



3 April 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 8 April 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

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2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

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REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON MONDAY 8 APRIL 2024

3.1 L/LEI/002/VOL4 LEISURE GRANT AID – CALL 5

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the awards recommended following the fifth call for applications under the Leisure Grant Aid Programme, to be funded from the 2024/25 budget.

2. Introduction

Members are reminded that the annual budget for Leisure Grant Aid is £170,000 and that calls for applications are made on a rolling basis to assist athletes/clubs with competition dates etc. Following four previous application rounds, a total of £170,422 has been committed to successful applicants.

3. Financial Position/Implication

Under the fifth call from January to February 2024, a total of 26 applications were submitted. All 26 applications have been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations enclosed for Members' reference. The expenditure of £23,351 relating to these awards is summarised below and will be incurred after 1 April 2024 and therefore allocated from the 2024/25 budget.

Category	No. of apps	Budget	Approved spend to date 23/24	No. of apps.	Grants proposed from 2024/25 budget	
					(£)	
Capital Grants	1	£20,000	£20,000	0	£0	
Grants to Clubs	16	£31,198	£31,198	3	£3,000	
Grants to Athletes	41	£47,511	£47,511	12	£8,140	
Grants to Coaches and Officials	20	£7,126	£7,126	4	£815	
Sports Event Grant	16	£47,277	£47,699	4	£10,396	
Defibrillator Grant	8	£16,888	£16,888	1	£1,500	
Allocation total	102	£170,000	£170,422	24	£23,351	
Fitness suite Gold Card	5	20 Applications	5	2	2 eligible	13 Applications

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that the 26 awards, totalling £23,351 be approved and the cost met from the 2024/25 Leisure Grant Aid Programme budget.

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

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

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director Parks and Leisure

3.2 L/LEI/040 FOUNDRY LANE FLOODLIGHTING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to match-fund the replacement floodlight fittings at the Foundry Lane synthetic hockey pitch in Ballyclare.

2. Introduction

Members are advised that the Council has a longstanding partnership with the Education Authority (EA) concerning the operation of a synthetic hockey pitch located at Foundry Lane, Ballyclare. This partnership is governed by a license agreement from September 1 2006, to August 31 2031, allowing community access to the pitch during evenings and weekends, with bookings managed by the Council. Currently, the floodlight fittings have exceeded their expected lifespan, with several beyond repair.

3. Financial Position/Implication

The license agreement between the EA and the Council mandates that costs for significant maintenance issues, such as floodlighting, be split 50/50 between the two organisations. Officers have been in contact with the EA regarding the necessary works, estimated to cost a total of £60,000, with the Council's contribution set at £30,000. If approved, the works will be capitalised over a 10-year period, with the new floodlight fittings expected to reduce current energy consumption by an estimated 60%.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that approval be granted to match-fund the replacement light fittings at Foundry Lane synthetic hockey pitch in Ballyclare, at an estimated cost of £30,000.

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

Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director Parks and Leisure

3.3 PK/REG/006, PK/REG/015 APPLICATION FOR THE RENEWAL OF PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONIES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the renewal of Breckenhill, Doagh, and Shanes Castle, Antrim, as approved venues in which Civil Marriage/Civil Partnership ceremonies can be conducted.

2. Background

Under the terms of the Marriage (NI) Order 2003 and the Civil Partnership Act (2004), the Council has the responsibility to approve appropriate applications for Place Approvals for Civil Marriage and Civil Partnerships, which last for 3 years. The process requires that a Notice of Interest be displayed for a three-week period in a prominent place at the venue to allow for any public objection.

3. Current Position

A renewal application for a Place Approval has been received from both Breckenhill, Doagh, and Shanes Castle, Antrim. Both venues were previously approved by the Council in May 2021, with specified areas for each respective venue for approval as follows:

Breckenhill: Stone Barn, Green Barn, Drawing Room, Garden
Shanes Castle: Carriage Room to include patio and lawn

No public objections have been received relating to either venue.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that Breckenhill and Shanes Castle be re-approved for the period 24 May 2024 to 23 May 2027 to hold Civil Marriages under the terms of the Marriage (NI) Order 2003 and Civil Partnerships under the Civil Partnership Act (2004).

Prepared by: Paula Redpath, Registrar

Agreed by: Emma Thompson, Bereavement Services Manager

Approved by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

3.4 PK/REG/027 APPLICATION FOR TEMPORARY APPROVAL OF PREMISES FOR CIVIL MARRIAGE/CIVIL PARTNERSHIP CEREMONIES

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek temporary approval for Kinbawn, 33 Whitehouse Park, Newtownabbey, BT37 9SQ as an approved venue in which Civil Marriage/Civil Partnership ceremonies can be conducted.

2. Background

Under the terms of the Marriage (NI) Order 2003 and the Civil Partnership Act (2004), the Council has the responsibility to approve appropriate applications for Temporary Place Approvals for Civil Marriages and Civil Partnerships. The process requires that a Notice of Interest be displayed for a three-week period in a prominent place at the venue to allow for any public objection.

3. Current Position

An application for a Temporary Place Approval has been received from the owner of Kinbawn, 33 Whitehouse Park, Newtownabbey, BT37 9SQ with specified areas detailed as the living area/balcony.

No public objections have been received with the premises also having been formally inspected and deemed appropriate to proceed.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that Kinbawn, 33 Whitehouse Park, Newtownabbey, BT37 9SQ be temporarily approved to hold Civil Marriages under the terms of the Marriage (NI) Order 2003 and Civil Partnerships under the Civil Partnership Act (2004), with a specific date to be agreed.

Prepared by: Paula Redpath, Registrar

Agreed by: Emma Thompson, Bereavement Services Manager

Approved by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

3.5 PK/GEN/130 MOSSLEY DAM – MOSSLEY MILL AND THREEMILEWATER ANGLING ASSOCIATION - REQUEST FOR FUNDING

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for Mossley Mill and Threemilewater Angling Association to complete enhancement works at Mossley Dam, with the Council also providing matching funding totalling £1099.

2. Introduction/Background

Members are reminded that Threemilewater Conservation and Angling Association had been operating under a license agreement at Mossley Dam since 2012, initially renewed annually. Council Officers were formally notified, following their Annual General Meeting in February 2023, that the group had been dissolved, resulting in the termination of the license. Subsequently, Officers were contacted by previous members of the dissolved group, who had reconstituted as Mossley Mill and Threemilewater Angling Association. They were subsequently granted a 12-year license, extended to 15 years in June 2023 to enable the Association to seek potential external funding.

3. Current Position

The Association has recently been approved a total of £9880 in grant funding from the Aughrim Landfill Communities Fund for enhancement works at Mossley Dam. The Fund, a partnership between Aughrim Landfill Limited and Groundwork Northern Ireland, is derived from Aughrim Landfill Ltd's operations at the Aughrim landfill site. The Letter of Offer to the Association is enclosed for Members' reference. The proposed works include the installation of a new pontoon with associated groundworks to create an access path, and the installation of a Biodiversity interpretation panel detailing relevant information relating to the habitats surrounding the Dam. The total estimated project costs are £10,868, with the Council required to provide a contribution of £1099; the Council will not be liable for any cost overrun should the project exceed the estimated budget.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that approval be granted for Mossley Mill and Threemilewater Angling Association to complete enhancement works at Mossley Dam, with the Council also providing match funding totalling £1099.

Prepared and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure

3.6 WM/WM/040 CONSULTATION ON REFORMING THE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY SYSTEM FOR WASTE ELECTRICAL AND ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT 2023

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend that the response to the Consultation on “Reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment 2023” be retrospectively approved by Members.

2. Background

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), in partnership with Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), Welsh Government and Scottish Government released a consultation on 28 Dec 2023, to seek views on proposed reforms to the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations 2013.

The intention of these reforms is to:

- Drive up the levels of separately collected WEEE for reuse and recycling;
- Support a drive towards a more circular economy;
- Ensure producers and distributors of WEEE finance the costs of collection and proper treatment of such products which end up as waste.

Sections of the consultation that are most relevant to the Council are as follows:

- Increasing collections of WEEE from households with producers of electronic and electrical products to be responsible for financing the arrangements;
- Dealing with the environmental impacts of vaping products by ensuring that vape producers and distributors are obligated to pay the full costs for the collection and treatment of vapes;
- the creation of a WEEE Scheme Administrator who will agree the distribution of funds to collection providers.

3. Key Issues

Officers submitted a response, in order to meet the consultation deadline, in line with both the Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee policy team, who represent local authorities in all four devolved administrations, and arc21. A copy of the response is **enclosed** and has been submitted for Council's retrospective approval.

In the response, it is proposed that the Council welcome the increase of WEEE collections from households with the costs covered by the producers of the electronic and electrical equipment.

The proposals in the Consultation do not state that these collections should be carried out by local authorities but it is recommended that the response states that Councils are best placed to provide the service and incorporating it into existing collection schemes would reduce the carbon impact.

At present, vapes are categorised under the existing producer responsibility schemes as “toys and leisure equipment”. However, the cost of treating and recycling vapes compared to other types of toys and leisure equipment is significantly higher (£13k to £20k per tonne for vapes compared to £35 to £270 per tonne for other toys and leisure equipment). It is recommended that the Council's response states that vapes are separately identified and vape producers and distributors are obligated to pay the full costs for the collection and treatment of them.

While DAERA will need to collate and evaluate all the responses to this Consultation, it is envisaged that the household collections of WEEE will commence in 2026.

4. Recommendation

It is recommended that retrospective approval be granted for the response to the Consultation on “Reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment”.

Prepared by: Catherine Cunningham, Waste Contracts Manager

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability

4 ITEM FOR NOTING

4.1 WM/WM/040 CONSULTATION RETHINKING OUR RESOURCES: MEASURES FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND A CIRCULAR ECONOMY IN NI

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report is to seek Members' views on the Consultation "Rethinking our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI".

2. Background

The Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) is consulting on the future of resources and recycling in Northern Ireland. The aim is to improve the quality and quantity of household and non-household municipal recycling, reduce food waste, decrease the amount of waste we send to landfill and help enhance the services offered to households and businesses.

3. Key Issues

The consultation document (**enclosed**) is included for Members' information and it seeks responses to twenty-six proposals focused on household recycling and non-household municipal recycling.

The responses will be used, along with expert advice and evidence, to develop new policy and legislation with the goal of improving resource and waste management in Northern Ireland, aiding the transition to a low carbon, Circular Economy and tackling Climate Change.

The sections of the Consultation that are most relevant to the Council are as follows:

- A restriction in the amount of residual waste capacity for households which is proposed to be in line with the 90 litres per week currently provided to Newtownabbey residents;
- Councils required to collect a core set of dry recyclables from households, including glass bottles and containers, paper/card, plastics, and metal packaging, with flexible plastic packaging to be collected by March 2027;
- A default position that household dry recyclables should be collected separately, as per the wheelie box scheme, to ensure the quality of the recycled materials. A commingled bin collection would only be allowed following a stringent assessment;
- Proposals to increase the collection of food waste from households including the possibility of weekly food collections;
- Businesses and the wider non-household municipal (NHM) sector will be required to recycle a core set of recyclables;
- Possible access to Recycling Centres for the NHM sector.

As Members will be aware, these proposals may lead to significant changes in recyclable waste, although they appear broadly in line with the Council's waste collection harmonisation plans.

4. Summary

The proposals outlined in this consultation, if implemented, will give greater opportunity for the capture of higher quality and an increased quality of recyclable materials.

It is proposed that a draft response will be presented to Members for approval before the submission deadline of Thursday 30 May 2024.

5. **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the report be noted.

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

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability