



31 January 2024

Committee Chair: Councillor J Burbank

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor V McWilliam

Committee Members: Aldermen P Bradley, L Clarke and J Smyth

Councillors R Foster, J Gilmour, AM Logue, H Magill,
A McAuley, E McLaughlin, M Ní Chonghaile,
L O'Hagan, L Smyth and M Stewart

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Round Tower Chamber, Antrim Civic Centre on Monday 5 February 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

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

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

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

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9448 1301

memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 Leisure Grant Aid Programme

4.2 Review of Waste Collection Policy

4.3 Sustainability Working Group Minutes

4.4 Annual Contribution – Sustainable Northern Ireland

4.5 Review of Bathing Waters – Confirmation of Bathing Water Operator
at Rea's Wood

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 Habitat for Humanity Christmas Toy Collections

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 Arc21 Joint Committee Papers

6.2 Review of Cleansing Charges 2024-2025

7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2024

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 L/LEI/002/VOL4 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the funding recommendations relating to Council's Leisure Grant Aid Programme, covering the period from November to December 2023.

In total, 18 applications were submitted and evaluated during this period. A table presenting the application details and associated recommendations are **enclosed** for Members' reference. Upon approval of the listed grants, the remaining balances in each funding category are outlined below:

Category	No. of apps	Budget	Approved spend to date 23/24	No. of apps.	Grants proposed (£)	Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of application)
Capital Grants	1	£20,000	£20,000	0	£0	£0
Grants to Clubs	15	£31,198	£29,698	1	£1,500	£0
Grants to Athletes	35	£47,511	£43,736	6	£3,775	£0
Grants to Coaches and Officials	14	£7,126	£5,939	6	£1,187	£0
Sports Event Grant	12	£47,277	£35,570	4	£12,129	-£422
Defibrillator Grant	8	£16,888	£16,888	0	£0	£0
Allocation total	85	£31,198	£151,831	17	£18,591	£18,169
Fitness suite Gold Card	4	20 Applications	4	1	0 eligible	15 applications
Total spend to date including this call, if approved £170,422						

RECOMMENDATION: that approval be granted for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme, covering the period from November to December 2023.

Prepared by: Anna Boyle, Sport and Physical Activity Programmes Manager and Conor McCallion, Leisure Development Manager

Agreed by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks & Leisure Operations

4.2 WM/WM/037/VOL2 REVIEW OF WASTE COLLECTION POLICY

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the Waste Collection Policy 2024.

The Waste Collection Policy (**enclosed**) has been in place since February 2015 and is reviewed on a regular basis and updated as agreed. The Policy provides a framework for the collection of waste in the Borough and is required to ensure the effective and efficient delivery of the service.

Following review, the changes to the policy are highlighted. The EQIA screening document has been reviewed and does not require amendment.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Waste Collection Policy 2024 be approved.

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Sustainability

Agreed & Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4.3 WM/S/003 SUSTAINABILITY WORKING GROUP MINUTES

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the minutes of the Sustainability Working Group.

The meeting of the Sustainability Working Group was held on 9 January 2024 and a copy of the minutes (**enclosed**) are attached for Members approval.

At the meeting, Members were updated on the following:

- 1) Appointment of the Chair and Vice-Chair;
- 2) New Structure of the Sustainability Directorate;
- 3) Possible Sustainability Strategies, Action Plan and Policies going forward;
- 4) Council projects currently operating that meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals;
- 5) Carbon Literacy Training and internal training update;
- 6) SOLACE Position Paper on Sustainability/Climate Change.

RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Sustainability Working Group held on 9 January 2024 be approved.

Prepared by: Gillian McGrath, PA to the Director of Sustainability

Agreed by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Sustainability

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

4.4 PK/BIO/011 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTION – SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN IRELAND

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to retain the current level of funding to Sustainable Northern Ireland (SNI) for the coming financial year.

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

Members are reminded that Council has provided support to SNI for a number of years and the membership gives access to quarterly networking forums, best practices case studies/decision making tools, and consultation responses. SNI provides valuable access to information which is useful to the Sustainability Working Group.

RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves the continuation of the current level of funding, £6,000, Sustainable Northern Ireland for 2024/2025.

Prepared by: Gillian McGrath, PA to the Director of Sustainability

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

4.5 PK/BIO/044 REVIEW OF BATHING WATERS – CONFIRMATION OF BATHING WATER OPERATOR AT REA'S WOOD

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' direction regarding Council undertaking the statutory responsibilities of Bathing Water Operator for Rea's Wood, Lough Neagh.

Members are reminded that during the January Operations Committee meeting, it was recommended that the Council confirm to the Department of Agriculture, Environment, and Rural Affairs (DAERA) its intention to undertake the statutory responsibilities of Bathing Water Operator at Rea's Wood, Lough Neagh. However, Members requested that the item be deferred for further consideration due to prevalent issues related to Blue Green Algae during the summer months of the past year. Additionally, Members raised concerns within the Department's data that the site's water quality was determined to be poor outside of the issues related to the algae.

DAERA recently delivered a presentation to senior Officers of those Council areas that border the Lough, addressing the issues of Blue Green Algae and outlining ongoing actions to prevent its recurrence. The presentation is **enclosed** for Members' reference. Furthermore, NILGA has also established a Lough Neagh Interagency Partnership, which recently held its first meeting. NILGA has been invited to present its progress to the March Operations Committee.

Regarding the general water quality, notwithstanding the algae, it should be noted, with the enclosed correspondence, that the "poor" rating has been distorted due to one particularly high reading, and that the statistical assessment is based on a four-year dataset. However, as a candidate water, only one year's data is available for Rea's Wood.

The specific responsibilities of a Bathing Water Operator are outlined in Annex 3 of the **enclosure** for Members' reference.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- a. approval be granted for Council to undertake the statutory responsibilities of Bathing Water Operator for Rea's Wood, Lough Neagh.**

Or

- b. Council decline to undertake the statutory responsibilities of Bathing Water Operator for Rea's Wood, Lough Neagh.**

Prepared by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks & Leisure Operations

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 WM/WM/037/VOL2 HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CHRISTMAS TOY COLLECTIONS

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the Habitat for Humanity Christmas Toy Collections.

Members are reminded that in 2023 collection points for the donation of good quality pre-loved toys were located at each of the five Household Recycling Centres in a continuation of the partnership with Habitat for Humanity to provide gifts to families in the Borough at Christmas.

Following from the success of a pilot in 2020, and further collections in 2021 and 2022, it was recognised that there was a significant demand and need for the scheme. As in previous years, the collected toys were repaired, cleaned and sold on at reduced prices in Habitat for Humanity's ReStore shops and two pop-up shops at Mayfield Village Hall and Muckamore Community Centre, in conjunction with the Community Planning team.

Habitat for Humanity stated that the quality, range and types of toys that were donated was excellent and in total 5,106 toys were donated, providing toys for children in many families across the Borough and diverting over 5.6 tonnes of waste from landfill. The total was slightly down on last year, however it was felt that this was due to the current cost of living crisis and an increase in people selling good-quality toys on online marketplace sites.

Any toys remaining after the Christmas period have been donated by Habitat for Humanity to local groups identified by the Community Planning team, including play-groups, nurseries and Women's Aid, to ensure that all toys donated reached children in the Borough.

Once again the initiative has demonstrated a need in the Borough and it is proposed to run the collections in 2024 in partnership with Habitat for Humanity and the Community Planning team.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Catherine Cunningham, Waste Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy and Sustainability

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability