exploring investment opportunities in new heat pumps, or replacement where generation capacity was lost due to mechanical failure.</p>	
<p>FAC08 : Research advice and opportunities provided by NISEP</p>		
<p>Number of energy efficiency schemes considering overheating and ventilation needs</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Progress</p>	<p>Total number of</p> <p>Green 2/2</p>
<p>Notes:</p>	<p>1 Two buildings at design stage are being specified as passive house premium, which has a significant focus on overheating / ventilation needs. To achieve Passive House certification. These pilot projects will inform future design, and be considered all in future renovation projects.</p>	
<p>FAC09 : Identify projects for water resource management e.g., water management systems in Council buildings (retrofit water butts, incorporation into future plans).</p>		
<p>No. of Council buildings incorporating water management systems.</p>	<p>Target</p> <p>Progress</p>	<p>Green</p> <p>Green 2/2</p>

Notes: 1 Council are incorporating water management systems, including rain water harvesting, waterless urinals, flow reducers, and sensor taps in all future build projects. Each if not all of these systems are being specified in current design works.

FAC10 : Identify projects for water resource management systems for new & existing developments and security of supply during drought periods, for example, for storing rainwater for re-use (rainwater harvesting, infiltration, attenuation).

No. of projects using a resource management system for water supply security.	Target	
	Progress	Green

Notes: 1 Council have a substantive rainwater harvesting system supplying the majority of demand of one of its community centers. There has also been significant investment in boreholes to supply ground water to nursery's, leisure centers and sports facilities. Very minimal network supply is needed at these sites and is currently viewed as back-up mains supply only.

Finance

FIN01 : Continual review of Council's insurance arrangements to ensure adequate insurance in place (where available) to deal with extreme weather events and climate impacts.

Annual review of insurance arrangements in relation to extreme weather and climate impacts.	Target	Yes
	Actual	Yes

Notes: 1 Insurance is in place for for all such eventualities relating to extreme weather where possible ie. wind, flooding with some exemption as is normal in such policies. Insurance is in place now and we are covered for the next 12 months (until 31 March 2025)

Human Resources and Organisational Development

HUM01 : Review relevant Risk Assessments (RA) and safe systems of work to include consideration of climate impacts.

Annual review of Risk Assessments (RAs)	Target	Yes
	Actual	Yes

Notes: 1 Annual Review of Risk Assessments including SSOWs is an ongoing process between Health and Safety and Managers. A number of training sessions took place over the winter for line managers and supervisors to improve processes.

HUM02 : Continue to consider health and safety of the workforce when working out on site including appropriate information & PPE for increased risk of pest & disease & differing weather conditions.

Ongoing review of Risk Assessments (RAs) related to extreme weather	Target	Yes
	Actual	Yes

Notes: 1 New draft PPE Policy has just been drafted and will be approved in April 2024 and covers a number of high risk areas including asbestos, weather etc. This is also considered during health and safety inspections.

Parks Development

PDV01 : Integrate climate adaptation into management and maintenance plans for key public parks and cemeteries to acknowledge: death of trees, varying growing seasons - affecting mowing season, planting schedule, shift/seasonal working hours, increase risk of pests and other invasive species.

Integration into Carnfunnock Country Park, People's Park, ECOS Nature Park and cemetery management and maintenance plans.	Target	Evidence of integration
	Progress	Green
Notes:	1 Conservation Grazing plan in place at Ecos. Reduced cutting regime Carnfunnock Country Park reducing emissions and creating habitat. Invasive species mapping and eradication programme underway.	

PDV02 : Identify opportunities / sites to address climate action and build natural capital resilience using GIS: - based on climate audit & data analysis. - Develop projects and funding / finance proposals

Spatial dataset identifying natural capital within Council estate	Target	Evidence of progress
	Progress	Green

PDV03 : Review of Invasive species across the Council estate.

Development of GIS spatial dataset mapping known invasive species to inform new Invasive Species Management Plan	Target	Evidence of progress
	Progress	Green

Public Protection, Health and Wellbeing

PUB01 : Ensure EPIG training performance includes emergency response & recovery exercise and emergency planning

Undertake emergency response exercise	Target	Yes
	Actual	Yes

Notes:	1 EPIG adopted a new approach to exercising for 2024 which centres on a discussion framework, gap analysis and action escalation protocol to SMT. Within the 2024/25 plan this approach will be used for extreme weather events and cyber attack. In addition to prompting review & improvement of BCPs, the approach makes it possible to report through to SMT the inherent gaps (knowledge, resources, training) from which a decision as to when and how an exercise would benefit Council most. The first topic explored has been extreme weather. This has led to the GIS mapping of all council facilities against flood risk data initially, to be continued for other extreme weather scenarios.
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PUB02 : Annual summary of impacts including costs, arising from extreme weather on Council assets and local communities

Annual summary report	Target	1
	Progress	Amber

Notes:	1 A framework to establish how an annual summary report will be collated has yet to be established. This will include a wide range of metrics, with data collation from multiple sources, both within Council and with external partners. Council is currently seeking advice from Sustainable NI on how best to structure this report, and to ensure the correct metrics are included.
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PUB03 : Ensure effective communication to personnel during severe weather events to ensure safety and appropriate continuation to service delivery.

Regular communications to all staff on extreme weather-related events.	Target	Yes
	Actual	Yes

Notes:	1 At least 20 staff communications were prepared and sent throughout the 12 months to advise of Met Office Weather Alerts or Situational Awareness Updates. Community Clusters were also advised on occasions.
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Tourism

TOUR01 : Review management plans for museum collections and ensure integrations of climate change impacts.

Regular review of management plans - MEACO - Environmental Monitoring System and gallery storage provision.

Target

Yes

Actual

Yes

Notes:

1 The Museum Service Collections Management Plans have been updated to reflect new MEACO cloud based environmental monitoring equipment across the three Council museum galleries, and collection stores (to include the off site store at LEDCOM business estate).

TOUR02 : Continue duty of care provision through good policies and procedures of museum collections.

Continued accreditation to UK Museums Accreditation Standard (collections, organisation health and audiences and users).

Target

Yes

Actual

Yes

Notes:

1 Mid-Antrim Museum has under gone the renewal process to retain full accreditation status with an outcome expected by August 2024. Carrickfergus Museum will be invited to renew full accreditation status in July 2024 with a submission required by December 2024. Arthur Cottage and Interpretative Centre has been deemed eligible to apply for accreditation, which must be completed by January 2027.

TOUR03 : Undertake any necessary adaptation and protection measures for collections assets.

Continued insurance provision of cover for up to 10 Council sites - salvage of collection items.

Target

Yes

Actual

Yes

Notes:

1 Harwell Restoration Services emergency salvage cover has been renewed for: Carrickfergus Museum; Larne Museum; Mid-Antrim Museum; Arthur Cottage and Interpretative Centre; Andrew Jackson Cottage; US Rangers Museum; LEDCOM off site museum store; The Gobblins Visitor Centre; The Braid (including Ballymena Town Hall); Larne Town Hall and Carrickfergus Town Hall effective from 1 March 2024 to 28 February 2025.

Continued update of the heritage asset register (for valuation of collections)

Target

Yes

Actual

Yes

Notes:

1 Updated information on new acquisitions and their value (of Council museums artefacts) was provided to Council's Finance team on 30 March 2024 to ensure that Council's heritage asset register remains up to date.

TOUR04 : Identify high pressure visitor locations and develop plans to mitigate against damage to natural environment, anti-social behaviour etc.

Development of Sustainable Tourism Strategy to include e.g. promotion of alternative locations, visitor experience design and management (Sustainable Tourism and Visitor Management)

Target

Preparation of new

Progress

Amber

Notes:

1 Council is awaiting the launch of the new Tourism NI Sustainable Tourism Strategy which will then inform the MEA Sustainable Tourism Strategy. This will be considered within 2024/15.

Waste Management, Parks, Cemeteries and Open Spaces

WMO01 : Review and update grounds maintenance and public realm services to include climate change impacts.

Regular review of maintenance schedules in line with extreme weather events.	Target Actual	Yes Yes
Notes:	1 Our maintenance schedules are reflective of any extreme weather events as we monitor the forecasts ahead and adjust our schedules accordingly for example hot spells will require more regular watering of our plants, where as a sustained heavy rain period means we can reduce same. We also use a sustainable water source as we have two bore holes . If we have a storm event then staff would be restricted in their maintenance operating in safer sites and not tree areas where there may be a risk. Some of our higher risk sites would be closed if we get a severe weather warning and liaise with our Parks Development Staff re same. We would also change our maintenance schedules to deal with any severe snow event and most of our team would be deployed to deal with same. In regards to evidence of work carried out staff timesheets record all work streams for any given week.	

WMO02 : Develop severe weather protocol for waste management, property & fleet

Development of protocol	Target Progress	1 Amber
Notes:	1 Council currently has a Winter Maintenance Schedule and extreme weather protocol for bin collections. Further work is required to develop this further, to incorporate all types of extreme weather-related impacts to service delivery. This will be reviewed in 2024/25.	

WMO03 : Ensure that waste collections are priority during heatwaves

No. of heatwaves incidents impacting waste collections	Target Progress	Total number of Green
Notes:	1 Waste collections always take priority, plans in place to deal with a heatwave. Staff are issued with light weight clothing, sun glasses, sun protection, hats and water. risk assessment for working in the sun in place.	

WMO04 : Ensure effective Risk Assessments (RAs) for periods of prolonged heat in relation to fire risk at Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).

Review and update of Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) Risk Assessments (RAs)	Target Actual	Yes Yes
Notes:	1 All risk assessment are reviewed annually, we have recently reviewed all HRC risk and created a new simplified format. some of the previous risk assessments have been combined that would of mirrored each other. These are all currently with Harri Moffet to ratify, see attached reviewed risk assessments which we will be using once ratified.	



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Proposed new Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Catherine Hunter, Environmental Education Officer
Approver:	Shaun Morley, Director of Operations

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the proposed new Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities (**Appendix 1** and **Link 1**), seeking endorsement of the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) response at **Appendix 2**.

2. Background

- 2.1. The proposed new Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities (which shall be referred to as 'the Code') sets out the requirement for sampling and reporting of waste materials received by Materials Facilities (MFs). MF definition is provided at **Appendix 3**. England, Scotland, and Wales have had similar sampling regulations in place since 2015/16. The Waste (Recyclate Quality) (Scotland) Regulations 2015 and the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2016.
- 2.2. The Code is issued by DAERA to provide guidance to operators of MFs which manage waste on the discharge of certain duties, specifically those in the Waste Management Licensing (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2003 and the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013. Compliance with this Code is to be made a condition of any waste management licence or Pollution Prevention Control permit (which authorises treatment of such waste material) that is granted or varied by NIEA.
- 2.3. DAERA is seeking views from interested stakeholders on the proposed new and relevant draft regulation.
- 2.4. The consultation commenced on the 16 September 2024 and close on the 12 November 2024.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. The aims of the Code are to:



- increase transparency on material quality in the supply chain, through provision of accurate information on contamination levels, and variances in these levels to the market and to customers;
 - demonstrate Northern Ireland's commitment to deliver high quality recycling;
 - improve the contracting environment, for operators of MFs and for all businesses involved in the material supply chain;
 - encourage innovation in the operation of MFs and supply chain dynamics;
 - enable NIEA to ensure consistency of approach and practice in MF material and sampling control, irrespective of the technology available to the MF operator; and
 - enhance the quantity and quality of waste data, especially packaging data, required to achieve the effective implementation of the packaging Extended Producer Responsibility system and realise the associated environmental benefits.
- 3.2. Regular sampling at MFs will allow any quality issues linked to specific material suppliers to be identified, and assess the effectiveness, or otherwise, of the sorting process to produce clean, high-quality material that is suitable for reprocessing.
- 3.3. In-scope MFs are any likely to receive, 1,000 tonnes or more of waste material in any reporting year. Reporting is required every 3 months to DAERA.
- 3.4. Council's Household Recycling Centres are not in-scope, however kerbside recycling MF operators is in-scope. Operators of MFs are required to log total tonnage received from each supplier, to sample every 75 tonnes for composition and to identify contamination. They are required to also log the total tonnage that leaves the MF after processing along with the same type of sampling, including composition, grade of material etc.
- 3.5. Council supports LARACs response that we would welcome sampling and reporting at MFs. In addition:
- We agree there could be increased costs to Council in the form of gate fees from the MF operator, as this is a new requirement which comes with financial implications.
 - Clear clarification and guidance will be needed in relation to determine how non-household wastes, such as that from Council-operated commercial collections are in or out of scope.
 - We agree that due to the complexity and variation in packaging types, a clear definition should be provided for what is 'non-recyclable' and how this relates to other legislation. At present, some material streams may rely heavily or exclusively on export markets or the emergence of new technologies (such as chemical recycling) to be

effectively recycled or collected for recycling but ultimately sent for incineration, energy recovery or landfill. The measurements within the 'material particles' section should be consistent with that of guidance and legislation across the rest of the UK.

4 General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1 **Legal Implications** – The Code has been prepared under the powers contained in Article 6(6) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and Article 4(1) of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. The purpose of this Code is to support the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging by providing the data required for the packaging EPR Scheme Administrator to calculate local authorities' disposal costs.
- 4.2 **Financial Implications** – it is currently unclear how the new Code will impact on Councils financially. It may result in increased gate fees for Council as a MF customer. No indication of e.g. fines for excessive contamination levels in sampling.
- 4.3 **Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan** – Planet - Council are leading by example to reduce the impact of waste services on the environment and protecting it for future generations.
- 4.4 **Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact** – supporting this new Code will aim to increase higher quality recyclate which can be used by local processors to create new products.
- 4.5 **Political and Reputational** - there is significant political and community interest in recycling. Delivering on improved recycling system services demonstrates good environmental, economic and social governance, reduces business risk and improves Council's reputation.
- 4.6 **Good Relations** - Council will build on already-established partnerships with key statutory and non-statutory stakeholders including our contractual recycling processor by supporting this new Code.

5 Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 If the LARAC consultation response at **Appendix 2** is endorsed, Council officers will inform LARAC of this outcome and demonstrate our support.

6 Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to approve the LARAC consultation response at **Appendix 2**.



7 Appendices / Links

- Appendix 1 The Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities
- Appendix 2 LARAC Draft Response DAERA Sampling Reporting Material Facilities NI
- Appendix 3 MF Definition

- Link 1 <https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/daera/proposed-new-code-of-practice/>



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

The Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities

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Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities

1. Introduction and scope

- 1.1. This Code of Practice, "the Code" supports the Materials Facilities Code (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2025 by setting out the requirements for sampling and reporting of waste packaging materials received at in scope Materials Facilities (MFs). The Code has been prepared under the powers contained in Article 6(6) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997 and Article 4(1) of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. The purpose of this Code is to support the introduction of Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) for packaging by providing the data required for the packaging EPR Scheme Administrator to calculate local authorities' disposal costs.
- 1.2. If you are uncertain about what your facility needs to do to comply with the Code, you should contact the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA).
- 1.3. The Code applies to any site if they meet the requirements of a Materials Facility (MF) and receive, or are likely to receive the waste material amounts stated below (in any reporting year). The requirements include:
 - a. sites operating under the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003); or
 - b. sites operating under a Pollution and Prevention Control (PPC) permit under the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013; **and**
 - c. meets the definition of a MF as defined in the Materials Facilities Code (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2025 and in this code; **and**
 - d. sites that receive or are likely to receive more than 1,000 tonnes of waste material in any reporting year (1 April to 31 March the following year).
- 1.4. The Materials Facilities Code (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2025 amends the Waste Management Licensing (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2003¹ and the Pollution Prevention and Control (Industrial Emissions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013² to make compliance with the Code a condition of any waste management licence or PPC permit (which authorise treatment of such waste material) that is granted or varied by NIEA.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2003/493/contents>

² <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2013/160/contents>

1.5. A MF is defined in this Code and the Materials Facilities Code (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2025 as follows:

- a. a facility or part of a facility where waste material is received in order to:
 - i. separate it into specified output, or
 - ii. consolidate it into bulk quantities (whether as a first point of consolidation for such waste or following the first consolidation of bulk quantities transferred from other suppliers),

for the purpose of selling it, or transferring it to other facilities or persons to enable that material to be prepared for re-use or recycling.

- b. any reference to a "Materials Facility" excludes a facility or part of a facility:
 - i. at which all the waste material received during a reporting period is attributable exclusively to a single supplier, unless the waste material so received is separated into specified output material at that facility;
 - ii. that is provided pursuant to arrangements made under section 25(1)(b) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997³;
 - iii. that undertakes the processing or sorting of WEEE, waste batteries or accumulators.

1.6. An operator of a MF must ensure they comply with the requirements of this Code or risk being deemed to be non-compliant with their licence, or permit conditions.

1.7. Not all MFs are in scope of this Code. In particular a MF that receives or is likely to receive less than 1,000 tonnes of waste material in any reporting year does not have any requirements under this Code. Facilities for the treatment of household waste where the authorisation holder is a council (for example household waste recycling centres) are also not in scope of this Code.

1.8. In addition, guidance will be made available from NIEA entitled, - 'Materials Facilities – Testing and Reporting Guidance'. This is intended to help MF operators to design and carry out their material testing and reporting procedures.

³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1997/2778/contents>

- 1.9. Key terms used in the Code are defined in **13. Definitions of terms used in the Code**. If you are unsure about the meaning of any terms used you should contact NIEA via the following email address - WRU.Queries@daera-ni.gov.uk .

2. Aims

- 2.1. The aims of the Code are to:
- a. increase transparency on material quality in the supply chain, through provision of accurate information on contamination levels, and variances in these levels to the market and to customers;
 - b. demonstrate Northern Ireland's commitment to deliver high quality recycling;
 - c. improve the contracting environment, for operators of MFs and for all businesses involved in the material supply chain;
 - d. encourage innovation in the operation of MFs and supply chain dynamics;
 - e. enable NIEA to ensure consistency of approach and practice in MF material and sampling control, irrespective of the technology available to the MF operator; and
 - f. enhance the quantity and quality of waste data, especially packaging data, required to achieve the effective implementation of the packaging Extended Producer Responsibility system and realise the associated environmental benefits.
- 2.2. Regular sampling at MFs will allow any quality issues linked to specific material suppliers to be identified, and assess the effectiveness, or otherwise, of the sorting process to produce clean, high-quality material that is suitable for reprocessing.

3. Notification requirements

- 3.1. If a MF is receiving, or likely to receive, 1,000 tonnes or more of waste material in any reporting year the operator is required to notify NIEA immediately in writing that they fall within the in scope of this Code. The requirement to sample materials and report sample data applies to any license or permit holders that receive more than 1,000 tonnes of waste material in any reporting year. NIEA should be advised if circumstances change for example the facility is no longer in scope.

- 3.2. Where a MF has not previously received 1,000 tonnes or more of waste material in any reporting year and, during the course of a reporting year, proceeds to receive 1,000 tonnes or more of waste material for the first time, the operator must notify NIEA immediately in writing that they are in scope. At the time of notification, the MF operator must seek agreement from NIEA on a timescale for commencement of sampling and reporting. However, sampling must commence no later than the second reporting period after the date on which the cumulative total of waste material received in that reporting year reaches 1,000 tonnes.

For the avoidance of doubt if the operator of a MF has multiple MFs, the above applies to each individual MF that is in scope.

4. Facilities not in scope

- 4.1. For the avoidance of doubt the following are not in scope of the Code:
 - a. facilities which carry out activities that are exempt from waste management licensing requirements (as listed in the Waste Management Licensing Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003);
 - b. accredited reprocessors, or exporters;
 - c. facilities for the treatment of household waste where the authorisation holder is a council (for example household waste recycling centres);
 - i. however, MF sites that receive waste from council household waste recycling centres could be in scope if they fulfil the criteria of section 3.1. and 3.2. above.

5. Reporting periods

- 5.1. Operators of MF that fall within the scope of this Code must report the results of material sampling to NIEA every 3 months in a format specified by NIEA. Data reported must be as accurate as reasonably practicable.

- 5.2. The first reporting period will start on XX.XX.XXX, and sampling should commence from this date. In any reporting year, there will be four reporting periods. Reports must be submitted electronically within one month of the end of the reporting period as set out below:
 - a. 1 April to 30 June with reports to NIEA due by 31 July.
 - b. 1 July to 30 September with reports to NIEA due by 31 October.
 - c. 1 October to 31 December with reports to NIEA due by 31 January.
 - d. 1 January to 31 March with reports to NIEA due by 30 April.

6. Sampling of Input material

- 6.1. The operator of a MF must measure the total weight in tonnes of waste material received at that facility, from each supplier, during each reporting period.
- 6.2. The operator of a MF must take samples of the waste material received at that facility, from each supplier, during each reporting period. The exception to this is where that material is identified and kept apart to be transferred by the operator to another MF or person for the purpose of enabling it to be prepared for re-use or recycling.
- 6.3. One sample must be taken for every 75 tonnes of waste material received at the MF from each supplier. For the avoidance of doubt, if less than 75 tonnes of waste material is received from a given supplier in a single reporting year, there is no requirement to sample the material from that supplier in that reporting year.
- 6.4. The total weight of all the samples taken must provide an average weight of 60kg or more per sample, and each sample taken must not weigh less than 55kg. A sample may be collected in several parts, provided that no part weighs less than 20kg.
- 6.5. Measuring the composition of a sample taken means identifying the materials comprising that sample by reference to:
 - a. the types of target material, non-target material and non-recyclable material that is contained in the sample;
 - b. subject to section 6.7., the type of packaging (see **13. Definitions of terms used in the Code**) that is contained in each type of target material, non-target material and non-recyclable material identified in that sample. Please note the lid, seal or other part of a drink container should be considered as drink container packaging, and
 - c. the weight in kilograms of each type of target material, non-target material and non-recyclable material and each type of packaging that is so identified.

- 6.6. Material that is identified in a sample must, as a minimum, be separately identified by reference to the following:
- a. glass;
 - b. paper;
 - c. card;
 - d. steel;
 - e. aluminium;
 - f. plastic bottles
 - g. plastic pots, tubs and trays;
 - h. film or other flexible plastic;
 - i. other plastic (not falling within paragraphs f. to h.);
 - j. fibre-based composite material.
- 6.7. Any glass that is identified in a sample taken for the purposes of section 6.2. must be separately identified and weighed as a type of packaging in accordance with section 6.5.b. only where the operator is given written notice by NIEA of the requirement to do so, and any such notice:
- a. must be given at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the reporting period in respect of which the measurements are to be taken; and
 - b. must specify the minimum number of samples for each supplier in respect of which the measurements are required.
- 6.8. If the sample taken contains material particles, they are deemed to comprise the proportions of the types of target materials, non-target materials and non-recyclable materials and packaging (including glass packaging where notice has been given under section 6.7.) already identified as making up the other contents of that sample. Therefore, the weight of the material particles must be apportioned according to those proportions for that particular sample.
- 6.9. For the purposes of **6. Sampling of input material**, where a batch of waste material received at a MF comprises material from more than one supplier, and the proportion of that batch attributable to a particular supplier cannot reasonably be ascertained, an estimate of the proportion is sufficient.

- 6.10. The operator of a MF must ensure that the composition of each sample taken for the purposes of **6. Sampling of input material** is representative of the materials comprising the waste material from which it is taken.

For the avoidance of doubt if the operator of a MF has multiple MFs, the above applies to each individual MF that is in scope.

7. Sampling of Output material

- 7.1. Apart from the waste material and the specified output material mentioned in this part, the operator of a MF must measure the total weight in tonnes of all other waste material that leaves the facility in each reporting period.

- 7.2. The sampling requirements are as follows with regards to output materials. An operator of a MF must:

- a. measure the total weight in tonnes of all waste material that leaves the facility in each reporting period that has been identified and kept apart as material to be transferred by the operator to another MF or person for the purpose of enabling that material to be prepared for re-use or recycling.
- b. measure the total weight in tonnes of specified output material that leaves the facility in each reporting period;
- c. take samples of the specified output material produced at that facility in a reporting period and measure the composition of those samples;
- d. the specified output material (mentioned in section 7.2.b. and 7.2.c.) must, as a minimum, be identified by reference to the grade of glass, paper, card, metal (comprising aluminium, steel, or both) plastic or fibre-based composite material making up each batch of specified output material;
 - i. the grade of a material means a description of that kind of material by reference to its particular material specification please see Table 1 below for the list of material types.
- e. the composition of a sample (for the purpose of section 7.2.c.) taken by the operator means identifying the materials comprising that sample, by reference to:
 - i. the type of target material, non-target material and non-recyclable material that is contained in the sample;

- ii. subject to section 7.3., the type of packaging (see **13. Definitions of terms used in the Code of Practice**) that is contained in each type of target material, non-target material and non-recyclable material identified in that sample. Please note the lid, seal or other part of a drink container should be considered as drink container packaging; and
- iii. the weight in kilograms of each type of target material, non-target material and non-recyclable material and each type of packaging that is so identified.

Table 1 - Material Grades	
Material Type	Grades
Card	Cardboard
Paper	Newspapers and magazines Mixed paper
Plastics	High-density polyethylene (HDPE) Bottles Clear
	HDPE Bottles Coloured
	HDPE Bottles Mixed
	Plastic Film
	Low-density polyethylene (LDPE) Film Clear
	LDPE Film Coloured
	Mixed Plastic
	Mixed Plastic Bottles
	Mixed Rigid Plastic
	Polyethylene terephthalate (PET) Bottles Clear
	PET Bottles Coloured
	PET Bottles Mixed
	PET (non-bottle)
	Polypropylene
Pots, Tubs and Trays	
Metals	Aluminium
	Steel
	Other
Glass	Clear
	Brown
	Green
	Mixed coloured glass (aggregate* / glass sand) *while status as recycle remains
	Mixed coloured glass (container / glass fibre)
Fibre-based Composite	Fibre-based drinks cartons
	Fibre-based food containers
	Fibre-based cups

- 7.3. Any glass that is identified in measuring the composition of a sample for the purpose of section 7.2.c. must be separately identified and weighed as a type of packaging in accordance with section 7.2.e. only where the operator is given written notice by the regulator of the requirement to do so, and any such notice:
- a. must be given at least four weeks prior to the commencement of the reporting period in respect of which the measurements are to be taken, and
 - b. must specify the minimum number of samples for each batch in respect of which the measurements are required.
- 7.4 Subject to section 7.5. the samples (for the purpose of section 7.2.c.) must be taken at a minimum frequency of once per the amount in tonnes that is specified in the second column of the Table 2, in relation to the type of material that is mentioned in the first column:

Table 2 – Minimum sampling frequency	
Material	Amount
Glass	50 tonnes
Paper	60 tonnes
Card	60 tonnes
Metal (comprising aluminium, steel, or both)	20 tonnes
Plastic	15 tonnes
Fibre-based composite material	60 tonnes

- 7.5. Where a sample contains more than one type of material, the applicable minimum frequency is to be determined by reference to the lowest figure in the second column of the table that is specified in relation to a material contained in the sample.
- 7.6. The minimum weight of any sample taken (for the purpose of section 7.2.c.) is:
- 10kg in relation to glass,
 - 50kg in relation to paper,
 - 50kg in relation to card,
 - 10kg in relation to metal (comprising aluminium, steel or both),
 - 20kg in relation to plastic, and
 - 50kg in relation to fibre-based composite material,
- and for these purposes any sample that contains more than one type of material is to be treated as though it comprised only the material to which the lowest sampling frequency applies as determined under section 7.5. .
- 7.7. If the sample taken (for the purpose of section 7.2.c.) contains material particles, they are deemed to comprise the proportions of the types of target materials, non-target materials, non-recyclable materials and packaging (including glass packaging where notice has been given under section 7.3. already identified as making up the other contents of that sample, and the weight of the material particles must be apportioned according to those proportions for that particular sample.
- 7.8. The operator of a MF must ensure that the composition of each sample taken for the purposes of **7.Sampling of output material** is representative of the materials comprising the batch of specified output material from which it is taken.

For the avoidance of doubt if the operator of a MF has multiple MFs, the above applies to each individual MF site that is in scope.

8. Records

- 8.1. The operator of a MF must record the following information obtained for the purposes of **6.Sampling of input material** and **7.Sampling of output material**:
- a. the measurements taken under section 6.1. and, for each batch of material of which the total weight is comprised:
 - i. the date the batch was received; and
 - ii. the name and address of the supplier (or of each supplier) for the batch concerned.
 - b. details of all the samples and measurements taken for the purposes of section 6.2., including the weight in kilograms of each sample and its composition and the date the sample was taken;
 - c. details of the methodology used in each case to ensure that the composition of the sample is representative for the purposes of section 6.10.;
 - d. the measurements taken under section 7.1., and details of where the other waste material that leaves the facility in each reporting period is sent and the date it is sent;
 - e. the measurements taken under section 7.2. and:
 - i. details of where the waste material that leaves the facility in each reporting period is sent and the date it is sent;
 - ii. details of where the specified output material that leaves the facility in each reporting period is sent and the date it is sent;
 - iii. details of all the samples and measurements taken for the purposes of section 7.2.c. including the weight in kilograms of each sample and its composition, the date the sample was taken and any other details identifying the batch of specified output material from which it was taken; and
 - iv. details of the amount in tonnes of specified output material that is produced by the MF in a reporting period, by reference to the grade of glass, aluminium, steel, paper, card and plastic material that makes up that batch of material.
- 8.2. Details of the methodology used in each case to ensure that the composition of the sample is representative for the purposes of section 7.8.;

- 8.3. The information recorded under section 8.1. must:
- a. be retained by the operator of a MF for a minimum of 7 years from the date that it is first recorded; and
 - b. be produced for inspection by the regulator if required during the period in which the information concerned is required to be retained.

For the avoidance of doubt if the operator of a MF has multiple MFs, the above applies to each individual MF that is in scope.

9. Reports to NIEA

- 9.1. The operator of a MF must provide a report to NIEA that includes the information set out in section 9.3. and 9.4. .
- 9.2. The report must be produced in electronic format (and in the form specified by NIEA), and submitted to NIEA in respect of a reporting period within 1 month of the expiry of that period.
- 9.3. The following information must be provided for all waste material that is received by the MF (**Sampling of input Material**) during a reporting period:
 - a) the measurements set out in section 6.1. and the details for each batch of material recorded in accordance with section 8.1.a.;
 - b) the total number of all samples taken for each supplier under section 6.2. and
 - c) the total weight in kilograms of all samples taken for each supplier under section 6.2. and the details for those samples as recorded in accordance with section 8.1.b. .
- 9.4 The following information must be provided in respect of material that leaves the MF (**Sampling of output Material**) during a reporting period:
 - a) the measurements taken under section 7.1. and details of where the other waste material is sent in and recorded in accordance with section 8.1.d.;
 - b) the measurements taken under section 7.2. and details of where the waste material is sent in and recorded in accordance with section 8.1.e.;
 - c) the measurements taken under section 7.2. and details of where the specified output material is sent and recorded in accordance with section 8.1.e.;
 - d) the total number of all samples taken under section 7.2.; and
 - e) the total weight in kilograms of all the samples that are taken under section 7.2. with the details for those samples recorded in accordance with section 8.1.e. .

10. Disclosure of information by NIEA

- 10.1. NIEA may share any information obtained from the operator of a MF under this Part with:
- a. a person who is appointed, by virtue of regulations made under Part 1 of Schedule 5 to the Environment Act 2021⁴, as an administrator of a scheme for producer responsibility for disposal costs ("the administrator"); and
 - b. any other person who is exercising functions on that administrator's behalf,

for the purpose of enabling the exercise of functions conferred on the administrator under those regulations.

11. Licensing

- 11.1. Compliance with the requirements of this Code will be a condition of a relevant Waste Management Licence or a Pollution and Prevention Control (PPC) permit.

12. Compliance

- 12.1. In managing the Code's sampling and reporting requirements, NIEA have the option to undertake unannounced inspections of MFs in order to assess the quality and accuracy of testing and reporting procedures. NIEA's on-site inspections would include:
- a. mapping and understanding MF processing capabilities relative to inputs and outputs from the MF;
 - b. sampling of baled outputs to independently assess bale quality against MF license holders;
 - c. an assessment of whether staff are adequately trained; and
 - d. whether appropriate equipment and facilities are available on site to enable testing to be undertaken in line with the Code.

⁴ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2021/30/content>

12.2. NIEA may undertake inspections of MFs based upon intelligence, outcomes of previous inspections or quarterly data returns. The targeting of site inspections will change once the sampling and reporting regime has become established to focus more on underperforming sites.

13. Definitions of terms used in the Code

13.1. The following definitions are of terms that are used in the Code. The singular includes the plural and the plural the singular.

Drink Container: a bottle or can which:

- a. contains or used to contain drink;
- b. is made wholly or mainly from polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plastic, glass, steel or aluminium;
- c. has a capacity of at least 150 millilitres but no more than three litres of liquid;
- d. is designed or intended to be sealed in an airtight and watertight state at the point of supply to a consumer in the United Kingdom; and
- e. is not conceived, designed or marketed to be refilled or reused in any other way by any person.

EPR Scheme Administrator: A person who is appointed, by virtue of regulations made under section 51 and paragraph 4 of Schedule 5 to the Environment Act 2021, as an administrator of a scheme for producer responsibility for disposal costs ("the administrator").

Fibre-based composite material: Means packaging material which is made of paperboard or paper fibres, laminated with plastic, and which may also have layers of other materials, to form a single unit that cannot be separated by hand.

High Density PolyEthylene (HDPE): is a thermoplastic polymer made from petroleum.

Low-density polyethylene (LDPE): is a thermoplastic made from the monomer ethylene.

Materials Facility (MF):

- a. a facility or part of a facility where waste material is received in order to:

- i. separate it into specified output, or
- ii. consolidate it into bulk quantities (whether as a first point of consolidation for such waste or following the first consolidation of bulk quantities transferred from other suppliers),

for the purpose of selling it, or transferring it to other facilities or persons to enable that material to be prepared for re-use or recycling.

- b. any reference to a "Materials Facility" excludes a facility or part of a facility:
 - i. at which all the waste material received during a reporting period is attributable exclusively to a single supplier, unless the waste material so received is separated into specified output material at that facility;
 - ii. that is provided pursuant to arrangements made under section 25(1)(b) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997;
 - iii. that undertakes the processing or sorting of WEEE, waste batteries or accumulators.

Material Particles

- a. for specified output material that is made up in largest proportion of glass material, particles of that material that measure less than 13 millimetres along their longest dimension, and
- b. in relation to all other types of specified output material and for waste material, particles of material measuring less than 55 millimetres along their longest dimension;

NIEA: Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

Non-Recyclable Material: Waste material that is not capable of being recycled.

Non-Target Material: material that is capable of being recycled but is not a target material.

Packaging: all products made of any materials of any nature to be used for the containment, protection, handling, delivery and presentation of goods, from raw materials to processed goods, from the producer to the user or consumer, including non-returnable items used for the same purposes, but only where the products are:

- a. primary packaging, which is packaging conceived so as to constitute a sales unit to the final user or consumer at the point of purchase;
- b. secondary packaging, which is packaging conceived so as to constitute at the point of purchase a grouping of a certain number of sales units whether the latter is supplied as such to the final user or consumer or whether it serves only as a means to replenish the shelves at the point of sale; it can be removed from the product without affecting the product's characteristics;
- c. tertiary packaging, which is packaging conceived so as to facilitate handling and transport of a number of sales units or secondary packaging in order to prevent damage from physical handling and transport damage, and for the purposes of these Regulations, tertiary packaging does not include road, rail, ship and air containers;
- d. shipment packaging, which is packaging, added in addition to primary packaging, to items which are sold online or by a mail order which are either delivered direct to the purchaser or collected by the purchaser from a shop or other collection point after they have been purchased.

Pollution Prevention and Control (PPC) permits and Waste Management

Licences: regulate business activities that could have an impact on the environment or human health.

Polyethylene terephthalate (PET): is short for polyethylene terephthalate, the chemical name for polyester.

Type of packaging: throughout this document when type of packaging is stated it means the following types of packaging:

- a. household packaging;
- b. non-household packaging;
- c. packaging that commonly ends up in public bins;
- d. drink container;
- e. packaging that is reusable;
- f. packaging that becomes self managed waste.

Polypropylene: is a type of polyolefin that is slightly harder than polyethylene.

Specified Output Material: A batch of material (whether or not waste) that is:

- a. produced from a separating process for mixed waste material, and
- b. made up of one or more of the following kinds of material, in largest proportion:
 - i. glass;
 - ii. paper;
 - iii. card;
 - iv. metal (comprising aluminium, steel, or both);
 - v. plastic;
 - vi. fibre-based composite material.

Supplier: In relation to a batch of mixed waste material received at a Materials Facility:

- a. where that batch comprises material collected pursuant to arrangements made by a waste collection authority under article 20(1)(a) or (b) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997⁵, that authority is the supplier;
- b. where that batch has been transferred from another MF or group of facilities, the operator of a Materials Facility or group of facilities from which that material was transferred is the supplier;
- c. in any other case not falling within (a) or (b), the person or organisation who collected the material or, if that person or organisation is not known, the person or organisation responsible for delivering it to the MF is the supplier;
- d. where the batch comprises material from more than one supplier, and the proportion of that batch attributable to a particular supplier cannot reasonably be ascertained, an estimate of the proportion is sufficient.

Target Material: material (whether of one kind or more) that is identified by the operator of a Materials Facility as destined (whether by that facility or by other facilities or persons) to be separated out from waste material or consolidated in order to produce bulk quantities of that identified material.

⁵ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisi/1997/2778/contents>

Waste Material: Waste material means waste that:

- a. is household waste, or originates from a source other than household waste but is similar to household waste in terms of its nature or composition,
- b. has been separately collected (whether as a single kind of material or two or more kinds of material mixed together) for the primary purpose of preparing it for re-use or recycling, and
- c. consists (whether wholly or in part) of any of the following kinds of material
 - i. glass;
 - ii. paper;
 - iii. card;
 - iv. metal (comprising aluminium, steel, or both);
 - v. plastic;
 - vi. fibre-based composite material.



LARAC Response to the open consultation from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on the [Proposed new Code of Practice on Sampling and Reporting at Materials Facilities](#) in Northern Ireland

[LARAC member briefing](#)

Response deadline: 12 November 2024
Link to respond: [Citizen Space](#)
Email: EPRTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk
Telephone: 02890 569 725
Address: Extended Producer Responsibility 1, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, First Floor West, Clare House, 303 Airport Road West, Sydenham Intake, Belfast, BT3 9ED

1. What is the name of your business? (required)

LARAC

2. What is your email address? (required)

admin@larac.org.uk

3. Which of the following sectors best describes your organization? (required)

Trade organisation

Questions on 1: introduction and scope

4. Is the Code specifically (1. Introduction and Scope) clear about which sites must comply with the Code? (yes/no)

NO

If you answered 'No', please provide details of anything that is unclear.

LARAC is very supportive of DAERA's decision to make facilities for the treatment of household waste where the authorisation holder is a council out of scope. However, clear clarification and guidance will be needed in relation to this to determine how non-household wastes, such as that from council-operated commercial collections. LARAC would be keep to engage with DAERA on this to ensure that variables in local authority schemes



and the potential impacts are considered by this, as well as ensuring that councils know their position in relation to being in or out of scope.

As few local authorities in Northern Ireland directly own the material facilities that handle their waste and recycling, it can be expected that at least some of these will be within scope of the regulations, and the introduction of the annual fee and increased sampling requirements will see costs passed down to local authority customers through increased gate fees. This would have a negative impact on council's already stretched budgets in handling waste and recycling, and also influence considerations of introducing collection schemes for non-household waste, negatively impacting collection and recycling rates.

5. In the Code specifically (1. Introduction and Scope) are the requirements of a Materials Facility (MF) clear: (yes/no)

No answer from LARAC

6. When do you expect to be ready to comply with the Code? (multiple choice)

No answer from LARAC

Aims

7. Are you happy with the clarity of this section and the aims stated? (yes/no)

YES

Notification requirements / Facilities not in scope

8. Are you content with the clarity of this section? (yes/no)

NO

If you answered 'No', please provide details of anything that is unclear about the section.

As with question 4, LARAC would like clear guidance and information detailing facilities that are in and out of scope, this includes examples that cover different local authority variables. The increased requirement and cost associated with these changes, regardless of if this is applied directly to a local authority or passed down by increased gate fee costs, could have a negative impact on council's already stretched budgets in handling waste and recycling, and also influence considerations of introducing collection schemes for non-household waste, negatively impacting collection and recycling rates.

Reporting periods

9. Are you content with the reporting periods and that this section is clear? (yes/no)

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YES

Sampling of input material

10. Does the Code clearly state input material sampling obligations? *(yes/no)*

YES

11. In this section it states one sample must be taken for every 75 tonnes of waste material received at the MF from each supplier every reporting year. Are you content with this? *(yes/no)*

No answer from LARAC

Sampling of output material

12. Does the Code clearly state output material sampling obligations? *(yes/no)*

YES

Records

13. Is this section clear? *(yes/no)*

YES

14. Would you have anything further to add to this section? *(yes/no)*

NO

Reports to NIEA

15. Are you content with this section? *(yes/no)*

YES

16. Would you have anything further to add to this section? *(yes/no)*

NO

Disclosure of information by NIEA, Licensing and Compliance

17. Are you content with these sections? *(yes/no)*

YES

Definitions used in the Code

18. Are all the definitions in this section clear? *(yes/no)*

NO



If you answered 'No', please provide details of which definitions you consider unclear and why.

Due to the complexity and variation in packaging types, a clear definition should be provided for what is 'non-recyclable' and how this relates to other legislation. At present, some material streams may rely heavily or exclusively on export markets or the emergence of new technologies (such as Chemical Recycling) to be effectively recycled or collected for recycling but ultimately sent for incineration, energy recovery or landfill.

The measurements within the 'material particles' section should be consistent with that of guidance and legislation across the rest of the UK.

19. Are you content with the definition of Materials Facility (MF): (yes/no)

NO

If you answered 'No', please provide details of which definitions you consider unclear and why.

LARAC would like to see the exemption of local authority sites to be clarified within this section, as well as clarity on how commercial waste collections by these councils at these same facilities would impact if they are within scope.

20. Are all terms in the document, for which a clear definition is necessary, given a definition in this section? (yes/no)

NO

If you answered 'No', please specify which terms you would like to see defined in this section.

As stated in question 18, a more robust definition of 'non-recyclable' should be considered.

Draft legislation

21. Do you wish to make any comments regarding this draft legislation?

LARAC is very supportive of DAERA's decision to make facilities for the treatment of household waste where the authorisation holder is a council out of scope. However, clear clarification and guidance will be needed in relation to this to determine how non-household wastes, such as that from council-operated commercial collections.



As few local authorities in Northern Ireland directly own the material facilities that handle their waste and recycling, it can be expected that at least some of these will be within scope of the regulations, and the introduction of the annual fee and increased sampling requirements will see costs passed down to local authority customers through increased gate fees. This would have a negative impact on council's already stretched budgets in handling waste and recycling, and also influence considerations of introducing collection schemes for non-household waste, negatively impacting collection and recycling rates.

LARAC would be keep to engage with DAERA on this to ensure that variables in local authority schemes and the potential impacts are considered by this, as well as ensuring that councils know their position in relation to being in or out of scope.

Charging Regime

22. The fees proposed for this new MF sampling regime are £3,000 a year for each site, do you think this is appropriate: (yes/no)

YES

Compliance

23. Do you already comply with the requirements set out in the proposed Code? (yes/no)

No answer from LARAC

Closing question

24. Do you wish to make any other comments on the document as a whole?

LARAC supports the introduction of these changes and the effect this will have on bringing sampling and reporting requirements for material facilities in Northern Ireland more in line with the rest of the UK.

LARAC is also very supportive of DAERA's decision to make facilities for the treatment of household waste where the authorisation holder is a council out of scope. However, clear clarification and guidance will be needed in relation to this to determine how non-household wastes, such as that from council-operated commercial collections, may impact this.

It can be expected that at least some material facilities that handle local authority waste and recycling will be within scope of the regulations, and the introduction of the annual fee and increased sampling requirements will see costs passed down to local authority customers through increased gate fees. This would have a negative impact on council's already

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stretched budgets in handling waste and recycling, and also influence considerations of introducing collection schemes for non-household waste, negatively impacting collection and recycling rates.

LARAC would be keen to engage with DAERA on this to ensure that variables in local authority schemes and the potential impacts are considered by this, as well as ensuring that councils know their position in relation to being in or out of scope.

Appendix 3 - Definition of a Materials Facility (MF)

A MF is defined in this Code and the Materials Facilities Code (Northern Ireland) Regulations 2025 as follows:

- a) a facility or part of a facility where waste material is received in order to:
 - i. separate it into specified output, or
 - ii. consolidate it into bulk quantities (whether as a first point of consolidation for such waste or following the first consolidation of bulk quantities transferred from other suppliers),

for the purpose of selling it, or transferring it to other facilities or persons to enable that material to be prepared for re-use or recycling.

- b) any reference to a "Materials Facility" excludes a facility or part of a facility:
 - i. at which all the waste material received during a reporting period is attributable exclusively to a single supplier, unless the waste material so received is separated into specified output material at that facility;
 - ii. that is provided pursuant to arrangements made under section 25(1)(b) of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997[5];
 - iii. that undertakes the processing or sorting of WEEE, waste batteries or accumulators.



Committee:	Environment & Economy
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Caddy Liner Delivery Review
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Donna Carey, Waste Contracts Manager
Approver:	Shaun Morley, Director of Operations

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to present Elected Members with the findings of a twelve-month review of the impact on brown bin tonnages collected, following the reduction in caddy liner deliveries to households.

2. Background

- 2.1. Members may be aware that a report was submitted to the Economy and Environment Committee on 18 September 2023, which resulted in the approval of a delivery model of reducing the provision of liners free of charge to participating households from three times to two times per year, once on black bin and once on brown bin collection weeks.
- 2.2. The recommendations from the September meeting included provision of a report in October 2024 to compare organic waste tonnages following the reduction in caddy liner delivery.
- 2.3. The review was conducted to assess the impact of this change on the performance of the brown bin service over the twelve-month period.
- 2.4. This review included tonnages collected and current service provision costs.
- 2.5. Council strives to apply the Waste Hierarchy to its waste collection and processing models. While Council endeavors to meet statutory household recycling targets, the priority is the reduction waste arisings.
- 2.6. Council's priority in relation to food waste is to reduce the volume generated. This is better for the environment, the residents and helps to reduce processing costs for Council. To help us reduce food waste arisings from households, Council works in collaboration with the Waste & Resources Action Program (WRAP) to deliver a targeted food waste reduction communication campaign to all our residents.



3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. The objective of the reduction in caddy liner deliveries was to achieve cost savings while maintaining an effective brown bin service for food and garden waste collections.
- 3.2. A review of the costs for the brown bin service for food and garden waste collections shows the cost reduction for this delivery model in 2024-25 is £39,000 which represents a 29% savings.
- 3.3. Although it is difficult to measure the impact of changes to the brown bins service on household behaviour, the collected tonnages can serve as a general indicator. The tonnage review shows a 11% decrease in organic waste tonnages collected in brown bins compared to the previous year, a reduction of 2,196 tonnes from 19,969 tonnes to 17,773 tonnes. The residual waste to landfill increased by 13%, an increase of 3,108 tonnes from 22,965 tonnes to 26,073 during the same period. Garden waste brought into Household Recycling Centres increased 11%, an increase of 370 tonnes from 3,300 to 3670 tonnes. See Appendix 1.
- 3.4. The decline in brown bin tonnages may have been due to a reduction in garden waste/ food waste or both.
- 3.5. The reduction in garden waste collected was likely due to the poor weather in Spring/Summer 2024 with 623 tonnages less collected in brown bins in August 2023 compared to August 2024.
- 3.6. The number of organics collected in January 2024 was 409 tonnes less compared to January 2023 which is more likely due to a reduction in food collections. This may have been a combination of less food being bought over the Christmas period due to the increased cost of living resulting in less waste. But it may also indicate that some households faced challenges in disposing of food waste properly without the availability of sufficient caddy liners. As a result, some residents may have resorted to disposing of food waste in black bin, thereby reducing food waste captured in the brown bin system.
- 3.7. Two deliveries still provide households that participated in both deliveries enough liners to average just less than two per week, which meets the usage requirements of an average family.
- 3.8. Liners are not required for the collection of food waste by Council. This can be put directly into the brown bin, or newspaper can be used to line the kitchen caddy.



- 3.9. Additional caddy bags can be purchased at £1.37 per roll of 50 liners from Council premises or can be purchased from local supermarkets.
- 3.10. Council's priority in relation to food waste is to reduce the volume generated. To help reduce food waste arisings from households, Council continued to work in collaboration with the Waste & Resources Action Program (WRAP) to deliver a targeted food waste reduction communication campaign to all our residents. The outcome of this campaign is to help householders to reduce the amount of food waste, and its success is a factor in reducing brown bin tonnages collected.
- 3.11. A review of the number and nature of complaints received from householders over the twelve-month period regarding brown bin collection, hygiene issues or liner shortages showed no increase. Therefore, resident satisfaction has not declined as a result of the changes.
- 3.12. Waste audits conducted at brown bin processing facilities have shown no increase in contamination levels. Thus, there has been no adverse effects on the quality of compost

3 General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1 Financial Implications – A budget of £130,00 was allocated for the delivery of liners and a savings of £39,000 have been made due to reduction in number of deliveries ensuring brown bin service for food and garden waste collections is effective and efficient.
- 4.2 Human Resources -There is no staffing issues. Liners will continue to be delivered by the refuse crews during their existing collections.
- 4.3 Equality Screening – This model affects all householders equally. Any residents receiving an assisted lift would have liners left on their bin during the return process.
- 4.4 Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan. - This model aims to reduce expenditure in line with our corporate and departmental priorities.
- 4.5 Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact – Rural proofing is not required as rural residents are equally impacted as urban residents. There is a slight reduction in environmental impact as the overall reduction of liners provided will result in less manufacturing and freight impacts for delivery of the stock to the depot.



5 Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 Continue the delivery model of a reduction in caddy liner deliveries to two times per year, to achieve cost savings while maintaining an effective brown bin service for food and garden waste collections.

6 Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members note the review of Caddy Liner Delivery for the brown bin service for food and garden waste collections.

7 Appendices / Links

- Appendix 1 Tonnage Comparison 2022 – 2024

Appendix 1

Bulky - Oct 22 - Sept 23

	Oct-22	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	May-23	Jun-23	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Total
Ballymena	169.76	174.96	106.22	205.3	48.36	99.28	216.82	205.48	183.32	208.04	211.58	193.94	2023.06
Carrick	178.6	179.06	120.54	199.1	57.6	85.63	193.36	205.52	183.8	211.2	222.24	201.96	2038.61
Larne	139.13	174.48	109.18	147.72	40.82	129.66	144.7	131.2	146.08	133.46	148.64	147.5	1592.57
Total	487.49	528.5	335.94	552.12	146.78	314.57	554.88	542.2	513.2	552.7	582.46	543.4	5654.24

Bulky - Oct 23 - Sept 24

	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Total
Ballymena	189.92	168.18	184.83	237.24	209.12	181.36	230.4	219.68	195.44	239.34	260.66	210.78	2526.95
Carrick	134.48	122.02	157.18	228.58	202.64	201.48	198.3	235.04	216.3	226.46	221.08	198.8	2342.36
Larne	110.74	180.92	141.9	184.36	138.14	160.02	196.22	153.8	137.02	146.88	159.2	141.34	1850.54
Total	435.14	471.12	483.91	650.18	549.9	542.86	624.92	608.52	548.76	612.68	640.94	550.92	6719.85

Going direct to landfill during this period

Comparison

	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total
Ballymena	20.16	-6.78	78.61	31.94	160.76	82.08	13.58	14.2	12.12	31.3	49.08	16.84	503.89
Carrick	-44.12	-57.04	36.64	29.48	145.04	115.85	4.94	29.52	32.5	15.26	-1.16	-3.16	303.75
Larne	-28.39	6.44	32.72	36.64	97.32	30.36	51.52	22.6	-9.06	13.42	10.56	-6.16	257.97
Total	-52.35	-57.38	147.97	98.06	403.12	228.29	70.04	66.32	35.56	59.98	58.48	7.52	1065.61

18.85%



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Amateur Grassroots Funding Progress Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	John McVeigh, Head of Capital Works
Approver:	Philip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members regarding progress in delivering the Amateur and Grassroots Sporting Club Improvement Programme (FY 2024/25).

2. Background

- 2.1. At the March 2023 Full Council meeting, Council approved criteria for Improvement Funding for Amateur and Grassroots Sporting Clubs in the Borough, during FY 2023/24.
- 2.2. A fund of £250,000 was set aside in the FY 2023/24 and 2024/25 Capital Plan for potential award, subject to Clubs meeting the approved criterion.
- 2.3. Members have previously approved the award of £14,000 to Wellington Recreation Football Club for ground improvements, and £236,000 to support a further eight projects.
- 2.4. At the August 2023 Environment and Economy Committee, it was also agreed that Officers continue to engage with Ahoghill Thistle FC and Greenisland FC, who were not shortlisted for funding, with a view to developing their project concept.
- 2.5. At the Environment and Economy Committee held on the 28 May 2024 it was noted that the Grassroots Sporting Club Improvement Programme supported 6 sports clubs in FY 2023/24 with grants totalling £115,624.
- 2.6. At the May 2024 Environment and Economy Committee it was agreed that funding of £216,413 be allocated to support the delivery of the Amateur and Grassroots Sporting Organisations Improvement Funding in FY 2024/25 as outlined in Table 1 of this report. At the same meeting, it was further approved that a further call for applications to the Grassroots Sporting Club Improvement Programme for the FY 2024/25 for the remaining budget of £78,587 would not be progressed.



3. Key Issues for Consideration

A. Funding Update FY 2024/25

3.1. The following projects have been approved to be funded in FY 2024/25.

Table 1: Current Status of FY 2024/25 approved projects.

	Amateur or Grassroots Sporting Club	Project Description	Current Status	Grant	Updated Budget
1	Ballymena Rugby Football Club	Extension and refurbishment of 2 small changing rooms. Final Payment	The building work is complete, awaiting to process claim.	£16,699	£16,699
2	Larne Cricket Club	The purchase of a score board, covers and an artificial cricket pitch.	The letter of offer has been signed and work underway.	£10,500	£10,500
					£27,199
3	East Antrim Boat Club	The upgrading of changing rooms to create family friendly changing spaces and enclosed showers.	Withdrawn. See note 3.2	£35,000	£35,000
4	Greenisland Football Team	The conversion of former bowling green into a mini football space including fencing.	See note 3.3.	£41,714	£45,074
5	St John's Camogie Club, Carnlough	A proposal to support pitch drainage to allow use of the pitch throughout the year.	See note 3.4	£50,000	£50,000
6	All Saint's Gaelic Athletic Club, Ballymena	A new gymnasium for club and community use and the provision of storage.	See note 3.5	£50,000	£50,000
7	Carnlough Swifts Football Club	New ball catch nets at one end of the Stoneyhill Pitch.	See note 3.6	£12,500	£12,500
			Original Total	£216,413	£192,574



- 3.2. East Antrim Boat Club have contacted Council Officers and informed them that several issues had arisen, and they have had to withdraw from the FY2024/25 grants programme. The club have requested that the projects be supported in FY 2025/26.
- 3.3. Greenisland FC have contacted Council Officers to notify them of their preference, due to the landscaping nature of the project that works should be postponed to April 2025. They have also requested that the grant be increased from £41714 to £45074 to contribute towards professional services to support the planning and delivery of the project. It was initially thought by the club that there would be voluntary capacity to provide these services but this has not proved the case.
- 3.4. The St Johns Camogie Club, Carnlough, project has received planning permission and are in the process of tendering the work. They have been advised that the start of grounds works and drainage to their pitch should be delayed commencing in April 2025 and be completed in the FY 2025/26.
- 3.5. The project at All Saints GAC Ballymena has been delayed due to the need for additional surveys requested by Council Planning. The work is currently being tendered and is due to start in early 2025. The club have requested that the LOO be carried forward to FY 2025/26.
- 3.6. The Carnlough Swifts FC project involves the erection of catch nets which cannot take place until the project highlighted in point 3.4 has been completed. The club have asked for a project extension to FY 2025/26
- 3.7. Castle Rowing Club (Ballygally) – It was noted at the May 2024 Environment and Economy Committee that the Castle Rowing Club was to be given additional time to progress their proposal. A planning application was submitted to Council in September 2024.

B. Update on Programme Development Support

- 3.8. Council Officers have engaged with members of Ahoghill Thistle FC and are supporting the club regards the next steps in developing their project.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Financial implications – Adequate funds are required to be approved within the Capital Plan for FY2025/26 to support any decision from members regarding the approval of requests to support capital programmes delivered in FY2025/26.
- 4.2. At the May 2024 Environment and Economy Committee it was agreed that funding of £216,413 be allocated to seven sporting organisations for spend



in the 2024/25 financial year. Following updates from the organisations, only two can deliver their projects in FY 2024/25, with a combined grant value of £27,199 as set out in table 1. Five organisations have requested that their projects be delivered in FY 2025/26, representing requests for a combined grant value of £192,574 to be deferred from the current F/Y budget.

- 4.3. Equality Screening – funding has been recommended for expenditure on Amateur and Sporting Clubs from within a broad range of community backgrounds. In addition, Clubs are being encouraged to promote sporting opportunities for all ages and genders, also for able and disabled users alike.
- 4.4. Assets – Completion of the Amateur and Grassroots Sporting Programme will deliver improved sporting assets in the Borough.
- 4.5. Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan – The Amateur and Grassroots Sporting Programme is in keeping with Council's commitment to increase Health and Well Being in the Borough. Council is committed to delivering improved Sporting Facilities and Equipment for Amateur and Grassroots Sporting Clubs in the Borough.
- 4.6. Rural Proofing and Environmental Impact – the Amateur and Grassroots Sporting Programme will deliver sporting improvements across a range of rural Club locations. In addition, Clubs are being encouraged to seek environment improvements, particularly energy efficiency improvements.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. If Elected Members approve the carry forward of funds as set out in paragraph 6.1 Council Officers will work towards delivering the grants programme as agreed in FY 2025/26.

6. Recommendation or Decision

6.1 It is recommended that Elected Members:

- Note the progress update set out above.
- Approve the request from East Antrim Boat Club, to carry the LOO for £35,000 into FY2025/26.
- Approve the request from Greenisland FC to carry forward the LOO into FY2025/26 and to increase their award from £41,714 to £45,074.
- Approve the request from All Saints GAC Ballymena, to carry the LOO for £50,000 into FY2025/26.
- Approve the request from St Johns Camogie Club Carnlough to carry the LOO for £50,000 into FY2025/26.
- Approve the request from Carnlough Swifts FC to carry the LOO for £12,500 into FY2025/26.



Council/Committee:	Environment & Economy
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	John McVeigh, Head of Capital Works
Approver:	Philip Thompson, Director of Community

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the progress towards conclusion of the Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI) Programme, supporting the restoration of identified historical buildings in Carrickfergus.

2. Background

- 2.1. The THI Scheme commenced in 2016 and has a total project budget of £2.1M, of which £1.7M is provided for the Capital Works projects. The National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) provide 74% of the funding with Council contributing the remaining 26%. The Programme has provided grant funding towards the renovation and refurbishment of ten properties within the Carrickfergus Conservation Area.
- 2.2. It was agreed at the Environment and Economy Committee held on the 5 August 2024 that the completion date for the work at 1-3 Cheston Street be extended to 23 September 2024 and the THI Scheme completion date be extended to the 31 October 2024.
- 2.3. The property at 1-3 Cheston Street is the ninth property to be delivered through the THI Programme. The funding was awarded via a Letter of Offer dated 14 April 2022, and a letter of variance dated 22 March 2023, supporting a grant available to a maximum of £177,704, representing 70.6% of total eligible project costs.
- 2.4. The NLHF currently offers grants to support new heritage projects. There are 3 stages in the application process, an Expression of Interest, a Development Phase and a Delivery Phase.
- 2.5. The Council had submitted an Expression of Interest seeking a grant from NLHF to support the restoration of Buildings in Carrickfergus with revenue costs for an education programme to promote the towns heritage. The Expression of Interest was successful in March 2024 and Officers are currently assembling a NLHF application to access funding to support the proposals Development Phase.



3. Key Issues for Consideration

A. Update on 1-3 Cheston Street

- 3.1 Council have been informed by the appointed project delivery team that the practical completion date, which was to be 23 September 2024, will need to be extended one further time to 14 November 2024.
- 3.2 The additional delay arises from snagging issues which included the replastering of the front of the building and some additional work to meet building control requirements.
- 3.3 Accordingly, it is proposed that the scheme will now complete on 30 November 2024.
- 3.4 Council Officers have briefed NLHF officials, who are content that the scheme is concluding in a satisfactory manner, and NLHF are also content to formally extend the Carrickfergus THI completion date to the 30 November 2024.

B. THI Programme Close Out Activities

- 3.5 The NLHF as part of its Letter of Offer, requires an 'End of Scheme' event. The date of this meeting will be arranged at the end of November with the proposed venue Dobbins Inn, the site of the second THI project to be completed.

C. Financial Update

- 3.6 The project remains within the overall projected revenue and capital budget, (£2,583,276) agreed at the Full Council meeting on 6 March 2023. Any costs associated with the conclusion of the programme will be addressed in closing out the programme.

D. Potential Additional Heritage Improvements - Expression of Interest

- 3.7 Officers are currently finalising a Development Phase Application proposal for submission to NLHF for funding to develop a further heritage property restoration programme for selected properties in Carrickfergus town centre. This Development Phase will include the creation of a business plan to support the potential purchase and repurposing of the Bells Building by Council. This is due for submission in November 2024.
- 3.8 Officers have been meeting with owners of the properties included in the original Expression of Interest proposal. Three owners have decided for various reasons not to pursue involvement in an application, leaving the



following properties currently in the proposed Development Phase Application to the NLHF.

- 1 Market Place;
- 2 North Street;
- 2-4 High Street ("Bells Building");
- 1 North Street &
- 4-8 North Street.

3.9. The proposal to NHLF will seek to support the restoration of 5 buildings in Carrickfergus town centre and the delivery of a complimentary education and skills programme to promote a greater appreciation of Heritage in Carrickfergus. The estimated value of the NLHF application is £1.3 million supporting a total investment of £2.68 million with a council contribution of £1.03 million and £350,000 from local property owners.

3.10. Council's estimated contribution, calculated as follows.

- The Grant assumptions in the calculation above the previous model adopted by the THI programme, where the grant from the NLHF was matched funded by MEABC;
- MEABC would provide an overall 25% contribution with 75% of the overall grant coming from NLHF;
- The property owner's contribution to the restoration costs would be 35% with 65% grant support (ie from NLHF and MEABC);
- The total cost to MEABC includes the following:
 - The purchase of the Bells Building: c. £150,000 (subject to valuation);
 - MEABC as the prospective owner's contribution to support the restoration of the Bells Building would be 35% of the total projected costs of £1.3million, c. £455,000.
 - A NLHF grant to support the Bells Building restoration would amount to £633,750, which would be 25% match funded by Council, totalling £211,250.
 - MEABC would also provide 25% match funding to support the restoration of the three additional buildings in the programme totalling £160,875.



- The project management and revenue costs will be funded by MEABC and NLHF with the 25% contribution from MEABC totalling £ 59,250.
- The total cost to Council therefore, is provisionally projected to be c. £1,036,375.

3.11. Council Officers developing the Development Phase Application continue to meet with the Major Projects Team to ensure that both programmes complement each other.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Financial implications – Current budgets are as agreed in the THI Letters of Offer from the NLHF and Housing Executive. Council will recoup 74% match funding of THI common fund expenditure from the NLHF, as per the revised and agreed offer from NLHF dated 28 May 2021.
- 4.2. As noted in paragraph 3.5, the project remains within the overall projected revenue and capital budget, (£2,583,276) were agreed at the Council meeting on 6 March 2023. Any costs associated with the conclusion of the programme will be addressed in closing out the programme.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. Council Officers will continue to support the delivery of the final project at 1-3 Cheston Street, publication of the THI Scheme Booklet, Programme Evaluation, and the facilitation of the 'End of Scheme' event.
- 5.2. The THI Scheme completion date will be extended from 31 October 2024 to 30 November 2024.
- 5.3. Council officers will continue to support the submission of a Development Phase Application to NLHF in November 2024

6. Recommendation or Decision

6.1 Elected Members are asked to:

- Approve the extension of the completion of the final scheme at 1-3 Cheston Street from the 23 September 2024 to the 14 November 2024.
- Approve the extension of the completion date for the Carrickfergus THI Programme from the 31 October 2024 to the 30 November 2024.



**Mid & East
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- Note the update regards the completion of a Development Phase Application to NLHF to be submitted in November 2024

7. Appendices

Appendix I THI Project Board Minutes Feb 2024

Carrickfergus Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)		
MINUTE - THI Project Board Meeting - Wednesday 21 February 2024		
Kelly's Office, Carrickfergus		
<u>In Attendance</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Cllr Lauren Gray (THI Chair)	Mid & East Antrim BC	
Cllr Robin Stewart	Mid & East Antrim BC	
Cllr David Clarke	Mid & East Antrim BC	
Cllr Bethany Ferris	Mid & East Antrim BC	
John McVeigh (Head of Capital)	Mid & East Antrim BC	
Keith Hamilton, THI Project Manager (THI PM)	Mid & East Antrim BC	
Eamon McMullan (Capital Regeneration Manager)	Mid & East Antrim BC	
Ruth Turkington	Social Partner	
<u>Apologies</u>	<u>Organisation</u>	
Teresa Campbell	Department for Communities	
Lee Robb	Social Partner	
David Crosbie	Social Partner	
	Agenda Item	Agreed Action
1	Welcome and Apologies	
	The THI Chair welcomed all to the meeting, and apologies received from Teresa Campbell, Lee Robb and David Crosbie.	Noted
2	Declarations/Conflicts of Interest	
	Nothing to report.	
3	Previous Minutes	
3.1	17 January 2024 - For ratification Minutes were circulated, read and all agreed they were a true record. Proposed by: Cllr Robin Stewart and seconded by: Ruth Turkington.	Noted
4	Programme Update	
4.1	1-3 Cheston Street Keith gave an update on Cheston Street as follows - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant allocated £177,704 • Contractor is on site • Inner walls are to be completed with cork insulation. • Currently plastering the inner walls with lime render and installing stairs. • 57% (£101,795) of grant paid to date. • Request that the practical completion date be extended due to weather and sub-contractor delays to 6 May 2024. Keith advised that following an onsite assessment, a payment will be made at the end of February and one at the end of March. Then a final payment at the end of May on completion of the work. He requested the Project Board to agree an extension of the final date to 6 May 2024. Discussion ensued around the external finish, which will be a heritage pastel colour, still to be decided on.	Noted

5	Funders Updates - For Noting	
5.1	<p>Budget Overview Keith gave an update on the budget to include seeking additional £30,000 in the Capital budget for the next financial year, to complete the scheme. This will be offset by the money received from the Housing Executive.</p> <p>Cllr Stewart highlighted that the THI scheme was the best money spent in Carrickfergus. The amount of work that has been carried out for a minimal contribution from Council was he stated fantastic value for money.</p>	<p>Agreed</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.2	<p>Housing Executive (NIHE) Keith confirmed that the Housing Executive's contribution of £30k to support the West Street scheme had been received and the administration of the NIHE funding programme had been completed.</p> <p>Keith highlighted that the Housing Executive had been made aware of the Council's Expression of Interest to the NLHF in supporting an additional investment in town centre properties.</p> <p>Keith referred to a meeting he had with HED and the Ulster Architectural Heritage Society around research on dereliction. They are keen to meet with Council if THI2 goes ahead as HED have an interest in Listed Buildings at risk.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>Noted</p>
5.3	<p>National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) Following tonight's meeting Eamon/Keith will put a report to Council Committee on the extension date of 6 May 2024 to complete Cheston Street and will then advise the Lottery of this.</p>	EMcM/KH to do report to Council Ctte on extension
6	Communications Update	
6.1	<p>Final Evaluation Update Keith advised the THI Board that the evaluation was in final draft.</p>	
6.2	<p>Final THI Booklet The final booklet will be completed when a final picture of Cheston Street scheme becomes available.</p>	
6.3	<p>Final THI Event A Proposed date is to be arranged for the end of May 2024 after the Cheston Street property is in the final stages of completion.</p>	
7	Future Developments	
7.1	<p>Update on Expression of Interest Keith referred to the map of properties already submitted as an Expression of Interest, and suggested an additional property, 2 Market Place, who are interested in the scheme. He highlighted a concern regarding challenges to support current building control regulations where there were several properties without rear entrances to support fire regulation and to access rubbish bins.</p> <p>Keith gave an update on the timeline for the THI 2 application. The Eoi was submitted on 7 February 2024 and normally there is a response from</p>	

	<p>NLHF within 20 days. Their Capital programme structure has changed in that there is no funding for of THI schemes. After a review NLHF are funding what they term as "Heritage Place Making." Based on 4 principles, if successful the next stage would be the creation of a developmental application which would pay for staffing costs to take forward a full application.</p> <p>This would be required by the 30 May 2024 and decision in September 2024. Keith also felt that if the Lottery weren't interested in some of the properties, he would approach City Deal colleagues and ask if they would consider including them in their plans.</p>	
8	Any Other Business	
8.1	<p>Discussion ensued around the new DfC Minister and in his role could THI2 project be highlighted to him to encourage positive support and/or financial contribution.</p> <p>John referred to Armagh City Council where they have a very successful THI scheme and he offered to speak with their Officers around securing funding.</p>	<p>Noted</p>
8.2	<p>Heritage Angels Awards Keith referred to these Awards and Positive Carrickfergus submitted an application in on behalf of Council, which has been successful going through to the Research Programme. A Film Crew will be coming to 10 High Street with Dr Paul Logue and Ciara MacManus (Consultants) and if Positive Carrickfergus Representatives want to be involved too. Keith will circulate a 27page document on 'Number 10 High Street, Carrickfergus - A Late Medieval Merchant Family and Its Buildings', which had been published in the Ulster Journal.</p> <p>The Chair referred to recent bad news stories on social media and the significant decline in Carrickfergus and would welcome any positive, good news stories to get out in the public domain.</p> <p>The Minister of St Nicholas' Church would like to be more involved in Carrickfergus. Also, Michael Love who owns the old Town Hall (Market House), which is in a prime location and great historical background is keen to work with Council on the future of the building.</p> <p>Eamon referred to conversations he has had with the Minister of St Nicholas' Church and Laura in the Council's Tourism Team, and while he is open to allowing tours in through the Church, unfortunately there are limited available Tour Guides.</p> <p>Cllr Stewart referred to the old Undertakers building as a possible place to exhibit information/memorabilia about the Church that people could walk in and see for themselves. He added that there were other Churches in the town and the wider community need to be included.</p> <p>Discussion ensued around the offer of previous funding for the Church and the difficulties their Committee had in accepting this, but the THI Project Board were happy to work with them to agree a way in which Council could support them.</p>	<p>JMcV liaise with Armagh CC re: THI programme support</p> <p>KH circulate document on 10 High Street to All</p> <p>Noted</p>

	<p>Keith showed on the map, a strip of ground that Council owned adjacent to St Nicholas' Church and the idea of building a visitor centre could be a possibility.</p>	
<p>8.3</p>	<p>Revitalisation Scheme Update Eamon gave an update on the scheme as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Front scheme have issued 83 Letters of Offer totalling £275k; • 16 Letters of Offer have been issued to Carrickfergus properties, totalling £50k; 	<p>Noted</p>
<p>8.4</p>	<p>City Deal The Design Team has been appointed and just over the last 3-4months the Regeneration Team along with Laura (Tourism, Arts & Culture), Gail (Town Centre Team) and Michael Monteith/Steven Bailie (Assets Team) feeding into the plans via a working forum.</p> <p>He referred to the Town Hall which the City Deal Team are now looking at incorporating into their plans to explore the archaeological history, which would allow for a separate application to The Heritage National Lottery Fund.</p> <p>Cllr Stewart was in Bangor with the City Deal Directors looking at the Old Courthouse which has been turned round by Open House Charity and used regularly for entertainment.</p> <p>Discussion ensued around the City Deal plans and Elected Members not being briefed regularly to update their Constituents. Also, concerns were raised on the timeline of this project and if Government Officials could not eliminate some of the barriers to allow this to move forward quicker. Elected Members and the people of Carrickfergus need to have their say and input into the designs also.</p> <p>In response to Cllr Stewart's query around the old Swift building, Eamon advised that the Planners are involved in the Inter Departmental working group and advising on applications being considered.</p> <p>The Chair proposed raising concerns with the Chief Executive, on behalf of the THI Project Board, around lack of information on the City Deal project and no input from the Elected Members or Community. Bearing in mind the value of this project and the changes it will bring to Carrickfergus. Suggesting she would table it at the next Carrickfergus Elected Representatives meeting in March 2024, to give an update.</p> <p>Cllr Ferris also referred to lack of communication around the St Patrick's Barracks.</p> <p>John and Eamon advised that Radius Social Housing and the new Northern Regional College campus are moving ahead. Council projects to join this up are the new Leisure Centre, I4C City Deal and a Civic Square.</p> <p>John was happy to speak with the Chief Executive around Elected Members being kept informed of the City Deal plans and for their input into agreeing what the people of Carrickfergus want in their town.</p>	<p>Noted</p> <p>JMcV liaise with CEX around City</p>

		Deal and Elected Members update
9	Date of Next Meeting	
	<p>The next meeting was proposed for the 2nd week of April 2024, date to be confirmed following progression of Cheston Street and any feedback from the Lottery on THI2 project.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all for attending and closed the meeting.</p>	BT to organise



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Economic Development Activity Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on current Economic Development activity.

2. Background

- 2.1. The Economic Development Function includes five key strategic areas including:
 - Skills and Entrepreneurship
 - Business Growth
 - Investment and Funding
 - Investment and Place
 - Town Centre Development

3. Key Issues for Consideration

The following update is to provide Members with an overview across the five key operational areas within the Economic Development Team

Skills and Entrepreneurship

Go Succeed

- 3.1 To the end of August, 273 MEA residents had received support under the 'Engage' pillar (for those not expected to register for VAT and/or create additional jobs), representing 76% progress towards target for the Nov 2023 – March 2025 period. In the same period, 42 residents received 'Foundation' support (for those with potential to become VAT registered and create at least 1 FTE job within 12 months, equivalent to 33% performance against target).
- 3.2 Regionally it has been agreed to progress 5 Peer Support Networks (Student and Graduate Network, Women Founders Network, Health, Wellbeing and Resilience Network, Social Enterprise Network and New Product Developers Network) and MEA Officers are engaging with Enterprise Northern Ireland to progress a local Tourism/Hospitality network.
- 3.3 Young Enterprise Northern Ireland have been appointed to deliver 'Business Beginnings an Outreach intervention targeting p6/p7 pupils in (at least 9) primary schools across the borough. Pupils will learn about business, teamwork and

problem solving by setting up and running their own enterprises and taking part in a pitching competition. The opportunity has been promoted to 56 schools and to date, 11 classes from 9 schools have registered to take part.

- 3.4 Venture Folk have been appointed to deliver 6 x Business Ideation Bootcamps between October and February. Participants will learn how to identify, refine and validate business ideas, utilising a suite of tools and resources such as the Design Council's Double Diamond, the FOCUS framework, REDx spot and Resource Audits. The bootcamps will be held on Saturday afternoons to facilitate individuals who are working. The first session took place in The Braid on 19 October, with sessions scheduled in Carrickfergus on 2 November and Larne on 23 November. The remaining bootcamps are provisionally booked for Ballymena on 25 January 2025, Carrickfergus on 8 February 2025 and Larne on 22 February 2025 and will be promoted closer to the time. More information and registration details for the first 3 sessions are available at [Business Ideation Bootcamps](#).
- 3.5 Recruitment commenced recently for Enterprise Pathways, a targeted business start programme for residents who are unemployed/in receipt of benefits that provides up to 15 hours mentoring and the opportunity to apply for up to £1,000 financial support. Previously delivered under the LMP Action Plan, the 2024/25 programme will be funded via Go Succeed and aims to support up to 15 individuals. To date, 10 expressions of interest have been received from potential participants and 2 have been accepted onto the programme.
- 3.6 Young Enterprise Northern Ireland have been appointed to deliver Go Succeed Outreach with Northern Regional College, a series of events and activities scheduled to take place between September 2024 and March 2025, that will ensure that entrepreneurial skills and ambitions are embedded from a young age to encourage and support future entrepreneurs and develop creativity and innovation in the talent pipeline. Council is working closely with Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council, Mid Ulster Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council to deliver the programme across all respective council areas. Planned sessions include Induction Entrepreneurship Days (took place in September), Innovation Camps (scheduled to take place October and November) and a Meet the Entrepreneur Event (scheduled to take place December 2024 to March 2025).

MEA Enterprising Women

- 3.7 A joint Service Level Agreement has been drawn up with Carrickfergus Enterprise and Ballymena Business Centre for the continued delivery of the local Female Entrepreneurs' Network. To ensure no duplication of any planned Go Succeed workshops or events, the themes this year will focus on Managing Personal Skills and Development, Health and Wellbeing, Connecting Members and Social Networking to Grow. Four activities have taken place to date: Walk and Talk in Glenarm (12 Sept), Confidence Masterclass (24 Sept), Coffee and Networking (16 Oct) and an Autumn Reset Wellness event (24 Oct) with four more events planned to take place before the end of the year.

Social Enterprise Accelerator

- 3.8 Social Enterprise Accelerator (previously known as Social Enterprise Community Challenge) is being delivered by LEDCOM under a Service Level Agreement. The intervention aims to stimulate and support individuals / community / voluntary groups interested in establishing / developing social enterprises in line with the ambitions of Council's Go Succeed service. Recruitment commenced in September with 12 of the targeted 15 places now filled.

Retail Start

- 3.9 The 2024 application process is now open for 10 retail entrepreneurs in the food, fashion, arts and craft sectors to participate in workshops and mentoring culminating in the opportunity to test trade in one of our Town Centre Pop Up Shops. There is an additional opportunity for 5 Social Enterprise organisations to test trade. This year they will trade from 9 December – 21 December 2024. Workshops will commence in November 2024.

Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024

- 3.10 A separate report is tabled at this Committee

Labour Market Partnership

- 3.11 The Department for Communities confirmed Labour Market Partnership funding for the delivery of the LMP Action Plan 2024 - 2025. The Department has issued the Letter of Offer for 2024/25 with £402,365 allocated for spending up to 30 June 2025, which is less than the £512,101 that was applied for. As a result, a prioritisation exercise has been completed with LMP members to optimise the delivery of the Action Plan.

3.12 Childminding

A further Letter of Offer has been received from the Department for Communities confirming additional funding of £46,000 from the Department of Education for the delivery of a Childminding Academy. This Academy will support 21 individuals in becoming a registered childminder or approved home child-carer and Northern Ireland Childminding Association (NICMA) have been appointed. Successful participants will have the opportunity to gain qualifications in Pediatric First Aid Safeguarding Children and Health and Safety alongside availing of additional supplementary training. NICMA will also provide packaged support to better connect people from ethnic minority backgrounds and people with disabilities and long-term health issues who are interested in childminding as a career option. Participants will have one-to-one mentoring support throughout the 6 months duration and recruitment is currently open.

3.13 Administration Academy

Northern Regional College have been appointed to deliver a bespoke Administration Skills Academy providing up to 8 participants with job specific skills and attributes required to access employment. Alongside gaining the knowledge

on the fundamentals of ICT, hardware, software and the internet. The academy will provide participants with the provision of a Level 2 accredited qualification, employability support and the opportunity to meet with partner companies who will showcase their organisation and discuss the jobs and opportunities available. Plans are currently progressing to finalise the commencement date in late November with a recruitment drive being published across all social media channels in due course.

3.14 Health and Social Care Academy

Mid and East Antrim Labour Market Partnership is offering the opportunity to complete an intensive Employment and Skills Academy with support to apply for live vacancies in Care/Support Work or Catering. Recruitment has commenced and the academy start date is planned for 25 November 2024. The academy will give participants the chance to improve employability, with guaranteed interviews with employers. Course content includes Working in Care: An exploration of the diverse range of career pathways within the social care sector. Guest speakers from the care sector will be attending group sessions, outlining what they look for in an employee. An introduction to Care Standards, RQIA and The Social Care Council, values and attributes, underpinning principles, and standards of practice.

3.15 Placement Insight Programme

Officers are progressing plans with 16–19-year-old students from Castle Tower, to deliver a 6-week employability skills development initiative under the LMP Placement Insights Programme to support the young adults into work or training. This 6-week project will provide the individuals with interactive bitesize employability support and introduction to the world of work alongside guidance on the education or training required for the preferred industry. Officers will work with local organisations within the Borough to provide work placements and guest speakers throughout the programme and host a “Meet the Employer” event upon completion for the students, teachers and their parents to highlight the opportunities and work placements available within the Borough.

3.16 Procurement is currently being undertaken for an Engineering Academy, Investor Skills – Welding Academy and a Cleantech and Renewable Energy Academy with further details shared with Members in due course.

3.17 Officers are also progressing plans to work with local organisations in delivering 3 Industry Takeover Days for the local Secondary Schools by providing immersive events that raise awareness of career pathway opportunities in the Health and Social Care, Construction and Hospitality Sectors. The Takeover days will also include small workshops and insight days for young people who are in ‘Education other than at School’ with further details to follow.

3.18 Work Connections

The Work Connections programme aims to support 11 unemployed / underemployed / economically inactive residents with disabilities / health conditions to develop their employability skills and move into new and / or more rewarding roles via the provision of personal development mentoring, accredited training, work placements and employability support. Additionally, Work Connections will support local employers who wish to provide placements, work

tasters and employment to programme participants. A publicity photograph featuring the Mayor and one of last year's participants has been arranged for 11 October and marketing/recruitment of the programme has commenced.

3.19 Transport Academy

Recruitment for the next cohort of 15 participants took place during October. As in previous years, participants will have the option of progressing towards the Category C (HGV Class 2) or PCV (bus and coach) licence.

3.20 Classroom Academy

Recruitment for the Classroom Assistant Academy (entry level) commenced in September, with the academy commenced in October 2024. Recruitment for the Classroom Assistant Upskilling Academy (Level 3) also commenced in September, with the academy having commenced in October 2024.

3.21 Primary Hospitality Programme

Officers continue to work alongside Business in the Community, Galgorm Group, Hospitality Ulster, Tourism NI and participating local hoteliers to progress plans and activities for the Primary Schools "World of Work" hospitality programme which is due to commence in January 2025. The pilot will help to increase awareness of the vast array of jobs and opportunities that exist within the hospitality and tourism sector and address misconceptions by providing an enhanced understanding of career progression pathways available.

- 3.22 A recent developmental workshop was held in Galgorm Hotel on Wednesday, 2nd October with the principals from the 9 local primary schools to discuss the project as it progresses through the planning phase into delivery stage. The programme will provide a range of activities per primary school that will include hands-on experiences and talks from people in different roles within the hospitality and tourism sector to showcase the wide range of job roles available, workplace visits for pupils to get onsite and meet employees in different roles, teacher insight opportunities, business/school partnerships and a bespoke competition across the schools relevant to the activity being delivered upon completion.

Science Summer School

- 3.23 At April 2024 Environment and Economy Committee, Members approved the hosting of the Science Summer School NI 2024/25 including the costs contribution to the partnership with Well North Enterprises, subject to securing private sponsorship and Department for Communities funding via the Labour Market Partnership. One headline sponsor and ten company sponsorships have been confirmed: Headline: Kilwaughter Minerals; Company Sponsors: Michelin Development, Moore Concrete, GES, Terumo BCT, Wright Bus, Ryobi, Caterpillar, EPUKI, Phoenix Energy and Teva with engagement continuing with other companies.
- 3.24 Science Summer School 2024 - 2025 was launched in September 2024 with the main event hosted by Professor Brian Cox taking place on 21 January 2025. Seven

school engagement activities have been planned to date with company sponsors and a full programme of school's careers engagement activities now available to schools. Work is currently ongoing to secure TED Talk Presenters, Workshop Facilities, Careers Fair participants and Career Panellists for the main event in January.

STEM Ambassadors Interventions Programme

3.25 A separate report is tabled at this Committee

Multiply

3.26 Following the submission to Department for the Economy, Council have been successful in securing funding totalling £188,124 for 14 initiatives. Officers are currently working with delivery partners and Council departments to progress the proposals which must be fully delivered by 31 March 2025. The Department for the Economy launched Multiply on 10 October 2024 at Belfast Metropolitan College, Titanic campus with Minister Lyons in attendance.

3.27 Energy Efficient Cooking sessions have been delivered in partnership with Council's Environmental Health Department incorporating numeracy by budgeting, price comparison, price per portion, supermarket deals comparison. 12 participants completed the sessions in Jubilee Hall, Greenisland on 2 & 9 October 2024 and 13 participants from Harryville Men's Shed attended the sessions on 10 & 17 October 2024 in Ballee Community Centre.

3.28 Delivery agents have been appointed for Do It Yourself and Gardening and Landscaping Bootcamps which have commenced recruitment. The Sewing and Design Bootcamp commenced in Jubilee Hall, Greenisland on 1 October 2024 with 9 participants.

3.29 A Traditional Blacksmithing Workshop was held on 16 and 17 October 2024 at Hot Milk Forge, Ballymena with 5 participants. A Christmas Pottery Workshop will be held on 8 and 22 November 2024 and recruitment is now open.

3.30 The planned Numeracy via Gaming sessions for parents and children to be held in Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus during October and November will be rescheduled due to low numbers.

3.31 Getting to Grips with Numeracy and IT, which will provide a series of workshops in Excel, has been procured and classes will be held in Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus.

3.32 A Community Numeracy Programme for 18 participants to gain a L2 Award in Managing Personnel Finances or L2 Award in Skills for Employment, Training and Personal Development incorporating a numeracy element is out for procurement.

3.33 Refresh: Health has been procured and has commenced recruitment to deliver a series of eight workshops focusing on enhancing numeracy skills through health and nutrition.

- 3.34 A series of Refresh: Upcycling workshops will be organised over the coming months and Officers are currently working to finalise the details.

Business Growth

Stakeholder Reference Panel

- 3.35 Council continues to provide wrap-around support to local businesses by utilising stakeholder panel relationships to secure additional supports to augment their growth potential. For the period July – September 2024 the following referrals were made to Stakeholder support organisations:
- Invest NI – 1 x client company support secured
 - InterTrade Ireland – 2 x clients successful for support via InterTrade Ireland's Trade Export Pathway
 - NRC – 4 x clients successful for Innovate Us support and 1 x client successful for Skill Up support valued at £9,600
 - NWRC – 1 x client successful for Innovate Us support valued at £6,000
 - SERC – 4 x clients successful for Innovate Us support valued at £9,600
 - Innovate NI – 1 x client successful for Silver Innovation Award

Invest NI local office engagement

- 3.36 NI will run another series of Lunch and Learn events taking place monthly at Ecos Hub, Ballymena. They are open to businesses Northern Ireland wide and commence monthly from 29th October up to 20th March 2025. These will be promoted locally via all Council engagement points with businesses to encourage Mid and East Antrim attendance.

Date	Topic
29 October 2024	Training Needs to Training Plan Workshop (<i>Fully booked – but waiting list in operation</i>)
21 November 2024	Skills and Training Needs Analysis
24 January 2025	Energy and Resource Efficiency
28 January 2025	Operational Excellence
5 February 2025	Supply Chain – Driving profitability within your business
11 February 2025	Access to Finance
5 March 2025	Market Research and Business Advice
20 March 2025	Introduction to Exporting

- 3.37 Members are asked to share with businesses the opportunity and to register via the following link: [North Eastern Regional Office | Invest Northern Ireland \(investni.com\)](https://investni.com)
- 3.38 The next call for applications to **Ambition to Grow - Supporting Women Programme** has opened for applications and closes on Friday 8th November. The programme seeks Northern Ireland's most innovative and ambitious woman-led start-ups and established micro, small, and medium enterprises to take part in a competition to receive up to £30,000 in funding.
- 3.39 In a bid to better support prospective businesses owners to apply, Council's Business Client Managers secured an online call for businesses with Invest NI on 16th October 2024. The aim of the call was to outline the process, the application form and what supporting evidence is required and what makes a good application. Members are asked to make aware any Female Entrepreneurs of the opportunity [Ambition to Grow | Supporting Women | Invest Northern Ireland \(investni.com\)](https://investni.com).

Mid and East Antrim Food and Drink Network

- 3.40 Mid and East Antrim Food and Drink Network initiative aims to support the growth of agri-food and drink businesses by facilitating information sharing, learning and encouraging collaboration. Officers continue to work closely with appointed delivery agent for Go Succeed Grow to take forward the network initiative under the Peer Support Network element of the service.
- 3.41 On 23rd September 2024, seven local food and drink businesses attended the inaugural meeting of the Food and Drink Peer Support Network. This insightful session was led by Business Mentor Deirdre Fitzpatrick, and featured guest speaker Eamonn Cavlan, a Business Strategy, Marketing, and Sales Consultant. The participating businesses took advantage of this opportunity to network and exchange knowledge, while also hearing more about the 'Let's Go Visit' series. The upcoming business events aim to foster a peer support network that empowers local businesses by providing access to industry best practices and knowledge transfer. This group is set to visit the Food Innovation Centre at CAFRE College on November 5, 2024.
- 3.42 Members are asked to raise awareness of the 'Let's Go Visit' series, producers can book a place to Go Visit the Food Innovation Centre at CAFRE College via the following link: <https://midandeantrim.qlistrr.com/e/30>
- 3.43 Officers are actively developing opportunities for Mid and East Antrim food and drink producers to participate in the Balmoral Show 2025, with the aim of revitalising our offering to support these businesses. They are working closely with the Marketing and Communications department to enhance promotional efforts and ensure strong visibility at the event. Details of the application process will be shared with Members in advance of the recruitment process.

Go Succeed Growth Mentoring

3.44 A separate report is tabled quarterly.

Digital Transformation Flexible Fund - (11 NI Council partner fund, led by Newry, Mourne & Down District Council's FFNI consortium)

- 3.45 A total of £7.5m was secured jointly by Councils from the NI Complementary Fund, for the Northern Ireland wide Digital Transformation Flexible Fund (DTFF). DTFF is delivered by all 11 local authorities supported by Invest NI, under the existing Full Fibre Northern Ireland Consortium (FFNI). The project is part funded by the NI Executive, UK Government, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and all local authorities in Northern Ireland.
- 3.46 The capital fund seeks to address the financial barriers that many small businesses face when seeking to digitally transform. DTFF capital investments are designed to enable business transformation and not improve the 'digitisation' of existing business models/operations. As such the DTFF will fund advanced digital technologies projects which include the following:
- Smart technologies/ smart environments and the Internet of Things (IoT)
 - Process automation via robotics/cobotics
 - Big-data and analytics
 - Immersive Technologies (AR/VR/MR/Haptics)
 - Artificial intelligence and machine learning; and
 - Distributed ledger systems/ blockchain technologies
- 3.47 Successful applicants will be offered a grant of a minimum of £5,000 and up to a maximum grant of £20,000 towards a Digital Transformation Project up to 70% with 30% match funding to come from the applicant. The 70% intervention rate is typically unheard of from government funded grants but is important to stimulate innovation amongst our micro and small businesses. Mid and East Antrim has a target of delivering 36 grants over three years.
- 3.48 Three funding calls have been run to date.
- Call 1 closed on 6 December 2023, one application was submitted and was deemed successful and a grant was awarded.
 - Call 2 closed on 10 May 2024, 5 applications were received, of which 3 were deemed successful. Letters of Offer have been issued from the FFNI Operations Team.
 - Call 3 closed for applications 23 August 2024, 10 applications were received from MEA businesses of which 8 were successful and have been issued Letters of Offer from FFNI Operations Team.
- 3.49 To date, there have been 38 EOIs submitted from Mid and East Antrim based businesses, which has converted to a total of 16 applications, of which 12 have been deemed successful. Those unsuccessful receive a debrief and are invited to

reapply at the next call. Of the 12 deemed successful, Letters of Offer have been awarded with a total value of £183,169.

3.50 Call 4 is expected to launch early March 2025.

3.51 As part of efforts to increase the businesses' understanding of Digital Transformation and usage of smart technologies and help support a pipeline of applications to the fund and in preparation for Call 4, appointed delivery agent Queens University Business School (William J Clinton Leadership Institution) have developed a new webinar series, which commenced on 8 October 2024, as follows.

Date	Theme
8 October	Leveraging Digital Transformation for a Sustainable Business
15 October	What is Big Data?
22 October	What is IoT and Smart Tech and what can it do for your business?
29 October	How Robotics can deliver Process Automation
5 November	How to drive business improvements with AI and Machine Learning.
12 November	Enhance customer experiences with Immersive Technologies and Drive Sales
19 November	Understanding Blockchain and what it can do for Supply Chain.
26 November	How to Plan and Build Your Digital Strategy

Members are asked to share with businesses the opportunity and to register via the following link: [The Supporting Digital Transformation Series | Eventbrite](#)

Innovation Partnership

3.52 The Innovation Partnership, led by Invest NI, involving Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Ballymena Chamber of Commerce, Ballymena Business Centre, Carrickfergus Enterprise, LEDCOM and Northern Regional College, aims to build a connected innovation community in order to increase businesses knowledge and engagement with the innovation journey, work together to deliver innovation events and support partner activity around innovation.

3.53 In a bid to avoid duplication of effort, Officers are keeping up to date on emerging initiatives aimed at stimulating innovation within the NI economic development landscape, the Business Innovation Grant cited within Department for Economy 10X Strategy. Officers continue to engage with Invest NI to understand the status of this project. In addition, under Belfast City Region Deal, Council grouping is set up to develop and deliver a (small) digital innovation grants competition under the BRCD Digital Challenge Fund Programme.

- 3.54 Under the MEA Innovation Partnership initiative, Council hosted Hartree Hub NI in Mid and East Antrim on Friday 11 October. The *AI Opportunities Workshop: Unlocking Potential for NI SMEs* was tailored for SMEs across all sectors. Hartree Hub NI simplified the complexities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and explored how data science and AI technologies can unlock potential and create opportunities for businesses.
- 3.55 7 Mid and East Antrim businesses and 5 local stakeholders as well as 3 business consultants who work across the Go Succeed Service attended the workshop. Council's Business Client Managers were on hand on the day to discuss the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund and the Go Succeed Service.
- 3.56 Business Client Managers will continue to engage with Hartree Hub NI as a strategic stakeholder in supporting our ability to stimulate and uplift Mid and East Antrim's business engagement in innovation activity. Further engagement will take place to determine if the businesses have tapped into their support following the workshop and where relevant, they will support attending businesses to access wider stakeholder supports to include the Digital Transformation Flexible Fund and Go Succeed Service where relevant.

Investment and Funding

PEACEPLUS Programme

- 3.57 The Head of Economic Development continues to attend meetings regarding the PEACEPLUS Programme and the last Board Meeting took place on Tuesday, 28 May 2024. The PEACEPLUS Action Plan was approved by the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board and the Environment & Economy Committee on 28 May and submitted to SEUPB on 6 June 2024. The outcome of the application to SEUPB is expected in late Autumn 2024. A separate report is tabled at this Committee.

Investment and Place

Manufacturing Task Force (MTF)

- 3.58 The LEAN Network group set up by Invest NI in conjunction with the MTF continues to develop and grow with two best practice visits taking place in September at Hampton Conservatories with 18 companies in attendance. The second LEAN network meeting will be held on Tuesday 22 October 2024.
- 3.59 The fourth cohort of the Gallaher Trust funded Manufacturing Academy course commenced at Northern Regional College on 21 October 2024. MTF companies involved include Bespoke NI, Wrightbus, Clarke, Moore Concrete, GES, TST, PCD Contracts and Garage Door Systems. A further update will be provided to members as the academy progresses.
- 3.60 MTF company Moore Concrete recently achieved Investors in People Platinum level, the highest accolade an organisation can receive under the Investors in People framework. This recognition highlights Moore Concrete's commitment to

high performance through its people and to mark this achievement, the Mayor alongside senior representatives from Manufacturing NI and the Makers Alliance attended an event hosted by Moore Concrete Ltd on 10 October. Moore Concrete are one of only 11 companies to achieve this prestigious award in Northern Ireland and the only manufacturing company.

- 3.61 An officer attended the 'Vision with Action' webinar event organised by Manufacturing NI and the Makers Alliance on 10 September. Building on its strategic plan (Making a Better Future), Makers Alliance set out a vision for the future of manufacturing, as well as a practical set of recommended actions for industry and government. Invest NI were also in attendance and outlined their latest plans to support manufacturing companies.
- 3.62 Graham Whitehurst Chair of the MTF and an Officer attended an event in Belfast on 26 September to discuss the creation of a NI wide regional network to support the manufacturing industry. The meeting involved the 3 regional manufacturing clusters in NI; MEGA, GEMX and the MTF, Manufacturing NI, Invest NI, Makers Alliance and DfE alongside the minister for Economy, Mr Conor Murphy MLA. The event provided the opportunity for the Minister to launch an £11m Invest NI industry-led Cluster Acceleration Programme, a programme to support businesses, to work together to achieve shared goals or address common problems collaboratively. The funding opportunity which offers £60,000 in Phase 1 for a feasibility study opened for applications on 4 October and closes 20 December. Officers are scoping the potential to submit applications to this fund.

Hydrogen Training Academy (HTA)

- 3.63 Since the Hydrogen Training Academy was first established in December 2021, more than 252 trainees have been trained in courses which have been developed and accredited through the Pilot HTA project. This includes:
- 70 x L5 In KnowHy H2 Production Train the Trainer;
 - 158 x OCN L3 in H2 Technologies and Applications (newly developed);
 - 10 x Swagelok Pipe Bending course;
 - 4 x Gas Safe Management course;
 - 10 x H2 Gas Safe Lab Practical (newly developed training in H2 GSL).
- 3.64 Northern Regional College (NRC) lead on delivery of the OCN Level 3 in Hydrogen Technologies and Applications and on delivery of other complementary courses such as the Level 2 OCN in H2 Technologies and applications. The HTA pilot project supported development of materials for the L2 and L3 OCNs in H2 Technologies and Applications for online blended delivery and the development of a new OCN Level 5 in H2 Technologies and Applications which is now nearing completion.
- 3.65 Officers continue to share learnings from the pilot HTA project and recently presented on a UK wide innovation webinar hosted by Innovate UK, exploring the

myths around hydrogen deployment in Local Government across the UK. This webinar was attended by almost 200 delegates and officers are following up with attendees who have reached out to understand more about the work the HTA has delivered.

i4C Innovation and Cleantech Centre – St Patrick's Barracks, Ballymena

- 3.66 On Tuesday 10 September, the Mayor and the Minister for the Economy, Conor Murphy MLA, officially announced the appointment of multi-disciplinary construction consultancy, WH Stephens, to lead on the design of the i4C Innovation and Cleantech Centre. The announcement was made as the Minister visited both the Hydrogen Training lab at Silverwood and Ecos Hub to learn more on how i4C will complement the borough's cleantech offering and will prime this area for further innovative green growth.
- 3.67 Progress with the design and planning phase for the i4C building continues as does the Competitive Dialogue procurement exercise for the appointment of the operator for i4C, assisted by consultants KPMG. It is anticipated that tender submissions for the latter will be received late November/early December with approval of an operator in January 2025.
- 3.68 Officers have submitted a Subsidy Assessment referral to Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) for the i4C project to satisfy the conditions in the Contract for Funding (CfF) in relation to subsidy control. This has been issued to the Competition and Markets Authority (CMA) by BRCD for review and make an assessment. It is only at this stage that the CfF can be signed, and the Full Business Case process can commence. It is anticipated that this will be completed in late December/early January.

iLAB (Innovation Lab), i4C and PEACEPLUS

- 3.69 A separate report on the Innovation Challenge PEACEPLUS application has been tabled at this Committee.

NI Complementary Fund – HyTechNI project

- 3.70 Progress with the Outline Business Case for the HyTech NI project continues with the final draft expected to be submitted in late October and casework approval planned for early 2025.
- 3.71 Queens University Belfast are the lead partner for the governance of the project with Council leading on development of three hydrogen testbed trials in Ballymena delivered in conjunction with local industry partners Wrightbus Group (HRS facility), Firmus Energy and B9 Energy (gas network). Officers are finalising the costings associated with the test beds and ensuring that industry is fully supportive giving their requirement to provide match funding.

- 3.72 The third test bed is the energy/skills one which Council is leading on which will enable Council to trial hydrogen fuel cell vehicles to help decarbonise its HGV fleet as well as allow for up to £2m funding (at 100% rate) to install renewables and hydrogen technologies at the Ecos Hub.

MEANZ Business Project – Innovate UK Fast Followers

- 3.73 As part of the MEANZ Business best practice sharing work package, a joint Council and Industry best practice visit took place on 9th and 10th October 2024 to the Birmingham/Midlands area and incorporated site visits to: HyDeploy at Keele University, JCB HQ in Rocester, Tyseley Energy Park at the University of Birmingham and STEAM House Makerspace at Birmingham City University. Delegates travelling included five representatives from various relevant Council Departments and ten industry/stakeholder representatives from key industry networks such as the MTF and CleanTech Collaborative Growth Network.
- 3.74 Work continues to progress on Council Decarbonisation projects, including utilisation of the Climate Essentials data reporting software package. An initial Net Zero Skills mapping exercise has been carried out internally and results shared with SMT in July 2024.
- 3.75 Industry Decarbonisation Projects also continue to progress at pace, including phase 2 support for the CleanTech Collaborative Growth Network (CGN) which has now been completed by TetraTech. The CGN will now focus on the next steps which includes implementation of a joint zero emissions transport trial project and development of a zero-emissions reporting toolkit funded via the MEANZ Business project.
- 3.76 The Net Zero Insights webinar series began on UK Energy Efficiency Day on 2nd October 2024 with two webinars on energy efficiency. Energy Saving Trust were the expert speaker on both webinars with local companies Stephens Catering and Ryobi Aluminium Casting providing the company case studies. Over 50 attendees joined the webinars, the first two in a series of 8 due to be delivered before June 2024.
- 3.77 The Net Zero Innovation and Delivery Manager continues to engage in the Future Ready support programme and has been liaising with the suite of Technical Assistance Partners (TAP) appointed by Innovate UK to support projects funded under the programme. Support is available for a range of net zero topics including Planning, Visioning and Citizen Engagement, Finance, Business Engagement, Data and Policy and Regulation and relevant officers within Council are being identified to avail of this "free" consultancy support and advice.

ECOS Hub, Ballymena

- 3.78 As previously reported the ECOS Hub is fully occupied, and room usage continues to increase. A new Ecos Hub marketing campaign to drive conference bookings

and in turn generate income launched on Monday, 2 September 2024 with an advert displayed on the new digital billboard on the Cullybackey Road in Ballymena. This advert will be supplemented with a digital marketing campaign, featuring on bespoke social media channels and will include a new promotional video of the facility and case study videos of current tenants. Officers will report to Members on the performance of this campaign.

Investment Opportunities

- 3.79 Economic Development and Planning Officers have been liaising with several external investors over the last few months who are seeking both industrial and office space in the Borough, the most recent being a manufacturing and precision engineering company based in Ballyclare, who are seeking suitable premises with 3 phase electricity to suit their processes in the Ballymena area. A detailed property search identified a potentially suitable location for sale in Ballymena. Officers liaised with the business and estate agents, arranged a site visit, and attended on-site. Follow-up support included liaising with planners, with officers continuing to offer support as required.
- 3.80 Officers continue to carry out detailed property searches, primarily to assist indigenous (NI) and foreign direct investment (FDI) businesses who operate within key priority sectors and who wish to establish new or expand existing operations within the borough. Recent property searches included the above Ballyclare company, as well as for a logistics company based in Carrickfergus looking to expand their operations and re-locate to a suitable alternative premises near to main arterial routes. Detailed results were provided to the company, with officers continuing to support the company as required.

International Relations

- 3.81 Officers continue to engage with The Executive Office (TEO) and attend quarterly meetings of the International Relations Working Group, with the last meeting held on 13 September 2024 in City Hall, Bangor, with an officer attending to provide an update on activities in the Borough, as well as hear from other Councils and TEO. The TEO Chair commended MEA for the work in achieving UNESCO World Heritage Status for Gracehill.

Belfast City & Region Place Partnership

- 3.82 The Belfast City and Region Place Partnership (BCRPP) is an investment programme of work on behalf of the Belfast Region City Deal Partner Councils. Belfast City Council is the key programme sponsor with an annual investment of £80,000, with each partner Council contributing £15,000 to facilitate the programme development. Officers continue to liaise with partners on the programme and investment planned for the year ahead.

Town Centre Development

Footfall

- 3.83 Footfall for the month of September 2024 across all three towns was slightly down on the footfall recorded for the same period in September 2023. Ballymena footfall seen a decrease of (-0.3%) in comparison to the same month the previous year, Carrickfergus (-2.8%), Larne seen a decrease of (-1%) compared to the previous year. The Northern Ireland average was (+2.3%) against the same reporting period.

Town Centre Events & Activities

- 3.84 Following engagement with Town Centre representatives and key stakeholders, a range of town centre events and activities have taken place and are currently being planned over the next few months with the key focus of supporting local town centre businesses by encouraging additional footfall into the town centres.

Ballymena Autumn Fashion Show

Working collaboratively with Ballymena BID, the Ballymena Fashion show continues into a 2nd year and took place in the Tullyglass Hotel on Friday 18 October 2024. Last year the Autumn Fashion show took place in the Adair Arms, and it was a huge success, with 23 retailers taking part and over 200 tickets selling out a week before the event.

Larne Spooky Streets event

A spooky streets event will take place in Larne on the 31 October, the event will see spooky characters and music in Larne Town Centre along with a treasure hunt and face painting. Entertainment and a Halloween hunt will be held in the Larne during the school holiday period.

Carrickfergus Monthly Artisan Market

The Carrickfergus monthly artisan market took place on the 5 October, there were 10 artisan producers at the market. The next market is scheduled to take place on the 2 November in Carrickfergus Town Hall and a Christmas themed market scheduled for the 7 December.

Carrickfergus Christmas Light Switch on Market

A large artisan market will be organised to coincide with the Carrickfergus Christmas Light Switch on event on the 23 November. This will be in a marquee at High Street car-park with 23 local artisan producers taking a stall.

Larne Community Christmas Village

7 wooden cabins will be set up in Broadway in Larne for 5 days in December. The cabins will be used for community groups and artisan producers to showcase and sell Christmas themed products. On Saturday 14 December there will be an immersive Christmas themed experience inside each of the seven huts (along the

(lines of '7 windows into the world of Christmas'). Small groups/families will go on a journey from one experience to the next led by the Chief Elf.

Ballymena Christmas Saturdays

Council and the Department for Communities will be supporting Ballymena BID to deliver Christmas themed entertainment every Saturday in December in Ballymena Town Centre. Entertainment will include, music, walk about characters, workshops, face painting.

3.85 Pop-up Shops

A separate report is tabled at this Committee

Business Support

- 3.86 The Town Centre Team has been regularly informing the town centre businesses on different events and training opportunities, some of which include: City Deal Consultation in Carrickfergus, Go Succeed Training Programmes, 'Grow your business' opportunities, Town Centre Activities update, Business Programmes, High Street Heroes 2024, Business Awards, Shopfront Revitalise Grant and correspondence on behalf of local stakeholders and other Council departments.
- 3.87 The Larne Business Forum continues to meet monthly with Officers present at each meeting to support the group.
- 3.88 The Public Realm Enhancement Scheme on Bridge Street and Castle Street in Ballymena is now complete. The team will carry out post project surveys with businesses and users in due course.
- 3.89 Following a successful funding application to the Department for Communities for funding a phase 2 of the shop front revitalisation scheme, Council has now opened for grant applications. The funding call is open for a period of 7 weeks however may close early if all funding has been committed. Grants range from £500 to £4999 with 20% match funding requirement from the applicant. Grant can go towards, painting, new signage, awnings, facade repairs and improvements.
- 3.90 A requirement of the DfC funding is that a steering group is established with representation from the business community. Based on the model of the Covid Revitalise a steering group has now been established involving representation from Ballymena BID, Positive Carrickfergus, Larne Business Forum and Larne Renovation Generation. The group meets monthly and is supported by Council staff and Elected Members.
- 3.91 The Town Centre Team have been working with Larne Business Forum and Larne Renovation Generation to deliver and install a Larne Visitors Board in Broadway Larne. Funded by DfC under the Revitalisation Fund the notice Board that has now been installed will be used by Community Groups, local businesses and Tourism to highlight events and information in relation to Larne Town Centre.

- 3.92 Fire Safety accredited training sessions were scheduled in each of the Town Centres week commencing 21 October 2024. 3 Sessions took place in Ballymena at the Braid on Monday 21 October, 4 Sessions took place in Carrickfergus Town Hall across Tuesday 22 & Wednesday 23 October 2024 and 3 Sessions took place in Larne on Thursday 24 October 2024.

4. General Considerations / Implications

No implications relating to this update report.

5. Proposed Way Forward

The report is presented for noting.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to note the updated Economic Development Activity report.

7 Appendices / Links



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy Committee
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	PEACEPLUS Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update members on the Mid and East Antrim PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan including other measures of the PEACEPLUS Programme where opportunities exist for Mid and East Antrim.

2. Background

- 2.1 Council have been awarded €5,848,008 (circa £4.9m sterling) under the PEACEPLUS Measure 1:1 for Co-Designed Local Community Peace Action Plans for the period up to 2028 subject to submission of a PEACEPLUS Action Plan for Mid & East Antrim by early June 2024.
- 2.2 The Environment and Economy Committee at their meeting on 28 May approved the PEACEPLUS Action Plan. The Action Plan and Application were submitted to SEUPB on 6 June 2024 and an outcome is expected during Autumn 2024.
- 2.3 In addition to PEACEPLUS Measure 1.1, which Council will directly manage, there are 21 other PEACEPLUS funding pots as detailed to members previously that Council can apply for funding.
- 2.4 To date Council has submitted a funding bid under PEACEPLUS Measure 1.4 Reimaging Communities seeking €10m (€8m capital/€2m revenue) for St Patrick's Barracks project including civic events space, bridge to Ecos with brickwork clocktower in addition to a dedicated cross-community programme of workshops and events. The outcome of this application is expected imminently.
- 2.5 The Economic Development Team have submitted a funding bid for Measure 2.2 Innovation Challenge Fund with partners from Udaras na Gaeltachta in Donegal for a joint project that will seek resources to support the revenue costs of the iLAB (Innovation Laboratory) within i4C. This Measure opened on 31 July 2024 and closed on 9 October 2024. A separate report is tabled at this Committee.

The Regeneration Team have also led a bid for a community project in Carrickfergus seeking £1m PEACEPLUS under Measure 1.3 to deliver the programme inclusive of staffing costs.

- 2.6. In addition to PEACEPLUS there is anticipated to be a range of other funding opportunities under Shared Island, UK Levelling Up, UK Shared Prosperity Fund and Innovate UK to name a few where opportunity will exist in due course for Council to apply for funding to support delivery of projects identified within Council's Corporate & Capital Plans.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

PEACEPLUS Partnership

- 3.1 The PEACEPLUS Partnership have held 14 meetings to date and one planning workshop. The last meeting took place on 28th May 2024 with future meetings arranged to coincide with any communication from SEUPB in relation to the Action Plan.

There are currently 3 social partner vacancies on the PEACEPLUS Partnership Board. Recruitment for these positions has taken place and Members will be informed of the outcome after assessment of applications.

Programme Management Office

- 3.2 The Head of Economic Development prepared options for SMT consideration on the establishment of a Programme Management Office to ensure oversight and governance for the management of the PEACEPLUS budget. In the short term it is necessary to establish a PEACEPLUS staffing structure with circa £999,000 over four years being requested by Council for staffing and support costs subject to SEUPB approval.
- 3.3 In the medium to long-term it is desirable to have a structure that can be scaled up should other PEACEPLUS or other funding sources be secured. Furthermore, the coordination of all European funding within the one unit would ensure coordination of activity and robust governance processes in managing different sources of funding through streamlined systems and processes.
- 3.4 As noted at the Environment and Economy Committee meeting on 5 August progress would continue on the establishment of the Programme Management Office that would allow staff to initially manage PEACEPLUS Measure 1.1 and to start to lever other funding for Council when the staffing complement is at full capacity. The initial staffing complement would be as follows:

- 1 Investment & Funding Manager from December 2024
- 1 Finance Manager from January 2025
- 1 FT & 1 PT Project Officer from April 2025
- 1 PT Project Officer from July 2024
- 1 PT Administration & Monitoring Officer from July 2024

To date 1 PT Project Officer and 1 PT Administration & Monitoring Officer have successfully been appointed and commenced their positions on 1 July 2024 as planned.

The recruitment process for the Investment & Funding Manager post will be completed by December 2024. The remainder of the staffing complement will be progressed by the Investment & Funding Manager in line with the timelines identified above.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1 **Financial Implications:** The budget of €5,848,008 (circa £4.9m sterling) is available to support the development and delivery of Peace & Reconciliation projects across Mid & East Antrim.
- 4.2 **HR Implications:** Within the PEACEPLUS funding allocation approx. £1m of resources over a four-year period will be set aside to staff a Programme Management Office. Given that 40% of the Investment & Funding Delivery Manager and Finance Managers time will be spent on seeking other funding opportunities for Council an annual contribution of £25,000 p/a over a four-year period will be required from Council and included in the estimates process from 25/26 with the intention that over time this will be recoverable when funding is secured

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 The report is presented for noting.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to note the PEACEPLUS quarterly update.

7. Appendices / Links

N/A



Council/Committee:	Environment & Economy Committee
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Ballymena Business Improvement District Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Elected Members with an update on the Ballymena Business Improvement District (BID) activity from Mid-June to September 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1. Members have previously been updated on the formation of the Ballymena Business Improvement District, the governance arrangements and the priorities that have been agreed by the BID to support Ballymena Town Centre businesses.
- 2.2. Council has eight listed properties (including four car parks) within the Ballymena Business Improvement District boundary that equate to a levy of approx. £15,529 per annum.
 - Ballymena Town Hall, Museum & Arts Centre
 - Springwell Street Carpark
 - Meeting House Lane Carpark
 - Greenmount Plaza Carpark
 - Granville Drive Carpark
 - 12 - 16 Bridge Street
 - Wellington Court Building
 - Ballymena Pop-Up shop
- 2.3. With Council being a BID levy payer and working in close partnership with BID it was agreed that updates on the Ballymena BID's activity would be presented on a regular basis, the latest update was presented to Elected Members on the 24 June 2024.



3. Key Issues for Consideration

3.1 Advertising/Marketing/Events

Teachers Gift Campaign

The Teachers' Gift campaign was a great success, resulting in £10,000 in gift card sales, all of which will be spent in participating town centre businesses. The campaign received PR coverage from the presentations, and over 200 letters nominating teachers were submitted. Ten winners were selected.

Ballymena Runners Fairhill Race (June 13th)

Ballymena BID sponsored a mile of this race and provided face painting for runners and spectators to encourage longer stays before and after the event. Funds raised from face painting were donated to Fairhill's local charity partner

Summer Events

- Fun Fridays (26 July and 2 August): Hundreds of children attended both events, which were well-received.
- Food and Heritage Tours: Two tours took place in August and early September, with positive feedback. This pilot project may become a monthly feature.
- End of Summer Fun and Wellness Event, part funded by Council and the Department for Communities (17 August): Held on Greenvale Street, this event featured early morning yoga, fitness classes, and family-friendly activities. Thousands of attendees included locals and visitors from Ards, Bangor, Larne, Carrick, Newtownabbey, and Belfast. The event was well received by local businesses. Council staff worked with the Ballymena BID team to deliver this event.

Back to School Campaign

A digital advertising campaign ran from mid-July through the end of August.

Summer Sales Campaign

This digital campaign ran from early August through September, featuring promotions across the website, social media, and video creatives.

3.2 Business Support

Social media/Website

BID's social media and website channels continue to offer free advertising to businesses, with requests received daily.

Leadership Training

The first 8 weeks of leadership training were completed, and phase 2 has commenced, which is a supporting role up to the end of summer. Support is



online and in person, with pop-up sessions planned for June-August 2025. 27 participants and 24 businesses are being supported through the programme.

Content Creator

From August 2024, BID has contracted a content creator responsible for producing video assets for the town and its businesses. Businesses can book free video creation services. Notable successes include:

- o Beauty Salon video: 14,300 plays.
- o New Store Launch video: 21,600 plays.
- o New Brand Launch in National Store: Achieved +30% on target, using only BID's advertising.

Shop Front Grant Support

BID has been supporting businesses with preparation and applications for Council's Shop Front Scheme funded by DfC.

Town Centre Warden

The position of Town Centre Warden has now been filled. The position is funded jointly by BID (£15k) and PCSP (£10k). BID also manages additional expenses, including waterproofs, parking, and training.

- 3.3 The following activity and engagement events have taken place since the last update:

Galgorm Resort and Spa

Discussions were held to strengthen the connection between the resort and the town centre.

BID Annual General Meeting

The AGM took place on the 18 June 2024, all officers and directors were re-elected.

BID Coffee Morning (24 September 2024)

This well-attended event featured guest speakers, including Colin Johnston of Galgorm, who discussed tourism growth. BID updates and future plans were also shared, with an open forum for questions.

Meeting with Council Officials

The Council's Chief Executive and Head of Economic Development were invited to attend a meeting with the BID Officers on the 18 September 2024. The challenges and issues facing the BID were discussed with Council committing to seek future resolutions.

BID Board Meeting (2 October 2024)

Stephen Reynolds stepped down as Chair following the sale of his business. Stephen has been involved with the Ballymena BID since its formation and



has been instrumental in driving forward successful projects. Roy Smyth (Vice Chair) has taken over as Chair, with Thomas McKillen appointed as Vice Chair.

3.4 Upcoming Events

- Leadership Programme Celebration (10 October 2024)
This celebration is for participants and their employers and is delivered in partnership with Gallaher Trust.
- Fashion Show (18 October 2024)
The annual fashion show in partnership with MEABC took place in the Tullyglass Hotel. This was a joint venture with a 50/50 split on financing, staffing, and planning. The fashion show will also incorporate Fashion Focus Week following the event to further promote the fashion offering in the town centre.
- Fraud Awareness Morning (29 October 2024) In partnership with Danske Bank, BID will host a Fraud Awareness morning following reports of financial fraud affecting some businesses
- Halloween (31 October 2024) A Trick-or-Treat trail, fancy dress competition, and activities are planned for Halloween in the town centre, with follow-up PR and event photos.
- Discount Day (7 November 2024) Plans are in place for this popular one-day discount event, supported by a full advertising campaign.
- Christmas Light Switch On (16 November 2024) BID will support this event with a Downtown Radio Roadshow and staffing. The BID team will also assist during the event.
- Festive Events
 - Kickstart to Christmas (30 November 2024): Featuring "The Grinch Tours Ballymena" and a Shop-to-Win competition.
 - Jingle Day (December 7th 2024): Partnering with the NI Children's Hospice, BID will host festive activities and raise funds through a raffle.
 - Festive Fun Tractor Rally (December 14th 2024): Following last year's success, this event will feature a Santa Tractor Rally alongside festive activities.
 - Bandstand Takeover (December 21st 2024): Christmas carols, characters, and gift-wrapping stations will take place.
- Christmas Advertising A comprehensive advertising campaign (supported by Council and the Department for Communities) will run from November 21st through Christmas Eve, across television, radio, digital, outdoor, and influencer platforms. Post-Christmas sale advertising will run from December 28th through January.



3.5 Challenges

Reduction in Levy: Following the recent rates revaluation and property changes, BID has lost £27,000 in levy per annum since 2021.

Cleanliness: Street cleanliness remains a problem in the town. Dog fouling not being cleared in a timely manner, general litter, and fly-tipping are causes for concern.

Theft and Crime: Theft and crime are significant concerns for many businesses in the town centre.

4. **General Considerations / Implications**

- 4.1. Financial - Council properties are within the Ballymena BID boundary and Council will be required to continue to pay the BID levy which is approx £15,529 per annum
- 4.2. Human Resources – Council continues to support partnership projects both through the support of the Town Centre Development Team & Council's Communications Team

5. **Proposed Way Forward**

- 5.1. Council to continue to support the Ballymena BID through regular engagement and project development support.
- 5.2. Elected Members to generate awareness in relation to upcoming BID events and activities.

6. **Recommendation or Decision**

- 6.1. It is recommended that Elected Members note the successful outcomes of Ballymena BID.

7. **Appendices / Links**



Council/Committee:	Environment & Economy Committee
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Pop-up Shops
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the progress of the pop-up shop project in each of the town centres.

2. Background

- 2.1. At the Environment & Economy committee held on 11 December 2023 Elected Members were presented with a project proposal in relation to match funding a pop-up shop programme in the three town centres of Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne.
- 2.2. Elected Members were informed of the successful funding application to the Department for Communities for a town centre revitalisation scheme that included a budget allocation of £36,000 for the provision of pop-up space in each of the town centres.
- 2.3. It was noted within the report that the project was expected to commence in January 2024 running to March 2025 and would follow the same model as the previous scheme, supporting community groups, social enterprises and entrepreneurs. In addition, it was reported that the project would be managed internally by the Town Centre Team with support from the Assets and Legal team. The Management process also included the day-to-day operation of the shop premises to include:
 - liaison with tenants ensuring that applications are complete, insurance requirements have been met, risk assessments completed and a short-term licence agreement put in place.
 - liaising with landlords
 - developing a marketing campaign to promote the pop-up space and generate awareness of the opportunity.
 - ensuring activity within the shops are maximised to include a varied offering to support start-ups, arts and community groups.



- 2.4. It was further reported that aligned to the pop-up shop provision was the proposal to run a Retail Start Up Academy programme. The aim of the programme is to support new and early-stage retailers. One-to-one specialist mentoring would be offered to the participants, at no additional cost to the programme as mentoring can be delivered under Start and Grow elements of Go Succeed. Each participant will be offered a £150 development grant. Similar to the previous programmes, the Retail Academy participants will be offered the opportunity to test trade and show case their business offering in the pop-up shops.
- 2.5. In addition, it was proposed to run a separate pilot Academy to support five Social Enterprises, Community Interest Companies or Community Groups wanting to explore their future sustainability through the development and selling of products and services on the high street. The model of delivery will be the same as the Retail Start Programme and provide groups with the opportunity to test trade on their own.
- 2.6. Elected Members approved a budget of up to a maximum of £22,850 over two financial years to match fund the pop-up shop and the MEA Start up in Retail project.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 Three town centre premises were secured in February 2024, all properties benefited from new signage, small cosmetic works were carried out and each unit was fitted out with merchandising equipment.
 - 4 Upper Main Street, Larne, this property was previously a Barbers and is beside Brian Todds Property Agents.
 - 2 Joymount, Carrickfergus, this property was previously the DUP Office and is located beside Doherty Yea Property Agents
 - 58 Tower Centre, Ballymena, this front facing unit on to Wellington Street was previously Shoe Zone.
- 3.2 Due to the demand in previous pop-up shop programmes from the community sector the first 6 months focused on attracting community groups, social enterprises and charity groups. This allowed for the business sector support to coincide with Global Entrepreneurship Week (taking place in November) and also the busy Christmas test trading period. A marketing campaign was developed to include Council's own promotional channels with the addition of paid advertising. Local community groups, social enterprises and charity groups were contacted and informed of the pop-up shop opportunity. The table below lists the groups that have taken up residency in each of the shops to date;



Ballymena	Carrickfergus	Larne
Good Morning Ballymena	Carrickfergus Historical Society	Carnlough Community Association
Museums - MEABC	Men's Shed	Larne Camera Club
Vis Art	Good Morning Carrickfergus	RNLI Larne
Uniform Scheme - MEABC	Uniform Scheme - MEABC	Uniform Scheme - MEABC
Plein Air Art	Positive Carrickfergus	Rotary Club Larne
Mid & East Antrim Agewell Partnership	Carrickfergus/Whitehead RNLI	Larne Art Club
Radio Cracker	Light of the World Ministries	Invermore Art Society
		AEL

3.3 Global Entrepreneurship Week

Running from Monday 18 November 2024 to Saturday 23 November 2024 a shared space will be provided for entrepreneurs at one of the three Pop up Shops located in Ballymena, Carrickfergus and Larne. Entrepreneurs, Start -Up businesses and social enterprises will have the opportunity to test trade products in a realistic town centre trading environment.

3.4 Retail Start Up Academy 2024

Council is currently open for applications for the Retail Start Academy, closing date for receipt of applications is the 1 November 2024. Participants will avail of one-to-one specialist mentoring along with bespoke retail/merchandising workshops. Each participant will receive a £150 development grant and will be offered trading space in one of the pop-up shops over the busy Christmas period (9 December – 21 December). This initiative will also support social enterprises and Community Interest Companies who can choose to test-trade in the run up to Christmas or at another time before the end of March. One social enterprise has already been supported and test traded in Ballymena in June.



3.5 Wellness Week

A programme of activity is currently being developed to take place on Monday 20 January 2025 to Friday 24 January 2025 in each of the pop-up shops, the focus will be on health and wellbeing. AWARE NI will be conducting talks on promoting good mental health and the Consumer Council will be offering financial advice and energy saving tips. There will also be several fun activities taking place during the week including craft workshops and engagement events.

3.6 Creative Industries Showcase

As part of Go Succeed, Council are working with partners to showcase the business opportunities and skills provision in the creative industries sector. A themed week of activities is planned for w/c 17 February 2025 in the pop-up shops, schools and other locations. This element is funded under Go Succeed at no cost to Council.

4. **General Considerations / Implications**

- 4.1. Financial implications – Financial implications - a maximum budget of £22,850 over two financial years was approved at the Environment & Economy committee held on 11 December 2023 to match fund the Pop-up Shop and Retail Academy project.
- 4.2. Human Resources – the pop-up shop programme is designed and managed by the Town Centre and Skills and Entrepreneurship teams. External retail experts are used to deliver workshops and mentor participants as and when required.
- 4.3. Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan – the corporate plan prioritises the need to help grow, support and sustain new and existing businesses in the borough through Council and other initiatives as well as working innovatively and collaboratively. This programme encourages entrepreneurs thinking about starting their own retail business to test trade on the high street, without any risks.

Larne Town Centre Strategy – Theme 1 – develop pop-up exhibition space in vacant units and gap sites.

Carrickfergus Town Centre Strategy; Theme 3 - Run pop-up shops to include test trading spaces and creative units, community hub and drop in spaces bringing life to our vacant premises,

Ballymena Town Centre Strategy; Intervention Area 3 – Repurposing - Examine projects which repurpose underused and vacant commercial properties as flexible studio, creative spaces. Develop pop-up shops & examine temporary exhibition space and makers studio space.



5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. Encourage applications for the Global Entrepreneurship Week trading opportunity on the 18 November 2024 to Saturday 23 November 2024.
- 5.2. Promote the Retail Start Up Academy 2024 and test trading opportunity that will be rolled out in December.
- 5.3. Continue to drive the marketing campaign and generate awareness of the pop-up shop opportunity and Retail Academy.
- 5.4. Work with partners to develop the creative industries showcase.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to note the progress of the Pop-Up Shops programme and future planned activity.

7. Appendices / Links



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy Committee
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the activities being delivered during Global Entrepreneurship Week (GEW) 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1. On 20 January 2024, Members of this committee approved a budget of £5,000 to deliver a series of events with partners during Global Entrepreneurship Week from 18-24 November 2024. This year's theme is 'Entrepreneurship is for Everyone' with the aim of 'removing barriers and welcoming all'. Organisations across the world are encouraged to host and participate in events that will encourage more people of all geographies, economies, and demographics to consider the path of entrepreneurship.
- 2.2. Global Entrepreneurship Week is a collection of tens of thousands of activities, competitions and events in 170+ countries each November aimed at making it easier for anyone, anywhere to start and scale a company. Founded in 2008, Global Entrepreneurship Week inspires 10 million people each year to take part in activities, competitions and events that inspire them to act and provide them with the knowledge, experience and connections they need to succeed.
- 2.3. Mid and East Antrim Borough Council has had a long tradition of providing a diverse programme of events for Global Entrepreneurship Week aimed at promoting entrepreneurship from an early age, encouraging new start-ups, inspiring our business base and supporting sustainability and innovation of our SMEs.
- 2.4. There are four themes for Global Entrepreneurship Week: Ecosystems, Education, Inclusion and Policy and Mid and East Antrim are working with as many partners as possible to deliver entrepreneurial events around these themes.



3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 Officers are working with a range of partners on the week's activities. Some dates may be subject to change. An e-brochure is being produced and the events listed on Council's Global Enterprise Week webpage and social media channels.
- 3.2 The indicative schedule of events is as follows:

Date	Event	Details
Saturday 2 November 2024	Enterprising Women Winter Showcase Venue to be announced 11am – 3pm	Showcase of the brands, products and services of our Enterprising Women members. Open to the public.
Tuesday 12 November 2024	Enterprising Women Coffee & Networking Olderfleet Bar & Restaurant, Larne 11.45 am – 2.00 pm	Network over a cuppa in an informal and welcoming environment. To attend you must be a member of the Enterprising Women Network. For more information on Enterprising Women see Enterprising Women Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Throughout the Week	Retail Start/Pop Up Shops Times vary depending on location and session.	Opportunity for local entrepreneurs to promote and test trade their business in Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus town centres during Global Entrepreneurship Week for a one-week period.
	Boss Baby Sessions Times vary depending on location and session.	Explore what it takes to be a builder, beautician, vet, shopkeeper, chef and much more! Mid and East Antrim Borough Council are teaming up with two local businesses to bring you the Boss Baby Sessions! Be your own boss at Miniville Play in Carrickfergus and Honeybees Playtown in Ballymena. During this special event, children are invited to explore the different roles and



<p>18 November 2024</p>	<p>What's Your Flavour?</p> <p>Throughout the dates on the MEA Social Media pages</p>	<p>responsibilities of taking on tasks and being their own boss in our playrooms. School Competition winners announced.</p> <p>To celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024 Mid and East Antrim Borough Council asked P4 and P5 pupils to design a new ice-cream flavour and marketing poster to promote their fantastic new product. The winning pupil will see their flavour developed by one of our local ice-cream manufacturers and will receive a visit by the manufacturer to their school to meet the ice-cream maker, taste their product and find out more about running an ice-cream business.</p>
	<p>Tourism & Hospitality Showcase</p>	<p>Keep an eye out in local press and on MEA web and social media pages for more details.</p>
<p>Tuesday 19 November 2024</p>	<p>Starting the Loop: Repair Cafe</p> <p>10.00 am – 2.00 pm</p> <p>Canva Series 2- The Marketing Magic of Canva AI for Video for (paying) Canva PRO subscribers</p> <p>12 noon - 1.30 pm</p>	<p>Following on from the successful workshop 'Starting the Loop: An Introduction to the Circular Economy' in September this session will delve into Repair Cafes and what it takes to establish one in your area.</p> <p>This practical lunchtime learning, designed at an intermediate/advanced level, aims to inspire and help you to start maximising the opportunities that the paid version of Canva can offer you and your business.</p>
<p>Wednesday 20 November 2024</p>	<p>Sustainable Tourism Workshop</p> <p>Larne Town Hall</p> <p>6.00 pm - 8.00 pm</p>	<p>This informative workshop will equip business owners and managers with practical insights and strategies to implement sustainability within their operations. The session will feature presentations from specialist advisors who will provide expert knowledge on</p>



	<p>Creative Industries school Takeover Day</p> <p>St Killian's, College Carnlough</p> <p>9.00 am – 3.00 pm</p>	<p>maintaining business sustainability while enhancing profitability.</p> <p>This engaging full day event is designed to introduce students to various career opportunities in the creative industries, including radio presenting, DJ-ing, storytelling, and arts & crafts. Through interactive workshops, hands-on activities, and industry-led talks, students will gain a better understanding of the creative field, and the skills needed to pursue a career in this vibrant sector.</p>
<p>Thursday 21 November 2024 (Social Enterprise Day)</p>	<p>Ultimate Pitch Final</p> <p>Innovation Factory, Belfast</p>	<p>Gemma McAllister from Wear Matter, has won the MEA local heat of Go Succeed: Ultimate Pitch, earning a place in the grand final which takes place during GEW on 21 November at the Innovation Factory, Belfast. WearMatter is an adaptive clothing brand for people with disabilities and health conditions. Gemma will now be in with a chance of taking home £5,000 in investment for their business idea in the competition, organised by Go Succeed, funded by UK Government.</p>
	<p>Accelerate Social Enterprise programme LEDCOM</p>	<p>SLA funded Social Enterprise Accelerator Programme. Details to follow.</p>
	<p>Boosting Social Impact: The Power of Business-Charity Partnerships</p> <p>12 noon – 1.00 pm</p>	<p>Lunch and Learn Session</p> <p>Are you a business leader, manager or entrepreneur interested in understanding how partnerships with charities can enhance your brand reputation? If so, then join us for this 1-hour lunch and learn session where we will look at integrating ESG/CSR strategies that will help to strengthen bids to win contracts.</p>



<p>Friday 22 November 2024</p>	<p>Creative Careers Week Launch Throughout the day</p>	<p>Keep an eye out in local press and on MEA web and social media pages for more details.</p>
<p>Saturday 23 November 2024</p>	<p>Business Ideation Bootcamp Larne Town Hall 1.00 pm – 4.00 pm</p> <hr/> <p>Ballymena Business Centre – 2024 Start Up Roadshow Midtown Makers 11am – 3.00 pm</p>	<p>Anybody can start a business!</p> <p>Join a Business Ideation Bootcamp and learn how to identify, refine and validate business ideas, utilising a suite of tools and resources such as the Design Council's Double Diamond, the FOCUS framework, REDx spot and Resource Audits.</p> <p>Attendees will also find out about the support available within Mid & East Antrim to help you progress your idea beyond the Bootcamp.</p> <p>Pop in and find out how to start your own business, chat with startup entrepreneurs and tap into free expert advice from local enterprise agency business advisors and partner organisations. With access to over 500 ideas, finance, networking opportunities and grants, this is an event not to be missed!</p> <p>2024 Start Up Roadshow is Sponsored by Ballymena Business Centre and The Gallaher Trust.</p>

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Financial implications - a budget of £5,000 was agreed in January 2024 and Officers will work in negotiating rates to secure a high standard of activity similar to previous years.
- 4.2. Human Resources - the programme is designed and managed by the Skills and Entrepreneurship team in partnership with external stakeholders, local businesses and other council teams including Tourism, Environmental Health and the Town Centre team.



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- 4.3.** The corporate plan prioritises the need to help grow, support and sustain new and existing businesses in the borough through Council and other initiatives as well as working innovatively and collaboratively. Global Enterprise Week supports and encourages new business startups through a series of free and relevant programmes and workshops, supports local businesses through using them as host venues to facilitate events, and encourages entrepreneurial activity from a young age through the wide variety of school engagement activities.

5. Proposed Way Forward

Proposal for Global Entrepreneurship Week 2024

- 5.1 Continue to work with partners and communications department to finalise and promote events.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1. Elected Members are asked to:
- (i) Note and promote the programme of events to celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week.

7. Appendices / Links

None.



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy Committee
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	STEM Interventions Programme Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the activities delivered under the STEM Interventions Programme between April and September 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1. In March 2024 Members were advised that a successful bid for £15,000 funding had been secured through the STEM Ambassador programme funded by UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). Council were the only successful bidder in Northern Ireland. The programme had an overarching aim of enabling all young people in the UK to engage with and connect with STEM, research and innovation. A dedicated funding stream was established, which will focus on a more targeted range of interventions for young people where there is most need.
- 2.2. Officers delivered a STEM Interventions Programme between April and September 2024 to schools in the borough, engaging with pupils in Year 9 (pre-GCSE selection stage). The programme included partnership and collaboration with companies STEM Ambassadors throughout the borough. This funding also enabled the delivery of a teacher insight day in August to give teachers the opportunity to find out about career pathways available with local companies. The programme of activities was delivered free to schools.
- 2.3. The programme delivery included:
 - o Delivery of 17 in-school STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) workshops held between April and May 2024.
 - o Two full day STEM events hosted in June at The Braid, Ballymena and Larne Leisure Centre, Larne.
 - o Teacher Insight Day hosted on 23 August 2024.
 - o Celebration Event, held in September.
- 2.4. STEM Ambassadors and Employers who engaged in the programme included:



STEM Ambassadors	Local Employers
Space Office NI	Yelo
Armagh Planetarium	Kilwaughter Minerals
Royal Academy of Engineering	Caterpillar
STEM NI	IPC Mouldings
Nerve Centre	Wright Bus
	Ryobi
	GES

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The STEM Interventions Programme has been completed with a total budget of £15,000 secured through funding from UKRI. There was no cost to council.
- 3.2 The programme was open to all schools in the borough, however not all schools were able to partake due to staffing capacity and other pre-planned school activities. Eight schools participated in the programme with attendance at each event as follows:

	In school Workshops	STEM Events
Cullybackey College	50	30
Ballymena Academy	30	44
Slemish College	123	61
Dunclug College	39	39
Castle Tower	38	18
St Patrick's College	54	28
Larne High school	60	53
Larne Grammar School	60	53
TOTAL	454	326

- 3.3 Whilst there was no representation from Carrickfergus Schools in the pupil activities, the programme has raised awareness of the engagement opportunities available. Carrickfergus Grammar attended a follow-up site visit to IPC Mouldings in June 2024 to learn about career opportunities. Teaching staff from Ulidia Integrated College attended the Teacher Insight Day in August 2024 and in September 2024 an officer from the Skills and Entrepreneurship Team was invited to present on School Engagement at ResearchEd hosted at Carrickfergus Grammar on 28 September 2024. Carrickfergus Academy have also recently welcomed staff from Ryobi and Kilwaughter Minerals to their school to learn more about career opportunities within Design and ICT with a focus on Cyber Security as part of the wider Science Summer School project.
- 3.4 Pre-event baseline surveys were completed by students participating in the programme, to assess awareness of STEM and assess their level of

confidence in such subjects. The questions were set by UKRI. The same survey was completed with the same students, after the activities completed in June. All results indicated positive trajectories:

- Prior to the programme many students indicated low levels of confidence in STEM subjects. After participation, survey results indicated a positive increase in confidence levels and enjoyment of the subjects.
- Prior to the programme many students indicated that they did not feel capable of doing well in STEM subjects. After participation in engaging workshops, survey results highlighted a positive increase in student's perceived capabilities.
- Prior to the programme many students had a low perception of studying STEM subjects with many citing 'Strongly Disagree' to 'Disagree' on the question. After participation in the programme, results indicated a positive increase towards studying STEM subjects in the future.
- Prior to the programme a high proportion of students stated they would not like to work in STEM. Upon seeing the broad variety of career opportunities available through the programme, we noticed a positive increase in the responses received.

3.5 Evidence indicates that by connecting students with industry leaders and providing them with practical, hands-on experiences achieved through programmes such as STEM Interventions, we are inspiring the next generation of innovators, creators, and problem solvers and making the connections for the pipeline of talent from school to employment.

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1 Financial implications - a budget of £15,000 was funded externally through UK Research and Innovation.
- 4.2 Human Resources - the programme was designed and managed by the Skills and Entrepreneurship team in partnership with STEAM Ambassadors, local businesses and local schools.
- 4.3 Good Relations – Establishing partnerships with local companies, schools and other organisations enabled the delivery of a number of engagement projects at no cost to council. The legacy of these relations continues to inspire engagement with existing and new companies in delivering a range of interactive and engaging activities with local schools into 2024 and 2025. Activities were open to all schools in the borough with eight participating. This included the inclusion of SEN schools with engagement from Castle Tower.



5. Proposed Way Forward

Proposal for Future STEM Funding Opportunities

- 5.1 UKRI are reviewing the outcomes and responses from all delivery partners. The funding allocated to Council in 2024 was a pilot programme. There may be an opportunity to submit an application for further funding in 2025.

6. Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1. Elected Members are asked to:
 - (i) Note the success of the STEM Interventions Programme.
 - (ii) Agree to permit officers to work up an application for future funding if the opportunity arises.

7. Appendices / Links



Council/Committee:	Environment & Economy Committee
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Sub-Regional Economic Plan Update
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Department for Economy (DfE)/ Invest NI Sub-Regional Economic Plan, which was officially released on 1 October 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1. Members were previously advised on 28 May 2024 and 24 June 2024 that following a 2022 review of Invest NI, in late 2023 DfE and Invest NI commenced development of a Sub-Regional Economic Plan for NI in partnership with key economic stakeholders.
- 2.2. The plan was to set out sub-regional economic targets, focusing on how publicly funded interventions can be used to address specific challenges and inequalities in each sub-region.
- 2.3. In collaboration with Invest NI, Council provided DfE and Invest NI with high-level economic priorities for Mid and East Antrim at a workshop held on 28 May 2024 at the Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena. This event was well attended by Local Enterprise Agencies, Economic Stakeholders, Elected Members, and Council Officers. Appendix 1 details the key areas of focus which were included in the Mid and East Antrim sub regional priorities at the workshop which were to be used by DfE and Invest NI as part of the development of the Sub-Regional Action Plan.
- 2.4. At the workshop officers provided an overview of the Borough's economic performance, including strengths and areas for improvement, whilst also identifying key opportunities for growth. Positive developments noted included the steady increase in VAT registered businesses in the area, the second-highest early-stage entrepreneurial activity rate amongst council areas, and the success of our business growth support services.
- 2.5. Officers noted that the Mid and East Antrim area is below average in areas such as:
 - Employment; ranking 8th of 11 councils in terms of employment levels;
 - Business Growth: The rate is below the NI average;
 - Business Composition: 91% of businesses are micro-enterprises, slightly higher than the NI average;



- Exports: ranks joint last in terms of exports;
- Invest NI Assistance: ranks 10th out of 11 Council areas;
- R&D Expenditure: 10th out of 11 Council areas in business expenditure on R&D; and.
- Town Centres: Low footfall and high vacancy rates.

2.6. Opportunities and potential game changer initiatives highlighted included;

- **CleanTech Hub Development:** supported by initiatives like the award-winning Hydrogen Training Academy, the £15m HyTech NI project, the Innovate UK-funded MEANZ Business project, and the £24m i4C Innovation & CleanTech Centre.
- **Belfast Region City Deal Projects (BRCD):** Three projects under the BRCD represent a £60m investment in the Borough. This includes major projects at the Gobbins Cliff Path, Carrickfergus Regeneration, and the i4C Innovation & CleanTech Centre.
- **Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Supports:** The region benefits from unique FDI supports such as the Michelin Development Fund. Key investment opportunities include green transport in Ballymena with companies like Wrightbus and Alexander Dennis, a pharmaceutical cluster in Larne with companies like Terumo and Teva, and energy and logistics clusters at Kilroot (Carrickfergus) and Silverwood (Ballymena).
- **Manufacturing Task Force (MTF):** Fosters industry collaboration among key players to drive economic growth and strengthen the region's economic proposition.
- **Labour Market Partnership:** Focused on developing the skilled workforce needed to support both existing and emerging sectors across the Borough.

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1 The Sub-Regional Economic Plan was officially launched by the Minister for the Economy on 1st October 2024. It aims to address economic disparities, foster local empowerment, and promote sustainable, inclusive growth across NI.
- 3.2. The newly launched plan sets out the next steps DfE will take to bring about greater regional balance which is one of the four priorities of the Minister's *Economic Vision*. The sub-regional plan will focus on three strands of delivery:
- Creation of new Local Economic Partnerships with dedicated funding of £45m over a 3-year period;
 - Enhancing the role of Invest NI at a sub-regional level with local targets; and
 - Realignment of departmental policies and programmes to help drive local growth.



- 3.3. Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs) are to be established by December 2024 and will empower communities by attracting investment, promoting sustainable development, and creating high-quality jobs. There is flexibility to establish the LEPs involving key Economic Stakeholders from within the Council area or there is opportunity to collaborate with other Council areas to create a larger partnership. As noted above this concept is supported by dedicated funding of £45 million for NI over a 3 year period to improve productivity, wages, and employment rates, while addressing Net Zero targets.
- 3.4. A refocused Invest NI will see Invest NI expand its regional presence, increasing staffing and leadership in regional offices, and will focus on attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) beyond the Belfast Metropolitan Area. New initiatives, such as the Regional Property Programme and Business Innovation Grant, will further local economic growth.
- 3.5. DfE will also have a new approach and will establish a new Regional Balance Unit to work across DfE to mainstream regional balance. It will support the Local Economic Partnerships and Invest NI to drive effective delivery of locally chosen actions.

DfE/Invest NI/Councils/NILGA Workshop 15 October 2024

- 3.6. The Place and Sub-Regional Economy Team within DfE hosted another workshop on 15 October 2024 with Invest NI and representatives from local Councils to co-design the next steps arising from the Plan. This included the establishment of Local Economic Partnerships and hearing Councils' views on the new Regional Economic Growth Fund. The workshop also provided an opportunity for both the Department and Invest NI to discuss their enhanced roles around Regional Balance. Council's Head of Economic Development and Skills and Entrepreneurship Manager attended the workshop with the following points noted:

Establishment of Local Economic Partnerships

- Department will produce guidance for Councils on establishment, composition and governance of LEPs.
- DfE will approve the final list of suggested partners.
- No group/organisation should have a majority in the LEP
- Councils should consider equality of opportunity in the membership of LEPs
- DfE/Invest NI would expect to see representation from universities, colleges, local enterprise agencies, business community and civil society



Role of Local Economic Partnerships

- LEPs will be responsible for identifying and overseeing development and subsequent monitoring of project proposals
- Project proposals must align with Council priorities, DfE priorities and Programme for Government
- LEPs will submit prioritised list (with supporting rationale) of projects to Councils
- Decisions to be made by consensus where possible

Role of local Councils

- Council will have a significant role in supporting and/ or delivering projects (engaging with project promoters, business cases)
- Council will employ staff required to manage and support operation of LEP and delivery of projects.
- Council will be responsible for transparency and record keeping of decisions
- Council will be accountable for spend (same as City Deals)
- Council to notify DfE of projects that would be delivered by government

Role of INI and DfE

- INI and DfE will join partnerships as observers although discussion at the workshop reiterated the importance of Central Government joining the partnership as partners not observers
- DfE/INI will approve the partnership
- They will provide challenge function on project priorities and support in research/analysis
- They will support Partnerships in the identification of suitable projects
- They will liaise with relevant policy areas and Northern Civil Service where projects overlap and on other priority areas for action

Funding Available

- The funding formula has not yet been agreed so a defined allocation per Council area is unknown
- Intention to seek City Deal model of funding being available across the three years but not confirmed yet.
- Funding still to be secured

Timeline

- By Dec 24: Partnerships to be established
- Jan - Mar 25: Proposed projects to be brought forward for approval
- Apr 25 - March 28: Approved projects to be funded for delivery

4 General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1 Financial – none at this stage.
- 4.2 Human Resources – continued and significant officer involvement will be required in shaping plans given the tight turnaround time



- 4.3 Alignment with Corporate Priorities and Link to Corporate Plan – supports objectives within economic development and environment pillars.
- 4.4 Procurement - will be considered during the plans as part of the development process.

5 Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1 Officers await receipt of formal guidance prior to initiating the establishment of the Local Economic Partnership for Mid & East Antrim
- 5.2 A report will be tabled at November 2024 Committee to advise Members of the progress to date including detail on the guidance received from DfE/Invest NI

6 Recommendation or Decision

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to note the contents of this report, the actions taken so far and the content of the Sub-Region Economic Plan as detailed in the following link [Sub-Regional Economic Plan \(economy-ni.gov.uk\)](https://economy-ni.gov.uk)

7 Appendices / Links

- 7.1 Appendix 1 - Mid and East Antrim sub regional priorities.

SUB-REGION ECONOMIC PLAN UPDATE - APPENDIX 1

Regional Priorities

Top 3-4 Economic Priorities at Council Level (DfE Remit)

Which strategies are they linked to?

(e.g. Council's Economic Strategy, Labour Market Partnerships, Community Plans, 10x, City & Growth Deals?)

STRATEGIES

Review & Refresh of Amplify – The Integrated Economic Development Strategy for Mid and East Antrim 2018-2030 (Completed During 2021)

The outcomes of the research report endorsed the existing pillars of the Amplify strategy for MEA with a refresh of new action to build in addition. The update endorsed the continued requirement for MEABC to work closely with Invest NI and all stakeholders in the wider ecosystem to address the areas of weakness which would be considered **common challenges across most Council areas in NI**. The review and refresh also identified the need to concert further effort into potential **game changer** projects.

The priorities identified at this stage are further backed by statistics from the following sources:

- Invest Northern Ireland Performance Report 2018/19 to 2022/23
- NISRA
- Town Centre Investment Plans & Strategies
- DfC Town Centre Database
- Council's Internal town Centre Vacancy Audit
- MRI Software

Economic Priorities for Mid & East Antrim – “Common across most Council areas in NI”

- Increase the number of businesses engaged in innovation activity
- Increase R&D investment by local businesses
- Generate a strong pipeline of high growth start-ups
- Improve productivity levels
- Improve Economic Inactivity rate
- Develop a skilled workforce and support all residents to reach their full potential
- Increase export levels by businesses including improving the number of businesses exploring and/or engaging in cross-border trade and export beyond UK markets
- Town Centre dereliction & vacancy rates
- Encourage footfall to town centres

It is considered that the above priorities will be captured under existing initiatives and mechanisms to include; improvements welcomed through existing initiatives such as Go Succeed Service, working in partnership with support organisations locally and across NI, revival of MEA Innovation Partnership, Labour Market Partnership, Multiply via DfC etc.

Working collaboratively with town centre representative bodies; Ballymena BID, Ballymena Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Positive Carrickfergus, Larne Business Forum, Larne Renovation Generation and the newly established Larne Community Wealth Building Partnership, Council will address the issues currently faced for town centres and develop projects specifically for each of the towns within the borough.

Economic Priorities for Mid & East Antrim - "Game changer projects"

In terms of the sub-regional focus, the following points have been identified as potential game changers which are considered unique to Mid and East Antrim. These priorities have the ability to create opportunity in the region to rectify the regional imbalances and disparities the area has suffered.

- Development and delivery of Belfast Region City Deal Projects – i4C, Carrickfergus and the Gobbins
- Position Mid & East Antrim as the Cleantech Hub in Northern Ireland; secure funding, in particular, revenue funding to support the development and delivery of strategic cleantech projects - HTA/i4C/iLAB/Hytech NI
- Develop investment proposition to secure new investment and high value jobs; focus on development of property offering – workspace, industrial sites, Invest NI land
- Develop and promote investment opportunities for each town – support for community wealth building activities
- Development of Larne Port as an economic driver for the sub-region
- Town Centre Repurposing & Investment
- New Local Development Plan and re-zoning opportunities

Strategies

Council

- Amplify - The Integrated Economic Development Strategy for Mid and East Antrim 2018-2030 - [About Amplify | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council](#)
- Review and Refresh of Amplify (funded by Invest NI under the Economic Recovery Sub Regional Grant) (2021) (see below)
- Labour Market Partnership (Action Plan 2024-2025 and beyond)
- Community Plan "Putting People First" 2017 - [Putting People First | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council](#)
- Mid & East Antrim Corporate Plan 2023-2024 - [Corporate Plan | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council](#) ; [Mid & East Antrim Corporate Plan 2023-24: Six month update - April to September 2023 \(midandeastantrim.gov.uk\)](#)
- Performance Improvement Plan 2024-2024 - [Performance Improvement Plan | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council](#)
- Mid and East Antrim Climate & Sustainability Action Plan - [Climate Change & Sustainability in Mid & East Antrim | Mid and East Antrim Borough Council](#)
- Mid and East Antrim Local Development Plan 2030 - [Local Development Plan 2030 - Plan Timetable - 2022 Revision by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council - Issuu](#)
- UUEPC 2023 Economic Outlook Spring 2023 (MEA)
- Town Centre Investment Strategies for Ballymena, Larne and Carrickfergus
- NI Entrepreneurship Support Service (Go Succeed)

External

- Belfast Region City Deal
- 10X Strategy
- High Street Task Force – Delivering a 21st century High Street

Top 3-4 Wider Priorities at Council Level (Multi Departmental Remit)

Across all Priorities

Which strategies are they linked to

Corporate Plan 2024-2028

"Mid and East Antrim will be a strong, vibrant, safe and inclusive community, where people work together to improve the quality of life for all"



Corporate Plan Priorities

People: Mid and East Antrim will be a borough where diversity and inclusion are celebrated. Our people, regardless of their ability, location or socio-economic background will have equity of opportunity and support to achieve their full potential. Through partnership working, our communities and individuals will have a shared sense of independence and empowerment to be self-sustaining, allowing us to focus our efforts on supporting those who need it most. Our businesses will have the required support to become economically affluent, resulting in stable employment and elevated inward investment.

Place: Mid and East Antrim will be a safe and cohesive borough, where everyone feels a sense of belonging and pride. Our shared spaces will be shaped around our natural and built heritage and assets. Through our relationships with local communities and businesses our tourism offering, will be filled with diversity and a richness of culture and history, attracting visitors on a global scale.

Planet: Through working in partnership with our citizens, communities and businesses, and through leading by example, Mid and East Antrim will be a sustainable borough, safeguarding the future of our economy, society and environmental assets.

Performance: Mid and East Antrim Borough Council will operate as a single entity, fully embracing the vision of the Reorganisation of Public Administration (RPA 2015). We will be a sustainable, customer focused organisation and employer of choice, attracting and retaining the right people, with the right skills, to deliver our vision for the borough. We will provide value for money services through building solid foundations, learning from our mistakes, and instilling sound governance arrangements.

Community Plan Priorities

1. Education and Employment
2. Tourism & the Economy
3. Community Safety & Cohesion
4. Good Health & Wellbeing

Strategies

- Corporate Plan: Our Corporate Plan is designed to support the delivery of the Community Plan (2017-2032), sharing the same vision and aligning with its themes and priorities.
- Our Community Plan 'Putting People First' emphasises community engagement and participation in local decision-making to help shape strategic priorities
- Our Climate and Sustainability Plan 2023-2027 underscores the need for sustainability in the face of climate change.

Top 3-4 Challenges at Council Level (Short-Medium- Long-term)

Short Term

- Highest rate increase across Northern Ireland
- Ongoing budgetary pressures
- Power and Water Supply across key sites and investment locations - Port of Larne, Silverwood

Medium/Long Term

- Not enough skilled people to meet skilled vacancies locally
- Economic Inactivity
- Belfast commuter belt – increased competition for workers/sector attractiveness
- Ageing Population
- Financial – decreasing central government and European funding support
- Investor Proposition i.e. property provision
- Skills/Access to Talent
- High density micro and small business base with low innovation and scaling inclinations
- Lower level of exporting by businesses
- Power, Water and Electricity Infrastructure

Council Indicative Indicators/Metrics currently/Could being used

How are they aligned to 10x

Community Plan - five key strategic themes:

1. Sustainable Jobs and Tourism
2. Good Health and Wellbeing
3. Progress in Education
4. Community Safety and Cohesion and
5. Our Environment.

Performance Improvement Plan 2024 to 2025	
Improvement Objectives	Potential Actions
<p>1 We will work with partners to improve the lives of citizens.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Foster local enterprise and economic growth. 2 Support skills development and enhance employability. 3 Explore ways to boost health and wellbeing. 4 Consider ways to ease poverty. 5 Promote an equal, diverse, inclusive, and accessible borough. 6 Support people who are vulnerable, or who have a disability.
<p>2 We will maintain and improve our local areas.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Enhance our amenities, open spaces and playparks. 2 Nurture community-led tourism. 3 Help bolster our town centres. 4 Deliver an effective and efficient planning service.
<p>3 We will reduce our environmental impact and contribute to the sustainability of the borough.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Move towards cleaner energy and reduce our consumption. 2 Reach environmental standards and targets. 3 Deliver an effective and efficient Waste Management service. 4 Support biodiversity. 5 Share learning and best practice.

Commonalities if looked at through geographic INI regional office structure lens (or other).

- Economic inactivity
- Skills gaps/education base
- Low skills - % of population with no qualifications
- Digital Skills/Lifelong learning culture
- Not enough graduates in sectors with high demand including engineering.
- Advanced Manufacturing – AMIC
- Manufacturing Networks – MEGA/GEMX aligned with MTF.
- Cleantech – all Councils (however MEA's positioning here is unique)
- Agri-food
- Export levels (but particularly low in MEA)
- Innovation levels (but particularly low in MEA)
- Digitalisation / AI / ICT
- Life and Health Sciences
- SME / entrepreneurship support
- Inward investment / FDI
- International Relations
- Economic output
- Funding / Income generation
- Exporting / global competitiveness
- Inflation / Recession
- Town Centre vacancy rates and footfall



Council/Committee:	Environment & Economy
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Street Naming for New Development, Belfast Road Carrickfergus
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Kyle Patterson Acting Head of Planning & Building Control
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to seek Elected Members' decision on the naming of a proposed new housing development on a site off Belfast Road, Carrickfergus for Damask Developments Ltd.

2. Background

- 2.1. It is proposed to develop the site with a total of 64 dwelling units comprising 14 detached units, 26 semi-detached units and 24 apartments across 4 blocks. The site, indicated on the attached location map, is to be considered within this street naming proposal. A Building Regulations application has not yet been received and works have not commenced on site however planning approval has been granted for the proposal. The developer, Damask Developments Ltd. has submitted three suggested names for the development.

1. **Flaxall View**
2. **Flaxall Manor**
3. **Flaxall Lane**

3. Key Issues for Consideration

- 3.1. As such, The Building Control section submits the following name suggestions for the new development with associated rationale provided by the applicant:

1. **Flaxall View** – We are keen to acknowledge the history of the Flaxall textile factory, which printed, dyed and finished fabric on this site for 60 years before closing in 2006. We feel the names suggested in Options 1, 2 & 3 reflect our commitment to preserving the historical significance of the site while embracing a new chapter for the community

2. **Flaxall Manor** – Rationale as per option1



3. Flaxall Lane – Rationale as per option1

4. General Considerations / Implications

- 4.1. Council has a responsibility to name and erect street signage to new streets / developments as set out in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. Costs for erecting these signs are borne by Council.
- 4.2. Approval of the development name can accelerate the availability of properties, providing employment in the construction of the homes contributing to housing needs in the borough.

5. Recommendation or Decision

- 5.1. Elected Members are asked to approve the preferred street name of Flaxall View or consider alternative options as below:
 1. **Flaxall View** (preferred name)
 2. Flaxall Manor
 3. Flaxall Lane

4. Appendices / Links

- Appendix 1 – Application to name a street.
- Appendix 2 – Site Location Map
- Appendix 3 – Site Layout

Application to Name a Street



**Mid & East
Antrim**
Borough Council

The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995

PLEASE USE BLOCK CAPITALS

Please refer to the guidance notes overleaf or for further assistance, please contact your local Building Control office

One copy of this form with the required accompanying information should be sent to the appropriate Building Control Office Ballymena Carrickfergus

Applicant's name and address		Agent's name and address (if applicable)	
Name:	Justin McClay	Name:	
Company Name:	Damask Developments Ltd	Company Name:	
Address:	[REDACTED]	Address:	
	[REDACTED]		
Postcode:	BT18 9NE	Postcode:	
Tel:	[REDACTED]	Tel:	
Email:	[REDACTED]	Email:	

Location of new street	Belfast Road, Carrickfergus
Number of units in this phase	40
Number of units in entire development	64
Building Regulations application ref. (if applicable)	LA02/2023/1439/F

Street Name Suggestions (preferred choice and two alternatives required)	
1. (preferred choice)	Flaxall View
Rationale	
<p>We are keen to acknowledge the history of the Flaxall textile factory, which printed, dyed and finished fabric on this site for 60 years before closing in 2006.</p> <p>We feel the names suggested in Options 1, 2 & 3 reflect our commitment to preserving the historical significance of the site while embracing a new chapter for the community.</p>	

2. (alternative)	Flaxall Manor
Rationale	As per option 1

3. (alternative)	Flaxall Lane
Rationale	As per option 1

Signed:	Justin McClay	Applicant
Dated:	27/9/24	

Guidance Notes

Applicant and Agent Details

- Full details of the applicant and agent should be completed. The agent can be the persons/s who are acting on behalf of the applicant with regards to the street naming proposal.

Street Name and Suggestion Rationale

- Those making the application should take into account the names of other street names/places within the borough when suggesting a name for a new street. Careful consideration should be taken to avoid the use of a similar sounding name to an existing street/name within the borough.
- Street name suggestions should be chosen after research of the physical and/or historical features of the site and nearby surrounding area. The names of individuals (living or passed away) should be avoided.
- If more than one street is to be included in your proposal, each street should be clearly highlighted on a site plan and additional sheets (making reference to the annotated site plan) attached with the preferred choice, alternatives and rationales set out for each street and as per layout on this form.

Attachments

The applicant/agent should fully complete the form overleaf and return to your local Building Control office. The completed form should be accompanied by the following

- A location map to scale 1:1250 or 1:2500 with the entire development outlined in red.
- A site plan indicating all units and streets to scale 1:500 with the entire development outlined in red and the street to be named clearly highlighted.

Timescales

When all relevant information has been received by Building Control, a report is prepared and forwarded to the relevant Council Committee where a provisional street name is proposed and seconded. Applicants should be aware that elected representatives may not necessarily choose a name suggested on this form and may instead propose an alternative. This preliminary decision by committee is then presented to full Council the following month for ratification. Applicants should be aware that assignment of street names may take 2 - 3 months depending on seasonal timetables for committee/full council.

Building Control Contact Addresses:**Ballymena Office**

Unit 10 Galgorm Court
Fenaghy Road
Galgorm
Ballymena
BT42 1HW
028 2563 3346

Carrickfergus Office

Museum & Civic Centre
11 Antrim Street
Carrickfergus
BT38 7DG
028 9335 8347

Data Protection

You are providing your personal data to a Council, a Data Controller under the Data Protection Act 2018. We are processing your information under the lawful basis of the public task, in exercising our obligations under The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (as amended), The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2012 (as amended) and The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

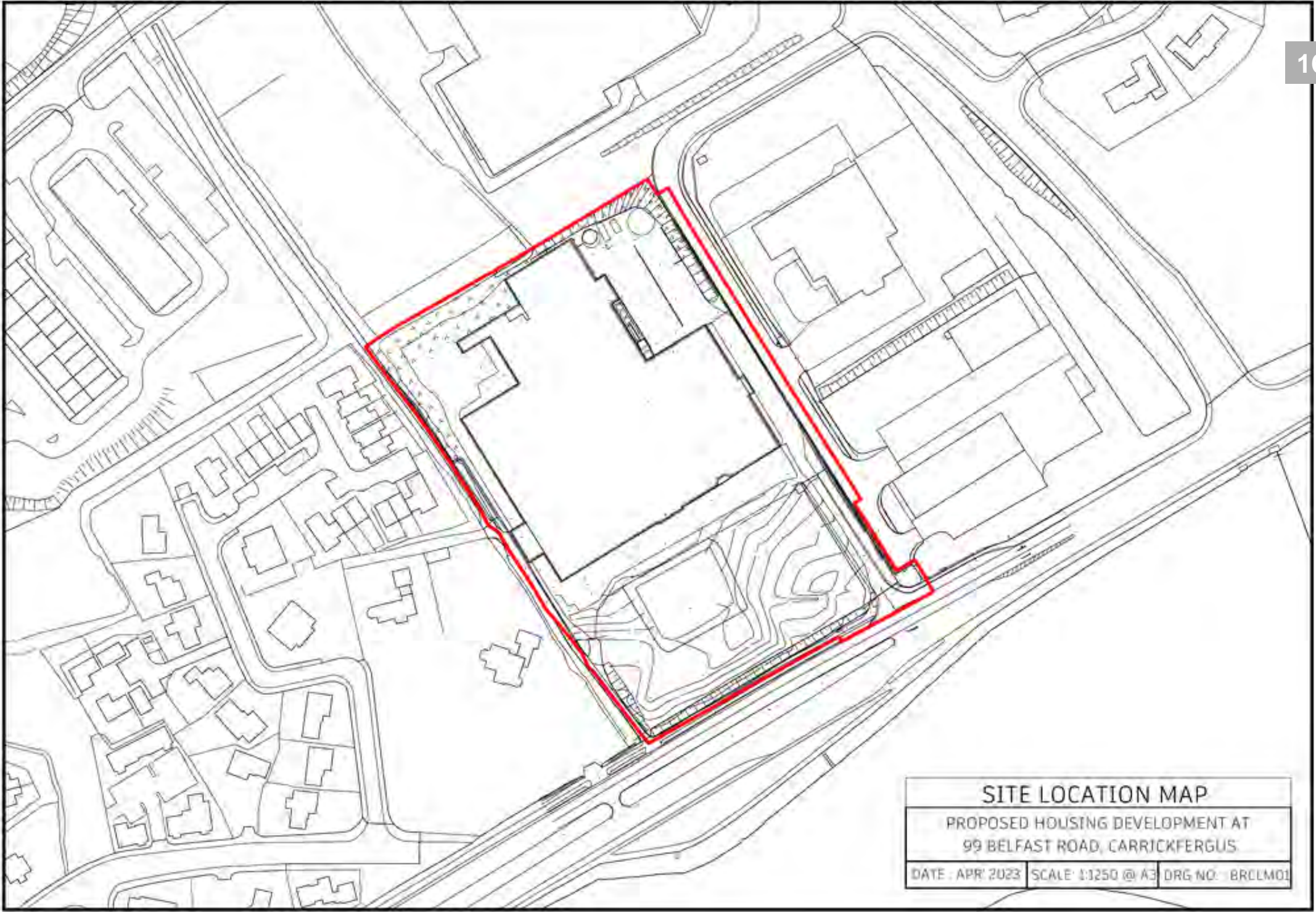
Information collected may be shared with other Council sections eg: Environmental Health and Planning, and Government agencies eg: Land and Property Services and Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service. Information will not be transferred to countries outside the EEA. The Council may also process the information for research purposes carried out in the public interest. All information will be held in accordance with the Council's retention and disposal schedule and will be disposed of securely when no longer required.

For more information about how your data will be used, you can access the Council's Privacy Notice at <https://www.midandeantrim.gov.uk/privacy-notice>.

You have a number of rights with regard to data we hold on you - for further information see the Information Commissioner's website <https://ico.org.uk/for-organisations/guide-to-the-general-data-protection-regulation-gdpr/individual-rights/>

If at any point you believe the information on you that we process is incorrect, you can request to see this information and have it corrected or deleted. If you wish to raise a complaint on how we have handled your personal data, you can contact our Data Protection Officer who will investigate the matter.

If you are not satisfied with our response, or believe we are not processing your personal in accordance with the law, you can complain to the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO).





INDICATING PLANTING BEHIND VISIBILITY SPLAYS. SEE LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS PLAN FOR LANDSCAPE AND PLANTING DETAIL.

REFER TO CIVIL ENGINEER'S DRAWINGS FOR FULL ROAD LAYOUT & LEVELS

BOUNDARY KEY:

	Estate railing
	1.8m close board fence
	0.9m close board fence
	1.8m wall

REFER TO CIVIL ENGINEER'S DRAWINGS FOR FULL ROAD LAYOUT & LEVELS

REFER TO LANDSCAPE PROPOSALS PLAN FOR LANDSCAPE AND PLANTING DETAIL

PROPOSED SITE LAYOUT		
PROPOSED HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AT 99 BELFAST ROAD, CARRICKFERGUS		
DATE : FEB' 2023	SCALE: 1:500 @ A3	DRG NO.: BRCSL01(A)
REVISIONS: (A) - COMMUNAL CAR PARKING		



Council/Committee:	Environment and Economy Committee
Date:	28 October 2024
Report Title:	Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2024/25
Publication Status:	Open
Author:	Ursula O'Loughlin, Head of Economic Development
Approver:	Jonathan McGrandle, Acting Director of Development

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Members on the opening of another round of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme during October 2024.

2. Background

- 2.1 The Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme's Rural Business Development Grant Scheme aims to support the sustainability, survival and development of micro rural businesses across Northern Ireland by providing a small capital grant for the business.
- 2.2 The Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and the grant programme is administered and managed by local Councils.
- 2.3 The new round of funding would be the fifth Scheme administered by Council on behalf of DAERA. The first Scheme saw 12 local businesses draw down over £40,000 in grant funding during 2019. The second Scheme closed for applications in September 2020, with 34 local businesses benefitting and £105,204 of funding committed. The third scheme closed on 30 July 2021 with 39 Letters of Offer issued to local businesses, totalling £78,185.23. The fourth scheme closed on 31 May 2022 with 35 Letters of Offers issued to local businesses, totalling £95,797.
- 2.4 Council's budget for the fifth Rural Business Development Grant Scheme has yet to be confirmed with an overall budget for Northern Ireland of £1.55m.
- 2.5 It was previously reported and noted at 5 August 2024 Committee that the Scheme would open week commencing 2 September 2024. Subsequently correspondence was received from DAERA stating that due to unforeseen circumstances the Scheme was delayed.

Following a meeting on 15 October 2024 with DAERA they confirmed the opening of the Scheme for applications on Wednesday 16 October 2024 at 9,00 am with a closing date of 8 November 2024 at 12 noon.



Details of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme are on the DAERA website at: [Rural Business Development Grant Scheme \(RBDGS\) 2024/2025 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#). Only online applications can be accepted for this scheme.

Mandatory on-line pre-application workshops have been arranged by Council officers as follows:

- Tuesday 22 October – 6pm
- Wednesday 23 October – 1pm
- Monday 28 October – 6 pm
- Tuesday 29 October – 1pm
- Monday 4 November – 6pm
- Tuesday 5 November – 1pm

You can register for the workshops by contacting

E. rdp@midandeastantrim.gov.uk

T. 028 25633266

3. Key Issues for Consideration

3.1 Eligibility for the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme

The following eligibility criteria for funding is as follows:

- A business must be based in a rural area, which is defined as an area with a population of less than 5,000 residents.
- Funding of up to 50% of costs for capital items of expenditure up to a maximum grant of £4,999 is available. Equipment and e-commerce websites will remain eligible, with software only eligible if purchased along with IT equipment.
- Applicants must provide the remaining match funding towards the project.
- Applicants can apply to the Scheme even if they have received support under a previous tranche
- Attendance at Pre-Application Workshops will be mandatory.

Further details on what is eligible and not eligible is available in the guidance notes available on the DAERA website at:

[Rural Business Development Grant Scheme \(RBDGS\) 2024/2025 Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)



3.2 **Promotion of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme**

Promotion of the Scheme is taking place through social media posts, Council's website, Council's Rural Business Database and DAERA's website. The Department will be utilising an online system for the funding scheme where all applications must be submitted.

The Investment and Funding team will host mandatory information workshops virtually for interested applicants to ensure they fully understand the requirements of the Scheme and to assist where necessary. A timeline has been agreed with all Councils to have applications assessed and Letters of Offer issued with spend on projects by the end of the financial year.

The Rural Business Development Grant Scheme is a competitive process and all grants awarded will be determined on the basis of merit.

4. **General Considerations / Implications**

- 4.1 **Human Resource Implications:** The Investment & Funding team will administer the Scheme on behalf of Council.
- 4.2 **Financial Implications:** A 10% administrative allocation to be calculated on a formula basis will be used to reimburse Council for staffing costs for administration of the Scheme.

5. **Proposed Way Forward**

- 5.1 Officers are liaising with potential applicants and continuing to promote the Scheme through the various social media channels.

6. **Recommendation or Decision**

- 6.1 Elected Members are asked to note the opening of the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme which opened on 16 October 2024 at 9.00 am with a closing date of 8 November 2024 at 12 noon.
- 6.2 Elected Members are asked to promote the Scheme and the opportunity available to local rural businesses.
- 6.3 Elected Members are asked to note that a further report will be brought back to Council to consider the outcome of the assessment process including a recommendation to support businesses who were successful through the competitive process.

7. **Appendices / Links – N/A**

Draft Forward Plan – Environment & Economy Committee

1. Planned Agenda Items Next meeting (28 October 2024)

Items		Purpose
9 Dec 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Benchmarking Survey 2024 • HVO Results (CH) • LHLH Small Grants 2024 • Capital Plan Q2 Update • Capital Plan Reprofiting (tbc) • Town Centre Regeneration Update (tbc) • St Patricks Barracks Quarterly Update • City Deal Quarterly Update • Go Succeed Update • BID Update • Economic Development Activity Report • Fleet Maintenance • Glenarm Sub Committee Meeting Notes • Arc21 interim residual contract for black bins 	Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Approval Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Approval Report for Noting Report for Noting

2. Future Meetings

Meeting Date	Item	Purpose
20 Jan 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Toy Container 2024 Results • Environmental Benchmarking Survey 2024 Results • Revitalisation Update (tbc) • Labour Market Partnership Update • Economic Development Activity Report • PEACEPLUS Update 	Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting
03 Mar 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eco Schools 2025-26 Request for Funding • Sustainable NI 2025/26 Membership Request • Bin-Ovation App 2025/26 Request for Funding • LHLH 2025/26 Request for Funding • KNIB Cleanliness Survey 2025/26 Funding Request • Capital Plan Q3 Update • Small Settlements – Programme Update(tbc) • St Patricks Barracks Quarterly Update • City Deal Quarterly Update • Go Succeed Update • BID Update • Economic Development Activity Report • IFA Update Paper 	Report for Approval Report for Approval Report for Approval Report for Approval Report for Approval Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting
14 April 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labour Market Partnership Update • Economic Development Activity Report • PEACEPLUS Update 	Report for Noting Report for Noting Report for Noting
27 May 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital Plan Q4 Update 	Report for Noting

3. Items to be programmed

Item	Purpose
Business Cases (DC)	Report for Approval
Business Cases for Fleet for year ahead	Report for Approval
Tenders	Report for Approval
Potential Award of Funding for THI Phase 2	Report for Approval
Greenisland Regeneration Work	Report for Update