

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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4 September 2024

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) of the Community and Wellbeing Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 11 September 2024** commencing at **7.00pm**.

Yours faithfully

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Apologies
2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for Approval

3. Appointments to the Board of the Northern Community Leisure Trust (Report attached)
4. Consultation The Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 (Report attached)
5. Community Trails Update (Report attached)
6. Consultation Response to The Public Health Act 2024 (Report attached)
7. Fast Track Cities Positive Life (Report attached)
8. Vaping Education Event for Post-Primary Schools (Report attached)
9. Single Use Vapes (Report attached)
10. Social Supermarket Additional Funding (Report attached)
11. Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG August 2024) (Report attached)
12. Ards and North Down Sports Development Capital Programme 2024-2025 (Report attached)

13. Artificial Sports Pitch Renovation and Replacement Strategy (Report attached)

Reports for Noting

14. Community & Wellbeing Directorate Budgetary Control July 2024 (Report attached)
15. North Down Coastal Path Working Group (Report attached)
16. Green Flag Awards 2024 (Report attached)
17. Correspondence from DFI Minister on the Comber to Newtownards Greenway Proposal (Report attached)
18. Public Drinking Water Supply 2023 (Report attached)
19. Vaping and Young People Update (Report attached)
20. Environmental Health Protection and Development Annual Activity Report 2023-2024 (Report attached)
21. Update on Review of Grants Policy and Response to Notice of Motion on Community Grants (Report attached)
22. Homelessness Prevention Response to Notice of Motion (Report attached)
23. Community Development Annual Report 2023-2024 (Report attached)
24. PCSP Annual Report 2023-2024 (Report attached)
25. Home Office Funding (Report attached)
26. Portavogie and Portaferry 3G pitches and Portaferry Sport Centre floor bi-monthly update (Report attached)
27. Notice of Motion
- 27.1 Notice of Motion received from Councillor Creighton and Councillor Moore

This Council notes the importance of organ donation in saving lives and improving the quality of life of residents of this Borough.

This Council further notes that there are plans for the production and installation in the Borough, of a bench celebrating organ donation. This project began in 2013 and is supported by a number of organ transplant charities. Council resolves to work with the charities involved to finalise the detailed design and expedite installation of this bench in a prominent place in the Borough. A fund to cover all the manufacturing costs and any necessary support structures has already been raised.

The hope is that this will be a place for people to engage in conversations about and spark interest in this important issue and somewhere to reflect and remember loved ones.

- 27.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Gilmour, Councillor Hollywood, Councillor McClean and Councillor McKee

That this council notes that significant investment was previously made to deliver a play park, MUGA and amateur league sized football pitch on the Clandeboye road. Notes with regret there have been ongoing issues with the pitch. Instructs officers to reinstate the goalposts and mark out the pitch so that it can be played on by the local community.

Furthermore, following consultation with the local community, that a report is brought back regarding the longer-term maintenance and enhancement of the site, to ensure any necessary provisions can be considered during the rate setting process to ensure that the football pitch is fit for purpose and can be used as previously agreed.

- 27.3 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Adair and Alderman Cummings

That Council notes the increasing complaints from local sports clubs regarding the poor annual summer maintenance of football pitches across the Borough and tasks officers to bring forward a report on options to improve the maintenance of our football pitches to ensure our pitches are maintained to a high standard to meet the sporting needs of local clubs and league requirements.

28. Any Other Notified Business

ITEMS 29 to 35 * IN CONFIDENCE*****

Reports for approval (In confidence)

29. Review of Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) Licence Scheme Charges and Proposed Increase in Licence Fee from 1 October 2024 (Report attached)
30. Concession Opportunity to run the Café at North Down Museum (Report attached)
31. Appointment of supplier of Willow Beacons (Report attached)
32. Aurora Moveable Pool Floors (Report attached)
33. Leisure Transformation Response to Notice of Motion

Reports for Noting (In Confidence)

- 34. PCSP Minutes (Report attached)
- 35. Northern Community Leisure Trust Q1 2024-2025 (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF COMMUNITY AND WELLBEING COMMITTEE (16 MEMBERS)

Alderman Adair	Councillor Douglas
Alderman Brooks (Chair)	Councillor Harbinson
Alderman Cummings	Councillor Holywood
Alderman McRandal	Councillor S Irvine
Councillor Ashe	Councillor W Irvine
Councillor Boyle (Vice Chair)	Councillor Kendall
Councillor Chambers	Councillor McClean
Councillor Cochrane	Councillor Moore

Unclassified

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ITEM 3**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	02 September 2024
File Reference	CW51
Legislation	The Recreation and Youth Services (NI) Order 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Appointments to the Board of the Northern Community Leisure Trust
Attachments	Appendix 1- NCLT application form Appendix 2 - NCLT code of conduct

Following the resignation of Peter Martin from the board of the Northern Community Leisure Trust as a Council representative, Council was asked to consider his replacement. Council proposed, at the meeting of 31 July 2024, that the names of two elected Members be forwarded for consideration to the Trust, and to ascertain if both could be accepted giving a total of 3 Council places on the Board.

The joint Chairs of the Trust have advised that currently there are six board members, and if two further elected Members were added, there would be three Councillors, thus making up 1/3 of the Board membership. They felt that this would create an imbalance in the makeup of the membership. Furthermore, the contractual arrangement with the Council is that up to two Members can sit on the board, representing the Council. Therefore, the joint Chairs have advised that only one further nomination from Council can be accepted.

Not Applicable

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At a meeting with the joint Chairs, it was agreed that there are two ways available to Council to deal with this:

1. Council agrees which of the two nominated Members (either Councillor McCracken or Councillor Thompson) is put forward for consideration by the Trust Board. Members are reminded that this would not automatically guarantee appointment as the Trust have an application process that must then be undertaken when the nomination is received in order for the nomination to be accepted by it. Or;
2. Both names are put to the Trust Board and the Trust Board process referred to above is undertaken for both, resulting in the Trust selecting which one would then join the Board.

The Northern Community Leisure Trust application form and code of conduct is attached for members information.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agrees to proceed with one of the options outlined above.



APPLICATION TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TRUST

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Member of the Trust. This is an interesting and rewarding role, helping to support and shape the provision of leisure services in North Down.

As a Member, you will be working with a number of other Members, of varying backgrounds and with a range of expertise, to help to do all that we collectively can to improve the wellbeing of those living, working and visiting the Borough, through the provision of leisure services.

We anticipate that you might expect to allocate a minimum of 7 hours a month to your work as a Trust Member.

The operational work involved is undertaken by Serco Leisure Ltd; the role of the Trust is to oversee Serco's work, and connect into the community in North Down in its various forms, to help ensure that what we are providing is what is required.

This note provides some background on the status of the Trust, and an application form. The form references the Code of Conduct for Members which is attached. Following an assessment of your completed application form, we will arrange a discussion with some existing Members of the Trust to allow exploration of the role and what you can bring to it.

John Heaslip and Iain Greenway

Joint Chairs

THE ROLE OF THE TRUST AND ITS MEMBERS

The Northern Community Leisure Trust is a Registered Society under the Co-Operative and Community Benefits Society Act 2014. The objects of the Trust are to *'carry on any trade, industry or business for the benefit of the community by:*

(a) providing or assisting in the provision of facilities and services primarily for the benefit of the community and visitors to, and the residents of England, Wales and Northern Ireland for recreational, sporting or other leisure time occupation in the interests of social welfare, such facilities being provided to the public at large save that special facilities may be provided or persons who by reason of their youth, age, infirmity or disability, poverty or social or other economic circumstances may have need of special facilities and services; and/ or

(b) providing maintaining improving and advancing public education by the encouragement of culture and arts.'

North Down and, after the merger, Ards and North Down Borough Council contracted the Trust to provide leisure services in North Down, beginning in 2013 and currently in place until 2028. This covers services at Bangor Aurora, Queen's Leisure Complex in Holywood, Bangor Sportsplex and some sports grounds. The Trust in turn contracted Serco Leisure to provide the services on its behalf. The Trust is the employer of the staff operating the facilities; Serco manages the staff on behalf of the Trust and fully accepts the operational and financial risks of the contract on behalf of the Trust.

The Council continues to own the facilities and has landlord responsibilities in terms of repairs and maintenance.

The Trust provides services which focus on the local community's health and wellbeing. **Its key focus is to engage the local community in the decision-making processes for leisure services. It therefore prepares clear statements of vision and intent and monitors progress towards its objectives and the performance of Serco Leisure in providing the services. The Trust's role is strategic, not operational, and its overriding aim is to add value, by its community focus, to the leisure services that are provided.**

Under its Rules, the Trust consists of a number of Members. The Trust draws on and benefits from the skills and experience its Members bring to its work and it therefore expects those who agree to become Members to observe the Code of Conduct which is attached to this form. The role is unremunerated, but expenses may be reimbursed.

A Member may resign at any time; a Member may be asked to resign if, in the opinion of the Trust Officers and after attempts to resolve issues, s/he is not fulfilling their role as a Trust Member, or is not complying with the Code of Conduct.

APPLICATION TO BECOME A MEMBER OF THE TRUST

Thank you for your interest in becoming a Member of the Trust, and helping us to take forward our work. The following form will be used by Trust Officers to consider applications, and to gather the information we are required to report annually to the Financial Conduct Authority.

If you have any questions on this form, please in the first instance contact Iain Greenway on iain.greenway@btinternet.com or 07526 309906

PERSONAL DETAILS

Name		Date of Birth	
Address			
Email address		Phone number	

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Please provide a summary of skills and experience you would bring to the Trust to help us progress our work. This might be experience in your employment or voluntary activity which may be relevant to the work of the Trust, experience of the work of the Trust, or relevant skills.

At this time, we are particularly seeking experience in the areas below, to ensure we have the appropriate range of experience among our Members. Please tick the relevant boxes, and include your relevant experience in the box below

Experience area	Please tick if you have experience
PR/ branding	
Web/ social media	
Business	
Equality/ good relations	
Community development	

We will consider applications from applicants who do not have experience in any of these areas, but will give priority to applicants who have experience in one or more of the above areas.

Please expand the box as required to provide a summary of no more than 250 words or so.

ANY RELEVANT INTERESTS

Are there any interests which would need to declare if you became a member of the Trust? This includes any other activity or positions held which could connect to the work of the Trust, or any Directorships which you currently hold.

ELIGIBILITY

Please advise if any of the following apply to you:

- you are disqualified as a company director;
- you have an unspent conviction for an offence involving dishonesty or deception (such as fraud);
- you are an undischarged bankrupt (or subject to sequestration in Scotland), or have a current composition or arrangement including an individual voluntary arrangement (IVA) with your creditors;
- you have been removed as a trustee of any charity by the Charity Commission (or the court) because of misconduct or mismanagement;
- you are on the sex offenders' register.

If any of the above do apply, it may be that you are not able to serve as a member of the Trust; we will follow up with you confidentially as necessary

I confirm that none of the above apply to me	
One or more of the above apply to me	

Please provide brief information about you for use on the Trust website etc (to include name, profession, brief career history, reason you seek to join the Trust)

I confirm that the information I have provided on this form is true and accurate, and that I am willing to comply with the Trust’s Code of Conduct for Members if I am appointed.

Signed	
Date	



Code of Conduct

This code was agreed on 13 May 2024. Trust Members are required to agree to abide by it on appointment and annually thereafter.

The Trust provides services which focus on the local community's health and wellbeing. Its key objectives are to engage the local community in the decision-making processes for leisure services. It therefore prepares clear statements of vision and intent and monitors progress towards its objectives and the performance of Serco Leisure in providing the services. The Trust's role is strategic, not operational, and its overriding aim is to add value, by its community focus, to the leisure services that are provided.

The Trust draws on and benefits from the skills and experience its Members bring to its work and it therefore expects those who agree to become Members to observe the following Code of Conduct:

Role

- Ensure that you are well-informed about the Trust and understand its aims and activity
- Play a full part in developing and implementing the Trust's aims, strategies and plans

Activity

- Be a regular attender at Trust meetings, including reading papers and making comments when you are unable to attend meetings
- Apologise if or when you are unable to attend a meeting
- Be prepared to give your time, to the extent and in the ways agreed, outside meetings to further the aims of the Trust – each Trust Member will normally be asked to lead on one particular area of Trust work, and to report on relevant activity to each Trust meeting, either verbally or in the form of a paper for discussion

Behaviour

- Act at all times in good faith, prudently and reasonably
- Put the aims of the Trust first, acting at all times to pursue those aims
- Work collectively with other Members, seeking to explore and challenge and then support the agreed position reached
- Avoid any conflicts of interest and follow the Conflicts of Interest policy below

- Ensure appropriate confidentiality of Trust discussions and decisions

A Member may resign at any time; a Member may be asked to resign if, in the opinion of the Trust Chair and after attempts to resolve issues, s/he is not fulfilling the duties listed above.

Conflicts of Interest Policy

The basic principle to be followed by all Trust Members is that they should not influence Trust decisions which have a direct impact on their activities beyond being a Trust Member.

To achieve this principle, all Trust Members agree to abide by this Conflicts of Interest Policy:

- Members will complete an annual declaration of interests as part of the Annual Report of the Trust. In this, Members will include any other activity or positions which could connect to the work of the Trust
- Members will update the Trust Secretary if, between Annual Reports, they take on (or withdraw from) any activity or positions which could connect to the work of the Trust
- Members will be alert to circumstances where a conflict of interest could arise, or could be perceived to arise
- In doing so, Members will err on the side of prudence in considering whether a conflict arises or could be perceived to arise
- Members will discuss any such matters with the Chair of the Trust, where possible in advance of any relevant Trust activity/ meetings
- Members will declare any relevant interests at the start of any Trust meeting, and during it if items arise which are pertinent to their interests

The Chair of the Trust, or the Member chairing any Trust meeting, will take the following actions to ensure that other interests of Members are duly considered:

- Reflect carefully on any potential conflicts of interest for Trust members, engaging with other Trust Members and independent advisers as necessary to determine an appropriate course of action
- Where the Chair has a potential conflict of interest, pass relevant matters to another Trust Member for determination of appropriate action
- Include an item at the start of each agenda to ask for any declarations of Member interests relevant to the topics on the agenda
- If they consider necessary, prompt any Member declaration of interest
- Ensure that the minutes clearly record any interests declared, and the action taken as a result of any such declaration
- Ask, as necessary, any Member to withdraw from the meeting for the discussion of any items which are pertinent to their external interests

- Ensure that full minutes of meetings are kept, but that any necessary material in papers or minutes is redacted from the versions provided to Members with relevant interests, to ensure that information is not provided which puts a Member at an advantage over others
- If the Chair, after discussion with other Trust Members and with independent advisers as necessary, considers that a Trust Member's interest cannot be managed by practicable actions, the Chair is empowered to ask the Trust Member to stand down from being a Member and, if the Trust Member is unwilling to do so, to end the individual's Membership of the Trust

Unclassified

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ITEM 4**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	28 August 2024
File Reference	PCA 128
Legislation	Cremation (Belfast) Regulations (NI) 1961
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: Full EQIA carried out by DfC.
Subject	Consultation The Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024
Attachments	Appendix 1 Draft Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 Appendix 2 The Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 Consultation response

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to update Members in relation to the Draft Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, attached in Appendix 1 of this report.

Background

The Department for Communities (DfC) is proposing to bring forward subordinate legislation under Article 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985. The Local Government (Cremations) Regulations 2024 will be the first

Not Applicable

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set of regulations to be made under this provision. Subject to the consultation's outcome, the draft regulations will align with similar legislation in England and Wales.

The new regulations (Appendix 1) aim is to clarify that all Councils in Northern Ireland are authorised to establish and maintain crematoria. These proposed regulations aim to update and replace the Cremation (Belfast) Regulations (NI) 1961, which currently apply only to Belfast City Council.

The Department for Communities initiated a consultation on 24th June 2024 which closes on 14 October 2024 on the draft Local Government (Cremation) Regulations (NI) 2024. It is noted that the closing date for this consultation was initially 30 September 2024 but has been extended to 14 October 2024 at 17.00.

The suggested consultation response for ANDBC is attached at Appendix 2.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the consultation response to The Department for Communities (DfC) and welcomes the proposed regulations and finds them fit for purpose.

DRAFT STATUTORY RULES OF NORTHERN
IRELAND

2024 No. 00

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

**The Local Government Cremation Regulations (Northern
Ireland) 2024**

Made - - - - - ***

Coming into operation - - - - - ***

The Department for Communities(a) makes the following Regulations in exercise of the powers conferred by Article 17 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985(b), and now vested in it(c).

PART 1

Preliminary

Citation and commencement

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Local Government Cremation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 and shall come into operation on **.

Interpretation

2. In these Regulations—

“the 1959 Act” means the Coroners Act (Northern Ireland) 1959(d);

“the 1976 Order” means the Births and Deaths Registration (Northern Ireland) Order 1976(e);

“the 1983 Act” means the Medical Act 1983(f);

“the 1961 Regulations” means the Cremation (Belfast) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1961(g);

“the 1992 Regulations” means the Burial Grounds Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992(h)

(a) Formerly known as the Department for Social Development; see the Departments Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 c. 5 (N.I.).

(b) S.I. 1985/1208 (N.I. 15).

(c) See S.R. 2016 No. 76, Article 8 of and Schedule 5 to the Departments (Transfer of Functions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2016 transferred functions to the Department for Communities which were previously exercisable by the Department of the Environment.

(d) 1959 c. 15.

(e) S.I.1976/1041 (N.I. 14).

(f) 1983 c. 54.

(g) S.R. 1961 No. 61.

(h) S.R. 1992 No. 238.

“the 2004 Act” means the Human Tissue Act 2004(a);

“applicant” means the person making an application for cremation in accordance with regulation 14;

“ashes” means all the material left in the cremator after a cremation, and following—

- (a) the removal of any metal, and
- (b) any subsequent grinding or other process which is applied to the material;

“body parts” means material which consists of, or includes, human cells from—

- (a) a deceased person, whether or not separation from the body occurred before or after death, or
- (b) a still-born child;

“confirmatory medical certificate” means a certificate (Form 5) given in accordance with regulation 15(2);

“coroner” means a person appointed under section 2(1) of the 1959 Act(b);

“cremation” means the burning of human remains;

“deputy medical referee” means a person appointed under regulation 6;

“five years standing”, in relation to a registered medical practitioner, means that the medical practitioner—

- (a) has been fully registered within the meaning of section 55 of the 1983 Act, and
- (b) has held a licence to practice under the 1983 Act for at least five years;

“inquest” means an inquest into the death of a deceased person under section 13 of the 1959 Act;

“medical certificate” means a certificate (Form 4) given in accordance with regulation 15(1);

“Medical Certificate of Cause of Death” means a certificate given under Article 25(2) of the 1976 Order;

“medical referee” means a person appointed under regulation 6;

“registered medical practitioner” means a fully registered person within the meaning of the 1983 Act who holds a licence to practice under that Act;

“registered midwife” means a person who is registered as a midwife under the Nursing and Midwifery Order 2001(c);

“registrar of births and deaths” means a registrar appointed under Article 6(1) of the 1976 Order;

“registration district” has the same meaning as in Article 5(1) of the 1976 Order; and

“still-birth” has the same meaning as in Article 2(2)(d) of the 1976 Order.

PART 2

MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF CREMATORIUM

Opening and closing of crematorium

3. A council must—

-
- (a) 2004 c. 30.
 - (b) Section 2(1) was substituted by section 2(3) of, and paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 4 to, the Northern Ireland Act 2009 c. 3.
 - (c) S.I. 2002/253
 - (d) The definition of “still-birth” was amended by section 3 of the Still-Birth (Definition) (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 (N.I. 10)

- (a) at least one month before it opens or closes a crematorium, give written notice of its intention to do so to the Department; and
- (b) at least one month before it closes a crematorium, give notice of its intention to do so by—
 - (i) publishing an advertisement in at least two newspapers circulating in its district; and
 - (ii) displaying a notice at the entrance to the crematorium in a place where it can be conveniently read.

Maintenance of crematorium

- 4.** A council must ensure that a crematorium is—
- (a) maintained in good working order;
 - (b) provided with a sufficient number of attendants; and
 - (c) kept in a clean and orderly condition.

Inspection of crematorium

5.—(1) A council must make its crematorium open for inspection at any reasonable time by any person appointed for that purpose by the Department and the crematorium may be inspected by such person.

- (2) Paragraph (1) does not apply if the council has permanently closed the crematorium.

PART 3

MEDICAL REFEREE

Appointment of medical referee and deputy medical referee

6.—(1) Each council which provides and maintains a crematorium must, with the approval of the Department, appoint—

- (a) a medical referee; and
- (b) such number of deputy medical referees as it considers appropriate.

(2) Section 18(2) of the Interpretation Act (Northern Ireland) 1954^(a) shall apply to appointments under this regulation.

Qualification of medical referee and deputy medical referee

7.—(1) To be eligible for appointment as a medical referee or a deputy medical referee, a person must be a registered medical practitioner of at least five years' standing.

(2) A council may only appoint as medical referee and deputy medical referee such persons who have the experience and qualifications to discharge the duties required by these Regulations.

Functions of a deputy medical referee

- 8.**—(1) The functions of a medical referee may—
- (a) be performed by a deputy medical referee—
 - (i) during any period when the medical referee is absent or unavailable;
 - (ii) in any case in which the medical referee has treated the deceased person or completed the Medical Certificate of Cause of Death, in relation to whom an application for cremation has been made;

(a) 1954 c. 33.

- (iii) during any vacancy in the office of medical referee; or
 - (iv) in any other case, with the consent of the medical referee; and
- (b) be performed by a medical referee or deputy medical referee for any other council in an emergency.
- (2) Accordingly, a reference in these Regulations to a medical referee is to be read, where relevant, as including a deputy medical referee.

Report to the Department

9. The Medical Referee must give such reports to the Department as the Department may from time to time require.

Supplementary powers of the medical referee

- 10.—(1) A medical referee who has investigated the cause of death of a deceased person, may issue a confirmatory medical certificate in an emergency.
- (2) A medical referee who has made a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased person under regulation 30(3), may issue a certificate under regulation 30(4).

PART 4

CONDITIONS FOR CREMATION

Places where cremation may take place

11. No cremation shall take place in a crematorium until notice of its opening has been given to the Department.

Prohibition to cremation

12. It shall not be lawful to cremate—
- (a) the remains of any person who is known to have left a written direction to the contrary; or
 - (b) human remains which have not been identified.

Forms

- 13.—(1) Subject to—
- (a) regulation 19(2) and (3);
 - (b) regulation 20(2) and (3);
 - (c) regulation 21(c)
 - (d) regulation 40(3),

all applications, certificates and authorisations referred to in these Regulations shall be in the form set out in the Schedule and must be used in the cases to which they apply.

(2) A form set out in the Schedule may be used in electronic form, provided that it has the electronic signature of any person who is required to sign it.

(3) In paragraph (2) “electronic signature” has the same meaning given in section 7(2) of the Electronic Communications Act 2000(a).

(a) 2000 c. 7. Section 7(2) was amended by S.I. 2016/696.

(4) Any reference in these Regulations to a form set out in the Schedule is to be regarded as including a form which contains all the information required by that form, but the format of which differs in an immaterial respect.

Application for cremation

14.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), an application for cremation (Form 1, 2 or 3) must be made to the council by—

- (a) an executor of the deceased person; or
- (b) a near relative who has attained the age of 16.

(2) An application for cremation may be made by another person if the medical referee is satisfied—

- (a) that the person is a proper person to make the application; and
- (b) as to the reason why the application is not made by a person mentioned in paragraph (1).

(3) In this regulation, “near relative” means the widow, widower or surviving civil partner of the deceased person, or a parent or child of the deceased person, or any other relative usually residing with the deceased person, or a parent of a still-born child.

Medical certificate and confirmatory medical certificate

15.—(1) A medical certificate giving the cause of death of the deceased person (Form 4) may be given by a registered medical practitioner.

(2) A confirmatory medical certificate giving the cause of death of the deceased person (Form 5) may be given by a registered medical practitioner of at least five years’ standing who is not—

- (a) a relative of the deceased person;
- (b) the registered medical practitioner who issued the medical certificate; or
- (c) a relative, or partner or colleague in the same practice or clinical team, of the registered medical practitioner who issued the medical certificate.

(3) A confirmatory medical certificate is not required where—

- (a) the death of the deceased person occurred in a hospital in which the deceased person was an in-patient; and
- (b) a registered medical practitioner mentioned in paragraph (2) has made or supervised a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased person and the registered medical practitioner giving the medical certificate (in accordance with paragraph (1)) knows the result of the examination before giving that certificate.

(4) In this regulation “hospital” means any institution for the reception and treatment of persons suffering from illness or mental disorder, any maternity home, and any institution for the reception and treatment of persons during convalescence.

Cremation of the remains of a deceased person who died in Northern Ireland

16. Subject to regulation 22, no cremation of the remains of a deceased person who died in Northern Ireland may take place unless—

- (a) an application for cremation (Form 1) is made in accordance with regulation 14;
- (b) (i) a certificate is given under Article 29(1) or (2) of the 1976 Order (certificate as to registration of death or certificate as to receipt by registrar of notice of death) in relation to the death of the deceased person; or
- (ii) a certified copy of the entry in the relevant register is issued under Article 34 or 38 of the 1976 Order in relation to the death of the deceased person;

- (c) (i) a medical certificate (Form 4) and, subject to regulation 15(3), a confirmatory medical certificate (Form 5) are given in accordance with regulation 15(1) and 15(2) respectively; or
- (ii) a certificate is given that the body of the deceased person has undergone an anatomical examination under licence granted under the 2004 Act (Form 6) for that purpose; and
- (d) written authority is given by a medical referee (Form 9) in accordance with regulation 25(a).

Cremation of the remains of a still-born child where the still-birth occurred in Northern Ireland

17. Subject to regulation 22, no cremation of the remains of a still-born child where the still-birth occurred in Northern Ireland may take place unless—

- (a) an application for cremation (Form 3) is made in accordance with regulation 14;
- (b) a certificate is given under Article 15(6) or (7) of the 1976 Order (certificate as to registration of still-birth or certificate as to receipt by registrar of notice of still-birth);
- (c) a certificate (Form 8) is given by a registered medical practitioner or a registered midwife who has examined the body and who can certify that the child was still-born; and
- (d) written authority is given by a medical referee (Form 12) in accordance with regulation 26(a).

Cremation of body parts of a person who died, or body parts of a still-born child, where the death or still-birth occurred in Northern Ireland

18. No cremation of body parts of a person who died, or body parts of a still-born child, where the death or still-birth occurred in Northern Ireland may take place unless—

- (a) an application for cremation (Form 2) is made in accordance with regulation 14;
- (b) (i) a certificate is given, under Article 29(1) or (2) of the 1976 Order (certificate as to registration of death or certificate as to receipt by registrar of notice of death) or, under Article 15(6) or (7) of the 1976 Order (certificate as to registration of still-birth or certificate as to receipt by registrar of notice of still-birth) in relation to the death of the deceased person or to the still-born child, to whom the body parts belonged; or
- (ii) a certified copy of the entry in the relevant register is issued under Article 34 or 38 of the 1976 Order in relation to the death of the deceased person or to the still-born child, to whom the body parts belonged;
- (c) (i) a certificate is given on behalf of the hospital or other authority holding the body parts that there is no reason for further inquiry or examination of the body parts and that they are released for cremation (Form 7); or
- (ii) evidence is produced that the body parts were removed in the course of a post-mortem examination made of the body of the deceased person or the still-born child; and
- (d) written authority is given by a medical referee (Form 11) in accordance with regulation 27(a).

Cremation of the remains of a deceased person where the death occurred outside Northern Ireland

19.—(1) This regulation applies where a death occurred outside Northern Ireland.

(2) Where a death occurred in England, Wales, Scotland, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands, no cremation of the remains may take place in Northern Ireland unless:

- (a) an application for cremation (Form 1) is made in accordance with regulation 14;

- (b) one of the following conditions is satisfied namely–
 - (i) any medical certificates required in the relevant jurisdiction in connection with a cremation in that jurisdiction are given;
 - (ii) where a death has been referred to a coroner in the relevant jurisdiction, a certificate from that coroner is given; or
 - (iii) a certificate is given that the body of the deceased person has undergone an anatomical examination under the authority of a licence granted under the 2004 Act for that purpose; and
 - (c) a certificate as to the registration of death or a certified copy of the entry of the death in the relevant jurisdiction’s register is given.
- (3) Where a death occurred in any other place outside of Northern Ireland, no cremation of the remains may take place in Northern Ireland unless:
- (a) an application for cremation (Form 1) is made in accordance with regulation 14;
 - (b) where a death has been referred to a coroner in the relevant jurisdiction, a certificate from that coroner is given; and
 - (c) a certificate of death or a certificate of the registration of death, is given.
- (4) In cases in which it is a requirement in the relevant jurisdiction that authorisation must be given before the body can be removed from that jurisdiction, such authorisation must be given.
- (5) Authorisation of the medical referee (Form 9) must be given in accordance with regulation 25(b).
- (6) In this regulation and in regulation 20–
- “relevant jurisdiction” means the jurisdiction in which the death occurred; and
- “coroner”, in relation to a relevant jurisdiction, means a person who performs in that jurisdiction functions which are the same as or substantively similar to those performed by a coroner in Northern Ireland.

Cremation of the remains of a still-born child where the still-birth occurred outside Northern Ireland

- 20.—**(1) This regulation applies where a still-birth occurred outside Northern Ireland.
- (2) Where a still-birth occurred in England, Wales, Scotland, the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands, no cremation of the remains may take place in Northern Ireland unless:
- (a) an application for cremation (Form 3) is made in accordance with regulation 14;
 - (b) either–
 - (i) any medical certificates or declarations required in connection with a cremation in the relevant jurisdiction are given; or
 - (ii) in cases in which a still-birth has been referred to a coroner in the relevant jurisdiction, a certificate from that coroner is given; and
 - (c) a certificate as to registration of still-birth or a certified copy of the entry of the still-birth in the relevant jurisdiction’s register, is given.
- (3) Where a still-birth occurred in any other place outside of Northern Ireland, no cremation of the remains may take place in Northern Ireland unless–
- (a) an application for cremation (Form 3) is made in accordance with regulation 14;
 - (b) where a death has been referred to a coroner in the relevant jurisdiction, a certificate from that coroner is given: and
 - (c) a certificate containing the same information as that requested by Form 8 is given by a person entitled to practise as a medical practitioner or midwife in the relevant jurisdiction.

(4) In cases in which it is a requirement in the relevant jurisdiction that authorisation must be given before the still-born child can be removed from that jurisdiction, such authorisation must be given.

(5) Authorisation of the medical referee (Form 9) must be given in accordance with regulation 26(b) or (c).

Cremation of body parts of a person who died, or body parts of a still-born child, where the death or still-birth occurred outside of Northern Ireland

21. No cremation of body parts of a person who died, or body parts of a still-born child, where the death occurred outside of Northern Ireland may take place unless—

- (a) an application for cremation (Form 2) is made in accordance with regulation 14;
- (b) a certificate which contains the particulars given in the appropriate certificate or the certified copy, referred to in regulation 18(b) is given or issued;
- (c) a certificate which contains the particulars required by Form 7 or the evidence required under regulation 18(c)(ii) is produced; and
- (d) written authority is given by a medical referee (Form 11) in accordance with regulation 27(b)

Cremation of the remains of a deceased person or still-born child whose death or still-birth has been investigated by a coroner under the 1959 Act

22. No cremation of the remains of a deceased person or still-born child, whose death has been investigated by a coroner under the 1959 Act (regardless of whether an inquest has been held, or a post-mortem has been performed, upon the body of the deceased person or still-born child) may take place unless—

- (a) an application—
 - (i) for cremation (Form 1); or
 - (ii) for the cremation of a still-born child (Form 3),
 is made in accordance with regulation 14;
- (b) the coroner has issued an authorisation for the cremation of the remains of the deceased person or still-born child under the 1959 Act; and
- (c) written authority is given by a medical referee (Form 9) in accordance with regulation 28.

Cremation of exhumed remains of a deceased person who has already been buried for one year or more

23.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the exhumed remains of a deceased person who has already been buried for a period of one year or more may be cremated.

(2) Where the Department's written consent to an exhumation is required under regulation 12(a) of the 1992 Regulations, no cremation of the exhumed remains of a deceased person may take place unless—

- (a) such consent has been obtained; and
- (b) the exhumation has been conducted in accordance with such conditions as may be imposed by an environmental health officer appointed by the council concerned under paragraph 1(1) of Part III of Schedule 1 to the 1992 Regulations.

(3) In this regulation “the council concerned” means the council which owns the burial ground where the exhumation was conducted.

(4) Regulations 12(b) and 13 to 22 do not apply to a cremation under paragraph (1).

Right to inspect medical certificate and confirmatory medical certificate and to make representations to medical referee

24.—(1) Paragraph (2) applies where the applicant for cremation of the remains of a deceased person—

- (a) (i) has informed the council to which the application for cremation was made that the applicant would like to inspect the—
 - (aa) medical certificate and confirmatory medical certificate; or
 - (bb) certificates which contain all the particulars required by the medical certificate and confirmatory medical certificate; or
- (ii) has nominated another person to inspect those certificates; and
- (b) has given one or more telephone numbers to the council at which the applicant, or the person nominated by the applicant, may be contacted.

(2) As soon as the council receives the certificates mentioned in paragraph (1)(a)(i) it must make all reasonable efforts to notify the applicant for cremation or any person nominated by that person, by telephone on the number (or one of the numbers) provided, of the receipt of those certificates.

(3) Within 48 hours, beginning with the time at which the council notifies the person under paragraph (2), that person may—

- (a) at a time and place agreed with the council, inspect the certificates referred to in paragraph (1)(a)(i); and
- (b) make representations to the medical referee about any matter contained in such a certificate or the inquiry made by the person who gave the certificate.

Authorisation of cremation of the remains of a deceased person

25.—(1) A medical referee may not authorise a cremation (Form 9) under—

- (a) regulation 16(d) unless the medical referee is satisfied—
 - (i) that the requirements of regulation 16(a) to 16(c), as the case may be, have been complied with; and
 - (ii) that the inquiry made by a person giving a certificate under regulation 16(c) has been adequate; or
- (b) regulation 19(5), unless the medical referee is satisfied—
 - (i) that the requirements of regulations 19(2) and (3), as the case may be, have been complied with; and
 - (ii) that the inquiry made by a person giving a certificate under regulation 19(2)(b)(i) or (iii) has been adequate,

and unless the medical referee is satisfied that the fact and cause of death of the deceased person have been definitely ascertained.

(2) Subject to paragraph (3), in any case where notification has been given under regulation 24(2) a medical referee may not authorise a cremation unless the medical referee is satisfied—

- (a) that at least 48 hours have passed since that notification was given; and
- (b) where certificates have been inspected under 24(3)(a), at least 24 hours have passed since the time of the inspection.

(3) Where the medical referee is satisfied that a council has made all reasonable efforts to comply with regulation 24(2) but has been unable to do so within 48 hours, beginning with the time at which the council received the medical certificate and confirmatory medical certificate, the medical referee may authorise cremation of the remains of a deceased person.

Authorisation of cremation of the remains of a still-born child

26. A medical referee may not authorise a cremation of a still-born child (Form 12) under—

- (a) regulation 17, unless the medical referee is satisfied—
 - (i) that the requirements of regulation 17(a) to (c), have been complied with;
 - (ii) that the examination made by a person giving a certificate under regulation 17(c) has been adequate; and
 - (iii) that there is no reason for further examination;
- (b) regulation 20(2), unless the medical referee is satisfied that the requirements of regulation 20(2)(a) to (c) have been complied with; or
- (c) regulation 20(3), unless the medical referee is satisfied that the requirements of regulation 20(3)(a) to (c) have been complied with.

Authorisation of cremation of body-parts of a person who died, or body-parts of a still-born child

27. A medical referee may not authorise a cremation of body-parts of a person who died, or body-parts of a still-born child under—

- (a) regulation 18, unless the medical referee is satisfied the requirements of regulation 18(a) to (c) have been complied with; or
- (b) regulation 21, unless the medical referee is satisfied the requirements of regulation 21(a) to (c) have been complied with.

Authorisation of the cremation of the remains of a deceased person or still-born child whose death or still-birth has been investigated by a coroner under the 1959 Act

28. A medical referee may not authorise a cremation under regulation 22 unless the medical referee is satisfied the requirements of regulations 22(a) and (b) have been complied with.

Dispensations

29.—(1) This paragraph applies where an application for cremation is made by or with the consent of the Department of Health in respect of a person who, at any time during their lifetime, had an infectious disease caused by any organism or contamination which presents a significant public health hazard after death,

(2) If the medical referee is satisfied as to the cause of death in a case to which paragraph (1) applies, the medical referee, may with the approval of the Department, dispense with any of the requirements of regulations 8 and 12 and regulations 14 to 28.

(3) These Regulations may also be temporarily suspended or modified in any district during an epidemic or for other sufficient reason by an order of the Department on the application of the Department of Health.

Medical referee not satisfied about the cause of death or still-birth which occurred in Northern Ireland

30.—(1) This regulation applies to deaths or still-births which occurred in Northern Ireland.

(2) Paragraph (3) applies if—

- (a) the medical referee is not satisfied that the fact and cause of death of the deceased person has been definitely ascertained; or
- (b) the death of the deceased person may have been violent or unnatural.

(3) The medical referee may make a post-mortem examination of the body of the deceased person or request any person to do so if—

- (a) the medical referee, or the person so requested by the medical referee, is entitled to make a post-mortem examination under the authority of a licence granted under section 16 of the 2004 Act (licence requirement) for that purpose; and

(b) the medical referee has obtained the appropriate consent for a post-mortem examination in accordance with the provision of that Act.

(4) If a certificate (Form 10) is given by the person who has made the post-mortem examination stating the cause of death to the satisfaction of the medical referee, the medical referee may authorise cremation for the remains for the deceased person.

(5) Paragraph (6) applies if—

- (a) a post-mortem examination fails to satisfy the medical referee that the fact and cause of death have been definitely ascertained; or
- (b) it appears to the medical referee that the cause of death is violent or unnatural, or there are other suspicious circumstances connected with the death of the deceased person, whether revealed in the medical certificate or confirmatory medical certificate or otherwise.

(6) The medical referee may not authorise cremation of the remains of the deceased person unless the requirements of regulation 22(b) have been complied with.

(7) If it appears that a still-birth was due to malpractice or to inattention at birth the medical referee shall decline to allow a cremation of the body of the still-born child unless the requirements of regulation 22(b) have been complied with.

Authorisation of cremation by medical referee – inquiries by medical referee

31.—(1) Before authorising a cremation, a medical referee may make such inquiry as the medical referee thinks appropriate with regard to—

- (a) an application for cremation; or
- (b) a certificate referred to in regulations-
 - (i) 16(c);
 - (ii) 17(c); or
 - (iii) 18(c)(i).

(2) Inquiries under paragraph (1) may be made on the medical referee's own initiative or, in relation to a certificate given in accordance with regulation 15(1) and 15(2), as a result of representations made under regulation 24(3)(b).

(3) If inquiries are made as a result of representations made under regulation 24(3)(b), the medical referee must inform the person who made the representations of the result of the inquiries made.

Refusal to authorise cremation

32. A medical referee who refuses to authorise a cremation must give written reasons to the applicant.

PART 5 DISPOSAL OF ASHES

Disposal of ashes

33.—(1) Subject to paragraph (2), after a cremation a council—

- (a) must dispose of the ashes in accordance with the applicant's instructions for ashes; or
- (b) in any case where the applicant does not give instructions for ashes, or where the ashes are not collected in accordance with those instructions, may dispose of the ashes in accordance with paragraph (3),

where “instructions for ashes” means the instructions given on the application form completed by the applicant, or any other subsequent written instructions given by the applicant to a council.

(2) In exceptional circumstances a council may at its discretion release the ashes to someone other than the applicant of the applicant’s nominee.

(3) Where paragraph (1)(b) applies, any ashes held by a council must be decently interred in a burial ground or in part of a crematorium reserved for the burial of ashes, or scattered there.

(4) In relation to ashes left temporarily in the care of a council, the council may not inter or scatter the ashes unless the council has made reasonable attempts to give the applicant 14 days’ notice of its intention to do so.

PART 6

REGISTRATION OF CREMATIONS

Appointment of a registrar of cremations

34. A council which provides and maintains a crematorium must appoint a registrar of cremations.

Functions of the registrar of cremations

35.—(1) The registrar of cremations must keep a permanent register of all cremations carried out by the council.

(2) Except where paragraphs (3) and (4) apply, the registrar of cremations must, within seven days after the cremation of the body of any deceased person or still-born child, send a notification of cremation (Form 13) to the Registrar General.

(3) Where any cremation of any human remains has taken place under regulation 29(1), the registrar of cremations shall, subject to the provisions of any order made by the Department under that regulation, within seven days of the cremation forward to the Registrar General, a copy of the relative entry in the register of cremations together with particulars of the place of death of the deceased and the cause of death as established to the satisfaction of the medical referee.

(4) Where the coroner has issued an authorisation for the cremation of the remains of a deceased person or still-born child under the 1959 Act the notification required in paragraph (2) shall be that set out in Form 14.

(5) This regulation shall not apply to any cremation of human remains which has taken place under regulation 23 or to any cremation authorised by the medical referee under regulation 27.

Register to be kept by the registrar of cremations

36.—(1) The register kept under regulation 35 may be either kept in a book or kept electronically.

(2) Entries in the register must include, where relevant, the following particulars in relation to a cremation—

- (a) any number assigned by the council to the cremation;
- (b) the date of the cremation;
- (c) the name and sex of the person or the still-born child;
- (d) the address, occupation and age of the person cremated;
- (e) whether the person cremated was married or a civil partner, a widow, widower or surviving civil partner, or single;
- (f) the date on which the person cremated died or the still-birth occurred;

- (g) in relation to body parts, the date and place of the burial or cremation of the body of the deceased person or still-born child from whom the body parts came;
- (h) the body part cremated;
- (i) the name and address of the applicant;
- (j) the name and address of any person who—
 - (i) gave a certificate under regulation—
 - (aa) 16(c);
 - (bb) 17(c);
 - (cc) 18(c)(i);
 - (dd) 19(2)(b)19(2)(b)(i);
 - (ee) 20(2)(b)(i) and 20(3)(c); or
 - (ff) 21(b) and (c); or
 - (ii) produced evidence under regulation 18(c)(ii) or 21(c); or
 - (iii) gave a declaration under regulation 20(2)(b)(i);
- (k) the name and address of any person who has, in accordance with regulation 24(3)(a), inspected the medical certificate and confirmatory medical certificate;
- (l) the registration district where—
 - (i) the death of the person cremated; or
 - (ii) the still-birth of the still-born child cremated, has been registered; and
- (m) the way in which the ashes were disposed of.

Retention of documents relating to cremation

37.—(1) A council must keep the application for cremation and any certificates or other documents relating to a cremation, for a period of 15 years from the date of the cremation to which they relate before disposal.

(2) Where an electronic copy is kept by a council under paragraph (1), the council must keep any document from which the electronic copy was made for a period of 2 years from the date of the cremation.

(3) Where a crematorium is closed in accordance with regulation 3 the council must send any registers or documents to the Public Record Office of Northern Ireland.

Inspection and copies of register and documents relating to cremation

38.—(1) This regulation applies to a register kept under regulation 35(1) and to documents kept under regulations 37(1) or (2) by a council.

(2) The register and documents—

- (a) must be open to inspection by any person appointed for that purpose by—
 - (i) the Department; or
 - (ii) the Chief Constable; and
- (b) may, with the permission of the council, be open to inspection by any other person.

(3) The council may issue to any person a copy of, or an extract from, the register or a document.

PART 7

REVOCATIONS, SAVINGS AND TRANSITIONAL PROVISIONS

Revocations

39. Subject to regulation 40, the 1961 Regulations are revoked.

Savings and transitional provisions

40.—(1) Any person who, immediately before these regulations came into operation, was a medical referee or a deputy medical referee under regulation 11 of the 1961 Regulations shall be treated as a medical referee appointed under regulation 6 if they meet the requirements set out in regulation 7.

(2) Any person who, immediately before these Regulations came into operation, was a registrar under regulation 18 of the 1961 Regulations, shall be treated as the registrar of cremations appointed under regulation 34.

(3) Notwithstanding the revocation of the 1961 Regulations, the forms in the Schedule to those Regulations may be used in the cases to which they apply in relation to a cremation held before [one month after date of operation].

(4) Paragraph (5) applies in any case where, on or after [one month after date of operation]—

- (a) council holds ashes from a cremation; and
- (b) the application for that cremation was made on one of the forms referred to in paragraph (3).

(5) Where this paragraph applies—

- (a) “instructions for ashes” in regulation 33(1) means—
 - (i) any written instructions, or other instructions, given by the applicant to the council before [date one month after coming into operation];
 - (ii) any written instructions given by the applicant to the cremation authority on or after [one month after coming into operation];
- (b) if no instructions for ashes are given in accordance with sub-paragraph (a), the cremation authority must retain the ashes, subject to regulation 33(2) to (4).

Sealed with the Official Seal of the Department for Communities on ***

(L.S.)

Name

A senior officer of the Department for Communities

SCHEDULE FORMS

Regulation 13

Application for cremation of the body of a person who has died

Form 1

**This form can only be completed by a person who is at least 16 years age.
Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.**

Part 1 Details of the crematorium

Name of crematorium where cremation will take place

Name of funeral director

Telephone number

Part 2 Your details (the applicant)

Your full name

Address

Postcode

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Telephone number

Email

Part 3 Details of the person who has died

Full name

Address

Postcode

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Occupation or last occupation if retired or not in work at date of death

Continued over the page →

Part 3 continued

Age at date of death

Sex

 Male Female

Status

 married/civil partnership widow/widower/surviving civil partner Single

Part 4 The application

1. Are you a near relative or an executor of the person who has died? Yes No

Near relative means the widow, widower or surviving civil partner of the person who has died, or a child or parent of the person who has died, or any other relative usually residing with the person who has died.

If No, please give the nature of your relationship and explain why you are making the application rather than a near relative or an executor.

2. Is there any near relative(s) or executor(s) who has not been informed of the proposed cremation? Yes No

If Yes, please give the name(s) and the reason(s) why they have not been contacted.

3. Has any near relative or executor expressed any objection to the proposed cremation? Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

4. What was the date and time of death of the person who has died?

Date / /

Time

Continued over the page →

Part 4 continued

5. Please give the address where the person died.

Address

Postcode

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Please state whether it was the residence of the person who has died or a hotel, hospital or nursing home, etc.

<input type="checkbox"/> Their home	<input type="checkbox"/> Hospital	<input type="checkbox"/> Other (please specify)
<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel	<input type="checkbox"/> Nursing home	

6. Do you know or suspect that the death of the person who has died was violent or unnatural? Yes No

7. Do you consider that there should be any further examination of the remains of the person who has died? Yes No

If you have answered Yes to questions 6 or 7, please give reasons below

8. What was the name, address and telephone number of the usual doctor of the person who has died?

Doctor's name

Address

Postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Telephone number

Continued over the page →

Part 4 continued

9. Please give the name, address and telephone number of the doctor(s) who treated the person who has died during their last illness.

Doctor's name

Address

Postcode

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Telephone number

Doctor's name

Address

Postcode

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Telephone number

10. Was any implant placed in the body which may become hazardous when the body is cremated (e.g. a pacemaker, radioactive device or "Fexion" intramedullary nailing system)?
- Yes No
 I don't know

Implants may damage cremation equipment if not removed from the body of the deceased before cremation and some radioactive treatments may endanger the health of crematorium staff

If Yes, please give details and state whether it has been removed.

Continued over the page →

Part 5 Inspection of certificates

You are entitled to inspect the certificates (if any) given by doctors under regulation 24 of the Local Government Cremation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023 (Forms 4 and 5, or, where applicable, equivalent certificates). If you do not wish to inspect any such certificates yourself you may nominate another person to inspect them instead of you.

Such certificates will only be available for inspection at the offices of the crematorium for **48 hours** from the time that the crematorium notifies you, or the person you have nominated, that the certificates are available to be inspected. You may take someone with you when you attend to inspect the certificates. If you, or the person nominated by you, do not attend to inspect the certificates at the time agreed with the crematorium, the cremation may then proceed.

Please note if you request to view these certificates, this may result in a delay to the cremation taking place.

Please state if you would like to inspect the certificates given by the doctors or whether you would like to nominate someone else to do so instead and give a contact telephone number.

If certificates are given by medical practitioners:

I would like to inspect the certificates and
my contact number is

I nominate
to inspect the certificates and
their contact telephone number is

Part 6 Applicant's instruction for ashes

Local practices regarding ashes vary and your funeral director or the crematorium will be able to advise you about these.

Please tick the relevant box to confirm whether you have chosen Option 1, 2, or 3 below for the ashes following this cremation, and provide further details in the relevant free text box.

If you choose Option 1 or 2 you may alter your choice, confirmed in writing with your signature, before the crematorium has made arrangements to implement your chosen option, so please advise your funeral director or the crematorium as soon as possible if you change your mind.

Option 1: Ashes to be scattered / interred / otherwise dealt with by the crematorium.

Please give further details of your wishes here, from the options offered by the crematorium, for instance where the ashes should be scattered / placed and when; and whether you wish this to be witnessed.

Continued over the page →

Option 2: Ashes to be collected from the crematorium.

Please give further details of your wishes here, such as who will collect the ashes (for instance you and / or another family member, the funeral director, or another specified person); and by which date, if known. The person collecting the ashes should bring a form of identification.

Option 3: Ashes to be held awaiting your decision.

Please give further details of your wishes here, for instance where and for how long the ashes should be held awaiting your decision.

When you have later made a decision, please confirm this, in writing with your signature, to your funeral director or crematorium.

Part 7 Recovery of ashes

Despite every effort being made to recover ashes following a cremation, on very rare occasions (particularly with the cremation of very young deceased babies) there may be no recoverable ashes. If you have any questions about this, please ask your funeral director or crematorium.

Please tick the box to confirm that you understand this and that you wish to proceed with the cremation.

Part 8 Statement of truth

I apply for the body of the person who has died to be cremated and I certify that I am at least 16 years of age.

I believe that the facts given in this application are true. I am aware that it is an offence to wilfully make a false statement with a view to obtaining the cremation of any human remains.

Print your full name

Signed

Dated

/ /

Application for cremation of body parts

Form 2

Body parts means material consisting of, or including, human cells from a deceased person or still-born child.

This form can only be completed by a person who is at least 16 years age. Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

If your application is about a still-born child, replace the words 'person who has died' throughout this form with the words 'still-born child'.

Part 1 Details of the crematorium

Name of crematorium where cremation will take place

Name of funeral director

Telephone number

Part 2 Your details (the applicant)

Your full name

Address

Postcode

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Telephone number

Part 3 Details of the person who has died

In the case of a still-born child who has not been given a name, in place of the name and address insert a description sufficient to identify the child.

Full name

Address

Postcode

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Continued over the page →

Part 3 continued

Age at date of death

Sex

 Male Female

Status

 married/civil partnership widow/widower/surviving civil partner Single

Part 4 The application

1. Are you a near relative or an executor of the person who has died? Yes No

Near relative means the widow, widower or surviving civil partner of the person who has died, or a child or parent of the person who has died, or any other relative usually residing with the person who has died, or a parent of a still-born child.

If No, please give the nature of your relationship and explain why you are making the application rather than a near relative or an executor.

2. Is there any near relative(s) or executor(s) who has not been informed of the proposed cremation? Yes No

If Yes, please give the name(s) and the reason(s) why they have not been contacted.

3. Has any near relative or executor expressed any objection to the proposed cremation? Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

Continued over the page →

Part 4 continued

4. What was the date and place of the death or still-birth?

Date / /

Address

Postcode

5. Please give the name and address of the cemetery, churchyard or crematorium where the body of the person who has died was buried or cremated.

Name of cemetery, churchyard or crematorium

Address

Postcode

6. Please give the date that the burial or cremation took place.

Date / /

7. Please state whether the body parts were removed from the body of the person who died at a:

- Coroner's post-mortem examination Hospital post-mortem examination
- Other (please specify)

Continued over the page →

Part 4 continued

8. Do you consider that there should be any further examination of the remains of the person who has died? Yes No

If Yes, please give reasons below.

Part 5 Applicant's instruction for ashes

Local practices regarding ashes vary and your funeral director or the crematorium will be able to advise you about these.

Please tick the relevant box to confirm whether you have chosen Option 1, 2, or 3 below for the ashes following this cremation, and provide further details in the relevant free text box.

If you choose Option 1 or 2 you may alter your choice, confirmed in writing with your signature, before the crematorium has made arrangements to implement your chosen option, so please advise your funeral director or the crematorium as soon as possible if you change your mind.

- Option 1: Ashes to be scattered / interred / otherwise dealt with by the crematorium.**

Please give further details of your wishes here, from the options offered by the crematorium, for instance where the ashes should be scattered / placed and when; and whether you wish this to be witnessed.

- Option 2: Ashes to be collected from the crematorium.**

Please give further details of your wishes here, such as who will collect the ashes (for instance you and / or another family member, the funeral director, or another specified person); and by which date, if known. The person collecting the ashes should bring a form of identification.

Continued over the page →

Option 3: Ashes to be held awaiting your decision.

Please give further details of your wishes here, for instance where and for how long the ashes should be held awaiting your decision.

When you have later made a decision, please confirm this, in writing with your signature, to your funeral director or crematorium.

Part 7 Recovery of ashes

Despite every effort being made to recover ashes following a cremation, on very rare occasions (particularly with the cremation of still-born children) there may be no recoverable ashes. If you have any questions about this, please ask your funeral director or crematorium.

Please tick the box to confirm that you understand this and that you wish to proceed with the cremation.

Part 5 Statement of truth

I apply for the following body parts of the person who has died to be cremated and I certify that I am at least 16 years of age.

Specify body parts to be cremated

I believe that the facts given in this application are true. I am aware that it is an offence to wilfully make a false statement with a view to obtaining the cremation of any human remains.

Print your full name

Signed

Dated

/ /

Application for cremation of still-born child

Form 3

This form can only be completed by a person who is at least 16 years age. Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 Details of the crematorium

Name of crematorium where cremation will take place

Name of funeral director

Telephone number

Part 2 Your details (the applicant)

Your full name

Address

Postcode

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Telephone number

Email

Part 3 Details of the still-born child

In the case of a still-born child who has not been given a name, in place of the name insert a description sufficient to identify the child.

Full name of child

Sex

Male Female

Date of still-birth

		/			/				
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Continued over the page →

Part 4 The application

1. Are you the parent of the still-born child? Yes No

If No, please give the nature of your relationship and explain why you are making the application.

2. Have both parents been informed of the proposed cremation? Yes No

If No, please give the name of the parent(s) and the reason(s) why they have not been contacted.

3. Has a parent of the still-born child expressed any objection to the proposed cremation? Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

4. Please give the address where the child was still-born.

Address

Postcode

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Please state whether it was the applicant's own home, hospital, etc.

Continued over the page ➔

Part 4 continued

5. Do you know or suspect that the child was not still-born? Yes No
6. Do you consider that there should be any further examination of the still-born child's remains? Yes No

If you have answered Yes to questions 5 or 6, please give reasons below

Part 5 Applicant's instruction for ashes

Local practices regarding ashes vary and your funeral director or the crematorium will be able to advise you about these.

Please tick the relevant box to confirm whether you have chosen Option 1, 2, or 3 below for the ashes following this cremation, and provide further details in the relevant free text box.

If you choose Option 1 or 2 you may alter your choice, confirmed in writing with your signature, before the crematorium has made arrangements to implement your chosen option, so please advise your funeral director or the crematorium as soon as possible if you change your mind.

- Option 1: Ashes to be scattered / interred / otherwise dealt with by the crematorium.**

Please give further details of your wishes here, from the options offered by the crematorium, for instance where the ashes should be scattered / placed and when; and whether you wish this to be witnessed.

Continued over the page →

Option 2: Ashes to be collected from the crematorium.

Please give further details of your wishes here, such as who will collect the ashes (for instance you and / or another family member, the funeral director, or another specified person); and by which date, if known. The person collecting the ashes should bring a form of identification.

Option 3: Ashes to be held awaiting your decision.

Please give further details of your wishes here, for instance where and for how long the ashes should be held awaiting your decision.

When you have later made a decision, please confirm this, in writing with your signature, to your funeral director or crematorium.

Part 7 Recovery of ashes

Despite every effort being made to recover ashes following a cremation, on very rare occasions (particularly with the cremation of still-born children) there may be no recoverable ashes. If you have any questions about this, please ask your funeral director or crematorium.

Please tick the box to confirm that you understand this and that you wish to proceed with the cremation.

Continued over the page →

Part 8 Statement of truth

I apply for the still-born child to be cremated and I certify that I am at least 16 years of age.

I believe that the facts given in this application are true. I am aware that it is an offence to wilfully make a false statement with a view to obtaining the cremation of any human remains.

Print your full name

Signed

Dated

 / /

Medical certificate

Form 4

This form can only be completed by a registered medical practitioner. Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Please note if this Form is not completed in full, it will be returned for completion which may cause a delay in the cremation taking place.

Part 1 Details of the deceased

Full name

Address

Postcode

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Occupation or last occupation if retired or not in work at date of death

Where a past occupation of the deceased person may suggest that the death was due to industrial disease, you should consider whether to refer the death to a coroner.

Part 2 The report on the deceased

1. What was the date and time of death of the deceased?

Date

/

/

Time

2. Please give the address where the deceased died.

Address

Postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Please state whether it was the residence of the person who has died or a hotel, hospital or nursing home, etc.

Their home

Hospital

Other (please specify)

Hotel

Nursing home

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

3. Are you a relative of the deceased? Yes No

If Yes, please give the nature of your relationship.

4. Have you, so far as you are aware, any pecuniary interest in the death of the deceased? Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

5. Were you the deceased's usual medical practitioner? Yes No

If Yes, please state for how long.

If No, please give details of your medical role in relation to the deceased.

6. Please state for how long you treated the deceased during their last illness.

7. Please state the number of days and hours before the deceased's death that you last saw them alive.

Days

Hours

8. Please state the date and time that you saw the body of the deceased and the examination that you made of the body.

Date

 / /

Time

Examination

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

9. From your medical notes, and the observations of yourself and others immediately before and at the time of the deceased's death, please describe the symptoms and other conditions which led to your conclusions about the cause of death.

10. If the deceased died in a hospital at which they were an in-patient, has a hospital post-mortem examination been made or supervised by a registered medical practitioner of at least five years' standing who is neither a relative of the deceased nor a relative of yours or a partner or colleague in the same practice or clinical team as you? Yes No

If Yes, are the results of that examination known to you? Yes No

Note: 'Five years' standing' means a medical practitioner who has been fully registered within the meaning of the Medical Act 1983 and has held a licence to practice for at least five years.

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

11. Please give cause of death.

1. (a) Disease or condition directly leading to death (this does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asphyxia, asthenia, etc; it means the disease, injury or complication which caused death).

(b) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to (a).

(c) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to (b).

2. Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing it.

12. Did the deceased undergo any operation in the year before their death? Yes No

If Yes, what was the date and nature of the operation and who performed

Date / /

Who performed it

Nature of operation

13. Do you have any reason to believe that the operation(s) shortened the life of the deceased? Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

14. Please give the full name and address details of any person who nursed the deceased during their last illness. (Say whether professional nurse, relative, etc. If the illness was a long one, this question should be answered with reference to the period of four weeks before the death.)

15. Were there any persons present at the moment of death? Yes No

If Yes, please give the full name and address details of those persons and whether you have spoken to them about the death.

16. If there were persons present at the moment of death, did those persons have any concerns regarding the cause of Yes No

If Yes, please give details.

17. In view of your knowledge of the deceased's habits and constitution, do you have any doubts whatever about the character of the disease or condition which led to the death? Yes No

18. Have you any reason to suspect that the death of the deceased was

Violent Yes No

Unnatural Yes No

19. Have you any reason at all to suppose a further examination of the body is desirable? Yes No

If you have answered Yes to questions 17, 18 or 19, please give details below

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

20. Has a coroner been informed about the death? Yes No

If Yes, please state the outcome.

21. Has there been any discussion with the Coroner's Office about the death of the deceased? Yes No

If Yes, please state the outcome of the discussions

22. Have you given the certificate required for registration of death? Yes No

If No, please give the full name and contact details of the medical practitioner who has.

Full name

Address

Postcode

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Telephone number

23. Was any hazardous implant placed in the body (e.g. a pacemaker, radioactive device or 'Fixion' intramedullary nailing system)? Yes No

Implants may damage cremation equipment if not removed from the body of the deceased before cremation and some radioactive treatments may endanger the health of

If Yes, has it been removed?

- Yes No

Continued over the page →

Confirmatory medical certificate

Form 5

This form can only be completed by a registered medical practitioner of at least five years' standing who is not either a relative of the deceased, the medical practitioner who issued the medical certificate (Form 4) or a relative or a partner or colleague in the same practice or clinical team as the registered medical practitioner who issued that certificate.

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Please note if this Form is not completed in full, it will be returned for completion which may cause a delay in the cremation taking place.

Note: 'Five years' standing' means a medical practitioner who has been fully registered within the meaning of the Medical Act 1983 and has held a licence to practise for at least five years.

Part 1 Details of the deceased

Full name

Address

Postcode

Occupation or last occupation if retired or not in work at date of death

Part 2 The report on the deceased

1. Have you questioned the medical practitioner who gave the medical certificate (Form 4)? Yes No

If No, please give reasons.

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

In answer to questions 2, 3, 4, and 5, please give names and addresses of persons questioned and say whether you spoke to them in person or by telephone. Any failure to answer one of these questions in the affirmative may be treated as

2. Have you questioned any other medical practitioner who attended the Yes No deceased?

If Yes, please give the full name and address details of the medical practitioner(s).

3. Have you questioned any person who nursed the deceased during their Yes No last illness, or who was present at the death?

If Yes, please give the full name and address details.

4. Have you questioned any of the relatives of the deceased? Yes No

If Yes, please give the full name and address details.

5. Have you questioned any other person? Yes No

If Yes, please give the full name and address details.

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

6. Please state the date and time that you saw the body of the deceased and the examination that you made of the body.

Date
 / /

Time

Examination

7. Do you agree with the cause of death given in question 11 of Part 2 of the medical certificate (Form 4)? Yes No

If No, please give reasons and give the cause of death.

Reason(s) for disagreeing.

1. (a) Disease or condition directly leading to death (this does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asphyxia, asthenia, etc; it means the disease, injury or complication which caused death).

- (b) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to (a).

- (c) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to (b).

2. Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing it.

Continued over the page →

Certificate following anatomical examination

Form 6

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 Details of the deceased

Full name

Age at death Sex Male Female Date of death / /

Part 2 Certification of anatomical examination

I certify that the body of the deceased has undergone an anatomical examination under the authority of a licence granted under the Human Tissue Act 2004 for that purpose.

The examination took place at

Your full name

Address

Postcode

Registered qualifications

Signed

Dated / /

Certificate releasing body parts for cremation

Form 7

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 Details of the deceased

Full name

Address

Postcode

Age at date of death

Sex

Male

Female

Date of death

/

/

Place of death

Part 2 Body parts for release

I confirm on behalf of (insert name and address of hospital trust or other authority lawfully holding the body parts)

that the following body parts are held in respect of the deceased:

Heart

Brain

Chest

Abdominal

other Organs

(please specify)

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

I certify that there is no reason for any further inquiry or examination concerning the above parts and that they are [with the consent of the Coroner]¹ now released for cremation in a safe and prepared condition. I am aware that it is an offence to wilfully make a false statement with a view to procuring the cremation of any human remains.

¹Delete if not applicable.

Your full name

Address

Postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Registered qualifications

GMC Reference number

Signed

Dated

		/			/				
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

Certificate of still-birth

Form 8

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 The still-born child

Full name of child or description

Sex
 Male Female

Dated
 / /

Part 2 Certificate of still-birth

I am a registered

- medical practitioner
- midwife

I certify that I have examined the body of the still-born child and can certify that the child was still-born.
 I certify that the information I have given above is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and believe
 I am aware that it is an offence to wilfully make a false statement with a view to procuring a cremation.

Your full name

Address

Postcode

Registered qualifications

GMC Reference number/Nursing and Midwifery Council Personal Identification number (PIN)

Signed

Dated
 / /

Authorisation of cremation of deceased person by medical referee

Form 9

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 Details of the deceased

Full name

Address

Postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Occupation or last occupation if retired or not in work at date of death

Part 2 Authorisation by medical referee

An application has been made for the cremation of the remains of the deceased.

I am satisfied that:

- (a) the requirements of the Local Government Cremation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023 have been complied with;
- (b) the inquiry/examination made by the persons who gave the relevant certificates has been adequate; and
- (c) where appropriate, the fact and cause of death have been definitely ascertained or, if not a coroner has opened an inquest.

Accordingly, I authorise the Registrar of the following crematorium to cremate the remains of the deceased within that crematorium.

Name of crematorium

Print your full name

District council

Signed

Dated

		/			/				
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Certificate after post-mortem examination

Form 10

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 Details of the deceased

Full name

Address

Postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Occupation or last occupation if retired or not in work at date of death

Part 2 Certification of person making post-mortem examination

I certify that I have made a post-mortem examination of the remains of the deceased under the authority of a licence granted under the Human Tissue Act 2004 for that purpose and the appropriate consents required by that Act having been obtained.

I am satisfied that the cause of death was:

1. (a) Disease or condition directly leading to death (this does not mean the mode of dying, such as heart failure, asphyxia, ashenia, etc: it means the disease, injury or complication which caused death).

- (b) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to (a).

- (c) Other disease or condition, if any, leading to (b).

Continued over the page →

Part 2 continued

2. Other significant conditions contributing to the death but not related to the disease or condition causing it.

I am satisfied that there is no reason for making any toxicological analysis.

If a toxicology analysis has been made have the results been stated in this certificate or are they attached? stated in this certificate attached to this certificate

I am satisfied that there is no reason for the holding of an inquest.

I am aware that it is an offence to wilfully make a false statement with a view to obtaining the cremation of any human remains.

Your full name

Address

Postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Registered qualifications

GMC Reference number

Signed

Dated

		/			/				
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

Authorisation of cremation of body parts by medical referee

Form 11

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 The deceased/still-born child

In the case of a still-born child who has not been given a name, insert a description sufficient to identify the body.

Full name

Address

Postcode

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Part 2 Authorisation by medical referee

An application has been made for the cremation of the body parts of the deceased/still-born child.

I am satisfied that the requirements of the Local Government Cremation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023 have been complied with.

Accordingly, I authorise the Registrar of cremations of the following crematorium to cremate the remains of the deceased/still-born child within that crematorium.

Name of crematorium

Print your full name

District council

Signed

Dated

		/			/				
--	--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--	--

Authorisation of cremation of still-born child by medical referee

Form 12

Please complete this form in full, if a part does not apply enter 'N/A'.

Part 1 The still-born child

Full name of child or description

Sex

Male

Female

Part 2 Authorisation by medical referee

An application has been made for the cremation of the remains of the deceased.

I am satisfied that:

- (a) the requirements of the Local Government Cremation Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2023 have been complied with;
- (b) the examination made by the person who gave the certificate has been adequate; and
- (c) there is no reason for further examination.

Accordingly, I authorise the Registrar of the following crematorium to cremate the still-born child within that crematorium.

Name of crematorium

Print your full name

District council

Signed

Dated

 / /

Return to the Registrar General

Form 13

Return to be made, within seven days after the cremation of a body on which an Inquest was not held, to the Registrar General.

To the Registrar General

The following particulars relate to the body/bodies which was/were cremated at the crematorium:

Date of Cremation	Name of Deceased	Date of Death / Date of Still-birth	Address at which death / still-birth occurred	Name and Address of person who applied for cremation	For use by Registrar of Births and Deaths		
					No. of Entry	Date of Entry	Remarks
I certify that this is a true and correct return Signed _____ on behalf of _____ Date: _____					Death(s) reported has/have been registered at the Entry No.(s) shown above. Registrar: Date: _____		

Return to the Registrar of Births and Deaths

Form 14

Notification of Cremation

(For use by the registrar appointed by the Council where a Coroner has been involved)

This is to notify that the remains of

.....

deceased/still-born, who died/was still-born on

at

was cremated on *[insert the date the cremation took place]*.....

at *[insert name of crematorium]*.....

Signed

on behalf of *[insert name of council]*.....

.....

Date:

1. Do you agree with the following definition of “ashes”? (see Regulation 2) “ashes” means all the material left in the cremator after a cremation, and following: a) the removal of any metal, and b) any subsequent grinding or other process which is applied to the material.

Yes, the definition offers clarity to bereaved families. Cremation authorities within Northern Ireland have already adopted this definition. This is consistent with definitions elsewhere and in line with legislation in England and Wales.

2. Do the savings and transitional provisions in Part 7, in particular Regulation 40, provide for a smooth transition to the new Regulations?

No, Transitional arrangements should be extended to a minimum of 12 weeks. It is proposed that the Regulations will come into operation as soon as possible (but not less than 3 weeks) after they have been made and laid in the Assembly. Part 7 provides for transitional arrangements and for the continuation of the posts of a Medical Referee (where they are licenced) and the Registrar of Cremations. Part 7 (Regulation 40) also provides for the use of current cremation forms for the period of 1 month after the Regulations have come into operation. It is essential that a suite of guidance is developed and shared with Stakeholders before the commencement of new regulations. Stakeholders must be prepared for any incoming changes and be able to facilitate any necessary training in a timely manner. Stakeholder engagement events must be held to determine the level of operational preparedness.

3. Do you have any comments on the proposed Part 3?

Cremation Authorities within Northern Ireland apply the requirement for Medical Referees to registered medical practitioners of has not less than five years' standing, and hold a license to practice, within their contract of appointment. The proposed draft regulations extend the duties of the Medical Referee, cognisance must be given to the impact upon current contractual arrangements and continuity of service provision. The Medical Referee plays a vital role in the process of cremation. Due to the finality in the cremation of a deceased person, it is important that the cause of death has been established and verified and due process has been followed.

4. Do you agree with the proposals put forward for deaths and still births which occur outside of NI but within England, Wales, Scotland, Isle of Man or the Channel Islands?

Yes, this will allow the processes in place in those jurisdictions to take place and will provide a medical referee in NI with all the relevant information to base their consideration on whether a cremation should proceed.

5. Do you agree with the proposals put forward for deaths or still-births which occurred in any other place outside of NI?

Yes, this will allow the processes in place in those jurisdictions to take place and will provide a medical referee in NI with all the relevant information to base their consideration on whether a cremation should proceed.

6. Should the Department include a checklist of additional forms to be submitted on the Application Form? (This will necessitate additional legislation to update forms if requirements change in other jurisdictions).

Yes, we believe that would be useful.

7. Do you have any comments in relation to the proposals put forward in Part 4 Applications?

“Proper Person” needs to be clearly defined. Welcome the removal of the need for countersigning. Welcome the removal of the statutory declaration and replacement with a statement of truth. It needs to be made clear to bereaved families that the option to inspect the medical forms will delay the cremation. The proposed draft regulations extend the duties of the Medical Referee, cognisance must be given to the impact upon current contractual arrangements and continuity of service provision.

8. Do you agree with the wording of draft regulation 24?

Yes, this is in line with legislation in England and Wales. This will replicate this provision as it was seen as an important Shipman-related reform and family members may be able to draw the medical referee’s attention to concerns about unexpected symptoms or features of the case. However, can clarity be made in respect of “Certificates which contain all the particulars required by the medical certificate and confirmatory medical certificate”.

9. Do you agree with the wording of draft regulation 33 - Part 5 – Disposal of Ashes?

Although this sets out that ashes must be handled in accordance with the applicants wishes as recorded on the application form. This regulation also permits Council, where there are no instructions or where the ashes are not collected, to dispose of the ashes by decently interring them. However, it would be clearer, if draft regulation 33 stated that if the applicant does not give a clear instruction for Disposal of Ashes, then the cremation should not proceed.

10. Do you have any views on the continuation of the use of a Confirmatory Medical Certificate?

The Council welcomes plans for the introduction of a statutory Medical Examiner Service. In the absence of the introduction of a Medical Examiner system, then Form 5 should still be required.

11. Do you agree with the removal of Form E and the separation of the Cremations Registrar return from that Form?

Although this corrects an administrative correction of the process, the General Register Office must be consulted. Regarding Regulation 36, maintaining a Cremations Register, the information that is held in the register should be reviewed. For example, whether the occupation of the deceased could be removed and

whether the details of the funeral director should be included. Also, rather than recording the age of deceased it would be more helpful to show their date of birth (this should also be asked for on Form 1 instead of age).

12. Do you agree with the wording of the revised regulation 16?

Yes, this will enable the regulations to accommodate future outbreaks in line with procedures put in place by the Department of Health and will be seen as an example of lessons learnt from the recent Covid-19 pandemic. However, it is disappointing that the cremation of foetuses of less than 24 weeks' gestation have not been regulated for within the scope of regulations. Regulating the cremation of foetuses less than 24 weeks gestation should be a priority.

Unclassified

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ITEM 5**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	23 August 2024
File Reference	CW72
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Service (NI) Order 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Community Trails Update
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Ards Community Trails Report Appendix 2 - Strangford Community Trails Feasibility Study Appendix 3 - Memorandum of Understanding with Peninsula Healthy Living

Background

In May 2014, Ards Borough Council funded the Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership (PHLP) which in turn appointed Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI, now known as Outscape) to assess the feasibility of developing Community Trails in nine villages within the Ards Peninsula.

Community trails are identified as: -

- Ones which connects communities to outdoor spaces and are close to where people live and work.
- One which connects different communities together e.g. two villages.

Not Applicable

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In addition, a Community Trail:

- Can be urban/rural.
- Provides opportunity on people's "doorstep" for walking/cycling etc.
- Should be traffic free (and 70% off road).
- Includes an area of "green space".
- Trailhead with information.
- Looped or linear.

A further report was brought to Ards and North Down Borough Council in May 2015 to seek Council support to progress the Ards Peninsula Community Trails Project. This required a further feasibility study to agree the priority projects, identify individual project costs suitable for development and delivery on the ground, examine access arrangements and develop each of the projects to a stage suitable for inclusion in funding applications. That project was delivered in 2016.

Due to issues relating to landownership and statutory authority advice it transpired that some of the trails identified were not able to be progressed despite significant effort and negotiations.

In 2019 a revised list of priority trails was identified, again in partnership with PHLP, but again similar issues in relation to land ownership and statutory authority concerns prevented some of those trails being progressed.

To date the Community Trails that have been delivered in the peninsula include:

- The extension to the Cloughey Boardwalk (Council owned)
- Slan's Graveyard (privately owned)
- Upgrade and extension of trails in Corrog Wood (Woodland Trust site)
- Upgrade and extension of the trail in Nugent's Wood (National Trust site)

PHLP contributed financially to the development of the above trails in partnership with Council and external funding sources.

Ards Community Trail Report 2024

In 2023/2024 a further review of the trails was undertaken by Outscape and this work was commissioned by PHLP in partnership with Council. The report is attached. This updated report highlights where the need for trails is greatest across the peninsula and it also sought to identify sites which have a greater chance of delivery as the land, they are located on is owned by organisations such as the Woodland Trust or the National Trust, who are keen to work with Council on these projects. There are some that have been identified that are on private land which in officers experience can therefore be problematic.

Recently a planning application was submitted for the upgrade and extension of the trail and car park at Glastry Clay Pits, Ballyhalbert owned and managed by the National Trust. This project has been included in the application for Peace Plus funding under the Rural Regeneration Strand.

Not Applicable

74

Memorandum of Understanding

Given the close collaboration between Council and the PHLP on the Community Trails projects it is considered that it may be prudent to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to formalise the partnership. It may assist the PHLP in drawing down funding to further these projects and also assist Council in developing community links in the peninsula. The MoU is attached for Council's consideration.

If approved, in partnership with the PHLP, Council would then continue to explore Community Trail projects delivery and programming. Council recently recruited a Community Trails and Greenways Development Officer, and they will be able to further develop events on the existing trails and those to be developed, as well as the delivery of future trails.

Strangford Lough Community Trails Feasibility Study

Council commissioned ORNI (now known as Outscape) in 2022, to undertake a feasibility study for Community Trails on the western shores of Strangford Lough, report attached. The trail at Island Hill (Council owned) was highlighted as being in need of upgrading and potentially that it could be extended. A planning application has been submitted to upgrade and extend the trail, creating a viewpoint at the highest point. This project also forms part of the Peace Plus funding application.

Another project was identified on Sketrick Island, Whiterock. The land is privately owned, but a trail does exist and is well used by locals, albeit its condition is slowly deteriorating. A planning application has been prepared and is awaiting sign off by the landowners before it is submitted. The project would involve upgrading the existing trail, rerouting sections of it and extending it. This project also forms part of the Peace Plus funding application.

If the Peace Plus funding is not awarded, other funding sources will be explored.

Other Projects

The National Trust made us aware of a site they own at Lowrys Wood near Groomsport/Orlock where they have created a small woodland. There is an informal trail around it, and it is proposed to upgrade and extend this trail. Through funding that Outscape obtained they are currently undertaking a feasibility study on this trail and working out the planning requirements and construction costs etc. Once that is complete, a planning application will be submitted, and funding sources will be explored for delivery of the project.

Conclusion

Through consultation with village communities, the need for the Community Trails has been identified as a high priority. Many communities feel isolated or do not have the provision to access sites for recreation due to distance and other factors. These "on the doorstep" trails provide a vital network of recreational trails that can be utilised by local populations for walking/exercise purposes. Walking is generally considered to be one of the most cost effective and accessible ways of exercising to improve health and mental wellbeing. There is also a continued need/demand for such trails to be off road/green spaces.

Not Applicable

75

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

- Notes the attached reports, and that Officers continue to progress the delivery of the trails.
- Agrees to sign the attached Memorandum of Understanding with Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership.

A Review of Developing Community Trails on the Ards Peninsula

May 2024



Executive Summary

Introduction

Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership and Ards and North Down Borough Council have been working in partnership for over 10 years to develop community trails on the Ards Peninsula.

Since 2014, the partners have –

- Created the first community trail plan for the Ards Peninsula
- Identified 28 community trails with potential for development – known as the ‘Trails List’
- Built 4 trails - *Cloughey Boardwalk, Slans Graveyard, Nugent’s Wood and Corrog Wood*
- Delivered 9 feasibility studies (which includes trail design and landowner engagement) – *Castle Hill; Ardkeen; Millisle to Ballycopeland Windmill; Portavogie*

Boardwalk; Greyabbey; plus, four ‘built’ trails above

- Conducted 3 reviews with the aim of progressing trail development

In 2023, ten years after the first community trail plan was produced, Outscape undertook a review of the approach to community trail development on the Ards Peninsula.

This report summarises the key findings and conclusions.

Barriers & Enablers to Trail Development – Implications for the Future

Working on community trails for the last 10 years, Outscape has found that there are several key Peninsula-specific factors that should need to be considered by the partners.

How these are responded to will have the potential to either be a barrier to, or an enabler of, successful community trail development going forward.

Barrier / Enabler	Implication
Public land is limited and that which is available has largely been developed or offers access already	Increasing the extent and spread of off-road trails will be highly dependent on access to private land.
Private land is predominantly agricultural land	Private, farming landowners are often reluctant to offer public access due to public liability concerns, impact on farming practices and their basic farm payment. The partners may wish to consider their approach to these concerns when proposing access on private land.
There are limited doorstep opportunities for off-road walking so car parking may be critical to the creation of some community trails	The Peninsula is a patchwork of dispersed settlements that already rely heavily on the car. Some trails may not be within a safe walking distance therefore car parking may be required as part of trail development.
Off-road provision is a critical success factor	To add any real, life changing value for people, community trails developed by PHLP and Council must be genuinely off-road where cars and walkers are not mixing.
Public Rights of Way are VIP (Very Important Provision)	Given the high proportion of private land, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) are very important assets for the development of community trails. In most places PRoW’s are short, linear trails that do not provide looped routes but they are vitally important as communities use them to make up their own loops and routes, combining on and off-road trails and paths.

Review of the 2014 Trails List – Results

The 2014 ‘Trails List’ has been the basis for all work relating to this project for the last ten years. This review provided the opportunity to refresh the ‘Trails List’ for 2024.

The results are –

- 10 trails removed – 3 delivered and 7 deemed not feasible
- 4 individual trails in Carrowdore combined to form two loops - ‘Quarry Trail’ and ‘Carrow Wood and Football Pitch’
- 14 new trails added
- A new ‘2024 Trails List’ created comprising 21 trails categorised as – community trails (13), long term aspirations/strategic trails (3) and linear links and connections (5)

Review of Current Approach – Results

Since 2014, the same approach has been used to identify and prioritise potential community trails for development -

1. Community consulted to identify potential trails for development
2. Potential trails are scored 1-3 against five ‘deliverability’ criteria – ability to secure an access agreement, cost, environmental constraints, local demand, and public benefit
3. Trails with the lowest score (i.e. least challenges) are deemed to be priority for development

The strengths and weaknesses of this approach were evaluated. It was concluded that although effective at the time, the scoring method is subjective and lacks validity.

In addition, this approach has limited scope (covering 9 villages instead of 20 settlements) and prioritisation tends to focus on the ‘easy wins’, i.e. trails where landowner permission is in place (or likely to obtain) and there were no environmental or sustainability concerns.

Finally, a significant limitation of this approach is that there is no consideration of **trail need**, i.e. what provision already exists, and how deprived a community is of access to greenspace and safe, off-road trails.

The review concluded that it is time to adopt a new approach to identify and prioritise community trail development on the Ards Peninsula.

A New Approach – Trail Prioritisation Framework

It is recommended that the partners adopt a new approach to trail development on the Ards Peninsula – one that is based on settlement need. It is called the ‘Trail Prioritisation Framework’.

The Framework identifies which settlements have the highest need for community trail development, based on its current trail provision within a specified distance, or ‘settlement proximity limit’.

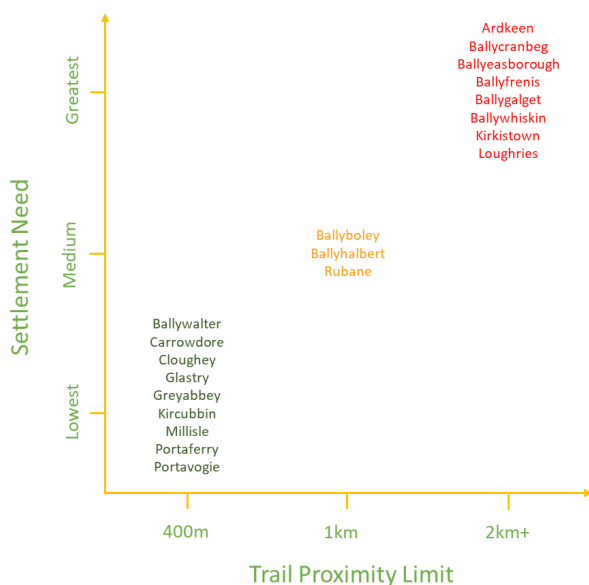
Applying the Framework - Results

When the tool was first applied, the results showed that all settlements have a community trail within 400m, suggesting that there is no need to develop any more community trails.

Inspecting each current trail and greenspace one-by-one, Out-scape found that certain trails/areas were skewing the analysis, e.g. beaches, payable sites (Mount Stewart), greenspace with no formal access, public rights of way and trails less than 0.5km, etc. These were removed to leave a legitimate list of community trails that met the community trail definition (see Appendix D).

The framework was applied for a second time, and yielded the following results –

- 9 settlements have at least 1 community trail within 400m of their centre (shown in **green**) – these settlements have a **lower need** for community trail development
- 3 settlements have at least 1 community trail within 1km of their centre (shown in **yellow**) – these settlements have a **higher need** for community trail development than those settlements in green
- 8 settlements have at least 1 community trail 2km or more away from their centre (shown in **red**) – these settlements have the **highest need** for community trail development than any other settlement



The nature of the Ards Peninsula means that opportunities to develop new doorstep community trails (within 1km) are significantly limited.

Considering this, it is recommended that in the future –

1. The partners consider ALL trail opportunities regardless of what settlement they fall within, because any trail in any settlement, will enhance the OVERALL provision of community trails on the Peninsula
2. If a trail opportunity arises in one of the greater need settlements (yellow and red) these should be prioritised over a trail proposed in a green settlement.

Conclusions

It is time for a new approach.

The Trail Prioritisation Framework is more robust and defensible because it is based on current provision and settlement need. It does not replace the need for community consultation but rather helps the Council and PHLP to know where to focus resources, i.e. in the settlements of greatest need.

Community support is critical to success.

The best community trails are developed from ideas that come from the local community.

Ongoing support and buy-in is critical to success, particularly in cases involving private land.

There is a need for community trails on Ards Peninsula.

The proximity analysis found that 11 out of 20 settlements do not have access to a community trail within 400m. There is a clear need to still develop community trails on the Ards Peninsula and create access to quality green space.

Not all trails are community trails.

It is important to consider ‘quality’ when developing community trails on the Ards Peninsula. The proximity analysis demonstrated that beaches and payable visitor attractions do not constitute *legitimate* community trails. The partners should consider only developing trails that fulfil the core criteria such as being entirely off-road, greater than 1km and free to use, etc.

Opportunities are limited.

Opportunities to develop off-road community trails on the Ards Peninsula are significantly limited because –

- There is a limited amount of ‘publicly’ owned land (i.e. National Trust, Woodland Trust, DAERA) – that which does exist already provides access
- Most of the land is privately owned and used for farming.
- Almost all the coastal, scenic land (where people want to walk) is designated so development will be limited, if permitted at all

If the partners wish to significantly increase provision of community trails on the Ards Peninsula, it will be dependent on access to private land.

What does success look like?

The recommended next steps are that the partners discuss and agree what success for the Ards Peninsula looks like?

Based on the findings of this review, Outscape suggests that success is –

- At least 1 community trail within 1km of each settlement

Or

- At least 1 community trail within 2km of each settlement

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1. Introduction



Seaforde Walk Trail

In 2023, Outscape carried out a review of the progress of, and approach to, community trail development on the Ards Peninsula.

This carries on from previous work completed by Outscape on behalf of Ards & North Down Borough Council and Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership, outlined below.

Previous work carried out by Outscape		
2014	‘Phase I Feasibility Study into Development of Community Trails on the Ards Peninsula’	28 potential trails across 9 villages identified, hereafter referred to as ‘2014 Trails List’
2016	‘Phase II Development Study of Community Trails on the Ards Peninsula’	2014 Trails List scored and top nine ‘priority’ trails ready for capital development (Phase III) identified; further consultation and costed designs completed
2019	Additional funding made available to re-assess priority trail list and progress a further 2 trails for development ‘on the ground’	2014 Trails List reviewed again; additional new trails identified; feasibility studies completed (Ballycopeland Windmill and Ardkeen) and 2 new trails developed on the ground (Cloughey, Slans Graveyard)
2024	‘Community Trails on Ards Peninsula – 2024 Review’	2014 Trails List refined; new trails identified; new Trails Prioritisation Framework approach adopted; new ‘2024 Trails List’ created

Ten years after the initial study, the aim of the 2024 Review was to critically assess both the 2014 trails list as well as Outscape’s approach to identify and prioritise trails for development.

This evaluation was based on learning from 10 years’ experience of working on the Peninsula and developing a new framework for assessing and prioritising community trails across Northern Ireland.

This resulted in –

- A new approach to identifying and prioritising community trails
- Several new trails being identified as having potential for development
- Some previously recommended trails being removed from the trails list

2. Background



Rolling Countryside, Portaferry, TNI Content Pool

Outscape has had a longstanding role in community trail development on the Ards Peninsula beginning with the 2014 'Feasibility Study into Development of Community Trails on the Ards Peninsula'.

Commissioned by Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership (PHLP), this study assessed the potential to develop community trails across nine villages on the Peninsula to provide recreation opportunities for the local population. In total, 28 potential routes were identified, and these have formed the basis of community trail development since.

In 2016, a review of the 28 trails was carried out to identify the priority projects ready for capital development. Each trail was given a score of 1-3 based on the following five factors which were deemed to dictate likelihood of successful development –

1. Ability to secure access (i.e. access agreement with landowner)
2. Estimated cost
3. Sustainability/environmental constraints
4. Community demand/appetite
5. Public benefit/value to community

Based on the cumulative scores, nine trails were selected as 'priority for development' regardless of whether there was a fair spread across all nine villages.

In 2019, another review identified several potential new trails. These were trails that either fell outside the walking limits of the nine villages, for example Corrog Wood and Ardkeen/Castle Hill, or were the result of new consultation, for example Abbey Trail, Greyabbey.

Feasibility studies (which included concept design and 1-2-1 landowner engagement) were carried out for some of the priority trails.

In total, between 2017 and 2021 four trails were delivered on the ground –

1. Slan's Graveyard (2017)
2. Cloughey Boardwalk (2018)
3. Nugent's Wood (2020)
4. Corrog Wood (2021)

3. Key Findings



Woodland Walk Trail

3.1 Progress to date

Since the initial study in 2014, the following outputs have been achieved:

- 4 trails developed ‘on the ground’
Cloughey Boardwalk, Slans Graveyard, Nugent’s Wood, Corrog Wood
- 2 feasibility studies completed
Castle Hill, Ardkeen and Millisle to Ballycopeland Windmill
- 3 reviews completed

This demonstrates PHLP’s and Council’s continued ambition and dedication over the last 10 years to increase the provision of community trails on the Ards Peninsula.

3.2 Review of the ‘2014 Trails List’

One of the main components of this Review involved a critical appraisal of the ‘2014 Trails List’.

The aim was to refine the list and retain only trails that still have the potential to be explored and/or developed.

Going forward, this would ensure that resources are not misspent on trails that are undeliverable.

Appendix B contains the results of this review.

3.3 Review of the trail prioritisation approach

The current approach used to prioritise community trails for development is entirely based on the ‘Trails List’ and the scoring of trails based on five factors (ability to secure access agreement, cost, environmental constraints, local demand, public benefit).

A review of this approach has identified the following strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities to improve.

3.3.1 Strengths

The strengths identified are –

- It is a basic approach – easy to use
- It is based on evidence from extensive research and engagement with the local community
- The five factors are still relevant today in determining the likelihood of trail development, e.g. ability to secure access,

cost, environmental constraints, community appetite and public benefit.

3.3.2 Weaknesses/opportunities to improve

There were more weaknesses identified but these represent opportunities to improve the approach going forward.

- Scoring lacks validity – subjective judgement
- Previous approach focused on nine ‘villages’ – limiting the scope to ‘villages’ meant that smaller settlements could be overlooked or left out, e.g. Corrog Wood and Ardkeen
- Circumstances (namely, funding and land ownership) meant that the focus was driven by ‘easy wins’, i.e. trails that were in public ownership or agreement was easy to secure, there were minimal, or no constraints and funding could be spent within a tight timeframe

On the other hand, these easy win trails were the first to be delivered on the Peninsula and in doing so, created the precedence for further trail development

- Targeting the easy wins, meant there may not be a fair geographical spread of trail development across all villages

That said, it is not good practice to invent trails in villages, or on private land where there is no local demand or historical use, just to ensure there is equal spread across all villages

Further to that, not all villages have an equal need – some villages may already have had good existing provision, while other have no off-road walking opportunities at all

- The previous approach didn’t appropriately consider ‘need’, i.e. was it in a village of high need?

To conclude, while the previous approach was effective at the time, it now requires adaptation to make it less subjective and more cognisant of need.

3.4 Barriers to – and enablers of – community trail development

Working on the development of community trails across Northern Ireland over the last 10 years has

highlighted several considerations that are specific to the Ards Peninsula.

These considerations, and how they are responded to, have the potential to be either a barrier to, or an enabler of, successful community trail development on the Ards Peninsula going forward.

Barriers and enablers to future community trail development	
Barrier / enabler	Implications
Public land is limited on the Peninsula	The extent and spread of off-road trail development will be highly dependent on access to private land. Where opportunities on private land arise, Council may wish to consider an access agreement. The type of agreement should be considered on a case-by-case basis.
Private land on Ards Peninsula is predominantly agricultural land; farming is primary land use	Most of the land on the Ards Peninsula (coastal and inland) can be classed as agricultural, both arable and pasture. Developing trails on farmland usually meets resistance from landowners based on concerns about basic farm payments, impact on farming practices and public liability. It will be important to account for this when approaching landowners to discuss access. The partners may also wish to consider how they might alleviate these concerns in any access discussions.
Limited doorstep opportunities for off-road walking	The Ards Peninsula is a patchwork of dispersed villages, settlements and hamlets that are connected to each other by roads. There is minimal provision of off-road connections and so there is heavy reliance on the car even for the purpose of safe recreation. As such, some community trails may not be within a walkable, accessible AND/OR safe distance from where people live, meaning some community trails may require driving to get there. As a result, provision of sufficient and safe off-road parking will be critical in some cases (not all) to ensure that creating a community trail doesn't by default create a new problem associated with the absence or lack of parking to the trail/site.
Off-road provision is a critical success factor	Much of the current walking on the Peninsula is on-road so to add any real, life changing value for people, community trails developed by PHLP and Council must be genuinely off-road. This means seeking opportunities where cars and pedestrians are not mixing.
Public Rights of Way are VIP's (Very Important Provision)	Given the high percentage of private land and corresponding low ratio of access to it, Public Rights of Way (PRoW) represent a very important asset to increasing the extent and provision of community trails on the Peninsula. The Council should continue to investigate, assert, and protect its Public Rights of Ways. In some places PRoW's won't provide looped, off-road routes but nonetheless they are vitally important as communities use them to make up their own loops and routes, combining on and off-road trails and paths.

3.5 What constitutes a community trail on the Ards Peninsula?

Outscape developed the first community trail plan in NI in 2014. Over time the definition of ‘community trail’ has grown and developed but it still retains the core criteria such as being 100% off-road, free to use, any length, etc. The current definition is provided in Appendix D.

This Review assessed whether this current definition was applicable to Ards Peninsula. Using the correct criteria was critical when measuring current provision and identifying which settlements had a satisfactory level of trail provision and which did not.

Before trail provision per settlement could be measured, it was first necessary to confirm that all existing trails met the criteria. Otherwise, the results could be skewed to falsely indicate that settlements had good provision when in fact the existing trails did not meet the criteria of a community trail.

To assess whether the definition was applicable and would subsequently lead to an accurate assessment of current provision, the following steps were taken –

- Mapping all known existing off-road trails on the Ards Peninsula on GIS (source data = Greenspace Map NI)
- Reviewing each trail one by one against the definition criteria
- Carrying out a ‘proximity analysis’ in GIS using the trails and location of settlements to gauge the provision of community trails within 400m, 1km, 3km and 5km.

The results of the proximity analysis indicated that all settlements on the Ards Peninsula had trail provision within 400m, which is known to be untrue.

The results were skewed because the following were being counted as legitimate community trails –

- Beaches (even where there was no formal access, car park or constructed trail)
- Payable visitor attractions (Mount Stewart)
- Trails measuring less than 0.5km (in some cases less than 100m)
- Trails up to 3km or 5km away from a settlement (which exceeds the UK government target of everyone being within a 15minute walk of quality green space)
- Some Public Rights of Way (PRoW) – small, unconnected, linear sections of trail or path

While the above are viable community trails in the norm, when evaluating current provision across the Ards Peninsula, the above was falsely indicating that most settlements had an 400m access to community trails and there was no further need for community trails to be developed. Based on community consultation, this is not the case.

To achieve an accurate measure of current provision, the community trail definition for Ards Peninsula was adapted to –

- Exclude beaches
- Exclude payable visitor attractions/sites, like Mount Stewart
- Exclude *some* Public Rights of Way (short, unconnected linear routes)
- Set a 1km minimum trail length for all community trails, i.e. discounting all trails less than 1km, meaning only trails 1km or longer could be counted as legitimate and current community trail
- Set a maximum proximity limit of 2km (the UK’s minimum standard for access to greenspace is a 15minute walk, which equates on average to 2km)

3.6 A new approach

The results of the Review indicate a new approach is required to identify high priority trails in settlements of greatest need, which in turn will help focus future resources.

The new approach should -

- Assess provision according to the smallest recognised settlement size - 'small settlement', not 'village'. This now includes 20 settlements rather than the original 9 villages – see Appendix C for full 'Settlement List'
- Deem the priority of a trail according to settlement need – i.e., those settlements with no provision have a higher need
- Define settlement 'need' based on a 400m, 1km and 2km proximity analysis - i.e. how far a person must travel from their home (by foot or car) to get to a trail
- Exclude beaches, payable outdoor attractions/sites, trails less than 1km, or trails further than 2km from a settlement as community trails.

4. Trail Prioritisation Framework



Grey Abbey, Greyabbey, TNI Content Pool

4.1 Applying the Framework to Ards Peninsula

In recent years, Outscape has developed a new method of identifying and prioritising community trail proposals.

It is called the 'Trail Prioritisation Framework'.

The Trail Prioritisation Framework is a planning tool that was born out of the need to assess a high volume of community trail proposals fairly and consistently at a district-wide scale.

It identifies which settlements have the highest need for trail development, based on the current trail provision within a defined distance, or 'settlement proximity limit'.

The following information is used to in the approach

–

- Existing provision of 'legitimate' community trails within the district (or other defined geographical area)
- Presence of those trails within a pre-defined proximity limit of a settlement
- Number of settlements served by one trail
- Depending on the results, the Framework will classify a settlement according to need for trail development, ranging from 'greatest need' to 'lowest need'.

It is important to note that –

1. This is not a tool to refuse or reject a trail proposal
2. The tool determines priority based on settlement need (which is based on current trail provision)
3. Regardless of the need, the decision to proceed with trail development is the discretion of the Council / lead partner. It is however likely to be based on other factors as well as need, such as ability to fund the capital build cost, sustainability of long-term management and maintenance costs, fulfilment of wider Council's aims and objectives, etc.
4. This is a simplified version of the full framework tool and its capabilities which has been adapted to fit the Ards Peninsula.

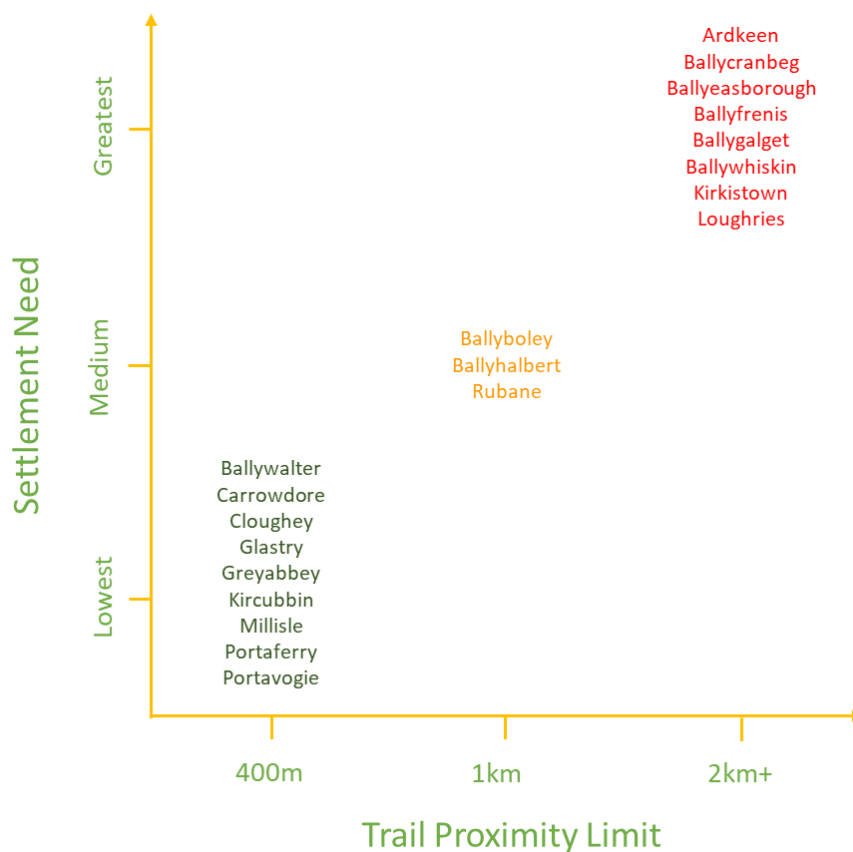
4.2 Current trail provision and proximity analysis results

The chart below groups the settlements that currently have a community trail within 400m, 1km and 2km of its centre.

It also shows the ‘need’ of these settlements based on this current trail provision.

The chart should be interpreted as –

- Settlements in green that currently have a community trail within 400m = lowest need
- Settlements in red that currently have a community trail within 2km or more (15min walking distance or more) = highest need



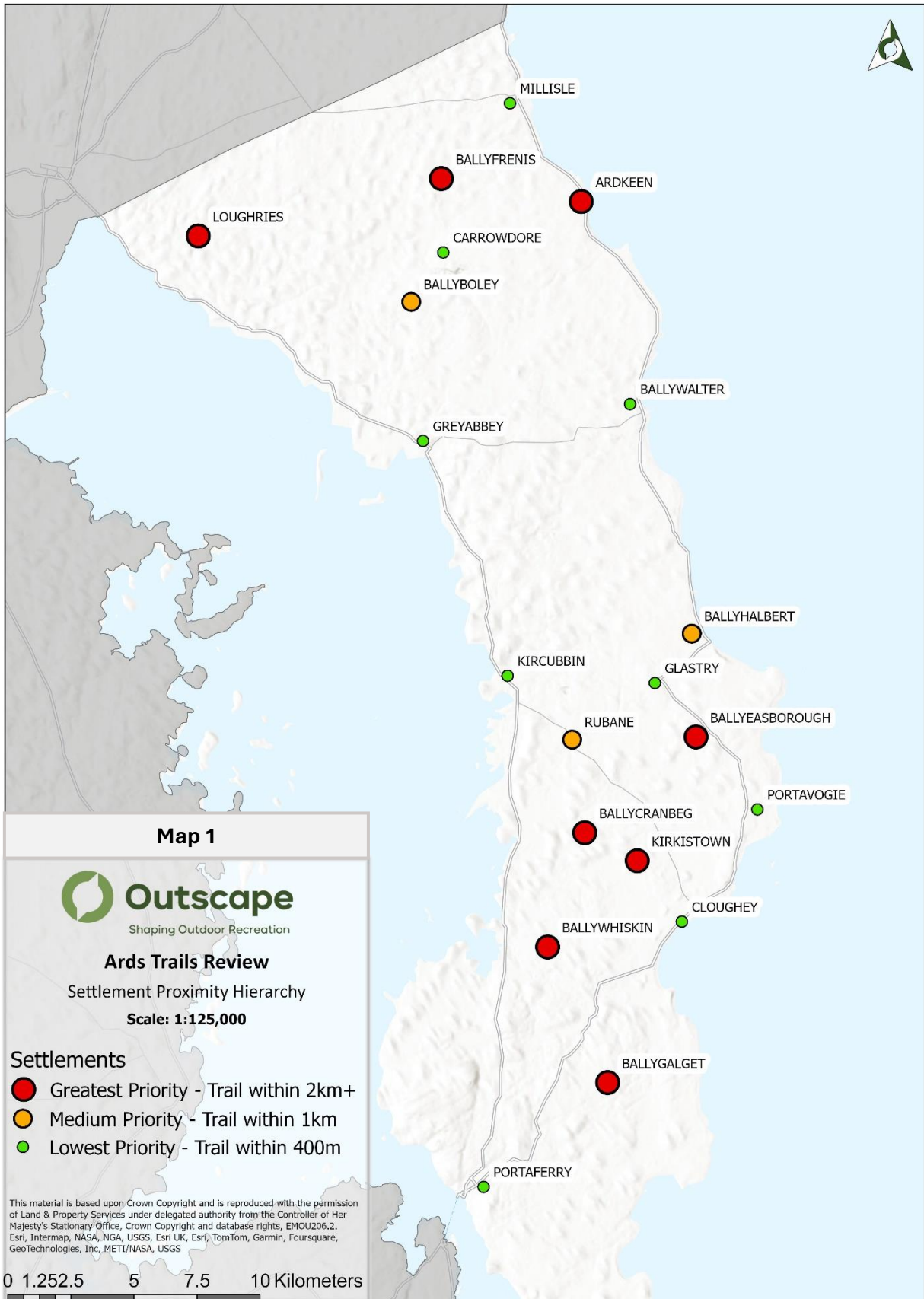
The following maps correspond to the chart above but show the spatial distribution of these settlements on the Ards Peninsula.

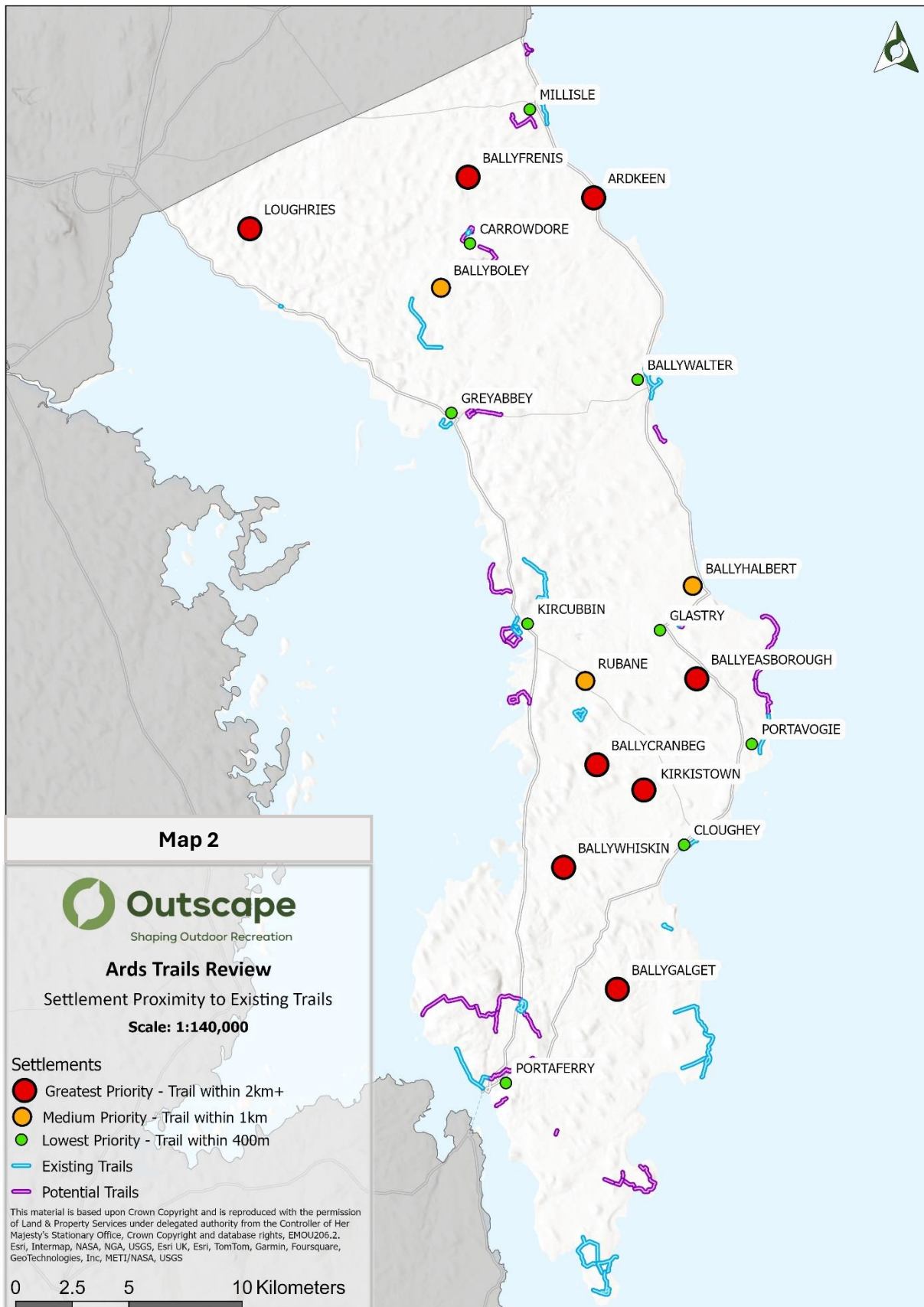
Map 1 shows the highest need settlements (red) fall into two clusters –

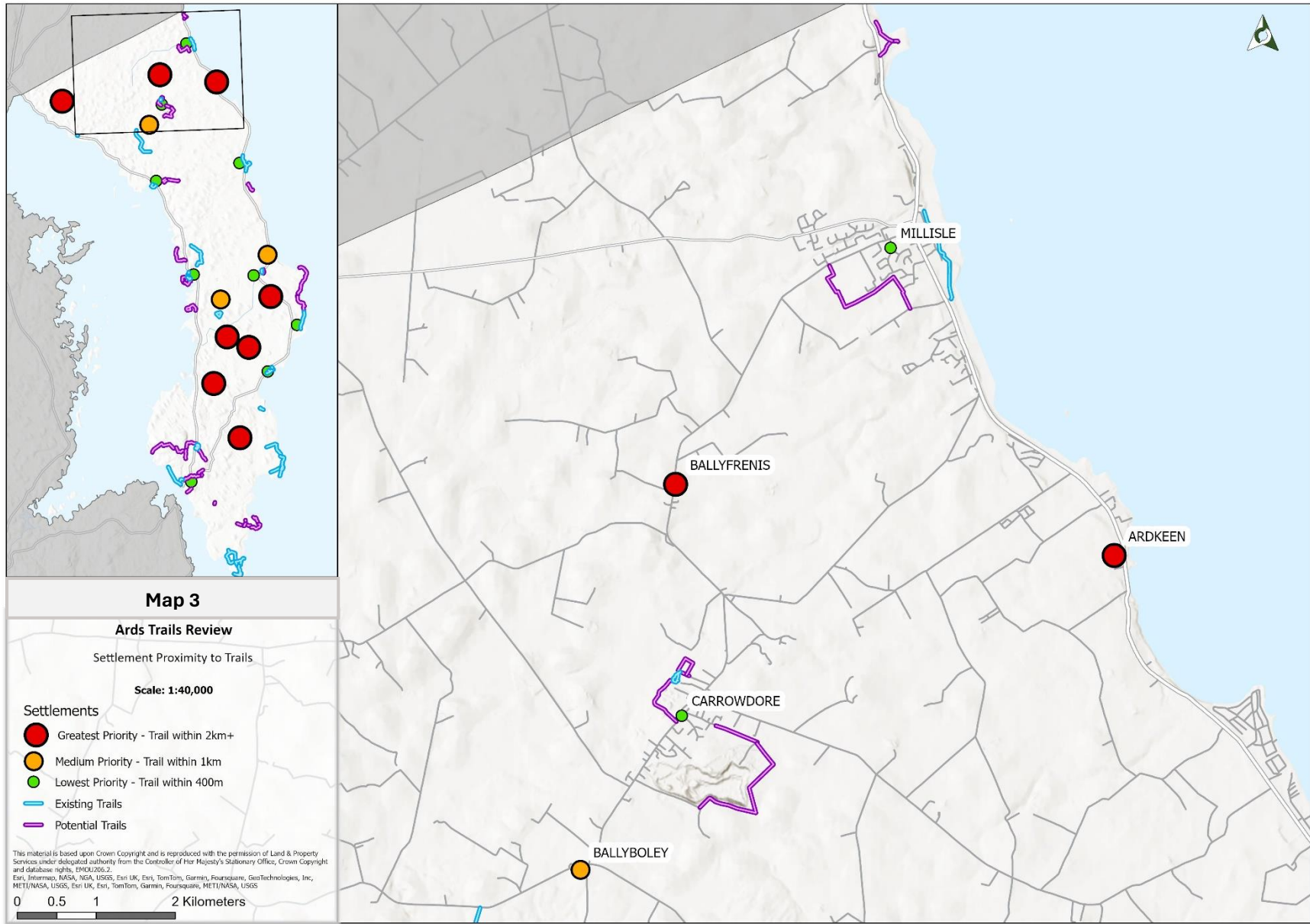
- Northern peninsula - Loughries, Ballyfrenis and Ardkeen
- Inland, southern peninsula - Ballyeasborough, Balycranbeg, Kirkistown, Ballywhiskin and Ballygalget

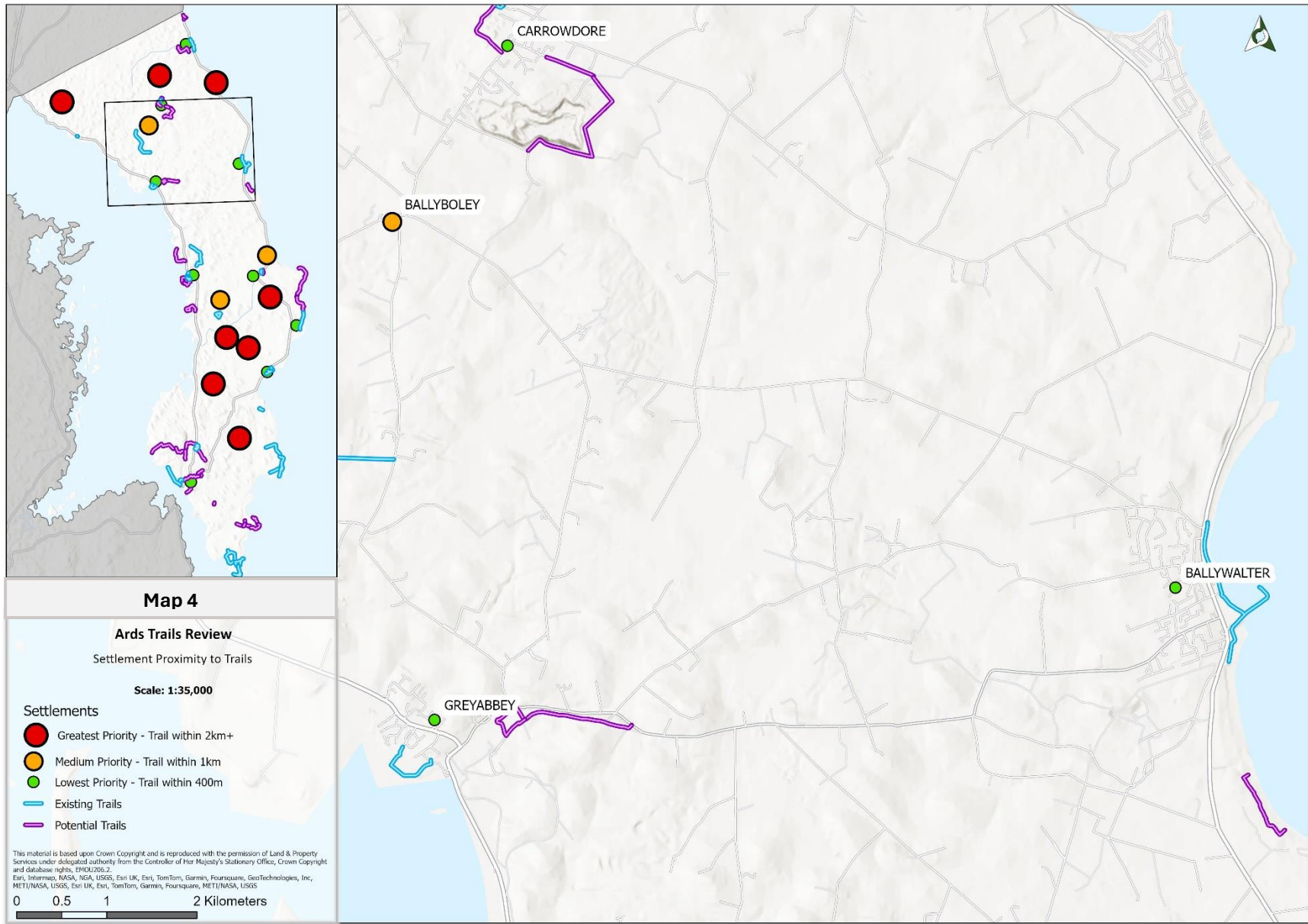
Map 2 shows the location of existing community trails and potential new trails in relation to these settlements.

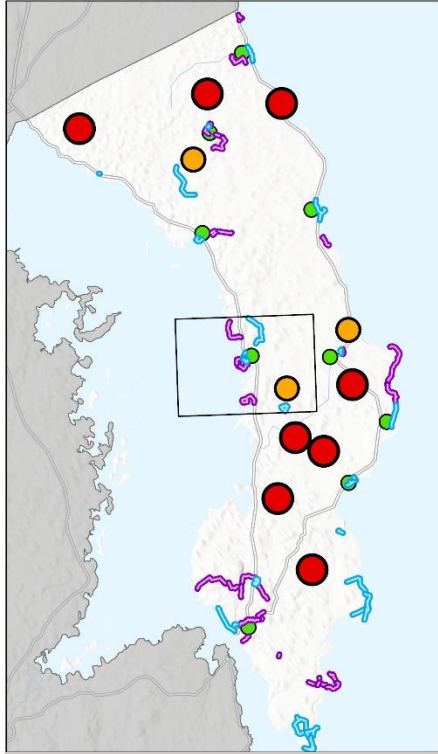
Maps 3-6 are ‘zoom-in’s’ of all settlements shown in Map 2.











Map 5

Ards Trails Review

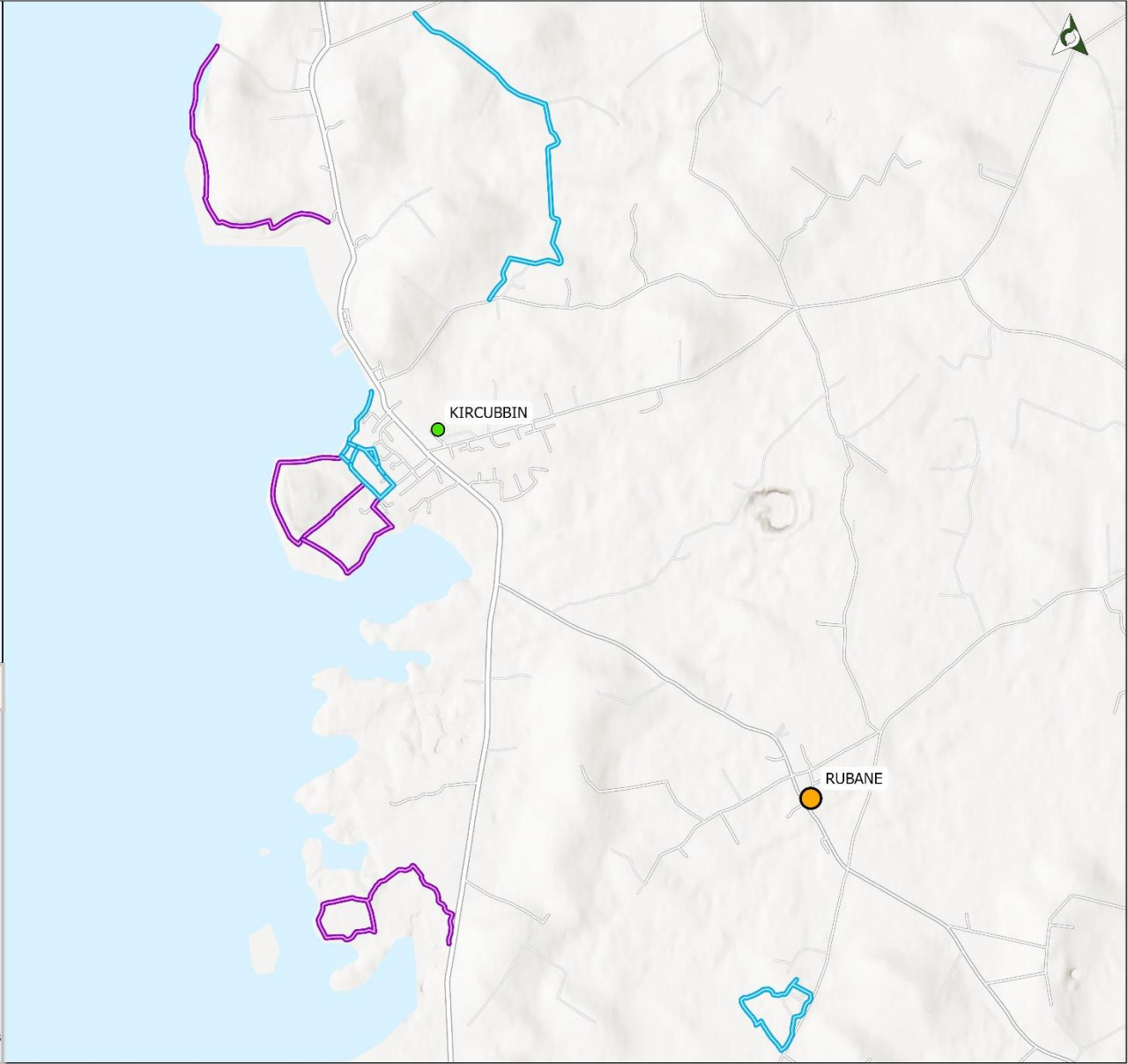
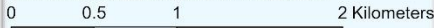
Settlement Proximity to Trails

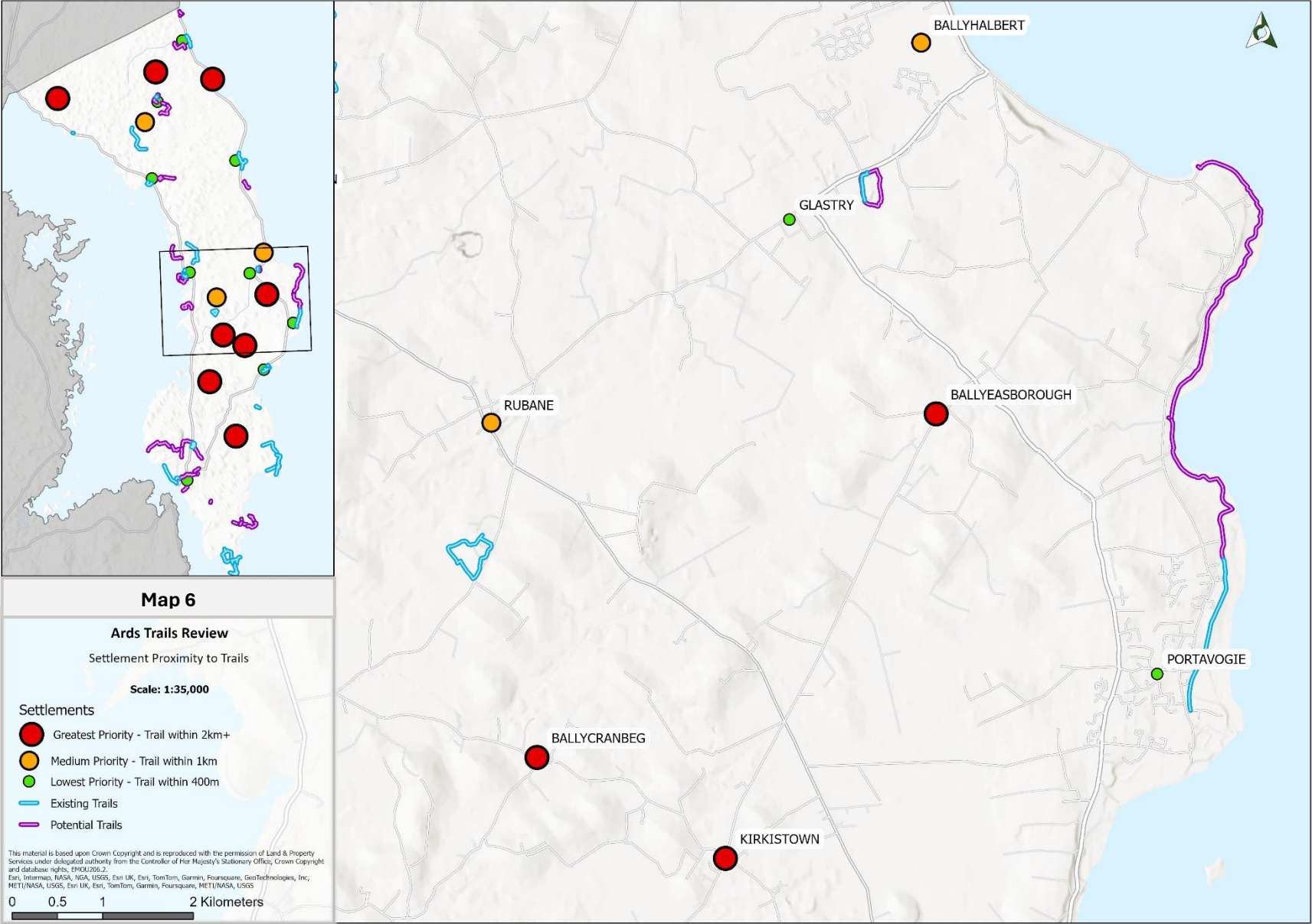
Scale: 1:25,000

Settlements

- Greatest Priority - Trail within 2km+
- Medium Priority - Trail within 1km
- Lowest Priority - Trail within 400m
- Existing Trails
- Potential Trails

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4.3 Conclusion

The Peninsula is a rural landscape, predominately owned by private landowners and used for agriculture.

Settlements are dispersed and communities are heavily reliant on roads for walking because there is limited public land, most of which has been developed or already offers public access.

There are limited Public Rights of Way and almost no permissive paths. The coastline is also highly protected by statutory designations.

Because of this, opportunities to develop new doorstep community trails (within 1km) and enhance public access for walking on the Ards Peninsula are already significantly limited.

To make a notable increase in off-road community trail provision, access to private land will be required. But key to any approaches and discussion with landowners will be the ability to demonstrate community demand and support.

Considering this, it is recommended that –

1. The partners consider ALL trail opportunities regardless of what settlement they fall within, because any trail in any settlement, will enhance the OVERALL provision of community trails on the Peninsula.
2. If a trail opportunity arises in one of the greater need settlements (orange and red) these should be prioritised.

5. Future Opportunities



Ballycopeland Windmill, Millisle, TNI Content Pool

5.1 Potential opportunities

As part of this Review, several new opportunities, or ideas for community trails, were identified.

Looped Trails on Public Land

- **National Trust, Glastry Clay Pits, Ballyhalbert** – would serve Ballyhalbert, Ballyeasborough and Glastry – proposed upgrade and extension to existing trail to create a continuous, looped walk that can be accessed via a footpath from the village
- **Woodland Trust, Carrow Wood and Football Pitch Loop, Carrowdore** – proposed path within the woodland and around the Council pitch.

Looped Trails on Private Land

- **Carrowdore Castle Estate, Carrowdore** – would serve Carrowdore, Ballyboley and Ballyfrenis
- **The Bracken, Ballywalter** – proposed linear route through wooded sand dune environment as alternative to beach; further possible looped extension through adjacent woodland owned by Dunleath Estate (TBC)
- **Rosemount Estate, Greyabbey** – proposed trail incorporating the Abbey and neighbouring private Rosemount Estate (must be 100% off-road)

Linear Connections & Laneways

- **Corrog Lane (to Cloughey Road), Portaferry** – would serve Portaferry and Ballygalget – proposed linear link from Corrog Wood to Cloughey Road; would not create a continuous, off-road loop
- **Corrog Lane (to Lough Shore Road), Portaferry** - would serve Portaferry and Ballygalget – proposed linear trail; extension of Corrog Lane connecting with the Mountain Road and Loughshore Road via laneway to Ballywhite House
- **Hill of Tara, Portaferry** – proposed linear access to Hill of Tara (historic monument)

- **South Bay Loop, Portaferry** – proposed loop from Ballyquintin Road to Mill Bay Road taking in Coastguard Lookout and South Bay beach
- **Cloughey Road Pitches & The Gables, Portaferry** – proposed loop around Council’s proposed new 4G pitch and link with residential development extending The Gables (*would facilitate greater looped walking opportunities in Portaferry*)

While some of these do not form a continuous off-road loop, they are still important connections for the local community who wish to form their walking routes using a mix of on and off-road walking trails/paths around their villages/settlements.

While these types of trails may not be safe or suitable for promotion, in some cases this may be the most that can be achieved in terms of public access and therefore still warrants consideration by the Council and PHLP if there is strong community support and demand.

5.2 Linear links and connections

Public rights of way, in all forms (asserted and alleged) was a recurrent theme in this Review, often referred to as ‘old laneways’ by consultees.

These old laneways, regardless of access status, represent a critical asset to increasing public access on the Ards Peninsula.

Like the linear connections listed above, in most cases, these will not provide entire off-road or looped routes but nonetheless they are important because communities often use them to make up their own loops and routes, combining on and off-road trails and paths.

5.3 2024 Trails List

The following table lists all trails identified as having potential to be explored further and developed into community trails. Some trails are carried over from 2014 and some are new opportunities identified through this review. The table outlines next steps for each trail.

2024 Trails List						
No.	Settlement	Trail Name	Length (kms)	Settlements served (based on 2km buffer)	Landowner permission in place?	Next Steps
Community Trails						
1	Glastry	Glastry Clay Pits	0.7	Glastry, Ballyeasborough, Ballyhalbert	Yes	Feasibility Study
2	Carrowdore	Quarry Trail - Blanes Lane & Taggarts Lane	2.2	Carrowdore, Kirkistown	No	Feasibility Study
3		Carrow Wood & Football Pitch	0.5		Yes	Feasibility Study
4	Kircubbin	Monaghan Bank	1.9	Kircubbin, Rubane	Pending	Feasibility Study
5		Nunsquarter	1.5		No	Feasibility Study
6	Millisle	Ballycopeland Windmill	2.2	Millisle, Ballyfrenis	No	Feasibility Study (#2)
7		Templepatrick Standing Stone & Graveyard Link	0.4	Millisle	No	Feasibility Study
8		Walkers Lane Link (to Football Club)	1	Millisle, Ballyfrenis	No	Feasibility Study
9	Portaferry	Corrog Lane (to Cloughey Road)	0.7	Cloughey, Kirkistown	No	Identify landowner and gauge public access appetite
10		Corrog Lane (to Lough Shore Road)	1.5	Cloughey, Kirkistown, Ballywhiskin	No	Approach landowner and gauge public access appetite
11		Hill of Tara	0.5	None	No	Approach landowner and gauge public access appetite
12		South Bay Loop	2	None	No	Feasibility Study
13		Cloughey Road Pitches and The Gables	0.8	Portaferry	No	Feasibility Study
Long term aspirations / strategic trails						
14	Cloughey	Cloughey to Kearney Coastal Walk	5.2	Cloughey	No	Review on an annual basis re. change in landowner appetite/situation
15	Ballywalter	The Bracken	Unknown	Ballywalter	No	Approach landowner and gauge public access appetite – if agree move to Feasibility Study
16	Greyabbey	Rosemount Estate Trail (incl. Abbey)	Unknown	Greyabbey	No	Review in 2025 and approach landowner re. public access appetite
Linear links and connections						
17	Kircubbin	The 40 Steps	2.4	Kircubbin	Yes	The trail could be made more accessible, quality, and safe to use – would require landowner permission and consent to maintain
18	Portaferry	Ballyfounder Lane	0.1	Portaferry	No	Identify landowner and gauge public access appetite
19		Windmill Lane / Brickyard Lane	0.4	Portaferry	No	Identify landowner and gauge public access appetite
20		South Bay (priority over loop trail)	0.5	Portaferry	No	Identify landowner
21		Ballywhite House Lane	1.8	Portaferry	No	Identify landowner and gauge public access appetite

5.4 Strategic areas for trail development

Although settlements are dispersed on the Peninsula, the narrow land area means it is possible to develop a trail that serves multiple settlements.

Using the proximity analysis tool, a 2km buffer was applied to all settlement centre points.

Map 7 shows the results – that most of these 2km buffer zones overlap.

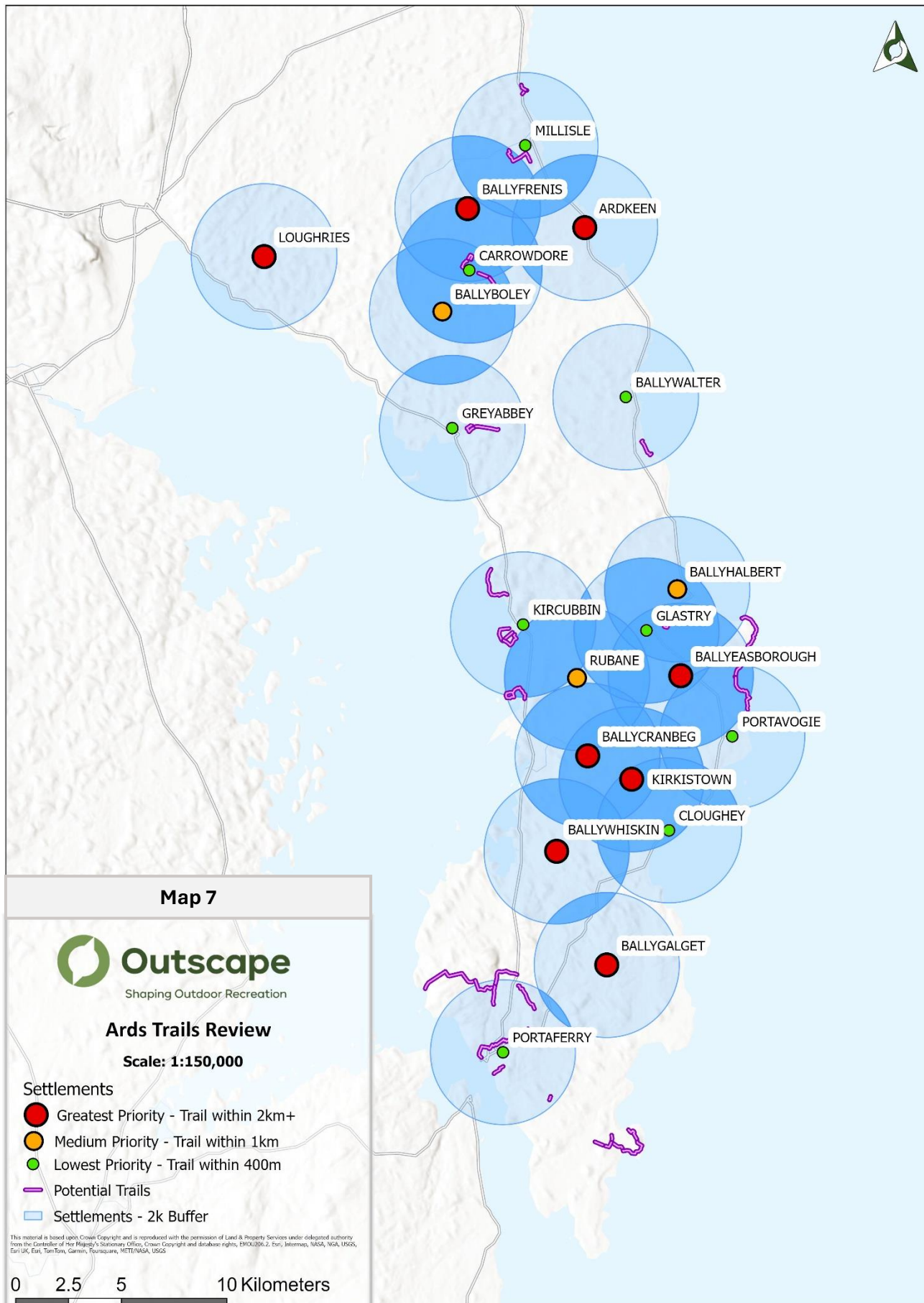
If one potential trail was identified and developed in one of these ‘overlap zones’ it would serve multiple settlements.

Adopting this approach would –

- increase the chance of achieving success, i.e. at least 1 community trail in each settlement
- result in a more efficient use of resources
- deliver better value for money
- have a particularly high impact in the highest need clusters

Referring to Map 7 and the 2024 Trails List contained in this report, the following potential trails fall in the overlap zones and would serve multiple settlements, based on a 1km proximity limit –

- Monaghan Bank
- Horse Island
- Carrow Wood & Football Pitch



6. Conclusions



6.1 It is time for a new approach

This Review concludes that it is time to adopt a new approach to developing community trails on the Ards Peninsula.

This new approach – using the Trail Prioritisation Framework – prioritises trail developing in areas that have the highest need. In other words, settlements that have no community trails within 400m of a person's home.

This new approach does not replace the need for consulting with the local community but rather helps the Council and PHLP to know where to focus resources – in the areas of greatest need.

6.2 Community support is critical to success

The best community trails are developed from ideas that come from the local community. This may be a completely new trail, or it may be based on an existing route that the community already use informally.

Once a new trail is identified, ongoing support and buy-in from the community is critical to the success of the project, particularly if private landowners are being asked to grant public access.

There is also a greater likelihood of success, if the local community are involved in the project, either through sharing local knowledge, approaching landowners and/or volunteering time.

6.3 There is a need for community trails on Ards Peninsula

The proximity analysis found that 10 out of 20 settlements do not have access to a community trail within 400m. There is a clear need to still develop community trails on the Ards Peninsula and create access to quality green space.

6.4 Not all trails are community trails

It is important to consider 'quality' when developing community trails on the Ards Peninsula. The

proximity analysis demonstrated that beaches and payable visitor attractions do not constitute community trails. The partners should consider only developing trails that fulfil the core criteria of a community trails such as –

- Majority off-road
- Ideally, greater than 1km
- Free to use

See Appendix D for the 'best community trails' criteria.

6.5 Opportunities are limited

The landscape make-up of the Ards Peninsula means that opportunities to develop off-road community trails are severely limited.

The limited amount of 'publicly owned land' (i.e. National Trust, Woodland Trust, DAERA) already provides access or has been developed as greenspace.

Most of the land is privately owned and used for farming. Often requests to permit public access is met with resistance from landowners due to liability and safety concerns.

Most of the coastal, scenic land (where people would want to walk) is designated so trail development is limited so as not to create or cause unacceptable negative impacts such as habitat destruction or wildlife disturbance.

If the partners wish to increase provision of off-road community trails, it will be dependent on access to private land and permissive path agreements.

6.6 What does success look like?

The recommended next steps are that the partners discuss and agree what success for the Ards Peninsula looks like?

Based on the findings of this review, Outscape suggests that success is –

- At least 1 community trail within 1km of each settlement

Or

- At least 1 community trail within 2km of each settlement

7. Appendices



Tobar Mhuire, Crossgar, Outscape

Appendix A: 2014 trails list

No.	Village	Name	PERMISSION LIKELY	ESTIMATED CAPITAL COST	ENVIRONMENTAL CONSTRAINTS	COMMUNIT APPETITE	BENEFIT / VALUE TO COMMUNITY	TOTAL SCORE	Length (kms)
15	Kircubbin	The 40 Steps	3	3	3	3	3	15	2.4
4	Carrowdore	Blanes Lanes	2	3	3	3	3	14	0.6
13	Greyabbey	Islandview Plantation	3	3	3	2	3	14	0.4
22	Portaferry	Nugent's Wood	3	3	3	3	2	14	1.5
6	Cloughey	The Warren Boardwalk	3	1	2	2	3	11	0.7
7	Cloughey	Slanes Graveyard	2	3	3	1	2	11	0.2
11	Greyabbey	Skillins Point Wood	2	2	1	3	3	11	1.7
16	Kircubbin	Monaghan Bank	2	1	2	3	3	11	1.9
23	Portavogie	The Quays Trail	2	1	2	3	3	11	0.9
1	Ballyhalbert	Burr Point Loop	1	1	2	3	3	10	1.6
5	Carrowdore	Robinsons Lane	1	2	2	2	3	10	0.5
12	Greyabbey	Foreshore link to Village Hall	1	2	1	3	3	10	0.3
14	Kircubbin	Nunsquarter	1	2	3	2	2	10	1.5
18	Millisle	Ballycopeland Windmill	1	1	2	3	3	10	2.2
21	Portaferry	Portaferry House Estate	1	3	3	1	2	10	1.3
3	Carrowdore	Taggarts Lane	2	2	2	2	1	9	3.4
8	Cloughey	Cloughey to Kearney Coastal Walk	1	1	1	3	3	9	5.2
9	Cloughey	Cloughey Coastal Walk	1	1	1	3	3	9	3.6
10	Greyabbey	The Promenade	2	1	1	3	2	9	0.6
20	Millisle	Loop around Woburn House	1	2	3	1	2	9	0.9
2	Carrowdore	Carrow Wood Loop	3	2	1	1	1	8	0.4
17	Millisle	Templepatrick Graveyard & Stone	2	3	1	1	1	8	0.6
19	Millisle	Walkers Lane Link	1	2	3	1	1	8	0.4

Appendix B: Review of 2014 trails list

No.	Village	Name	Still Viable?	Rationale
15	Kircubbin	The 40 Steps	✓	Still potential to develop; strategic PRoW and trail integral to a greater network of walking opportunities in Kircubbin
4	Carrowdore	Blanes Lanes	✓	Still potential to explore - combine with Taggart's Lane to create a loop trail around the Northstone quarry
13	Greyabbey	Islandview Plantation	✗	Low community demand; environmental and safety concerns re. encouraging use of foreshore (sensitive landscape)
22	Portaferry	Nugent's Wood	✗	Delivered
6	Cloughey	The Warren Boardwalk	✗	Delivered
7	Cloughey	Slan's Graveyard	✗	Delivered
11	Greyabbey	Skillins Point Wood	✗	Unachievable due to private land, environmental impact concerns and low local demand
16	Kircubbin	Monaghan Bank	✓	Potential to develop – landowner support in principle
23	Portavogie	The Quays Trail	✗	No proceeding due to unacceptable impacts on priority species
1	Ballyhalbert	Burr Point Coastal Trail	✓	Still potential to develop; requires further investigation re. extent and route of a trail
5	Carrowdore	Robinsons Lane	✗	Unlikely to achieve due to private land and security concerns
12	Greyabbey	Thompsons Wood to Village Hall Trail	✗	Likely to be unfeasible due to coastal flooding and environmental impact concerns
14	Kircubbin	Nunsquarter	✓	Informal trail. Could link to 'The 40 Steps' to create a long loop trail outside Kircubbin.
18	Millisle	Ballycopeland Windmill	✓	Still potential to explore; requires further investigation
21	Portaferry	Portaferry House Estate	✓	Unachievable; unlikely to secure landowner permission
3	Carrowdore	Taggarts Lane	✓	Still potential to explore - combine with Blane's Lane for a longer loop around the quarry (dependent on local demand)
8	Cloughey	Cloughey to Kearney Coastal Walk	✓	Landowners opposed to access since 2014. Still represents a strategic coastal trail link two villages plus existing PRoW
9	Cloughey	Cloughey Coastal Loop Walk	✗	Landowner opposed to access; safety issues with return route on-road
10	Greyabbey	The Promenade	✗	No community demand; public footpath already exists; safety concerns
20	Millisle	Woburn House Trail	✓	Potential remains. Requires further investigation - in 2019 landowners indicated willingness to consider public access
2	Carrowdore	Carrow Wood Loop	✓	Potential remains - only woodland in Carrowdore. Easily accessible, owned by Woodland Trust, existing usage indicates demand, could be combined with all ability/accessible trail around football pitch. Peace Plus application.
17	Millisle	Templepatrick Stone to Graveyard	✓	Still potential to explore to link village along promenade to the Standing Stone and Graveyard
19	Millisle	Walkers Lane Link (to Football Club)	✓	Still potential to explore; subject to community demand and landowner permission

Appendix C: Settlement list

No.	Name	Type
1	Ardkeen	Small settlement
2	Ballyboley	Small settlement
3	Ballycranbeg	Small settlement
4	Ballyeasborough	Small settlement
5	Ballyfrenis	Small settlement
6	Ballygalget	Small settlement
7	Ballyhalbert	Village
8	Ballywalter	Village
9	Ballywhiskin	Small settlement
10	Carrowdore	Village
11	Cloughey	Village
12	Glastry	Small settlement
13	Greyabbey	Village
14	Kircubbin	Village
15	Kirkistown	Small settlement
16	Loughries	Small settlement
17	Millisle	Village
18	Portaferry	Village
19	Portavogie	Village
20	Rubane	Small settlement

Appendix D: Community trail definition

A community trail is simply a trail that:

Connects people to outdoor, greenspace close to where they live and/or work for the purpose of exercise, leisure, or commuting.

To find out more about greenspace in your area, you can explore the [Greenspace NI Map](#).

The best community trails:

- are initiated by the community for the community
- are 100% off-road
- can be walked or cycled to and from a person's home or workplace i.e. do not require a car
- provide for a range of users, e.g. walkers, prams, cyclists, horses, wheelchair users, etc
- has a purpose-built trail surface, e.g. compacted gravel
- feel safe to use
- connect people to their local natural and built environments

Community trails always:

- are free to use
- have the formal permission of ALL landowners in place
- are waymarked with appropriate signage
- are clearly defined on the ground (i.e. through waymarking, fencing or trail surface)

- have a management plan in place specifying who is responsible for the on-going management, maintenance, and insurance of the trail once it is open to the public

Community trails can be:

- developed in both urban and rural settings
- on public¹ or private land
- any length, though often, they are short i.e. more than 1km and less than 5km
- looped or linear
- extended or link to other existing trails in an area
- accessible to people without specialist knowledge or skills (i.e. not in open moorland or uplands where navigation skills are essential)

Community trails usually:

- use woodlands or historic linear routes such as towpaths, riverside walks, or disused railways
- require existing trails to be upgraded AND new trails to be built
- have a clear starting point (trailhead) with information, especially where the trail is promoted for visitors and tourists
- are promoted – often online, at the trailhead, in a leaflet, etc.

¹ Land owned by a public body and/or acting in the public interest with a remit for public access, e.g. local Council, Woodland Trust, Forest Service woodlands, etc.



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A Feasibility Study into the Development of Community Trails on the western side of Strangford Lough

September 2022

Prepared by Outdoor Recreation NI

Prepared by: Rachel Hart

Reviewed by Sarah Noble

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In November 2021, Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC) commissioned Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) to undertake a Feasibility Study into the Development of Community Trails on the western side of Strangford Lough, between Island Hill and Whiterock (within the ANDBC Boundary).

1.2 Aim and Objectives

The project sought to assess and identify potential new community trails within the defined study area.

In assessing potential new trails, a preference was outlined for geographical focus on the coastline area between Island Hill and Whiterock. However, it was noted that any trails identified inland should also be included.

Trail assessments were to be carried out on any potential new routes identified within the study area to determine the condition of the existing trail surface and identify any associated development requirements.

Approximate costs for delivery of each trail were to be identified and recommendations provided for next stage development.

1.3 Community Trails Defined

A community trail is defined for purposes of this project as a trail that:

- Connects communities to outdoor spaces and are therefore close to where people live and work
- Connects different communities together, i.e. connects two villages together

In addition, a Community Trail –

- Can be in an urban or rural setting or both
- Provides opportunities for walking and cycling on the people's 'doorstep'
- Should be at least 70% off road
- Can be used for exercise, shopping, commuting or enjoying leisure time
- Includes an area of 'green space'
- Connects people to local, natural and built environments

- Feels safe - the presence of others on the trail provides a perception of safety and security
- Provides for those with accessibility issues where appropriate
- May have a trailhead with information, particularly where the trail is promoted for visitors / tourists
- Has written / legal agreement in place outlining identified management and maintenance responsibilities
- Has an identified Trail Owner, Trail Provider and Trail Promoter
- Has information for the trail user – may be online, at trailhead, in a leaflet etc.
- Is clearly defined on the ground and may have waymarking and appropriate signage
- Can be accessed in a range of ways by a range of people from a range of different places
- Can be looped or linear
- May utilise historic linear routes such as canal towpaths, riverbank walks and disused railways
- May require newly constructed trail to be created
- May require existing paths to be upgraded
- May extend/ join existing routes
- Is in an area of identified need
- May be of any length

A community trail can be on a mixture of trail surfaces, e.g. grass, beach, promenade, gravel lane, tarmac footpath, etc. It may be a clearly defined path or it may be a fenced off route between fields.

1.4 Study Area

The study area, Fig. 1, covers coastline between Island Hill and just south of Whiterock on the western side of Strangford Lough. The area is located within the jurisdiction of Ards and North Down Borough Council, and specifically the District Electoral Area (DEA) of Comber.



Strangford Lough Community Trails Feasibility Study

Scale: 1:68,000

Key

Study Area

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Figure 1: Map of Study Area

1.5 Methodology

1.5.1 Desk Based Research

Initial desk research was undertaken in May 2022 to determine current provision. This included review of previous studies of relevance, and current provision mapped through websites including OutmoreNI.com and WalkNI.com.

1.5.2 Site Visits and Audits

Site visits and meetings were undertaken on Tuesday 7th June, Friday 17th June 2022 and Wednesday 14th September to map, photograph and assess current and potential provision within the study area.

1.5.3 Consultation

One-to-one consultation was undertaken via email, phone or video call with local community groups (Lisbane Community Association, Killinchy and District Community Development Association and The Livingston Centre at Killinchy Parish Church), walking and cycling groups, landowners, and other key stakeholders in June and July 2022.

2 Current Provision

2.1 OutmoreNi.com

OutmoreNi.com was developed by Outdoor Recreation Northern Ireland (ORNI) with funding secured from SportNI and the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The website provides information on all formalised outdoor trails including walking, cycling, canoeing and mountain biking across Northern Ireland. The website lists the following walking and cycling opportunities within the study area:

2.1.1 Island Hill & North Strangford Nature Reserve Walk

Accessible at low-tide, this 0.7 mile loop walk around Rough Island provides views of Strangford Lough and is a popular view point for bird watching.

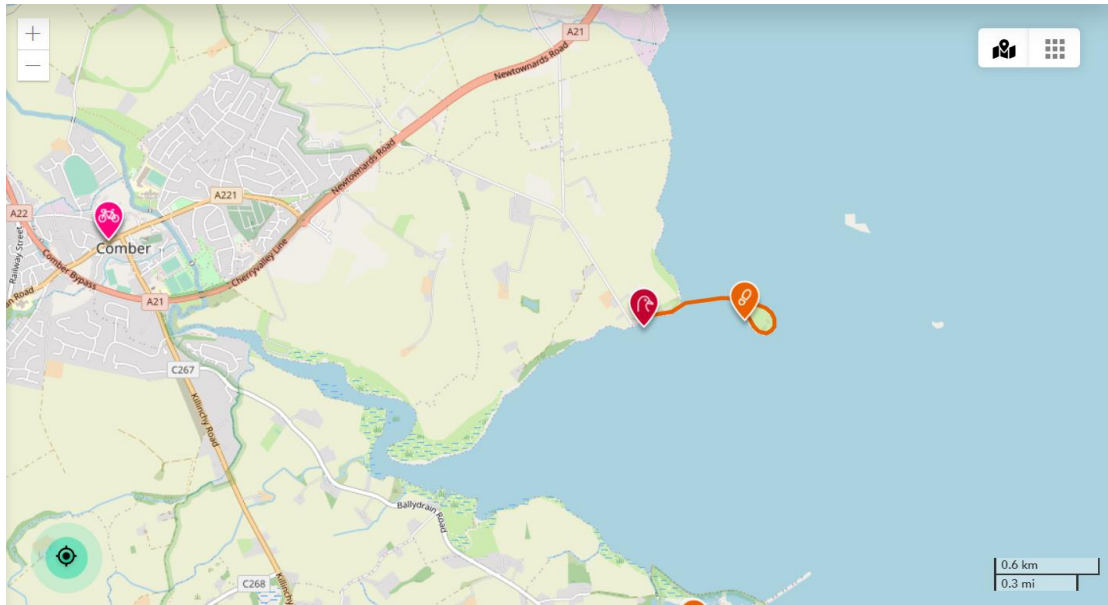


Figure 2: Walking Trail at Island Hill / Source: OutmoreNI/OSNI

2.1.2 Castle Espie

Castle Espie is a wetland reserve managed by the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust on the banks of Strangford Lough, three miles south of Comber, County Down. It is part of the Strangford Lough Ramsar Site. The site provides wide estuary views, tidal lagoon, eel-grass mats, woodland walks, salt marshes and reed beds; and hosts Ireland’s largest collection of native and exotic water-birds. A trail network links hides and viewing areas and offers two themed routes:

Castle Espie Woodland Trail is a 1 mile loop trail, parkland with steeper sections in wooded area.

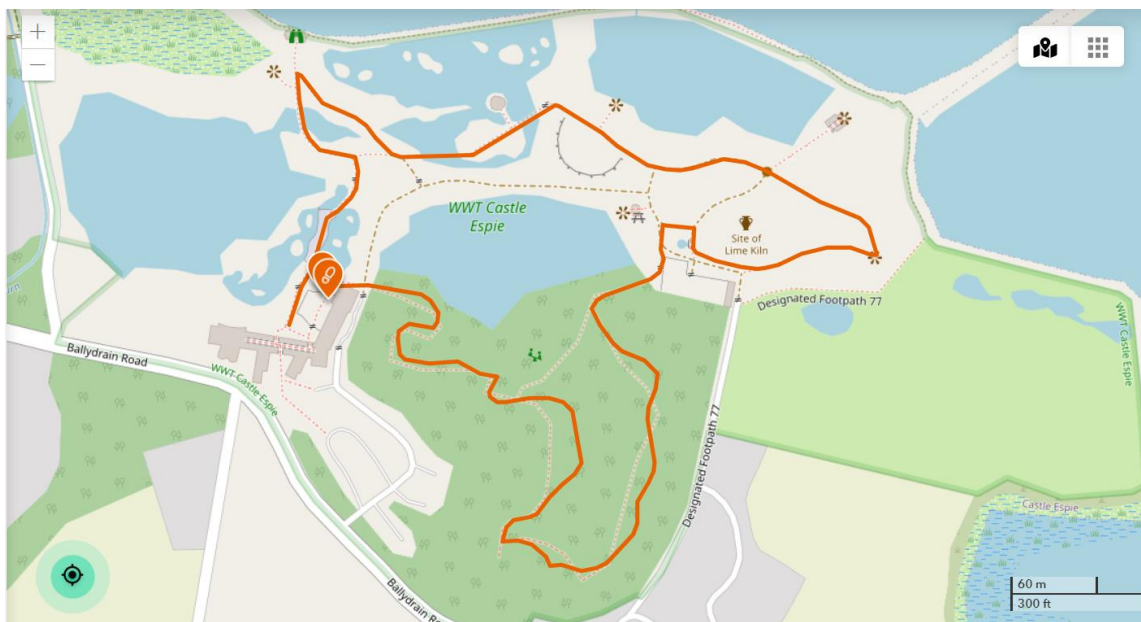


Figure 3: Castle Espie Woodland Trail

Castle Espie Wildlife Wander Trail is a 0.7 mile loop trail on flat parkland terrain and is suitable for a multitude of users.

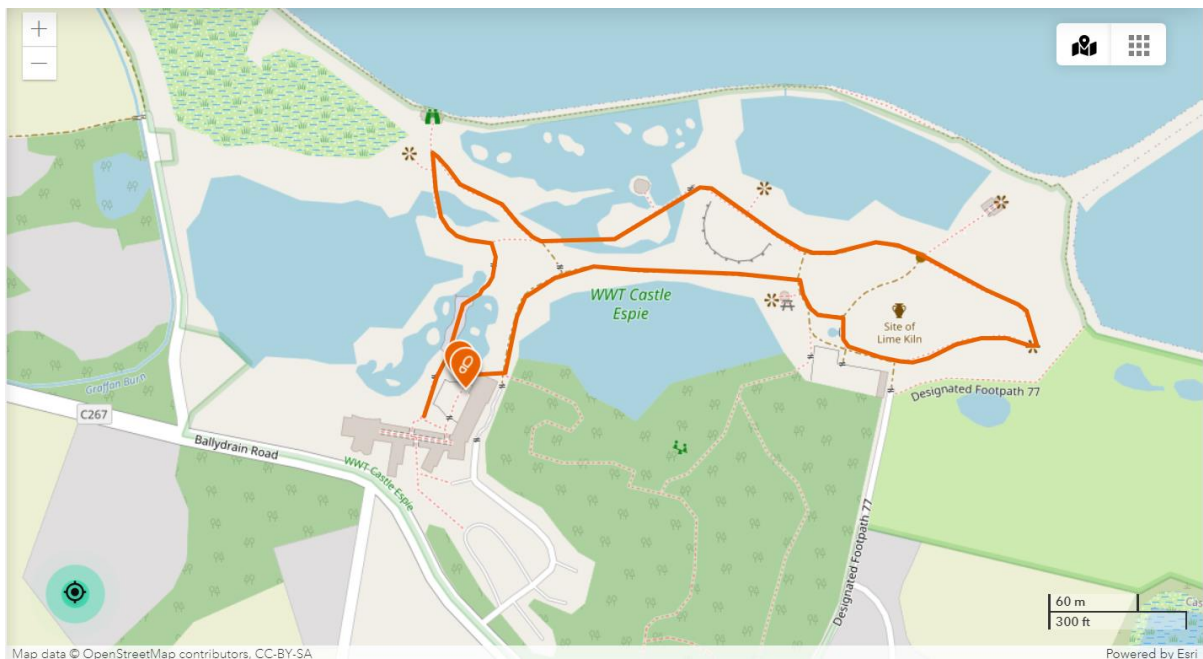


Figure 4: Castle Espie Wildfowl Wander Trail

The site is paid entry with current prices (as at September 2022) of Adult £9.70, Concession (65+, full-time student and unemployed) £8.25, Child (4-16 years) £5.35, Family (2 adults and 2 children, 4-16 years) £25.60, Children (under 4 years) free, Carers assisting disabled visitors free.

2.1.3 Whiterock and Mahee Island Cycle Route

This 27 mile route follows the western shores of Strangford Lough past Castle Espie Wetland Centre and Nendrum monastic site before cutting inland to Kilmoody, then following the ridge above Lisbane before re-joining the outward route back to Comber. The route is based mostly on quiet country roads, with reasonable surfaces.

Sections of this route follow National Cycle Network Route 99 - East to Northwest Coastal Route. This trail also connects to the Strangford Lough Trail as detailed as referenced in Section 2.1.4 .

Consultation identified that this route is popular with local cycle clubs.

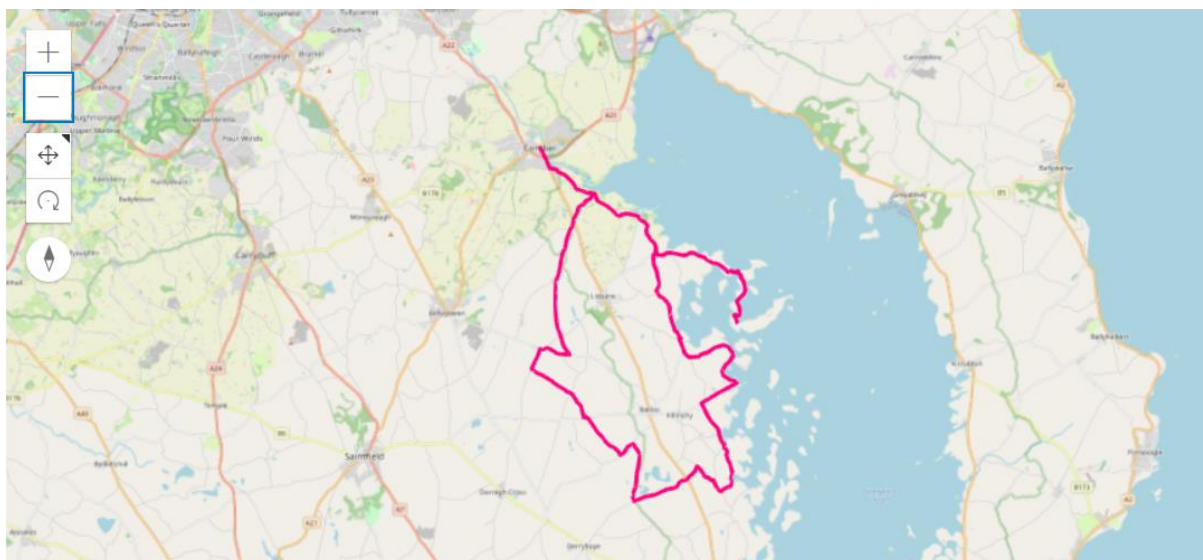


Figure 5: Whiterock and Mahee Island Cycle Route / Source: OutmoreNI/OSNI

2.1.4 Strangford Lough Trail

The Strangford Lough Trail is a 83.9 mile loop around Strangford Lough linked by ferry crossing from Portaferry to Strangford. The route follows minor roads but can be busy through major towns. Sections of this route follow National Cycle Network Route 99 - East to Northwest Coastal Route. The National Cycling Network (NCN) is managed by Sustrans. This route is waymarked on road.

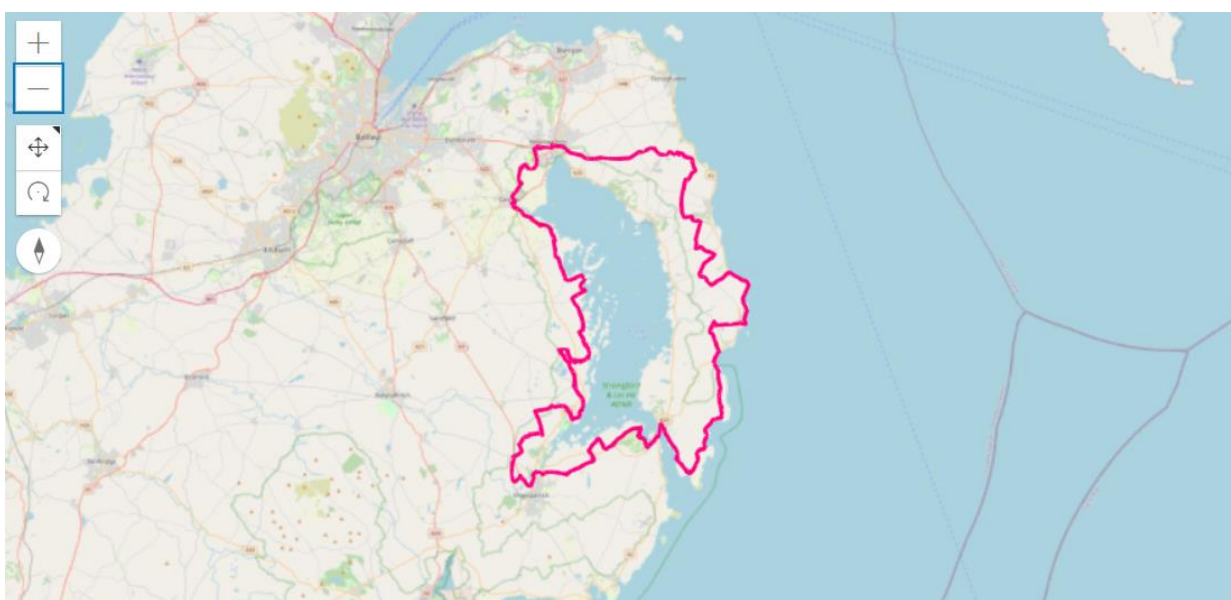


Figure 6: Strangford Lough Trail / Source: OutmoreNI/OSNI

2.2 Open Space Concept Mapping

Ards & North Down Borough Council have been completing work on an Open Space Mapping project to map accessible green space for all communities across the borough. Key findings relevant to the study area are shown below.

The Vision for Ards and North Down's Open Space is that:

"The residents and visitors of Ards and North Down will feel pride as they enjoy access to attractive parks, open spaces, coastal hubs and natural places. Good quality open spaces play a major role in enhancing the quality of life for local communities, providing spaces for learning, socialising, playing and active sports. Engaging in outdoor recreation (sports, passive recreation, water sports, cycling and walking) in the open spaces in towns and villages and along the coastline of the Ards Peninsula will encourage people to enjoy good health and wellbeing. Existing open spaces will be protected and enhanced to diversify urban habitats, are managed sustainably and help mitigate climate change. Where possible, open spaces will be linked by a network of paths and green corridors to encourage active travel, promote active lifestyles and exploration of the outdoors."

Work undertaken to date by environmental consultants Ironside Farrar has delivered the following initial findings relevant to this study area.

2.2.1 Lisbane Summary Open Space Analysis

"Accessibility of Open Space - the settlement meets the accessibility standards. Lisbane contains a Local Park, which is located within easy access of the village residential areas."

Recommendations: The current open space resource in Lisbane meets the accessibility standard, but does not meet the FiT standards for quantity of open space. There is only 1 open space in the village. The audit recommends improvements to the quality of the site."

Open Space Concept Map



Figure 7: Ironside Farrar Open Space Analysis - Lisbane

2.2.2 Killinchy Summary Open Space Analysis

“Accessibility of Open Space - the settlement meets the accessibility standards Killinchy contains a recently upgraded Local Park (Beechvale Road), which is located within easy access of the village residential areas

The current open space resource in the village meets the accessibility standards, but does not meet the FiT open space standards. However, the recently upgraded Beechvale Road park provides a high quality and well used recreational resource for the village. The provision of this facility and good accessibility ensures a good provision of open space for the village.”

Open Space Concept Map



Figure 8: Ironside Farrar Open Space Analysis - Killinchy

2.3 Public Rights of Way

Public Rights of Way (PROW's) are routes that the public are legally allowed to access regardless of whether the land is in public or private ownership i.e. the public has a right to be there. New PROW's are created through the Countryside (NI) Order 1983 and responsibility for implementing the Order lies with the District Councils. District Councils have a discretionary power for the management and

maintenance of PROW's. Information obtained from Council shows that there are 2 PROW's as shown in Figures 9 and 10. The link between the Ardmillan and Lisbane Roads (Figure 10) is currently blocked and referenced through community consultation in section 2.4.1.



Figure 9: PROW adjacent to Castle Espie

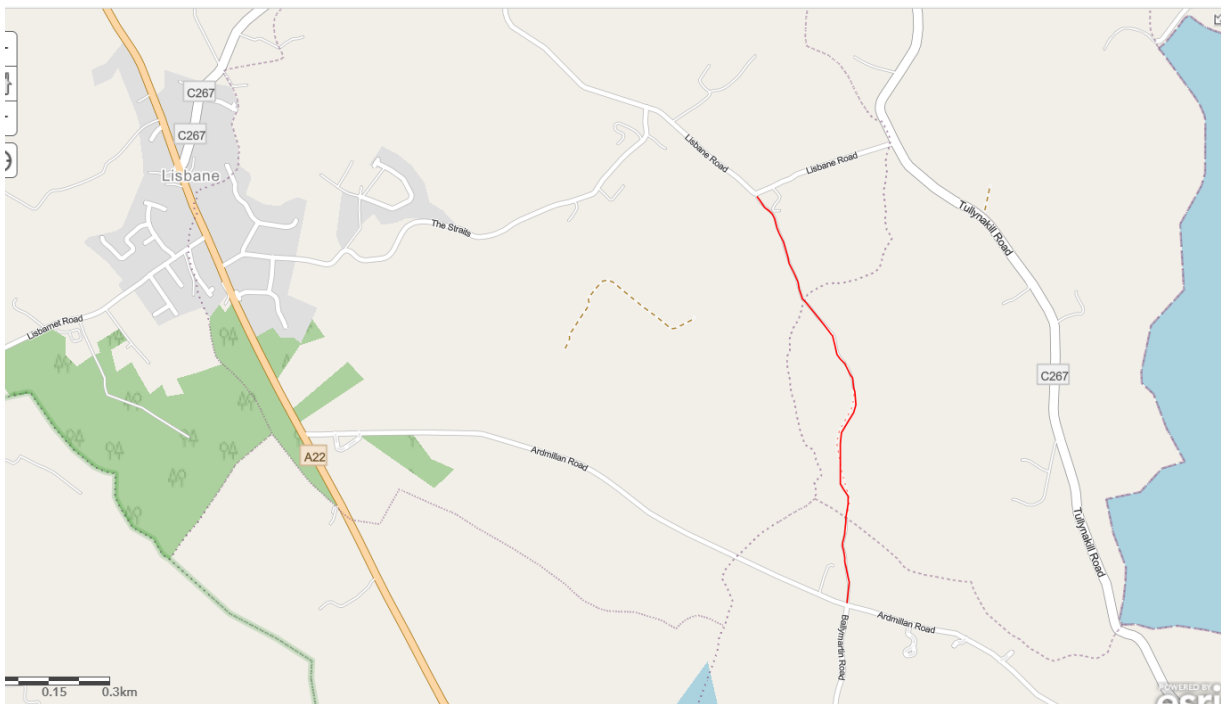


Figure 10: PROW Lisbane

2.3.1 Alleged Public Rights of Way

Consultation identified that the short lane from Church Hill to Craigarusky Road in Killinchy was a public right of way and that local people regularly walked it without any resistance from the adjacent landowners. Council documents show no record. It is recommended that Council explore this further.

The lane (See Figure 11) is also part of the proposed Columban Way Route (See Section 2.6)



Figure 11: Alleged PROW Killinchy

Consultation identified numerous on-road walking circuits popular in the Killinchy area (refer to Section 2.4.2). One of these routes utilises a laneway that links Sketrick Island to Ballydorn Road as shown in Figure 12. It is recommended that Council explore this Alleged Public Right of Way.



Figure 12: Alleged PROW Ballydorn Road

2.4 Informal Walking

In addition to the formal routes listed on Outmore.com (refer to Section 2.1), informal walking occurs at many locations within the study area where there is not necessarily a designated trail. The following Informal routes have been identified through consultation with local community groups.

2.4.1 Lisbane

Lisbane is a small village lying 3 miles south of Comber on the A22 Comber to Killyleagh Road. The population was 430 at the time of the 2011 Census. The village boasts an acclaimed bar/restaurant and tearooms as well as a garage, surgery, and community centre. Lisbane and Lisbarnett Community Association confirmed that there is no formal off-road walking provision in or around the village. The Community Association identified a group of three small loughs to the north of the Lisbarnett Road (see Fig. 12). It is believed that historically these were used as common land for people to access. It is understood that informal walking does occur within this area and Council may consider undertaking a Feasibility Study specific to this site.

A small woodland area adjacent to the Killinchy Road (see Fig. 13) was also referenced by the Community Association as a potential site in the longer term for formalising recreational access. It is understood that currently people do enter the site informally and without landowner permission.

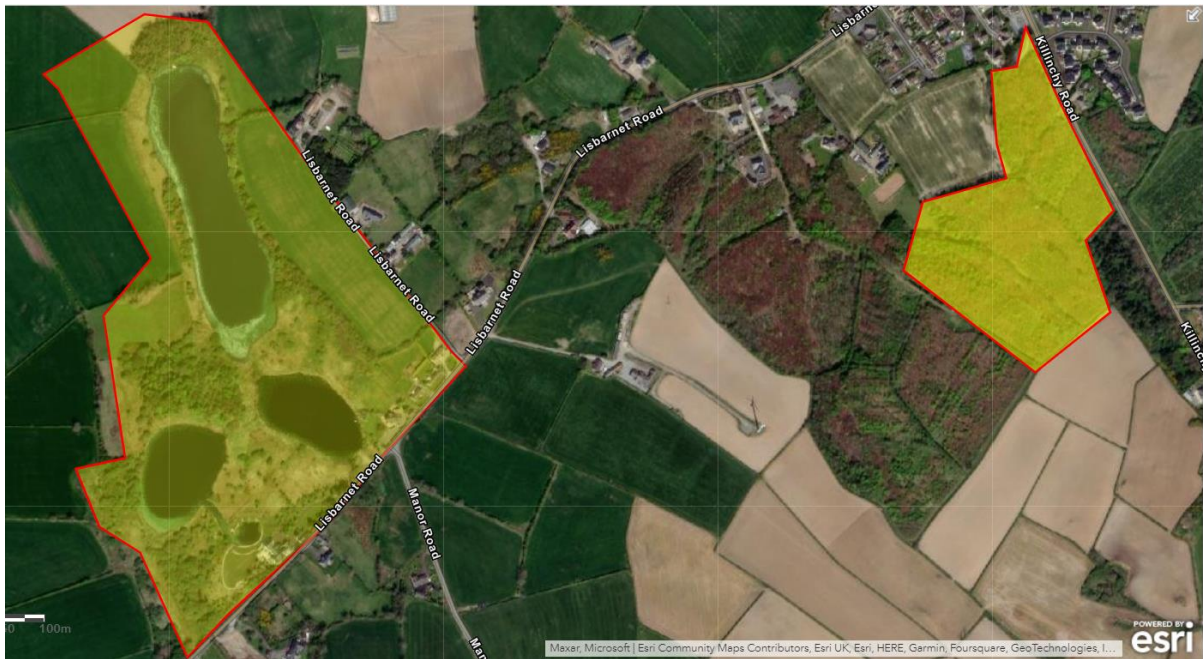


Figure 13: Areas of informal off-road walking identified through consultation – Lisbane

The Community Association identified a duck pond to the west of the Lisbane Road which they understand used to be accessible from the route of the old Ulster Way, now re-routed (See Section 2.5). The group identified a potential path link to housing in Hazelwood Glen to the west, and to the Lisbane Road to the east (refer to Figure 14). It is understood that informal walking does occur within this area.



Figure 14: Duck pond and potential link trails identified during consultation - Lisbane

The local community tend to use quiet country roads to create walking and running loops of varying lengths. Routes identified included the Quarry, Ardmillan, Lisbane and Lisbarnett Roads. Several of these routes are hilly in nature due to the local drumlin topography.

In the past, local walkers used an asserted PROW (refer to Section 2.3), also part of the original Ulster Way, to create a cross-country link between the Ardmillan and Lisbane Roads. It was noted that part of this route is currently encroached upon by local landowners thereby preventing its use.



Figure 15: PROW currently closed-off by landowner

2.4.2 Killinchy

Killinchy is situated 6.5 miles south of Comber on the A22 Comber to Killyleagh Road. The nearby settlement of Balloo is treated as part of Killinchy due to its proximity. The 2011 census recorded the population of Killinchy as 539. The village has a primary school, several churches, two convenience stores, a filling station and a bar/restaurant. The local community centre has a small municipal green space including children's playground and football pitch but there is no formal off-road walking provision within the village.

Locals use the main roads and quiet country lanes surrounding the village to create looped walks of varying distances. Keen walkers and runners incorporate the Strangford shorefront at Whiterock into longer routes. Once there, a popular walk on private property circumnavigates the island of Sketrick. Consultation has identified this a trail suitable for potential enhancement, development and formalisation. This is addressed in Section 2. Other routes from the village include the Ballymorran, Ballydrain and Craigarusk Roads and the small settlement of Ardmillan.

Areas popular for on-road and informal off-road walking are shown in Figure 16.

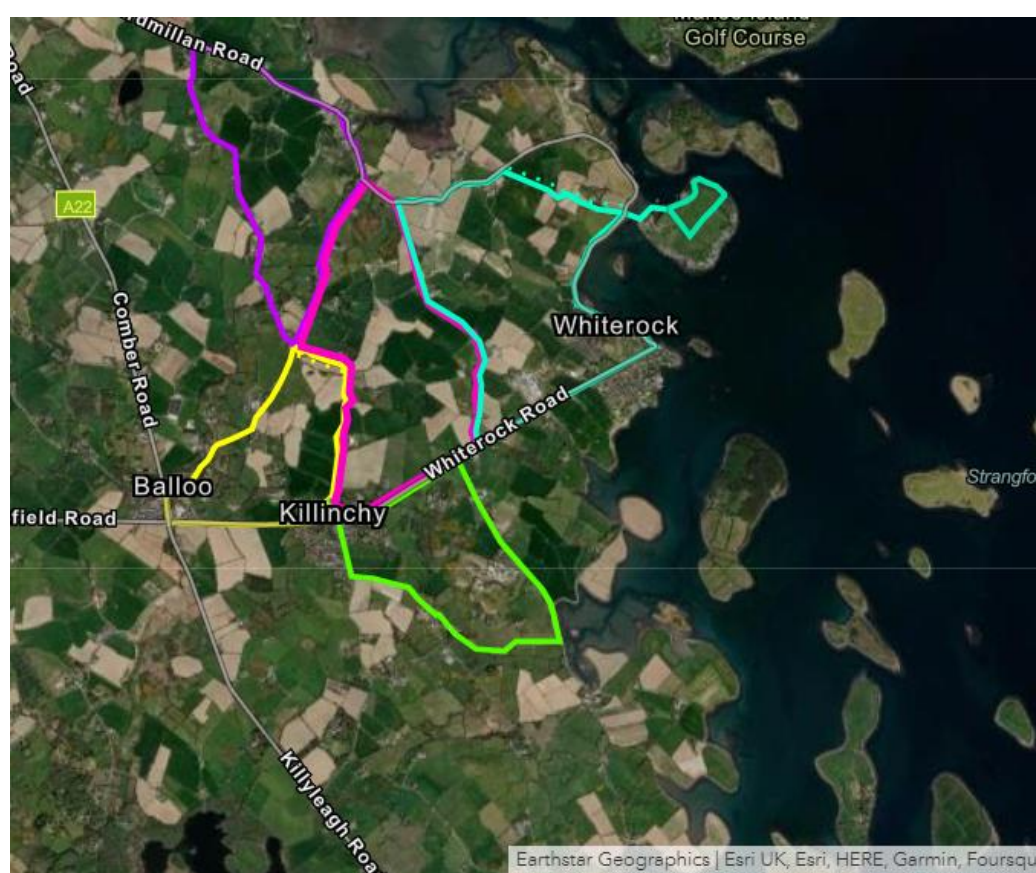


Figure 16: Map showing informal walking routes (on-road with small sections of off-road on private land marked with a dotted line) in vicinity of Killinchy

2.5 The Ulster Way

The original Ulster Way, developed by Wilfred Capper in 1946, was planned to link a ring of 15 Youth Hostels that encircled N. Ireland. The original route included a lot of road walking and some sections began to suffer from increased traffic. There were also issues regarding permission to cross private land. These factors resulted in a Working Group being established by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) in 2003 to review the Ulster Way. The Working Group concluded that a reappraisal of both the route and the management system was required. NIEA was identified as the most appropriate body to take over the management and coordination of the route and independent advice was supplied by an Ulster Way Advisory Committee. A new Ulster Way route was agreed in early 2009.

The original route of the Ulster Way (see Figure 17) passed through the study area. The majority of this section was on road and the one small off-road section has already referenced in Section 2.3.1 as a Public Right of Way (currently impassable).

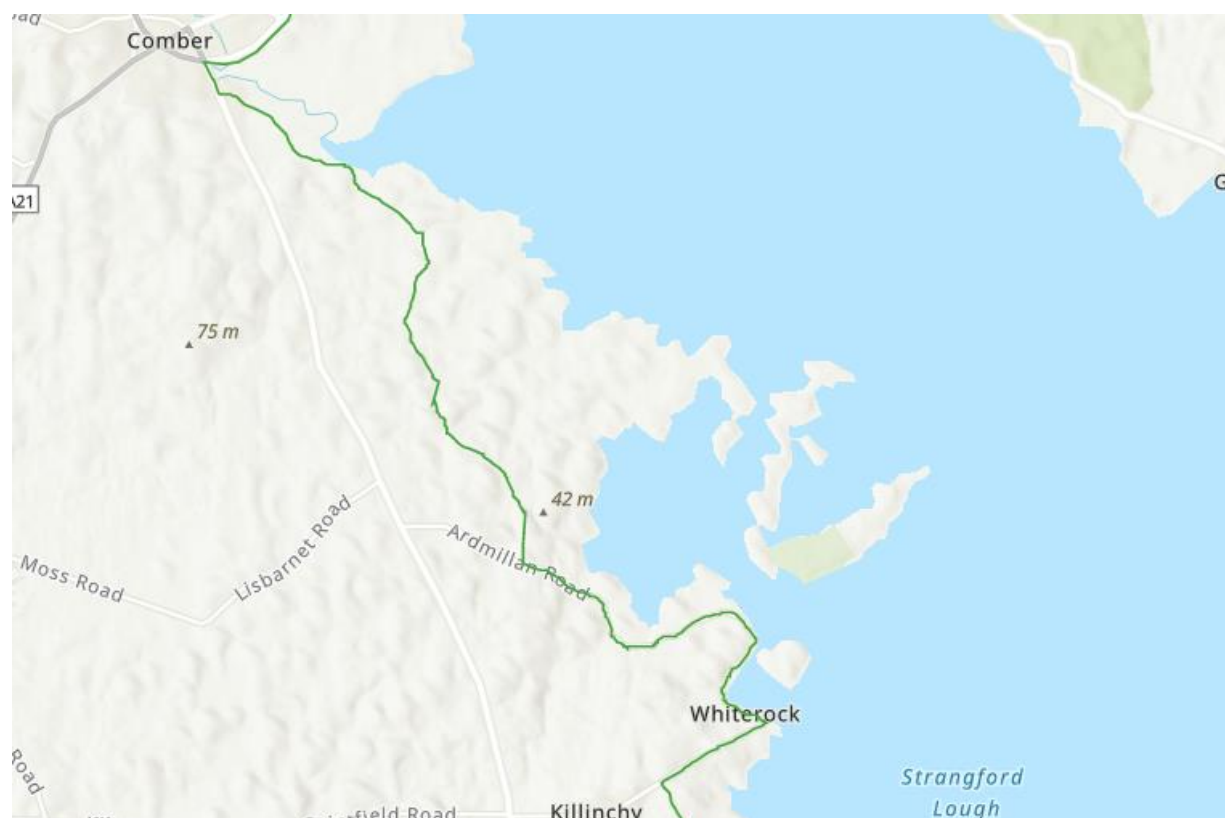


Figure 17: Original Ulster Way Route denoted by green line

2.6 Columban Way proposed route

The Columban Way is a heritage trail of 32km between Comber and Bangor that forms part of the wider European 'Via Columbani'. Long-term ambition for the Irish section of the route links three areas with strong associations to St Columbanus in Ireland from his birthplace at Mount Leinster in Co Carlow, his place of study at Cleenish Island in Co Fermanagh, to the monastery he joined in Bangor, Co Down. The proposed route is still in development but options are mapped in Figure 18 below. This includes sections of the old Ulster Way, Public Rights of Way and Alleged Public of Rights detailed above.

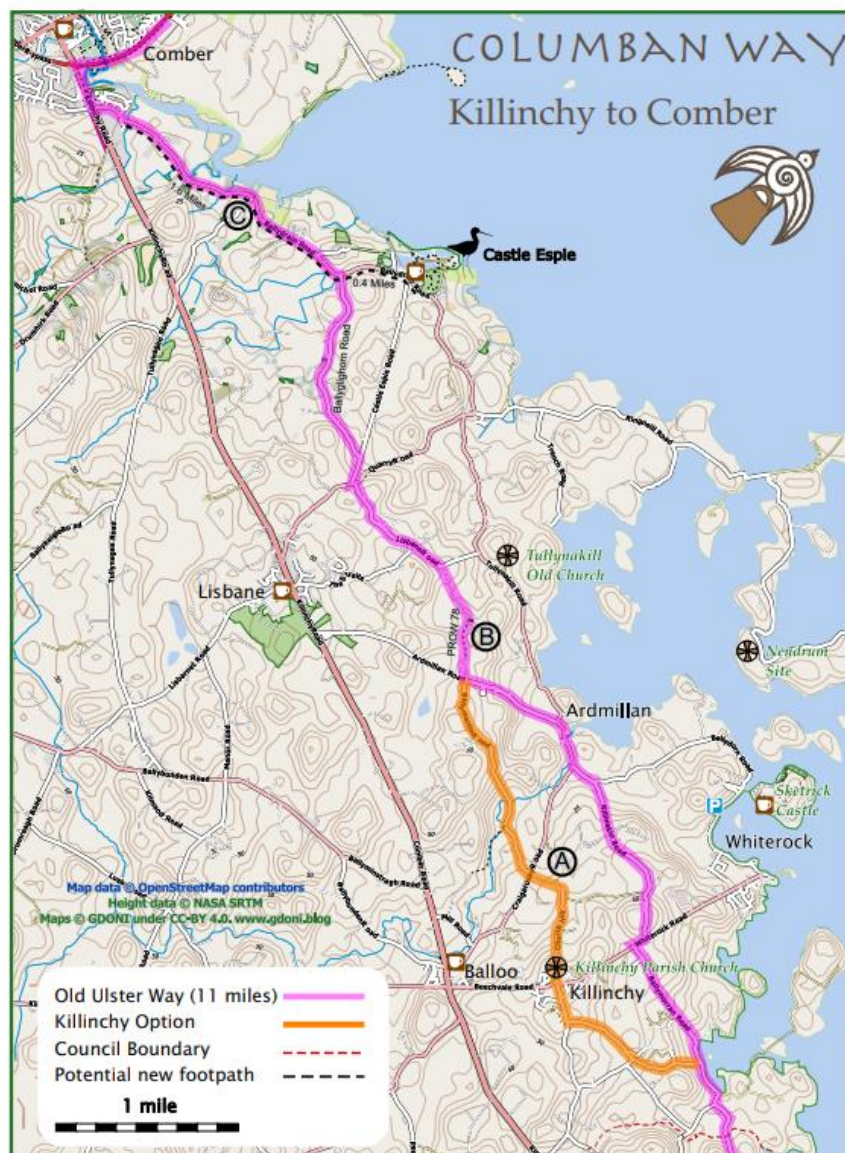


Figure 18: Proposed Columban Way Route (as at September 2022)

2.7 Summary Current Provision & Opportunity

2.7.1 Walking

There is a limited portfolio of walking trails within the study area with most of the community-based walking undertaken on road. Consultation identified increasing concerns over safety of on-road walking with a perceived increase in traffic on minor roads. Consultation with local community groups revealed the importance of walking for health and therefore a desire to develop more opportunities for safe, off-road walking.

Consultation and desk research identified the potential enhancement of an existing informal trail at Sketrick Island, Whiterock. This is addressed in greater detail in the following section.

This report has also identified longer-term potential for development of community trails within the Lisbane area subject to additional consultation and feasibility studies.

2.7.2 Cycling

The study area is a popular location for road cycling given its coastal access and scenic landscapes and cycle clubs are very active within the study area. In addition, the ability to complete a circular trip around the Lough on bike is a popular attraction with the National Cycle Network, providing a waymarked route.

There are already substantial issues relating to the number of road cyclists regularly using the route (particularly large groups taking part in Club runs). This impacts on traffic flow when traffic queues frequently develop behind cycling groups.

In terms of off-road cycling, there are currently no identified opportunities for off-road cycling within the study area.

2.8 Recommendations:

Location	Recommendation
Sketrick Island Trail	<p>Subject to agreement of the Board of Trustees, develop concept design to take through Planning.</p> <p><i>ORNI work to deliver to planning to be funded through NIEA Core Funding, Community Trail Development.</i></p> <p><i>Request ANDBC to cover professional fees for environmental surveys (PEA) etc.</i></p>
Lisbane Community Trail	<p>Feasibility Study to determine potential community trail at loughs area or duck pond.</p> <p><i>ORNI work to deliver feasibility study to be funded through NIEA Core Funding, Community Trail Development.</i></p>
Killinchy	<p>Council to investigate alleged PROW Church Hill to Craigarusky Road as part of ongoing Columban Way route development.</p> <p>Council to investigate alleged PROW linking Sketrick Island to Ballydorn Road.</p>
Lisbane	<p>Council to investigate PROW currently impassable (Figure 10) as part of ongoing Columban Way route development.</p>

Section 2: Sketrick Island Community Trail

September 2022

Background

Consultation with local community groups referenced the popularity of an informal off-road walking route on Sketrick Island, both with locals and visitors to the area, and highlighted its potential for enhancement. The route is on private land that is managed by the Bramwell Trust.

A meeting was held on site with Bramwell Trust, Ards & North Down Borough Council and ORNI to assess the potential for development. It was agreed to map a proposed route to present to the wider Trust. The proposed trail is shown in Figures 22 and 23.

2.9 Existing Trail Surface and Trail Corridor

The existing trail combines sections with gravel finish and sections with natural finish. General condition is good with few drainage issues apparent at the time of visit (summer). Trail width varies with wider sections within woodland averaging 2m width and narrow hillside sections fenced to one side averaging 1m width. The current exit section is through open farmland with no defined path. See Figures 19, 20 and 21.

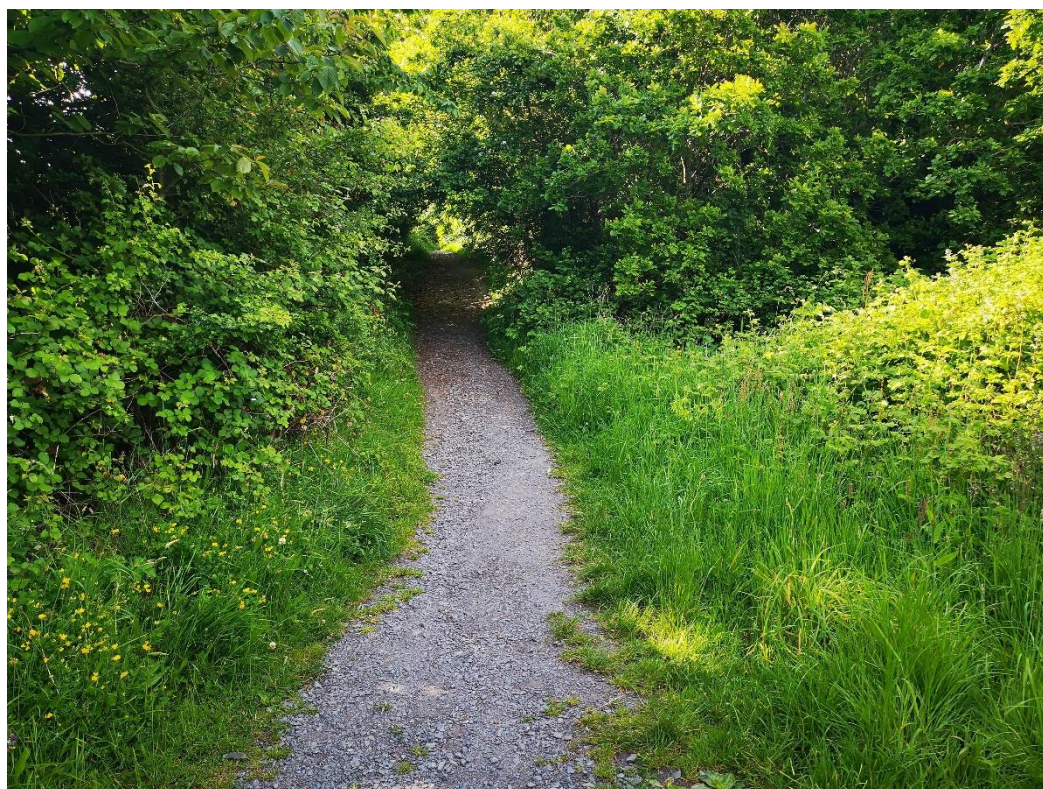


Figure 19: Existing trail

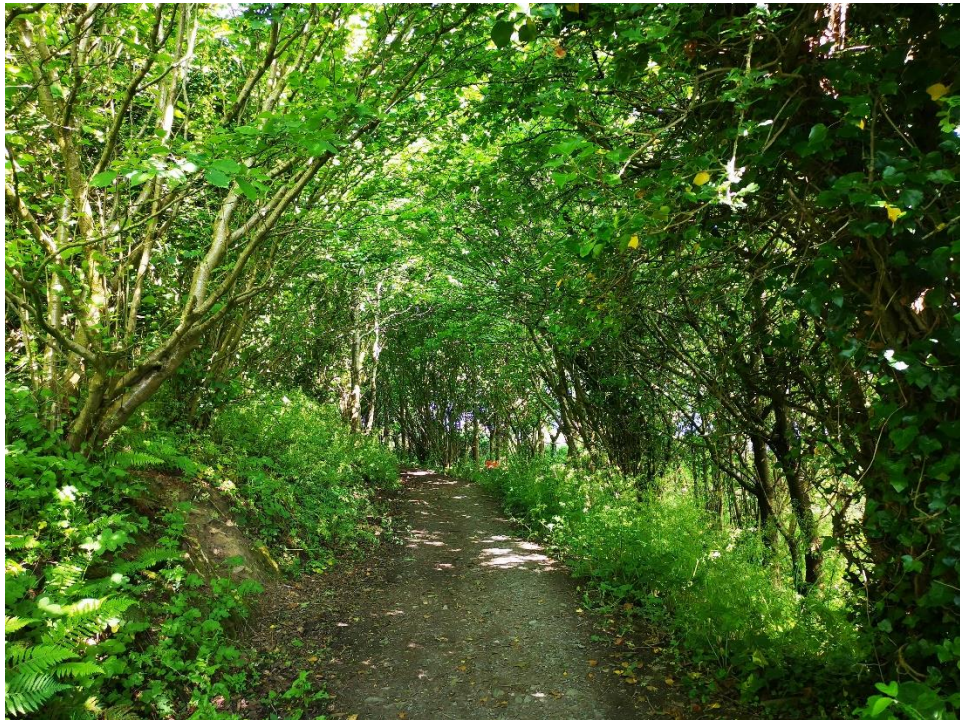


Figure 20: Existing Woodland Trail Section

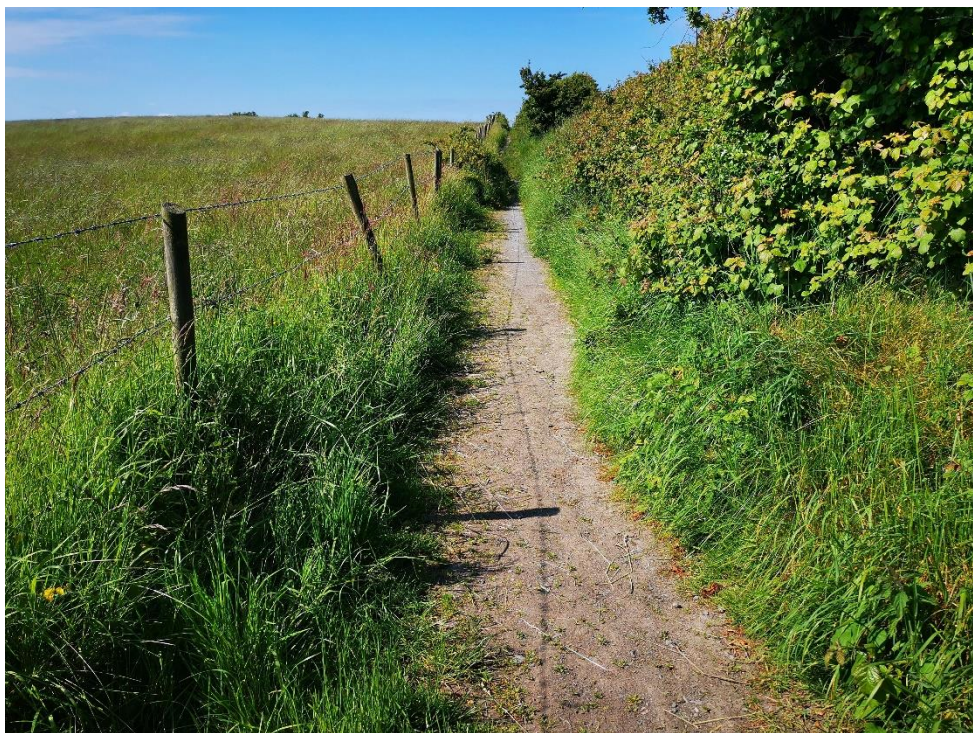


Figure 21: Existing trail section natural finish through farmland



Sketrick Community Trail -
Proposed Enhancement

Scale: 1:5,500

Key

- ★ Trailhead
 - ▲ Access Gates/ Farm Access
 - ✗ Close off existing exit point
 - Visitor Car Park and Trailhead
 - Proposed Viewing Platforms
- Trails
- On-Road link trail section
 - Trail upgrade (where required)
 - New Build Section
 - - - Sections to be closed off
 - Small new loop access section

Figure 22: Proposed Community Trail Sketrick Island



Figure 23: Proposed Sketrick Island Community Trail

2.10 Proposed Trail Route

Figures 22 and 23 show the proposed trail route which largely follows the route of the existing informal trail. Key points:

2.10.1 Sections to be closed off

- An existing linear spur offers views towards Whiterock but is in close proximity to residents' properties. It is proposed that this section is closed off and a replacement viewpoint created on the elevated site at the western end of this section.
- The current exit route descends through open farmland (with loose cattle present on occasion) to re-join the island perimeter laneway. Planning permission has been granted for a private residential development and it is proposed that this section is closed off in entirety by looping the trail north along the field boundary and re-joining the woodland section before exiting.
- A section of trail to the northwest of the island runs close to the lough shore. Informal desire lines have created an eroded and dangerous entry point to the shoreline. It is proposed that for visitor safety these desire lines are blocked off. (Refer to Figure 24)



Figure 24: eroded desire lines providing access to shore

2.11 Proposed Trail Surface and Trail Corridor

Consultation with NIEA, the landowners and ANDBC at detailed design stage will be necessary to determine the most appropriate style of trail development i.e. gravel or unsurfaced / natural trail. Figures 25 to 27 below provide examples of trail surface types suitable for this site.



Figure 25: Unsurfaced trail



Figure 26: Gravel trail fenced



Figure 27: Gravel trail incorporating drainage Waterbar

It is proposed that the trail corridor is widened in some sections, subject to agreement with landowner. Fencing would be replaced as required.

It may be necessary to fence off the corridor on one or both sides of individual trail sections. Figure. 28 shows examples of how farm access can be managed across fenced trail corridors.





Figure 28: Managing Farm Access

2.12 Access, Car Parking & Trailhead

Due to its location, many users will access the start of the route by car, therefore consideration must be given to the location of the trailhead and capacity of the existing car parks to service visitors. Initial consultation has identified a preference for the trail to be accessed from the Council Car Park as referenced in the proposed route map (Figures 22 and 23). Consideration must be given to potential increased numbers and existing issues with parking in the area at peak times. Consultation did identify the potential for Council to extend the car park provision at this site. This should be discussed further with the landowners and ANDBC at detailed design phase.

2.13 Signage, Waymarking, Interpretation and Trail furniture

The provision of clear signage and waymarking is essential for user’s safety and enjoyment on a trail. This is particularly important on private working farmland. That said, given the limited length of the route, it is expected that signage requirements will be minimal, and design should be in keeping with the natural, informal nature of the experience.

The route will provide a unique opportunity for the public to access one of Strangford Lough’s key heritage sites, therefore the provision of appropriate interpretation should be considered at key points along the trail.

The provision of seating at strategic points along trail should be considered to allow users to rest and take in the impressive views over Strangford Lough. Again, the quantity and style should be in keeping with the scale and aesthetics of the site. At concept design stage it is proposed to include two viewpoint areas.



Figure 29: Example viewpiont and seating sensitive to setting - Drumkeeragh



Figure 30: Example viewpiont and seating sensitive to setting - Drumkeeragh

3 Costs

The table below provides high level trail development costs for indicative purposes only. In the absence of landowner discussions, and for simplicity, the calculations are made assuming a scenario where the trail corridor is fenced and of gravel finish. All costs are based on recently obtained quotations or tendered costs for similar projects at comparable sites across Northern Ireland. It is proposed that costs would be refined during the detailed design phase.

Element	Description	Quantity	Cost (incl. Installation)
Trail Upgrade	Upgrade to existing trail sections	420m	£7,140
Trail new build	New build gravel trail	720m	£21,600
Fencing	Stock proof fencing	720m	£7,200
Drainage	Drainage allowance		£2,000
Field Gates	Initial allowance (subject to detailed design and agreement of route)	10 No.	£3,500
Pedestrian gates	Initial allowance (subject to detailed design and agreement of route)		£2,500
Signage	Trailhead & Information Signage		£1,000
Waymarking	Posts and Discs	6 No.	£420
Interpretation		2 No.	£2,000
Seating Areas		2 No.	£2,000
Visitor Counter		1 No.	£3,500
Sub Total			£52,860
Professional Fees	CPM Team @10%		£5,286
Contingency	@10%		£5,815
TOTAL			£63,960

Table 1: Trail Development – Indicative Costs

4 Next Steps

- Landowner negotiation** – this is essential as the route lies entirely in privately owned land. Once this has been agreed in principle, the mechanisms for formalising the arrangement can be negotiated -
 - Trail corridor – this can be agreed through a Permissive Path Agreement between the landowners and Council.
 - Car Park – consideration of extension to Council owned car park
- Detailed Trail Design** – this can commence once access has been agreed in principle. Additional consultation leading to detailed trail design and costings to inform funding applications and planning application.
- Detailed car park design** – appointment of a suitably experienced consultant to complete the design and costings for the car park and take this through Planning (if required).
- Consultation** – ongoing close liaison with NED, NT and HED is recommended to ensure the proposed development complies with all statutory requirements in relation to protected sites.

5. **Ecological Studies** – a Preliminary Ecological Appraisal (PEA) and further surveys may be required as part of the Planning process and to ensure the development does not negatively impact on protected habitats or species.

6. **Planning Permission** - any development of surfaced trails requires Planning Permission. It is not necessary for the development of natural, non-surfaced trails. It would be required for any agreed car park extension.

5 Other Considerations

Opportunities should be sought to bring about 'biodiversity net gain' through any development delivered on site. Appropriate interventions can be identified at PEA stage or in subsequent surveys, and funding sought to deliver this element alongside any capital works.

6 Conclusion

There is potential to create a high-quality community trail circa 1.5km on Sketrick Island providing fine views across Strangford Lough. The trail would also benefit potential long-term aspirations of Council for Blueway development enhancing land-based activity provision at Whiterock.

However, the scheme is entirely dependent on gaining private landowner permissions while the nature of development is dependent on HED and NED approvals due to protected features both on and surrounding the site. Provision of parking at the trailhead is essential to the success of the trail and the safety of trail users.

Memorandum of Understanding between Ards and North Down Borough Council and Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership

Dated 1/08/2024

Parties: Ards and North Down Borough Council (ANDBC)

Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership (PHLP)

1. BACKGROUND

PHLP was formed as a Company Limited by Guarantee in 2002 and has been registered with the NI Charity Commission since 2016. Their office is in Kircubbin, although they work across the whole of the Peninsula and some of their work extends throughout the North Down and Ards Trust boundaries. Their key focus is on health and wellbeing in the broadest sense. They specialise in social prescribing, pain support, mental health, physical activity, social groups, and other core services to help people of all ages make positive life choices. They have worked in partnership with others and have worked with ANDBC on multiple projects and have represented the community and voluntary (C&V) sector on multi-agency partnership and funding bodies. PHLP has an established track record of delivering and being accountable across all sectors, statutory, public, private and C&V.

Over a considerable period of time, the PHLP has worked collaboratively with Council Officers to enhance the organisations contribution to the local community, economy, and environment in collaboration with the Council, especially in relation to the development of Community Trails in the Peninsula.

Given this longstanding collaborative partnership, it was agreed that it would be beneficial to formalise this collaboration through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).

2. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to create a linkage between the two Parties with the following aims and objectives:

- To ensure both Parties communicate regularly and share information to achieve synergies and align goals where relevant to both Parties' strategic vision.
- To establish a pattern of regular meetings between the parties at minimum two times a year with additional meetings as and when necessary. Meetings should consist of

attendees identified by both Parties (the Working Group), specific to agenda topic(s). From ANDBC these would include, but not be limited to, officers from the Parks Development Team, Tourism, Regeneration, Community Planning, Leisure, Parks, Environment and Arts and Heritage. From the PHLP these would include, but not be limited to, CEO/Manager or deputy, Chairperson, and Trustees. Where appropriate, representatives of additional parties such as Outscape, Tourism NI or other funding bodies may be invited to attend by mutual agreement. It is anticipated that a Senior representative from each Party would attend these two meetings.

- To work collaboratively and engage with other relevant stakeholders on key issues impacting the tourism, arts, community, recreation, environmental and heritage sectors specifically relating to the Ards Peninsula.
- To work together, where relevant to both Parties, to realise potential funding opportunities that would secure projects which deliver benefits into Ards and North Down Borough.

3. SCOPE

The scope will involve the two organisations collaborating on core Projects where strategy and business plans align. Example areas where core responsibilities currently align, creating areas of mutual interest are:

- Sustainable Tourism
- Sustainable and responsible access to greenspace and bluespace
- Nature Recovery
- Nature Based Solutions and Climate Mitigation and Adaptation
- Coastal Erosion Risk Management
- Community Planning
- Inclusive Access for all
- Conservation and Access to cultural heritage

ANDBC key strategic documents - Big Plan (2017-2032), Corporate Plan (2021-24, under review), Integrated Tourism, Regeneration and Economic Development Strategy (2018 – 2030), Integrated Arts and Heritage Strategy (2018-2023) and the Roadmap to Sustainability (2021-28).

PHLP key strategic documents –

“Making Life Better: a whole system framework for public health (2013-2023)”; “The Health and Wellbeing 2026: Delivering Together” framework; and the “Take 5 steps to wellbeing model”.

4. PERIOD OF THE MOU

- a) This MOU will start on the date it has been signed by all the Parties and will continue for a period of 5 years or until the Parties agree in writing that its continuation is no longer necessary or appropriate. The MOU can be terminated by agreement between the Parties, or by a unilateral decision. The MOU will be subject to an annual review.

- b) **Amendments:** The MOU may be amended at any time by the agreement in writing of both Parties. The MOU may be amended to include a new Party provided all the existing Parties agree to its inclusion.

5. PRINCIPLES OF WORKING TOGETHER

- a) **Commitment:** The Parties are committed to work together. In doing so, each Party agrees to the following principles:
- b) **Reputation:** to use its best efforts to ensure that it does not do, or permit anything to be done, which is or may be detrimental to the goodwill, name, or reputation of any other Party;
- c) **Good Faith:** to act in good faith to carry out its obligations as set out in this MOU;
- d) **Autonomy:** to accept and recognise that each Party is an autonomous entity or group and that it is entitled to make its own decisions on any recommendations made to it, or to withdraw from the Project, in accordance with this MOU;
- e) **Communication:** to communicate, contribute to, and to make decisions with the other Party in a timely and proactive manner to ensure efficiency. Decisions will be made by officers who form the Working Group. It is acknowledged by both Parties that decisions requiring commitment to resources/budget/projects will require appropriate timescales to meet governance requirements.
- f) **Respect and Transparency:** to share information transparently, supporting and challenging each Party's ideas respectfully.
- g) **Knowledge:** to share expertise/skills and learnings from individual or collective Projects to improve future outcomes.
- h) **Confidentiality:** to keep confidential and not (without the consent of the other Party/Parties) disclose any Confidential Information about the other Party/Parties or the Project except as required by law. For the purpose of this MOU, 'Confidential Information' means all information or data, in any form or medium whatsoever, relating to the Parties or the Project which by its nature, or by the circumstances of its disclosure to the holder of the information, is or could reasonably be expected to be regarded as confidential. At this time data protection regulation is not deemed to be necessary as information dissemination will be via each organisation's internal mechanisms to their own databases by way of sharing content from each organisation. As such no information will be shared that would fall under DPA. This can be revisited as necessary and by the agreement of both Parties should the need arise.

6. MEETING ARRANGEMENTS AND CHAIRING ROLE

The hosting of meetings will operate on a rotational basis, with the relevant lead officer adopting the Chair role at their respective venue or 'virtual' meeting, being responsible for setting the agenda, issuing the invitations and papers, and providing any minimal catering requirements. The first meeting of each year to include MOU review and plans for incoming year. An alternative to this arrangement can be amended, if necessary, by either Party with one month's notice and agreement of the other Party.

7. EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

The Parties when making any public announcement or communication concerning a shared Project (an "Announcement") shall consult together on the timing, contents and manner of release of any Announcement. Wherever possible the parties shall agree the content of such Announcements prior to publication.

8. CONFLICT RESOLUTION

If either Party has any issues, concerns or complaints about any agreed shared Project, or any matter in this MoU, that Party shall notify the other Party's key contacts and the Parties shall then seek to resolve the issue by a process of consultation. If the matter cannot be resolved by the key contacts within 14 days, the matter may be escalated to the relevant Party's Senior Management Team and/or governing board for resolution as necessary.

9. RESOURCES

Each Party will commit to allocating the necessary officer resource to deliver any agreed shared Project. This should be agreed at the time of Project development and monitored throughout the lifespan of the Project.

Financial resource for each Project will be considered and allocated by an agreed Project team including officers from both Parties and will be subject to each Party's governance arrangements.

10. DISCLAIMER

It should be noted that this MOU is not legally binding on any signatory or their organisation. It is intended that the parties to MOU remain independent of each other and that their collaboration does not constitute the creation of a legal entity, nor authorise the entry into a commitment for, or on behalf of, each other.

SIGNED AND AGREED BY THE PARTIES:

Full Name of Party	Peninsula Healthy Living Partnership	
Authorised Signatory Name(s)	SHEILA BAILIE	
Authorised Signatory Signature(s)	<i>Sheila Bailie</i>	
Position	CEO	
Date	13 th August, 2024	

Full Name of Party	Ards and North Down Borough Council	
Authorised Signatory Name(s)		
Authorised Signatory Signature(s)		
Position		
Date		

Unclassified

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ITEM 6**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	16 August 2024
File Reference	CW174
Legislation	Public Health Act 1967/2024
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Consultation Response to The Public Health Act 2024
Attachments	Appendix Draft Consultation Response

Background

The Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967 was reviewed in March 2016 by the Department of Health (DoH) to ascertain whether it is still fit for purpose. The work on scoping policy proposals that would underpin a new health protection legislative framework for Northern Ireland was paused due to other work pressures and the Department's emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Current position

In May 2022 the work on this area resumed and DoH are now consulting on proposals which will underpin a new health protection legislative framework for Northern Ireland, and which are based on the recommendations of the 2016 Review of the 1967 Act and learning from recent public health emergencies. The overarching principle of the draft Bill is to protect the population against various forms of infection and contamination including biological, chemical and radiological, in addition to infectious diseases, which is the focus of the 1967 Act.

Not Applicable

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The draft response

A draft response to the consultation has been prepared by Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI), a group comprising of all the heads of Environmental Health in the 11 Councils. The response, which is attached, generally welcomes the Act and the principles it is aiming to achieve. However, clarity is needed on the expectations on local government and its role in enforcing this legislation and the associated resources to do so.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the attached proposed response.

APPENDIX

Consultation Response Form**Introduction**

Being transparent and providing accessible information to individuals is key to the Department of Health's (DoH) commitment to building trust and confidence in our ability to process the information you share with us.

It is important therefore to note that your response, along with all other responses to this consultation, may be disclosed on request in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 (EIR).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential, so that this may be considered if the Department should receive a request for the information under the FOIA or EIR.

How will your information be used and shared?

The information you provide will be processed to generate a report, which may be used by a Health Minister to help inform decision-making on policy proposals to inform a new Public Health Bill. It will be shared only with the relevant officials within the Department of Health in order to produce the report. It is intended that the report will be completed in Autumn 2024, prior to the Bill's introduction into the Assembly legislative programme.

How long will we keep your information?

We will retain consultation response information until our work on the subject matter of the consultation is complete, and in line with the Department's approved Retention and Disposal Schedule [Good Management, Good Records](#).

CONSULTEE DETAILS

Name (Optional)	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Organisation and job title (if applicable)	

Please provide details of your postal and / or e-mail address if you wish to be advised of any outcome of the consultation.

Postal Address (Optional)	
E-mail Address (Optional)	env.health@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

I am responding: as an individual
on the behalf of an organisation as an (please tick a box)

If replying as an individual, please indicate if you do not wish for your identity to be made public	Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
	(please tick a box)	

Whilst not essential, it would assist the Department in analysing responses if responding on behalf of an organisation, you could provide details of who your organisation represents and, where applicable, how the views of members were assembled?	These re the view of officers within the Environmental health protection and development department which have been collated in collaboration with colleagues across the other Councils. The response has been approved Council.
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Views are invited on the following questions:

THEME 1: STRUCTURE AND PURPOSE OF THE BILL (pages 7 – 9)

Principles, statement of intent and objectives

Q1. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed statement of intent?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The Council agree that the principle to ensure the capability to prevent, protect against, control, and provide response to public health threats is appropriate and necessary.

An explanatory would be welcomed to assist organisations who are tasked to fulfil any of the functions detailed in the Bill. This could be supported by summarising the outcomes that the Bill will deliver.

The detail of how this will be achieved in response to the wide range of potential scenarios needs to be fully understood, linkages existing legislative powers identified, and the appropriate consideration of how any additional duties or powers can be resourced and implemented. Further consultation needed when the Bill is drafted.

All hazards approach

Q2. Do you agree or disagree with the definition of “infection and contamination”?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The definition of infection and contamination proposed is any infection or contamination which presents or could present significant harm to human health.

Agree that the definition should be brought into line with other UK jurisdictions. This allows all risks to human health to be considered, managed, and controlled to protect public health.

Important to ensure any definitions and legislation will encompass emerging hazards and not be limited to infectious disease.

THEME 2: ORGANISATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES (pages 10-14)

Scope

Q3. Do you agree or disagree that other existing public health legislation, i.e. environmental health legislation, sufficiently describes the functions, duties and powers of Ministers and statutory bodies needed to deal with any public health incident?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The consultation states that the proposed bill will replicate and enhance the powers of the 1967 Act and in relation to public health investigations, the PHA will be able to authorise others to undertake specified duties. Public health legislation in other UK jurisdictions places powers and duties on local authorities which enables the relevant authorised bodies to undertake health protection functions and investigations. For example, the taking of air, water and land samples.

Local Authorities in Northern Ireland have a range of duties and powers which may be invoked to protect public health during an incident, but there are limitations to what scenarios these duties and powers may cover e.g. public health issues such as controlling some infectious diseases in day care facilities or nurseries. In addition, Local Authorities have very limited powers in response to scenarios related to chemical hazards containment and cleanup.

It is important to note that whilst Environmental Health professionals can demonstrate a range of expertise and transferrable skills across our legislative remit, other agencies such as DAERA, HSENI, NIHE, FSA also have regulatory powers or responsibilities which may be relevant in a managing a health protection incident. Health and safety enforcement is split between HSENI and District Councils by sector as laid down in the Enforcing Authority Regulations. HSENI have the same enforcement powers as Council Environmental Health Officers in the premises they have enforcement responsibility.

Councils have enforcement responsibilities under health and safety legislation relating to risks arising from work activities affecting employees and others that could be affected e.g. risk to public from legionella.

It is likely that not all future situations / scenarios will fall neatly within current legislative frameworks operated across the range of statutory stakeholders, so where PHA are "directing" in

serious situations, there also needs to be accompanying funding streams made available to execute such “directions”.

As new and novel hazards continue to emerge, it is essential that capability and capacity issues are adequately addressed and funded, not only to ensure the emerging issue is competently tackled but also to ensure the sustainability of that expertise and continued capacity to deliver the “authorised” organisation’s normal legislative remit in tandem.

In determining roles and responsibilities, it is also important to consider that local conflicts of interest may arise for local authorities in dealing with any incident on local authority premises.

Within the timeframe of the consultation and in the absence of a funded dedicated resource the Council is not in a position to authoritatively determine whether its environmental health legislation sufficiently describes the functions, duties and powers of ministers and statutory bodies needed to deal with any public health incident and would expect the Department for Health to undertake a full analysis through its legal advisers to determine such information in advance of this and any future consultation. For example, any expectations to carry out disinfection disinfestation and decontamination will require specialist advice and services as these are currently not within the remit of Councils to deliver. Indeed, it is questionable whether Councils are best placed to assist with incidents of contamination given the “All Hazards” approach which could extend to incidents where the Council have no current role, and which requires a multi-agency approach involving access to highly specialised and costly services.

Additionally, the role of the Civil Emergencies Contingencies Group and its associated structures will need to be considered in response to any threat that may occur within Northern Ireland.

Any proposal that will bring additional responsibilities and burdens on Council resources/budgets will need to be considered in the context of bringing forward these proposals and a regulatory impact assessment will be required if any additional powers are passed to Councils. A central funding arrangement should be considered for this purpose.

Monitoring and surveillance

Q4. Do you agree or disagree that there is no requirement to replicate in the Bill the provisions in the Health Security (EU Exit) Regulations 2021 in relation to monitoring and surveillance?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The Council agrees that monitoring and surveillance is an important element of protection public health and if the Department is satisfied that such powers already exist in Health Security (EU Exit) Regulations 2021, that there is no need to replicate the same legislative provisions in the Bill.

It is noted in paragraph 24 that it is proposed that provision is made to confer on PHA and other persons functions in in relation to the monitoring of public health risks.

Further information is requested on who said 'other persons' or agencies are proposed to be.

THEME 3: PUBLIC HEALTH POWERS (page 14- 66)**Notification Policy**

Q5. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed “all hazards” approach to notification?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The Council agrees that notification is the first step and therefore a necessary element of the proposed “all hazards” approach and therefore it would logical that an “all hazards approach to notification is necessary to meet the objectives of the new Bill. This may have resource implications and should be considered as part of a regulatory impact assessment.

Q6(a). Do you agree or disagree with the duties to be placed on registered medical practitioners?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The Council however considers this is a matter for the relevant health / medical professionals to provide comment on the proposals.

Q6(b). Do you agree or disagree with the types of information that registered medical practitioners must notify?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.
 The Council however considers this is a matter for the relevant health / medical professionals to provide comment on the proposals.

Q7(a) Do you agree or disagree with the duties to be placed on operators / directors of diagnostic laboratories?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

Q7(b). Do you agree or disagree with the types of information that operators / directors of diagnostic laboratories must notify?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.
 Consideration should be given to requiring laboratories to make notifications as soon as possible and no later than 3 days which is consistent with the requirements on medical practitioners (rather than the suggested 7-day target).

Q7(c). Do you agree or disagree that legislation should place a duty on diagnostic laboratories to report negative test results?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

Whilst the reporting of negative results is supported by the government's previous consultation, it could however prove to be an administrative burden during a large scale or regional outbreak, potentially diverting valuable resource.

Q7(d) Do you agree or disagree that legislation should place a duty on diagnostic laboratories to report void test results?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

In the event of a test result being void, it would be helpful for relevant authorities to be made aware of this as soon as possible, so that a repeat sample can be obtained and retested, if necessary. This is not only important for any individual involved, but also for decision makers who need all necessary information in which to act / take action in the given situation.

Offences

Q8(a). Do you agree or disagree that an offence may be placed on an operator / director of a diagnostic laboratory for failure to comply with the proposed duties?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

In order to avoid a dual standard for compliance, it is important that all laboratories across UK are subject to the same sanctions for failing to comply with any duties placed upon them.

Q8(b). Do you agree or disagree that the level of fine is appropriate?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The level of fine should be consistent across the United Kingdom

Powers of entry and investigations

Q9. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed enhanced powers of entry for “authorised officers” of the PHA?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

The Council agrees that the scope of the powers of entry must be sufficient for “Authorised officers” to exercise any duty necessary to achieve compliance with the Bill and carry out any necessary function with a view to protecting public safety and health.

The Council considers that point B should not apply to commercial premises as there should be consistency with existing powers of entry available in other public health and health and safety related legislation linked to commercial premises. This should only apply for residential premises. Inclusion of the definition of a “premises” and any exemptions would be helpful.

Should the Public Health Agency decide to authorise officers outside of the PHA, then this approach should be developed in consultation with other regulators, be comprehensive but limited to those necessary.

It recommended that consideration be given to developing an accompanying Code of Practice to sit alongside powers of entry (like that of the Environmental Better Regulation Bill) to ensure the correct and consistent use of such powers. This is of particular importance as the powers referred to in the proposed legislation impinge upon human rights, liberty and property.

The consultation lacks details on who PHA intends to authorise to exercise these functions. There is potential impact on staff resources and budgets for any Department where authorised officers are in required to ‘execute any work’. This may affect ability to deliver upon their own statutory functions and services.

Q10(a). Do you agree or disagree with the definition of “authorised officer”?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees that the definition of 'authorised officer' to be included in the Bill will mean any person authorised by the PHA to exercise functions conferred on it under the Bill (whether the person is an officer of the Agency). This will allow organisations to have their officers authorised as necessary. The definition should also be extended to allow for "other persons" who are not necessarily employed by the statutory agencies but who are specialist or experts in a particular field of expertise to accompany authorised officers.

The legislation should include limitations on the power to authorise officers outside of the Public Health Agency. Officers outside of the agency should only be authorised where deemed necessary and where it can be demonstrated that the competency, expertise and adequate resources are available to exercise any functions conferred under this Bill. Further consultation with any proposed authorised officers / organisation is recommended.

Q10(b). Do you agree or disagree that the Department should specify who the "authorised officers" should be in legislation?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

In considering an all hazards approach it may be constrictive to confine who can be authorised within the legislative framework and therefore consideration should be given to allow flexibility in the Bill to enable the PHA to appoint authorised officers who can demonstrate their expertise and competency to assist with any emerging public health incident.

It is considered that the consultation should have specified who 'authorised officers' are to be in the legislation.

All relevant department and agencies should be specified as authorised officers e.g. HSENI, NIFRS, FSA, PSNI, NIEA. This would allow flexibility in response and enable persons with the necessary expertise and equipment to be deployed appropriately depending on the type of incident. Private contractors e.g. environmental clean-up companies should also be included.

It is suggested that the legislation should list the relevant agencies whose staff may be authorised along with the type of incident or activities they could be asked to assist with.

Supplementary provision as to entry

Q11(a) Do you agree or disagree with the supplementary powers of entry for authorised officers of the PHA?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees with the provision of supplementary powers for “authorised officers” which should be sufficient to allow officers to carry out their role with all the investigative tools that are necessary to properly assess the risks to public health and to allow them to take appropriate action to mitigate or eliminate the risk under investigation.

Further information on who will take enforcement action in relation to contraventions will be necessary.

Q11(b). In relation to “any such person” accompanying an “authorised officer”, who do you think should be included in this category?

Please provide suggestions in the box below

Given the range of hazards incorporated under the proposed Bill, it would not be possible for the Council to pre-empt the professional/technical skills or credentials of any such person. The legislation should be drafted accordingly to allow sufficient latitude for such persons to be identified and appointed in response any type of hazard defined within the scope of this Bill.

See response to 10(B). Should include Private contractors, HSENI, FSA, NIFRS, PSNI, NIEA, not just District Councils.

It is recommended that the legislation clarifies that PHA remain the lead authority, directing the incident response and that decision-making responsibilities lie with PHA.

A dedicated team with appropriate experience and expertise, akin to the HSENI major incident team, to fulfil this role may be worth considering.

Q11(c) Do you agree or disagree with the supplementary provisions as to powers of entry?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees with the supplementary provisions as to the powers of entry. It is further recommended that a Code of Practice be developed to sit alongside the powers of entry to ensure the correct and consistent use of such powers. This is of particular importance as the powers referred to in the proposed legislation impinge upon human rights, liberty, and property.

Q11(d). Do you think other actions should be included?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Include any other reasonable power which is necessary for the purpose entry is authorised. Inclusion would enable action not listed, to be taken if deemed necessary and would also future proof the legislation so other actions can be taken without need to change the legislation. It may also be worth including the power to secure a scene or for it to be left undisturbed.

Offence of Wilful Obstruction

Q12(a). Do you agree or disagree that an offence of wilful obstruction should be included in the Bill?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The offence of wilful obstruction should be included in the legislation to ensure acts of wilful obstruction are appropriately dealt with and to bring this legislation into parity with other regulatory provisions to address these behaviours.
 Useful to consider a definition of 'wilful'. The equivalent offence in legislation is 'obstruction' not 'wilful obstruction' and this maybe more difficult to prove.

Q12(b). If you agree, do you think the level of fine is appropriate?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The level of fine would seem commensurate with the offence taking account of the public health implications of those who chose to impede and obstruct investigation and remedial action to address public health risks.

Enhancement of PHA Powers / Magistrates' Court Orders

Q13. Do you agree or disagree with the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to “persons” and “groups of persons”?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees that the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to “persons” and “groups of persons” should enable adequate measures to control risk to public health in any given scenario. Members of the public and civil liberty/human rights groups should be consulted on the proposed requirements and restrictions.

Consultation lacks information on who PHA will authorise to investigate and mitigate an incident. Clarification is requested on the practicalities of enforcement and who or which agency would liaise with the courts to obtain court orders or warrants.

Any potential impact on Council resources/budgets must be subject to further consultation.

Q14. Do you agree or disagree with the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to “related parties”?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees that the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to “related parties” should enable adequate measures to control risk to public health in any given scenario.

Q15. Do you agree or disagree with the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to “things”?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees that the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to “things” should enable adequate measures to control risk to public health in any given scenario that may arise that presents a significant risk to health. The definition of ‘thing’ includes dead body/human remains should be considered with sensitivity in the description.

The Council would like to further understand what role (if any) they may have in relation to these requirements as there would be health and safety considerations and possibly a specialist services required which would not be readily available within Councils current roles, responsibilities, and resources.

Further consideration of the specific examples would be required to inform Councils understanding of the types of scenarios where a significant risk to public health is identified.

The required interventions in some cases may require specialist services that cannot be readily sourced and therefore consideration may need to be given to setting up contingency arrangements by availing expertise and services that may be already available in other jurisdictions. Further clarity will help to inform our understanding of the roles that Councils will be expected to provide.

Consideration of resources and budget associated with the introduction of this Bill is a concern for Councils and a detailed analysis of cost should be undertaken to ensure that there is no additional cost/burden to Councils. It is recommended that a central budget is held by the PHA to allow Councils to undertake any work that is necessary so that Councils' existing budgets are not adversely impacted.

Any proposal that will bring additional responsibilities and burdens on Council resources/budgets will need to be considered in the context of bringing forward these proposals and a regulatory impact assessment will be required if any additional powers are passed to Councils. A central funding arrangement should be considered for this purpose.

Q16. Do you agree or disagree with the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to the health measures in relation to things for “related persons” and “related things” at paragraph 91?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees that the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to health measures in relation to “related persons” and “related things” should enable adequate measures to control risk to public health in any given scenario io that may arise that presents a significant risk to health.

Q.17 Do you agree or disagree with the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to “premises”?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees that the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to health measures in relation to “premises” and “any place” should enable adequate measures to control risk to public health in any given scenario io that may arise that presents a significant risk to health. A definition of a premises and ay exclusions would be useful.

Q18 Do you agree or disagree with the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to the health measures for "related premises” in relation to a “related person” and a “related thing” in paragraph 98?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees that the “requirements and restrictions” in relation to health measures in relation to “premises” and “any place” should enable adequate measures to control risk to public health in any given scenario io that may arise that presents a significant risk to health.

Q19. Do you agree or disagree with the additional provisions in relation to the making of the magistrates’ court orders?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The section on magistrates court orders lacks any detail on which agency/who will seek and implement such orders

Q20. Should provision in relation to a timely explanation of interference with individual rights be included?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please enter your answer and reasons for your answer in the box below.

Although there is a balance between protecting public health whilst also maintaining an individual's rights, every opportunity must be afforded to provide a timely and expedited right of appeal where an individual is potentially deprived of those rights.

It is also recommended that additional safeguards and support is provided to the most vulnerable in society. Additionally, where an individual or group is subject to restrictions or deprivation of freedoms, then suitable mitigations and financial support should be provided in appropriate circumstances.

Medical examination: least invasive and least intrusive procedures.

Q21. Do you agree or disagree with the provisions in relation to medical examinations?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council however considers this is a matter for the relevant health / medical professionals to provide comment on the proposals.

Q22. Do you agree or disagree with the list in relation to invasive procedures?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer
 The Council considers this is a matter for the relevant health / medical professionals to provide comment on the proposals.

Q23. Do you agree or disagree with the provision of magistrates' court orders in relation to premises?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer
 The Council agrees with the provision of magistrates' court orders in relation to premises to ensures that the additional provision is available if access to a premises is not possible or is prevented however detail is lacking on which agency/who will implement these orders

Q24. Do you agree or disagree with the periods for which magistrates' court orders may be in force?

- Agree
- Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council acknowledges that where there are situations where individuals pose a severe and imminent risk to public health it may be necessary to apply powers of detention, isolation, and quarantine. The use of such powers must however be used sparingly, and the legislation should reflect that whilst at the same time allowing the statutory agencies some discretion as to assessing and balancing the risk to public health against the protection of individual freedoms / human rights obligations. Consideration needs to be given on what actions will be taken should the risk remain after the 20 days expiration period.

Q25(a). Do you agree or disagree with the proposals in relation to the making of magistrates' court orders?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council considers this is a matter for the relevant health / medical professionals to provide comment on the proposals however detail is lacking on which agency/who will implement these orders

Q25(b). Do you agree or disagree with the proposals in relation to the varying and revocation of magistrates' court orders?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees with the principle of making court orders as described however the Council considers this is a matter for the relevant health / medical professionals to provide comment on the proposals however detail is lacking on which agency/who will implement these orders

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Q26(a). Do you agree or disagree with the proposal in relation to the enforcement of magistrates' court orders?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees with the proposals however would welcome some clarification as to who the enforcing body for this aspect of the Bill will be. As highlighted above, Council do not have medical skills or expertise to exercise these powers therefore would fall outside of the scope of Council responsibilities.

Q26(b). Do you agree or disagree with the proposals in relation to the associated offence and fine?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Council do not have medical skills or expertise to exercise these powers therefore would fall outside of the scope of Council responsibilities.

Supplementary provisions in respect of magistrates' court orders

Q27. Do you agree or disagree with the supplementary provisions, enabling the Department to make further regulations in relation to the taking of measures pursuant to a magistrates' court order?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees the department should have the scope to make further regulations that are deemed appropriate.

Detail is lacking on which agency/who will enforce magistrates court orders and at this stage understanding what the expectations will be on Council, if any. Conferring functions on any agency or Department without agreement requires further consideration including financial reimbursement.

Restrictions / emergency powers

Q28. Do you agree or disagree with the proposed “restrictions and requirements” that may be included in health protection regulations?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Council agrees with the proposed “restrictions and requirements” that may be included in health protection regulations. Any restrictions and requirements must be proportionate to risk and necessary to do so to protect the public from significant risks to health. Given the range of powers, included Councils would welcome some clarity on the roles in terms of enforcement of any proposed regulations due to the scope that has been outlined for this proposal relating to persons, things, and premises.

The Council believes that the legislation should provide for such remedial measures to apply to premises, things, and persons. Such powers will only be used where an on-going hazard is presented by such material or persons and the powers would provide the mechanism to ‘make

safe' the building or person and thereby eliminate the risk to public health. As it is likely that local councils will have a role in this, the council would emphasise the need to undertake detailed consultation and to ensure that there is no additional cost/burden for councils. Given that these provisions will apply to an "all hazards" approach, Councils will not have the necessary skills, expertise, or ready access to specialised services to deal with incidences where for example specialist decontamination services are required that cannot be readily sourced and therefore consideration may need to be given to setting up contingency arrangements by accessing and availing expertise and services that may be already available in other jurisdictions. Further clarity will help to inform our understanding of the roles that Councils will be expected to provide along with multi agency partners as highlighted in question 3, the role of the Civil Emergencies Contingencies Group and its associated structures will need to be considered in response to any threat that may occur within Northern Ireland.

Appropriate provision should be made for the carrying out of works in default and the recovery of costs where possible, however, it is important to recognize that where such costs are unlikely to be successfully recovered, Council budgets may prohibit expensive works in default. Accordingly, to ensure that works are carried out promptly and the risk to public health is addressed as a priority it is recommended that a central budgetary resource is held which can be accessed by statutory agencies as necessary to carry out such works.

Councils will have been involved in the enforcement of the emergency Health Protection Regulations brought into effect at pace during the Covid pandemic. The lessons learnt from the enquiry should be considered to inform this element of the bill.

In an emergency where legislation is being drafted there should be timely consultations with any statutory body required to enforce such special regulations to ensure that the legislation addresses the intended purpose.

Power to require a head teacher to provide contact details of pupils.

Q29(a). Do you agree or disagree with the proposals in relation to the power to keep a child out of school?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

This falls outside of the scope of Council responsibilities and not a function to be conferred to other persons.

Q29(b). Do you agree or disagree with the requirements on a head teacher to provide contact details?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

This falls outside of the scope of Council responsibilities. See response to 29(a). Consideration should be given to GDPR and permissions for schools to share pupils information outside of the education system.

Restriction of access to, or contact with, dead bodies

Q30(a). Do you agree or disagree with the proposals in relation to access to dead bodies?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees with proposals in relation to restricting access and contact with dead bodies who pose a threat to the spread of infectious disease or contamination for the protection of public health.

Q30(b). Do you agree or disagree with the proposals in relation to contact with dead bodies?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees with proposals in relation to restricting access and contact with dead bodies who pose a threat to the spread of infectious disease or contamination for the protection of public health.

Q30(c). Who should have the power to give notice of the restriction?

Please provide suggestions in the box below

The power to give notice of the restriction will be based on medical evidence and therefore Councils would not have any role in this aspect of the proposed Bill.
Detail is lacking on which agency/who will enforce offence of non-compliance

Relocation of dead bodies

Q31(a). Do you agree or disagree with the proposals in relation to relocation of dead bodies?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Any powers conferred should be comprehensive and should allow for requirements on how the body is to be handled and ultimately treated. The Council therefore recommends that there should be powers to require precautions for handling/ preparing bodies, requiring movement to a place and arrangements for interment/disposal to prevent the risk to public health. Such requirements should be based on robust risk assessment.

Q31(b). Who should have the responsibility to relocate or cause the dead body to be relocated?

Please provide suggestions in the box below
<p>Given that such hazards are likely to be identified via interaction with medical professionals at or around the time of death it seems likely that controls should commence at that stage by the doctor or other professional such as PHA officials.</p> <p>Detail is lacking on which agency/who will enforce the failure to co-operate offence.</p>

Limitations: regulations imposing restrictions or requirements

Domestic Health Protection Regulations

Q32(a). Do you agree or disagree with the scope of the powers to make domestic health protection regulations?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer
See points raised in answer to question 28.

Q32(b). Do you agree or disagree with the scope of the limitations imposing “restrictions or requirements” in relation to domestic health protection regulations?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Undecided
- Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

See points raised in answer to question 28.

International Travel Health Protection Regulations

Q33(a). Do you agree or disagree with the scope of the powers to make international travel health protection regulations?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council agrees however any regulations must be proportionate to risk and necessary to do so to protect the public from significant risks to health.

In an emergency where legislation is being drafted there should be timely consultations with any statutory body required to enforce such special regulations to ensure that the legislation addresses the intended purpose.

Q33(b). Do you agree or disagree with the scope of the limitations imposing “restrictions or requirements” in relation to international travel health protection regulations?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

The Council considers this is a matter for the relevant health / medical professionals to provide comment on the proposals.

Q34. Do you agree or disagree with the scope of the associated offences and fines?Agree Disagree Undecided Not Applicable **Please give reasons for your answer**

The lessons learnt from the Covid enquiry should be considered to inform this element of the bill.

Detail is lacking on which agency/who will enforce contraventions of public health regulations failure to co-operate offence. Conferring functions on any agency or Department without agreement requires further consideration including financial reimbursement.

Powers conferred on any other Northern Ireland Department to make regulations.**Q35. Do you agree or disagree that regulation making powers should be included in the Bill enabling other NI departments to make regulations at the request of the Minister of Health?**Agree Disagree Undecided Not Applicable **Please give reasons for your answer**

Councils welcome any measures to ensure that any new regulations introduced in response to emergency measures are overseen and co-ordinated by the appropriate Ministerial Department. During the Covid pandemic, Councils were involved in the enforcement of the emergency powers and encountered many challenges in enforcing legislation that involved several government departments.

Council welcomes advance consultation with stakeholders on any new regulation, especially with those responsible for enforcement. Failure to consult and consider feedback can result in legislation that is confusing to the public/businesses, open to interpretation and unenforceable by the enforcing authority

Council also encourages that detailed guidance is developed alongside the drafting of legislation to assist in its interpretation and implementation. Such guidance should be provided promptly, ideally prior to the new regulation coming into force.

Review of regulations

Q36. Do you consider that the proposals in relation to the review of the operation of the health protection regulations are appropriate?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Council recommends advance consultation with stakeholders on any new regulation, especially with those responsible for enforcement. Failure to consult and consider feedback can result in legislation that is confusing to the public/businesses, open to interpretation and unenforceable by the enforcing authority

Council also encourages that detailed guidance is developed alongside the drafting of legislation to assist in its interpretation and implementation. Such guidance should be provided promptly, ideally prior to the new regulation coming into force.

Assembly control

Q37. Do you consider that the proposals set out in Recommendation 3 of the Bingham report should be adopted in the new Public Health Bill?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Council recommends advance consultation with stakeholders on any new regulation, especially with those responsible for enforcement. Failure to consult and consider feedback can result in legislation that is confusing to the public/businesses, open to interpretation and unenforceable by the enforcing authority

Council also encourages that detailed guidance is developed alongside the drafting of legislation to assist in its interpretation and implementation. Such guidance should be provided promptly, ideally prior to the new regulation coming into force.

Q38. Do you consider that the proposals set out in Recommendation 4 of the Bingham report should be adopted in the new Public Health Bill?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Q39. Do you consider that the proposals set out in Recommendation 5 of the Bingham report should be adopted in the new Public Health Bill?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Q40. Do you agree or disagree that the negative procedure for making urgent international travel regulations should be retained as in Recommendation 6?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Q41(a). Do you agree or disagree that ministers should have a statutory duty to have regard to any relevant advice produced by National Human Rights Institutions in their jurisdiction as in Recommendation 10?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

--

Q41(b) What other institutions could this duty be extended to?

Please provide suggestions in the box below
<p>Commissioner for Older People Council would consult further Legal Services</p>

Q42(a) Do you agree or disagree that an alternative formal system of enforcement, other than Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs), should be adopted in emergency health protection regulations?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer
<p>The lessons learnt from the Covid enquiry should be considered to inform this element of the bill. Any alternative formal system of enforcement, other than Fixed Penalty Notices must be consistent with good practice with a graduated and proportionate approach to enforcement adopted.</p> <p>Council would query if a warning is suitable for a contravention of emergency health protection regulations, given their purpose and the risk to public health.</p> <p>There is a lack of detail on who the enforcement body would be and how decisions on the course of action to be taken would be determined.</p> <p>Recording and managing warnings issued could be problematic for any enforcement body. Regional systems will need to be put in place to enable sharing of information to avoid individual receiving multiple warnings that should have escalated to an FPN or prosecution.</p> <p>The use of warnings for a first offence may not serve as an effective deterrent. FPNs are more appropriate and may be easier to manage.</p>

Q42(b) If so, what should this look like?

Please provide suggestions in the box below

See 42 (a)

THEME 4: PROTECTING INDIVIDUALS (Page 67-69)

Q43. Do you consider that appropriate safeguards and protections to individuals have been captured in the proposed Bill?

Agree

Disagree

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer

Rural Impact

The Rural Needs Act (NI) 2016 places a duty on public authorities, including government departments, to have due regard to rural needs when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services.

Q44. Are the actions or proposals set out in this consultation document likely to have an adverse impact on rural areas?

Yes

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

Council would suggest based on restrictions during covid, rural areas were adversely affected to a greater extent in respect of access to services etc.

Equality/human rights questions

Q45. Are you aware of any indication or evidence – qualitative or quantitative – that the actions/proposals set out in this consultation document may have an adverse impact on equality of opportunity or on good relations? If yes, please give details and comment on what you think should be added or removed to alleviate the adverse impact.

Yes

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

Q46. Is there an opportunity to better promote equality of opportunity or good relations? If yes, please give details as to how.

Yes

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

Q47. Are there any aspects of this policy proposal where potential human rights violations may occur?

Yes

Undecided

Not Applicable

Please give reasons for your answer.

Whilst safeguards appear to have been considered in the form of appeals and review periods where restrictions and deprivation of movement are imposed, it is not possible to determine the extent, if any, of potential human rights violations until the final draft of the Bill is available for comment.

Thank you for your comments

Please submit your response via email or hard copy to the correspondence details below:

Email: phbt@health-ni.gov.uk

Address: Health Protection Legislation Branch
C/O PHD Admin Team
Room C4.22
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Belfast
Northern Ireland
BT4 3SQ

END

ITEM 7

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	17 July 2024
File Reference	CW173
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Fast Track Cities Positive Life
Attachments	Appendix 1 Northern Ireland HIV data tables PHA Dec 2023 Appendix 2 Northern Ireland Paris Declaration template

Background

Positive Life, Northern Ireland’s only charity dedicated to working with people affected by HIV, has written to the Council requesting that we sign up to becoming a Fast Track City region and support initiatives aimed at reducing the number of new HIV cases to zero by 2030.

Over the last decade there has once again been an increase in the number of HIV cases in Northern Ireland. The latest HIV data (Dec 2023) from the Public Health Agency (PHA) records the following:

- There were 105 new HIV diagnoses made in Northern Ireland residents (71 men and 34 women) in 2022; a 38% increase from 76 in 2021. This is the peak number of new HIV diagnoses reported in Northern Ireland since 2012

Not Applicable

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and reflects both individuals newly diagnosed with HIV and individuals with previously diagnosed HIV moving to Northern Ireland.

- The largest route of transmission for new HIV diagnoses occurred through heterosexual transmission (circa 50%), a significant increase from 21 new diagnoses in 2021 to 52 in 2022. This is the highest number of heterosexual transmissions reported since 2012.
- Eight (8%) new HIV diagnoses occurred through injecting drug use. This is a significant new risk group emerging in Northern Ireland in recent years.
- Less than 5 new HIV diagnoses occurred through mother to child transmission.
- The majority (76%, 80/105) of people newly diagnosed in 2022 were aged between 25 and 49 years, with the 25-34 years age group increasing by 32% from 28 diagnoses in 2021 to 37 in 2022. The 35-49 years age group increased by 39% compared to the previous year. The proportion of people diagnosed aged 50 years or over increased to 18% in 2022 compared to 11% in 2021. Diagnoses in those aged over 65 remains low with only 21 new diagnoses reported since 2012.

In the light of these concerning figures, the Positive Life charity is aiming to make Northern Ireland a Fast Track region in the hope of increasing awareness and reducing the number of new cases.

Fast Track Cities

The Fast-Track Cities initiative is a global partnership between cities and municipalities around the world and four core partners – the International Association of Providers of AIDS Care (IAPAC), the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS), the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), and the City of Paris.

Mayors and other city/municipal officials designate their cities as Fast-Track Cities by signing the Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities, which outlines a set of commitments to achieve the initiative's objectives i.e. achieving the World Health Organisation's target to reach zero new HIV diagnoses by 2030.

Belfast City Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council recently joined Positive Life in signing the UN pledge to become Fast Track Cities (template attached).

Positive Life's Request

Positive Life have written to the council stating that they would love to have all local district councils in Northern Ireland committed to supporting their work to make Northern Ireland a Fast Track region by World AIDS Day, 1st December 2024. Through this global movement, they believe that with local community, civic and public health support, Northern Ireland can be the first UK region to reach the WHO target.

To help reach this goal, Positive Life would like to offer free pop-up HIV testing clinics in the council area, including an introductory HIV and Sexual Health Awareness training for Ards and North Down Borough Council staff, at no cost, if in return the Council could make available suitable venues.

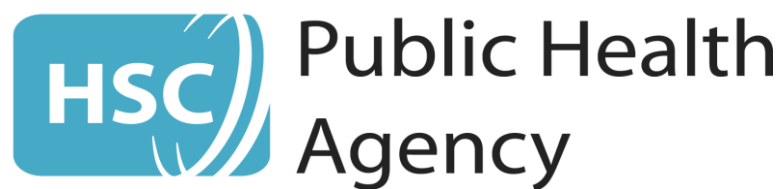
Not Applicable

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They would also request that Ards and North Down Borough Council pass a motion to sign up to the Fast Track Cities Pledge, to commit to working with them towards zero new diagnosis of HIV in the Northern Ireland by 2030.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the request from Positive Life and commits to signing the UN Pledge to become a Fast Track City; and agrees to explore further the awareness raising opportunities offered by Positive Life.



Northern Ireland HIV data tables

Published 1st December 2023

HIV surveillance in Northern Ireland

Summary points 2022:

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- During 2022, 87,190 HIV tests were performed in Northern Ireland. This represents an increase of 14% compared with 2021 (76,409) and is the highest number of tests performed over the past decade.
- There were 105 new HIV diagnoses made in Northern Ireland residents (71 men and 34 women) in 2022; a 38% increase from 76 in 2021. This is the peak number of new HIV diagnoses reported in Northern Ireland since 2012 and reflects both individuals newly diagnosed with HIV and individuals with previously diagnosed HIV moving to Northern Ireland.
- Of the 105 new diagnoses in 2022, 50% (53) were in individuals who had previously been diagnosed outside Northern Ireland. Diagnoses outside Northern Ireland does not reflect a rise in transmission in Northern Ireland.
- Ninety-nine percent of people in care received antiretroviral therapy, and 98% of those on treatment had viral suppression as defined by ≤ 200 copies/ml (where a viral load was reported). This is referred to as an undetectable viral load, and at this level an HIV person has zero risk of sexually transmitting the virus to an HIV-negative partner, i.e. Undetectable=Untransmissible (U=U).
- The largest route of transmission for new HIV diagnoses occurred through heterosexual transmission (50%), a significant increase from 21 new diagnoses in 2021 to 52 in 2022. This is the highest number of heterosexual transmissions reported since 2012.
- Thirty-seven (35%) new HIV diagnoses occurred through gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men (GBMSM) transmission; an increase from 31 new diagnoses in 2021.
- Eight (8%) new HIV diagnoses occurred through injecting drug use. This is a significant new risk group emerging in Northern Ireland in recent years.
- Less than 5 new HIV diagnoses occurred through mother to child transmission. Transmission route was unknown for less than 5 of the new diagnoses in 2022.
- The majority (76%, 80/105) of people newly diagnosed in 2022 were aged between 25 and 49 years, with the 25-34 years age group increasing by 32% from 28 diagnoses in 2021 to 37 in 2022. The 35-49 years age group increased by 39% compared to the previous year. The proportion of people diagnosed aged 50 years or over increased to 18% in 2022 compared to 11% in 2021. Diagnoses in those aged over 65 remains low with only 21 new diagnoses reported since 2012.
- Of those newly diagnosed in 2022, 50% (52/105) were white ethnicity, 31% (33/105) were Black-African with diagnoses in this ethnic group increasing from 15 in 2021 to 33 in 2022. The number of diagnoses in other ethnic groups also increased from 9 in 2021 to 19 in 2022.
- Seventy-three (70%) of the new HIV diagnoses reported in 2022 were born outside the UK compared to less than 35 in 2021 and less than 20 in 2012.
- One third (33%, 32/97) of new HIV diagnoses were made at a late stage (i.e. cases had a CD4 count within 91 days of diagnosis, and the CD4 count was < 350 cells/mm³).
- Of those newly diagnosed, eight were also diagnosed with AIDS at their HIV diagnosis (i.e. reported AIDS defining illness within three months of HIV diagnosis).
- In 2022, 1,348 People living with HIV resident in Northern Ireland received medical HIV-related care. Of these, there were 1,049 men and 299 women.
- The greatest number of people who received HIV-related care in 2022 were in the 35-64 year age group (76%, 1,020/1,348). Of those that received HIV-related care during 2022, 81% were white ethnicity, 12% were Black-African and 7% were classified in other ethnic groups or not reported.
- Estimates of prevalence show that Belfast Local Government District (LGD) area has the highest rate in Northern Ireland at 2.1/1,000 population aged 15-59 years. Belfast (LGD) area has reached the 2.0/1,000 population threshold at which expanded testing is recommended. The overall prevalence for the Northern Ireland population is 1.0/1,000 population aged 15-59 years.

Note: The Northern Ireland HIV Surveillance report will be available in January 2024.

Table 1: All new HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by demographics and probable route of exposure, all years to 2022*

Table 1a: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland and AIDS at diagnosis by gender

New diagnoses	Gender	Pre 2012**	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
HIV diagnoses	Men	627	68	87	70	82	59	67	59	46	50	54	71
	Women	191	16	13	21	20	15	16	20	17	18	22	34
	Subtotal	818	84	100	91	102	74	83	79	63	68	76	105
AIDS at HIV diagnoses	Men	87	0	<5	<15	<10	6	<10	<5	<10	<10	6	<10
	Women	23	0	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
	Subtotal	110	0	<5	<15	8	6	7	5	10	6	6	8

Table 1b: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by age at diagnosis

Age at diagnosis	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Under 15	All	10	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	0
15 - 24	All	112	10	<10	<15	9	11	10	<10	<10	<10	9	<10
	All	300	34	29	25	38	22	26	24	14	12	28	37
25 - 34	All	317	22	38	40	42	27	28	31	24	32	31	43
35 - 49	All	69	18	23	14	13	<15	16	15	16	17	8	15
50 - 64	All	9	0	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5
65 and over	All	9	0	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5

Table 1c: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by probable exposure category and gender

Probable exposure category	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Sex between men	Men	416	52	52	45	62	40	38	40	24	28	31	37
	Men	172	13	24	<20	<20	<15	19	13	16	11	9	21
Heterosexual contact	Women	176	16	12	18	20	14	11	16	13	10	12	31
	Subtotal	348	29	36	<40	<40	<30	30	29	29	21	21	52
	Men	<15	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	<5	<10	<5
Injecting drug use	Women	<10	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	<5	<5	<10	<5
	Subtotal	17	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	5	14	8
	Men	<5	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	<5
Mother to child	Women	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	<5
	Subtotal	8	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	<5	0	0	<5
	Men	<25	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0
Other	Women	<5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal	25	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0	<5	0	0	0

Table 1d: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by ethnicity and gender

Ethnicity	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
White	Men	545	65	75	66	76	55	57	48	36	45	38	44
	Women	94	9	6	11	11	8	10	12	9	10	11	8
	Subtotal	639	74	81	77	87	63	67	60	45	55	49	52
Black African	Men	55	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	10
	Women	70	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<15	23
	Subtotal	125	<10	13	13	<10	<10	<10	<10	14	<10	15	33
Black Caribbean	All	<10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other or mixed	All	34	<5	5	<5	8	<5	7	6	<5	<5	9	19

Table 1e: New HIV diagnoses in Northern Ireland by region of birth

Region of birth	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
UK	All	378	63	57	60	59	48	48	38	26	32	39	32
Europe	All	92	10	8	15	16	12	16	11	9	7	9	25
Africa	All	113	7	13	10	10	8	7	13	18	9	14	36
Asia	All	17	0	5	<5	5	<5	<5	6	<5	<5	<5	<15
Other	All	8	<5	6	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	<5	5	<5

Table 1f: Late HIV diagnosis

CD4 at diagnosis	Gender	Pre 2012	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Number with a CD4 count within 91 days of diagnosis	All	563	77	77	84	83	63	70	65	58	55	60	97
Late diagnosis (CD4 count <350)	All	264	34	37	40	24	23	31	25	22	24	20	32
Percentage of late diagnosis	All	47%	44%	48%	48%	29%	37%	44%	38%	38%	44%	33%	33%
Median CD4	All	360	350	320	330	520	390	410	440	495	370	485	410

Notes:

Subtotals include individuals with incomplete or not reported demographic data.

For gender, subtotals from 2015 also include people who identified as gender diverse (genderqueer, non-binary, other gender and prefer not to say).

*2022 data is provisional.

** Pre 2012 relates to data from 1980-2011.

Table 2: All people in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care, receiving treatment and viral load suppression, 2012 to 2022*

Table 2a: People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by age and gender												
Age and gender	Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All	Men	508	590	633	732	786	857	892	912	970	1040	1099
All	Women	160	180	182	209	221	225	238	246	265	285	299
Total	Subtotal	668	770	815	941	1,007	1,082	1,130	1,158	1,235	1,325	1,348
Under 15	Boys	0	0	0	0	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0
	Girls	0	0	<5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Subtotal	0	0	<5	0	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	0	0
15 - 24	Men	21	17	<20	18	25	<35	<25	<25	<20	<20	14
	Women	8	6	<5	5	6	<10	<10	<10	<5	<5	5
	Subtotal	29	23	22	23	31	<40	<30	<30	<25	<20	19
25 - 34	Men	118	124	126	153	159	161	156	147	149	<165	163
	Women	53	53	52	55	45	46	44	33	28	<35	32
	Subtotal	171	177	178	208	204	207	200	180	177	<195	195
35 - 49	Men	245	280	285	323	332	365	374	369	383	401	392
	Women	72	83	84	96	115	113	118	125	139	146	157
	Subtotal	317	363	369	419	447	478	492	494	522	547	549
50 - 64	Men	110	149	179	208	239	264	292	317	351	377	384
	Women	27	38	39	47	50	53	61	67	80	89	87
	Subtotal	137	187	218	255	289	317	353	384	431	466	471
65 and over	Men	14	20	<30	30	31	36	45	57	67	85	96
	Women	0	0	<5	6	5	7	10	15	14	16	18
	Subtotal	14	20	27	36	36	43	55	72	81	101	114

Table 2b. People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by probable exposure category												
Probable exposure category	Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022**
Sex between men	All	364	418	453	533	583	635	634	625	635	665	N/A
Heterosexual contact	All	282	323	328	369	380	395	378	374	390	407	N/A
Injecting drug use	All	6	<10	<15	<10	10	14	13	10	13	15	N/A
Vertical transmission	All	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<10	<5	<5	<5	N/A
Other	All	<5	0	0	0	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	<5	N/A

Table 2c. People in Northern Ireland seen for HIV care by ethnicity												
Ethnic group	Gender	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
White	All	563	638	691	803	860	935	973	994	1,051	1,115	1,095
Black African	All	86	105	97	104	113	111	117	119	126	141	160
Black Caribbean	All	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<10	<10	<10	0
Black other	All	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	<10	15
Asian	All	9	12	12	16	16	17	21	21	23	25	28
Other or mixed	All	<10	<15	<15	<15	<20	14	10	<10	27	34	41

Table 2d: People receiving antiretroviral therapy (ART) by CD4 count												
ART status	CD4 count	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Receiving ART	<350	87	126	123	122	120	122	121	110	105	99	98
	350-499	128	148	149	164	156	174	169	133	119	132	122
	≥500	340	378	460	597	684	778	797	611	382	473	751
	Subtotal	558	654	733	888	978	1,080	1,094	1,158	1,235	1,325	<1350
Not receiving ART	<350	9	22	5	<5	<5	<5	0	0	0	0	0
	350-499	31	32	24	<15	<5	0	<5	0	0	0	0
	≥500	67	56	52	35	19	<5	<5	0	0	0	<5
	Subtotal	110	116	82	53	29	<5	36	0	0	0	<5
Percentage receiving ART	<350	91%	85%	96%	97%	99%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	350-499	81%	82%	86%	93%	98%	100%	99%	100%	100%	100%	100%
	≥500	84%	87%	90%	94%	97%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	99.9%
	Subtotal	84%	85%	90%	94%	97%	100%	97%	100%	100%	100%	99.9%
Total	<350	96	148	128	126	121	123	121	110	105	99	98
	350-499	159	180	173	176	160	174	171	133	119	132	122
	≥500	407	434	512	632	703	779	798	611	382	473	<755
	Subtotal	668	770	815	941	1,007	1,082	1,130	1,158	1,235	1,325	1,348

Table 2e: Viral load suppression												
ART status	Viral load information	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
All receiving ART	Number in care with a viral load	555	652	733	873	963	1,074	1,090	1,143	1,187	1,262	1,281
	% with a reported viral load	99%	100%	100%	98%	98%	99%	100%	99%	96%	95%	95%
	% of reported viral load ≤50	64%	69%	71%	84%	94%	78%	80%	75%	85%	87%	91%
	% of reported viral load ≤200	91%	92%	95%	96%	97%	96%	98%	97%	97%	97%	98%

Notes:
 Subtotals include individuals with incomplete or not reported demographic data. Subtotals in table 2d include those individuals where a CD4 count was unavailable.
 For gender, subtotals from 2015 also include people who identified as gender diverse (genderqueer, non-binary, other gender and prefer not to say).
 *2022 data is provisional.
 **Exposure category data is not available (N/A) for 2022 due to incomplete information.

Notes

Trends over time must be interpreted with care, as each data source is subject to reporting delay. This means that numbers, particularly for recent years, may rise as a result of receiving further reports.

Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic changed patterns of sexual behaviour, HIV testing and access to sexual health and HIV services in 2020 and in 2021. Therefore caution is required when making comparisons between different time periods.

In these data tables, data for 2022 is provisional pending deduplication with the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) UK HIV database. There may be slight differences between figures in this report and UKHSA published data, principally due to differences in time of data extraction and data analysis, including validation. Data presented in this report will be subject to change in future reports.

Figures may be different to those published previously due to improvements in the data.

This report now includes information on the number of individuals previously diagnosed with HIV abroad and having a subsequent diagnosis in Northern Ireland.

Data for calendar year 2022 was collated in September 2023.

PARIS DECLARATION

1 December 2014

(amended 13 April 2021)

FAST-TRACK REGION: ENDING THE HIV EPIDEMIC

Cities and Local Jurisdictions Achieving Zero HIV-Related Stigma and the 95-95-95 Targets on a Trajectory towards Getting to Zero New HIV Infections and Zero AIDS-Related Deaths

95% of people living with HIV knowing their HIV status

95% of people who know their HIV-positive status on antiretroviral therapy (ART)

95% of people on ART with suppressed viral loads

Northern Ireland

23 April, 2024

PARIS DECLARATION ON FAST-TRACK CITIES AND REGIONS

We stand at a defining moment in the HIV response. Due to scientific breakthroughs, community activism, and political commitment, we have an opportunity to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 3.3 of ending the HIV epidemic by 2030. Cities and municipalities have been heavily affected by the epidemic and have been at the forefront of responding to HIV. Cities and municipalities are uniquely positioned to lead Fast-Track action towards achieving the United Nations (UN) 95-95-95 and other relevant targets. Attaining these targets will place us on a trajectory towards getting to zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths.

We recognize that ending the HIV epidemic requires a comprehensive approach that allows all people to access quality life-saving and -enhancing prevention, treatment, care, and support services for HIV, tuberculosis (TB), and viral hepatitis. Integrating these services into sexual, reproductive, and mental health services is critical to achieving universal access to health care.

We can eliminate stigma and discrimination if we build our actions on scientific evidence. Understanding that successful HIV treatment and viral suppression prevents HIV transmission (Undetectable=Untransmittable) can help reduce stigma and encourage people living with HIV to initiate and adhere to HIV treatment.

Working together, cities and municipalities can accelerate local actions towards ending the HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis epidemics globally by 2030. As called for by the *New Urban Agenda*, we will leverage our reach, infrastructure, and human capacity to build a more equitable, inclusive, prosperous, and sustainable future for all our residents, regardless of age, gender, sexual orientation, and social and economic circumstances.

WE COMMIT TO:

1. End HIV epidemics in cities and regions by 2030

We commit to achieve the 95-95-95 and other Fast-Track targets, which will put us firmly on the path to ending the HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis epidemics by 2030. We commit to provide sustained access to quality HIV testing, treatment, and prevention services, including pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), in support of a comprehensive approach to ending the HIV epidemic that also addresses TB, viral hepatitis, sexually transmitted infections, mental health, substance use disorders, and comorbidities associated with aging with HIV. We will eliminate HIV-related stigma and discrimination.

2. Put people at the centre of everything we do

We will focus our efforts on all people who are vulnerable to HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, and other diseases. We will help to realize and respect the human rights of all affected people and leave no one behind in our city and municipal HIV, TB, and viral hepatitis responses. We will meaningfully include people living with HIV in decision-making around policies and programmes that affect their lives. We will act locally and in partnership with our communities to galvanize global support for healthy and resilient societies and for sustainable development.

3. Address the causes of risk, vulnerability, and transmission

We will use all means, including municipal ordinances, policies, and programmes, to address factors that make people vulnerable to HIV and other diseases, including laws that discriminate against or criminalize key populations. We will ensure that people affected by HIV enjoy equal participation in civil, political, social, economic, and cultural life, free from prejudice, stigma, discrimination, violence, or persecution. We will work closely with communities, clinical and service providers, law enforcement and other partners, and with marginalized and vulnerable populations, including slum dwellers, migrants and other displaced people, young women, sex workers, people who use drugs, gay men and other men who have sex with men, and transgender individuals, to foster social equity.

4. Use our HIV response for positive social transformation

Our leadership will leverage innovative social transformation to build societies that are equitable, inclusive, responsive, resilient, and sustainable. We will integrate health and social programmes to improve the delivery of services, including for HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, and other diseases. We will use advances in science, technology, and communication to drive the social transformation agenda, including within the context of efforts to ensure equal access to education and learning.

5. Build and accelerate an appropriate response reflecting local needs


We will develop and promote services that are innovative, safe, accessible, equitable, and free from stigma and discrimination. We will encourage and foster community leadership to build demand for, and to deliver, quality services that are responsive to local needs.

6. Mobilize resources for integrated public health and sustainable development

Investing in the HIV response together with a strong commitment to public health and sustainable development is a sound investment in the future of our municipality that will yield increased productivity, shared prosperity, and the overall well-being of our citizens. We will adapt our municipal plans and resources for a Fast-Track response to HIV, TB, viral hepatitis, and other diseases within the context of an integrated public health approach. We will develop innovative funding strategies and mobilize additional resources to end the HIV epidemic by 2030.

7. Unite as leaders

We commit to develop an action plan to guide our city and municipal Fast-Track efforts, embrace the transparent use of data to hold ourselves accountable, and join with a network of cities and municipalities to make the *Paris Declaration on Fast-Track Cities* a reality. Working in broad consultation with everyone concerned, we will regularly measure our results and adjust our responses to be faster, smarter, and more effective. We will support other cities and municipalities and share our experiences, knowledge, and data about what works and what can be improved. We will report annually on our progress.



Anne HIDALGO
Mayor of Paris



Winnie BYANYIMA
UNAIDS



Maimunah Mohd SHARIF
UN-Habitat



José M. ZUNIGA
IAPAC

Signature of Mayor
Name of Mayor
Council

Jacque Richardson
Chief Executive
Positive Life

Bertrand Audoin
Vice President, Strategic Partnerships
IAPAC



Unclassified

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ITEM 8**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	14 August 2024
File Reference	CW14
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Vaping Education Event for Post-Primary Schools
Attachments	Appendix 1 DCSDC vaping event letter 14 th June 2024 Appendix 2 PHA Vaping Factsheet

Derry City & Strabane District Council (DCSDC) recently hosted an event for post primary school children to raise awareness of the dangers associated with vaping. Following the success of this, they wrote to all councils to share their materials and learning as a model of good practice; and encouraged other councils to offer a similar event. See attached letter

Background

A Department of Health report, "[Young Persons Behaviour and Attitudes Survey 2022](#)", has revealed that almost half of young people aged between 15 and 16 have at one stage used an e-cigarette. A total of 7,498 children in school years 8 to 12 in Northern Ireland completed the survey.

Around 95% of respondents said they had heard of e-cigarettes or vaping, while 21% said they had used one.

Not Applicable

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Those in older year school groups were found to be more likely to report ever having used an e-cigarette, with 6% of those in Year 8 to 44% of those in Year 12.

The split in e-cigarette used between boys and girls was similar, with around 6% described as regular users.

Since 2000 there's been a consistent decrease in the number of young people who smoke, with only 2% of respondents to the 2022 survey reporting that they currently smoke.

Those who smoke once a week, described as regular smokers, have also decreased from 12% in 2000 to 1% in 2022, with boys more likely to report ever having smoked compared to girls.

In contrast the Department of Health survey results suggest that 9% of 11 to 16-year-olds in Northern Ireland are vaping, with 6% doing so regularly, and most worryingly, "underlying this, 24% of Year 12 children currently vape".

As well as concerns over the highly addictive nicotine, vaping can contain other harmful illicit substances. High levels of THC or synthetic cannabinoids such as Spice or Pine could be present and have a negative outcome when vaped. Sharing vapes could lead to young people inhaling illicit substances without realising.

Current Situation

Environmental Health Protection and Development (EHPD) receives funding from the Public Health Agency (PHA) to provide Tobacco Control Officers (TCOs) working across 3 Councils in a shared service model, to enforce the smoke free and related legislation. This work includes underage sales enforcement, which has recently extended to vapes, with regular contact and advice to premises selling e-cigarettes etc and test purchasing exercises to ensure that sales are not made to anyone under the age of 18.

Until recently, the PHA service level agreement has restricted the TCOs to enforcement work, with signposting to smoking cessation services, but this year they have for the first time permitted the TCOs to be involved in education/awareness raising events which "provide information and advice on the laws on Nicotine Inhaling Products and the associated risks". PHA supported the DCSDC event and are keen to see something similar delivered in all council areas, as a condition of their funding.

In ANDBC there is already some work being done with young people in schools. As part of engagement with young people, our Community Safety Officers discuss vaping and the risks involved during their community safety visits to schools.

Cancer Focus are also delivering services in ANDBC. They employ Stop Smoking Development Workers who currently cover a lot of vaping and tobacco related topics in schools through assemblies, awareness sessions, small groups, and any other way of conveying the message. The age range is normally young people, year 8 and onwards, and tailored needs depending on the specific age group.

Not Applicable

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They usually talk about the key issues around vaping and the potential dangers surrounding it. They educate young people about vapes as there is a lot of new information consistently coming out regarding vapes and so inform the young people about this information and the potential dangers and side effects they are/could experience. After these sessions, Cancer Focus offer the young people a 12-week support program to help them quit vaping or smoking tobacco through proven methods. There is a high success rate with this program and a lot of positive feedback from the young people that Cancer Focus have worked with over the years.

Proposed Action

EHPD has liaised with DCSDC to obtain more detailed information around the organisation and delivery of their event, plus the learning and evaluation afterwards. They have also held conversations with other relevant partners such as Cancer Focus, YMCA, PSNI etc and internally our Community Safety team, Consumer Protection team, etc. Liaison with local secondary schools is also in progress to determine local interest and need. Once the schools indicate their willingness to participate and preferred delivery model, EHPD will work to coordinate a Vaping Educational Event/events for post primary schools which best utilises the resources available in ANDBC and meets local need, within existing budget.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the letter from DCSDC, with thanks for their willingness to share good practice information; and supports Officers in delivering similar event(s) as agreed with the local secondary schools and appropriate partner organisations.



Our Ref: TJ/C238/24

14 June 2024

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards & North Down Council

susie.mccullough@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Dear Chief Executive

Schools Event Hosted by Derry City and Strabane District Council in relation to Vaping

Council recently hosted an event for post primary school children to raise awareness of the dangers associated with vaping. Various bodies from the local health and wellbeing community contributed to this event; providing information on the dangers and their experiences of both the health and environmental issues associated with vaping.

The event was very successful and the participating schools found it very beneficial. From a Council perspective, the event represented a model of good practice and being conscious that this is a prevalent issue for all Councils, it was agreed to encourage other Councils to offer a similar event to school children in their Council area.

Subsequently, at a Meeting of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 29 May 2024, the following Proposal was passed:

That Council forwards the details to other Councils to encourage them to offer a similar event.

A copy of the Programme is attached for your information.

Derry

C/o Council Offices
98 Strand Road
Derry
BT48 7NN

Strabane

C/o Council Offices
47 Derry Road
Strabane
BT82 8DY

John Kelpie MEng., CEng., MStructE., MIEI

Chief Executive
Derry City and Strabane District Council

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chiefexecutive@derrystrabane.com
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f Derry City & Strabane District Council
@dcscouncil

I trust you will recognise the benefits of such a Programme and will consider offering a similar event in your Council area.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Kelpie' with a period at the end. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'J'.

John Kelpie
Chief Executive

Enc

Awareness Event on Dangers of Vaping

Organised by Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum

Programme Schedule

- 1.0 Introduction by the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council
- 2.0 Completion of Mentimeter (evaluation tool)
- 3.0 On the Table Workshops
- 4.0 Vaping Presentations (*at this point, teachers will leave the main hall and go to the Whittaker Suite for their own presentation re. testing kits and other substances used in vapes*)
- 5.0 Local Pharmacist – Mouth Health
- 6.0 Scenarios at Tables
- 7.0 Environmental Impact presentation from HIVE Cancer Support and Triax Neighbourhood Management Team (*teachers will return to the room for this presentation*)
- 8.0 Completion for Mentimeter
- 9.0 Closing comments from Public Health Agency

Additional Details:

- Workshops and Scenarios facilitated by Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum, Old Library Trust and North West Youth Services.
- On the table workshops will be creative and the young people will use art to display their knowledge of the different elements of vaping such as their health, their appearance, environmental factors, costs etc.

- The mentimetre will be measuring their knowledge at the start and at the end of the event and also gauging their opinions, pre and post.
- The scenarios are also developed by the Youth Staff who will be putting certain stories/lived experiences and asking them what they would or would not do in that given situation.
- The PHA rep. will speak about the Task and Finish Working group and the importance of that work in educating young people on the dangers of vaping.
- Around the room will be health and wellbeing stalls in relation to nutrition, smoking physical activity and cancer awareness.
- Contact for Bogside and Brandywell Health Forum: **Aisling Hutton | Health Programmes Manager**. T: 028 7136 5330 | M: 07510360473 | E: aisling@bbhealthforum.org | www.bbhealthforum.org

Vaping factsheet

APPENDIX 2

What is vaping?

Vaping is the inhaling (breathing in) of vapour created by an electronic device that can be known as a vape, e-cigarette or electronic nicotine delivery system (ENDS).

Vapes work by heating a liquid (called an e-liquid/e-juice). The liquid typically contains nicotine, propylene glycol, vegetable glycerine and flavourings, some of which may be potentially harmful to the body. When heated, the nicotine changes into a vapour. The nicotine and other ingredients are inhaled into the body.

Vapes come in a variety of shapes, sizes and colours. Some can be disguised as items including pens and USB memory sticks.

While they are being used by some smokers as a quit aid or harm reduction product, there are an increasing number of young people vaping who are non-smokers. There has been a rapid increase in the use, availability and promotion of vaping devices.

The health advice is clear: young people and people who have never smoked should not vape.

What does the law say?

Vapes are an age restricted product. It is illegal to sell a vape to someone who is under 18 and to purchase a vape for someone who is under 18 years old.

For any nicotine containing e-liquid the maximum legal limit of nicotine is 20mg/ml. At this concentration 1ml of e-liquid is roughly equivalent to smoking **20 cigarettes**. A device containing 20mg/ml liquid may say 2% nicotine. For disposable vapes the tank size must not exceed 2ml, which roughly equates to **600 puffs**.

However, there are a variety of vapes being sold which are unregulated (illegal). These may contain higher levels of nicotine than the permitted 20mg/ml and disposable vapes are being sold which contain more than 600 puffs. The content of these unregulated vapes isn't known and they may have serious health implications.



Why do young people vape?

There are a number of things that could motivate young people to vape, such as peer pressure/influence, social image and perceived lower health risks of vapes compared with cigarettes.

Other common reasons reported include to support their mental health, reduce stress levels and address low self-esteem. Vapes are used as a perceived coping mechanism to address these issues. However, young people who vape for stress relief report significantly higher stress levels than those who don't vape.

Young people's brains are still developing, so they can't always think through the consequences of the things they do. This means they're more likely to try things like vaping out of curiosity or 'for fun' without considering the harm they could be doing to themselves. Vapes are colourful and come in lots of different flavours, which can seem appealing to young people. They don't seem scary or harmful, as cigarettes do.

Why is there concern about vaping among young people?

Although vaping is less harmful than smoking, we don't yet fully understand the long-term effects vaping has on our health. Evidence shows that e-cigarettes or vapes are not harm-free.

Vaping liquids can contain high levels of nicotine. The amount of nicotine you inhale from a vape can vary. Many young people who vape did not smoke cigarettes before they started vaping. But young people who vape are more likely to start smoking cigarettes than those who never vape.

The nicotine contained in vapes is **harmfully addictive**. Research on smoking has shown that nicotine addiction can affect your mental health. It can make you tired, and stressed, affect your concentration and impact your ability to learn and study. It can also lead to or increase depression and anxiety.

Vaping can contain other **harmful illicit substances** besides nicotine. High levels of THC or synthetic cannabinoids such as Spice or Pine could be present and have a negative outcome when vaped. Sharing vapes could lead to young people inhaling illicit substances without realising.

In addition, there is growing concern over the **environmental impacts** of disposable vapes given their lithium batteries and hard to recycle components and the increasing frequency in which these products are littered or thrown in the bin.



For further information on vaping please go to www.pha.site/vaping



Public Health Agency
12-22 Linenhall Street, Belfast BT2 8BS.
Tel: 0300 555 0114 (local rate).
www.publichealth.hscni.net

Find us on:



Unclassified

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ITEM 9**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health Protection and Development
Date of Report	14 August 2024
File Reference	CW165
Legislation	The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Single Use Vapes
Attachments	Appendix 1 Shane Doris G5 Letter to Ards and North Down CEO for single use vapes Appendix 2 ANDBC comments on draft regulations

The Director of Environmental Resources Policy Division at the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) wrote to Council advising that the Minister of Agriculture has announced his intention to prohibit the sale and supply of single use vapes in Northern Ireland, in parallel with the rest of the UK.

The Director asked Council to advise if duties to enforce the single use vape ban could be incorporated into our work plan as Council Officers already undertake enforcement duties in relation to tobacco products and product safety.

The Director went on to advise that DAERA is concerned about the alarming rise in littering of single use vapes and the devastating environmental impact they have and

Not Applicable

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so removing these from circulation should allow these resources to be utilised elsewhere.

The Director suggested that enforcing the ban on single use vapes would provide a further opportunity for councils to demonstrate the significant role they play in improving the quality of our shared environment, and requested a response by the 16 August 2024.

This matter was discussed at SOLACE on 2nd August 2024, and it was agreed to send a letter to DAERA to seek clarity on what resource/funding would be available if Councils were to take this on.

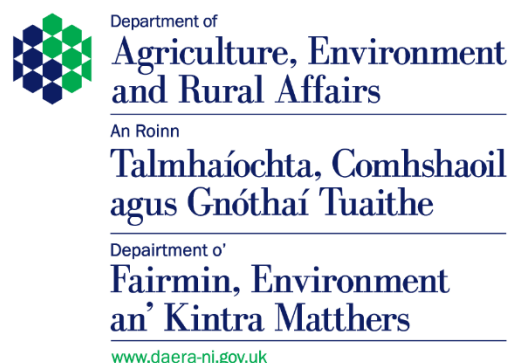
DAERA have also sent Council a link to the draft regulations and have asked that representations/comments should be made by Friday 6th September 2024. Unfortunately, time does not allow for a regional response to be drafted and some Councils prefer to fully understand the position on resourcing before making any comments.

The Environmental Health, Protection and Development department have commented on the draft legislation (as attached) and see this as an early opportunity to shape and influence the drafting of the legislation. This has been submitted with the caveat that it is subject to Council approval, and we reserve the right to amend the response once Council have had a chance to consider it.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve the response sent to DAERA regarding the draft regulations.

**From the Director of Environmental
Resources Policy Division**



Date: 1st August 2024

Environmental Resources Policy Division
Department of Agriculture, Environment &
Rural Affairs
Clare House
303 Airport Road West
Sydenham Intake
Belfast
BT3 9ED

Telephone: 028 90 569554
Email: Shane.Doris@daera-ni.gov.uk

Dear Ms McCullough,

PROPOSALS TO BAN SINGLE USE VAPES IN NORTHERN IRELAND: PROPOSED ENFORCEMENT MECHANISM

In May this year, Minister Muir announced his intention to prohibit the sale and supply of single use vapes in Northern Ireland, in parallel with the rest of the UK. My officials have been developing the draft legislation and considering options for enforcement of the ban.

As council staff currently undertake certain enforcement duties in relation to tobacco products and product safety, could you please advise if duties to enforce the single use vape ban could be incorporated into your work programme.

DAERA is concerned by the alarming rise in littering of single use vapes. The packaging accounts for over 14% of other packaging items littering our streets, placing them on a par with perennial litter offenders like coffee cups and food waste. Vape waste can also introduce plastic, nicotine salts, metals and lithium-ion batteries into the environment and have a devastating environmental impact. Removing these products from circulation should allow resources currently used to address the associated issues to be better utilised elsewhere.

The UK Government, Scottish Government and Welsh Government plan to separately legislate for a ban on the sale and supply of single use vapes, with a coming into force date planned for 1 April 2025. Although ambitious, DAERA is seeking to develop

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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.



legislation to align with this coming into force date, using powers contained within Article 32 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997.

I am aware that councils in Northern Ireland undertake outstanding work in raising public awareness of environmental issues such as waste prevention, recycling and reducing littering and play a leading role in management of waste. Helping to enforce the ban on single use vapes would be a further opportunity for councils to demonstrate the significant role they play in improving the quality of our shared environment.

I would be grateful if you could confirm whether your council officers could take on the enforcement role for single use vapes, to ensure the ban is progressed in Northern Ireland. If you would like to discuss in the first instance, please let me know. I would appreciate a response by 16th August 2024 to ensure the policy progresses in order to meet the challenging timescales.

Yours sincerely,



Shane Doris

***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.



The Environmental Protection (Single-use Vapes) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

This response is being sent on behalf of Ards and North Down Borough Council.

Ards and North Down Borough Council welcomes the opportunity to comment on the draft regulations published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) which seek to prohibit the sale and supply of single use vapes in Northern Ireland.

Officers were unable to bring this response to Council as the relevant Committee did not meet during the short consultation window. We will seek retrospective approval during September's Committee and Council meetings and therefore reserve the right to withdraw or amend this response subject to Council's decision.

Some of the comments below utilise wording from the Chartered Trading Standards Institute response on the draft regulations for England, where we agree.

Ards and North Down Borough Council welcomes the introduction of the ban of single use vapes and believes it can help reduce the impact caused by littering of single use vapes on the environment as well as reduce the affordability and access for children and young people. There are however areas of concern:

Resources

DAERA have separately asked Councils if the enforcement of the new ban could be incorporated into our existing workplan. SOLACE have agreed to send a letter to DAERA to seek clarity on what resource/funding would be available if Councils were to take this on. The relevant enforcement authority will need to have sufficient resources to enable proper enforcement of the regulations including the provision of safe and secure storage, transport and disposal of non-compliant products (quote £1-£1.50 per vape). There may also be costs associated with recycling. Full training and authorisation of Officers will also be required.

Illicit trade

Ards and North Down Borough Council are aware that there is already an illegal market for vapes and it is unlikely that suppliers of illegal products will stop selling single use vapes if there is a demand for them. More resources are needed to deal with this problem, particularly at borders and ports. We are aware of Operation Joesph, set up in England and Wales to tackle the supply of vapes and would welcome the extension of this or a similarly resourced operation in Northern Ireland.

Online sales/Personal imports

There is a need for an appropriate mechanism to deal with online sales as this will be the most difficult source to identify and enforce.

Ards and North Down Borough Council believe it is preferable that there is a ban on personal imports of single use vapes. This is primarily due to the difficulties in policing such imports and the strong

possibility that these may end up on the black market. Closing the loophole “for personal use”, will make enforcement work easier at the point of entry into the country.

Product Innovation

It should also be noted that manufacturers are already designing products that comply with the new regulations, in that they can be recharged and refilled, however many of the pods/cartridges are not separately available. Furthermore, some of these new products are similarly priced to single use vapes. There is therefore a concern that these products may still appeal to children. Whilst we recognise that these regulations do not deal with reducing the appeal of vapes to children, it was clearly stated by the Government that the ban would be to protect children’s health. We welcome the opportunity to consult on the measures in the Tobacco and Vapes Bill designed to reduce the appeal for these products for children.

MHRA register

All nicotine containing vapes must be notified to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and published on the ECig EU/NI notification portal before the vape is supplied. To help support businesses in understanding which products can and cannot be sold we recommend that MHRA are able to technically prevent single use vapes which fall under the definition in the Regulations from being approved and remove any already approved from the register.

Powers

It would appear that the powers to enforce these proposed regulations are contained within Article 72 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997. The Order does not appear to have the following powers:

- Provisions and consequences for persons who obstruct officers.
- Powers to test purchase
- Powers of forfeiture

Article 73 of the Order provides powers for seizure of articles or substances which cause ‘imminent danger of serious pollution of the environment or serious harm to human health’. Consideration needs to be given to whether vapes are considered an imminent danger. If they are not, it would appear that the relevant enforcement authority will not have powers to seize non-compliant products and therefore remove them from sale.

In order to effectively tackle any illegal market, we would recommend the ability to utilise the full set of powers set out in Parts 3 and 4 of Schedule 5 of the Consumer Rights Act 2015. We do not feel it is helpful to use a completely different set of powers which do not fully enable us to address foreseeable issues.

Recycling

We recommend that since all products should no longer be marketed as disposable, then all products should be clearly marked as recyclable, with associated safety instructions for their disposal.

We would welcome the development of more effective and accessible recycling schemes for vapes, including in-store take back schemes as well as recycling points in public spaces. The latter will have cost implications for local authorities, which should be considered with the overall resourcing implications.

Response to be sent to EPRTeam@daera-ni.gov.uk by 6th September 2024.

Unclassified

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ITEM 10**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	21 August 2024
File Reference	CW142
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Social Supermarket Additional Funding
Attachments	none

As Members are aware, the confirmation of funding from Government Departments was delayed at the start of the current financial year. In the interim, Departments where possible issued a comfort letter for the first three months of the year, based on previous years funding. The Department for Communities implemented measures and awarded this funding to cover a three-month period up to the 30 June 2024 for the Community Development Services, which included social supermarkets. The 2023/24 funding award from DfC for the Social Supermarket programme in Ards and North Down was £100,277.48.

An open call for the Social Supermarket provision opened for applications on 25 April 2024 and closed at 4pm on 16 May 2024.

Kilcooley Women's Centre (KWC) were successful and based on the 2023-2024 amounts were awarded £38,500.00 by Council in June 2024. This had been calculated based on the population it proposed to serve, as follows.

Not Applicable

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Area	Population	Funding for 1 st July 2024 – 31 st March 2025 based on 2023/24 budget	Funding for 1 st July 2024 – 31 st March 2025 based on 2024/25 budget
Bangor, Holywood, Donaghadee	55%	£38,500	£53,944.68
Ards, Comber, Ballygowan, Killinchy	30%	£21,000	£29,424.37
Peninsula	15%	£10,500	£14,712.19

On 3 July 2024 Council received a Letter of Offer from DfC with confirmation of total funding for the Social Supermarket for 2024-2025 of £127,822.24.

It is recommended that a Letter of Variation be granted to KWC for £15,444.68 in accordance with the total budget now confirmed for 2024-2025 and based on the population figures above (55%) as previously agreed by Council.

To date, despite significant effort officers have been unsuccessful in securing a potential provider for the rest of the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves additional funding of £15,444.68 to Kilcooley Women's Centre for the provision of a Social Supermarket in Bangor, Holywood and Donaghadee for 2024-2025.

Unclassified

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ITEM 11**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	12 August 2024
File Reference	SD151
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and North Down Sports Forum Grants (WG August 2024)
Attachments	Appendix 1 Successful Anniversary Report for Approval Appendix 2 Successful Equipment Report for Approval Appendix 3 Successful Goldcard Report for Noting Appendix 4 Successful Individual Travel & Accommodation Report for Noting

Members will be aware that on the 26 August 2015 Council delegated authority to the Ards and North Down Sports Forum, in order to allow it to administer sports grants funding on behalf of the Council. £45,000 had been allocated within the 2024/2025 revenue budget for this purpose.

The Council further authorised the Forum under delegated powers to award grants of up to £250. Grants above £250 still require Council approval. In addition, the Council requested that regular updates are reported to members.

Not Applicable

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During July 2024, the Forum received a total of 36 applications: two Anniversary, three Equipment, eight Goldcard and 23 Individual Travel/Accommodation Grants. A summary of the **36** successful applications are detailed in the attached Successful Anniversary, Successful Equipment, Successful Goldcard and Successful Individual Travel/Accommodation Appendices.

2024/25 Budget £45,000	Annual Budget	Proposed Funding Awarded July 2024	Remaining Budget
Anniversary	£1,000	*£1,250	-£2,749.90
Coach Education	£3,000	£0	£1,638.75
Equipment	£14,000	*£2,597.41	£3,120.72
Events	£6,000	£0	*£1,649.46
Seeding	£500	£0	£500
Travel and Accommodation	£14,500	*£3,010	-£3,049.57
Discretionary	£1,000	£0	£1,000
Schools/Sports Club Pathway	£5,000	£0	£5,000
8 Goldcards Awarded in July (26 Goldcards in total during 2024/25)			

*The proposed remaining budget for Anniversary of **-£2,749.90** is based on a proposed award this month of **£1,250**.

*The proposed remaining budget for Equipment of **£3,120.72** is based on a proposed award this month of **£2,597.41**.

*The proposed remaining budget for Events of **£1,649.46** is based on reclaimed costs of £11.57.

*The proposed remaining budget for Travel and Accommodation of **-£3,049.57** is based on a proposed award this month of **£3,010**.

The proposed remaining budget for 2024/2025 is **£7,109.46** (84% of the 2024/25 budget spent).

It should be noted that, based on data from previous years, it is expected that the value of grants which could be received in August 2024 could exhaust the allocated Sports Forum Grants budget for 2024/2025.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the attached applications for financial assistance for sporting purposes valued at above £250, and that the applications approved by the Forum (valued at below £250) are noted.

APPENDIX 1 - SUCCESSFUL ANNIVERSARY REPORT FOR APPROVAL

NAME	SPORT	EVENT	EVENT OUTLINE	DATES	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
North Down Athletic Club (1574)	Athletics	NDAC 50th Anniversary Ball at the Clandeboye Lodge Hotel	Dinner, band, spot prizes, speeches, awards. We estimate 150-200 people attending. Event will be fully organised and paid by NDAC and its members. To emphasise the importance of an athletic club in North Down that covers all ages, male and female. To show how a good organised club can support the community for years.	05-Oct-24	Meal/main costs £6,825, band £1,250, guest favours £1,020, other £980. Total £10,075.	£750.00	All documentation provided, recommend funding of £750.00.

North Down Softball Club (1592)	Softball	NDSC Anniversary Gala at the Bryansburn Inn, Bangor	An anniversary gala dinner & awards night for membership to celebrate club & team achievements. Expected numbers: 50. Opportunity for members & partners to mingle across the different teams, enhancing relationships. Team and Awards photos to be used to enhance the profile of Softball in A&ND via media outlets.	26-Oct-24	Venue cost £1,500. Requested £500 (ticket costs £30.00 pp, approx. 50 members in attendance £1500.00, grant sought to offset costs by £500.00, reducing ticket cost to £20.00 pp.)	£500.00	All documentation provided, recommend funding of £500.00 towards venue costs (NDSC were also awarded £249.90 for their 10 year Anniversary tournament on 14 July 2024).
TOTALS						£1,250.00	

APPENDIX 2 - SUCCESSFUL EQUIPMENT REPORT FOR APPROVAL

NAME	TYPE	EQUIPMENT NEED	BENEFIT	COSTS	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Greenwell Star Football Club (1575)	Football	Equipment to host events & Training equipment	With additional footballs, cones, and training bibs, our coaches can design more varied and dynamic training sessions. Providing adequate equipment ensures that all players, regardless of their financial background, have access to the necessary tools to participate fully in practices and games. With the proper equipment, our club can host larger training sessions, inter-club matches, and community events, fostering a stronger football culture and community spirit. New, high-quality equipment ensures that players are practicing and playing with safe, reliable gear, reducing the risk of injuries caused by faulty or worn-out equipment.	Training footballs size 5 £279.60 + Foldable goals £319.98 + 45 Assorted bibs =£74.97 + 40 cones £80.97 + 40 water bottles £159.96 + 18 hurdles £71.97. Total £987.45.	£827.49	£827.49	All documentation provided, recommend funding of £827.49, as we cannot fund water bottles.

Bryansburn Rangers Football Club (1577)	Football	Enhance physical literacy for Junior sections.	Bryansburn FC have launched a new youth division starting for the 2024/25 season to include male and female teams across years from 2020 to 2012. As this is an all new youth division, we require a significant amount of new equipment to adequately serve the new members, enhance active participation and improve physical literacy for the junior section. The equipment will help to increase membership at the club by enabling high-quality training to be provided to all new junior members. After our first junior open day, we have confirmed a minimum of 50 registrations which will increase over the next two open days.	Outdoor footballs £300 + Bibs £238.80 + Hurdles/Poles £461.20 = £1,000	£1,000.00	£1,000.00	All documentation provided, recommend funding £1,000.
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Coastal Runners NI (1606)	Running / Athletics	Training equipment	The lights will be used for training sessions during the winter months when it is dark, to ensure the safety of the members. The lights will allow training sessions in areas that have only been utilised in the summer months. Therefore this will add a bigger variety to training plans and will encourage members to come along and entice new members.	Hurdles £274.95 / Rechargeable lights on tripods x6 £494.97. Total £769.92	£769.92	£769.92	All documentation provided, recommend funding £769.92.
TOTAL						£2,597.41	

APPENDIX 3 - SUCCESSFUL GOLDCARD REPORT FOR NOTING

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	DATES	GOLDCARD	REPRESENTING	PROPOSED	NOTES
Matthew Topping (1571)	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Championships, Sun City, South Africa	4-11 October 2024	ABMWLC - Pool, Gym, Health Suite	Northern Ireland	Yes	Matthew has been selected to represent Northern Ireland. This has been confirmed by email from British Powerlifting. He will be competing at Sun City in South Africa at the IPF Commonwealth Championships between 4th-13th October 2024. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025.
Lewis Thompson (1586)	Sailing	ILCA Youth European Championships / Irish National Championships / ILCA Worlds Under 21 Championships, Ballyholme Yacht Club & National Yacht Club, Ireland	28 July - 3 August 2024 / 23-25 August 2024 / 22-29 August 2024	ABMWLC, LDPK, BA - Gym, Health Suite, Pool, Cryo Spa	Northern Ireland & Ireland	Yes	Lewis has been selected to represent Northern Ireland & Ireland. This has been confirmed by RYANI He will be competing at the ILCA Youth European Championships / Irish National Championships / ILCA Worlds Under 21 Championships . Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025.

Jack Law (1587)	Rugby	Interpro matches against Connacht, Leinster, Munster, Newforge plus away matches	Matches in August & Sept 24	Bangor Aurora - Gym, Health Suite, Pool	Ulster U18	Yes	An email from the IRFU, Ulster Branch, confirms Jack has been selected for the Under 18 development squad and represents Ulster at Age Grade Rugby. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025, "subject to" a named selection letter.
Daniel Palmer (1590)	Sailing	EURILCA Youth Europeans, UKLA Nationals, ILCA Ireland Nationals at Ballyholme Yacht Club, Weymouth, Dun Laoghaire	27/07-03/08, 12-17/08, 23-25/08	Bangor Aurora - Gym	Ireland U19 Academy	Yes	A letter from RYANI confirms that Daniel has been selected for the Irish National Championships, the ILCA Youth European Championships and the British National Championships. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025.
Vanessa Monaghan (1597)	Hockey	Hockey Interprovincial Tournament	22/09 - 10/11	Bangor Aurora - Gym & Pitches	Ulster U16	Yes	An email from Ulster Hockey confirms Vanessa has been selected for the Ulster U16 programme for 2024. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025.

Joshua Bell (1602)	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Championships, Sun City, South Africa	4-11 October 2024	ABMWLC, LDPK, BA - Gym, Health Suite, Pool, Cryo Spa	Northern Ireland	Yes	Joshua has been selected to represent Northern Ireland. This has been confirmed by email from British Powerlifting. He will be competing at Sun City in South Africa at the IPF Commonwealth Championships between 4th-11th October 2024. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025.
Elena Brewer (1604)	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Championships, Sun City, South Africa	4-11 October 2024	ABMWLC, LDPK, BA - Gym, Health Suite, Pool, Cryo Spa	Northern Ireland	Yes	Elena has been selected to represent Northern Ireland. This has been confirmed by email from British Powerlifting. She will be competing at Sun City in South Africa at the IPF Commonwealth Championships between 4th-11th October 2024. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025.

Evan McGonigle (1605)	Rugby	Ireland U19 Interprovincials Championships at Kingspan, Cork, Donnybrook	17 August 2024, 25 August 2024, 31 August 2024	ABMWLC - Pool, Gym, Health Suite, Pitches, Track	Ulster U19 Development	Yes	Evan has been selected to be part of the Ulster U19 Development Squad. This has been confirmed by an email from Ulster Rugby. He will be competing at the Ireland U19, Interprovincials and Championships in August 2024. Goldcard recommended for 6 months until 12 February 2025.
TOTAL						8	

APPENDIX 4 - SUCCESSFUL INDIVIDUAL TRAVEL/ACCOMMODATION REPORT FOR NOTING

APPLICANT	SPORT	EVENT	DATES	LOCATION	REPRESENTING2	REQUESTED	PROPOSED	NOTES
Alba Green (1572)	Trampolinin g	Trampoline Inter-Regional Challenge Cup Final	5-7 July 2024	Birmingham (Utilita Arena)	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	A letter from Gymnastics Northern Ireland confirms that Alba has been selected to compete in Trampolining from 5-7 July 2024 in Birmingham (Utilita Arena). Recommend funding £150.
Mason McCreery (1573)	Athletics	All Irelands 800m	7 July 2024	Tullamore, Ireland	Northern Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from Athletics Northern Ireland confirms that Mason has been selected to compete in the All Irelands 800m on 7 July 2024 in Tullamore, Ireland. Recommend funding £100
Euan Monro (1576)	Athletics	Irish National Juvenile Track and Field Championships	7 July 2024	Tullamore, Ireland	Northern Ireland & Ulster	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from Athletics Northern Ireland confirms that Euan has been selected to compete in Irish National Juvenile Track and Field Championships in Tullamore, Ireland. Recommend funding £100
Ryan Dougan (1578)	Archery	World Archery 3D Championships	28 September - 7 October 2024	Mokrice, Slovenia	Ireland	£170.00	£170.00	An email from Archery Ireland confirms that Ryan has been selected to compete in the World Archery 3D Championships in Mokrice, Slovenia. Recommend funding £170

Zoe West-Hurst (1579)	Sailing	Northern Championships	24-25 August 2024	County Antrim Yacht Club	Northern Ireland	£50.00	£50.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Zoe will be representing Northern Ireland at the Northern Championships. Recommend funding £50.00
Zoe West-Hurst (1580)	Sailing	Toppler Traveller Series	22nd September 2024	Royal St George Yacht Club, Dublin	Northern Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Zoe will be representing Northern Ireland at the Toppler Traveller Series. Recommend funding £100.00
Zoe West-Hurst (1581)	Sailing	National Traveller Series, Lough Derg	6th October 2024	Lough Derg Yacht Club	Northern Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Zoe will be representing Northern Ireland at the National Traveller Series, Lough Derg. Recommend funding £100.
Hannah Dadley-Young (1582)	Sailing	29er Western Championship	20-21 July 2024	Lough Ree Yacht club – Ireland	Northern Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Hannah will be representing Northern Ireland at the 29er Western Championships. Recommend funding £100.00
Hannah Dadley-Young (1583)	Sailing	Worlds	1-9 August 2024	Aarhus International Sailing Centre. Denmark	Ireland	£170.00	£170.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Hannah will be representing Ireland at the Worlds. Recommend funding £170
Hannah Dadley-Young (1584)	Sailing	29er Irish Nationals Championship	16-18 August 2024	Royal Cork Yacht Club – Ireland	Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Hannah will be representing Ireland at the 29er Irish Nationals Championships. Recommend funding £100

Jessica Dadley-Young (1585)	Sailing	Feva Ireland Midlands Championship	20-21 July 2024	Lough Ree Yacht club – Ireland	Northern Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Jessica will be representing Northern Ireland at the Feva Ireland Midlands Championship. Recommend funding £100.00
Daniel Palmer (1588)	Sailing	ILCA Ireland National Championships	23-25 August 2024	National Yacht Club, Dun Laoghaire , Dublin, Ireland	Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Daniel has been selected for the ILCA Ireland National Championships. Recommend funding £100.00 (receiving £500 Mary Peters Trust).
Daniel Palmer (1589)	Sailing	ILCA Ireland End of Year Event	28-29 September 2024	Dublin, Ireland	Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Daniel has been selected for the ILCA Ireland End of Year Event. Recommend funding £100.00 (receiving £500 Mary Peters Trust).
Eva Patton (1591)	Athletics	All Ireland Juvenile Athletics Championships	21st July 2024	Tullamore Harriers Athletics Track, Co Offaly	Ulster	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from Athletics NI confirms that Eva will be represent Ulster at the All Ireland Juvenile Athletics Championships. Recommend funding £100
Iseult Spiers (1593)	Sailing	Irish Nationals ILCA Championships	12-17 August 2024	Weymouth and Portland National Sailing Academy	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Selection letter does not include the correct date/event. EW emailed
Iseult Spiers (1594)	Sailing	Irish Nationals ILCA Championships	23-25 August 2024	National Yacht Club	Ireland	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from RYANI confirms that Iseult will be representing Ireland at Irish Nationals ILCA Championships. Recommend funding £100

Freya Boyce (1595)	Athletics	All Ireland Juvenile Athletics Championships	21st July 2024	Tullamore Harriers Athletics Track, Co Offaly	NI & Ulster - Qualified as NI & Ulster U17 100m Silver Medallist	£100.00	£100.00	A letter from Athletics NI confirms that Freya will be represent Ulster and Northern Ireland at the All Ireland Juvenile Athletics Championships. Recommend funding £100
Michael Bruce (1596)	Powerlifting	Commonwealth Powerlifting Championships	4-11 October 2024	Sun City, South Africa	Northern Ireland	£200.00	£200.00	Michael has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at the IPF Commonwealth Championships from 4-11 October 2024 in Sun City, South Africa. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £200.
Alex Cree (1598)	Archery	U18 Compound mixed Team in Commonwealth Nations	28-30 July 2024	Lilleshall National Sports Centre	Northern Ireland	£150.00	£150.00	Archery NI email confirms Alex is representing Northern Ireland at the U18 Compound mixed Team in Commonwealth Nations at Lilleshall National Sports Centre. Recommend funding of £200.

Anthony McLeggan (1599)	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Championships	4-11 October 2024	Sun City, South Africa	Ireland	£200.00	£200.00	Anthony has been selected to represent Ireland in South Africa at the World Masters Class Powerlifting Championships from 4-11 October 2024. Anthony has provided an Irish Powerlifting Federation Selection Letter confirming he has been selected to represent Ireland but Sport Ireland have advised there are no Powerlifting NGBs currently recognised (Sport NI recognise Powerlifting as a sport and British Powerlifting are the Recognised NGB). Forum discussion required.
Kathleen Smart (1600)	Powerlifting	Western European Powerlifting Championships	13-15 September 2024	St. Pauls Bay Malta	Great Britain	£170.00	£170.00	An email from British Powerlifting confirms that Kathleen will be representing Great Britain at the Western European Powerlifting Championships in Malta from 13-15 September 2024. Recommended funding £170.

Joshua Bell (1601)	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Championships	4-11 October 2024	Sun City, South Africa	Northern Ireland	£200.00	£200.00	Joshua has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at the IPF Commonwealth Championships from 4-11 October 2024 in Sun City, South Africa. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £200.
Elena Brewer (1603)	Powerlifting	IPF Commonwealth Championships	4-11 October 2024	Sun City, South Africa	Northern Ireland	£200.00	£200.00	Elena has been selected to represent Northern Ireland at the IPF Commonwealth Championships from 4-11 October 2024 in Sun City, South Africa. This has been confirmed by a selection letter from British Powerlifting. Recommend funding of £200.
TOTALS							£3,010.00	

Appendix 2 – Unsuccessful Applications

Open Thursday 4th April 2024 – Monday 29th July 2024 12 noon

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1. **Abbey Villa Football Club** – Purchase of a Flail Mower.

Unfortunately, the application did not meet the scoring threshold. This was a decision by all 4 panel members, scoring the application below the 45/100 threshold needed to qualify for the grant. Recommendations will go to the club regarding the quality of the application form submitted, with future applications welcomed.

Appendix1 – Successful Applications
Open Thursday 4th April 2024 – Monday 29th July 2024 at 12 noon.

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Club & Project	Date received	Date Assessed	Total Project Cost	Funding Requested	Clarification Needed	Club Claiming VAT	Outcome / Award (50% max)
Ards Rangers FC New Kitchen	29.07.2024	07.08.2024	£12,000	£5,000	Club Development Plan, Financial Statements Full Safeguarding Policy	Yes	£5,000
Ballygalget GAC Phase 2 – Pitch Drainage Installation	03.07.2024	07.08.2024	£12,000	£5,000	Club Development Plan Financial Statement	Yes	£5,000
Ballyholme Yacht Club Purchase of 1x Yak 3 x Launch trolley	25.07.2024	07.08.2024	£6,613.80	£3,306.40	Lease Agreement	Yes	£2,713.62
Bangor RF & CC (Cricket Section) Pitch Drainage	25.07.2024	07.08.2024	£10,890.00	£5,445.00	Lease Agreement VAT confirmation	TBC	£5,000
Bangor Football Club Purchase of stand Seats Emergency Lightening	29.07.2024	07.08.2024	£2,443.80	£2,443.80	No	No	£1,221.90
Bangor RF & CC (Rugby Section) Install infrastructure (base/lightening & base) to relocate equipment containers	27.07.2024	07.08.2024	£3,000.00	£1,500.00	No	TBC	£1,500.00 Subject to Planning approval or submission of proposed certificate of lawful development
Kirkistown Castle Golf Club 3 x Practice Netting Bay	22.07.2024	07.08.2024	£6,554.82	£3,277.41	Lease Agreement Public Liability Insurance Equality Policy Financial Query	Yes	£2,731.17 Subject to Planning approval or submission of proposed certificate of lawful development
Newtownards Sailing Club 2x GP14 Dinghy 1 x Pico Dinghy 2 x Laser Dinghy	29.07.2024	07.08.2024	£14,395.00	£5,000	No	No	£5,000
North Down Cricket Club Set of Gang-mowers	19.06.2024	07.08.2024	£12,000	£5,000	Lease Financial Statements Office Bearers Details	Yes	£5,000
North Down Trampoline Academy New Trampoline	14.07.2024	07.08.2024	£10,570	£5,000	Club Development Plan Lease Safeguarding Policy	No	£5,000

Scrabo Golf Club New Battery-operated power equipment for green keeping	28.07.2024	07.08.2024	£9,277.00	£4,802.00		Yes	£3,865.42
St Pauls GAC Electronic Scorecard	29.07.2024	07.08.2024	£10,385.00	£5,000	Constitution Signatures	No	£5,000 Subject to Planning approval or submission of proposed certificate of lawful development
Totals			£110,129.42	£50,774.61			£47,032.11

Unclassified

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ITEM 12**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	20 August 2024
File Reference	SD150
Legislation	Recreation and Youth services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and North Down Sports Development Capital Grants Programme 2024/2025
Attachments	Appendix 1 Successful Applications Appendix 2 Unsuccessful Applications

Members will recall that the Sports Development Capital Grant Scheme would have historically opened for two tranches within any one financial year however in 2020/21 only one tranche was delivered due to the pandemic, with the process proving to be very successful. It was therefore proposed that the process of one tranche would continue and be kept under review. Therefore, this year's 2024/2025 Capital Grants programme opened on Thursday 4th April 2024 and closed on Monday 29th July 2024 with an approved budget of £45,000 for 2024/2025.

The Council received 15 applications; all of which were received before the deadline time of 12 Noon.

Not Applicable

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Eligibility screening of the 15 applications was carried out. One of the applications failed to meet the eligibility criteria and therefore did not proceed to the assessment stage of the project.

The 14 applications were then assessed against the following criteria:

1. Benefits to the club/organisation and the local community; clearly detailing anticipated outcomes of the proposed project
2. Increasing Participation
3. Increasing participation within key target groups: Women and girls, disability, over 50's and socially disadvantaged areas/groups
4. Improving and/or sustaining activities within the club setting; and
5. Improving the health and wellbeing of club members and/or wider community.

Applications were assessed by the Sports and Recreation Development Officer, NCLT/Serco's Sports Development Officer, the Leisure Service's Officer and Leisure Project Officer.

One out of the 14 applications did not meet the threshold score of 45, and therefore is not recommended for funding. The remaining 13 applications scored above the minimum threshold for funding and therefore all 13 are proposed for funding, subject to project management requirements being met. These are listed within Appendix 1.

Unfortunately, Ballywalter Bowling and Recreation Club withdrew their application on 5th August 2024 due to additional costs associated with planning that the club had not anticipated at the time of submission. The remaining 12 successful applications requested a total of £50,774.61 and it is proposed to award £47,032.11

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the recommendations of the Assessment Panel which are listed in Appendix 1- Successful Applications and Appendix 2 - Unsuccessful Applications.

Unclassified

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ITEM 13**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	13 August 2024
File Reference	LS/LA8
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Artificial Sports Pitch Renovation and Replacement Strategy
Attachments	Appendix 1 Artificial Sports Pitch Renovation and Replacement Strategy

Introduction

Council owns a large number of artificial surface sports pitches and courts across its Estate which are operated by the Council's Leisure Department to cater for a wide range of sports including soccer, hockey and tennis. Artificial sports pitches provide an invaluable resource for many clubs to train and play during the winter months when there is decreasing daylight hours and inclement weather where it is impossible for teams to avail of natural turf pitches, and during the summer months when natural turf pitches are closed for post season maintenance programmes.

The following table details the specific sites that have been installed in the various locations at various stages over the last 25 years:

Not Applicable

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Location	Type of Pitch
Comber Leisure Centre	2G Hockey Pitch
	2G Tennis Courts x 2 (outdoor)
	2G Tennis Courts x 2 (dome)
Londonderry Park	Intermediate Status 3G Soccer Pitch
	Community Status 3G Soccer Pitch
	2G Hockey Pitch
Commons, Donaghadee	2G Tennis Courts x 3
Cloughey	Multiuse 2G Tennis Courts x 3
Cloughey	2G bowling green
Ward Park	2G Tennis Courts x 10
Spafield, Holywood	Community Status 3G Soccer Pitch
Sportsplex, Bangor	Community Status 3G Soccer Pitch
Bangor Aurora Aquatics & Leisure	3G Soccer Pitch
	3G MUGA Pitch
	2G Hockey Pitch
Ards Blair Mayne L WC	2G Multiuse Pitch/Tennis Courts (dome)

Additionally, Council is currently undertaking work on capital projects which include the provision of new 3G facilities at Portavogie, Portaferry and Donaghadee, and are engaged in discussions on others at Holywood and Comber, which will need to be considered in terms of operation and lifecycle maintenance upon completion.

The lifespan of an artificial turf pitch is usually circa 10 years depending on the use (the sport played, frequency of play, weather conditions, etc), product quality, and maintenance of the turf over its life, after which the turf system may need to be replaced.

As with all aspects of the Council's estates portfolio, it is necessary to consider the lifecycle of our artificial pitches, recognise the need for continuous investment to ensure continued provision and plan for future replacement of these valuable assets. In some cases, artificial pitches within the Council's portfolio are now past their life expectancy. The aging of Council's current pitch portfolio has had negative impacts at some sites, with Officers receiving increasing numbers of complaints and increasing the need for ongoing, expensive maintenance and repair work and the associated operational downtime and pitch closures.

Council's Parks Staff commissioned condition reports in 2023-2024 to assess the current condition and expected longevity of pitches at all sites listed. These reports have highlighted that several of the Council's artificial pitches have now reached the end of their usable lifespan and are in need of immediate replacement. The condition

Not Applicable

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reports also highlights that with many pitches ageing and nearing the end of life, there is a need for an ongoing annual review and replacement plan.

Proposed Long Term Solution

As part of the 2024-2025 rate setting process, Leisure Officers submitted an Artificial Sports Pitch Replacement Strategy business case proposing the implementation of a rolling replacement programme covering the next 10-year period, with £500,000 allocated to Leisure's budget in 2024-2025.

Based on the number of facilities within the current portfolio and most recent condition reports (2023-2024), Leisure proposes that there is a requirement to replace a minimum of two pitches per annum on a rolling basis across each 10-year period.

The Artificial Sports Pitch Replacement Strategy, therefore, involves the utilisation of an annual condition review of artificial pitches across the Borough, along with an accompanying needs assessment in order to prioritise the replacement of circa two pitches each year to ensure that all pitches are replaced by their end of life, ensuring the local community can avail of and benefit from safe, fit for purpose facilities.

The financial requirement for this is circa £500,000 (plus inflation) per annum over the next ten years. This is currently deemed sufficient up to the next policy review date but may need to increase further over time due to other changes in costs.

It is further proposed that, in year one of this replacement scheme (2024-2025), budget is approved to allow for the replacement of the 2G hockey pitch at Bangor Aurora and, four tennis courts at Ward Park and two tennis courts within the dome at Comber Leisure Centre. All of these facilities have been assessed as being at end of usable life in the most recent condition reports carried out by Sportlabs in 2023.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve and adopt the Artificial Sports Pitch Replacement Strategy for Ards and North Down Borough Council and that Leisure, Parks and others as required are authorised to proceed as outlined above.

APPENDIX



Artificial Sports Pitch Renovation and Replacement Strategy

Leisure Services

Strategy Title	Artificial Sports Pitch Renovation and Replacement Strategy
Version	V1
Strategy Summary	The strategy details the principles and processes by which the Council will effectively manage the replacement of artificial sports surfaces used to deliver the ANDBC Leisure Service.
Source / Author	Leisure Services Officer
Date of Council Approval	
Implementation Date	
Next Review Date	
Officer Responsible for Review	Leisure Services Officer

Revision History

Date	Changes Made	Version
November 2023	Original Version	One

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1.0 Introduction

1.1 Leisure Services

The Leisure Services section which sits within the Community & Wellbeing directorate, has responsibility for the provision of a range of indoor leisure centres, sports pitches and associated pavilions, tennis courts, bowling greens and a designated Sport Development Unit.

The vision of the Ards and North Down Borough Council's Corporate Plan, to ensure that **"Ards and North Down is a vibrant, connected, healthy, safe and prosperous place to be"** and Key Outcome 2 of the Big Plan, that **"All people in Ards and North Down enjoy good health and wellbeing"** is at the heart of everything that we do.

The Leisure Services section delivers on this vision by providing and facilitating a diverse and affordable range of quality sport, leisure and recreational opportunities to all our citizens in a safe friendly and vibrant fun environment so affording the opportunity for all to be healthier, happier and proud of the Borough in which they live.

Sport, leisure and recreation, both in structured and unstructured forms, provides our citizens with numerous physical health, psychological, economic and environmental benefits which are associated with a high quality of life through participation in sport, recreation and leisure. This affords the opportunity for a healthier lifestyle for all and facilitates greater cognitive development, self-esteem, social interaction, economic spending, conservation of natural lands and community vibrancy.

The service has been developed to offer opportunities for everyone, regardless of their age, ability or gender to gain maximum benefit from their activity whether it is undertaken for health benefits, sporting excellence or simply to make the most of their recreation time.

The management and operation of the facilities is undertaken by a team of well qualified and skilled individuals all committed to ensuring facilities are fit for purpose and where the service is delivered the delivery is done to the highest standard and specification.

1.2 Artificial Pitch Portfolio

The Service operates a wide range of buildings, pitches and equipment that differs in age and condition. This Strategy sets out the procedure for replacing one essential aspect within the leisure portfolio, artificial sports surfaces. The make-up of this portfolio is laid out in the table below:

Artificial Pitch Type	Number	Life Expectancy
3G Pitch	6*	8-10 years
2G Pitch (sand)	4	8-10 years
2G Tennis Court (sand)	20	12-15 years
2G Bowling Green	1	12-15 years

These artificial sports surfaces provide an invaluable resource for many clubs and individuals to train and play both, during the winter months when decreasing daylight hours and inclement weather mean that it is impossible to avail of natural turf pitches and during the summer months when natural turf pitches are closed for post season maintenance programmes.

Data produced by NISRA for 2015-2016 for Ards and North Down Borough Council shows that 69% of those questioned use our outdoors for leisure at least once per week. This is the fifth highest percentage in Northern Ireland and is above the Northern Ireland average, which sits at 67%.

One of the key findings from ANDBC's Local Development Plan (LDP) - Position Paper on "Open Space, Sport and Outdoor Recreation" was that "The Council recognises the importance of good quality open space, sport and outdoor recreation provision to the health & well-being of residents and should explore opportunities for further enhancing this provision".

The aging of Council's pitch portfolio necessitates the implementation of this strategy which will allow for appropriate financial forecasting and control to ensure the protection, enhancement and improvement of the existing artificial pitch stock in the years ahead.

Failure to appropriately forecast and schedule the replacement of the portfolio could cause several issues:

- Implications to service delivery with pitches being unavailable due to an increase the need for ongoing maintenance and repair work and associated pitch closures/downtime.
- Decreased income generated for pitch hire associated with downtime and pitch closures.
- Increased maintenance costs of repair to the pitch surfaces and substructures.
- Uneven spread of capital expenditure on new artificial pitches putting strain on the capital purse.
- Reputational damage to Council.

2.0 Aims & Objectives

The aim of this Strategy is to:

- To ensure a reliable portfolio of artificial sports surfaces which are safe, fit for purpose and meet the ever-increasing demand levels within the sector.
- To pro-actively prioritise, plan for and evenly distribute capital expenditure on artificial sports surfaces and avoid "spikes" in capital demand.
- Increase customer satisfaction with reduced complaints regarding the quality of artificial sporting surfaces.

3.0 Relevant Legislative and Council Documents

- Council's Corporate Plan
- The Big Plan for Ards and North Down 2017 - 2032.
- Council's Procurement Strategy
- Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978
- Northern Ireland act 1998 section 75

4.0 Sustainability

The Service Management will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the artificial sports surface stock is procured, operated and maintained in a sustainable manner. This includes:

- Ensuring new artificial sports surfaces are specified to the latest Industry accepted standards and stay abreast of changes in regulations relating to infill materials to improve the impact on the environment.
- Regularly review the size, types and usage levels within the portfolio in order to ensure it is as lean and as efficient as possible. This means rationalising and up/downsizing the portfolio wherever possible.
- Follow Corporate policy in relation to all procurement activity.
- Ensure Council's commitments to Environmental Management including ISO 140001 accreditation and compliance are imbedded within culture of Service area.

5.0 Methodology

There are many different techniques that can be used to calculate replacement cycles, with advantages and disadvantages associated with each. There also can be non-economic factors involved that may influence or even dictate replacement cycles, for example changing laws around pitch infill material or change in operational service delivery requirements. There are several factors that will determine the most efficient time to replace equipment and plant, including:

- Reference to the Standard Replacement Cycle
- General Condition
- Usage Levels

- Health and Safety
- Age
- Depreciation
- Maintenance Costs

Whilst it is generally accepted that the lifespan of an artificial turf pitch is usually 8 - 10 years, it is not assumed that a pitch will be replaced solely based on its age. The key to a successful Strategy will involve judgment, prediction, forecasts, and assumptions on one hand, and analysis of available empirical data on the other.

It is for this reason that Officers will use a two-stage process in addressing the issue of artificial sports surfaces replacement. The first stage involves an annual condition report (Appendix 1.) across all artificial pitches within the portfolio. These condition reports should take into account the visual inspection of the following main aspects of the artificial pitch:

- Base condition
- Shockpad condition
- Synthetic Turf condition
- Drainage
- Hardstanding/site access
- Fencing
- Kickboards

Once these condition reports have flagged up pitches for replacement based on the above parameters Leisure Management then will implement stage two. Stage 2 involves the analysis of relevant information on each facility to build an overall picture in terms of:

- Usage levels,
- H&S
- Expected service delivery needs

Using all the information provided at stage 1 and 2, Leisure management will then proceed with the decision to replace or continue it in service.

Where there is a recommendation to carry out rejuvenation works in order to extend the life of an artificial sports surface, these details will be passed to ANDBC Parks department. Parks department will then schedule these works as part of their ongoing maintenance to the surfaces.

Changes to the specification must be built into the replacement cycle to ensure that the latest technical and safety features are included where necessary. The replacement schedule will be reviewed regularly and before each annual Estimates process to ensure adequate financial provision is made. Any future significant changes in specification requirements will be considered within normal due processes and the strategy revised where appropriate.

6.0 Preventive and Reactive Maintenance

6.1 Preventative Maintenance

Having a well planned and executed preventive maintenance programme is essential for an economically operated and reliable facility portfolio.

A preventive maintenance program will:

- Reduce the overall cost of maintenance and repair.
- Improve the operational efficiency of assets through less downtime from unplanned repairs.
- Enable assets to reach their economic service life.

Maintenance of all Council's artificial sports surfaces is undertaken by ANDBC's Parks department. The Parks Management Team has introduced a robust planned maintenance schedule, including routine intervals for servicing and safety checks on all Council's artificial sports surfaces. This includes weekly, monthly and annual works to ensure pitches are maintained to the highest standard possible where practicable.

6.2 Reactive Maintenance

As with any asset, there are occasions when faults occur and need to be dealt with on a reactive basis. In such instances, ANDBC Parks department will be notified of the faults and will be asked to action accordingly with their internal team or registered maintenance contractor.

7.0 Financing of Replacement Artificial Sports Pitches

All new artificial sports pitches will be funded from within the Council's Capital Programme. In order to assist financial planning and avoid large spikes in expenditure from one year to the next, it is necessary plan for consistent and regular artificial sports surface replacements. Replacements will be planned with emphasis on minimising the impact on the District rates but yet be sufficient that we do not fall behind on our pitch replacements to the point where maintenance costs spiral, and operational delivery is affected.

Based on the number of facilities within the current portfolio and most recent condition reports (2023) which utilise stage 1 of the methodology, Leisure proposes that there is a requirement to replace 2 pitches per annum on a rolling basis across each 10-year period. The financial requirement for this is circa £500,000 per annum over the next ten years. This is currently deemed sufficient up to the next policy review date; but this may need to increase over time due to increasing purchase costs.

In the event of demand outstripping budget, the Leisure Manager may need to retain facilities in service beyond the optimum time for replacement and the Leisure Manager must therefore have the ability to prioritise some replacements over others, in this eventuality.

Annual review of this strategy and associated finance schedule to be undertaken to ensure that ensure that specification requirements are up to date and that sufficient budget is available to deliver agreed outcomes.

Unclassified

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ITEM 14

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Finance
Date of Report	15 August 2024
File Reference	FIN45
Legislation	Section 5 Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Community & Wellbeing Directorate Budgetary Control July 2024
Attachments	None

The Community & Wellbeing Directorate's Budgetary Control Report covers the 4-month period 1 April to 31 July 2024. The net cost of the Directorate is showing an underspend of £445k (11.1%) – box A on page 3.

Explanation of Variance

Community & Wellbeing's budget performance is further analysed on page 4 into 3 key areas:

Report	Type	Variance	Page
Report 2	Payroll Expenditure	£317k favourable	3
Report 3	Goods & Services Expenditure	£75k adverse	3
Report 4	Income	£203k favourable	3

Not Applicable

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The Community & Wellbeing Directorate's overall variance can be summarised by the following table (variances over £25k): -

Type	Variance £'000	Comment
Payroll	(317)	Payroll underspends throughout the Directorate mainly due to vacant posts. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Health (£76k). • Community & Culture (£57k). • Parks & Cemeteries (£88k). • Leisure (£96k).
Goods & Services		
Parks & Cemeteries	15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Running costs slightly higher than budget but offset by payroll and income favourable variances.
Leisure	62	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This adverse variance is due to Aurora maintenance work coded to Leisure in error as it should have been charged to Assets & Property. This will be corrected next month.
Income		
Parks & Cemeteries	(55)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cemeteries income (£40k). • Franchise income (£17k).
Leisure	(139)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leisure Centres & Londonderry Park – (£104k) • Sports/Football Development – (£13k) • Community Centres – (£16k).

Not Applicable

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REPORT 1 BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT					
Period 4 - July 2024					
	Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	Variance
	£	£	£	£	%
Community & Wellbeing					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	78,209	73,500	4,709	221,500	6.4
110 Environmental Health	755,469	836,700	(81,231)	2,333,500	(9.7)
120 Community and Culture	813,766	880,500	(66,734)	2,529,800	(7.6)
140 Parks & Cemeteries	1,349,199	1,478,300	(129,101)	5,246,800	(8.7)
150 Leisure Services	578,819	751,300	(172,481)	2,567,300	(23.0)
Total	3,575,462	4,020,300	A (444,838)	12,898,900	(11.1)
REPORT 2 PAYROLL REPORT					
	£	£	£	£	%
Community & Wellbeing - Payroll					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	58,073	58,300	(227)	174,300	(0.4)
110 Environmental Health	820,774	896,700	(75,926)	2,692,500	(8.5)
120 Community and Culture	573,055	630,000	(56,945)	1,949,700	(9.0)
140 Parks & Cemeteries	1,285,109	1,373,400	(88,291)	4,142,900	(6.4)
150 Leisure	1,583,694	1,679,700	(96,006)	5,225,900	(5.7)
Total	4,320,704	4,638,100	(317,396)	14,185,300	(6.8)
REPORT 3 GOODS & SERVICES REPORT					
	£	£	£	£	%
Community & Wellbeing - Goods & Services					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	21,774	16,900	4,874	48,900	28.8
110 Environmental Health	80,280	77,700	2,580	290,700	3.3
120 Community and Culture	440,836	450,100	(9,264)	1,916,100	(2.1)
140 Parks & Cemeteries	356,829	342,100	14,729	1,632,600	4.3
150 Leisure	321,167	258,400	62,767	1,008,100	24.3
Total	1,220,885	1,145,200	75,685	4,896,400	6.6
REPORT 4 INCOME REPORT					
	£	£	£	£	%
Community & Wellbeing - Income					
100 Community & Wellbeing HQ	(1,638)	(1,700)	62	(1,700)	3.7
110 Environmental Health	(145,584)	(137,700)	(7,884)	(649,700)	(5.7)
120 Community and Culture	(200,125)	(199,600)	(525)	(1,336,000)	(0.3)
140 Parks & Cemeteries	(292,739)	(237,200)	(55,539)	(528,700)	(23.4)
150 Leisure	(1,326,042)	(1,186,800)	(139,242)	(3,666,700)	(11.7)
Totals	(1,966,128)	(1,763,000)	(203,128)	(6,182,800)	(11.5)

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Council notes this report.

Unclassified

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ITEM 15**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	23 August 2024
File Reference	CW30
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	North Down Coastal Path Working Group
Attachments	Appendix Minutes of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group held on 29 April 2024

The second meeting of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group was held on 29 April 2024, and the attached minutes of that meeting were approved by the Working Group at its July meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the attached minutes.

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

A Meeting of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group of Ards and North Down Borough Council was held in the Council Chamber, Church Street, Newtownards, on Monday 29 April 2024 at 6:00 pm.

PRESENT:

In the Chair: Councillor McKimm

Alderman: Graham (6.55pm)

Councillors: Cochrane

Creighton
Harbinson
McCollum
W Irvine (6.18pm)
Martin (6.30pm)
McKee
Rossiter

Officers: Director of Community and Wellbeing (G Bannister), Head of Parks & Cemeteries (S Daye), Head of Communications and Marketing (C Jackson) and Democratic Services Officer (R King)

1. APOLOGIES

An apology had been received from Councillor Hollywood and apologies for lateness were received from Alderman Graham and Councillor Martin.

NOTED.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest notified.

3. MINUTES OF NORTH DOWN COASTAL PATH WORKING GROUP MEETING DATED 23 JANUARY 2024

The Chair recalled a query in relation to land ownership on various sections of the coastal path and that officers were to provide a map in order to provide clarity. He noted that the discussion had not been recorded in the minutes and that a map had not been provided. He asked if this could be actioned and the Director of Community and Wellbeing explained that this information was available on the Council's Geographic Information System (GIS) however it was difficult to generate maps into a format that could be circulated with the meeting papers. In the meantime, he encouraged members to access the GIS mapping facility, while the Head of Parks and Cemeteries added that the images would be shown on a presentation screen at

future meetings once the full membership of the Working Group had been established.

In a further matter, Councillor McKee was concerned that there had been a three-month gap between this and the previous meeting. While he understood there were discussions around meeting quarterly, he was concerned about criticism from the public in terms of progress. The Chair recalled that there had been a plan to meet in February, but the Director advised that this had only been an aspiration and subject to completing various objectives in January that had not been achieved.

As a general comment, the Chair felt it was important to get as many details as possible within the minutes in order to convey diligence. The Director clarified that the minutes were not verbatim and like all committee minutes required only to give a flavour of items discussed and provide a formal record of decision making.

AGREED TO RECOMMEND, on the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Cochrane, that the minutes be adopted.

4. EXTERNAL MEMBERS OF WORKING GROUP (FILE NDCP001)

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Report from the Director of Community and Wellbeing detailing that in January 2023 Elected Members had decided to abandon the Kinnegar to Donaghadee Greenway Scheme proposals and instead agreed to set up a Task & Finish Working Group to address issues of connectivity, access and maintenance along the North Down Coastal Path.

In September 2023, the Council agreed a Terms of Reference (see Appendix 1) that included the requirement to “invite interested groups, and those with specific expertise to be represented on the Working Group”.

At the North Down Coastal Path Task & Finish Working Group (NDCPWG) meeting in January, Officers presented proposals for external membership, and this was discussed by the Members. Officers were asked to come back to the next meeting with a report that reflected on comments from the meeting including geographical split, workability of group, number of social members & Section 75 considerations.

To progress this Council decision, it is now proposed that we progress external members under three headings:

1. Expert Guests
2. Geographical Representatives
3. Community Partners.

The Expert Guests would be invited to attend occasional meetings by the Director of Community and Wellbeing. Expert Guests could include government agencies (such as NIEA, DfI etc.), specialist interest groups (such as RSPB, WWT etc.) and specialist consultants (individuals or organisations).

The Geographical Representatives would be a representative from the 3 x Town/City Advisory Groups i.e. Holywood, Bangor & Donaghadee. The 3 persons

representatives would regularly attend meetings on behalf of their Advisory Group and would be expected to update the Advisory Group on the work of the North Down Coastal Path Task & Finish Working Group.

The Community Partners would regularly attend meeting for up to 1 year with possible extensions if agreed by the Working Group. The Community Partners would be progressed via an application process. It was proposed that an initial 5 positions be advertised, and this could be increased if the Working Group felt it would be useful to do so.

Procedure for Selecting Community Partners

Stage 1: Open advertisement requesting applications from interested groups or organisations. Up to 5 places initially. The group would be required to specify the main person representing the group and two deputies.

Stage 2 - Proposed Vetting Process: a written application (see Appendix 3) process with the Chairperson and two Council Officers putting a recommendation to the Working Group. Proposed timetable:

- Advertisement of Community Partners – 6th to 27th June
- Evaluation Process during July
- Invite successful groups to NDCPWG meeting in September.

RECOMMENDED:

That Officers progress:

1. Advertise and Select Community Partners as detailed above.
2. Write to Town/City Advisory Groups (Holywood, Bangor & Donaghadee) requesting a representative to attend the NDCPWG meeting in September.

The Head of Parks and Cemeteries outlined the above report and recommendation, explaining that a presentation had taken place at the previous meeting on how the Working Group would operate in terms of its partnership with external members.

He outlined a three-prong approach in relation to the external membership, with representatives that the committee deemed as experts, who would attend on an ad hoc basis. Those would be from organisations such as the Department for Infrastructure, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and third sector groups such as the RSPB.

A second category would be made up of geographical representatives and it was envisaged that this would include one member, and a deputy, to be nominated by the relevant Town Advisory Groups. He referred to three TAG groups in Bangor, Holywood and Donaghadee and each group could be represented at meetings that were area specific.

He added that five further positions would be allocated to community partners who would attend regularly and provide a representation of interested groups. He advised

that if the recommendation was agreed, then the external partners would be in place to attend a meeting in September.

Councillor McKee queried the reasoning for inviting TAG representatives to join the Working Group as he understood they had more of a regeneration and economic development remit in relation to the town centre as opposed to a path network. While he understood the benefit of approaching an established group, he wondered if they would have the necessary expertise. The Head of Parks and Cemeteries advised that TAGs represented their towns and communities as a whole and could offer rounded views of the coastal path and its place within their town and wider community. He agreed it would not work if the external membership was made up only of TAG representatives but felt this was just one aspect of the three-pronged approach he had outlined. The Director added that a consideration for TAGs was potential visitor numbers and the coastal path was an important factor in that while the Head of Communications and Marketing added that the remit of TAGs was currently under review and seemed to be moving towards a wider scope of 'place making' that would go beyond the regeneration and economic focus and take in their area in its entirety.

In a further matter, Councillor McKee felt that the application paperwork and advertisements for external membership needed to state clearly what the expectations of external members would be in terms of requirement to attend meetings, including the times and locations. He felt that this would help prospective members when deciding to make the commitment and prevent drop off.

The Head of Parks and Cemeteries explained that he hoped to confirm a schedule of quarterly meeting dates up until the end of the year and that could be communicated.

Speaking as a member of Donaghadee TAG, Councillor McCollum recognised that its remit would be expanded to include Place and she felt that members of the groups would feel aggrieved if they were not involved in this process as they had a viable interest in the town.

In a further matter, Councillor McCollum queried if there was clear selection criteria and an appeals process in place so that the Council could stand over the appointment process outlined. The Officer referred to various interests set out at the last meeting that each member would represent, along with Section 75 legislation that would need to be followed.

The Director advised that there would be criteria provided for applicants and the scoring panel. For community grants applications Council did have an appeals policy in place and officers could consider if something would be appropriate in this case.

The Chair suggested that Officers could refer to a Community Partnership, which he felt worked effectively within strict governance. He highlighted this as an example of a model that worked well.

Councillor McCollum queried the liability in terms of the decision-making process of the Working Group and it was confirmed that all decisions would ultimately be made

by the Council after passing recommendations through the Community and Wellbeing Committee in the normal way.

Councillor Rossiter asked if the representatives from the TAGs would not be Elected Members, indicating that this would be his personal preference. The Head of Parks and Cemeteries confirmed this would be for the TAGs to decide. Councillor McCollum indicated agreement for that approach.

Responding to a further query from Councillor Rossiter, the officer explained that the attendance at each meeting would be made up of one member of a TAG, up to five community representatives and, as and when required, expert members. He further clarified that each community group would nominate a deputy to attend in the event of absence of the lead representative.

Councillor Rossiter queried who would assess the applications, wondering what would happen in the event that the Council received more applications than there were spaces available. He further provided a scenario of Council only receiving applications from five cycling groups and how that would be dealt with in the event where community representation was not balanced.

The officer explained that the process would be dealt with in the same way as a tender exercise and considered in different categories in order to prevent the scenario outlined. It was also noted that it is up to five community representatives being proposed and Council could select less than five. He added that a panel made up of two officers and the Chair would score the applications and then bring information and a recommendation to the Working Group in July.

Referring to the sectors outlined by the officer, Councillor Cochrane asked what would happen in the event that there were no applications for a specific area and expressed concern that this could lead to complaints of failing to engage, in the long term. The Chair wondered if there would be scope to expand the membership from five in that particular scenario where the Working Group needed the contribution of others. He asked a similar question, wondering what scope the Council had to actively seek representation from a specific group.

The officer explained the strength of the advertising campaign and the importance of following that process. He stressed that the Council should not be approaching specific groups but referred to a community database that would be utilised as part of the campaign. He added that many groups would cover more than one area of interest and it was felt that five members would provide a good selection of people. He added in response to a further query from Councillor Cochrane that, like the tender process, the Working Group, Committee or Council could reject any recommendation from the scoring panel. Members would simply be provided with the information to make a decision.

Referring to a list of groups within the Borough, Councillor W Irvine was confident that the Working Group would cover the five places and while he felt that 10 places would be excessive he was content that the Working Group at least had the scope to increase numbers if necessary.

Councillor Harbinson was keen to see the net cast as wide as possible and queried if individuals who didn't represent a group would be excluded from the application process. The Head of Parks and Cemeteries advised that the process was open to groups to nominate a representative, however groups did not need to be constituted and it could relate to a Facebook group for example. He felt though that group representation would be more beneficial.

Councillor Harbinson felt that it would be a good idea to point interested individuals towards a relevant group while the Chair expressed the view that it could be beneficial to invite individuals who held a specific area of expertise when appropriate.

The officer explained that his team had been putting together a set of questions and answers for members to be able to advise the public and this would assist members in responding to anticipated queries from the public. He felt this had been useful in previous matters of potential controversy, e.g. when the Council was felling trees.

In a final query, Councillor Harbinson asked if the advertising campaign would have a strong online and social media focus and the Head of Communications and Marketing advised that there would be a full integrated approach including the use of social media. She explained e-zines and databases would be a key part of that engagement process too. The officer added that there were also mechanisms in place to enable regular communication about the Working Group and secure views and opinions from individuals.

Councillor Martin was hesitant in expanding the membership to individuals and felt that it was best to point them towards groups which were key to obtaining views from ground upwards. He felt that this was the right way to enable the many passionate individuals to engage.

The Chair asked for a final tally of the membership following the appointment of external members and the Director advised that including all elected reps presently on the working group, it would be up to 23.

In a further query, Councillor McCollum was aware that under Place and Prosperity plans, there would be the addition of Rural Advisory Groups and she wondered if those should be included, particularly those groups that represented the likes of Groomsport and Helen's Bay. She also wondered if there could be scope for micro meetings which could engage with those groups.

The officer added that it was not going to be feasible to represent every hamlet within the membership and he pointed out that those areas were represented by Elected Members. He added that there would be the option for micro-meetings but advised that they would not be minuted due to the resource involved, but an officer would report back to the Working Group. The Head of Communication and Marketing added that there were key groups eg young people who would be unlikely to engage via meetings and other mechanisms to collate their views would be considered moving forward.

The Chair advised that if Members had any further questions, they could contact officers directly.

AGREED to adopt the officer proposal.

5. LESSONS LEARNED FROM GREENWAY

In January 2023 Elected Members decided to abandon the Kinnegar to Donaghadee Greenway Scheme proposals and instead agreed to set up a Task & Finish Working Group to address issues of connectivity, access and maintenance along the North Down Coastal Path. Officers were asked to reflect on what led to the Councillors' decision to withdraw the planning application for Kinnegar to Donaghadee and take lessons from what happened. At a meeting called by the Chief Executive Officers and attended by multiple services across the Council, Officers also looked at what systems/ approaches would best help projects move on to delivery/ completion. The lessons learned from the Greenway experience were discussed at the last committee meeting and this update report was looking at what we were doing to address the issues including:

- Insufficient Revenue Budgets
- Better Sustained Engagement
- Difference between Consultation and Engagement
- Larger Survey
- Dedicated Officer for all Path Networks
- Building a Network of Support and Community Champion
- 'One Path Initiative' Workshops / Awareness
- Planning Application was too large and complicated

Given the scale and complexity of the Kinnegar to Donaghadee Greenway (the length of the greenway was 32 km) there was limited resources i.e. no dedicated staff and no revenue budget. During the early stages of the project initial consultation with stakeholders was subcontracted with significant focus on the technical and legal issues (such as negotiations with landowners) and not enough focus on winning hearts and minds. It was acknowledged that although formal consultation took place there was little engagement or the resources to carry it out. It was now acknowledged that there was too much being invested in capital projects not to have dedicated staff, with budgets, talking to stakeholders to ensure buy-in and building sustainable relationships.

The Kinnegar to Donaghadee Greenway was submitted as a single planning application, it was too large and complicated. Given the length of the route there were numerous drawings which were not easy to negotiate through. Splitting up planning application ensured that when issues occurred with one application it did not jeopardize the full project and stakeholders could concentrate on areas that they were particularly interested in. This approach had been taken with the Comber, Newtownards to Bangor / Green Road Greenway.

Going forward there needed to be a stronger focus on winning hearts and minds. Officers needed to consider what was a proportionate amount to spend on engagement and communications and include in budget from the start of a project.

Budgets to produce non-technical 3D drawings, illustrations and technology would ensure a better understanding of projects. This approach had been successful in the recent Ward Park Redevelopment. A dedicated Officer for all Path Networks was planned within the strategy and the Council had now advertised to fill this post and this was likely to be in place this summer. The dedicated Officer would have the time to building a network of support and ensure community champions assist council in promoting our projects. The Parks Service had also now appointed an Engagement Officer to progress our friends' and volunteering groups and worked with others to ensure public buy in to large and small projects with community group meetings, events and projects that assists in identifying localised issues and to achieve wider support. This proactive approach appeared to be already working in projects such as the Ward Park Improvement Scheme in Bangor.

Council had recently invested in a digital participation platform, Citizen Lab, to improve engagement and information sharing across a number of our most significant regeneration projects. To use the platform people needed to register (currently 220 registrations) and they then have multiple ways of engaging via posting ideas, contributing to discussions, or choosing to vote and prioritise community projects. The platform offered a clear process that everyone could follow – seeing where feedback had supported or amended decisions made. This would enable citizens to engage in a much more meaningful way on issues that impacted upon them or the area where they lived. Citizen Lab was designed to be used alongside more traditional engagement activities such as in-person conversations, surveys, and public information sessions. On average, local government users of the system saw a 12x increase in resident engagement by introducing online participation into the mix (as opposed to just using traditional methods). We had recently launched the platform with an engagement on the Ward Park Improvement Scheme.

RECOMMENDED that the above report is noted.

The Head of Parks and Cemeteries outlined the above report that reflected on lessons that were learned from the abandoned Kinnegar to Donaghadee Greenway Scheme. He pointed to the absence of a revenue budget and explained that there was now £150,000 put aside – a further update on this was to follow later in the meeting. Having that funding was important in order to carry out necessary surveys before it became a capital project.

He referred to the Ward Park Environmental Improvement Scheme, which involved a number of phases. Early engagement, keeping local groups well informed and officers meeting with them regularly, was prioritised and all parties were aware of what was planned.

He highlighted the key difference between consultation and engagement, the latter being about building a relationship with local people, something that had not happened during the Greenways process. He explained that recently purchased participation software, Citizen Lab, had provided great benefit with regard to engagement for the Ward Park and and would also be used for the Whitespots project.

The officer added that an Engagement Officer had been appointed who would be an important resource as their contracted hours would include evenings and weekends and that would allow them to reach out to communities at times when most people were available. He recognised that the public brought a lot of great ideas that the Council could build on.

A Greenway and Trails Officer would be appointed in the coming weeks and one particular focus for the appointee would be on a shared path for all to enjoy and respect other users. He referred to a 'One Path initiative' as a brilliant way to create shared spaces through public engagement.

A discussion ensued and Councillor McKee referred to an ongoing partnership with Sustrans and asked if Council had engaged with that organisation. The Director advised that the Council's contract was with AECOM but Sustrans was a partner in that contract; however that it was still possible to engage separately with Sustrans on any matter.

Councillor W Irvine felt that Ward Park was a good example of public engagement and it had provided a clear outcome that people wanted sympathetic improvements which retained the character and heritage of the park. The Coastal Path was a similar principle with a key consideration being how it could be shared between the pedestrians and cyclists. He hoped that it could be used by as many people as possible.

Alderman Graham expanded on that view, feeling that in a perfect world both cyclists and pedestrians could use the path together but realistically there were huge challenges and he was concerned that there was a perception that the greenway was for cyclists and to make the pathway passable. He believed that it was important for the Working Group to reach a conclusion early in its work regarding its position on that.

The Chair felt this was a good point and asked if the Member was suggesting that engagement should look to address the relationships that existed on the path and Alderman Graham said he felt that it was important if the path was going to be maintained for both sets of users. He felt that cyclists who used the path in its current state were considerate but was cautious that changes to the path could change the number of cyclists using it.

The Director expanded on that view, explaining that it was a crucial point and the Working Group needed to consider how it could make the best of what already existed to accommodate all current users.

The Chair emphasised the importance of a 'light touch' approach, particularly in terms of the role of the new officer posts that the Head of Parks and Cemeteries had referred to.

NOTED.

6. BUDGET

As referred to in the previous item, the Head of Parks and Cemeteries explained that a £150,000 revenue budget had been acquired.

The officer clarified following a query from Councillor McKee that initially he had requested that £100,000 of that figure be capital funding but the final total acquired had been entirely revenue.

Councillor Creighton asked if the funding included the existing routine maintenance budget and the officer advised that it was new money to be spent on surveys or work that was above and beyond routine maintenance and cleansing.

Referring to sections of the coastal path at Rockport and Seahill, Councillor Creighton noted they were in poor condition and asked if mitigation work was likely or if that would come under the remit of the Working Group. The officer advised that the Head of Assets and Property Services would be in attendance at future meetings and could clarify which budgets would cover that type of maintenance.

The Director added that Council did not own a large part of the coastal path so the focus was on the sections that the Council did own, although there was potential to acquire ownership of new parts of the path over the longer term.

Councillor McCollum queried the availability of the funding and if there was a list of priorities for spending and the Head of Parks and Cemeteries explained that once the full membership was established there would be some survey work carried out and the budget would be able to be progressed. By September he hoped to have a clear list of work that could be undertaken. He explained that the timeframe for spending would be March 2025, but a further business case would be submitted as part of the estimates process for the next financial year.

Councillor Rossiter expressed caution about spending money before the external members were appointed but the officer clarified that a portion, around 20%, would be required to be spent beforehand to enable some survey work to be undertaken to enable further work to be completed within the existing financial year, otherwise the funding would be lost.

The Chair was cautious that the Head of Parks and Cemeteries was only one part of a jigsaw that included other officers across various Council services and was queried why the burden seemed to fall on him. The Director explained that the officer was the lead in terms of the land but clarified that there were others involved and it that the Head of Parks and Cemeteries was in regular contact with those officers and that it was a group effort in that regard.

NOTED.

7. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Notified Business.

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The Head of Parks and Cemeteries advised that following the assessment of community members applying to join the group, it was hoped that a meeting would be held in July to advise on this, and the date would be confirmed along with a meeting schedule for the remainder of the financial year. He added that he hoped that the community partners would be in place for a Working Group meeting in September.

In a further matter, the Director clarified that the now agreed minutes of the meeting dated 23rd January 2024 would go to the Community and Wellbeing Committee for noting and then ratification at full Council in May. He clarified that the minutes would reach the public domain once they were issued with the Community and Wellbeing Committee meeting agenda in May.

The Chair asked if the minutes of this meeting could be issued earlier given the length of time until the next meeting and the Director confirmed they could be circulated for information.

CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting terminated at 7.30pm.

ITEM 16

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	28 August 2024
File Reference	PCA12
Legislation	N/A
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Green Flag Awards 2024
Attachments	None

The Green Flag Award scheme is the benchmark national standard for parks and other green spaces in the UK. The Green Flag Award Scheme encourages high environmental performance and good management. Parks and other green spaces are judged against following eight key criteria:

- Welcoming Place
- Healthy, Safe and Secure
- Clean and Well Maintained
- Sustainability
- Conservation and Heritage
- Community Involvement
- Marketing
- Overall Management

Not Applicable

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The judging criteria also considers the fact that each park/green space will offer different kinds of facilities and will be managed and developed to varying opportunities and constraints. Innovation and the way facilities offered are tailored to the needs of the community will also be taken into account.

Judging was carried out between May and July 2024. The seven locations below have achieved a Green Flag Award, including Cairn Wood and Clandeboye Cemetery that have received the prestigious accolade for the first time.

- Kiltonga Nature Reserve
- Castle Park including Walled Garden
- Ballymenoch Park
- Linear Park
- Kiltonga Nature Reserve
- Clandeboye Cemetery
- Cairn Wood

Winning seven Green Flag awards is the most that Ards and North Down has ever received.

Holding a Green Flag Award brings with it a vast amount of prestige. It is an excellent example of civic achievement and provides communities with a great sense of civic pride. Winning a Green Flag Award visibly demonstrates to the local community that a site is being well managed for the benefit of the local community and local wildlife.

Having a Green Flag Award is also a great attraction for tourism as research shows that people will make special trips to award-winning sites, and an excellent lever for obtaining external funding through improvement grants and maximising revenue opportunities from within the site.

The Parks & Cemetery Service envisages that working towards future Green Flag status will reinforce our management strategies and help us identify any improvements needed.

When a site is well managed, via The Green Flag Award Management Plan, it can encourage the local community to use the site more which is important as numerous studies have linked both physical health and mental health to access to outdoor space. Mid and East Antrim is committed to promoting health by providing sites where people can exercise, play, learn and relax in an outdoor environment.

The accreditation of sites for Green Flag is a performance measurement element within the Parks and Cemeteries Service Plan.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the contents of the report.

Unclassified

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ITEM 17**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	28 August 2024
File Reference	CW30
Legislation	The Recreation and Youth Services (NI) Order 1986
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Correspondence from DFI Minister on the Comber to Newtownards Greenway Proposal
Attachments	Appendix 1 Ministers office response dated 18 th July 2024 Appendix 2 Letter to Ministers office from AND Chief Executive dated 1 st August 2024 Appendix 3 Ministers Office subsequent response dated 19 th August 2024

In response to a letter from the DFI Ministers office dated 18th July 2024 (appendix 1), Council agreed to reply, and express disappointment at the refusal to meet to discuss issues that were hindering the process of delivering the proposed Comber to Newtownards Greenway. A letter from the Councils Chief Executive was sent on 1st August and is attached for information at appendix 2.

The Minister has responded accordingly and his letter which is dated 19th August is attached at appendix 3. This indicates that the Active Travel unit of DFI will continue to engage fully with the greenway project team. However, he has added that as a statutory consultee, his department plays an essential role in the planning process

Not Applicable

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and highlights the importance of this statutory consultation within an open and transparent planning system. He goes on to conclude therefore that for this reason, it is imperative Network Planning's engagement with applicants is undertaken within the planning process.

In order to help assist with progress he states that, in this case, he have asked his officials to make themselves available to attend any meetings on this project within the planning process.

Planning colleagues have confirmed that officials within Network Planning have been engaging, and are continuing to engage, as appropriate with the planning application process, and that re-advertisement has recently taken place in respect of the revised scheme (excluding the mid-section), and Planning Service will progress the application to Committee at the earliest opportunity.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this correspondence.



From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
JOHN O'DOWD MLA

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

Susie.McCullough@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Private Office, 3rd Floor,
James House, Gasworks Site,
2 - 4 Cromac Street,
Belfast, BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0105
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference:
Our reference: INV/1316/2024
18th July 2024

Dear Susie

REQUEST FOR MEETING RELATING TO COMBER GREEWAY PLANNING APPLICATION

Thank you for your invitation to DfI Minister John O'Dowd MLA.

As this request relates to a current live Planning application the Minister will be unable to attend, I would suggest that a meeting with both DfI Network Planning and Active Travel officials would be more beneficial to discuss any issues you may have at this stage.

Should you wish to meet with an official instead please contact Private.Office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk and this will be passed to the relevant official in the Department.

Yours sincerely

DONNA THOMPSON
Acting Private Secretary to the Minister



Ards and North Down Borough Council

Mr John O'Dowd MLA
Minister for Infrastructure
Private Office, 3rd Floor
James House, Gasworks Site
2-4 Cromac Street
Belfast BT7 2JA

1 August 2024

Your reference: INV/1316/2024
Our Reference: CW30

Sent via email only to: private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your consideration of my letter concerning the Council's request to meet with you about the delivery of a proposed Greenway between Comber and Newtownards. At the Council's meeting on 31 July 2024, Members reviewed your response dated 18 July, noting you were unable to agree to the request.

The Council did note your Private Secretary's suggestion to meet instead with DfI Network Planning and Active Travel officials, in order to discuss any issues that we have at this stage concerning the project. To confirm, Council officers already meet regularly with the Active Travel unit, and its officials also attend the monthly project board meetings in relation to this scheme. Their positive engagement and support is invaluable, and is ensuring that the project is progressing as much as is feasible at the present time.

However, the reason for a request to meet with yourself was because DfI Network Planning, who have an essential role in delivering your departments Greenway Strategy, is refusing to meet with the Council team. Nor are they providing the support or proactive approach required to help progress the development of this particular greenway. Over the years there has been somewhat fragmented support and advice from Network Planning, but in recent months they have completely declined to engage.

The Council does therefore welcome the suggestion that both DfI Active Travel and DfI Network Planning should meet with Council and we will therefore write to them accordingly. However, we would seek your support to encourage Network Planning section to respond positively at a senior level to this request and encourage the Department to work in a positive collaborative manner to find solutions to progress this particular scheme and help deliver the Departments Greenway Strategy.



**Ards and
North Down**
Borough Council

Many thanks for your consideration to date and your support in this regard would be greatly received.

Yours sincerely,

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive

From the office of the Minister for Infrastructure
JOHN O'DOWD MLA

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

Susie.McCullough@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Private Office, 3rd Floor,
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2 - 4 Cromac Street,
Belfast, BT7 2JA
Telephone: (028) 9054 0540
Email: Private.office@infrastructure-ni.gov.uk

Your reference: CW30
Our reference: COR-1544-2024
19 August 2024

Susie, a chara,

PLANNING CONSULTATIONS ON ACTIVE TRAVEL PROJECTS

Thank you for your letter dated 1 August 2024 to request attention to the matter of my Department's Network Planning team in Southern Division regarding their non-attendance at meetings and the essential role you have stated they carry out in delivering the Greenway Strategy and specifically the Comber to Newtownards greenway.

For this project specifically, I recognise that my Department has two distinct roles as the project progresses through the planning process, as project partner through my Active Travel team and as statutory consultee through my Network Planning team.

As your project partner, my Active Travel team's role involves engaging with the Council's project team in discussions regarding technical design solutions and/or funding related issues. I understand that my Department's Active Travel team continue to attend project development meetings on behalf of my Department.

As a statutory consultee, my Department, plays an essential role in the planning process and I am fully aware of the importance of this statutory consultation within an open and transparent planning system. For this reason, it is imperative that my Department's Network Planning team's engagement with applicants is undertaken within the planning process. Whilst I am aware that there are ongoing challenges with respect to resourcing across my Department's Network Planning teams, in this case, I have asked my officials to make themselves available to attend any meetings on this project within the planning process.

I hope that this response provides you with assurance that, within its role as statutory consultee, my Network Planning team in Southern Division will fully engage with your project as it progresses through the planning system.

Is mise le meas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John O'Dowd', with a stylized flourish at the end.

JOHN O'DOWD MLA
Minister for Infrastructure

Unclassified

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ITEM 18**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	07 August 2024
File Reference	CW98
Legislation	Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Public Drinking Water Supply 2023
Attachments	Appendix 1 Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2023 Ards and North Down Borough Council

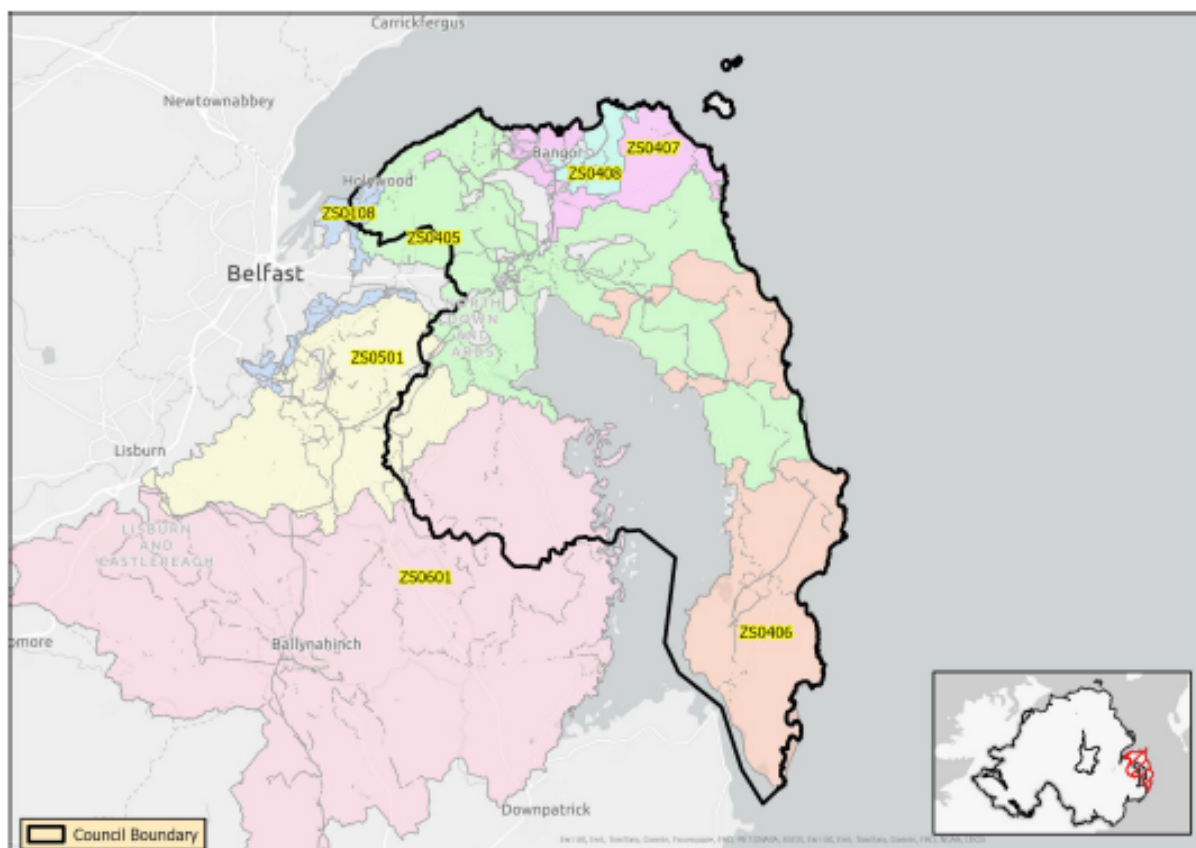
Attached is the Drinking Water Quality Report produced by Northern Ireland Water (NIW) for the Ards and North Down Borough Council area for 2023. The report indicates a 100% level of compliance with an extensive array of drinking water quality parameters as laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017 as amended in 2018.

No classified major water quality failures were recorded for the Borough during the year; however, two serious incidents were reported. The first incident related to high demand across Northern Ireland from 31 May to 19 June 2023, as a result of low rainfall and high temperatures. The second incident related to Ballygowan Service Reservoir following refurbishment at the site. A high number of residents contacted NIW to complain of taste and odour problems with their supply. The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) have an ongoing investigation into this incident.

Not Applicable

There was one significant drinking water quality event, as raised levels of aluminium were detected in water leaving Drumaroad Water Treatment Works, which provides drinking water to most of the Borough. However, only a small number of properties in the borough were impacted as the levels were associated with two service reservoirs that primarily supply another district. DWI has enforcement action in place to deal with this issue by April 2025. The map below shows the various supply zones that operate in the Ards and North Down, as well as compliance levels from 2018 onwards.

Ards and North Down Borough Council



Percentage Compliance at Customer Tap (including Supply Points)

	Target	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Northern Ireland Compliance	99.7%	99.8%	99.8%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Ards and North Down Compliance	99.7%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%

2022 water supply zones wholly or partially within the council area:

Zone Code	Zone Name	Zone Code	Zone Name
ZS0108	Belfast Purdysburn	ZS0408	Drumaroad Bangor East
ZS0405	Drumaroad Ards West	ZS0501	Drumaroad Lisburn
ZS0406	Drumaroad Portaferry	ZS0601	Drumaroad Ballynahinch
ZS0407	Drumaroad Bangor West		

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the report.

Drinking Water Quality Report for Northern Ireland 2023

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Water Quality by Northern Ireland Council Area

This local council report is designed to demonstrate water quality by individual council area based on the Percentage Compliance at Customer Tap (including Supply Points) over the water supply zones associated with that council area, as shown on the associated maps.

For monitoring purposes, NI Water's supply area is divided into water supply zones. These are areas serving not more than 100,000 people, each of which are normally supplied from a single water supply source or combination of sources. There are areas where owing to topography and dispersal of population, it is not practicable to provide a mains water supply. Currently over 99.9% of Northern Ireland's population receive public water supplies.

In a number of cases, water supply zones overlap council boundaries. The council reports indicate which water supply zones are wholly or partially contained within the council areas, including those zones that may have a relatively small area within the council area. Separation of data within these water supply zones across council boundaries is not practicable, therefore the information used in calculating the zonal and council compliance relates to the whole zone and not merely the part included within a council boundary. Following discussions with the Drinking Water Inspectorate, water supply zones with fewer than 40 properties within the council area have not been used to calculate the individual council compliance. The information is based on samples taken randomly from customer taps in each water supply zone and from planned samples at authorised supply points. Due to the nature of random sampling, there may be fluctuations in water quality across the water supply zones.

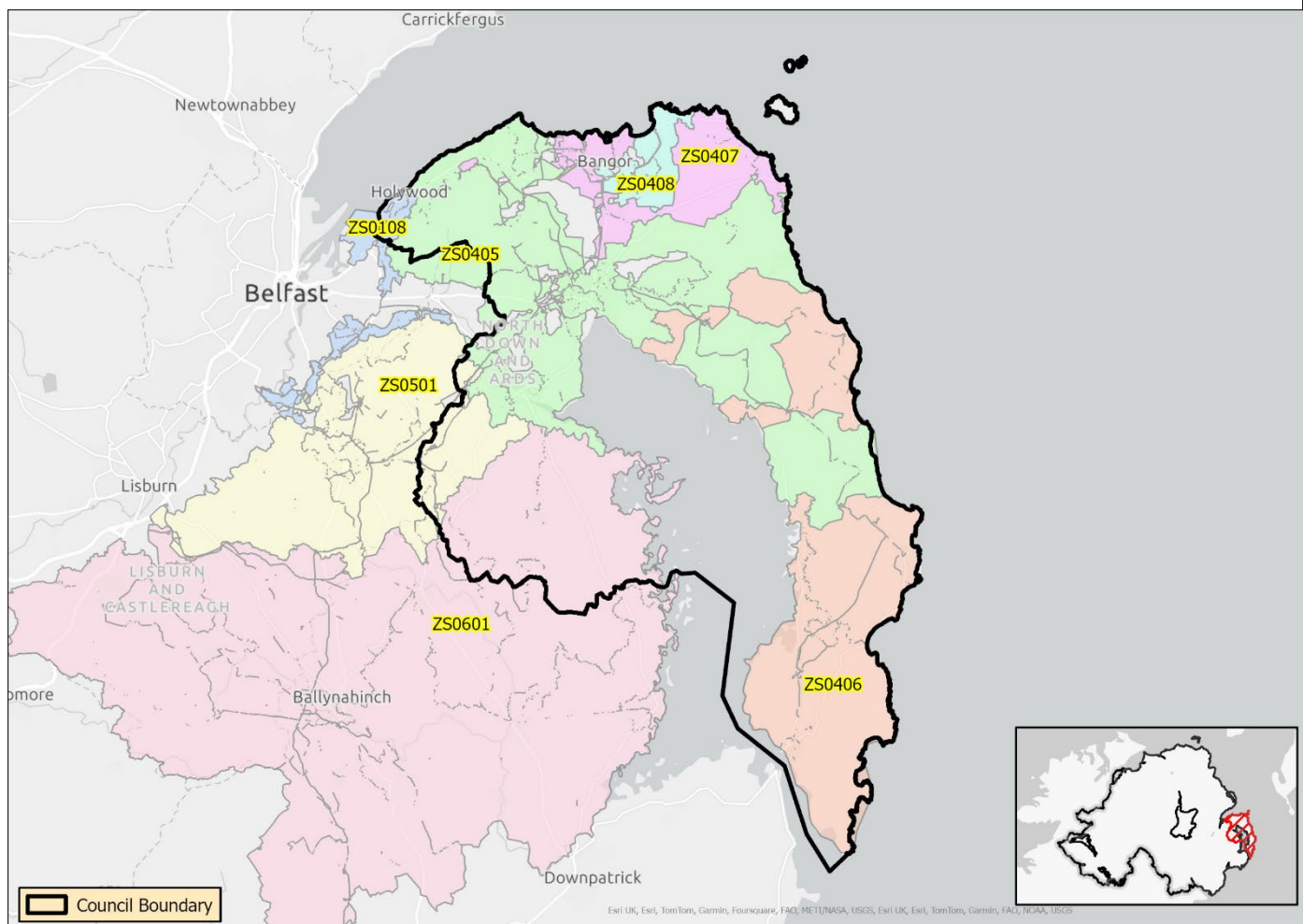
The report also details Capital Work Programmes affecting the council area, which directly related to water quality during the reporting period.

Small variations in water quality compliance performance occur across Northern Ireland. This reflects the need to continue to invest in and to maintain water treatment works, and to improve the water mains network.

A change to the Drinking Water Quality Regulations in 2017 resulted in a reduction of testing frequencies for some parameters at Authorised Supply Points for 2018 onwards. This has slightly lowered the percentage Compliance at Customer Tap at council level but has not affected the overall compliance.

NI Water has identified the need to deliver a significant volume of water mains rehabilitation and other works across its ageing network. The works are necessary to ensure the efficient and cost-effective operation of its water supply system in the immediate future and longer term as well as ensuring adequate levels of water quality and customer supply. To achieve this goal, NI Water has implemented a Water mains Rehabilitation Framework, within which it undertakes work on a Northern Ireland wide basis as identified by the zonal study programme of work.

Ards and North Down Borough Council



Percentage Compliance at Customer Tap (including Supply Points)

	Target	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Northern Ireland Compliance	99.7%	99.8%	99.8%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%
Ards and North Down Compliance	99.7%	99.9%	99.9%	99.9%	100.0%	99.9%	100.0%

2022 water supply zones wholly or partially within the council area:

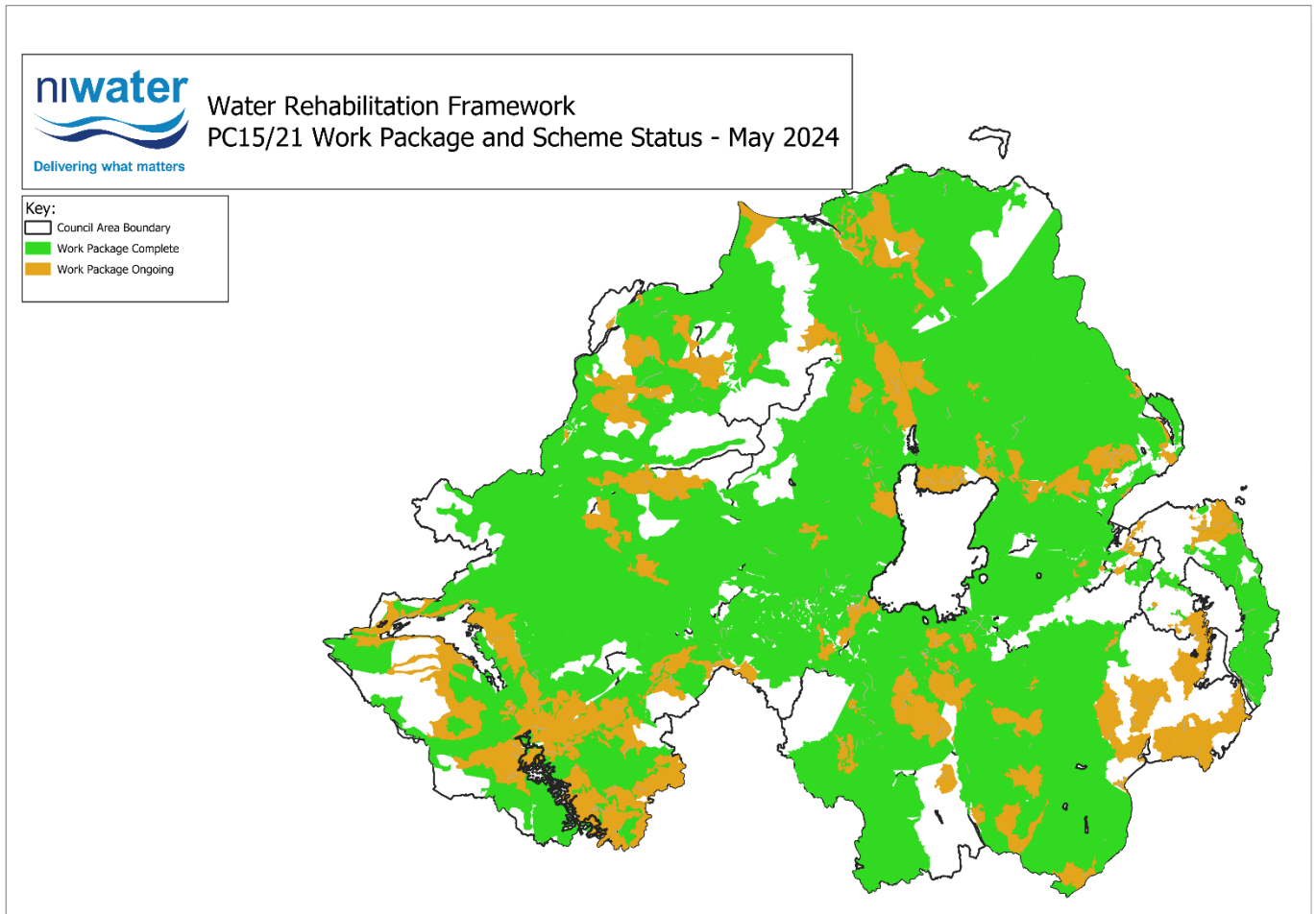
Zone Code	Zone Name	Zone Code	Zone Name
ZS0108	Belfast Purdysburn	ZS0408	Drumaroad Bangor East
ZS0405	Drumaroad Ards West	ZS0501	Drumaroad Lisburn
ZS0406	Drumaroad Portaferry	ZS0601	Drumaroad Ballynahinch
ZS0407	Drumaroad Bangor West		

2023 water quality Capital Works Programmes affecting the council area:

- Backsyphonage at WTW
- Chlorine Station Base Maintenance
- Eastern Super Work Package
- PC21 WIIM Super work package 3- Central
- Pilot Plant Operations
- Preparation of Initial Work packages for PC21
- Professional Services - PC21 Watermains Rehabilitation, New and Replacement and First Time Services
- Service Reservoir Inspection Programme – Electro Scanning Specialist Support
- SR Rehab Programme PC21 Year 2
- SR Rehab Programme PC21 Year 3
- SR Rehabilitation
- Water Efficiency and Innovation Support Services

Watermains New - Lead Pipe Replacement Programme
WTW Base Maintenance PC21 Year 1
WTW Base Maintenance PC21 Year 2

Water Mains Rehabilitation Framework Current Work Package Status



The map above shows the extent of the current Water Mains Rehabilitation Framework covering most of Northern Ireland. To assist clarity, whilst the council boundaries are shown, the individual councils are not named. Regions in white on the map are largely watercourses or upland areas that do not receive public water supply.

Water Quality Events

Serious Drinking Water Quality Events in 2023

Date of Serious Event	Area and Estimate of Population/ Properties Potentially Affected	Nature and Cause of Serious Event	Associated Council Area(s)
31/05/23 - 19/06/23	Northern Ireland (1.9 million)	High water demand in the network due to a period of hot and dry weather. A NI Water Category 2 Incident was declared. At its peak, water usage was approximately 20% higher than normal. Alternative water supplies including asset to asset tankering was required to maintain sufficiency of supply to customers.	All
26/07/23 – 15/12/23	Ballygowan SR (8,408 population)	A high level of consumer contacts regarding the taste and odour of the mains water supply in the area supplied by Ballygowan SR when it was returned to service following refurbishment. DWI issued questionnaires to consumers in relation to this event. The investigation is ongoing.	Ards and North Down Borough & Newry, Mourne & Down District
31/08/23 - 05/09/23	Westland SR (22,758 population)	The accidental closing of an outlet valve at Westland SR caused a loss of supply in North Belfast and Belfast City Centre. There were related water quality issues, predominantly discoloured water.	Belfast City
08/09/23 - 09/10/23	Moyola WTW (58,347 population)	A high level of consumer contacts regarding the taste and odour of the mains water supply and contraventions of the taste and odour parameters in the final water from Moyola WTW. As a follow-up to this event, DWI audited the controls in place to manage the blue/green algae risk in October 2023 and also audited Moyola WTW in January 2024. The investigation is ongoing.	Mid Ulster District

Significant Drinking Water Quality Events in 2023

Date of Significant Event	Area and Estimate of Population/ Properties Potentially Affected	Nature and Cause of Significant Event	Associated Council Area(s)
July 2019 - May 2023	Lough Bradan WTW (48,011 population)	Orthophosphoric acid (OP) is dosed at Lough Bradan WTW for plumbosolvency control. During this period, the dosing of OP was consistently below the required level and there were periods when no OP was dosed at all. However, no lead contraventions were reported. This event was notified in April 2023.	Fermanagh and Omagh District
19/01/23 - 23/01/23	Seagahan WTW (37,673 population)	A contravention of the aluminium parameter occurred in the works final water. There were no treatment issues identified at this time. Following an investigation, NI Water was unable to identify the cause of the contravention.	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough
22/01/23 - 2/01/23	Killylane WTW (48,323 population)	Elevated levels of aluminium, iron and turbidity occurred in the works final water due to treatment issues caused by a chemical dosing failure. Killylane WTW is included in DWI's Audit Schedule for 2024/25.	Mid and East Antrim Borough
09/02/23 - 13/02/23	Creevery Road, Antrim (21 properties)	Coliform bacteria contraventions recurred at four properties. On the advice of the Public Health Agency (PHA), "Boil Water before Use until Further Notice" advice was issued to four properties. However, 21 properties were potentially affected. The contraventions occurred after mains rehabilitation work in the area. DWI intends issuing a Warning Letter to NI Water in relation to this event.	Mid and East Antrim Borough
27/02/23 - 14/03/23	Drumaroad WTW (13,815 population)	Contraventions of the aluminium parameter above the Health Notification Values occurred at Derryhill and Tullybrannigan South SRs which are both supplied by Drumaroad WTW. There were no treatment issues identified at this time. DWI has enforcement in place to deal with this issue by April 2025.	Ards and North Down Borough & Newry, Mourne and Down District
06/03/23 - 14/03/23	Dorisland WTW (138,218 population)	A contravention of the aluminium parameter above the Health Notification Value occurred in the works final water. There were no treatment issue identified at this time. Following an investigation, NI Water was unable to identify the cause of the contravention.	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough, Belfast City & Mid and East Antrim Borough
03/05/23 - 04/05/23	Clay lake WTW (9,857 population)	A problem with the sodium hypochlorite dosing system led to elevated chlorine levels above the Health Notification Value at Clay	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Date of Significant Event	Area and Estimate of Population/ Properties Potentially Affected	Nature and Cause of Significant Event	Associated Council Area(s)
		Lake WTW and in the related distribution system.	
09/05/23 - 17/05/23	Derg WTW (41,513 population)	A contravention of the individual pesticide standard for MCPA occurred in the works final water. NI Water carried out a major upgrade to this works following DWI issuing a Regulation 31(4) Notice in respect of pesticide contraventions. However, the new treatment process was only partially operational at the time of this contravention. The new treatment process is now fully operational The risk for MCPA exceedances is due to the use of MCPA within the catchment area.	Derry City and Strabane District & Fermanagh and Omagh District
22/05/23 - 23/05/23	Forked Bridge WTW (92,012 population)	Contraventions of the aluminium and turbidity parameters occurred in the works final water. NI Water identified an issue with the sample point as the probable cause of the contraventions. Resamples taken were satisfactory.	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough; Belfast City; Lisburn and Castlereagh City; Mid Ulster District; & Newry, Mourne and Down District
04/06/23 - 25/08/23	Ballinrees WTW (118,779 population)	An earthy odour was detected in the works final water. There is a history of taste & odour issues in the Ballinrees final water. DWI has an enforcement in place to deal with this issue by December 2024. NI Water has undertaken a major upgrade of this works in response to this Notice.	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough & Derry City and Strabane District
24/05/23 - 30/05/23	Carmoney WTW (55,858 population)	A contravention of the individual pesticide standard for MCPA occurred in the works final water. Carmoney WTW has pesticide removal treatment in place which is normally effective at reducing MCPA levels to below the regulatory limit. The risk for MCPA exceedances is due to the use of MCPA within the catchment area	Derry City and Strabane District
26/06/23 - 13/11/23	Caugh Hill WTW (79,316 population)	Contraventions of the Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) parameter occurred in the works final water and the related distribution system. The treatment process was not optimised for organics removal at the time of this event. Improvement work in relation to THMs at Caugh Hill WTW is included in the PC21 work plan.	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough & Derry City and Strabane District
27/06/23 - 27/07/23	Lakelands, Craigavon (3 properties)	Contraventions of the odour parameter occurred in three properties at Lakelands, Craigavon. The most probable cause was due to heating oil contamination in the	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Date of Significant Event	Area and Estimate of Population/ Properties Potentially Affected	Nature and Cause of Significant Event	Associated Council Area(s)
		ground, within the customer properties, affecting the water quality in private supply pipes. The affected consumers were notified of the issue. The quality of the public drinking water supply was satisfactory.	
03/07/23 - 06/07/23	Killylane WTW (48,323 population)	A contravention of the iron parameter above the Health Notification Value occurred in the works final water. There were no treatment issues identified at this time. Following an investigation, NI Water was unable to identify the cause of the contravention. Killylane WTW is included in DWI's Audit Schedule for 2024/25.	Mid and East Antrim Borough
02/08/23 - 29/08/23	Carmoney WTW (55,858 population)	<p>Contraventions of the Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) parameter occurred due to insufficient organics removal during water treatment and the related distribution system.</p> <p>Improvement work in relation to THMs at Carmoney WTW is included in the PC21 work plan.</p>	Derry City and Strabane District
09/08/23 - 15/08/23	Tullydagan Road, Lurgan (5 Properties)	Coliform bacteria contraventions recurred at four properties. On the advice of the PHA, "Boil Water before Use until Further Notice" advice was issued to two properties. The contraventions occurred after mains rehabilitation work in the area. The precise cause of the bacteriological contraventions was undetermined, but it is probable that cross contamination from a private water supply was at least part of the reason. The contraventions were not reflective of the water quality in the overall supply area.	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough
14/08/23 - 26/10/23	Ballinrees WTW supply through Glenlough SR (17,951 population)	Contraventions of the Total Trihalomethanes (THMs) parameter occurred at Glenlough SR and in the related distribution system. DWI has enforcement in place to deal with taste & odour and MCPA contraventions at Ballinrees WTW by December 2024. The additional treatment being installed should also reduce THM levels in the distribution system.	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough
21/08/23 - 29/08/23	Keady Road, Armagh (2 properties)	Coliform bacteria contraventions recurred at two properties. On the advice of the PHA, "Boil Water before Use until Further Notice" advice was issued to two properties. The contraventions occurred after mains rehabilitation work in the area. An operational networks audit is included in DWI's Audit Schedule for 2024/25.	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough

Date of Significant Event	Area and Estimate of Population/ Properties Potentially Affected	Nature and Cause of Significant Event	Associated Council Area(s)
17/09/23 - 22/09/23	Cullyrammer Road, Garvagh (3 properties)	Coliform bacteria contraventions recurred at three properties. On the advice of the PHA, "Boil Water before Use until Further Notice" advice was issued to the three properties. The contraventions occurred after operational activity to repair a burst main, and back siphonage from a private water supply.	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough
28/09/23 - 06/10/23	Station Road, Ballykelly (5 properties)	Coliform bacteria contraventions recurred at two properties. On the advice of the PHA, "Boil Water before Use until Further Notice" advice was issued to three properties. The contraventions occurred after operational activity to repair a leak. The most probable cause for this event was back siphonage from one of the affected properties.	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough
31/10/23 - 30/11/23	Inniskeeragh Cottages, Boa Island (8 properties)	A sample taken in relation to a consumer complaint was above the Health Notification Value for odour. Resamples were also unsatisfactory for odour. On the advice of PHA, "Do Not Use the Water from Your Taps" was issued to eight properties. The most probable cause was due to heating oil contamination in the ground, within a private development, affecting the water quality in a private supply pipe. The quality of the public drinking water supply was satisfactory.	Fermanagh and Omagh District
15/11/23 - 17/11/23	Altnahinch WTW (33,712 population)	Contamination of clarifiers by galvanising spray paint. The works was shutdown as a precaution. There were no issues with treatment post restart. Tankering and rezoning was used to maintain customer supplies while the treatment works was shutdown. Water Quality samples taken in relation to this event were satisfactory.	Causeway Coast and Glens Borough

After investigations during the reporting period, there were also five events categorised by DWI as "Minor", and seventeen events categorised as "Not Significant".

UNDERSTANDING YOUR WATER QUALITY RESULTS

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Where the water quality standards come from

The water we supply for domestic use or food production must comply with the standards in The Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (NI) 2017, which incorporate European Union standards and more stringent UK national standards. These Regulations detail the acceptable levels of certain characteristics, elements and substances allowed in drinking water. Usually, this is a maximum level; but, occasionally, a minimum is also set (e.g. pH). This permissible level is known as the Prescribed Concentration or Value (PCV). Some of the regulatory levels are set for aesthetic reasons and not for health (e.g. Colour).

Where we sample

Samples are taken from our service reservoirs, water treatment works and taps in customers' homes. Every year, our accredited laboratories carry out over 100,000 sophisticated tests to ensure quality standards are met. The Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) within the Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) also independently audits these tests and issues a report each year on its findings. DWI ensures that NI Water meets more than 50 legal standards for drinking water quality to match water companies across the rest of the UK. The standards are strict and generally include wide safety margins. They cover: bacteria; chemicals, such as nitrates and pesticides; metals, such as lead; and how water looks and tastes.

What happens if a test fails?

If a sample fails a test, this does not necessarily mean the water is unsafe to drink. Sometimes, the water in our mains or pipes and in the neighbouring properties is good, but the failure is caused by the householder's own plumbing system. However, we take all failures of these standards very seriously and these are dealt with by a team of specialists. All failures are recorded, investigated and action is taken to resolve the problem. If the contamination is found to be due to the tap or internal plumbing, NI Water will inform the customer in writing of the reason for the failure so that they can take appropriate action. A copy of the letter is also provided to the Public Health Agency, the local Environmental Health Officer and the DWI.

All PCV failures are also reported externally to the DWI, respective health boards, Environmental Health departments, the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland (CCNI), DRD Water Policy Unit and the Utility Regulator (NAIUR).

Units of measurement

The units of measurement used in this factsheet are as follows:

- 1 milligram per litre (mg/l) is one part per million (ppm)
- 1 microgram per litre ($\mu\text{g/l}$) is 1 part per billion (or thousand million)
- NTU – Nephelometric turbidity units (for turbidity measurement)
- Pt/Co – Platinum-cobalt units Standard (for colour measurement)
- $\mu\text{S/cm}$ – micro siemens per centimetre (for conductivity measurement)

Concentration or value

Shown in three ways:

- **Min**(imum), the lowest result during the period
- **Mean**, the average of the results
- **Max**(imum), the highest result during the period.
- A '<' symbol means a result was less than the value at which a parameter can be detected.
- A '>' symbol means a result was greater than the range within which a parameter is normally detected.

Number of samples

- Total taken – the number of samples tested for each parameter
- Contravening – shows the number of samples that exceeded the PCV
- % of samples contravening PCV – the number of samples that contravened the PCV compared to the total number of samples taken expressed as a percentage.

INDIVIDUAL PARAMETERS / SUBSTANCES

Hardness

Total Hardness is normally caused by dissolved calcium and, to a lesser extent, magnesium in rocks through which the water has passed. In Northern Ireland, our water is predominantly soft to moderately soft or slightly to moderately hard. Hardness means you may have to use more soap when washing as hard water lathers less than soft water. It has not been proven to have adverse effects on health and is safe to drink. There is no standard specified in the current regulations. Dependent upon the origin and manufacturer of your dishwasher, you may require a specific parameter, such as Clarke degrees (a.k.a. English degrees) or French or German degrees. GH is general hardness, while KH is Carbonate, or temporary hardness.

pH (listed under 'Hydrogen Ion')

This is a scientific term used to describe the acidity or alkalinity of a fluid. We need to control the pH of water because:

- If water is too acidic, it may corrode metal pipes in the distribution system
- If water is too alkaline, it may cause deposits to form in the pipes. The standard is to keep water pH levels in the 6.5-9.5 range

Colour

The colour of drinking water is usually dependent on the presence of naturally- occurring dissolved organic matter. For example, the higher the peat content of a catchment, (e.g. the Mourne Catchment), the higher the level of colour in the raw water. However, colour may also be due to the presence of iron contributed by old cast-iron mains.

- PCV for colour is 20 mg/l Pt/Co.

Sometimes, the water coming out of the tap has a milky or cloudy appearance, which is usually caused by excess air dissolved in the water as micro bubbles. This is not harmful and, if the water is left to stand for a few minutes, it will clear from the bottom upwards (i.e. the bubbles of air rise to the top of the glass and escape).

Turbidity

Turbidity is caused by very fine insoluble materials that may be present in water. Levels are closely monitored during the treatment processes.

- PCV at the customer's tap is 4 NTU

Odour and taste

Customer complaints quite often relate to taste and odour. Quality control tests are carried out to measure the level of taste and odour and are performed by a specialist testing panel.

- PCV for each = Dilution Number >0

Conductivity

Conductivity is proportional to the dissolved solids content of the water and is often used as an indication of the presence of dissolved minerals, such as calcium, magnesium and sodium.

- PCV is 2500 μ S/cm at 20°C

Chlorine (Cl - listed under Free-Residual disinfectant)

Chlorine is added to water to ensure water is free from bacteria. When chlorine is added, not all of it is used up in the process. Some remains as 'free chlorine' to make sure the water remains safe as it passes through the distribution system.

No PCV is prescribed for chlorine in the regulations and these levels are set to ensure that a small concentration remains at the end of the distribution system to maintain customer safety.

E. coli and enterococci

If present, these indicate a possible breach in the integrity of the water supply system. An effective treatment process will kill any organisms present.

PCV standards are:

- 0 /100ml for *E. Coli*
- 0 /100ml for Enterococci

Coliform bacteria

These are naturally present in the environment. Their presence may indicate a possible breach in the integrity of the supply system or contamination from the kitchen sink or taps.

Nitrite and nitrate (NO₂ and NO₃)

Normally only trace amounts of these compounds are found in water.

- PCV for nitrite = 0.5 mg NO₂/l
- PCV for nitrate = 50 mg NO₃/l

Chloride (Cl)

Chloride in water originates from natural sources such as mineral deposits. It can contribute to taste that may be unacceptable to customers if the standard is exceeded.

- PCV = 250 mg Cl/l

Fluoride (F)

NI Water does not add fluoride to any water supply in Northern Ireland. Fluoride can occur naturally in some raw water supplies at low levels.

- PCV = 1.5 mg F/l

Sulphate (SO₄)

Sulphate occurs naturally in water and originates from mineral deposits. High concentrations may give rise to taste problems and, in the long-term, damage pipe work.

- PCV = 250 mg SO₄/l

Copper (Cu)

Copper can occur naturally in some water sources, and is normally found in low concentrations in drinking water.

- PCV = 2 mg Cu/l

Iron (Fe)

This is one of the most abundant metals found naturally in surface and ground waters. After treatment, it is normally reduced to trace concentrations in drinking water. Increased levels can occur due to the corrosion of old cast-iron water mains. There is no known health risk associated with high iron concentrations, but staining of clothing in washing machines can occur.

- PCV = 200 µg Fe/l

Manganese (Mn)

Manganese occurs naturally in water. High concentrations of manganese in tap water may cause discolouration and possible staining of clothing in washing machines.

- PCV = 50 µg Mn/l

Aluminium (Al)

Aluminium can occur naturally in water within certain catchments. However, aluminium compounds are used in the treatment process to help remove impurities. Any aluminium compounds added during the treatment process are removed before the final treated water leaves the treatment works.

- PCV = 200 µg Al/l

Sodium (Na)

Sodium occurs naturally in trace amounts in water. High concentrations may impart a level of taste that is unacceptable to customers.

- PCV = 200 mg Na/l

Lead (Pb)

Lead is not normally present in water sources, but significant concentrations may be present at customers' taps if lead or copper pipes with lead joints have been used in the plumbing system. More information is available [here](#).

- PCV = 10 µg Pb/l

Trihalomethanes (THMs)

THMs occur in drinking water as by-products of the reaction of chlorine with naturally occurring dissolved organic materials. In drinking water, only four compounds out of the group of THMs have health significance, the most common of which is chloroform. The PCV is based on the sum of the concentrations of all four constituents.

- PCV = 100 µg/l

Other substances

In addition to those listed and explained above, we also test for substances such as hydrocarbons, pesticides and herbicides, phenols and organic carbon. We also carry out extensive monitoring of our supplies for cryptosporidium through sampling of raw and final treated water.

Home-brewers may be interested in the Calcium, Magnesium, Carbonate, Sodium, Sulphate, Chloride and pH levels of their water supply. If you cannot locate the information you require, please contact us at waterline@niwater.com

Zonal Commentaries and Public Registers

2023 WATER SUPPLY COMMENTARY

ZS0108 - Belfast Purdeysburn

The water supplied in this zone within your council area complied with all the physical-chemical and microbiological standards laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

2023 Public Register

WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0108 - Belfast Purdysburn

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Delivering what matters

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
1,2 Dichloroethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
2,4-D	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
2,4-DB	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.016	< 0.016
Aluminium	ug Al/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	8.200	69.276	130.000
Ammonium	mg NH4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Antimony	ug/l Sb	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.021	< 0.082	< 0.180
Arsenic	ug/l As	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.100	< 0.194	< 0.310
Asulam	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Bentazone	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004
Benzene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Benzo(a)pyrene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Boron	mg/l B	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.011	< 0.038
Bromate	ug BrO3/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.500	< 0.743	1.200
Bromoxynil	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008
Cadmium	ug/l Cd	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.042	< 0.072	< 0.300
Chloride	mg Cl/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	8.500	11.275	21.000
Chlorotoluron	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Chlorpyrifos	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Chromium	ug/l Cr	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.260	0.424	0.560
Clopyralid	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	0.010	0.016
Clostridium perfringens (sulph red)	CFU/100 ml	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 22	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.028	1.000
Colony Counts 37 (48hrs)	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.083	1.000
Colour	mg/l Pt/Co	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 4.563	< 4.563	< 4.563
Conductivity	uS/cm 20 C	S	36	36	0	0.000	77.000	112.167	360.000
Copper	mg Cu/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.043	< 0.357	< 0.546
Cyanide	ug/l CN	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 5.500	< 5.500	< 5.500
Dicamba	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.027	< 0.028
Dichlorprop	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
Diflufenican	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Dimethenamid	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Diuron	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
E. coli	CFU/100 ml	S	108	108	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enterococci	CFU/100ml	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Epoxiconazole	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fenpropimorph	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Flufenacet	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fluoride	mg F/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.151	0.160
Fluroxypyr	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	0.007	0.015
Free - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	108	108	0	0.000	0.100	0.394	0.710
Glyphosate	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	0.030
Hydrogen Ion	pH value	S	36	36	0	0.000	7.000	7.292	7.640
Iron	ug/l Fe	S	36	36	1	2.703	1.700	18.578	310.000
Isoproturon	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Lead	ug Pb/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.107	0.200
Linuron	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Manganese	ug Mn/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.642	< 1.710	4.900
MCPA	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.013	0.026
MCPB	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Mecoprop	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011	0.013
Mercury	ug per l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.041	< 0.041	< 0.041
Metalaxyl	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Metamitron	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Metazachlor	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Metoxuron	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Metribuzin	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Nickel	ug Ni/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.380	0.773	1.800
Nitrate	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.800	2.463	5.000
Nitrate/Nitrite Formula		S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.036	< 0.049	< 0.100
Nitrite	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.030	< 0.030	< 0.030
Odour	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxamyl	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002

2023 Public Register



WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0108 - Belfast Purdysburn

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
PAH - Sum of four substances	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pendimethalin	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.007
Pesticides - Total Substances	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	0.017	0.075
Phorate	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
Pirimicarb	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Propachlor	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Propiconazole	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	0.004
Propyzamide	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Prothioconazole	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Selenium	ug/l Se	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.057	< 0.110	< 0.410
Sodium	mg Na/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	5.900	8.050	19.000
Sulphate	mg SO4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	15.000	25.750	79.000
Taste	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tebuconazole	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004	< 0.004
Tetrachloroethene/Trichloroethene - Sum	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.770	< 0.770	< 0.770
Tetrachloromethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
Total - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	108	108	0	0.000	0.180	0.463	0.830
Total coliforms	CFU/100 ml	S	108	108	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Indicative Dose	mSv/year	AS	3	3	0	0.000	< 0.100	< 0.100	< 0.100
Total Organic Carbon	mg C/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.200	1.625	3.500
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	29.000	46.125	64.000
Triclopyr	ug/l	AS	72	72	0	0.000	0.000	0.012	0.015
Tritium	Bq/l	AS	3	3	0	0.000	< 10.000	< 10.000	< 10.000
Turbidity	NTU	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.110	0.200

PCV Exceedances:

Sample failed 14-AUG-2023 (ZS0108AE) Iron = 310 ug per.

Notes:

PCV = Prescribed Concentration or Value

U = Undertaking

S = Standard Sampling Frequency

R = Reduced Sampling Frequency

A = Authorised Supply Point

Commentary on Water Quality:

A: Supply point authorisation for pesticides and related products.

Population of zone = 39332

This zone has a surface water source :R3301

2023 WATER SUPPLY COMMENTARY

ZS0405 - Drumaroad Ards West

The water supplied in this zone within your council area complied with all the physical-chemical and microbiological standards laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

2023 Public Register

WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0405 - Drumaroad Ards West

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Delivering what matters

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
1,2 Dichloroethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
2,4-D	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
2,4-DB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.016
Aluminium	ug Al/l	S	52	52	0	0.000	18.000	71.423	170.000
Ammonium	mg NH4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	0.012
Antimony	ug/l Sb	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.021	< 0.074	< 0.180
Arsenic	ug/l As	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.120	< 0.187	< 0.310
Asulam	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Bentazone	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004
Benzene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Benzo(a)pyrene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Boron	mg/l B	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.010	< 0.038
Bromate	ug BrO3/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.530	0.798	1.400
Bromoxynil	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008
Cadmium	ug/l Cd	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.042	< 0.074	< 0.300
Chloride	mg Cl/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	7.900	9.138	11.000
Chlorotoluron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Chlorpyrifos	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Chromium	ug/l Cr	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.466	1.100
Clopyralid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.010
Clostridium perfringens (sulph red)	CFU/100 ml	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 22	CFU/1 ml	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.192	7.000
Colony Counts 37 (48hrs)	CFU/1 ml	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.212	3.000
Colour	mg/l Pt/Co	S	52	52	0	0.000	< 4.563	< 4.563	< 4.563
Conductivity	uS/cm 20 C	S	52	52	0	0.000	76.000	83.135	90.000
Copper	mg Cu/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.043	< 0.322	< 0.546
Cyanide	ug/l CN	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 5.500	< 5.500	< 5.500
Dicamba	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.027	< 0.028
Dichlorprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
Diflufenican	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Dimethenamid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Diuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
E. coli	CFU/100 ml	S	180	180	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enterococci	CFU/100ml	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Epoxiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fenpropimorph	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Flufenacet	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fluoride	mg F/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.153	0.170
Fluroxypyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006
Free - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	180	180	0	0.000	0.170	0.421	1.010
Glyphosate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	0.012
Hydrogen Ion	pH value	S	52	52	0	0.000	6.860	7.302	7.680
Iron	ug/l Fe	S	52	52	0	0.000	1.900	11.033	66.000
Isoproturon	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Lead	ug Pb/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.110	0.230
Linuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Manganese	ug Mn/l	S	52	52	0	0.000	< 0.642	< 1.633	13.000
MCPA	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
MCPB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Mecoprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011	< 0.011
Mercury	ug per l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.041	< 0.041	< 0.041
Metalaxyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Metamitron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Metazachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Metoxuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Metribuzin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Nickel	ug Ni/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.509	0.960
Nitrate	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.800	2.013	2.200
Nitrate/Nitrite Formula		S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.036	< 0.040	< 0.044
Nitrite	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.030	< 0.030	< 0.030
Odour	Diln No	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxamyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002

2023 Public Register



WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0405 - Drumaroad Ards West

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
PAH - Sum of four substances	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.003
Pendimethalin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.007
Pesticides - Total Substances	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.012
Phorate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
Pirimicarb	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Propachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Propiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Propyzamide	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Prothioconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Selenium	ug/l Se	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.057	< 0.105	< 0.410
Sodium	mg Na/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	5.500	6.111	6.500
Sulphate	mg SO4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	15.000	16.625	19.000
Taste	Diln No	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tebuconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004	< 0.004
Tetrachloroethene/Trichloroethene - Sum	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.770	< 0.770	< 0.770
Tetrachloromethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
Total - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	180	180	0	0.000	0.240	0.485	1.060
Total coliforms	CFU/100 ml	S	180	180	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Indicative Dose	mSv/year	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 0.100	< 0.100	< 0.100
Total Organic Carbon	mg C/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.000	1.188	1.500
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	25.000	33.750	53.000
Triclopyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Tritium	Bq/l	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 10.000	< 10.000	< 10.000
Turbidity	NTU	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.090	0.115	0.340

PCV Exceedances:
Water Quality was satisfactory

Notes:
PCV = Prescribed Concentration or Value
U = Undertaking
S = Standard Sampling Frequency
R = Reduced Sampling Frequency
A = Authorised Supply Point
Commentary on Water Quality:

A: Supply point authorisation for pesticides and related products.

Population of zone = 27123

This zone has a surface water source :R3302

2023 WATER SUPPLY COMMENTARY

ZS0406 - Drumaroad Portaferry

The water supplied in this zone within your council area complied with all the physical-chemical and microbiological standards laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

2023 Public Register

WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0406 - Drumaroad Portaferry

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Delivering what matters

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
1,2 Dichloroethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
2,4-D	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
2,4-DB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.016
Aluminium	ug Al/l	S	24	24	0	0.000	30.000	68.083	130.000
Ammonium	mg NH4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Antimony	ug/l Sb	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.021	< 0.052	0.098
Arsenic	ug/l As	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.120	0.185	0.260
Asulam	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Bentazone	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004
Benzene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Benzo(a)pyrene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Boron	mg/l B	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.006
Bromate	ug BrO3/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.500	< 0.698	0.980
Bromoxynil	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008
Cadmium	ug/l Cd	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.042	< 0.042	< 0.042
Chloride	mg Cl/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	7.800	9.288	11.000
Chlorotoluron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Chlorpyrifos	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Chromium	ug/l Cr	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.344	0.560
Clopyralid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.010
Clostridium perfringens (sulph red)	CFU/100 ml	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 22	CFU/1 ml	S	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 37 (48hrs)	CFU/1 ml	S	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colour	mg/l Pt/Co	S	24	24	0	0.000	< 4.563	< 4.563	< 4.563
Conductivity	uS/cm 20 C	S	24	24	0	0.000	27.000	81.667	95.000
Copper	mg Cu/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.043	< 0.420	< 0.546
Cyanide	ug/l CN	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 5.500	< 5.500	< 5.500
Dicamba	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.027	< 0.028
Dichlorprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
Diflufenican	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Dimethenamid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Diuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
E. coli	CFU/100 ml	S	48	48	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enterococci	CFU/100ml	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Epoxiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fenpropimorph	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Flufenacet	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fluoride	mg F/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.151	0.160
Fluroxypyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006
Free - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	48	48	0	0.000	0.200	0.420	0.870
Glyphosate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	0.012
Hydrogen Ion	pH value	S	24	24	0	0.000	7.060	7.351	7.670
Iron	ug/l Fe	S	24	24	0	0.000	2.300	17.958	66.000
Isoproturon	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Lead	ug Pb/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.097	0.120
Linuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Manganese	ug Mn/l	S	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.642	< 1.418	2.800
MCPA	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
MCPB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Mecoprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011	< 0.011
Mercury	ug per l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.041	< 0.041	< 0.041
Metalaxyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Metamitron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Metazachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Metoxuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Metribuzin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Nickel	ug Ni/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.529	0.630
Nitrate	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.800	2.025	2.300
Nitrate/Nitrite Formula		S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.036	< 0.041	< 0.046
Nitrite	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.030	< 0.030	< 0.030
Odour	Diln No	S	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxamyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002

2023 Public Register

WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0406 - Drumaroad Portaferry

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
PAH - Sum of four substances	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pendimethalin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.007
Pesticides - Total Substances	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.012
Phorate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
Pirimicarb	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Propachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Propiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Propyzamide	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Prothioconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Selenium	ug/l Se	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.057	< 0.075	0.130
Sodium	mg Na/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	5.400	7.088	14.000
Sulphate	mg SO4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	15.000	16.750	20.000
Taste	Diln No	S	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tebuconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004	< 0.004
Tetrachloroethene/Trichloroethene - Sum	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.770	< 0.770	< 0.770
Tetrachloromethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
Total - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	48	48	0	0.000	0.240	0.481	0.930
Total coliforms	CFU/100 ml	S	48	48	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Indicative Dose	mSv/year	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 0.100	< 0.100	< 0.100
Total Organic Carbon	mg C/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.100	1.275	1.700
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	27.000	37.625	59.000
Triclopyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Tritium	Bq/l	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 10.000	< 10.000	< 10.000
Turbidity	NTU	S	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.126	0.280

PCV Exceedances:

Water Quality was satisfactory

Notes:

PCV = Prescribed Concentration or Value

U = Undertaking

S = Standard Sampling Frequency

R = Reduced Sampling Frequency

A = Authorised Supply Point

Commentary on Water Quality:

A: Supply point authorisation for pesticides and related products.

Population of zone = 18745

This zone has a surface water source :R3302

2023 WATER SUPPLY COMMENTARY

ZS0407 - Drumaroad Bangor West

The water supplied in this zone within your council area complied with all the physical-chemical and microbiological standards laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

2023 Public Register

WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0407 - Drumaroad Bangor West

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Delivering what matters

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
1,2 Dichloroethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
2,4-D	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
2,4-DB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.016
Aluminium	ug Al/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 3.089	< 63.919	120.000
Ammonium	mg NH4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Antimony	ug/l Sb	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.021	< 0.065	< 0.180
Arsenic	ug/l As	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.130	< 0.189	< 0.310
Asulam	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Bentazone	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004
Benzene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Benzo(a)pyrene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Boron	mg/l B	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.010	< 0.038
Bromate	ug BrO3/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.500	< 0.748	1.300
Bromoxynil	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008
Cadmium	ug/l Cd	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.042	< 0.075	< 0.300
Chloride	mg Cl/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	8.100	9.100	11.000
Chlorotoluron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Chlorpyrifos	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Chromium	ug/l Cr	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.341	0.570
Clopyralid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.010
Clostridium perfringens (sulph red)	CFU/100 ml	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 22	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.833	29.000
Colony Counts 37 (48hrs)	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	3.278	115.000
Colour	mg/l Pt/Co	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 4.563	< 4.563	< 4.563
Conductivity	uS/cm 20 C	S	36	36	0	0.000	76.000	83.222	100.000
Copper	mg Cu/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.043	< 0.420	< 0.546
Cyanide	ug/l CN	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 5.500	< 5.500	< 5.500
Dicamba	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.027	< 0.028
Dichlorprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
Diflufenican	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Dimethenamid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Diuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
E. coli	CFU/100 ml	S	120	120	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enterococci	CFU/100ml	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Epoxiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fenpropimorph	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Flufenacet	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fluoride	mg F/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.153	0.170
Fluroxypyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006
Free - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	120	120	0	0.000	0.190	0.428	1.010
Glyphosate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	0.012
Hydrogen Ion	pH value	S	36	36	0	0.000	6.800	7.254	7.580
Iron	ug/l Fe	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 1.538	< 11.204	72.000
Isoproturon	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Lead	ug Pb/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.096	0.110
Linuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Manganese	ug Mn/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.642	< 1.395	2.400
MCPA	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
MCPB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Mecoprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011	< 0.011
Mercury	ug per l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.041	< 0.041	< 0.041
Metalaxyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Metamitron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Metazachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Metoxuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Metribuzin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Nickel	ug Ni/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.475	< 0.625
Nitrate	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.700	2.000	2.200
Nitrate/Nitrite Formula		S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.034	< 0.040	< 0.044
Nitrite	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.030	< 0.030	< 0.030
Odour	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxamyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002

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WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0407 - Drumaroad Bangor West

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
PAH - Sum of four substances	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pendimethalin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.007
Pesticides - Total Substances	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.012
Phorate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
Pirimicarb	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Propachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Propiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Propyzamide	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Prothioconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Selenium	ug/l Se	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.057	< 0.118	< 0.410
Sodium	mg Na/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	5.300	6.025	6.500
Sulphate	mg SO4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	14.000	16.375	19.000
Taste	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tebuconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004	< 0.004
Tetrachloroethene/Trichloroethene - Sum	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.770	< 0.770	< 0.770
Tetrachloromethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
Total - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	120	120	0	0.000	0.240	0.494	1.060
Total coliforms	CFU/100 ml	S	120	120	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Indicative Dose	mSv/year	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 0.100	< 0.100	< 0.100
Total Organic Carbon	mg C/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.000	1.275	1.600
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	27.000	34.875	52.000
Triclopyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Tritium	Bq/l	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 10.000	< 10.000	< 10.000
Turbidity	NTU	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.108	0.210

PCV Exceedances:
Water Quality was satisfactory

Notes:
PCV = Prescribed Concentration or Value
U = Undertaking
S = Standard Sampling Frequency
R = Reduced Sampling Frequency
A = Authorised Supply Point
Commentary on Water Quality:

A: Supply point authorisation for pesticides and related products.

Population of zone = 48270

This zone has a surface water source :R3302

2023 WATER SUPPLY COMMENTARY

ZS0408 - Drumaroad Bangor East

The water supplied in this zone within your council area complied with all the physical-chemical and microbiological standards laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

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WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0408 - Drumaroad Bangor East

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Delivering what matters

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
1,2 Dichloroethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
2,4-D	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
2,4-DB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.016
Aluminium	ug Al/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	28.000	65.865	100.000
Ammonium	mg NH4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Antimony	ug/l Sb	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.021	< 0.066	< 0.180
Arsenic	ug/l As	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.082	< 0.181	< 0.310
Asulam	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Bentazone	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004
Benzene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Benzo(a)pyrene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Boron	mg/l B	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.010	< 0.038
Bromate	ug BrO3/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.600	0.804	1.200
Bromoxynil	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008
Cadmium	ug/l Cd	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.042	< 0.074	< 0.300
Chloride	mg Cl/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	8.200	9.050	9.800
Chlorotoluron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Chlorpyrifos	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Chromium	ug/l Cr	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.260	0.369	0.570
Clopyralid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.010
Clostridium perfringens (sulph red)	CFU/100 ml	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 22	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	1.333	42.000
Colony Counts 37 (48hrs)	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.083	2.000
Colour	mg/l Pt/Co	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 4.563	< 4.563	< 4.563
Conductivity	uS/cm 20 C	S	36	36	0	0.000	76.000	84.806	130.000
Copper	mg Cu/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.043	< 0.378	< 0.546
Cyanide	ug/l CN	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 5.500	< 5.500	< 5.500
Dicamba	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.027	< 0.028
Dichlorprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
Diflufenican	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Dimethenamid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Diuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
E. coli	CFU/100 ml	S	96	96	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enterococci	CFU/100ml	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Epoxiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fenpropimorph	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Flufenacet	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fluoride	mg F/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Fluroxypyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006
Free - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	96	96	0	0.000	0.190	0.411	0.820
Glyphosate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	0.012
Hydrogen Ion	pH value	S	36	36	0	0.000	6.750	7.253	7.780
Iron	ug/l Fe	S	36	36	0	0.000	2.200	12.751	71.000
Isoproturon	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Lead	ug Pb/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.115	0.210
Linuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Manganese	ug Mn/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.642	< 1.219	2.200
MCPA	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
MCPB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Mecoprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011	< 0.011
Mercury	ug per l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.041	< 0.041	< 0.041
Metalaxyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Metamitron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Metazachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Metoxuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Metribuzin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Nickel	ug Ni/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.488	< 0.625
Nitrate	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.800	1.975	2.200
Nitrate/Nitrite Formula		S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.036	< 0.040	< 0.044
Nitrite	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.030	< 0.030	< 0.030
Odour	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxamyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002

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WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0408 - Drumaroad Bangor East

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
PAH - Sum of four substances	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pendimethalin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.007
Pesticides - Total Substances	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.012
Phorate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
Pirimicarb	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Propachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Propiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Propyzamide	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Prothioconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Selenium	ug/l Se	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.057	< 0.119	< 0.410
Sodium	mg Na/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	5.400	6.025	6.500
Sulphate	mg SO4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	15.000	16.625	19.000
Taste	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tebuconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004	< 0.004
Tetrachloroethene/Trichloroethene - Sum	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.770	< 0.770	< 0.770
Tetrachloromethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
Total - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	96	96	0	0.000	0.270	0.477	0.920
Total coliforms	CFU/100 ml	S	96	96	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Indicative Dose	mSv/year	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 0.100	< 0.100	< 0.100
Total Organic Carbon	mg C/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.000	1.250	1.500
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	27.000	37.375	62.000
Triclopyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Tritium	Bq/l	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 10.000	< 10.000	< 10.000
Turbidity	NTU	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.107	0.320

PCV Exceedances:
Water Quality was satisfactory

Notes:
PCV = Prescribed Concentration or Value
U = Undertaking
S = Standard Sampling Frequency
R = Reduced Sampling Frequency
A = Authorised Supply Point
Commentary on Water Quality:

A: Supply point authorisation for pesticides and related products.

Population of zone = 37432

This zone has a surface water source :R3302

2023 WATER SUPPLY COMMENTARY

ZS0501 - Drumaroad Lisburn

The water supplied in this zone within your council area complied with all the physical-chemical and microbiological standards laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

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WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0501 - Drumaroad Lisburn

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Delivering what matters

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
1,2 Dichloroethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
2,4-D	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
2,4-DB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.016
Aluminium	ug Al/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	29.000	75.250	180.000
Ammonium	mg NH4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	0.012
Antimony	ug/l Sb	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.021	< 0.062	< 0.180
Arsenic	ug/l As	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.093	< 0.174	< 0.310
Asulam	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Bentazone	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004
Benzene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Benzo(a)pyrene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Boron	mg/l B	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.010	< 0.038
Bromate	ug BrO3/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.500	< 0.725	1.200
Bromoxynil	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008
Cadmium	ug/l Cd	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.042	< 0.074	< 0.300
Chloride	mg Cl/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	8.400	11.113	25.000
Chlorotoluron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Chlorpyrifos	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Chromium	ug/l Cr	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.326	0.450
Clopyralid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.010
Clostridium perfringens (sulph red)	CFU/100 ml	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 22	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.111	2.000
Colony Counts 37 (48hrs)	CFU/1 ml	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.028	1.000
Colour	mg/l Pt/Co	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 4.563	< 4.563	< 4.563
Conductivity	uS/cm 20 C	S	36	36	0	0.000	76.000	83.528	99.000
Copper	mg Cu/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.043	< 0.357	< 0.546
Cyanide	ug/l CN	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 5.500	< 5.500	< 5.500
Dicamba	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.027	< 0.028
Dichlorprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
Diflufenican	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Dimethenamid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Diuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
E. coli	CFU/100 ml	S	84	84	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enterococci	CFU/100ml	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Epoxiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fenpropimorph	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Flufenacet	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fluoride	mg F/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Fluroxypyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006
Free - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	84	84	0	0.000	0.220	0.645	1.060
Glyphosate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	0.012
Hydrogen Ion	pH value	S	36	36	0	0.000	6.990	7.331	7.730
Iron	ug/l Fe	S	36	36	0	0.000	4.400	31.442	88.000
Isoproturon	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Lead	ug Pb/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.117	0.250
Linuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Manganese	ug Mn/l	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.642	< 1.666	2.700
MCPA	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
MCPB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Mecoprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011	< 0.011
Mercury	ug per l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.041	< 0.041	< 0.041
Metalaxyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Metamitron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Metazachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Metoxuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Metribuzin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Nickel	ug Ni/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.443	< 0.625
Nitrate	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.800	2.275	4.400
Nitrate/Nitrite Formula		S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.036	< 0.046	< 0.088
Nitrite	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.030	< 0.030	< 0.030
Odour	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxamyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002

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WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0501 - Drumaroad Lisburn

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
PAH - Sum of four substances	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pendimethalin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.007
Pesticides - Total Substances	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.012
Phorate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
Pirimicarb	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Propachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Propiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Propyzamide	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Prothioconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Selenium	ug/l Se	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.057	< 0.114	< 0.410
Sodium	mg Na/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	5.500	7.463	17.000
Sulphate	mg SO4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	15.000	23.625	70.000
Taste	Diln No	S	36	36	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tebuconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004	< 0.004
Tetrachloroethene/Trichloroethene - Sum	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.770	< 0.770	< 0.770
Tetrachloromethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
Total - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	84	84	0	0.000	0.320	0.706	1.130
Total coliforms	CFU/100 ml	S	84	84	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Indicative Dose	mSv/year	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 0.100	< 0.100	< 0.100
Total Organic Carbon	mg C/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.990	1.224	1.700
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	27.000	43.375	76.000
Triclopyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Tritium	Bq/l	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 10.000	< 10.000	< 10.000
Turbidity	NTU	S	36	36	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.126	0.270

PCV Exceedances:
Water Quality was satisfactory

Notes:
PCV = Prescribed Concentration or Value
U = Undertaking
S = Standard Sampling Frequency
R = Reduced Sampling Frequency
A = Authorised Supply Point
Commentary on Water Quality:

A: Supply point authorisation for pesticides and related products.

Population of zone = 33471

This zone has a surface water source :R3302

2023 WATER SUPPLY COMMENTARY

ZS0601 - Drumaroad Ballynahinch

The water supplied in this zone within your council area complied with all the physical-chemical and microbiological standards laid down in the Water Supply (Water Quality) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2017.

2023 Public Register

WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0601 - Drumaroad Ballynahinch

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Delivering what matters

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
1,2 Dichloroethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
2,4-D	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
2,4-DB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.016
Aluminium	ug Al/l	S	52	52	2	3.846	25.000	74.462	640.000
Ammonium	mg NH4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Antimony	ug/l Sb	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.021	< 0.064	< 0.180
Arsenic	ug/l As	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.100	< 0.181	< 0.310
Asulam	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Bentazone	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004
Benzene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Benzo(a)pyrene	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Boron	mg/l B	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.010	< 0.038
Bromate	ug BrO3/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.500	< 0.790	1.200
Bromoxynil	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008
Cadmium	ug/l Cd	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.042	< 0.074	< 0.300
Chloride	mg Cl/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	7.600	8.900	10.000
Chlorotoluron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Chlorpyrifos	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Chromium	ug/l Cr	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.306	0.490
Clopyralid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.010
Clostridium perfringens (sulph red)	CFU/100 ml	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Colony Counts 22	CFU/1 ml	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.019	1.000
Colony Counts 37 (48hrs)	CFU/1 ml	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.038	1.000
Colour	mg/l Pt/Co	S	52	52	0	0.000	< 4.563	< 4.563	< 4.563
Conductivity	uS/cm 20 C	S	52	52	0	0.000	< 0.670	< 82.859	98.000
Copper	mg Cu/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.043	< 0.420	< 0.546
Cyanide	ug/l CN	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 5.500	< 5.500	< 5.500
Dicamba	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.027	< 0.028
Dichlorprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011
Diflufenican	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Dimethenamid	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Diuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
E. coli	CFU/100 ml	S	144	144	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Enterococci	CFU/100ml	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Epoxiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fenpropimorph	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Flufenacet	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.005	< 0.005	< 0.005
Fluoride	mg F/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.150	< 0.150	< 0.150
Fluroxypyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006
Free - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	144	144	0	0.000	0.200	0.698	1.140
Glyphosate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	0.012
Hydrogen Ion	pH value	S	52	52	0	0.000	6.790	7.311	7.690
Iron	ug/l Fe	S	52	52	0	0.000	< 1.538	< 20.065	190.000
Isoproturon	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Lead	ug Pb/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.128	0.370
Linuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Manganese	ug Mn/l	S	52	52	0	0.000	< 0.642	< 1.813	21.000
MCPA	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
MCPB	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Mecoprop	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.011	< 0.011	< 0.011
Mercury	ug per l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.041	< 0.041	< 0.041
Metalaxyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Metamitron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.007	< 0.007	< 0.007
Metazachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.015	< 0.015	< 0.015
Metoxuron	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.008	< 0.008	< 0.008
Metribuzin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Nickel	ug Ni/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.260	< 0.488	< 0.625
Nitrate	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	1.700	1.938	2.100
Nitrate/Nitrite Formula		S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.034	< 0.039	< 0.042
Nitrite	mg/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.030	< 0.030	< 0.030
Odour	Diln No	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Oxamyl	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002

2023 Public Register



WATER SUPPLY ZONE - ZS0601 - Drumaroad Ballynahinch

Printed On 30-JAN-2024 : NI Water : Period 01-JAN-2023 to 31-DEC-2023 incl.

Parameter	Units	Type	No samples planned for year	No samples taken in year	No samples contravening PCV	% samples contravening PCV	Concentration or value (all samples)		
							Min	Mean	Max
PAH - Sum of four substances	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Pendimethalin	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	0.007
Pesticides - Total Substances	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.012
Phorate	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.009	< 0.009	< 0.009
Pirimicarb	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.006	< 0.006	< 0.006
Propachlor	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.010	< 0.010	< 0.010
Propiconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.003	< 0.003	< 0.003
Propyzamide	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Prothioconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.002	< 0.002	< 0.002
Selenium	ug/l Se	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.057	< 0.114	< 0.410
Sodium	mg Na/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	5.300	6.125	6.500
Sulphate	mg SO4/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	14.000	16.500	19.000
Taste	Diln No	S	52	52	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Tebuconazole	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	< 0.004	< 0.004	< 0.004
Tetrachloroethene/Trichloroethene - Sum	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.770	< 0.770	< 0.770
Tetrachloromethane	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	< 0.410	< 0.410	< 0.410
Total - Residual disinfectant	mg Cl/l	S	144	144	0	0.000	0.270	0.763	1.210
Total coliforms	CFU/100 ml	S	144	144	0	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
Total Indicative Dose	mSv/year	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 0.100	< 0.100	< 0.100
Total Organic Carbon	mg C/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	0.990	1.173	1.400
Total Trihalomethanes	ug/l	S	8	8	0	0.000	26.000	35.250	57.000
Triclopyr	ug/l	AS	24	24	0	0.000	0.000	< 0.012	< 0.012
Tritium	Bq/l	AS	1	1	0	0.000	< 10.000	< 10.000	< 10.000
Turbidity	NTU	S	52	52	0	0.000	< 0.090	< 0.128	0.680

PCV Exceedances:

Sample failed 09-MAY-2023 (ZS0601AE) Aluminium = 210 ug per.

Sample failed 24-JUL-2023 (ZS0601AE) Aluminium = 640 ug per.

Notes:

PCV = Prescribed Concentration or Value

U = Undertaking

S = Standard Sampling Frequency

R = Reduced Sampling Frequency

Commentary on Water Quality:

A = Authorised Supply Point

A: Supply point authorisation for pesticides and related products.

Population of zone = 55335

This zone has a surface water source :R3302

Unclassified

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ITEM 19**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health Protection and Development
Date of Report	14 August 2024
File Reference	CW165
Legislation	The Nicotine Inhaling Products (Age of Sale and Proxy Purchasing) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2021 Tobacco and Related Products Relations 2016
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Vaping and Young People Update
Attachments	Appendix 1 Minister of Health Reply 25 th July 2024 Appendix 2 HMRC Reply 31 st July 2024

Background

In May 2024, Council agreed to the following as a result of a report concerning young people and vaping.

1. Council to write to the Northern Ireland Health Minister
 - a) supporting the introduction of the proposed new legislation to tackle youth vaping and
 - b) requesting the introduction of legislation to:

Not Applicable

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- prohibit the sale of NIPs from vending machines making it more difficult for children and young people to access them,
 - requiring retailers of NIPs to register in line with tobacco retailers or introduce a licensing scheme for tobacco retailers and vape retailers
 - make provision to combat online sales of NIPs
 - apply the above restrictions to other nicotine products and non-nicotine vapes.
2. Council to write to CTSI to request the extension of Operation Joseph to Northern Ireland. This project provides financial resource, as well as guidance and advice to local authorities in England and Wales. If the operation and associated funding could be extended to Northern Ireland it would provide essential resource to the Council.
 3. Council to write to HMRC to request extension of Operation CeCe to Northern Ireland. Border Force and HMRC Operation CeCe only targets GB, if this was extended to Northern Ireland it would help with the importation of non-compliant e-liquids and cigarettes.

These communications were duly actioned by the Chief Executive and replies have now been received.

Responses

Northern Ireland Minister of Health

The response from the Minister highlighted the King's Speech on 17 July 2024 where the UK Government stated its intention to bring forward a new version of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill which is expected to continue to include a provision to address growing concerns about youth vaping. The Minister confirmed that this is a priority for his department and he anticipates a sympathetic response from the NI Executive and Assembly when he seeks their agreement to include Northern Ireland in the proposed new UK measures.

Unfortunately he did not comment on the specific requests to look at the gaps in the legislation but there will no doubt be opportunity to raise these concerns again in any consultation process, which the Minister alluded to.

The Minister referred to the proposed ban on disposable and single use vapes being brought by DAERA and the Council has since received communication on this directly, as detailed in a separate report to the Community and Wellbeing Committee.

The Minister was aware of Operation CeCe and Operation Joseph and stated that his officials would welcome involvement in any conversations regarding possible expansion of these and provided contact details which Council Officers are now following up.

Not Applicable

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HMRC

The Director of Fraud Investigation Service for HM Revenue and Customs responded to advise that Operation CeCe in England, Scotland and Wales only covers illicit tobacco sales and not vaping products. He further advised that Operation Gaila tackles illicit tobacco at retail level in Northern Ireland and he was open to discussions on how this work could be strengthened, considering the new illicit tobacco strategy: [Stubbing out the problem: A new strategy to tackle illicit tobacco - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Contact details for the Fraud Investigation Service Assistant Director for Northern Ireland & Scotland were provided to enable discussions on Operation Gaila as well as opportunities arising out of the new Strategy; and again, Officers are facilitating discussions, with the hope that consideration can also be given to tackling illegal vapes.

CTSI

To date no response has been received.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this update on the engagement with other relevant organisations and that work continues to protect our young people from the dangers of vaping.

FROM THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

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Department of
Health

An Roinn Sláinte

Mánnystrie O Poustie

www.health-ni.gov.uk

Susie McCullough
Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Susie.McCullough@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
BELFAST, BT4 3SQ
Tel: 028 9052 2556
Email: private.office@health-ni.gov.uk

Your Ref:

Our Ref: COR-1890-2024

Date: 25 July 2024

Dear Susie,

RE: YOUNG PEOPLE AND VAPING

Thank you for your e-mail of 05 July 2024 expressing concern over the increasing levels of vaping among local children and young people and seeking the introduction of legislation to bring the restrictions on Nicotine Inhaling Products (NIPs), other nicotine products, and non-nicotine vapes in line with tobacco controls.

You may recall that the last UK Government were in the process of bringing through Westminster a Tobacco and Vapes Bill which made provision to create a smoke free generation and included measures in respect of vapes. At my Department's request, the Executive and the Assembly agreed that the Bill include similar provision for Northern Ireland. This Bill was not made before the recent general election.

As set out in the King's Speech on 17 July 2024, the new UK Government stated its intention to bring forward a new version of the Tobacco and Vapes Bill which we expect will continue to include provision to address growing concerns about youth vaping. This is a priority issue for my department, and I am consequently supportive of Northern Ireland's inclusion in such measures.

Once an agreed version of the new Bill is made available it is my intention to seek the agreement of the NI Executive and the Assembly to this approach. Given the previous support for these measures, I anticipate that they will be sympathetic.

The provisions relating to a ban on disposable vapes are the remit of the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and on 02 May 2024 the Environment Minister Andrew Muir MLA announced his intention to prohibit the sale and supply of single use vapes in Northern Ireland, in parallel with the rest of the UK. I am supportive of such action given the growing use of these products by young people as well as the environmental health impacts.

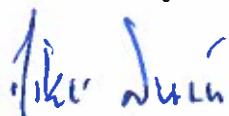
I am keen to explore opportunities for collaborative working in this area. We are aware of Operation CeCe and Operation Joseph and my officials would welcome involvement in any

conversations regarding possible expansion of these operations to Northern Ireland. Please contact Karen Oldham (karen.oldham@health-ni.gov.uk) in this regard.

As you will have anticipated, subject to the Bill's progression, there will be a need for further dialogue and engagement with councils particularly in relation to enforcement policy and legislation.

I am grateful to you for taking the time to write in support of this important area of legislation and look forward to further constructive conversations on these issues.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Nesbitt".

Mike Nesbitt MLA
Minister of Health

CC: Mr Aidan Dawson, Chief Executive PHA
Dr Joanne McClean, Dir of Public Health PHA



HM Revenue
& Customs

Susie McCullough
Ards & North Downs Borough Council
City Hall
The Castle
BANGOR
BT20 4BT

By email: enquiries@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Richard Las
Director Fraud Investigation Service
14 Westfield Avenue
Stratford
London
E20 1HZ

Phone 03000 578294

Email Richard.Las@hmrc.gov.uk

Web www.gov.uk

Date 31 July 2024
Our Ref CEDEL/514050/2024

Dear Ms McCullough

Thank you for your letter of 5 July 2024 to the Chief Executive, Sir Jim Harra. I am replying on his behalf.

Operation CeCe is a joint Trading Standards and HMRC initiative to tackle illicit tobacco at the retail level in England, Scotland and Wales - it does not cover illicit vaping products.

When Operation Cece was initially set up in 2021, we agreed with Trading Standards representatives in Northern Ireland (NI) that it should not be extended to NI at that time, due to specific operational challenges. However, we have continued to tackle illicit tobacco at retail level in NI during this time through Operation Gaila.

As part of the new [illicit tobacco strategy](#) published earlier this year, we are looking to strengthen our response at retail level and are interested in your views on how we do this in the most effective way in NI.

Therefore, Lucie Irving, Fraud Investigation Service Assistant Director for Northern Ireland & Scotland would be happy to meet with you to discuss Operation Gaila, as well as the opportunities arising out of the new Strategy. You can contact her at: lucie.irving@hmrc.gov.uk

I hope you find this reply helpful.

Yours sincerely,

Richard Las
Director Fraud Investigation Service - HMRC

Unclassified

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ITEM 20**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Environmental Health, Protection and Development
Date of Report	16 August 2024
File Reference	CW45
Legislation	Various
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Environmental Health Protection and Development Annual Activity Report 2023-2024
Attachments	None

Under the Councils scheme of delegation and in order to allow for timely service delivery, the application of legislation relating to Environmental Health matters has been delegated to officers to implement. A condition of this delegated authority is that related activity is reported to Council from time to time. The following is the report for the 2023-2024 year and includes such delegated activity.

Summary of Environmental Health Protection and Development Service Activity 2023-24

The role of the Environmental Health Protection and Development Service is to contribute to ensuring a better quality of life for all. From the Health Protection perspective, the service monitors, advises and enforces compliance with Food, Public Health, Pollution, Health and Safety at Work, Consumer Safety and Housing

Not Applicable

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legislation and standards to protect the public from physical, chemical and biological agents, and conditions that may cause ill health or harm.

Functions within the department

The range of statutory and non-statutory functions delivered on behalf of the Council are as follows:

1. Food Control (including food manufacturing and fisheries).
2. Consumer Protection. (safety of consumer goods)
3. Health and Safety at Work
 - Health and safety in workplaces
 - Caravan Site Licensing
 - Petroleum Licensing
 - Sunbeds
 - Fireworks
4. Pollution Control
 - Noise
 - Air quality
 - Radiation Monitoring
 - Pollution Prevention and Control
5. Public Health and Housing
 - Public Health Nuisance
 - Pest Control
 - Private Rented Housing
 - Bathing Waters
6. Health and Wellbeing / Health initiatives including:
 - Tobacco Control
 - Home Safety
 - Community Planning lead for Age Friendly, Community Resuscitation,
 - Whole Systems Approach to Obesity
 - Health Development including Employee Health and Wellbeing

Service Provision

Service provision includes

- service requests,
- planned inspections & proactive visits to commercial premises and
- wellbeing intervention activities.

Not Applicable

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Service Requests

Service requests relate to individuals' requests for assistance for example in relation to pest control, or when the activities of one party cause an adverse effect on another for example in relation to nuisance and pollution.

The number of service requests by category 2023-24.

Department Function	Number of Requests
Pest Control	892
General Environmental Health	849
Food Hygiene and Standards	467
Pollution Control	1055
Private Tenancies Complaints	118
Health and Safety	137
Consumer Protection	32
Tobacco Control	17
Caravan/Petroleum Licensing	6
Total	3573

A total of 110 statutory notices were issued under the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, to secure environmental improvements and abatement of nuisances.

The performance indicator target for a response to service requests is 94% within two working days. For the year 2023/24 the objective was achieved, with 95.7% of requests responded to within the target period.

The number of service requests received in 2023/24 was 485 higher than for 2022/23, an increase of 16.5%.

Planned Inspection and Proactive visits to commercial premises.

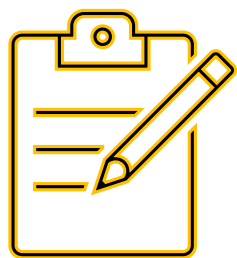
There are currently 3954 operating commercial premises on the Environmental Health database. During the year 4317 inspections were made to assess compliance with legislation, to educate business operators on new legislation and requirements and to obtain samples. In order to reduce the burden on businesses many of these visits were carried out concurrently with officers assessing a range of legislative compliance - for example food hygiene, food standards and tobacco control addressed by an officer during one visit. Businesses and premises are risk assessed to ensure that those which might present the greatest potential risk to public health are visited most frequently.

The following sections provide a breakdown of activities per service unit.

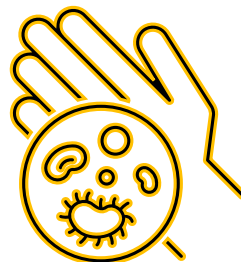
Not Applicable

Food and Consumer Protection Activity and Successes 2023 - 24

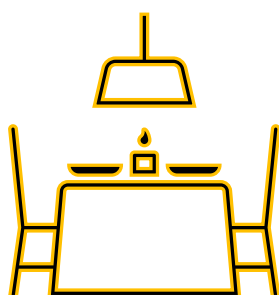
Food Hygiene, Standards and Safety



Food Hygiene Premises inspected:
 All 3 Category A premises
 44 Category B
 119 Category C & D
 15 Category E
 121 new food businesses



Investigated 82 Food Poisoning identifications on behalf of PHA and 10 alleged food poisoning complaints



Actioned 175 complaints regarding premises hygiene and 111 complaints regarding allergens, composition and labelling irregularities



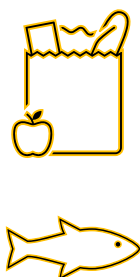
Sampling Collected 615 food samples for microbiological analysis and 104 for chemical analysis



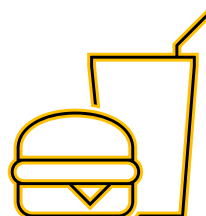
Served 10 Hygiene Improvement Notices
 1 Remedial Action Notice
 4 voluntary closures



Food Standards Inspections
 4 A rated premises inspected
 27 B rated premises inspected



Undertook 4 Northern Ireland Surveys for:
 Acrylamide in Bakery goods,
 Mycotoxins in coffee, Origin of Meat and Fish speciation .



Completed 2 in house surveys for speciation in beefburgers and the presence of sulphur dioxide in minced beef.

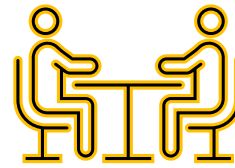
Not Applicable

Consumer Protection



3 market surveillance projects:

- Jewellery
- Mica
- Methacrylate in beauty salons/nail bars



190 new premises registered
110 visits to premises
59 Product alerts dealt with.

Not Applicable

Health & Safety, Noise and Petroleum Activities and Successes 2023-24

Health and Safety at Work



2548 Health and Safety premises registered

462 H&S Visits completed including;

343 Inspections & Revisits



60 Accidents reported Including 1 fatal accident
52 accident investigations (8 not reportable or reported retrospectively)
33 Visits to investigate accidents



9 visits in response to requests for advice &

13 visits in response to complaints about premises or work activity



61 Inspections of Beauticians and Overstocking Visits

68 Inspections and Visits re Gas safety in Catering Premises



Issued 25 improvement Notices for serious contraventions or continuing non-compliance
2 Prohibition Notices for imminent risk to injury



8 Firework Licence applications

8 Firework Display Visits

Not Applicable



1 prosecution was instigated re unsafe premises and work activities and consistently recurring contraventions of Health and Safety legislation. This case was withdrawn on the day of hearing as the business had ceased trading, on the basis that the defendant paid the Council's legal costs.

Planning



287 consultations from the Council's planning department were responded to on planning matters that could potentially affect public or environmental health

Noise Control



649 noise complaints received

44 % proceeded after initial contact

126 resulted in formal investigation

8 Noise Abatement Notices served

2 prosecutions completed in relation to loud music and bass beat

1 other prosecution instigated in relation to barking dogs

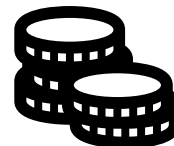


Pollution Prevention and Control



2 PPC permits were issued during 2023/2024;
1 for a mobile crusher and
1 for a Dry Cleaner

The total number of permits issued by the end of 2023/24 was 37;
30 Filling stations
4 dry cleaners
2 cement manufacturers
1 mobile crusher



These premises were inspected during the period and application and subsistence fees collected

Caravan Site and Petroleum Licensing



All 27 Caravan Sites inspected for licensing

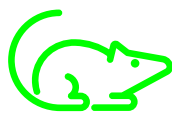


44 inspections and 14 revisits of petroleum filling stations for licensing

45 Licences issued

Not Applicable

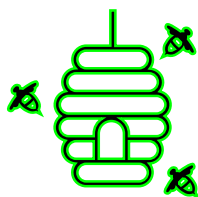
Public Health & Housing Key Activities and Successes 2023-24



892 service requests relating to pest control, with 533 rodent and 243 flying insect complaints

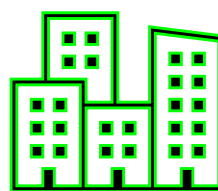


681 service requests relating to housing/drainage

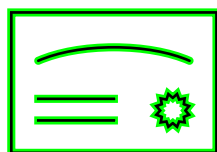


75 wasp nest treatments carried out with a £30 charge

£2250 income generated

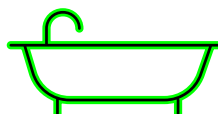


373 service requests relating to neighbourhood nuisance (excluding noise)



Private Rented Housing Issued 54 certificates of Fitness

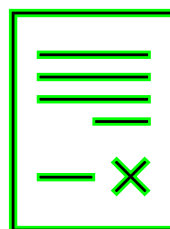
7 properties deemed unfit with Notices of Refusal issued



Interactions with around 150 landlords and letting agents each year to ensure compliance with housing standards legislation.



105 Notices served under Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011 following service requests or housing standards inspections



5 Notices of Unfitness and 2 Notices of Disrepair served on landlords in private rented properties

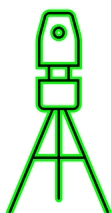
Not Applicable



Landlord successfully prosecuted for illegal eviction of tenants. First NI council to issue fixed penalty notices under the new Private Tenancies Act



Radiation Monitoring at our Argus station in Portavogie, as well as regular sampling to monitor radiation levels in our environment.



Air Quality Shared Service with LCCC. We carry out regular monitoring at 16 sites in ANDBC, including an automatic site in Hollywood.



Act as beach operator for 7 designated bathing waters in the borough, providing important information to beach users.

Not Applicable

Health and Wellbeing Activities and Successes 2023/24



AGE FRIENDLY
 Review of AF Strategy & Action Plan 2019-23
 AF Alliance - 3 meetings & 1 workshop
 2 Positive Ageing Roadshows:
 Kircubbin: 17 attendees and 21 exhibitors
 Ards: 83 attendees and 36 exhibitors



HOME SAFETY
 395 homes visited (231 older people, 164 families with children under 5)
 Provided over 2,338 pieces of equipment and 564 leaflets.
 171 onward referrals to partner agencies
 Targets met or exceeded
 87% clients rated service as "Very important" or "Vital"



October Positive Ageing Calendar
 Launch of AF Strategy & Action Plan 2023-27
 Council Tea Dance with 85 attendees
 2 Council AF Champions appointed
 AF Officer Group established
 5000+ copies of Big Guide distributed



97% rated the professionalism of the staff as V Good/Excellent
 18 talks & events to 558+ Over 65s
 4 Under 5 talks to 32+
 3 sessions with NIFRS crews



DEMENTIA FRIENDLY
 Launch of Herbert Protocol
 Dementia Friendly social media posts
 Dementia Art Exhibition
 2 Dementia Awareness sessions for 33 ANDBC staff
 7 Dementia Friendly Partnership meetings
 2 New Dementia Champions – Officer & Elected Member



TOBACCO CONTROL
 649 Smoke-Free inspections
 70 Test Purchasing exercises with 8 sales
 171 Age of Sale advice visits
 96 Licensed premises inspections
 211 smoking cessation referrals
 67 AED (defib) registration visits
 Service Level Agreement targets met or exceeded



Not Applicable



OVER 50s COUNCIL
 8 meetings with 4 guest speakers
 10+ consultations
 2 campaigns
 Workshop with Disability Forum and AF Alliance for Parking Concerns
 Launch of Newsletter



MIND.BODY.BUSINESS
 25 businesses and a total of 1093 employees benefited from Health & Wellbeing Activities on offer through the Small Grants Scheme



EMPLOYER PLEDGE
 Formally Adopted Pledge January 2024
 878 staff March 2024
 49% staff aged 50+ (140 Female & 286 Male)
 Committed to improving recruitment, retention and development of older workers



EMPLOYEE HEALTH AND WELLBEING
 Quarterly Meetings
 X staff from y service units



Promotion of Staff Webhub – StayWell
 Access to health articles, news, staff events, campaigns, support services, etc



WHOLE SYSTEMS APPROACH TO OBESITY
 First Early Adopter site in Northern Ireland
 Selected for PHIRST research study
 Development of 6 phase action plan
 Identified cohort:-
 in ANDBC 18.% Year 1 and 24.3% Year 8 children considered obese/overweight:
 and geography:- Newtownards DEA,



Delivery of 36 events/activities with over 415 staff participating
 9 Be Active events
 7 Learning opportunities
 5 Take Notice activities
 3 Give/volunteering opportunities
 All these offered a chance to Connect – with 2 lunches



Not Applicable

plus Glen Ward,
West Winds Ward,
and Conway Square
Ward

110 health checks
at 9 sites
21 mammograms
58 flu jabs



BEE SAFE

1,700+ P7 children
from 46 Schools
6 Safety Scenarios
covering internet
safety, home safety,
bus/road safety, fire
safety, community
safety & mental
health
Event rated as:
Excellent (83%) or
Good (17%)
1800 work booklets
and supporting
videos distributed
100% commitment
from schools to
return next year



**MENTAL HEALTH
CHARTER**

22 Mental Health
First Aiders
Suicide to Zero
training shared
Direct access to
support
organisations

Promotion of
Here2Help app to
staff and wider
community

Not Applicable

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Summary

During the 2023-24 year the service met the majority of KPI's and targets and had a significant positive impact on the community planning outcomes despite the challenges faced with staff shortages.

Recruitment of Environmental Health Officers continues to be a challenge in Northern Ireland, with private industry offering more competitive salaries than local government. This is also reflected in our inability to fill both student training placements, positions which provide important support roles to the service units, and history shows that our students are more likely to apply for jobs with us on qualifying. Work to address these issues is a priority for 2024/25 as currently the vacancy level is over 10%.

Despite this, the service units have remained focussed and committed to delivering a high standard to service to residents and businesses alike. This is clearly evidenced by the fact that despite the number of service requests received being 16.5% higher than 2022/23, the number responded to within two working days was 95.7%, an improvement of 1.2% on 2022/23.

The key successes and activities of the service units as detailed in this report demonstrate the depth and breadth of work undertaken by EHPD and the positive impact it has on Ards and North Down.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

Unclassified

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ITEM 21**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	02 September 2024
File Reference	CW169
Legislation	Local Government Finance Act 2011
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Update on Review of Grants Policy and Response to Notice of Motion on Community Grants
Attachments	None

Background

Members will be aware that the current Grants policy has been in place since March 2016, and it currently sits within the Community and Wellbeing Directorate.

It is proposed that going forward the policy will sit with the Finance section as a financial policy that will cover all grants administered by Council. It is intended that that changes made to the policy will provide an efficient and effective framework for grant management that allows budget holders to make decisions in line with the updated scheme of delegation and within appropriate timescales as well as delivering an improved customer experience to include the development of a digital grants management system.

A Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cathcart and Councillor Gilmour requested that the Council commit to 'undertaking a root and branch review of

Not Applicable

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community development funding, arts and heritage, sports development and all other funding streams to ensure that it provides the most efficient, effective and responsive service to our community, thus maximising impact, accessibility and equitable allocation of resources’.

The Motion requested a review under 4 categories:

1. Accessibility
 - Simplify application forms
 - Digitisation of community grants, tenders and reporting
 - Building capacity in the community
2. Communication Enhancement
 - Single grants list or ‘open grants’ page on council website
 - A single point of contact
 - Showcase & celebrate via case studies on council website
3. Equity
 - Make funding available proportional to size of communities/activities being delivered and the type of needs being addressed
 - Funding available to reflect the continued rise in costs
 - Up front funding is uniform, that groups get the same up front funding percentage
 - Removal of ‘first come first serve’ funding
4. Efficiency
 - Creation of reserve lists of funding
 - ‘Trusted Supplier Scheme’
 - Logistical planning.

Following the notice of motion a Grants Management Working Group, an internal working group consisting of relevant heads of service, service unit managers and officers that have responsibility for managing grant schemes, was established to support a detailed internal review and evaluation of grants that are offered and administered across Council. The group had its first meeting on 23 January 2024.

The project aims and objectives are:

Phase 1

1. Development of an updated ANDBC Grants Management Policy with further consideration given to the Appeals Process.
2. Implementation of a standardised framework, processes and documentation for grants management across Council in accordance with agreed Policy.
3. Monitor the progress of identified work, identify potential challenges and how to mitigate against.
4. Ensure council wide knowledge and understanding of grants management process.

Phase 2

Not Applicable

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1. Electronic Grants Management Project

For the last number of months, the Transformation team have been working together with the Grants Management Working Group to review the current arrangements for Grants Management across all relevant services across council.

The main changes to the policy include:

- The requirement to have all Grant scheme documentation agreed by parent committee in advance of launching.
- Grants schemes to be screened by Policy Screening before launch – this will apply to all grants in the first year of the new policy being in place.
- Only significant changes to a previously agreed grants schemes will need to be brought back to committee.
- Awarding decisions will be made by officer panels rather than Council in line with the updated Scheme of Delegation, this will speed up decision making. Members will receive interim award reports for noting or this information will be included in the annual evaluation report.
- Each year a report should be brought to committee evaluating each grant scheme to ensure that it is achieving the objectives set out in the approved scheme.
- The policy aims to set out minimum standards for grants management which can be enhanced to meet the conditions which Council may be required to meet from other external funders.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the progress in relation a review of the corporate grants policy and the notice of motion in relation to the review of community development and other funding.

Unclassified

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ITEM 22**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	01 August 2024
File Reference	CW84
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Homelessness Prevention Response to Notice of Motion
Attachments	None

The following motion was agreed by Council in September 2023:

That this Council notes that the number of households with homelessness status on the social housing waiting list across NI has increased from 12,431 to 26,310 households between 31 March 2013 and 31 March 2023, an increase of 111.7%; notes the enormous strain the homelessness system is under with the number of households in temporary accommodation at unprecedented levels; agrees that this council has a role to play in preventing homelessness in this borough alongside other organisations and bodies in the Public, Statutory and Voluntary sectors; calls on this Council to assess how it contributes to homelessness prevention through carrying out an audit of its services; and requests that Officers bring back a report detailing the homelessness prevention work currently supported as well as how the Council's community planning function can further support homelessness prevention work in the local area.

Not Applicable

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Introduction

Ards and North Down Corporate Plan

Ards and North Down Borough Council's Corporate Plan, towards a Sustainable Borough 2024-2028, includes increasing social inclusion and reducing inequality as one of its three corporate priorities. The Corporate Plan recognises that Council cannot deliver this priority alone and will need to work in partnership with other organisations to collectively address inequality. Social inclusion and reduced inequalities are important to improve people's wellbeing, health and education, and to provide protection for people who are vulnerable. To reduce inequality Council will work to create communities that improve wellbeing, increase aspirations, and enhance economic growth. We will work in partnership with statutory agencies to promote safe communities and improve good relations. Within service plans we will include more specific activities on how we plan on reducing inequalities which over time will help support individuals and families who may have been at risk of homelessness.

Community Planning

Ards and North Down's Community Planning Partnership's Big Plan Part II, Our Big Priorities, has several workstreams that while not directly aimed at addressing homelessness, are relevant:

- **Public Estate and Land Workstream** (Priority Infrastructure)
Working with NIHE to identify suitable land across Ards and North Down to address unmet social housing need. Project has included data sharing of NIHE, ANDBC, SEHSCT, EA, Translink, Invest NI, DfC land across our GIS portal to map ownership of public sector land.
- **Wellbeing, social isolation and loneliness** (Priority Emotional Wellbeing)
This workstream looks at emotional wellbeing and how we can build resilience to support people to look after themselves. People can end up under threat of homelessness due to poor mental health, or they can experience poor mental health as a result of homelessness.
- **Age friendly** (Priority Welcoming)
The Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan 2023-27 contains a housing theme. The focus of this theme is helping older people remain in their own homes for as long as is practically possible, and to help people reduce the cost of heating over the winter to help reduce fuel poverty.
- **Dementia friendly** (Priority Vulnerable People)
The South Eastern Area Dementia Friendly Partnership has been established. This workstream reports to the Age Friendly Alliance and its purpose is to support people living with dementia and their carer's. An action plan is being developed. People living with dementia could be at risk of homelessness if they are not able to access appropriate care pathways and other interventions including benefit entitlement.
- **Poverty and Hardship** (Priority Economic Inequalities)
As part of this workstream an extensive research project into poverty and hardship across Ards and North Down has been completed. In addition to

Not Applicable

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understanding the extent of poverty via official NISRA statistics, this research also included a literature review into minimum income standards and cross referenced these with median gross annual wages for Ards and North Down. Median wages taken home in AND are below the minimum income standard. This research initiative also included data from the two Trussell Trust Food Banks (Newtownards and Bangor), data from Community Advice Ards and North Down, data from Well Fed the Social Supermarket pilot and data collected via a survey run by Ards Development Bureau. The purpose of the research was to understand the reasons people find themselves vulnerable and need to access support services. The report included recommendations to be considered in the development of an Anti-poverty Action Plan for Ards and North Down. One of the recommendations to be considered included 'affordable housing and homelessness prevention'. Suggested interventions include implementing measures to increase affordable housing stock and the prevent homelessness through early intervention, rent support and housing stability programmes. The recommendations in this report will be considered by both Ards and North Down's Strategic Community Planning Partnership and AND's Poverty Forum. Other recommendations within the report that may relate to homelessness include education and skills development; employment and economic opportunities; financial inclusion and poverty reducing; access to affordable food; child poverty; and health and wellbeing.

Council's assessment of how it contributes to homelessness prevention works 2023-24

Community Development

The Community Development section do not work directly with supporting homelessness, but do support other organisations that work with people who are at risk of presenting as homeless as listed below:

- Community Advice Ards and North Down (CAAND)

The Advice Services Funding is to provide a high-quality general advice service to the public in line with the key principles and values of the Department of Social Development's (DSD) "Opening Doors" Strategy.

CAAND provide an advice and advocacy service across Ards and North Down Borough Council area on a full range of issues. CAAND provide advice services to meet the developing needs of the community. They deliver their service provision in many ways including, triage/gateway process to ensure that those in greatest need are dealt with quickly, face to face contact throughout the opening hours of 10am-4pm (Mon-Fri) in each of the principal locations and a telephone advice service that is also available 10am-4pm (Mon-Fri). CAAND are also funded to provide a Welfare Reform service in the Borough to support people with welfare reform mitigations and tribunals.

In 2023/24 the overall number of clients supported by CAAND was **6,137**. In regard to Welfare Reform mitigations and tribunals CAAND represented **197** people throughout 2023/24.

Not Applicable

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Actual spend = **£380,835.57** financial support provided in 2023/24

- Social Supermarket

Funding to support the Borough's 2 Social Supermarkets (SSM) during 2023/24 was to provide people with access to food whilst requiring SSM members to take up a wrap-around of other support services. The core aim of the social supermarket programme is the provision of personalised wrap-around support to equip and empower SSM members to break the cycle of poverty.

In 2023/24 SSM funding supported a total of 104 households. This was broken down further to 98 adults and 98 children being supported through this program.

Actual spend = **£100,277.48** financial support provided

- Hardship funding

To support the most vulnerable in the Borough to address food, fuel and financial hardship caused by the current cost of living crisis, particularly the increase in energy and food costs.

Total of people supported was **31,411**. This was broken down to primary participants supported which was **10,384** and secondary participants were **21,027**.

Actual spend = **£296,044.90** financial support provided

- Running costs

Without access to this funding many groups would not be able to operate. This funding helps towards the hire of premises, insurance and other running costs that allows groups to operate with good governance. Without this provision the groups could not apply for funding including Council and third party. Many of the groups supported applied to the hardship funding (as mentioned above), bringing direct support into their communities. The most vulnerable having support with Food and Fuel, helped sustain long-term tenancies and prevent people from presenting as homeless.

Total of groups supported in 2023/24 with running costs funding was **45** and the financial support allocated was **£90,085.50**.

Externally Funded Programmes

PCSP

Funding provided in 2023-2024 and it is assumed it will be similar in 2024-25:

- Support Hub - The Support Hub has a focus on supporting those most vulnerable in the Ards and North Down Area. The Hub brings together a

Not Applicable

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range of statutory agencies which includes the Probation Board, Education Authority, Youth Justice Agency, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Health Trust, PSNI, Ambulance Service, NIHE and Council. The Hub supported 12 meetings and signposted a total of 9 vulnerable people in 2023-2024. **Budget allocated £3,600.**

- Housing Associations - Meet Monthly to discuss issues with tenants and how they can prevent these issues escalating. No allocated budget
- Drug Awareness - The PCSP works closely with the PSNI regarding the monitoring and reduction of criminality related to alcohol and substance abuse in the Borough. PCSP staff also engage with the South Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Co-ordination Team (SEDACT) to support a range of important interventions to reduce the level of drug related criminality in the Borough. PCSP commissioned two Tier 2 drug intervention programmes and support community RAPID drug bins for the disposal of prescription medication. PCSP continue to promote a Borough wide drug awareness campaign through social media and the distribution of flyers and posters. A total of 426 sessions were delivered engaging with a total of 128 individuals for counselling support programme for adults with addiction problems. A total of 128 people engaged and increased their knowledge of the risks and harm caused by excessive drink and drugs. It was reported that 90% of participants reported changed behaviours after completing the programme. PCSP continue to promote a Borough wide drug awareness campaign through social media and the distribution of flyers and posters. **Budget allocated £10,500.**
- Drugs Intervention Programme for 130 young people over 41 sessions increased their knowledge on the effects on mental health, caused by alcohol, and drug use. **Budget allocated £9,000.**
- A counselling support programme for adults with addiction problems. A total of 128 people engaged and increased their knowledge of the risks and harm caused by excessive drink and drugs.
- Counselling sessions on the increased awareness of domestic violence for both men and women and the distribution of a DV video translated into 3 different languages helped to deliver the strong message that DV is not acceptable and can lead to individuals leaving their homes. 17 sessions to 45 women who reported feeling safer and having a 93% increase in their knowledge of Domestic Violence and the support services available. 59 counselling sessions with 10 men who recorded 100% feeling safer and having increased awareness of DV and the support services available. Lisburn YMCA ran a very successful schools / children's homes / community programme involving sessions with 28 schools / SERC / 2 cared for children's homes, and 1 community youth setting with 2290 young people resulting in 94.3% increased knowledge of DV and who to contact for help. SEDSVP also

Not Applicable

345

held 2 successful masterclass seminars attended by 40 professional social workers, pastoral teachers and Domestic Violence workers educating them on the use of “Digital Devices in Domestic Violence” linked to 2022 legislation. They also held a fun run in June 2023 to highlight the Domestic Violence helpline. **Budget allocated £34,095.**

- The Community Safety Team engaged with young people and raised awareness of the effects of ASB. Working with EA, PSNI, Council leisure staff, and the Street Pastors they addressed this issue through planned patrols. **Budget allocated £6,000.**
- Voluntary street wardens engaging regularly in hotspot areas through reassurance and engagement. **Budget allocated £38,000.**
- Small grants awarded to various community organisations deliver awareness raising sessions/ visits/ diversionary activities to divert young people from ASB. **Budget allocated £28,000.**

Good Relations

- Delivery of programmes on diversity to increase awareness of similarities and differences to help integration in local communities. This can result in families being accepted into the community rather than evicted from the community. **Budget allocated £500.**

Drugs, alcohol, addictions, ASB, racism and sectarianism can affect negative behaviour in everyone that in turn can result in the loss of relationships, children, and homes.

Homelessness Interventions

In response to the NOM a survey of community planning partners and organisations held on the Community Development Database was undertaken to ascertain the level of activity across Ards and North Down that focuses on homelessness and its prevention. The survey ran from 25/06/2024 to 20/07/2024 using the Citizen Space Platform.

22 organisations responded to the survey. These were:

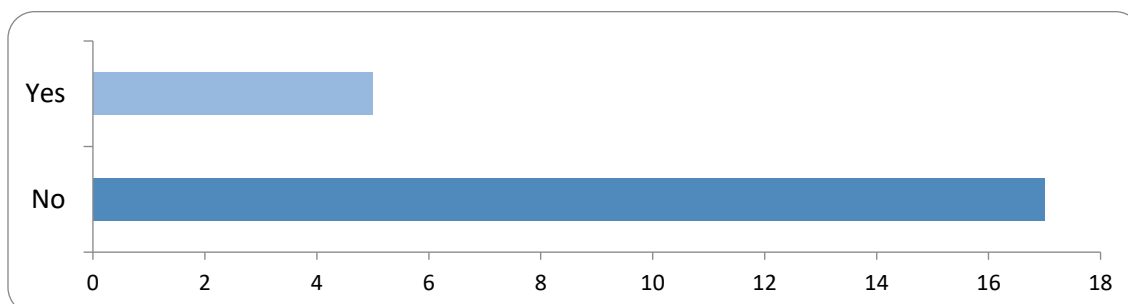
1. The Link Family and Community Centre
2. North Down Community Network
3. Bangor Foodbank and Community Support
4. Action Mental Health
5. Kilcooley Women’s Centre
6. CAAND
7. Portavogie Culture and Heritage Society

Not Applicable

- 8. MindWise
- 9. Millisle Health and Wellbeing Group
- 10. Warehouse Open Centre CIC
- 11. Friends of Columbanus Bangor
- 12. Education Authority
- 13. Ards Community Network
- 14. Society of Saint Vincent de Paul
- 15. Volunteer Now
- 16. Greyabbey Village Hall Management Committee
- 17. Westwinds Development Association
- 18. Inspire
- 19. Donaghadee Community Development Association
- 20. County Down Rural Community Network
- 21. North Down YMCA
- 22. North Down & Ards Women's Aid

Below is a summary of the questions asked and responses received:

Q5 Do you receive funding specifically to provide any interventions that help support people who find themselves homeless? i.e. is it written into a Letter of Offer, Service Level Agreement or Monitoring Report.



Five organisations receive funding to provide interventions. These are:

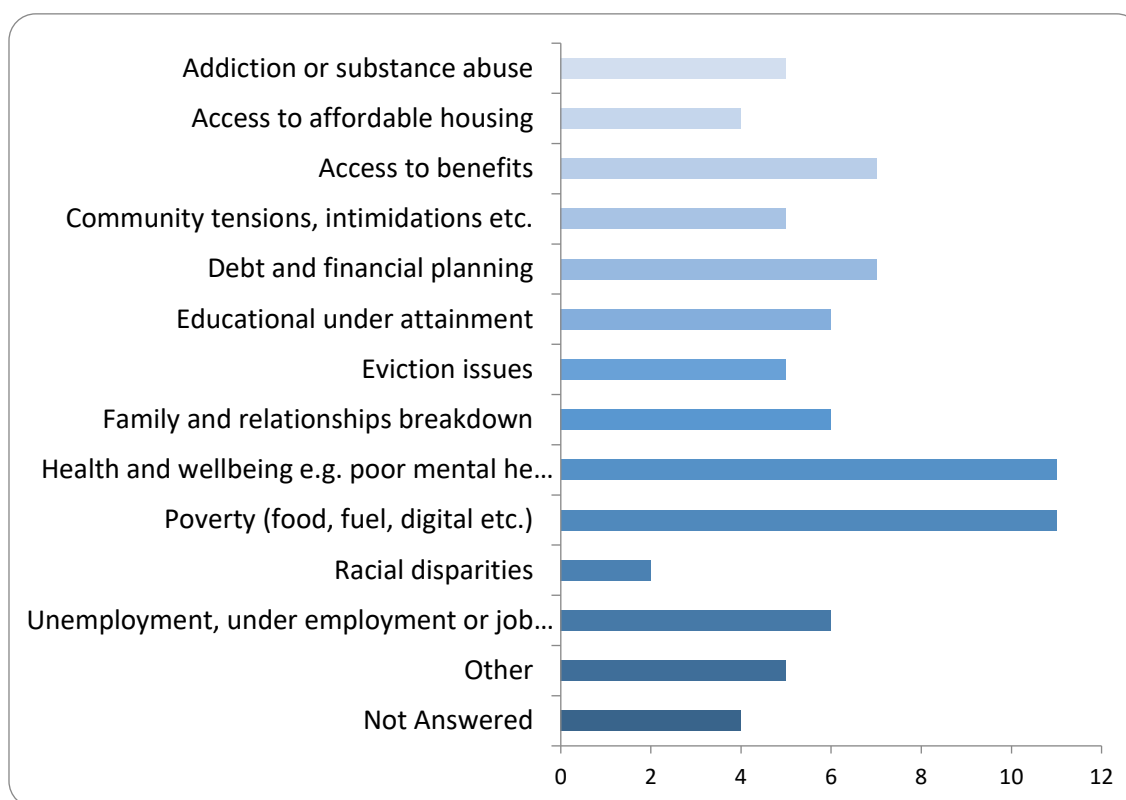
- 1. The Link Family and Community Centre
- 2. Bangor Foodbank and Community Support
- 3. Inspire
- 4. North Down YMCA
- 5. North Down & Ards Women's Aid

Funding to deliver these services is received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (Supporting People), the Trussell Trust and the National Lottery.

Not Applicable

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Q6: Do you provide any of the following interventions that may help support someone who is homeless or help prevent them from becoming homeless? (Please tick all that apply).



Examples of other support provided:

1. We provide referral and signposting service to people who are, or are at risk of becoming, homeless to all of the above and more.
2. Support to secure employment.
3. Mortgage issues, house repossession.
4. Not provided in this area but we do provide a Mental Health Money Advice Service and Mental Health Advocacy in the area. Elsewhere we support a number of clients experiencing Homelessness via a Hostel funded through the Supporting People programme and more recently in South Down and South Antrim have been providing Tenancy Support to those accepting NIHE offers of housing to prevent the tenancy breaking down and the person entering the homelessness arena.
5. At our annual Columbanus Festival in November we collect Christmas food items and other groceries at our United cross-community Church service which is distributed to local food banks. We are not sure whether the food is distributed to homeless people but perhaps this is something that foodbanks could advise.
6. Above responses [to the question] are specifically connected to young people, whilst the support might help the entire family the focus for our service is the young person under 25 years old.
7. Community Engagement, Support, Capacity Building.

Not Applicable

348

Conclusion

Many of the organisations who responded to the survey do not receive funding to address homelessness but still provide services that help support people who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Of the 17 organisations who do not receive funding, 11 provide at least one of the interventions listed in questions 6. Five of these organisations provided additional examples of the services they provide that were recorded on the survey as 'other'.

Of the organisations that responded:

- 18% of respondents received Community Development Grant aid for Running costs
- 36% of respondents received Community Development Grant aid for Hardship funding
- 27% of respondents received Community Development financial assistance under a service level agreement.

Council Officers will continue to work with all community, voluntary and statutory partners to assist with the prevention of homelessness in the Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note this report.

Unclassified

ITEM 23

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community & Culture
Date of Report	04 June 2024
File Reference	CDV54
Legislation	The Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Community Development Annual Report 2023-2024
Attachments	Appendix Community Development Annual Report 2023-2024

Attached is the Community Development Sections Annual Report for 2023 - 2024 outlining the work of the section throughout the year.

The Community Development section works closely with all other sections in the Community and Culture Service to avoid duplication and ensure a cohesive delivery of programmes to the community.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the report.

APPENDIX



Ards and North Down Borough Council



Community Development

Community Development Annual Report April 2023 - March 2024

Contents	Pages
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• Outcome 1 – Partnership Solutions	
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○ Networks	
○ Neighbourhood Renewal	
○ CAAND	
○ Community Development Support.	
▪ Area 1 – Holywood and Bangor	
▪ Area 2 – Ards, Ballygowan and Comber	
▪ Area 3 – Peninsula	
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○ Youth Voice	
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Community Development Overview

Ards and North Down Borough Council’s Community Development section includes direct provision in the form of play clubs, additional needs disco, 55+ Club, Staffing, Neighbourhood Renewal, Christmas Festivals, Community Festivals, Youth Voice, support for three Networks via SLAs and Advice Services. Community Development running costs includes salaries, training, room hire and Grantfinder subscription. The budget for 2023/24 was a total of £1,056,000.

Community Development Staff: -

Community Development Service Unit Manager – Beverley Skillen

Community Development Officers: - Julia Harkness, Stephen Archibald and Linda McAllister.

Community Development Funding and Grants Co-ordinator – Nicola McClurg

Community and Culture Assistant – Sharon Murphy

Neighbourhood Renewal Officer – Lindzi Chevalier

Community Programme Co-ordinator – Stuart Boyd

The CD Team continued to deliver a high-quality range of direct provision clubs to communities within the Ards and North Down Area during 2023 - 2024. The Team continued to assist in the enablement and empowerment of community organisations and groups in the form of support and guidance with funding, governance, volunteer support, building relationships and connections within the groups and the community networks.

The Community Development Team strives to continue to provide communities with opportunities to connect and engage, to enhance skills base, to participate in training relevant to the needs of the group, to avail of funding opportunities, to create and develop new groups, to enable strong sustainable communities, providing support and much needed services within the heart of the community. As a team we pride ourselves in following and delivering Community Development Values and Principles.

Community Development Values

Our Values	Our Promise
Honesty	We will always operate with integrity through our honest and transparent action.
Championing Empowerment	We will work with and support local communities to build their capacity to address their specific needs.
Openness	We will publish our yearly ‘Game Plan’ and demonstrate our performance against agreed targets.

Fairness	We will address imbalances and bring about positive change founded on social justice and inclusion.
Efficiency	We will work with other statutory and non-statutory organisations together with the community to ensure common goals are targeted and co-ordinated effectively

Community Development Strategic Priorities 2023/2024

The ‘Game Plan’ outlines how the CD Team can support and enable communities and how the Plan related to ‘The Big Plan’ and the Corporate Plan.

Outcome 1: Partnership Solutions

“Through the development of a collaborative process or through the development of collaborative processes our communities can work with us, and each other, to identify solutions that address local needs.”

Community Development Partners – Service Level Agreements – Budget £30,000.

The Community Development Team are committed to the development of partnerships across Ards and North Down which encourage collaboration. As a team we encourage local communities to avail of opportunities to work alongside a wide range of partners that can support solutions to local needs. These include a wide range of strategic partnerships including steering groups, inter agencies, and borough wide structures as well as support for local community organisations. The types of support available includes grants, training, signposting, capacity building, volunteer development and programme development. ANDBC CD section are fortunate to work in partnership with three Community Networks that cover the Borough, namely County Down Rural Community Network, Ards Development Bureau and Community Network and North Down Community Network. Through SLA’s the Networks are enabled to facilitate and support a wide range of community groups and associations in each of their areas of responsibility. In their quarterly reports they highlight the range of work they have undertaken, and any emerging themes or concerns present in the communities they serve.

The type of work engaged in by the Community Networks are outlined in the table below. This does not reflect the full extent of the work of the Networks but rather it covers elements of the work captured in the reviews of their SLAs.

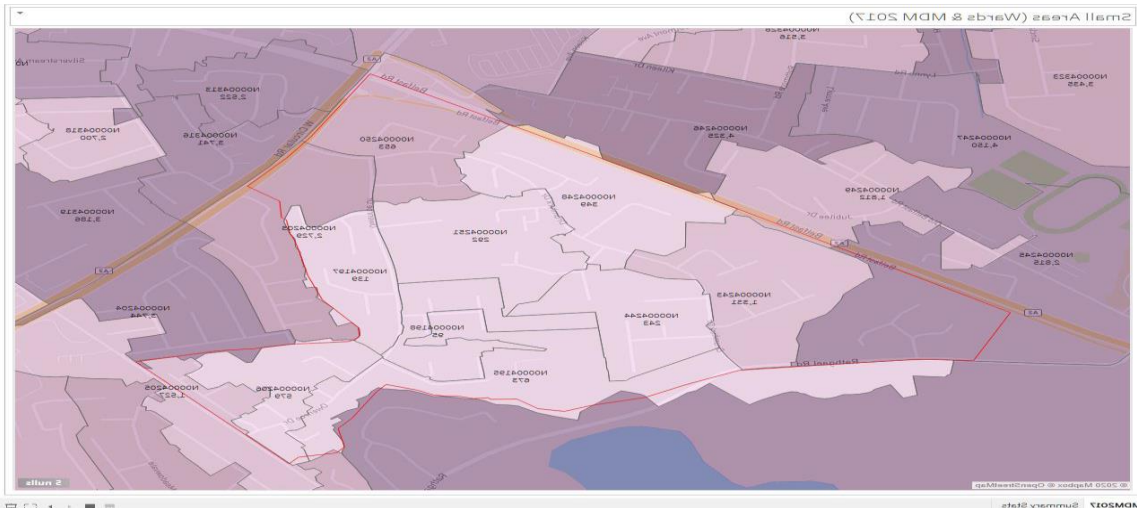
ACTIVITY OF NETWORKS	NUMBERS
Groups/ Individuals Signposted To Appropriate Services/Support	8834
Groups/Individuals Supported Towards Identifying Appropriate Funding Opportunities	68
Groups / Individuals Supported Through Training Opportunities	990

The vision of the Network is to “enhance the quality of life of the people of Ards and North Down by supporting, co-ordinating, and representing community and voluntary groups in the area. Working alongside officers, the networks work together in communities to tackle long term disadvantages such as health inequalities, poverty and educational underachievement.

Bangor Neighbourhood Renewal area 2023 / 2024

The Neighbourhood Renewal Programme (NRP) aims to reduce the social and economic inequalities which characterise the most deprived areas in Northern Ireland. The Neighbourhood Renewal Strategy ‘People and Place’ was published in June 2003 to close the gap between the quality of life for people in these neighbourhoods and the rest of society.

The Kilcooley Neighbourhood Partnership (KNP) was established in 2004/2005 to take forward the NRP in Bangor. The Partnership is defined as a non-constituted entity acting in an advisory capacity to Department for Communities on issues identified in the designated Bangor NRA. The Partnership comprises of members from the community/voluntary and statutory sectors.



The overall aim of the KNP is to engage in effective working partnerships with key stakeholders from all relevant sectors to pro-actively deliver priorities detailed in the Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan to improve the well-being and quality of life for residents.

The vision for Bangor NRA, (as re-defined in the initial Kilcooley Vision and Action Plan for 2024 - 2025) is:

‘Kilcooley is an attractive, inclusive and safe estate where the residents enjoy healthy, active lifestyles with access to opportunities.’

Ards and North Down Borough Council – Kilcooley Technical Assistance

The Neighbourhood Renewal Officer continues to facilitate the Education Working Group, rolling out programmes to address the needs of the community of Kilcooley. During the period of March 2022 to March 2023 there were 4 Education Working meetings held. Numerous projects have been delivered in partnership with Bangor

Alternatives and Kilcooley Primary School, including, community safety sessions in Kilcooley Primary School on the theme of bullying, cyber bullying, anti- social behaviour and homelessness and the creation of an afterschool club and a restorative practice afterschool club. The parental support programme continues to run, with funding secured from the SEHSCT, and NIHE for a consultant to work with parents of the selected pupils within Kilcooley primary school to address some of the issues that are being experienced by both parents and children. Education Authority Youth continue to roll out youth programmes including working with youth leaders, youth club with 60 and 80 young people in attendance. The Engage Programme also continues with the Holywood Family Trust.

The NRO re-established the Kilcooley Health Improvement group and there have been 5 meetings in 2023 / 2024 year, a Health Action plan for 2023/2024 was created and has workable actions along with realistic outputs. The NRO will contribute to the Kilcooley Health improvement group by being the secretariat support for the group and by disseminating information to the Councils Community Database. The group organised a Kilcooley Health fair which took place on 23 March 2024.

Meetings April 23 - March 24	Number of meetings
Neighbourhood Renewal Partnership	9
Education Sub-Group	5
Health Improvement Group	5
Action Planning Days – Main Partnership	1
Joint events held	1

Health Fair purpose to raise awareness of health support services and connect with the community	Number of meetings
Organisations attending	35
People attending	80 Signed in however upward of 115 attended
Surveys completed	34

Outcomes of the Health Fair

- Dental Hygienist contacting Kilcooley Primary School due to highlight of poor oral health.
- Dads group supported through SEHSCT information and workshops on mental health and addiction service.
- Joint funding applications for outdoor gazebos being worked up.
- 34 Evaluations completed giving valuable insight into needs within the community.
- New solo mums group linked in with Community Development Team for support.

CAAND

Ards and North Down Borough Council provide support to CAAND - £380.835.57 (2023 – 2024)

The provision of local advice services is an integral part of the CSP. The Department for Communities makes its “Advice Grant” in addition to the expenditure the Council

sets aside for this purpose. To enable the Department's contribution to be drawn down, the Council agreed to contribute to local advice provision from its own resources of at least £147,563.00 during the financial year 2023-2024.

Community Development Support

Area 1 – Holywood and Bangor – Julia Harkness, Community Development Officer

Area 2 – Ards, Comber and Ballygowan – Linda McAllister, Community Development Officer

Area 3 – Donaghadee and Rural Villages – Stephen Archibald, Community Development Officer

Type of meetings	No	Type of meeting	No
Interagency Meetings	20	Youth Connection	01
Support meetings	14	Programme development meetings	03
Mid project support funding support	01	Support for Housing Tenants	01
Partnership working meetings	10	Inaugural / AGM	06
Internal working meeting	12	Christmas Events	10
Staff support and development	10	Volunteer development	06
Ezine production	04	Promotion of Food banks	03
Board meetings	01	Education projects	02
Community Projects meetings	02	Steering Group	03
Grant application Support	07	Peer working	03
Service Level Agreement Review	16	Networking Events	04
Delivery of Safeguard Training	04	Hardship Funding review	08
Training	04	Consultations	05
Internal meetings	32		

Community Development Officers have continued to provide support and guidance to community groups and attend meeting to enable the members to share their achievements and any issues. Where the issues are the responsibility of Council, Officers share the issues with the responsible council departments for action.

Officers support the groups will all aspects of funding applications. Advice and support provided for third party funding applications, as well as providing funding opportunities by searching on the Grantfinder system.

Officers offer support with the provision of volunteer support, enabling young people and adults to sign up as ANDBC Volunteers, advising of the policy and assisting volunteers through the process of registration.

Officers deliver safeguarding training to Council staff and volunteers within community groups on an annual basis.

Officers Monitor Service Level Agreements and engage with the relevant agencies ensuring all information is collected, recorded, ensuring value for money, and working within budget.

Book Start – Initiative 2024



This year the CD Team introduced a new project working with Bookstart, the UK largest children's reading charity. The initiative launched in April 2024 working with the Ards and North Down Borough Council Registration section.

On average Ards and North Down has 1500 babies registered per year. The Community Development section purchased 1600 Bookstart baby packs, with the aim to providing every family with the opportunity to avail of free books for their newborn babies.

The initiative went live on 17 April, within the first 4 weeks a total of 84 Bookstart, baby packs had been accepted by families registering the birth of their child.

Each pack contains the following.

- An engaging book carefully chosen by independent panel of experts such as health visitors and librarians.
- A colourful finger puppet
- A fun and informative concertina leaflet for parents and carers about the benefits of sharing stories with babies from an early age.

Bookstart provides an important emphasis on the importance of sharing books and stories together from the earliest possible age.

Mae Murray Foundation

The Mae Murray Foundation is a registered charity, with a vision to bring fundamental change to environments so that people of restricted mobility are no longer excluded. A partnership with Council resulted in the creation of the first inclusive beach in the Ards and North Down area, where people of differing physical abilities are to be now able to take part in activities independently on Groomsport Beach. The CD section staff the project in Groomsport during the summer months.

Youth Voice AND

Community Development contribute £24,000 towards the Youth Council for the Borough.

Youth Voice is an initiative delivered by the Youth Service across the borough. The organisation delivers a programme where young people volunteer in a programme that enables them to enhance their skill base, confidence, and social engagement.

Its aims are to provide young people with a voice; to enable young people to have a say on local issues, be a representative voice for young people within their areas, meet new people and build relationships, engage with key decision makers, and undertake accredited training to grow and develop skills.

AND Youth Voice group activities and achievements:

- Teambuilding and Introductory sessions for new members
- Research sessions for Bucket List book idea.

- Photography Session – taking photos at points of interests within the Ards and North Down area.
- Graphic design workshops – design ideas for book
- Social Night – exam stress

Outcomes of first quarter -

More young people are empowered to become active citizens	Individual engagement sessions.	Number of participants engaged.	Number of face-to-face sessions.	
	123	17	12	
More young people’s knowledge of leadership, citizenship, and communication	Number of sessions to increase knowledge.	Number of sessions to support leadership.	Number of sessions to support citizenship	Number of sessions to support communication:
	12	8	4	12

Outcome 2: Start-up/Sustainable

“Support Local groups are sustainable and able to meet their own needs due to an empowering start-up and support process.”

Community Information Register

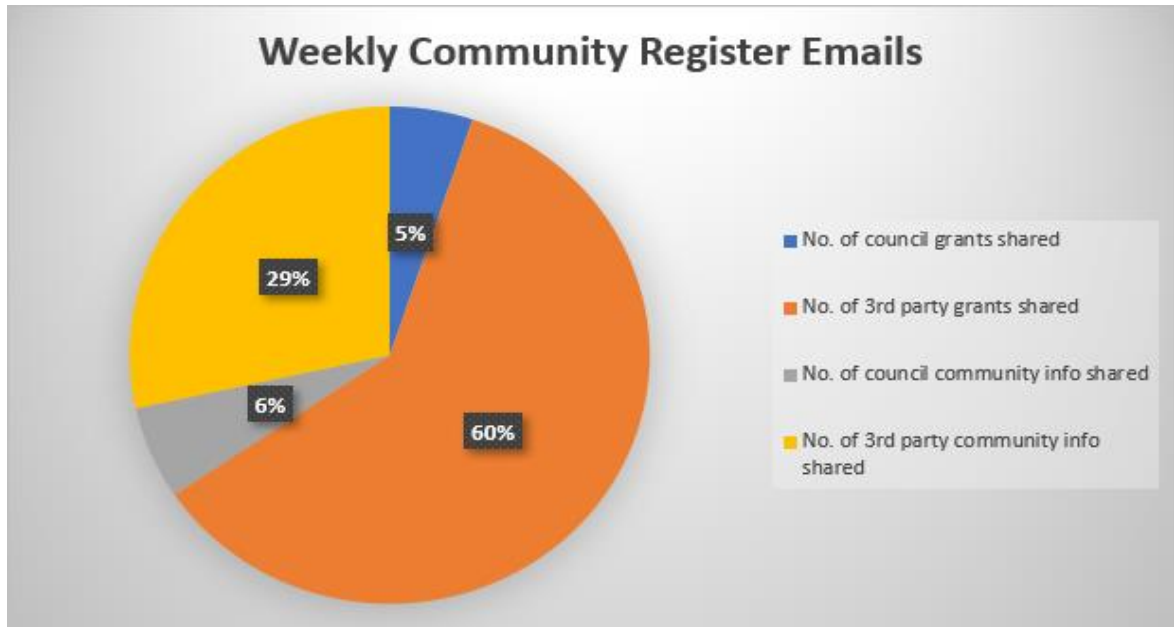
The community register was created to convey information to a range of groups and organisations in a fast and efficient method. It enables the CD section to share information on both Council grants and 3rd party grants available. This information is accompanied by community information.

In September 2023, a review of the community register was completed which identified a need for weekly emails. After an exercise of promoting the database service there has been an increase in registered groups of 63%, March 2023.

Figures from April 23 – March 24

No. of council grants shared	No. of 3rd party grants shared	No. of council community info shared	No. of 3rd party community info shared
6	70	7	33

Figure 1. - % of information shared by topic



An online survey to assist with engagement of those who avail of the community information database was created to help establish the outcomes of sending the weekly email of funding opportunities and community news and to tailor future emails towards the needs of the community. The online survey was open for 2 weeks and 20 returns were received. The following are the main outcomes from the Survey.

- 70% of those that responded to the questionnaire had applied for funding opportunities as a result of the emails. 92% of these were successful.
- 60% would like support with 3rd party funding applications.
- 40% ranked project costs as the most important topic.
- 25% ranked rural opportunities as the least important topic.

Community Ezine

The Community Ezine is a digital publication that can be read and shared online using the world wide web on phones and computers. It combines the ease and convenience of the Internet with the readability and versatility of magazines.

The purpose of the ezine is to ensure the information is engaging and consistent, GDPR compliant, to boost community engagement, build relationships with internal and external departments.

The editions are brought together with information from the Community and Culture department and other partners across Council:

- Community Development
- Good Relations
- Community Policing Community Partnership
- Community Safety Team

- Peace
- Age Friendly
- Parks
- Environmental Health
- Community Planning

Each edition shares the current / recent work delivered, showcasing achievements, events, high lights, and feedback from the users. Work with Community groups, young people, and families. Opportunities to participate in training and workshops, along with opportunities to apply for funding from across many departments.

To date there are 112 members registered and receive the information on a 6-8 weekly basis.

Outcome 3: Volunteering

“Communities are happy and healthy due to the opportunities available for people to maximise their skills and talents.”

Volunteering

Volunteers are the backbone of community-based organisations and are vital to the health and development of these groups.

It is essential that all those individuals who volunteer are given every opportunity to develop their potential, for their own personal and career development, and for that of the organisation, to ensure high quality support, training and recognition is available to all those who volunteer within Council, but also ensure that these values persist in the groups and organisations we support.

This support and good practice include:

- Compliance with recruitment and selection processes
- ANI vetting for staff working directly with people
- Induction and support meetings
- Training opportunities relevant to role
- Best practice approach.

It is vitally important to value and recognise how much volunteering contributes to our Borough. We do this through recognition events and promotion through media the contributions volunteers make.

Volunteer Recognition Event

Community Development held its first Volunteer Recognition Event, since March 2019 on 14 March 2024 at Queens Hall, Newtownards.

This was an opportunity to show appreciation and recognise the value of volunteering to all the volunteers both those who assist the Community Development Team and in the wider community where many voluntary organisations deliver highly valuable

services to the Ards and North Down Borough residents. Whilst having some light refreshments and music, it was an opportunity to network.

The event was for all groups registered on Community Development database and advertised via – North Down Community Network, Ards Community Network and Rural Community Network.

The groups in attendance represented a wide range of interests from Community / Resident Groups, Heritage Groups, Seniors groups, Cancer Research groups, Youth Groups, Uniformed Youth Groups and Women's groups.

The services these volunteers deliver are high quality, consistent, local, and meeting needs identified by the users at source.

The Community and Culture Head of Service, Nicola Dorrian, welcomed everyone and spoke about the importance of volunteering in the Borough. Mayor, Councillor Jennifer Gilmore conveyed her own insight into volunteers and experiences that she had met during her tenure of the Mayoral Office. The Mayor presented certificates of recognition, to all those in attendance.

Additional speakers included the First Responders who shared what their service provides, the importance of the service and how valuable the work is within the community, accompanied by the difficulties they incur on a daily / weekly basis. On the evening, 48 people attended on behalf of 23 community groups and organisations.

Volunteering Celebration Event 2024



Outcome 4: Training and Development

“Our communities are skilled, engaged and empowered through training and development opportunities.”

Community Development Toolkit – available ANDBC website

The toolkit is also offered to all new groups, groups changing their management structure.

Safeguarding

Safeguarding Training officers for Council - duties involve rolling out accredited training for staff and ensuring, as directed by HR, that all staff are compliant in this area. It also includes Designated Safeguarding Officer role to deal with safeguarding queries, concerns, disclosures, and allegations. This role includes policy review and recommendations as part of a small group of officers (OD & HR, Equality and Safeguarding Officer, Leisure Service Manager (trainer) Community Development Officer.

Training sessions delivered	05	
Upskilling training attended	02	Keeping Adults Safe, Designated Officer
Review group meetings	03	Policy review and recs
SG issue-based meetings/discussions on teams	10	Equality & SG Officer, Leisure Manager/SG trainer, Vol Now, other trainers outside council

Outcome 5: Clubs and Community Summer Schemes

“Needs are addressed through the delivery of quality programmes with relevant partners in shared spaces.”

Direct Council Provision

Ards and North Down Borough Council support a wide range of clubs offering opportunities for people to engage, learn and thrive together.

Clubs:

Additional Needs Disco

The Hub operates on a Monday Evening from The Hub, Bangor. Time: 7.00pm – 9.00pm. The service 18+ and provides a weekly disco open to residents from across Ards and North Down Borough.

Registration for September 23 / 2024 – 69 people from across the borough.

Time scale March 2023 – March 2024 Attendance: 1023

Month	No of Members attended	Month	No of Members attended	Month	No of Members attended
March	58	September	80	January	58
April	38	October	213	February	69
May	94	November	178	March	80
June	122	December	33		
	312		504		207

March 23 – March 24 - the disco held theme-based discos such as Easter, Halloween, and Christmas, as well as a formal in the month of February. The disco is a well-attended social engagement for additional needs community.

The feedback received to staff from the users and the carers was as follows: -

Feedback

- Amazing Atmosphere
- Great fun for all
- Easter Disco and Easter eggs
- Birthdays announced.
- Excited for Halloween
- More modern music
- Excited for the Formal
- Stu is a great dancer.
- Hot food would be nice
- Tuck shop busy

- Staff should dress up
- Great music
- Christmas Disco – Christmas jumpers and selection boxes
- Great Festive Music – Visit from Santa
- Love dancing.
- Making friends / seeing my friends.
- Disney songs not suitable.

55+ Club – Hollywood Area - Attendance March 23 – March 24

Month	Number of people	Month	Number of people	Month	Number of people
March	48	September	46	January	79
April	50	October	96	February	67
May	42	November	87	March	62
June	64	December	50		

Please note: some months operate only two/ three weeks of the month, as the group operates on a Monday and are closed during Bank Holidays. This is reflected in the figures.

55+ Club recently underwent a transition from being an independent group to Council provision due to the committee no longer being able to manage the group and provide the volunteer time required.

The group provides support and social connection for many women within the area of Hollywood. There are a range of activities includes armchair exercise to art and crafts and music. The group of women were predominantly characterised as those living alone and profiled as vulnerable. Recently the reinstatement of the lunch club, which has developed over the winter months, has helped to alleviate some of the hardship being felt by members and seen an increase in membership of 33%.

Play Clubs

Ards and North Down Borough Council deliver a range of Play clubs. The clubs are designed to provide a range of play and learning opportunities for children from the age of 5 years to 11 years, to engage through play and improve social connections. The provision is open to all and free of charge with a team of qualified leaders.

Location	Name of Play Club	Registered members 2023/2024
Bangor	George Green	22
Hollywood	Redburn - Tuesday	16
Bangor	Kilcooley	30
Hollywood	Redburn – Thursday	09
Bangor	Green Road	28
Bangor	Skipperstone	22
		Total: 127 children

Play club attendance – September – February 2024

Name of Club	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March
George Green	34	48	52	30	15	28	25
Redburn (Tues)	30	52	26	29	31	10	26
Kilcooley	38	19	34	20	64	23	34
Redburn (Thurs)	11	30	14	13	11	9	13
Green Road	41	63	38	28	34	35	28
Skipperstone	22	41	27	6	15	34	27
Total per month	176	253	191	126	170	139	153

Average attendance from September 2023 to March 2024 per month 173 children attending the play clubs. (A record of attendance has not been recorded from March 23 -Sept 23).

The play clubs operate on a term time basis and the programme content reflects many aspects of the world around us, national celebratory days such as Chinese New Year, St Patricks day, seasonal themed activities such as Easter, Halloween and Christmas, Health, and wellbeing. The aims of the programme are to ensure that the provision of the following elements is considered and inputted.

- Social interaction – making friends, team games, sharing our news.
- Physical play and learning sports and games.
- Environmental – world around us,
- Creative – art and crafts, drama, and dance, singing.
- Other – this can be visits from other departments within council such as the recycling team, environmental department litter picks and social responsibility, water board, facilitators such as animal road shows, music bloom musical interaction, mini explorers – sensory and creative expression through art.

Example of programme content

Activity	Health and Wellbeing
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Themed pirates – making boats and masks. • Halloween Crafts and party – including optional costume dress. • National anti-bullying week and awareness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team building games. • Music games • Sharing news • Soft archery

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cookery • Christmas crafts and party – Christmas crafts and songs, letter to Santa and visit • St Johns 1st Aid Taster Session • Recycling team visit – craft activity and interactive educational games • Music Bloom workshop 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playground games • Pancake day • Games of yesterday
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Feedback from the children attending the play clubs: -

Highlights of the play clubs from the children attending

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Men’s Shed Visit – outdoors Redburn Woodlands – really enjoying being out and running about with my friends. • Arts and crafts • Stem Toys • Visit to local Play Park • Autumn crafts and scavenger hunt. • Making animals out of fallen leaves. • Art Activity – Halloween making witches houses using junk art. Jumping bats. • Halloween costume dress, Zombie games, making spiders and creepy creatures. Chocolate apples making, dancing disco. • Games – basketball, dodgeball, badminton, curling. • Creating things with Lego • Pirate boats – playing with them after making diagrams with deserted islands and sharks. • National pirate week – competition designing pirate ships. • First aid taster session- introduction • Christmas Decorations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Christmas Wreaths • Xmas movie night • Hamma beads, Christmas tree decorations • Junk Art • Playing Pool • Recycle team – money boxes, fish tanks, pets. • Nintendo • Bowling • Scrap Bingo • Team building games – working together making tents / houses using card and tape and crayons. • Interactive games, obstacle races placing rubbish into the bins for recycling. • Sharing news • Valentines’ art and crafts – making cards. • Sensory chats on walks to the park and outside the centre –
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Comments from the children

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club is great, good to be back after the summer holidays and see the leaders and my friends. • Wish we had a club every day. • Love playing jack change it. • Love my witch house. • Most things I like are art and puzzles. • I like everything in the club. • I like to build things with Lego. • I like helping out with break – juice and toast. • I like how the clay feels. • I want to make something for my mum. • Great Fun! • I am the best at UNO Games 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Love the leaders. • Love art and crafts. • I like playing switch. • I come to see my friends. • Really enjoyed the arc 21 recycle visit making pencil cases and playing dodgeball. • Don’t like games but I had fun. • I feel happy when I am at the clubs. • I don’t like puzzles, but I like art and crafts. • I went to New York on holiday – I will share my pictures.
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really happy to see the leaders. • Really loved marshmallows for break. • Talking to friends • Halloween party 10/10 • Most amazing Halloween party ever • I enjoyed playing with the mic and singing. • Want to do more leaf pictures. • Loved singing. • Making snow globes was the best paper snowball fight. • Meeting friends • Playing together 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Heart bags made at recycling visit really cute going to give mine to my mum. • Recycle team visit – I’m out of puff but this is lots of fun I really like this game. • Sensory chats – it was getting darker. Aeroplane – noise. The toast is nice and buttery tasting. Heard cars passing. Saw litter on the ground very rude. I smelt flowers the blueberries were sweet not sour. Hearing the birds. My drink smells like frozen cherries, water feels cold. I saw the sun setting.
<p>Requests from the children</p>	<p>Dislikes</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New games for switch and Nintendo • Toys and equipment • Football match or dodgeball against another club. • I would like the clay activity again. • Hockey Games • Cookery • Litter Pick • More Trips • Can we have loom bands and hamma beads? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall too warm • I don’t like art and crafts.

Summer Scheme

The **value** of play and its benefits in the shaping of human development are widely documented. It is central to children’s learning, development, confidence, and wellbeing.

It is recognised that children have the **right** to play (UNCRC Article 31- children and young people have the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to their age, and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.)

Access is often difficult for many families. There are many barriers for children not participating and some families may face one or multiple barriers to participation. The cost-of-living crisis has placed unendurable pressure on families and people on low income.

In 2023 the Council led summer schemes were delivered by the Community Development Team in the following Community Centres/locations:

- Alderman George Green Community Centre
- Ballygowan Village Hall
- Bowtown Community Hall
- Donaghadee Community Centre.

- Portavogie Primary School.
- Redburn Community Centre.
- Westwinds Community Centre.

Three Community Led Summer Schemes were delivered in the following areas:

- Bangor, Kilcooley Community Centre – Kilcooley Women’s Centre
- Millisle, Millisle Community Hub - Millisle Youth Forum
- Portaferry, Steel Dickson Avenue - Ballyphilip Youth Club

Across both schemes, (Council and Community), there was a total of 385 places per week, (264 Council places, 121 Community partner places) 17/07/2023 – 28/07/2023). A decrease of 91 places compared with 2022 figures. Table 1 refers.

Table 1

Council Scheme Location Area	Community Centre	Number of children 2022 Per week	Number of children 2023 Per week
Newtownards	Bowtown	48	24
Newtownards	Westwind’s	48	24
Ballygowan	Ballygowan	48	24
Bangor	Alderman George Green	48	48
Carrowdore	Carrowdore	48	Site no longer used moved to Donaghadee
Hollywood	Redburn	48	48
Portavogie	Portavogie	48	48
Donaghadee	Donaghadee	New site added 2023	48
Total Per Week		336	264
Total 2 weeks		672	528

Ballygowan, Bowtown and West Winds, ran with a reduced capacity of 24 children per week (juniors ran for one week and seniors for one week), instead of 48 children per week as in previous years, which would have previously run by alternating the use of the hall with trips, allowing both schemes to run alongside each other.

The heat map below shows the locations the children travelled from to attend the summer schemes.



Income statistics – via Ticket Source

Location	Week 1	Week 2
Alderman George Green	£989.00	£1081.00
Redburn	£1058.00	£1023.50
Ballygowan	£494.50	£517.50
Bowtown	£391.00	£483.00
Donaghadee	£1069.50	£1081.00
Portavogie	£1069.50	£1000.50
Westwinds	£425.50	£414.00
	£5497.00	£5600.50

Total cost of Summer Scheme = £93,812.50	Income = £11,097.50	Net Cost = £82,715.00
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- 78 families booked over the two weeks paid @concession rate.
- 339 families booked over the two weeks paid @full rate.

Summer Scheme Partners

The Community led schemes, operate within the following areas supported by council funding and Council Officer support – Bangor, Millisle and Portaferry. The schemes provided a total of 121 places, across the areas, available per week for the period 17 July 2023 – 28 July 2023. A decrease of 91 places was identified in comparison with 2022 figures.

Table 1 represents the figures records as below:

Summer Scheme Community Partner	Location and duration	Number of Children 2022	Number of Children 2023
Kilcooley Women’s Centre	Kilcooley - 2 weeks	60 per week	52 per week
Millisle Youth Centre	Millisle - 2 weeks	30 per week	29 per week
Ballyphilip Youth Group	Portaferry - 2 weeks	50 (1 week)	40 per week
Total per week		140	121
Total per scheme full 2 weeks		280	242

- Kilcooley had a reduction in numbers because of the hall they were hiring, capacity levels were not as before.
- Portaferry ran for 1 week in 2022 and had 50 attendees in 2023 the scheme ran for 2 weeks and had an average of 40 children per week will a total of 80 over the 2 weeks, an increase in provision in Portaferry of 30 children’s places.

Community Partner Evaluation (direct quotes)

- Children absolutely loved the scheme and thoroughly enjoyed the trips laid on every day. This was the first year we didn’t have issues where parents had to withdraw their children which was a bonus for everyone. We carry out simple evaluations with the children and all were extremely positive. Some children liked some trips over others but mostly it was a mixed bag. We allocated volunteers to groups of children and used high vis jackets with our logo to ensure children were easily identifiable.
- Children and young people built up a trusting relationship with volunteers and are very open with their views and opinions. No child is made to feel left out or isolated and inclusiveness is a top priority with volunteers. Children are made to feel valued, stretch their boundaries and to have fun. Because of the behaviours of the volunteers – challenging behaviour is minimal and where it does occur the leaders deal with it in an appropriate manner.

Outcome 6: Grants

“Our communities have capacity to avail of Council funds to address locally identify needs.”

Community Development Running Costs Grant 2023/24

Total funding £92,000, Total number of groups supported 45

The Community Development running costs grants for 23/24 were open from 30 January 2023 until 27 February 2023.

The Community Development Fund (CD) is jointly provided by Ards and North Down Borough Council and the Department of Communities, under the Community Support Programme.

The purpose of the Council's Community Development Fund is to support local Community groups who require running costs for local community bases, and groups (e.g. insurance, utilities, rent/venue hire etc.), which aim to improve the quality of life in our communities.

Out of the 67 applications received 45 were successful, 9 applications did not meet the pass mark of 50% and 13 applications were deemed ineligible. Table 1 below shows the successful applicants and Table 2 the unsuccessful and ineligible applicants.

The 45 successful applicants were awarded 100% of the eligible running costs with a total value awarded of **£87,320.50**.

Table 1: Successful Applicants

#	Name Of Group	Amount Awarded
1	Ards Peninsula U3A	£2,240.00
2	Ards Peninsula Villages Partnership	£1,145.00
3	Ballyhalbert & District Community Association	£2,500.00
4	Ballyhalbert Youth Group	£1,680.00
5	Ballyphilip Youth Club	£2,350.00
6	Ballywalter Community Action group	£ 590.00
7	Ballywalter Mens Shed	£2,000.00
8	Bloomfield Community Association	£2,500.00
9	Breezemount Community Association	£2,500.00
10	Carrowdore & District CA	£2,000.00
11	Clandeboyne VCA	£2,500.00
12	Cloughey Heritage Group	£1,655.00
13	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	£2,500.00
14	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	£2,400.00
15	Discover Groomsport	£1,230.00
16	Donaghadee Community Development Association	£2,250.00
17	East End Residents Association	£2,500.00
18	Hollywood Family Trust	£2,400.00
19	Hollywood Shared Town	£1,600.00
20	Inspiring Yarns CIC	£2,500.00
21	Killinchy & District Community Development Association	£2,500.00
22	Killinchy Senior Citizens	£1,720.00
23	Lisbarnett and Lisbane Community Association	£2,500.00
24	Loughries Men's Shed	£1,260.00
25	Millisle & District Community Association	£2,500.00
26	Millisle Health and Wellbeing	£2,500.00

27	Millisle Regeneration	£2,500.00
28	Millisle Youth Forum	£2,500.00
29	Polish Association Bangor	£2,450.00
30	Portaferry and Strangford Trust	£1,730.00
31	Portaferry Community Collective	£ 995.00
32	Portaferry Community Services Ltd	£1,500.00
33	Portaferry Gala Fest	£1,600.00
34	Portaferry Mens Shed	£2,500.00
35	Portaferry WI	£ 330.00
36	Portavogie Regeneration Forum	£ 840.50
37	Redburn Loughview Community Forum	£2,500.00
38	Seahaven Residents Association	£ 700.00
39	St Patricks Community Centre	£2,500.00
40	The Link Family & Community Centre	£2,500.00
41	The Be-kind Project	£1,500.00
42	Twinkle Tots Parent and Toddler	£1,500.00
43	United Ulster History Forum	£ 800.00
44	Warehouse Open Centre	£1,955.00
45	Whitehill CA	£2,400.00
	TOTAL	£87,320.50

Table 2: Unsuccessful Applicants: -

#	Name Of Group	Reason for Unsuccessful Application
1	1st Newtownards Somme & Historical Society	Failed to reach pass mark
2	Ballygowan Concert Flute Band	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
3	Bees Needs EYC	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
4	Behind the Stable Door LTD	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
5	Cloughey & District Community Association	Failed to reach pass mark
6	Comber Youth for Christ	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
7	Find Help NI	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
8	Friends of Abbey PTA	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
9	Glenside Farm CIC	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
10	Groomsport Village Association	Failed to reach pass mark
11	Hollywood residents Association	Failed to reach pass mark
12	Kiltonga Christian Centre	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
13	Ladybirds Parenting Centre	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
14	Little Doves Childcare	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
15	Lord Londonderry's Own CLB Flute Band	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
16	Love Ballyholme	Failed to reach pass mark
17	Neurodiversity	Failed to reach pass mark
18	North Down & Ards U3A	Failed to reach pass mark
19	North Down and Ards Red Squirrels & Pine Marten Group	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
20	Portaferry in Bloom	Incomplete application / Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
21	The Gaitway Organisation	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored

22 | Uhub therapy Centre

Failed to reach pass mark

Events and Festivals Fund 2023/24**Total allocation to Community Festivals: – £82,500 Total number of groups: 20****Total numbers of participants: 45,162**

In October 2022 Council agreed this new fund “Ards and North Down Events and Festivals Fund”. Through the estimates process £175,000 was secured for 2023/24 and this amount included match funding from Department of Communities (DfC) of £31,600.

In line with the Strategy recommendations, Council agreed that the Fund would follow a 4-tier model, detailed in Table 1 below to include the festival/event type, criteria, allocated budget, and the minimum and maximum grants for each tier.

Following information workshops for potential applicants held in January 2023, Tranche 1 of the Events and Festivals Fund opened for applications on Monday 9 January 2023 and closed on Wednesday 1 February 2023. Tranche 1 was for applications for large and medium events/festivals.

Table 1: Four Tier Model

Tranche	Festival/Event	Criteria	Budget	Min-Max Grant
1	Large	Min 2,000 attending	£98,437.50	£10,001 - £20,000
1	Medium	Min 1001 attending	£38,281.25	£4001 - £10,000
2	Neighbourhood	Up to 1000 attending	£16,406.25	£1001- £4000
2	Local	Up to 500 attending	£21,875.00	Up to £1,000

In Tranche 1 Twenty-two applications were received by the closing date. The total value of the applications was (£308,832) which was over two times the total budget available for both the large and medium festivals (£136,718.75). Of the twenty-two applications received twelve were successful but only four of these were Community Events.

Table 2: Tranche 1 Community Events/Festivals – (Medium and Large)

Name of Organisation	Name of Event	Recommended Award	Attendee numbers at event / festival
Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	Comber Fringe Festival 2023	£14,856.00	10,500
Donaghadee Community Development Association	Donaghadee Summer Festival 2023	£13,125.00	15,250
Emerald Isle Highland Dance Festival Committee	Emerald Isle Highland Dancing Festival	£7,500.00	1260

Portaferry Gala Festival	Portaferry Gala Fest	£15,000.00	9600
Total of Tranche 1 Community Events / Festivals		£50,481.00	36,610 attendees

Table 1: Local Festivals recommended for Award.

Tranche 2: Local Festivals awarded				
	Group / Organisation	Name of Festival	Amount awarded	Attendee numbers at event/festival
1	Cloughey & District Community Association	Cloughey's Old fashioned day at the beach	£ 670.00	200
2	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	Family Day	£ 1,000.00	350
3	Kilcooley Women's Centre	International Women's Day	£ 700.00	130
4	Love Ballyholme	Christmas at Holme	£ 850.00	500
5	St Marys Support PS Kircubbin Parent support group	Summer Fun for Families	£ 1,000.00	300
6	St Marys Support Group	Bank Holiday Tractor run & family fun day	£ 875.00	240
7	ND & Ards U3A	U3A Songfest	£ 1,000.00	300
8	Whitehill Community Association	Whitehill Community Festival	£ 750.00	250
TOTAL of Local Community Events/Festivals			£6845.00	2270 attendees

Table 2: Neighbourhood Festivals recommended for award. –

Tranche 2: Neighbourhood Festivals recommended for award				
	Group / Organisation	Name of Festival	Eligible Amount at 100%	Attendee Numbers at event/festival
1	Ards Cycling Club	Ards Town Centre Criterium Races	£ 3,910.00	500
2	Ballygowan Community Voices	An evening of Summer / Winter Song	£ 2,310.00	780
3	Ballygowan Presbyterian Church	Community Fun day	£ 4,000.00	700
4	Friends of Columbanus Bangor (FoCB)	Columbanus Festival	£ 3,200.00	862
5	Friends of St Patricks Ballygalget	Summer Fete Day	£ 2,054.00	500
6	Hollywood Shared Town	The Creative Hollywood festival	£ 4,000.00	1040
7	Polish Association	International Childrens Day, Polish Independence Day, Cultural Christmas Celebration	£ 2,000.00	620
8	St Patricks Community Centre	Spooktacular Monster mash Halloween Fest	£ 3,700.00	1280
Total of Neighbourhood Festivals			£ 25,174.00	6,282 attendees

Table 3: Tranche 2 unsuccessful applications –

Unsuccessful Applicants			
	Group / Organisation	Name of Festival	Reason for unsuccessful application
1	Cloughey Heritage Group	Cloughey Heritage Fun day	Failed to reach pass mark
2	Glencraig IPS PTA	Community Summer Fair	Failed to reach pass mark
3	Mae Murray Foundation	Inclusive Beach Events	Failed to reach pass mark
4	Millisle & District Community Association	Burns night, Holocaust Memorial Day, St Patricks day	Failed to reach pass mark
5	Hollywood District Community Council	Hollywood May Day Fair	Failed to reach pass mark
6	Bangor & ND Samaritans	Samaritans All-Ireland conference	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
7	Friends of Abbey PTA	Spring Festival Fundraising Event	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored
8	Killinchy & District Community Association	Killinchy Community Christmas Carols & Santa visit	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored, referred to Christmas grant
9	Lisbarnett & Lisbane Community Association	Lisbane Summer Fair	Deemed as Ineligible, not scored. Application received after deadline

Seeding Grants 2023/24

The purpose of the Council's Community Development one off Seeding Grant Aid, (£200), is to support local community / voluntary groups who are in the early stages of set up. It can be used for set-up costs and to offset incidental costs such as telephone charges, venue hire, advertising, stationery, and postage.

Graeme Bannister, Director of Community and Wellbeing has delegated authority to approve Seeding Grant awards to newly constituted community groups. Seeding grants are a rolling grant programme that is open all year long.

	Group Name	Date approved by G. Bannister	Acceptance received	Date £200 grant paid
1	Discover Groomsport	08/08/2023	09/08/2023	09/08/2023
2	Ballyhalbert Park Homes Residents Association	05/10/2023	12/10/2023	12/10/2023
3	Gifted Trust CIC	24/10/2023	25/10/2023	26/10/2023
4	Hollywood Community Network	20/02/2024	29/02/2024	01/03/2024

Christmas Festival Grants 2023/24

Total budget spent £21,138.00. Total attendees: 14,625

The Council invited applications for the 2023-24 Christmas Festival Fund with a closing date of 4pm on Monday 19th June 2023. Funding for each of the villages was £1,000 and for the towns the maximum applicable was £3,000. Villages (Table 1) and Towns (Table 2).

Table 1 (VILLAGES)

	Name of group	Amount Awarded	Attendee Numbers
	Villages		
1	Ballygowan & District Community Association	£660.00	250
2	Ballyhalbert Community Association	£1,000.00	300
3	Ballywalter Community Action Group	£1,000.00	470
4	Carrowdore & District Community Association	£1,000.00	280
5	Cloughey & District Community Association	£478.00	130
6	Conlig Community Regeneration Group	£1,000.00	400
7	Discover Groomsport	£1,000.00	260
8	Greyabbey & District Community Association	£1,000.00	260
9	Killinchy & District Community Development Association	£1,000.00	240
10	Kircubbin & District Community Association	£1,000.00	375
11	Millisle & District Community Association	£1,000.00	360
12	Portaferry Gala Fest	£1,000.00	990
13	Portavogie Regeneration Forum	£1,000.00	310
	Village's Total	£12,138.00	4625 attendees

Table 2 (TOWNS)

	Name of group	Amount Awarded	Attendee numbers
	Towns		
1	Comber Regeneration Community Partnership	£3,000.00	6000
2	Donaghadee Community Development Association	£3,000.00	3000
3	Hollywood & District Community Council	£3,000.00	1000
	Town's Total	£9,000.00	10,000 attendees
	Overall Christmas 2023 Fund Total	£21,138.00	

Comber Regeneration Community Partnership held their Christmas Switch on 30 November 2023.



Groomsport Village Association – held their annual Christmas Switch on Friday 01 December 2023.



Donaghadee Community Development Association – delivered a weekend of Festival celebrations from switching of the tree lights to art and crafts and Stalls. Friday 1 December – Sunday 3 December 2023.



Hardship Funding 2023/24

Total Budget: £344,024

Total amount of groups supported: 23 groups were successful.

Ards and North Down Borough Council was awarded Hardship Funding from DfC of £344,027. The purpose of this fund was to address hardship due to the current cost of living crisis, particularly the increase in energy and food costs. The successful applicants were therefore awarded 67% of their eligible amount applied for which kept the overall awards within the funding budget.

Table 1: Hardship Fund Successful applications:

Successful Hardship Fund Breakdown - Pass mark 60%		
#	Name Of Group	Amount Awarded @ 67%
1	Ards Community Network - Project 1	£20,100.00
2	Ards Community Network - Project 2	£20,100.00
3	Bangor Foodbank	£19,212.18
4	Belfast Central Mission NDA	£17,688.00
5	Bowtown Community Development Group	£9,201.45
6	County Down Rural Community Network	£19,533.18
7	Hollywood Shared Town	£20,100.00
8	Hollywood Transition Town Ltd	£20,100.00
9	Kilcooley Women's Centre	£20,100.00
10	Ladybirds Childcare Services	£20,100.00
11	Newtownards Foodbank (Thriving Life)	£9,045.00
12	North Down Community Network	£19,952.60
13	North Down Community Works	£10,317.99
14	North Down YMCA	£8,844.00
15	North Down Women's Aid	£15,075.00
16	Orchardville	£8,375.00
17	Peninsula Healthy Living	£10,944.45
18	Portaferry Community Collective Ltd	£7,798.80
19	Redburn Loughview Community Forum	£6,700.00
20	St Marys Parent Support Group	£11,924.96
21	St Vincent de Paul	£20,100.00
22	The Hygiene Bank Ards & ND	£6,700.00
23	West Winds Development Association	£8,174.00
	Total	£330,186.61

Table 2: Hardship Fund Unsuccessful applications

Hardship Fund Applications that were unsuccessful		
#	Name Of Group	Reason for Unsuccessful Application
1	Be Kind Project	Did not reach the 60% pass mark

2	Comber Youth for Christ	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
3	Community Safet Team (ANDBC)	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
4	First Presbyterian Bangor	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
5	Groomspport Village Association	Did not reach the 60% pass mark
6	Home-Start North Down	Did not reach the 60% pass work
7	SERC & Bangor Food Bank	Application included ineligible costs and once removed they fell below the £10,000 minimum

Hardship Fund Feedback –

Bangor Foodbank ran a Community Christmas lunch with some of the Hardship funding, attending the event was some member of YMCA North Down.

Comment from YMCA North Down “We had a wonderful time this evening at the Bangor Foodbank and Community Support dinner hosted by SERC Hospitality and Culinary Arts. These kinds of heart-warming community events are gratefully received, and we are thankful that we were invited again this year. Thank you!”

St Vincent de Paul – “What this project shows, as with all the work that we do, is that there is always a requirement to help people in need in our community.

Comment from St Vincent de Paul: The people we have helped under this programme include those unable to work through physical or mental illness, refugee families, and the ‘working poor’ – people who do work, but do not earn enough to properly support themselves or their families, often because they are employed on zero-hours contracts and consequently have an insecure level of income, or whose income is just enough to support them until an unexpected cost occurs.”

Social Supermarkets

In the 2023/24 financial year Council awarded £100,277.48 in funding to two local Community Organisations towards funding local Social Supermarkets through SLAs. The SLAs were aimed at providing support ‘beyond food’ that enabled clients to access wraparound support services geared to transition people out of food poverty whilst respecting the dignity of the service users. They were intended to maximise existing support structures, services and partnerships ensuring that wraparound support was achieved.

Two local organisations were awarded funding through the scheme. North Down Community Works and Kilcooley Women’s Centre. Between them they supported 132 households over the year who were experiencing food poverty offering direct support and sign posting them to other providers.

Some feedback from Social Super Market members –

S- This programme has really had life changing effects on me and my children, I will continue to attend and hopefully I can turn my life around for my we family, my health is still deteriorating so I still have a long way to go but I can't thank these amazing people enough for their kindness support.

J- Thank you for the opportunity to lessen the burden and with the food help I've been able to move forward. I've not had to worry about food on top of everything else. I am now in a better situation the extra support has been helpful.

Direct Council Funded Special Commemorative Events –

The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III

Total budget: £37,000 (£30,000 grant aid and £7,000 party packs and Community Tea Dances.

Total number of groups supported: 60 Community Groups

Community Development department opened a funding scheme for local constituted community and voluntary groups who wished to celebrate The Coronation of his Majesty King Charles III. Grants up to £500 were available to groups and party packs.

Local community events marked The Coronation of his Majesty King Charles III with celebrations planned to take place over the Coronation Bank Holiday weekend from Friday 5th May 2023 – Monday 8th May 2023.

In addition to the funding and party packs, two over 55+ Tea Dances were delivered within Queens Hall, Newtownards, and Bangor Aurora Leisure Centre. Each location had a maximum number of 120 people per venue. The afternoon consisted of a light afternoon tea provided with refreshments accompanied by a selection of music and dancing, sequence, ball room and line dancing. Special guest in attendance Mayor Karen Douglas who took part and enjoyed some dancing with the residents of the community.

Photographs taken at Bangor Aurora and Queens Hall.





Cross Council department initiatives that Community Development staff are involved with:

- ANDBC Community Resuscitation Group
- ANDBC Sustainable tourism Group
- ANDBC All system approach to obesity group
- ANDBC Community Planning third sector group
- ANDBC Climate Action and Sustainability Champions Working Group
- ANDBC Environmental Monitoring Scheme
- ANDBC Age Friendly
- ANDBC Staff Consultative Committee
- ANDBC Community Support Steering Group
- ANDBC Grants Scheme Development Grant

Conclusion

The Community Development team will continue its work in 2024 - 2025. There will be a review of the direct provision and a new Community Development Strategy developed. Community Development has developed new monitoring systems based on outcome-based accountability to capture the work we do and to make the appropriate changes, where necessary, in response to the customers' needs and will continue to monitor programmes and encourage returned evaluations. Community Development staff will continue to work with Department for Communities whilst continuing to seek additional funding opportunities.

Unclassified

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ITEM 24**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community & Culture
Date of Report	18 June 2024
File Reference	PCSP Annual Report 2023-2024
Legislation	Northern Ireland Justice Act (2011)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	PCSP Annual Report 2023-2024
Attachments	Appendix PCSP Annual Report 2023-2024

Members will be aware that PCSP is required to submit an Annual report to the Joint Committee before the end of June annually.

The Annual report 2023-2024 is attached as appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council note the PCSP Annual report 2023-2024.



Policing & Community Safety Partnership

making Ards & North Down safer



Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership (AND PCSP)

Annual Report 2023 / 2024

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1. Introduction to Ards and North Down PCSP

1.1 Ards and North Down PCSP

On 15th June 2020 Ards and North Down PCSP was reconstituted.

The PCSP is made up of local Councillors, members of the community who were appointed by the Policing Board and representatives from statutory organisations who play a role in tackling crime and anti-social behaviour, namely.

- Police Service of Northern Ireland
- Northern Ireland Housing Executive
- Probation Board for Northern Ireland
- Health and Social Care Trust
- Education Authority
- Youth Justice Agency
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service

The PCSP is funded and monitored through the Joint Committee made up of the NI Policing Board and the Department of Justice with a legislative aim to work with their local community to help address crime, fear of crime and anti-social behaviour issues.

The 2023 – 2024 year has been a year of recovery and normalisation following the Covid-19 pandemic. This involved hard work and constant communication with our Projects and the very helpful Joint Committee staff.

There have been many examples of good practice highlighted to Joint Committee by PCSPs throughout the year which showcase the good work being carried out on the ground. PCSP utilised an Outcomes-Based Accountability (OBA) approach in reporting back to the Joint Committee using indicator and performance measure information arising from the Action Plan 2023 – 2024.

Project card templates were used for each initiative and thematic report cards submitted to Joint Committee every quarter showing a good governance perspective. The NI Audit Office has also recognised the good work that PCSPs are doing regarding using OBA.

2. Details of PCSP Membership

Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership is comprised of ten Elected Members, nine independent members and representatives from seven designated bodies. All members act as a conduit for the flow of information from members of the public to the PCSP regarding all matters relating to policing and community safety.

Membership of Ards and North Down PCSP

Aldermen	Trevor Cummings
Councillors	Alistair Cathcart (Chair) Christine Creighton Libby Douglas Lorna McAlpine Victoria Moore David Rossiter Richard Smart Pete Wray
Independent Members	Johnny Currie Sandra Henderson Louise Little Jude McNeill Janette McNulty Jo Scott (Vice Chair) Gavin Sinclair Albert Spratt

Statutory Agencies	Education Authority – Johnny Crymble Health and Social Care Trust – Lyn Preece Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service – Jonathan Gamble Northern Ireland Housing Executive – Eileen Thompson PSNI – Superintendent Johnston McDowell/Chief Inspector Trevor Atkinson Youth Justice Agency – Kelvin Doherty
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2.1: The Policing Committee

The Policing Committee forms an important element of the PCSP. The Committee which is made up of the 19 political and independent members is charged specifically with enhancing public confidence in policing by monitoring police performance and ensuring that policing services deliver for local communities.

For further information, please see:

<https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/article/1761/About-the-Policing-and-Community-Safety-Partnership>

<https://www.nipolicingboard.org.uk>

3. Borough Profile

Ards and North Down (AND) has a population of 157,000 (8.6% of the Northern Ireland total) and comprises a unique mix of urban and rural communities. The largest towns in order of size are Bangor (60,260), Newtownards (28,437), Holywood (12,131), Comber (8,933) and Donaghadee (6,856), and each is in the north of the borough.

The remainder of the population lives mainly in 19 smaller villages – Balloo, Ballygowan, Ballyhalbert, Ballywalter, Carrowdore, Conlig, Sloughy, Crawfordsburn,

Greyabbey, Groomsport, Helen's Bay, Killinchy, Kircubbin, Lisbane, Millisle, Portaferry, Portavogie, Seahill and Whiterock. 80% of residents live in the northern 25% of the Borough. Rural isolation is experienced by some communities.

The area has long been recognised as a very desirable place to live, with many and superb amenities – schools, leisure and sports facilities, good transport links, and quality infrastructure. It is one of the least deprived areas in Northern Ireland, ranking 10 out of the 11 new Council areas. However, there are five Wards ranked between the 150th and 168th most deprived in Northern Ireland; these are in Newtownards and the Ards Peninsula.

One of the primary challenges facing us from a social perspective comes from our aging population and how we can support health and wellbeing. Since 2001, there has been a 6.6% decrease in the number of people under the age of 16, while there has been marked increase of 40% in the number of people aged over 65 years. The Borough has a higher percentage of residents over the age of 40 than the Northern Ireland average, yet a lower percentage under the age of 40 years.

4. Community Planning and the PCSP

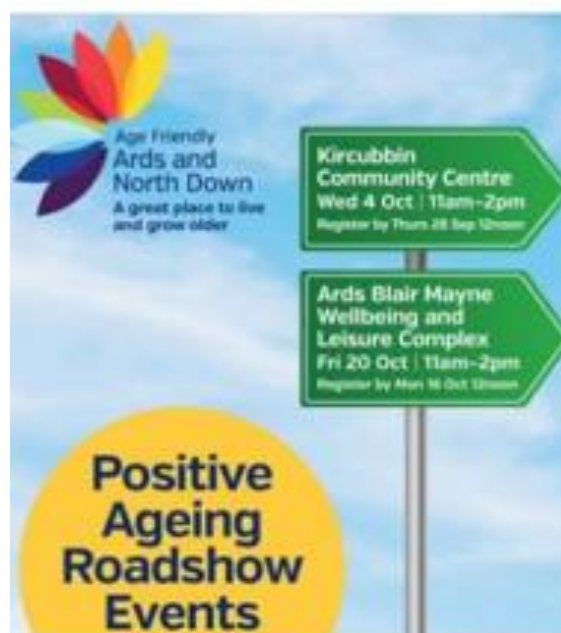
The PCSP continues to engage with the Ards and North Down Community Planning process which has resulted in the development of the Ards and North Down Big Plan. The Big Plan calls for citizens to “feel safe in their homes, in the community and out in public”. To achieve this, Outcome Three of the plan wants all citizens to be able to “Live in communities where they are respected, safe and secure”. The Big Plan highlights the PCSP as the delivery agent for community safety issues.

In keeping with this, the PCSP continues to engage with Community Planning, especially the Active Ageing element of the plan. Although not in the 2023 – 2024 Action Plan, the 2022 – 2025 AND PCSP Strategy had called for the PCSP to inform and educate older people on crime and community safety.

Positive Ageing Roadshow Events

Two roadshow events took place in collaboration with AND Council “Age friendly Alliance” and the Public Health Agency. They were held in the following locations.

- Kircubbin Roadshow: 17 attendees and 21 exhibiting stands
- Newtownards Roadshow: 83 attendees and 36 exhibiting stands



A total of 100 individuals attended the roadshows. The format of the roadshow events consisted of four key presentations which covered the following themes:

- *Home Safety* focused on Nutrition, Healthy Ageing and Falls Prevention and was delivered by Community Dietitian, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust.
- *Keeping Active* focused on the Benefits of Physical Activity for Over 50s and was delivered by Leisure Services, Ards and North Down Borough Council and Bangor Aurora.

Positive Ageing Roadshow Events

Age Friendly Ards and North Down, supported by the Public Health Agency and in partnership with Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership are hosting two roadshow events for older people living in the Borough.

The roadshows will bring a range of organisations together who will provide information on community safety, falls prevention and social participation.

To join us, you must register at least one week before your chosen event. Come on your own or with a friend. All welcome!

To register for any of the events, please email your contact details (and those of your friend if applicable), advise if special assistance is required and any dietary requirements to agefriendly@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk or call **0300 013 3333 ext 40336** or **07741 103277** (Mon-Fri, 9:30am-10:30am only)

A perfect way for you and your friend to celebrate positive ageing month.

www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/positive-ageing-month

- *Community Safety* focused on Scams Awareness and Prevention and was delivered by Crime Prevention Officer, Ards and North Down District, Police Service of Northern Ireland.
- *Preparing for the Winter* focused on financial support and the support services available from Community Advice Ards and North Down and was delivered by Community Advice Ards and North Down.

67/100% of those completing the surveys rated the event good to excellent.

5. Funding Breakdown under SP2 for 2023/2024

9 large and 5 small projects were supported during the year, and a further 12 projects were delivered directly by the PCSP working alongside other partner agencies including local schools, health agencies, the PSNI, Education Authority and Council Departments. The PSNI “Advocate for Policing Programme” contained 14 small projects mostly operating in hard-to-reach communities and run by the local Neighbourhood Policing Team.

Funding Breakdown 2023/2024

	NAME OF ORGANISATION	FUNDING AWARDED
Large Grants	<i>PSTNI / Keyhole Surgery Locksmiths</i>	£36,000.00
	<i>Ards and North Down Street Pastors</i>	£38,000.00
	Drugs Early Intervention Programme (inc Rapid Bins): <i>Lisburn YMCA</i>	£9,500.00
	Substance Abuse Awareness Project: <i>Dunlewey Addiction Services</i>	£10,000.00
	Healthy Relationships: <i>Lisburn YMCA</i>	£10,000.00
	Domestic Violence Female Victim Support Program: <i>Kilcooley Women’s Centre</i>	£14,000.00
	Domestic Violence Male Victims: <i>Nexus</i>	£5,999.00
	Small Grants	<i>Donaghadee Youth For Christ</i>
<i>Hollywood Family Trust</i>		£4,600.00
<i>Youth for Christ Ards Peninsula: Connections Project</i>		£4,600.00
<i>Comber YFC: Links Project</i>		£3,731.00
<i>Kilcooley PS: Sow, Grow, Chill and Spill Project</i>		£3,300.00

Partner Delivery	<i>Education Authority: Detached Youth Work</i>	£14,000.00
	Addressing ASB through Sports Programme: Football Project delivered by <i>Community Safety Team</i>	£7,000.00
	<i>Youth Voice</i> Education Authority project	£4,000.00
	<i>PSNI: Weavers Grange</i>	£1,010.00
	<i>PSNI: Strangford and Ganaway Activity Centre</i>	£2580.00
	<i>PSNI: Planting for the future</i>	£1500.00
	<i>PSNI: Donaghadee from Sea to Sea</i>	£2862.00
	<i>PSNI: Glen Community Mends Shed and Glen Community Boys and Girls Group</i>	£1,000.00
	<i>PSNI: Hollywood and Peninsula Multi Sports Adventure</i>	£900.00
	<i>PSNI: Catch and Release</i>	£1,500.00
	<i>PSNI: Hollywood and Peninsula Gaming Experience</i>	£2,000.00
	<i>PSNI: Safety Awareness Project</i>	£2,244.00
	<i>PSNI: Bangor Bibs and Balls</i>	£1,683.00
	<i>PSNI: Pizza with a Peeler</i>	£1,500.00
	<i>PSNI: Eddie Irvine Fun Days</i>	£1,500.00
<i>PSNI: Escape Rooms</i>	£1,080.00	
Projects delivered by the PCSP	<i>Bee Safe: Environmental Health</i>	£4,000.00
	<i>Road Safety: PSNI</i>	£ 5,000.00
	Cyber Crime Initiative	£3,000.00
	AND PCSP Fixed SID Programme	£2,783.00
	Short Term Youth Intervention Programme: <i>Community Safety Team</i>	£6,000.00
	Hate Crime Project: <i>Good Relations</i>	£2,000.00
	Safe Place / DV Project	£ 1,050.00

	Schools Youth Engagement Scheme: <i>Community Safety Team</i>	£10,000.00
	South Eastern Sexual & Domestic Violence Partnership	£3,000.00



Chairman Councillor Alistair Cathcart and Vice Chair Jo Scott meeting with the PSNI Ards and North Down District Commander Johnston McDowell to talk about policing issues affecting the Borough.

6. Strategic Priority 1: *To Successfully Deliver the Functions of Ards and North Down PCSP*

PCSP members undertook engagement with the local community in the development of the new action plan for 2024 – 2025 whilst at the same time implementing the 2023 – 2024 Action Plan.

6.1: Development of the 2023 – 2024 PCSP Action Plan

PCSP staff worked from November 2023 to February 2024 to develop the 2024 – 2025 Action Plan. This involved drawing on the intensive consultation done in 2023 to develop the 2022 – 2025 Strategy.

The consultation for the 2022 – 2025 Strategy involved:

- 22 consultation opportunities across the borough involving all 7 DEAs, all Section 75 groups, all 41 councillors, all existing PCSP projects and all stakeholders.
- 300 people / organisations engaged in consultation

The 2024 – 2025 Action Plan consultation involved.

- Three workshops including a Turning the Curve meeting with PCSP members and 3 meetings with PCSP and council staff.
- 47 members of the public surveyed.
- Desktop research and consultation with all existing projects and partner organisations alongside recent crime statistics and AND PCSP OBA data for the 2023 – 2024 year.

The Action Plan was signed off by the PCSP and submitted by the due date and approved by the Joint Committee.

6.2: Administrative Activities

In carrying out this work PCSP members: -

- Held five private PCSP meetings
- Attended three community safety sub-group meetings.
- Attended one training sessions on interview assessments
- Delivery of promotional strategy.
 - Through the media, 4 press releases published.
 - 119 Facebook updates utilising local, PSNI, DoJ, Policing Board and Crimestopper posts including the Money laundering Programme.
 - Web-based information.



PCSP Chairman, Councillor Alistair Cathcart and PSNI visited Clandeboye Primary School with a new No Parking sign to help highlight the parking issues around the school grounds.

7. Strategic Priority 2: To Improve Community Safety by Tackling Crime and Antisocial Behaviour

7.1 Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) – Sub Theme

Projects Supported

Programme Name	Details	Delivery Organisation
Sport Leadership Programme	Provision of an online sports leadership programme with targeted diversionary and detached youth sessions.	Rangers Football Club / Community Safety Team

Voluntary Street Wardens Programme	To reduce and prevent violent and alcohol related crime, fear of crime and ASB within hotspot areas through reassurance/engagement	Ards and North Down Street Pastors
ASB - Youth Engagement Scheme	To reduce ASB in within the Borough by providing engagement, education, and diversionary activities.	Community Safety Team.
EA Detached Youth Project	To address levels of ASB by running a detached youth project in the borough.	Education Authority
ACE Programme	Seminars to develop understanding regards adverse childhood experiences.	SEHSCT - Unable to proceed as course is unavailable at present.

7.1.1 ASB Sports Programme

To reduce anti-social behaviour through sport, the PCSP working with Council’s Community Safety Team and PSNI. They delivered 8 sessions of diversionary and detached youth work to 20 participants and 100% of participants were satisfied with the programme and 90% recorded increased awareness of the consequences of ASB.

7.1.2 Voluntary Street Warden Scheme

Utilising procurement procedures, 2023 – 2024 was the 2nd year of the new 3-year contract for the Voluntary Street Warden Scheme. Their role is to care, listen and help by engaging with the public across the whole Borough during weekend nights and at special events and during the summer when crowds flock to the beaches. The Ards and North Down Street Pastors delivered of a total of 147 patrols in the Borough across the year engaging with a total of 10,500 people with an average over the 4 quarters of 98% satisfaction.



They attend regular meetings between Street Pastors, the Councils Community Safety Team,

and the Police. They also assist the PCSP at community events. The Street Pastors are there for the public at concerts, bank holidays and on rainy winter nights keeping people safe.

7.1.3 ASB: Youth Engagement Scheme – Community Safety Team

This Youth Engagement Scheme run by the Community Safety Team commenced later in the financial year. It delivered 15 detached youth work sessions involving 150 young people who were diverted to the youth hub and other youth facilities. It was reported that 100% of those engaged had increased knowledge of the effects of ASB and 84% had a changed attitude.

7.1.4 and 7.1.5 Addressing ASB hotspots areas – collaborative Community Safety Team (CST) and multi-agency approach.

7.1.4 Ards Blair Mayne Programme to Address ASB

The interagency response to address levels of ASB Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre in Newtownards continued to tackle ASB in the play parks that surrounded it during 2023 – 2024. ASB has now reduced by 28%.

7.1.5 Aurora Leisure Centre Programme

In a similar situation the Aurora leisure centre in Bangor that had experienced high levels of ASB in previous years saw ASB drop to 28% during the 2023 – 2024.

AND Council Community Safety Team working with EA, PSNI, Council leisure staff, and the Street Pastors addressed this issue through planned patrols of CST, Police, Street Pastors and EA detached youth workers.

The agencies involved continue to meet as a monthly forum to plan activities and monitor the situation.

7.1.6 EA Youth Diversion

The EA ran 2 youth projects: The Detached Youth Project and Youth Voice.

The Detached Youth Project ran 85 sessions with 294 participants of which 100% were reported increased knowledge and changed attitudes to ASB. ASB fell by an average of 28% in the area where the EA project was operational over the year.

Youth Voice held 12 sessions and one residential session with 30 participants, and they were 100% satisfied and 100% informed.

7.1.7 ASB Small Grants

In the 2023 – 2024 action plan, PCSP included a publicly advertised small grants programme seeking applications from local groups supporting projects which addressed ASB in hotspots within the Borough. A total of 6 applications were scored by a panel of PCSP members and Council Officers under Covid regulations with 5 projects reaching the agreed threshold score to receive funding. The purpose of these projects was to develop community safety awareness amongst young people to tackle ASB in local neighbourhoods. The 5 approved projects engaged with the wider community to tackle ASB and increased local confidence in the PSNI.

Project name	Delivery Organisation	Details
Youth Diversion Project	Donaghadee YFC	A detached youth work project delivering 85 outreach sessions, to 282 young people. 100% of participants satisfied and 100% reporting increased awareness of ASB.
Hollywood Family Trust – Outreach Project	Hollywood Family Trust	Detached youth programme delivering 21 sessions with 157 participants. 100% reporting satisfaction and 75% increasing awareness of the effects of ASB.
Youth Diversion Project	YFC Ards Peninsula	Detached youth programme delivering 38 sessions with 216 participants. 100% reporting satisfaction and 95% increasing awareness of the effects of ASB.

<p>North Down Drop in Project</p>	<p>Comber Youth For Christ</p>	<p>Detached youth programme delivering 47 sessions with 83 participants. 90% reporting satisfaction and 95% increasing awareness of the effects of ASB.</p>
<p>Sow, Grow, Stay and Chill</p>	<p>Kilcooley Primary School</p>	<p>Early intervention gardening project for primary pupils involving 60 sessions, 340 children and 4 parents. 95% of participants satisfied and 90% reported an increased awareness of the consequences of ASB.</p>

The 5 approved projects supported a total of 531 sessions delivered to over 1078 young people from the Borough. Through all the programmes delivered there was an average of 90% increase in knowledge and change in the attitudes of the young people involved in ASB.



Coffee with a Cop event

7.1.8 ASB- ACE Programme

The Action Plan included the delivery of an Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) awareness raising and training project. However, the events could not be held as the Trust no longer run this training to external bodies.

7.2 Drugs and Alcohol ASB – Sub Theme

The PCSP works closely with the PSNI regarding the monitoring and reduction of criminality related to alcohol and substance abuse in the Borough. PCSP staff also engaged with the South Eastern Drugs and Alcohol Coordination Team (SEDACT) to support a range of important interventions to reduce the level of drug related criminality in the Borough. PCSP commissioned two Tier 2 drug intervention programmes and supported community RAPID drug bins for the disposal of prescription medication. We continued to promote a Borough wide drug awareness campaign through social media and the distribution of flyers and posters.

RAPID Drug Bins: AND PCSP now operate 6 RAPID bins. Publicity has continued and the contents lifted from these bins are reported to the members.

Due to two of the centres where the bins are located having limited footfall after reopening following the Covid-19 pandemic the amounts of drugs / medications lifted from some bins has been lower than usual.



Lisburn YMCA: The YMCA ran a Tier 2 Drugs Intervention Programme for young people and delivered 41 sessions to 130 participants. It was recorded that 93.5% were satisfied with the programme content and 96.2% had an increased knowledge of mental health, alcohol, and drug use.

Dunlewey Addiction Services: A Tier 2 support (counselling support) programme for adults with addiction problems. The funding supported additional sessions and the opportunity for counselling to be based in more accessible locations. A total of 426 sessions were delivered engaging with a total of 128 individuals. It was reported that 90% of participants reported changed behaviours after completing the programme. The programme also recorded 100% of participants had increased knowledge of the risks and harm caused by excessive drink and drugs.

7.3 Domestic and Sexual Violence – Sub Theme

7.3.1: South Eastern Sexual and Domestic Violence Partnership

The PCSP continues to support victims and raise awareness of domestic violence and sexual assault through online events. It has commenced working with Traci Kimber, the new coordinator from the South Eastern Sexual and Domestic Violence Partnership (SEDSVP), which has rebuilt its membership, strategy, and action plans under their new coordinator.

SEDSVP have recommenced their work with continued distribution of the “Where is the Line” Domestic Violence video translated into 3 ethnic minority languages. It is being used by Domestic Violence staff, schools, trade unions and by social work training in Scotland. It even found its way to Malaysia where it was dubbed for the local need. They held 6 planning and information meetings attended by 5 agencies and up to 7 professional workers.

SEDSVP also held 2 successful masterclass seminars attended by 40 professional social workers, pastoral teachers and Domestic Violence workers educating them on the use of “Digital Devices in Domestic Violence” linked to 2022 legislation. They also held a fun run in June 2023 to highlight the Domestic Violence helpline.



**domestic and
sexual abuse
helpline
0808 802 1414**

7.3.2: Domestic Violence Female Victim Support Programme

Kilcooley Women’s Centre delivered a programme of advice and support and training to female victims of sexual and domestic abuse. They delivered 17 sessions to 45 women who reported feeling safer and having a 93% increase in their knowledge of Domestic Violence and the support services available.

7.3.3: Domestic Violence Male Victim Support Programme

Nexus ran 59 counselling sessions with 10 men who recorded 100% feeling safer and having increased awareness of DV and the support services available.

7.3.4: Healthy Relationships Programme

Lisburn YMCA ran a very successful schools / children's homes / community programme involving sessions with 28 schools / SERC / 2 cared for children's homes, and 1 community youth setting with 2290 young people resulting in 94.3% increased knowledge of DV and who to contact for help. Many other local schools who heard of the programme are interested in receiving it or the teaching resources in the future. Pastoral teachers attending the SEDSVP training sessions remarked on this programme and that it should be available in all schools.

Domestic and Sexual Awareness Promotional

Campaign: The PCSP has continued to highlight and promoted awareness of sexual and domestic violence issues.



7.4 Hate Crime - Sub Theme

The PCSP team partnered with Council's Good Relations section and supported the Small World Café. One session was held with 50 participants resulting in a 100% increase in knowledge of hate crime.

7.5 Rural Crime and the Support Hub- Sub Theme



Three Trailer marking and eight Bike marking sessions took place in in 2023 – 2024 with 100 members of the public helped and advised by PSNI / PCSP. The PCSP also continued to support the further roll out of Farm Watch through the distribution of leaflets and posters and this promotion has now resulted in new farm watch schemes in the 2023 – 2024 year.

7.6 Support Hub – Sub Theme

The Support Hub has a focus on supporting those most vulnerable in the Ards and North



Down Area. The Hub brought together a range of statutory agencies which included the Probation Board, Education Authority, Youth Justice Agency, Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service, Health Trust, PSNI, Ambulance Service, NIHE and Council. A

total of 12 meetings were held during 2023/2024 with an average of 9 vulnerable people supported and sign posted to the most appropriate services.

7.6 Burglary and Fear of Crime - Sub Theme

To tackle burglary and fear of crime the PCSP supported:

Neighbourhood Watch: There are 20 Neighbourhood Watch schemes in the AND area covering 1628 households.

4 Tier Home Security: Ards and North Down PCSP continued to support the 4-tier secure scheme that secures residential homes through providing/fitting target hardening security equipment. The scheme is aimed at vulnerable people who have been victims of crime, domestic abuse and ASB and works in partnership with the PSNI crime prevention officer. During 2023 – 2024 the scheme fitted security measures in 185 homes and gave security advice to people who did not receive fitted equipment with 100% of people feeling safer in their own homes.



PCSP and the PSNI at Comber Fair in the Square



PSNI Road Safety Road Show

The *PSNI Road Safe Road Show* was back in 2023-2024. One roadshow was held were held involving 800 pupils and 100% satisfaction from the schools involved.

The successful *Bikesafe Programme* continued in 2023 - 2024 and involved 18 riders and 4 PSNI experts.

The P7 *Bee-Safe Programme* was delivered by the PCSP in partnership with Council's Environmental Health Department. It accomplished the following:

- 9 days of Bee safe education
- 47 schools and 1700+ pupils involved.
- 6 Agencies involved including blue light services.

1700+ pupils recorded greater awareness of risks and 40 schools rated the 9 days as good to excellent.

8. Strategic Priority 3 – To Support Community Confidence in Policing

The PCSP Policing Committee sought to increase community confidence in policing through monitoring policing performance, facilitating community engagement with police, supporting the anti-social behaviour forum, and advocating for a culture of lawfulness.

The PCSP committee held three quarterly Monitoring Sub-Group meetings to help PCSP Members monitor police performance. The PCSP also held three quarterly Policing Committee meetings examining the performance of the PSNI against the Local Policing Plan.

The PCSP advocated a culture of lawfulness through the involvement of the PSNI in a number of active groups. Due to the Covid-19 regulations these meetings occurred online. They included:

- The ASB Forum: Twelve online / face to face meetings were held involving several agencies including the NI Housing Executive, Housing Associations, Council's Environmental Health, PSNI, PCSP and other statutory agencies to address ASB concerns in the Borough. All 7 agencies recorded 100% satisfaction and believed the meetings contributed to the Borough being a safer place.
- The District Support Hub: The hub continues to bring together statutory agencies including the NI Housing Executive, PSNI, NI Fire and Rescue Service, Probation Board, Youth Justice Agency, Education Authority, Ambulance Service and South-Eastern Health Trust, and relevant Council departments, to strategically support cases individuals within the community. 12 Support Hub meetings took place online and supported 9 vulnerable people. The Agencies involved reported 100% satisfaction.
- Regular monthly meetings occur between PSNI, Council's Community Safety Team, and the Voluntary Street Wardens to discuss ASB and deployment priorities.

8.1 PSNI Projects

The PCSP approved within the Action Plan a budget of £19,000.00 to support 14 different projects planned by the PSNI aimed at increasing confidence in Policing and the Law.

Police projects

Weavers Grange

How much did we do?

1 Activity day, provision of security advice and support
60 participants.

How well did we do it?

97% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

53 have a changed attitude to the rule of law

49 More likely to engage with police

47 have more confidence in the PSNI

Strangford and Ganaway Activity

How much did we do?

6 sessions involving 25 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

25 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

25 /100% More likely to engage with police

25 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Planting for the future

How much did we do?

6 sessions involving 150 participants (5 Schools).

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

150 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

150 /100% More likely to engage with police

150 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Donaghadee from Sea to Sea

How much did we do?

1 session involving 24 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

24 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

24 /100% More likely to engage with police

24 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Glen Community – Mens Shed

Completed in qr3 but only reported in qr4.

How much did we do?

20 sessions involving 180 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

180 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

180 /100% More likely to engage with police

180 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Hollywood and Peninsula Multi Sports adventure**How much did we do?**

4 sessions involving 20 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

20 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

20 /100% More likely to engage with police

20 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Catch and release**How much did we do?**

4 sessions involving 25 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

25/ 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

25 /100% More likely to engage with police

55 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Hollywood and Peninsula Gaming experience**How much did we do?**

6 sessions involving 95 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

95 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

95 /100% More likely to engage with police

95 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Safety Awareness Project

How much did we do?

4 sessions involving 55 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

55 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

55 /100% More likely to engage with police

55 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Bangor Bibs and Balls

How much did we do?

5 sessions involving 60 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

60 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

60 /100% More likely to engage with police

60 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Pizza with a Peeler

How much did we do?

20 groups involving 170 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

170 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

170 /100% More likely to engage with police

170 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Eddie Irvine Fun Days

How much did we do?

8 sessions involving 120 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

120 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

120 /100% More likely to engage with police

120 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

Escape Rooms

How much did we do?

5 sessions involving 20 participants.

How well did we do it?

100% satisfied.

Is anyone better off?

20 / 100% have a changed attitude to the rule of law

20 /100% More likely to engage with police

20 / 100% have more confidence in the PSNI

9. Policing Committee activities during 2023 – 2024

Three Policing Committee meetings took place with an average of 75% attendance. Three PCSP Monitoring Sub-Group meetings also took place. 12 ASB Forum meetings were supported by the PSNI.



10. Ards and North Down PCSP Contact Details

Emma Keenan

PCSP Officer

Ards and North Down Policing and Community Safety Partnership

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Signal Centre

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BT19 7PD

Tel: 028 9182 4070

E-mail: pcsp@ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Financial statement to follow

Unclassified

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ITEM 25**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Community and Culture
Date of Report	08 August 2024
File Reference	CW154
Legislation	Section 75 of the NI Act 1998
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Home Office Funding
Attachments	None

Members will be aware that the war in Ukraine has seen many refugees arriving in the UK and NI seeking sanctuary. The Ukrainian refugees were given permission to enter by the Home Office under three different schemes:

- Ukraine Family Scheme
- Homes for Ukraine Sponsorship Scheme
- Ukraine Extension Scheme

Those who entered under the Ukraine Family Scheme are allowed to live, work and study here with access to public funds for up to 3 years.

Earlier this year the Good Relations Officer applied to the Executive Office for funding of £50,000 in respect of refugee integration funding with monies to be used by 31 March 2025.

This funding has been released by Home Office to support projects which will support refugee integration and self-sufficiency.

Not Applicable

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Funding should be specifically used for projects using some/all of the following headings:

- Cultural and community orientation
- Stakeholder engagement and raising of awareness
- Language support and advocacy services
- Provision of telephony advice
- Building local integration capacity
- Sporting and cultural integration activities
- ESOL classes
- Supporting mental and physical wellbeing
- Wraparound support and coordination hubs.

The funding will continue to provide support for the Refugee and Asylum Forum, YMCA, The Link and Council.

The YMCA service will provide:

- Language support and advocacy services to refugees living and arriving in AND, such as access to health care, education, welfare and employment.
- Information and support to local individuals and organisations hosting Ukrainian refugees under 'Homes for Ukraine' and Ukrainian Family scheme.
- Facilitate access to 'Home for Ukraine', Ukrainian Family Scheme and Ukrainian Extension Scheme for both sponsors (individuals and organisations based in AND) and beneficiaries (Ukrainian citizens).
- Weekly drop-in advocacy clinics at YMCA North Down (Bangor) and at The Link in Newtownards plus floating support across AND (including Ards Peninsula outreach).
- Provide a meeting space for refugees and their sponsors.
- Support refugees to transfer biometric permit/ card to evisa, a new requirement of the Home Office.
- Facilitate access to ESOL classes for refugees.
- Facilitate access to support groups and organisations for refugees.
- Facilitate and support the refugee forum addressing local needs.
- Support the forum and their members to provide events and needs based sporting and cultural integration activities.
- Support the forum and its members to build local integration capacity.

In addition to the wraparound service provided by YMCA, Council will enrol the services of The Link in Newtownards to continue to provide:

- ESOL classes for refugees.
- Provide a meeting space for refugees and their sponsors.
- Language support and advocacy for the students as the need arises.
- Supporting mental and physical well-being.
- Weekly drop-in advocacy clinics at The Link provided by YMCA.

Council will support and assist the Refugee and Asylum Forum with funding to:

Not Applicable

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- Encourage participation in sporting and cultural activities with the provision of materials and equipment e.g. football boots, celebratory events.
- Build local integration capacity with workshops on increasing their knowledge of local customs.
- Increase the knowledge and capacity of local communities to aide integration by providing workshops and real-life scenarios.
- Deliver programmes/ workshops to encourage refugee employment.
- Support the wraparound services provided by YMCA, The Link, and Forum Members including churches and local facilitators.
- Source providers for any specific identified needs.
- Support eligible individuals with business plans and sources of funding through the Council Go Succeed programme.

The support will be kept under review and may be amended in response to the needs of the service users.

Now more than ever the need for support and integration for refugees in ANDBC is paramount to ensure they do not feel isolated or unsafe whilst living in our Borough.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the report.

Unclassified

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ITEM 26**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Community and Wellbeing Committee
Date of Meeting	11 September 2024
Responsible Director	Director of Community and Wellbeing
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Leisure Services
Date of Report	28 August 2024
File Reference	CW74
Legislation	Recreation and Youth Services Order (1986)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A For information only
Subject	Portavogie and Portaferry 3g pitches and Portaferry Sport Centre floor bimonthly update
Attachments	Appendix 1 Portavogie Update Report number 7. August 2024 Appendix 2 Portaferry Update Report August 2024

In February 2024, Council agreed to the following, “that Council notes the closure of the training area at Portavogie Football Pitch due to health and safety concerns, recognises the negative impact this has on local provision and sports development and tasks Officers to bring forward a report on options to provide temporary training facilities in the village in the short term and repairs to the pitch in the long term. As a matter of urgency Council tasks Officers to bring forward a bimonthly progress report on the development of the Portavogie 3G Pitch, Portaferry Sports Centre and Portaferry 3G Pitch to this committee.”

This report provides the 3 updates requested on a bi-monthly basis, and for the 2 capital projects, in a ‘RAG’ format as requested by the proposer in May 2024.

Not Applicable

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1. The project update for the Portavogie 3G project is attached at appendix 1.
2. The project update for the Portaferry 3G project is attached at appendix 2.
3. In relation to the completion of the repairs to the sports hall floor of the Portaferry Sports Centre, the hall remains only partly usable, with no funding yet committed by the owner to carrying out the remaining repairs. A further meeting was requested by the Leisure Services Manager with the Diocesan Trustee and St MacNissi's Educational Trust on 2nd August in relation to this issue to which elected members can be invited. A meeting has been proposed for week beginning 16th September.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the updates included in this report.

Portavogie 3G Project
Information up to date as of 7th August 2024

This report has been prepared for information purposes and is issued to interested parties to update them on the most pressing of work streams currently being undertaken.

Planning application: LA06/2020/0844/F (submitted on 21 September 2020)
Proposal: Upgrade to existing football ground to include the placement of the existing grass pitch with synthetic surface, fencing and floodlighting along with replacement changing pavilion, additional car parking spaces and associated siteworks
Location: Football ground to the rear of no. 8 and 10 New Harbour Road, Portavogie

For Information – RAG status

Green	Amber	Red
Good progress is being made, with no significant issues.	Progress is being made with some issues needing to be worked through.	Issues exist that could put elements or the whole project at risk.

Background

A planning application was submitted 3 years and 11 months ago in September 2020. All consultation responses were received one year later, in September 2021, except NI Water (NIW) consultation response.

NIW have issued reports and maps that indicate the underinvestment and lack of capacity over significant areas of Northern Ireland, which is stifling, delaying, and preventing a large amount of capital development projects throughout Northern Ireland. Portavogie is one of the areas affected.

With regards to Portavogie, NIW responded to the planner in November 2021 objecting to the scheme and started a process that resulted in them requesting additional design works related to their infrastructure in the vicinity of the site. The design was to be carried out and developed to Stage 2 (as outlined in their solutions report) to allow NIW's sign off on the proposal and issue of their final consultation response to Planning.

1. Programme

Green	Amber	Red
	The programme for the delivery of the project cannot be determined until planning is granted as there are too many variables to accurately predict a date when the planning application will be determined.	

Portavogie 3G Project
Information up to date as of 7th August 2024

While positive progress has been made recently to secure planning permission, Council awaits sign off from outstanding statutory consultees through the formal planning process. The project programme will be updated when we have assurance that Planning approval will be granted and a realistic timeframe for securing same has been provided.

2. NI Water: Offsetting

Green	Amber	Red
Good progress is being made and a solution has been agreed with NIW, conditional response received from this statutory consultee.		

Following re-consultation through the formal planning process, NIW responded in July 2024 to confirm their conditional approval of the submitted drainage offsetting proposal. The proposed solution will free up capacity within the existing, adjacent combined sewer by redirecting drainage from Portavogie Primary School, to facilitate a foul drainage connection from the development site into the adjacent combined public sewer.

This is a positive step forward, however it should be noted that legal permission from the Education Authority (EA), is to be secured in order to carry out the drainage works within the grounds of Portavogie Primary School (PPS) and to comply with NIW’s conditional approval.

The EA’s solicitor is currently reviewing the drainage proposal and we await confirmation on the estimated timescale to complete their assessment and provide the necessary legal permission, to carry out the proposed drainage works. Our most recent communication with the EA was on the 5th of August when we again requested a progress update to inform our programming. The EA has advised that their legal advisors are currently working through a number of priority projects and will provide an update at the earliest opportunity.

3. NI Water: Requisition

Green	Amber	Red
NIW has provided a conditional response to the resubmitted requisition application (received on 11.06.24)		

The development of the detailed design for the requisition sewer is in progress, following ANDBC’s payment of a £10K deposit, paid to NIW on the 21st June, as required to commence design. The proposed requisition/ sewer extension is required to drain surface run off from the proposed site and facilitate a connection for the re-routed PPS storm drainage (subject to receipt of the EA’s legal permission). This

Portavogie 3G Project
Information up to date as of 7th August 2024

aspect of the drainage proposal has received NIW’s conditional approval through the formal planning process, will be constructed by NIW and will be a key consideration in the construction programming for the new facility.

4. Planning: Statutory Consultation – Shared Environmental Services

Green	Amber	Red
	Additional Mitigation measures to prevent granular infill material entering the aquatic environment to be included in an updated HRA and submitted to SES. As this is new legislation, appropriate design solutions need to be developed.	

In response to the EU future ban of use of microplastics in artificial pitches, SES has reconsulted on all live planning applications affected by this decision, including this proposal in Portavogie. There is good and ongoing communication with SES who require an updated HRA, to demonstrate how infill material will be intercepted and prevented from entering the water environment. Our consultants have been instructed to provide the requested additional information and associated drainage drawings, to inform the updated HRA. This work is in progress as we work towards securing SES’s acceptance of the proposed measures and their approval through the formal planning consultation process.

5. Planning Update: General

Green	Amber	Red
	NIW conditional response to statutory consultation received. Requirement for updated HRA and reconsultation with the relevant statutory consultees.	

Action being taken to secure positive response to reconsultation with SES (as noted in item 4 above).

Dfl Rivers have been re-consulted to see if they are content with the latest consultation response from NI Water.

NIEA’s Water Management Unit and DEARA’s Marine and Fisheries Division will also be reconsulted on the updated HRA. SES require their responses to further inform

Portavogie 3G Project
Information up to date as of 7th August 2024

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their assessment of the updated proposal and mitigation measures to address the latest EU guidance on microplastics.

Peninsula 3G Project
Information up to date as of 28th August 2024

Planning application: Not yet submitted
Proposal: A full-size GAA 3G pitch to assist a range of GAA clubs and Soccer clubs in the area, for competitive GAA matches and multi sports training. Set close to St Columba’s College with the intention that the school will make full use of the pitch during school hours.
Location: Cloughey Road Portaferry, behind the leisure centre

For Information – RAG status

Green	Amber	Red
Good progress is being made, with no significant issues.	Progress is being made with some issues needing to be worked through.	Issues exist that could put elements or the whole project at risk.

Background

1. Design consultants appointed
2. Establishment of and site surveys in progress.
3. Preferred layout established and agreed with the clubs.
4. Updated Capital Costs by consultant exceed the current Project Budget, Project Board instructed capital team to continue with the full scheme through the planning process following which the cost shortfall will be addressed via an updated Business Case by leisure.

1. Programme

N/A
The programme for the delivery of the project cannot be determined until planning is granted as there are too many variables to accurately predict a date as to when the planning application will be submitted and or determined at this stage.
Currently at RIBA Stage 2 Feasibility and Concept Design

2. Key Risks

Amber
There have been several risks identified with particularly relevance to the stage, the top five are:
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Funding allocated £2.3m within the current project prioritisation current estimated cost £6m not included in last years rate setting and or in the project prioritisation 2. Badger set on site to be avoided 3. Water based habitat system over a large element of the site 4. Confirmation required for land lease or acquisition. 5. Close out of statutory consultees including NIWater, NIEA through PAD process

Peninsula 3G Project
Information up to date as of 28th August 2024

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3. Costs

Red

The estimated cost has risen since the OBC from [REDACTED] (*redacted as commercially sensitive*) this is due to:

- The original OBC was produced 2016/17 and at this stage the costs were established at 2017 rates. We have now predicted the cost at the potential midpoint of construction, that is more likely to be 2027. Therefore 10 years increase of costs.
- Construction inflation has risen significantly in recent years and although has settled it has not reduced.

In the original OBC:

- The pavilion was smaller
- New electrical supply to the site was not taken for
- Preliminaries were a far lower percentage, a more realistic percentage based on recent experience has now been used
- A smaller car park was proposed
- No optimism bias allowance
- No allowance for earth works
- No allowance for fencing
- No allowance for drainage
- No allowance for new organic infill

4. Environmental Issues

Amber

- A full set of surveys have been instructed and early engagement with relevant statutory consultees including NIWater has taken place.
- The Badger set identified on site has been accommodated and an agreed layout established that leaves it undisturbed.
- A water-based habitat system that NIEA will require protection is currently being investigated and surveys undertaken. The current initial idea is to investigate relocating this habitat, if it was left in place the 3G pitch will not fit on the site. The proposed new location is between the proposed new 3G pitch and the council's soccer grass pitch, this would require some re-routing of the water course that exists in the area to ensure a wet area is maintained. There is even the potential in increasing the wet land so providing added environmental and ecological benefits. The earth works and cost of these works is currently not known at this stage and no allowance has been made in the estimated costs.

5. Lands

Green

Discussions with the Education Authority regarding lands are going well with good dialogue established.