



3 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 8 January 2024 at 6.30 pm.**

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "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

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## **A G E N D A**

### **1 APOLOGIES**

### **2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

### **3 PRESENTATION**

3.1 Draft Rates Estimate Update 2024/25

### **4 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

4.1 Eco Schools Funding Request 2024-2025

4.2 Macmillan Cancer Support – Offer of Funding

4.3 Parks and Open Spaces Sub Group Minutes

4.4 Hydrometric Gauging Station

4.5 St Marys Football Club

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

### **5 ITEMS FOR NOTING**

5.1 Waste Performance Annual Update

5.2 Winter Woollies Update

5.3 Electric Blanket Swap Review

### **6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE**

6.1 Replacement of Gas Boilers at Mossley Mill

6.2 arc21 Joint Committee Papers

6.3 Play Park Audit 2023

6.4 Business Case for the Works at Craigmore Recycling Centre

6.5 Schedule of Charges and Pricing Policies, Parks and Leisure 2024-2025

6.6 Amendment to Cleansing Charges 2024-2025

### **7 ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS**

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

**3 PRESENTATION**

**3.1 FI/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATE UPDATE 2024/25**

An update on the 2024/25 Estimates for the Sustainability and Parks and Leisure Departments will be presented at the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the presentation be noted.**

Prepared by: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

Agreed by: John Balmer, Deputy Director of Finance

Approved by: Sandra Cole, Director of Finance & Governance

## **4 ITEMS FOR DECISION**

### **4.1 WM/WM/033 ECO SCHOOLS FUNDING REQUEST 2024-25**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to retain the current level of funding for the Eco-Schools Programme for the 2024/2025 academic year.

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful co-ordinates the Eco-Schools Programme which aims to combine pupils learning with action on improving the environmental performance of the school.

The Eco-Schools Programme is extremely popular across the Borough with 74 schools now registered and, of these, 32 schools achieving the highest level Green Flag accreditation. Ballyclare, Ballycraigy and Fairview Primary Schools are also recognised as Ambassador Schools for the Borough.

Last year, £10,942 in financial support was agreed for the 2023/24 academic year and since September, 13 schools have benefited from the partnership with Eco-schools which provides a vital environmental education role for Council. The funding includes access to a shared officer resource for the schools and this individual delivers programmes on waste and recycling, biodiversity and climate change.

A summary of the Eco-Schools engagement for the 2022-23 academic year is included (**enclosed**) which shows that as of June 2023, Antrim and Newtownabbey had the second highest percentage of Green Flags across Northern Ireland.

Council has received this year's funding request (**enclosed**) from KNIB for the Eco-Schools Programme 2024/25 with two options available as shown below:

Option 1: Support of the Programme at a cost of £10,942, which includes Wheelie Big Challenge, Eco Schools and core running costs of the programme including a Field Officer in our Council area and allows schools to access additional funding provided through Eco-Schools for projects such as Wrigley Litter Less campaign;

Option 2: Support from the Eco-Schools Programme at a cost of £2,975, which includes Eco-Schools communication, training and development to all schools in the Borough.

It is proposed to continue with the current level of support funding for the Eco-Schools Programme which demonstrates Council's commitment to environmental issues and educating local residents on reducing our impact on the local and global environment.

As Members will be aware, our funding is matched by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and therefore the local schools will be benefiting from approximately £22,000 worth of assistance with environmental issues.

**RECOMMENDATION: that Council approves the continuation of the current level of funding, £10,942, for the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful Eco-Schools Programme 2024/25.**

Prepared by: Claire Evans, Climate, Waste and Sustainability Officer

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

Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

## 4.2 L/LEI/041/VOL2 MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT – OFFER OF FUNDING

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the acceptance of an offer of funding from Macmillan Cancer Support.

Members are reminded that a partnership with Macmillan Cancer Support was approved in 2016, aiming to establish a physical activity pathway for cancer patients in the Borough under the “Move More” brand. The service helps those with a cancer diagnosis stay physically active and manage some of the side effects of cancer treatment.

Initially, a total of £119,000 was awarded to the Council to fully fund the position of a “Move More” Coordinator for a 3-year period. A further 3-year funding package was secured in 2019 on a sliding scale, with a total cost to the Council during that time of £50,638. In 2021 an additional 3-year funding package worth £45,000 was secured, with the Council agreeing to match that amount and cover salary costs until March 2024. A member of staff from the Leisure Service was initially seconded to the position of Coordinator in 2016 and currently remains in that role.

Representatives from Macmillan Cancer Support have recently been in contact with Council Officers, advising that £15,000 of funding over a 3-year period has been secured from the Department of Health to provide for training costs associated with the delivery of cancer rehabilitation. The funding does not extend to salary costs of the Coordinator role.

Members will be aware that the Council's Health Intervention Action Plan 2022-2027 was approved in May 2022 and is delivered by allocated resources within the approved leisure staff structure. The Plan includes cancer rehabilitation alongside the Macmillan “Move More” Service. If accepted, the funding will be utilised to train additional leisure staff to continue facilitating cancer referrals across all leisure centres.

**RECOMMENDATION: that approval be given to accept the Letter of Offer from Macmillan for £15,000 to cover staff training costs for the delivery of cancer rehabilitation from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2027.**

Prepared by: Deaglan O'Hagan, Head of Leisure

Agreed and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations

#### **4.3 PK/GEN/035/VOL4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUB GROUP MINUTES**

At the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 5 December 2023, Members considered a detailed report which provided a range of updates from the Park Service. Arising from the meeting a series of recommendations were made for consideration by the Operations Committee. The minutes of the meeting are (enclosed) for Members' consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 5 December 2023 be approved.**

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks

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

#### **4.4 PK/GEN/215 HYDROMETRIC GAUGING STATION**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to agree a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Rivers Agency for the provision of a hydrometric gauging station on the Sixmilewater River, Antrim.

The gauging station has been operational since December 1974, providing flow and water level information on the Sixmilewater River. Additionally, the station serves as an alert station, issuing text alerts upon breaching predetermined thresholds. Recipients of these alerts include DfI Rivers staff, Regional Community Resilience Groups, and relevant Council Officers. This service is vital, enabling prompt action during a flooding event.

The previous 10-year MOU expired on June 30, 2023. If approved, a new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding, (enclosed) for Members' reference, will cover the term from 1st July 2023 until 1st July 2033.

**RECOMMENDATION: that approval be granted for a new 10-year Memorandum of Understanding with Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Rivers Agency for the provision of a hydrometric gauging station on the Sixmilewater River in Antrim.**

Prepared by: Vicki Kyles, Personal Assistant to Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations

Agreed by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks

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



#### 4.5 L/LEI/00/009 ST. MARYS FOOTBALL CLUB

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the ongoing collaboration with St. Mary's Football Club (FC) and Council, aimed at establishing a home ground. Additionally, approval is sought for a feasibility study concerning the potential development of an intermediate standard 3G pitch at V36.

In 2016, in response to a request from the Club, Council agreed that Officers would explore potential locations for St. Mary's FC to have a home pitch on a sale, lease, or partnership basis and subsequently report back with viable options. Notably, the Council's approved Pitch Strategy in 2023 emphasised the need for Officers to work closely with the Club to realise this ambition. During this period, a potential option was identified at the disused shale pitch in Valley Park. However, after initial exploratory work by the Club, it was determined that the location was unsuitable for progression to a broader feasibility study.

Most recently, Officers facilitated a meeting between the Club and the Headmaster of Integrated College Glengormley to discuss a potential partnership for developing a pitch on school grounds, catering to both school and community use. While the initial meeting was positive, with the Headmaster expressing a willingness to collaborate, any agreement would necessitate approval from the Education Authority.

The Club has also proposed an option of redeveloping the existing hockey pitch at V36 into an intermediate standard 3G pitch. This would involve replacing the current sand-based playing surface with 3G and reconfiguring existing changing facilities to meet the criteria for intermediate pitches set by the Irish Football Association.

It is proposed that an independent feasibility study be conducted on the potential redevelopment of the existing hockey pitch into a 3G pitch with associated facilities that meet the criteria for intermediate football. This study will include estimated costs and a review of potential sale, lease, or hire arrangements between the Club and Council for the use of the pitch.

**RECOMMENDATION: that approval be granted to conduct a feasibility study on the redevelopment of the existing hockey pitch at V36 to a 3G pitch with associated facilities that meet the criteria for intermediate football.**

Agreed and Approved by: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations

#### **4.6 PK/BIO/044 REVIEW OF BATHING WATERS – CONFIRMATION OF BATHING WATER OPERATOR AT REA’S WOOD**

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

Members are reminded that Rea's Wood at Lough Neagh was previously nominated by Council as a potential identified bathing water as part of the review of Bathing Waters 2022/2023 being carried out by Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The location met the preliminary criteria and as a result water quality was monitored throughout the 2023 bathing season.

Correspondence, **enclosed**, has been received from the Department advising that Rea's Wood is to be a site formally identified in regulation and requesting that Council confirm its willingness to undertake the responsibilities of Bathing Water Operator. The specific responsibilities are outlined in Annex 3 of the enclosure for Members' reference.

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

Prepared by: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks

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

## 5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

### 5.1 WM/WM/040 WASTE PERFORMANCE ANNUAL UPDATE

The purpose of this report is to advise Members of Council's waste management performance 2022-23.

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

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

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

The annual waste data submission for 2022-23 has been verified and sets out Council's performance for the year for both Household and Municipal waste.

A summary of the recently published results for Council for 2022/2023 together with the results from 2021/2022 are set out below. The results include the performance of all 11 Northern Ireland Local Authorities for reference.

	2020-21		2022-23		Ranking
	Tonnes	%	Tonnes	%	
<b>Total Household Waste Arisings</b>	80,680		75,843	Down 6	5 <sup>th</sup> largest tonnage
Household Waste Arisings to Recycling	48,571	60.2	45,763	60.3	Highest household recycling rate (%)
Household Waste Arisings to Recovery	12,764	15.8	11,784	15.6	7 <sup>th</sup> largest % of household waste sent to recovery
Household Waste Arisings to Landfill	19,345	24.0	18,296	24.1	6 <sup>th</sup> largest % of household waste sent to landfill

<b>Total Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings</b>	106,804		100,076	Down 6.3	3 <sup>rd</sup> largest tonnage
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recycling	67,049	62.8%	62,329	62.3	Highest % of waste recycled.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recovery	14,134	13.2%	13,218	13.2	8 <sup>th</sup> largest % of waste sent to recovery.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Landfill	24,700	23.1%	23,545	23.5	6 <sup>th</sup> largest % of waste sent to landfill.

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

The table above shows the following:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey achieved both the highest Household Recycling Rate, 60.3%, and the highest Municipal Recycling Rate, 62.3%, in 2022/23;
- Overall waste arisings decreased across all the waste streams, indicating that residents are being mindful of their waste production and are continuing to manage their waste correctly.

The data demonstrates that the residents of Antrim and Newtownabbey continue to participate in Council's recycling services and will continue to explore new initiatives to improve performance.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

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

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

## 5.2 EH/PHWB/012 WINTER WOOLLIES UPDATE

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

Members are reminded that the Winter Woollies campaign 2023 aims to spread warmth and cheer by collecting hand-knitted and crocheted donations to support our most vulnerable community members during the colder months.

This year the collections took place at Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre from 2<sup>nd</sup> October to 17<sup>th</sup> November 2023. At these donation points, makers were encouraged to include their contact details with their contributions, allowing them to be entered into the Mayor's selection of his favourite items. Makers were also inspired to attach heartfelt messages to their creations which could be read by recipients.

The Environmental Health section made connections with local knitting and crocheting groups, shared engaging social media content and identified the needs of community members by establishing links with resident groups and other organisations across all 7 DEAs.

A grand total of 1184 items were collected and distributed to 14 organisations. A visual synopsis of the campaign is presented in the (enclosed) infographic. On 21<sup>st</sup> November recipient organisations were invited to join the Mayor at the Old Courthouse in Antrim for the Mayor's selection of his favourite items. Some of the organisations receiving the donations were present at the event, and they took the opportunity to discuss with the Mayor the positive impact that Winter Woollies had on their service users.

Winter Woollies 2023 was a resounding success, showcasing the incredible generosity of the residents of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough and their commitment to spreading warmth and kindness. It is envisaged that the campaign will be organised again for 2024.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health & Wellbeing

Agreed and Approved by: Michael Lavery, Director of Sustainability

### 5.3 EH/PHWB/002 ELECTRIC BLANKET SWAP REVIEW

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the recent Electric Blanket Exchange Event.

Members are reminded that a Home Accident Prevention Officer works within the Environmental Health section, with one of their key roles to reduce the number of home accidents. In November and December electric blanket swap events were held in Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre with the aim of reducing potential fire hazards.

The exchange events allowed residents to swap their electric blankets for a rechargeable hot water bottle and a thermal fleece bedsheet. A total of 152 electric blankets were exchanged during these two events. Attendees also had the opportunity to engage with Environmental Health staff who provided advice on maintaining safety, warmth, and well-being during the winter season.

Evaluation feedback from participants indicated a 100% satisfaction rate, with attendees expressing increased confidence in safety at their home. Attendee's commended the initiative as particularly beneficial for older individuals, highlighting the usefulness of the advice provided.

**RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.**

Prepared by: James O'Kane, Environmental Health Manager (Health and Wellbeing)

Agreed by: Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing

Approved by: Michael Laverty, Director of Sustainability