November 27th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 3rd December 2025** at **7:00 pm** in **Hybrid - Church Street, Newtownards and via Zoom.**

Agenda

Agenda

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1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for Approval

3. Notice of Motion 673 Extension of Public Toilet Opening Hours During the Summer Months

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4. Notice of Motion 632 HRC Pedestrian Access Trial 2025

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Item 4 Appendix 1 Pedestrian access publicity.pdf *Page 9*

5. Replacement Skip Strategy

Item 5 Replacement Skip Strategy Report.pdf *Page 12*

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6. Notice of Motion 629 Clandeboye Park and Pitch Update

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7. Notice of Motion 644 Bowtown Play Park Update

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Reports for Noting

8. Notice of Motion 585 Maintaining Beaches and Our Coastal Environment

Item 8 Notice of Motion 585 Coastal Management Report and Beach Maintenance.pdf *Page 31*

9. Notice of Motion 581 Cemetery Maintenance Six Month Review

Item 9 Notice of Motion 581 Cemetery Maintenance - Six Month Review.pdf *Page 36*

10. Quarterly Sustainable Energy Management Strategy Update 2025-26 Q2

Item 10 Quarterly Sustainable Energy Management Strategy Update 2025-26 Q2.pdf *Page 40*

Item 10 Appendix 1 ANDBC Energy Strategy Action Plan Q2 25-26 Update.pdf *Page 47*

11. Northern Ireland Local Authority Municipal Waste Management Statistics, April to June 2025

Item 11 NI Local Authority Municipal Waste Management Statistics, April to June.pdf *Page 64*

12. Any Other Notified Business

IN CONFIDENCE

Reports Delegated for Decision/Approval (In Confidence)

13. Extension of Various Waste Management Tenders

Item 13 Extention of Various Waste Managment Tenders.pdf *Not included*

14. Extension of Tender for Bitmacing Work at Various Council Properties

Item 14 Extension of Tender for Bitmacing Work at Various Council Properties.pdf *Not included*

15. Depot Rationalisation: Appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team - Feasibility Studies and Outline Business Case for Waste and Operations Depot Rationalisation

Item 15 Depot Rationalisation Appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team.pdf *Not included*

16. Tender for the Provision of Minor External Works

Item 16 Tender for the Provision of Minor External Works (002).pdf *Not included*

0.ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

26 November 2025

Dear Sir/Madam

You are hereby invited to attend a hybrid meeting (in person and via Zoom) of the Environment Committee of Ards and North Down Borough Council in the Council Chamber, 2 Church Street, Newtownards on **Wednesday, 3 December 2025** commencing at **7.00pm.**

Yours faithfully

Michael Steele
Acting Chief Executive
Ards and North Down Borough Council

A G E N D A

1. Apologies

2. Declarations of Interest

Reports for Approval

3. Notice of Motion 673 - Extension of Public Toilet Opening Hours During the Summer Months (Report attached)

4. Notice of Motion 632 - HRC Pedestrian Access Trial 2025 (Report attached)

5. Replacement Skip Strategy (Report attached)

6. Notice of Motion 629 - Clandeboye Park and Pitch Update (Report attached)

7. Notice of Motion 644 - Bowtown Play Park Update (Report attached)

Reports for Noting

8. Notice of Motion 585 - Maintaining Beaches and Our Coastal Environment (Report attached)

9. Notice of Motion 581 - Cemetery Maintenance Six Month Review (Report attached)

10. Quarterly Sustainable Energy Management Strategy Update 2025-26 Q2 (Report attached)

11. Northern Ireland Local Authority Municipal Waste Management Statistics, April to June 2025 (Report attached)

12. Any Other Notified Business

***** IN CONFIDENCE *****

Reports Delegated for Decision/Approval (In Confidence)

13. Extension of Various Waste Management Tenders (Report to attached)

14. Extension of Tender for Bitmacing Work at Various Council Properties (Report attached)

15. Depot Rationalisation: Appointment of an Integrated Consultancy Team – Feasibility Studies and Outline Business Case for Waste and Operations Depot Rationalisation (Report attached)

16. Tender for the Provision of Minor External Works (Report attached)

MEMBERSHIP OF ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (16 Members)

Alderman Adair	Councillor Douglas
Alderman Armstrong-Cotter	Councillor Edmund
Councillor Ashe	Councillor Harbinson (Vice Chair)
Councillor Blaney	Councillor Irwin
Councillor Boyle	Councillor Kendall (Chair)
Councillor Brady	Alderman McAlpine
Alderman Cummings	Councillor McLaren
Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Wray

ITEM 3

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing
Date of Report	10 November 2025
File Reference	NOM 673 / 65081
Legislation	The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☒ No ☐ Other ☐ If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Notice of Motion 673 - Extension of Public Toilet Opening Hours During the Summer Months
Attachments	None

In September 2025, the following notice of motion was agreed by Council:

"*That this Council notes the popularity of public spaces such as beaches during the summer months. Further to this Council will task officers to bring back a report to explore options for the extension of public toilet opening hours during the summer months to 9pm near beaches and other busy areas. Council officers will further bring back a report on expanding baby changing facilities within our Borough at public toilets.*"

Background
This report deals with the public toilet opening hours aspect of the motion.

Currently there are 24 toilet blocks that cover the entire Borough. These facilities are covered by four mobile toilet cleaners, two working out of Balloo ERC and two out of North Road Depot. One member of staff for the AM shift and one for the PM shift from each Depot.

Not Applicable

During the months October to April, the afternoon / evening shift commences at 12:30pm to 8:30pm. During the months May to August, the afternoon / evening shift commences at 1:30pm and finishes at 9:30pm.

The toilet blocks are locked in a specific order and during the summer months, the first toilet is given a final clean and locked at 7pm. Of those serviced from Balloo the two toilets at Ballyholme are normally locked around 8pm / 8:15pm. The last toilet to be locked is at Groomsport, normally around 9pm. Of those serviced from North Road, the toilets at coastal areas such as Ballywalter, Millisle and the Commons Donaghadee would be closed last, between 8pm and 9pm.

The manned toilets at South Pier Bangor and The Parade Donaghadee, are open until 9pm during the months of July and August. In addition to this, we have four automatic public conveniences that can be accessed 24/7 at a cost of 20 pence per visit. These are hired out from a company who carry out all the maintenance and cleaning. These are located at South Pier Bangor, Kircubbin, Cunningburn on the Portaferry Road and in Portaferry Town Centre. Should there be a desire to install more of these APC's, the cost will be approximately £25,000 per annum based on leasing two or more units over a 15-year contract.

Out of the 24 public conveniences, 19 of these facilities are accessible 24/7 using a RADAR key for vulnerable persons or those with disabilities. Anyone who requires access to these facilities can purchase a RADAR key from City Hall and Church Street reception and are widely available from various suppliers online. The five toilet blocks that this does not apply to are Castle Park Bangor, Cairn Wood Craigantlet, and Kiltonga Duck pond Newtownards. The remaining two blocks are South Pier Bangor and The Parade Donaghadee where they are only accessible during opening hours (note these are open until 9pm during summer months of July and August).

Options

If the council was to pay in-house to lock the facilities up from 9pm in the summer months, it would be at a cost of £83.30 for one member of staff for a four-hour shift. However, the cost for Sundays and Bank Holidays would be £111.06. Two members of staff would be required, one based at Balloo and one at North Road. This would equate to £1,166.20 per week on a standard week. If this is done in house, there could be health and safety restrictions regarding the working time directive and legal driving hours. Staff would be finishing around 11pm and starting their substantive post at 7am the next morning. Alternatively, we could look at employing seasonal agency staff, if suitable ones are available, however this would cost more as Council must pay agency fees.

In addition, there are the continuing issues surrounding antisocial behaviour, where facilities are vandalised and members of staff have been abused physically and verbally. Such incidents tend to be at coastal areas such as Millisle, Seapark, Holywood and the two toilet blocks at Ballyholme. In 2023 we had approximately 43 reports of vandalism, 2024 we had approximately 33 and in 2025 we have had approximately 50 reports of vandalism. These issues cost the Council thousands of pounds in repairs each year. As a lot of the vandalism occurs in the evening, extending the opening hours may increase these costs.

Not Applicable

In 2018 Council agreed to investigate whether or not local businesses would be willing to make their toilet facilities available to members of the public through a community public convenience scheme, in order to extend the Council service to the public. Unfortunately, the uptake on this was quite low with only two businesses availing of the offer of a grant to offset their maintenance costs and to provide facilities on behalf of the Council

In summary, Council is asked to note that:

1. A number of coastal public conveniences are already available to the public at Ballyholme, Groomsport, Ballywalter, South Pier Bangor, Donaghadee and Millisle until they are closed between 8pm and 9pm.

2. Automatic facilities are available at Portaferry, Cunningburn, Portaferry and South Pier Bangor 24 hours a day 7 days a week.

3. If all facilities were to be kept open until 9pm in the summer, it would require a closing schedule to commence at 9pm costing around £1166 per week for a standard week, with some not being closed until between10.30 and 11pm.

4. Introducing longer opening hours increases the risk of antisocial behaviour and risks to operatives.

5. There was a low uptake of the community public convenience scheme when first delivered in 2018, but this has since gained better traction in other areas.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council does not amend the closing hours for public conveniences at this time but redevelops and relaunches a community scheme in order to increase provision for the public during the summer months, and reviews its impact in order to bring an update report back to Council after a period of review.

ITEM 4

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing
Date of Report	16 October 2025
File Reference	NOM 632 / 47045
Legislation	Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☒ No ☐ Other ☐ If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Notice of Motion 632 HRC Pedestrian Access Trial 2025
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Pedestrian Access Publicity

Background

The following Notice of Motion was approved by the Environment Committee in October 2024.

Not Applicable

That this Council tasks officers with producing a report outlining how pedestrian access to Household Recycling Centres in the Borough could be facilitated. This report should include consideration of health and safety requirements, the HRC booking system and the ability to provide pedestrian access in other council areas in Northern Ireland.

Council subsequently agreed to a trial scheme involving Holywood and Donaghadee HRCs. The introduction of a Household Recycling Centre (HRC) pedestrian access trial was primarily driven by the need to improve accessibility for residents who do not have access to private vehicles.

Stages of Development
Donaghadee HRC and Holywood HRC were selected for this trial due to the large number of residential properties within walking distance of the two sites.

It was agreed that the trial would run during the full months of July, August and September 2025 between 8am – 9am and that there would be no vehicles permitted on site during the pedestrian access only time slots.

- Monday – Holywood HRC
- Tuesday – Holywood HRC and Donaghadee HRC
- Wednesday – Holywood HRC and Donaghadee HRC
- Thursday – Donaghadee HRC

Booking still required – online or by telephone

The trial was heavily publicised using Council social media platforms and the Bin-ovation app.

Outcomes – Before and After

Donaghadee HRC
The table below shows the number of completed visits to the recycling centre per month in **vehicles** between 8am – 9am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays prior to the trial and subsequent slot usage percentage.

Apr-25	20		Apr-25	8%
May-25	18		May-25	8%
Jun-25	29		Jun-25	13%
Total	**67**		**Average**	**10%**

The table below shows the number of completed **pedestrian** visits to the recycling centre per month between 8am – 9am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays during the trial and subsequent slot usage percentage.

Jul-25	35		Jul-25	13%
Aug-25	24		Aug-25	11%
Sep-25	5		Sep-25	2%
Total	**64**		**Average**	**9%**

Not Applicable

Holywood HRC
The table below shows the number of completed visits to the recycling centre per month in **vehicles** between 8am – 9am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays prior to the trial and subsequent slot usage percentage.

Apr-25	40		Apr-25	10%
May-25	32		May-25	9%
Jun-25	24		Jun-25	7%
Total	**96**		**Average**	**9%**

Excludes Monday 30 June

The table below shows the number of completed **pedestrian** visits to the recycling centre per month between 8am – 9am on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays during the trial and subsequent slot usage percentage.

Jul-25	9		Jul-25	2%
Aug-25	4		Aug-25	1%
Sep-25	5		Sep-25	1%
Total	**18**		**Average**	**1%**

Includes Monday 30 June

The top five most common waste streams disposed of during the pedestrian visits is as follows:

1. Cardboard
2. Appliances
3. Non-recyclable waste
4. Mixed dry recyclables
5. Garden waste

Conclusion
Donaghadee HRC performed well in the first two months of the trial during July and August, then significantly dropped off during the third month of September. This represented only 9% of the available booking slots being used compared to the baseline of 10% made by visitors in vehicles during April, May and June.

Holywood HRC was poorly attended during the three months of the trial with a total of 18 completed visits. This represented only 1% of the available booking slots being used compared to the baseline of 9% made by visitors in vehicles during April, May and June.

It is also important to note that four of the five most common waste streams that were brought in by pedestrians can be disposed of using the Council's kerbside bin collection.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council does not continue with the pedestrian access arrangements in their current form. Furthermore, that officers investigate other means of safely providing pedestrian access to HRC sites alongside vehicular access and reports the outcome of this to a future meeting.

Pedestrian Access – Publicity

Social Media Posts

Facebook: – 25/06/2025

Instagram – 25/06/2025

Bin-ovation – 25/06/2025

Scheduled dates for additional social media posts:

- 21/07/2025
- 10/08/2025
- 07/09/2025

Bin – Ovation New/ Info section

From 30th June to 30th September pedestrian access will be available in Holywood HRC and Donaghadee HRC.

Holywood HRC Pedestrian Access Only

8am – 9am

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

Donaghadee HRC Pedestrian Access Only

8am – 9am

Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

Booking is still required - Online or by telephone

https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/HRCbooking

Pedestrian Access – Publicity

HRC Sites

Both Donaghadee & Holywood will have Vehicle entrances closed and a Pedestrian access only sign out.

Council Website

Pedestrian Access Only (Trial) : 30th June to 30th September 8am - 9am

- **Monday** - Holywood HRC
- **Tuesday** - Holywood HRC and Donaghadee HRC
- **Wednesday** - Holywood HRC and Donaghadee HRC
- **Thursday** - Donaghadee HRC

Booking is still required - Online or by telephone

https://www.ardsandnorthdown.gov.uk/HRCbooking

Show all sections

Pedestrian Access – Publicity

Advertised at Comber Earlies Event 2025

ITEM 5

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing
Date of Report	20 November 2025
File Reference	47051
Legislation	Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☐ If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Replacement Skip Strategy
Attachments	HRC Container Replacement Utilisation Strategy

Context
In order to provide a robust and sustainable operational and financial planning environment, management are continuing a strategy of developing replacement and maintenance strategies for Council assets. This latest strategy is for skips to service the household recycling centres.

Key Elements
The key elements of this short strategy are set out below:

Objectives
- To ensure a reliable stock of skips and containers that is fit for purpose
- To ensure a reliable stock of skips and containers that is legal and road safe
- To evenly distribute the capital expenditure on new skips and containers to avoid “spikes” in capital demand
- To enable the appropriate types of skips and containers to be purchased considering modern day innovations, safety standards and exposure levels

Not Applicable

- Increase customer satisfaction with reduced complaints regarding the capacity of skip and container space on site

Methodology
A two-stage process will be followed involving both supervisors and management to review and assess the condition of skips and need for replacement. In addition, a robust inspection and maintenance schedule will be established.

Financing
Based on research, management have established that around £55k is required on an annual basis to undertake this replacement programme plus £5k for inspection and maintenance. A bid will be made in the estimates process for this modest funding to be built into recurring budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves this strategy, subject to funding approval as part of the estimates process.

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Replacement & Utilisation Strategy for Skips & Containers used within the Waste & Cleansing Service

Strategy Title	**Replacement & Utilisation Strategy**
Version	V1
Strategy Summary	The strategy details the principles and processes by which the Council will effectively manage the replacement of Skips and containers used to deliver the Waste & Cleansing Service.
Source / Author	Waste Resource and Contracts Manager
Date of Council Approval	December 2025
Implementation Date	January 2026
Next Review Date	November 2027
Officer Responsible for Review	Waste Resource and Contracts Manager

Revision History

Date	Changes Made	Version
November 2025	Waste Resources and Contracts Manager	V1

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5.0 Methodology 4

6.0 Preventive Maintenance Programme 5

7.0 Financing 6

Appendix A

1.0 Introduction

The Waste and Cleansing Service, which sits within the Environmental Services directorate, have the responsibility for servicing all nine household recycling centres within the Ards and North Down Borough. This replacement and utilisation strategy sets out the procedure for replacing skips and containers allowing for better financial forecasting and control. Failure to appropriately forecast and schedule the replacement of skips and containers could result in a number of issues

- Uneven spread of capital expenditure on new containers putting a strain on the capital purse
- Increased maintenance costs
- Service delivery implications from skips and containers being put out of service due to extensive costs on repairs
- Reduced capacity on site for various waste streams

2.0 Aims & Objectives

The aim of this Strategy is to:

- To ensure a reliable stock of skips and containers that is fit for purpose
- To ensure a reliable stock of skips and containers that is legal and road safe
- To evenly distribute the capital expenditure on new skips and containers to avoid "spikes" in capital demand.
- To enable the appropriate types of skips and containers to be purchased considering modern day innovations, safety standards and exposure levels.
- Increase customer satisfaction with reduced complaints regarding the capacity of skip and container space on site.

3.0 Relevant Legislative and Council Documents

- Council's Corporate Plan
- ISO 14001 Environmental Management System
- Council Procurement Strategy
- Health and Safety at Work (NI) Order 1978
- The lifting operations and lifting equipment regulations (LOLER)
- Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum (WISH)

4.0 Sustainability

The Service Management will ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that the skips and container stocks are procured, operated and maintained in a sustainable manner. This includes:

- Ensuring new skips and containers are suitable for waste collection.
- Regularly review the size and types within the stock in order to ensure it is as lean and as efficient as possible. This means rationalising and up/down-sizing skips and containers wherever possible.
- 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 are several factors that will determine the most efficient time to replace skips and containers, including:

- Health and Safety
- Environmental
- Depreciation
- Maintenance Costs
- Age
- General Condition

Whilst depreciation and age considerations are consistent across skips and containers of the same type, other factors are variable and would involve an analysis of data in order to manage. 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 the HRC Supervisors will use a two-stage process in addressing the issue of skip and container replacement. The first stage involves automatically scheduling a skip or container for replacement based solely on its service age. Once the list is generated for all skips and containers scheduled for replacement based on age, Waste Management will implement stage two and analyse relevant information on each plant item to build a picture of its overall condition and identify the possibility of extending its service life where possible.

Research shows that replacement cycles will vary depending on skip or container type. By analysing the depreciation and estimated maintenance costs for each skip and container type, the following cycles have been derived:

Stock Category	Replacement Cycle	Numbers Required
40 Cubic Yard Open top RORO Containers	10 years	40
40 Cubic Yard Compactor Container	10 Years	12
30 Cubic Yard Bottle Bank RORO Container	10 Years	20
25 Cubic Yard Open top RORO Containers	5 years	9
7.5 Cubic Yard Open top Skip	12 years	60
		141

Once the items are flagged up for replacement based on the above age parameters, Waste Management will analyse information on each item's maintenance costs and general condition before making the decision to replace or continue it in service.

6.0 Preventive Maintenance Programme

Having a well planned and executed preventive maintenance programme is essential for an economically operated and reliable stock.

A preventive maintenance program will:

- Reduce the overall cost of maintenance and repair.
- Improve the operational efficiency of skip and containers through less downtime from unplanned repairs.
- Enable the skip and containers to reach their economic service life.
- Maximise the residual or salvage value of the skips and containers.

The Waste Management Team has introduced a robust planned maintenance schedule, including routine intervals for servicing and safety checks. Annual safety checks will be included in revenue budgets, and it is estimated to cost £2,430 per annum for 2026/2027. A further allowance will be made for repairs arising from the inspections. Total budget required is £5,000.

7.0 Financing of Replacement Skips and Containers

Unless otherwise noted, all new Skips and containers purchases will be funded from within the Council's Capital Investment Programme. To ensure that there is minimum impact on the District Rates, an annual investment requirement based on stock replacement schedules has been established and will be revised as necessary on an annual basis.

The introduction of a Replacement & Utilisation Strategy for Skips and Containers will include the average investment requirement for replacement of £55,000 per annum, the equivalent of 13 Containers each year, from 2026 until 2035. Waste Management are satisfied that this level of investment will be required to maintain the replacement schedule, but this may need to increase over time due to increasing purchase costs. In the event of demand outstripping budget, the waste manager may need to retain skips and containers in service beyond the optimum time for replacement and the waste manager must therefore have the ability to prioritise some replacements over others.

During the Estimates process each year the Waste Manager will also liaise with relevant staff to identify skips and containers for replacement or if any additional items are required. This will be processed through the three weekly Machinery, skips and Container meetings, comprising of Household recycling centre supervisors. The group will ensure they feed directly into the purchasing process, assessing the suitability and need of each purchase. Appendix A details the planned replacement schedule for 2026 and the ensuing 9 years.

Once a potential requirement is identified, service management will complete an assessment of need for replacement items, using the standard request form. The form has been developed to challenge all requests to ensure that skips and containers are only replaced where a clear need can be demonstrated.

8.0 Appendix A

Containers	Total	01/01/2026	01/01/2027	01/01/2028	01/01/2029	01/01/2030	01/01/2031	01/01/2032	01/01/2033	01/01/2034	01/01/2035
40 Cubic Yrd	40	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
30 Cubic Yrd Bottle Bank	20	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
25 Cubic Yard Container	9	2	2	2	2	1	2	2	2	1	1
7.5 Yrd Open Container	60	5	5	5	6	6	5	5	5	5	5
Compactor Container (40 Cubic Yd)	12	0	0	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
total	**141**	**13**	**13**	**13**	**15**	**14**	**14**	**14**	**14**	**13**	**13**

ITEM 6

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	17 November 2025
File Reference	NOM 629 / 88006
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☒ If other, please add comment below: n/a
Subject	Notice of Motion 629 Clandeboye Park and Pitch Update
Attachments	None

In September 2024 the following Notice of Motion was agreed by Council.

“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.”

A report was tabled at the Community and Wellbeing Committee in January 2025, with a number of options and a recommendation. Elected Members decided to progress an option to reinstate the football pitch to intermediate dimensions with full

size goal posts. A budget was agreed separately and within the 2025/6 financial year.

Programme of Works for the Pitch
A programme of works was reported and agreed at the June 2025 Council meeting to proceed with the project. The timescale for the programme of works was to prepare the pitch for an opening at the start of the football playing season i.e. August 2025 and in line with other Council maintained pitches across the Borough.

As per the agreed programme, the following works were completed.

- Full-size goalposts and sockets were purchased and installed.
- The playing surface was overseeded with a sports grass seed.
- Verti-Draining and sand dressing (30 tonnes) was completed.
- The playing surface was treated to suppress weed growth.
- Ball stop fencing was installed behind the new goalposts.
- Football line marking was introduced and regularly updated
- An independent assessment of the playing surface was conducted by sports turf specialists iTurf, which determined the long-term maintenance plan for the surface.
- Regular fertilizer was applied with continued application in line with maintenance of other grass pitches.
- Regular grass cuts are ongoing throughout the growing season.
- The pitch has now been added to the annual maintenance programme.

Clandeboye Park Wider Engagement Plan
In June 2025 it was agreed to carry out a wider Engagement project to consult the local community regarding the long-term maintenance and future enhancement of Clandeboye recreational area. The current position of the recreational area consists of a Play Park, a MUGA and a non-bookable grass pitch. Open greenspace around these facilities equates to approx. 4500m2 with pedestrian access between Avonlea Park and Chester Park. There is an active community group representing the area, as well as a Primary School, nursery schools, churches and a sports club with youth teams.

Groups identified for Engagement

- Clandeboye Primary School
- St Andrews Presbyterian Church
- Bangor Football Club
- Snuggles Day Nursery
- Clandeboye Community and Village Association
- Bangor Abbey Pre-School
- St Malachy's Primary School and Nursery Unit
- Little Acorns Pre-School

Parks and Cemeteries Officers met with Clandeboye Village Community Association and a representative of North Down Community Network to outline this engagement

approach on 21 May 2025. The engagement approach was accepted at this meeting.

Results from the engagement project identified some common themes and areas residents would like to see improved:

- Provision of toilet facilities for visitors to the facilities.
- A fenced-off area for dog walkers to exercise their dogs to avoid dog fouling on the football pitch.
- Provide outdoor growing and learning experiences.
- Provide wildlife / nature areas.

Given the locality of the pitch to established football clubs, a focussed engagement was carried out to specifically discuss sporting needs. The feedback showed that:

- There would be interest in using the pitch for intermediate level football if it met the appropriate standards of minimum 90m x 55m. The current pitch is not wide or long enough for this standard of football. For intermediate level football, it would need to meet IFA and new FIFA standards when published and include a boundary wall/fence at least 2m high.
- For youth teams, the pitch would need to be smaller for 7–8-a-side games.
- Changing facilities and toilets on site would be needed for organised sport.
- Storage for equipment etc would be needed.

Parks and Cemeteries Officers met with Clandeboye Village Community Association and a representative of North Down Community Network on 8 October 2025 to discuss the findings of the community engagement.

Parks and Cemeteries Officers outlined potential projects that could be delivered through 2026 / 2027 to create areas for outdoor learning experiences, wildlife and nature areas, as part of a wider engagement project providing growing spaces in local communities. Clandeboye Village Community Association advised, that until the pitch was widened to 55 metres, they would not be in a position to support any other projects. The current width is 46 metres and is in line with other amateur league sized football pitches, the current length is 88 metres (a shortfall of 2 metres) but would require adjusting the current path network.

At present the current layout of the site includes large underground water infrastructure, with access chambers visible above ground, running parallel to the pitch. To achieve a pitch width of 55 metres, this infrastructure would need to be adjusted and re-aligned.

The grassed area between the pitch and the MUGA and play park slopes significantly. To achieve a pitch width of 55 metres, construction works would be required to raise this slope to the level of the pitch and to install an appropriate retaining wall to enable levels to be met. To accommodate these works, the MUGA entrance would require moving.

The works required to widen the current pitch to 55 metres are significant and would require technical input, as well as permissions from other organisation, such as

Northern Ireland Water. Given this, a feasibility study was commissioned in August 2025 to further investigate the construction requirements and estimated costs of completing these works.

To increase the pitch width to 55 metres, it would be necessary to raise ground levels along the northern side of the pitch. Achieving the maximum possible width will also require the construction of a small retaining wall to maintain stable margins and adequate run-off distances.

Additionally, the two existing manholes located on this side would need to be lowered to suit the revised formation levels, which would require permission from the relevant asset owner or authority prior to any alteration. In this case permission would be sought from Northern Ireland Water.

The feasibility study further identified the following works as being required to complete the construction:

- Strip topsoil from bank and part of run-off and store.
- Construct retaining wall.
- Import appropriate sandy loam subsoil.
- Lay 70mm layer of sports sand (matching existing pitch profile)
- Return topsoil to a minimum consolidated depth of 60mm.
- Surface renovation
- Sand amelioration as part of renovation.
- Post construction maintenance.

Following completion of the construction phase, there may be a requirement for irrigation during prolonged dry periods to support grass establishment.

This option would result in the pitch being out of use for approximately 12 months post-completion to allow for full establishment of the playing surface.

The cost of completing these works is estimated at £98,500, this costing does not include:

- Project Design fees
- Professional fees
- Planning and SAB – application and approval
- Irrigation (if required)
- Move MUGA entrance
- Adjust path network
- Internal Staffing Costs

We would envisage further costs to implement the above of approximately £30,000. While offering the potential to achieve intermediate level football size dimensions, these works would involve significant construction input, including ground regrading, retaining structures, and manhole adjustments. The works would require a long construction programme, a 12-month establishment period, and a higher capital cost. A capital budget for the entire site was agreed in 2025/6 for £42,000.

Not Applicable

Given the informal nature of this pitch, Officers do not feel that extending the pitch width to 55m or length to 90m provides value for money and is not justified by a strategic need to meet intermediate level football size compliance or accommodate higher-level competition. Furthermore, the leisure strategy implementation group will be carrying out a facilities need audit after which time this position can be re-examined.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes

1. the work completed to ensure a community pitch is in place at Clandeboye and the future works to ensure the pitch is maintained in line with other Council owned grass pitches.
2. the engagement with local residents and the inability to successfully progress new projects while the pitch widening issue is outstanding.

It is further recommended that Council do not progress a business case at this time to widen the pitch given the likely scenario that it would not provide value for money and wait until the completion of the leisure strategy facilities review before reconsidering this position.

ITEM 7

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	14 November 2025
File Reference	NOM 644 / 88003
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☒ If other, please add comment below: n/a
Subject	Notice of Motion 644 - Bowtown Play Park Update
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Bowtown Play Park Provisional Design

In February 2025 the following Notice of Motion was agreed by Council.

"That Council notes the poor condition of the Bowtown children's Play Park and its poor provision of accessible play equipment and tasks officers to bring forward a report on enhancing and improving the play park to meet the needs of local children."

It was agreed at the April 2025 Community and Wellbeing Committee that the Director and Head of Service would visit the site. A meeting on site took place in June 2025 and a number of issues were raised. In order to address the concerns of the local community in relation to the accessibility of the site, Council Officers requested a design for a replacement play park from existing play park contractors. The design is attached and demonstrates that a new Tier 2 play park can be accommodated in the existing space which meets all of the criteria stipulated in the Play Strategy. It is also proposed to create a totally level site so the area is not split over different levels and therefore all equipment will be easily accessible. This design is indicative at this stage. It would be proposed that as per recent practice

Not Applicable

Council Officers would need to conduct engagement with a local primary school to offer choices between themes and equipment etc.

As previously reported Ards and North Down Borough Council produced a Play Strategy for the period 2021 to 2032 which recommended that a Play Park refurbishment budget be allocated to enable Play Parks to be updated each year. Those Play Parks scoring the lowest within the Annual Independent Inspectors Report would be prioritised for refurbishment. A report was submitted to the Community and Wellbeing Committee in March 2025 and subsequently in April 2025 noting the lowest scoring Play Parks for refurbishment within the agreed budget allocated and Officers have been progressing this within the 2025/6 period. The Bowtown Play Park has not yet featured as one of the lowest scoring play parks, therefore it cannot be refurbished until it is identified as one of the lowest scoring play parks.

As reported in April 2025, the list of the lowest scoring play parks as identified in the last Annual Independent Inspectors Report are as follows:

Location	Score
1. Ballyholme, Bangor	37.00
2. Beechfield, Donaghadee	41.56
3. Seafront, Groomsport	43.38
4. Springwell, Groomsport	43.82
5. Parsonage Road, Kircubbin	44.37
6. Banks Lane, Bangor	45.25
7. Tullymally Road, Portaferry	46.80
8. Lawson Park, Portavogie	47.95
9. North Street, Greyabbey	48.55
10. Northfield, Donaghadee	49.40
11 The Commons, Donaghadee	50.34
12 Bangor Sportsplex	50.53
13. Glenford, Newtownards	50.59
14. Islandview, Greyabbey	51.06
15 Abbots Estate (Bowtown), Newtownards	52.35

As previously reported, Ballyholme and Banks Lane are included in the Bangor Waterfront project so will not be refurbished at this time. Also as previously reported, in order to spread out refurbishments, given budget limitations, the Seafront in Groomsport is currently being refurbished (with Springwell, Groomsport being left for now), Island View, Greyabbey will be refurbished before March 2026 (with North Street, Greyabbey being left for now), Northfield, Donaghadee will be refurbished before March 2026 (with Beechfield being left for now),

Parsonage Road, Kircubbin is being left for now given the Tier 1 upgrade to The Green, which has been completed (as well as the new Multi Use Games Area at The Green), Tullymalley, Portaferry is being left for now given the refurbishment of Castle Park, Portaferry and Lawson Park is being left for now given the refurbishment of New Harbour Road, Portavogie. Glenford, Newtownards is linked with the new Park and Ride facility, so will be left for now. The remaining lowest scoring play parks

therefore are The Commons, Donaghadee, Bangor Sportsplex and then Abbots Estate (Bowtown). Therefore, pending this year's Annual Inspectors Report remaining broadly similar, it is likely, although not guaranteed, that the Bowtown will be amongst the lowest scoring in the next Financial Year or the one after.

It should also be noted that a Business Case is being submitted as part of the budget setting process to obtain a budget to resurface the Multi Use Games Area adjacent to the Bowtown (Abbots Estate) play park.

Parks and Cemeteries Officers further engaged with representatives of Bowtown Community Association on 8 October 2025 to discuss the land surrounding the community centre and MUGA, to explore how this may be best utilised to enhance community space provision.

The group raised concerns that the existing play park is too small to meet the needs of the estate and suggested relocating it to the left-hand side of the MUGA to create a better link to the adjacent woodland, which they hope to enhance for biodiversity with NIHE's permission. The land beside the MUGA is currently used for community events and fun days, though accessibility improvements such as dropped kerbs are needed to make the area more inclusive.

The Association is also waiting on final permission from NIHE to use an enclosed site at Abbot Gardens for a community growing space or allotments, which has already received strong resident support. Additionally, they have identified a potential site in their community office, opposite their community garden for a Men's Shed / Hen's Shed, with a focus on inclusivity and supporting participation by people with disabilities. Discussions are ongoing with NIHE regarding permissions and next steps. The Group has received funding from Live Here Love Here for a polytunnel.

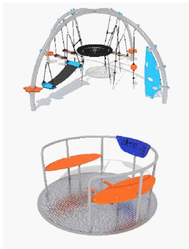
Parks and Cemeteries Officers will continue to engage with the Association to explore how they could be supported through projects such as PEACEPLUS - Your Place, Reimaging Our Space, Ards and North Down In Bloom as examples.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council continues to support Bowtown Community Association through the delivery of a Community Growing Space in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

It is further recommended that when Bowtown Play Park falls within the lowest scoring play parks, as per the Independent Inspectors Annual Report, it is prioritised for refurbishment in line with the approach currently being followed as outlined in the Play Strategy.

1



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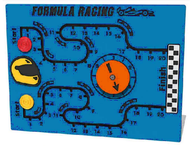

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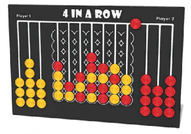

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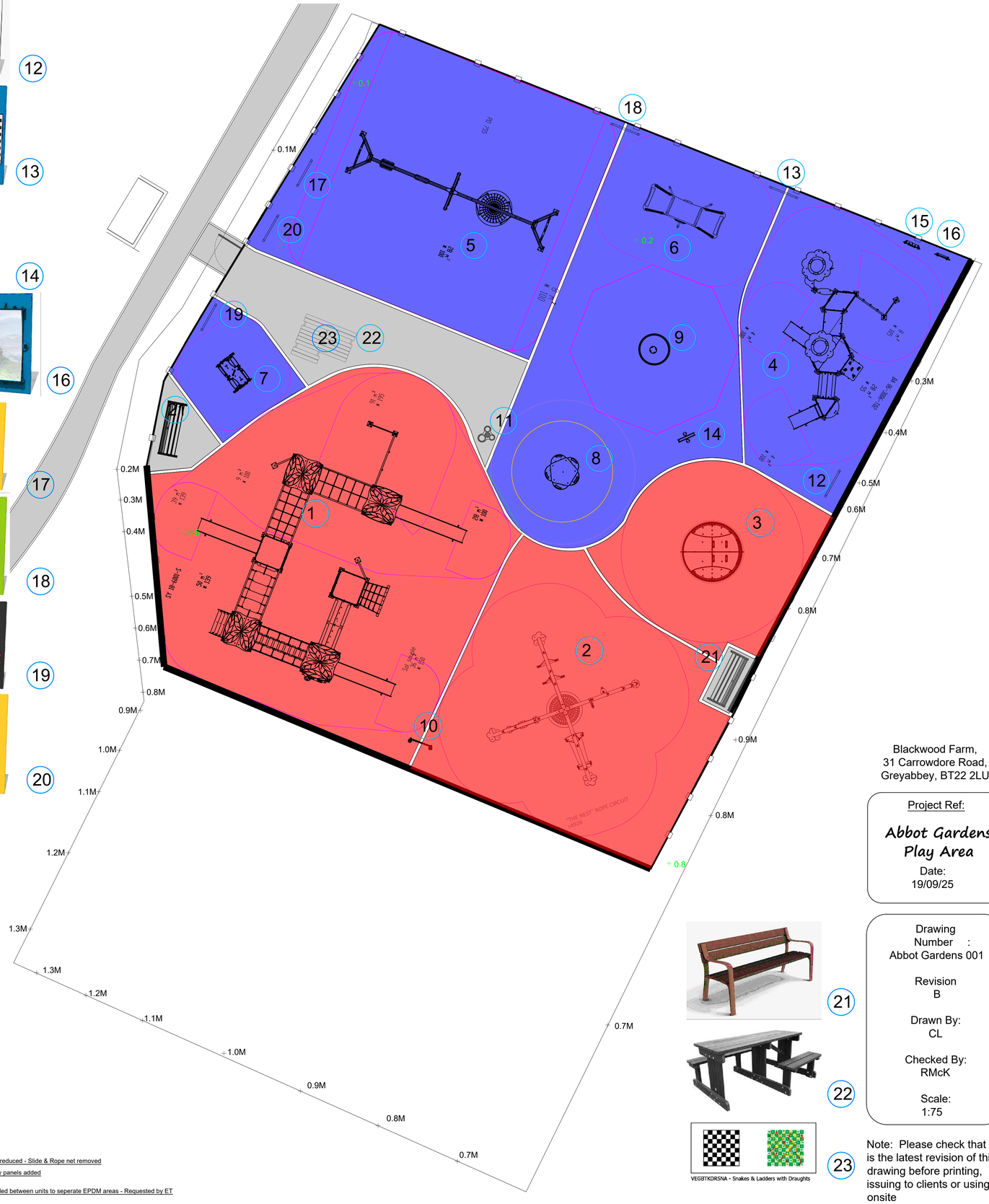


KEY:

PLAY EQUIPMENT

1 **Quali Cite SY18 6001 S** (3 -12 years)
BRIDGE, CRAWLING TUNNEL, HIDEOUT, MANIPULATIVE PANEL, NET, PLAY PANEL, SCRAMBLING NET, SEAT, SINGLE SLIDE, SLIDING POLE, SLOPING BRIDGE, STEPPED ACCESS, STEPPED BRIDGE, VERTICAL BARS ACCESS, VERTICAL CLIMBING WALL, WALL BARS

2 **Agapito R4926 "The Nest" Rope Circuit** (3-14 years)
Inclusive Combined set of ropes, central raised 'nest' platform., different accesses: suspended flexible rubber ramp, bridge with hanging metal steps at different heights.Raised rope 'nest' platform suspended in the centre of the game; themed rubberised platforms at different heights; floating spheres , galvanised tube steps at different heights; reinforced rubber ramp suspended in the air;

3 **Industrias Agapito R4507 Carousel for All** (3-14 years)
Carousel for all. Suitable for kids with reduced mobility. Large size. Capacity for one wheelchair user, four seated adults companions, or six seated children. Additional capacity for two more standing-on users. It promotes integration and teamwork. Cero meter level access, Floor-stops for restraining wheelchair. Easy access for cleaning and maintenance. Water drainage system for the lower zone.

4 **Quali Cite BA06 3006 TO2** (1-6 years)
BRIDGE, COUNTER, CRAWLING TUNNEL, HIDEOUT, MANIPULATIVE PANEL, NET, PLAY PANEL, ROLE-PLAYING, SEAT, SINGLE SLIDE, SLOPING CLIMBING WALL, TABLE, TIERED ACCESS, VERTICAL BARS ACCESS, WALL BARS

5 **Quali Cite PO 755-14** (1-12 years)
HAMMOCK, ROLE-PLAYING, SWING

6 **Industrias Agapito Seesaw for All R4720** (3-14 years)
Inclusive seesaw up to 8 users: two wheelchair users, on the indicated spots, four standing users, inside the bars, 2 adults standing in the floor, assisting wheelchair users. This is an inclusive playset. Its design allows children in wheelchairs swinging and team playking with kids in front of them, even holding hands with them, maximizing their interaction.

7 **Industrias Agapito R4617 Ladybug Spring Rider** (1-9 years)
Double spring rider, adapted for children with reduced mobility, easily accessible for wheelchair. It also includes a large seat, handles and special footrests for stability. Position of the children facing each other allows play and interaction between them and encourages development of their communication skills.

8 **Industrias Agapito R4705 Sunflower** (1-14 years)
Balance seesaw. Inclusive play.

9 **Industrias Agapito R4505 Rotating Bowl** (3-10 years)
Dish-style element with tilted rotation. It surrounds the child, helping to retain him/her inside. The tilting motion encourages motor coordination through the play activity of rotating the carousel and trying to achieve the right position and body inclination as it spins around. Suitable for children with reduced mobility.

10 **FAHR Eco Flat Chimes with posts - FIECOFLAT-W**P (2+)
INCLUSIVE- Chimes positioned at easily accessible height, MUSICAL- Set of 8 musically tuned chimes

11 **FAHR Eco Bongo Tree with Post - FIECOBOTREE-WP** (2+)
INCLUSIVE- Bongos positioned at easily accessible height, MUSICAL- 3 unique bongo drums

12 **FAHR Sensory Play Panel - FISENP6** (2+)
INCLUSIVE - Activity positioned at accessible height SLIDERS - Counters positioned along the branches ROLLERBALL - Inside a "Pod" shaped Plant-On ROTATE - Organic fan pattern & Flower bearing spinner FLIP- Create a simple pattern using the two colour rollers SOCIAL- Several activities; encourages multiple playability

13 **FAHR Formula Racing Play Panel - FIFORMULA6** (2+)
INCLUSIVE - Activity positioned at accessible height ,SLIDERS - Formula counter racing, SOCIAL- 2 player race competition

14 **FAHR Virtuoso Shake Rattle & Roll Wheel - FIVSRR-AL-WP** (2+)
MUSICAL - Hidden cam strikes chimes inside ROTATE - Spin at various speeds

15 **FAHR Freestanding visual sensory panel - concave mirror - FICONCAVE** (2+)
MIRROR- Reflective Panel INCLUSIVE - Mirror positoned at accessible height

16 **FAHR Freestanding visual sensory panel - convex mirror - FICONVEXL** (2+)
MIRROR- Reflective Panel INCLUSIVE - Mirror positoned at accessible height

17 **FAHR Freestanding visual sensory panel - Sign Language - A-Z Alphabet - FISIGNUK3** (2+)
High Density Polyethylene (HDPE) INCLUSIVE- Support sign language learning - Easily accessible height VISUAL- High contrast panel aids shape recognition

18 **FAHR Freestanding visual sensory panel - Giant Rock - Paper Scissors Game FIRPS6** (2+)
INCLUSIVE - Activity positioned at accessible height, SLIDERS - Counters to keep score, SOCIAL- 2 player Rock, Paper, Scissors game

19 **FAHR Freestanding visual sensory panel - Giant Four In a Row Game - FIROW3** (2+)
SOCIAL - 2 Player 4 in a Row game, SLIDERS- Sliding counters, INCLUSIVE-Activity positoned at accessible height

20 **FAHR Freestanding visual sensory panel -Chunky Noughts & Crosses Game - FICHUNKYOXO6** (2+)
INCLUSIVE - Activities positioned at easily accessible height, SLIDERS - Slide counters to count score FLIP- Flip over spinners to change to 'O' or 'X' SOCIAL- 2 Player noughts and crosses game

21 **Benito Citizen Ecco UM301PR** Recycled Plastic bench

22 **Ecoplastic M66BI Easy Access Wheelchair Integrated - Black**

23 **FAHR Game Top Kit VEGBTKDRSNA - Snakes & Ladders With Draughts**

24 **Broxap Derby** Litter Bin

IAS Space

Blackwood Farm,
31 Carrowdore Road,
Greyabbey, BT22 2LU

Project Ref:

Abbot Gardens Play Area

Date:
19/09/25

Drawing Number :
Abbot Gardens 001

Revision
B

Drawn By:
CL

Checked By:
RMcK

Scale:
1:75

21

22

VEGBTKDRSNA - Snakes & Ladders with Draughts

23

Note: Please check that this is the latest revision of this drawing before printing, issuing to clients or using onsite

EPDM - Red
Conica COLOURED EPDM GRANULES - PRODUCT PREFIX EP1035

EPDM - Blue
Conica COLOURED EPDM GRANULES - PRODUCT PREFIX EP1035

Bitmac - 50mm Deep, Single Coat, 10mm Open texture

Railings - 1.2m high hot dip galvanised mesh panel fence, with a safetop fold top * bottom, green in colour, including all posts and foundations as per manufacturers specification, suitable for a harsh coastal environment

Gate - 1.2m high hot dip galvanised mesh panel gate, with safetop fold top & bottom, yellow in colour, including all fixtures & fittings as per manufacturers specification, suitable for a harsh coastal environment, with drop bolt into the ground to secure gate open

Revisions -

Rev A 15/09/25 - Site boundary reduced - Slide & Rope net removed
Additional play panels added

Rev B 19/09/25 - Sett Kerbs added between units to seperate EPDM areas - Requested by ET

ITEM 8

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	14 November 2025
File Reference	PCA102 / NOM 585 / 88008
Legislation	The Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) 2011 The Conservation (Natural Habitats) Regs (NI) 1995 The Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 Part 4
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☒ If other, please add comment below: n/a
Subject	Notice of Motion 585 Maintaining Beaches and Our Coastal Environment
Attachments	

In November 2023 the following Notice of Motion was agreed by Council:

"*That Council recognise the value of our beaches and coastal environment to our residents and tourists alike note the new DAERA regulations for the cleaning and maintenance of our beaches and task officers to bring forward a report on cleaning and maintaining our beaches on a proactive basis in line with the new DAERA regulations to ensure our beaches continue to be a clean, safe, attractive and well-managed coastal environments*."

Not Applicable

In January 2024 a further decision was taken in relation to this issue as follows:

"that Council notes the ongoing work to deliver appropriate sustainable management of our beaches and coastal environment including proactive and reactive cleaning in line with all existing regulations and furthermore that this Council tasks officers to bring forward a report on the possible installation of Beach Bio Security Sanitation Units including any potential funding opportunities for them and possible locations. The report should also explore how the equipment in these stations could be used to clean our beaches mechanically to comply with DAERA regulations, ensuring that beaches continue to be clean, safe, attractive and well-managed coastal environments."

Members will be aware that a report was submitted to the Community and Wellbeing Committee in January 2025 in response to the above decision. A further recommendation was agreed as below:

"That Council commits to improving the management of our amenity beaches in line with our Bio Diversity and Tourism Strategies by tasking officers to organise a fact finding study to beaches in both Causeway Coast and Glens Council & Newry Mourne and Down Council to explore options for best practice in maintaining our beaches in line with DEARA regulations presenting a report to Council with options for tangible improvements including consideration of providing bio cleaning stations on a cluster phased approach in our Borough to ensure our beaches are clean safe attractive and well managed coastal environments."

Ards and North Down has a geographical area of 228 square miles and a coastline of 115 miles along two loughs and the Irish Sea. Strangford Lough is one of the highest ranking marine environmental sites in Europe, with almost three quarters of all Northern Ireland's marine species recorded there. Accordingly, it has been afforded European level protection (RAMSAR), was made Northern Ireland's first Marine Nature Reserve and is both an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and an Area of Special Scientific Interest. Strangford Lough also holds designations of Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA)

Aughnadarragh Lough holds a designation of an SAC and lies partially within the boundary of the Borough. Other SPAs include – Outer Ards SPA, Copeland Islands SPA and that related to Belfast Lough SPA. At national designation level there are a number of Areas of Special Scientific Interest in the Borough – listed below:

- Outer Ards
- Inner Belfast Lough
- Outer Belfast Lough
- Copeland Islands
- Whitespots
- Strangford Lough
- Ballymacormick Point
- Lough Cowey
- Scrabo
- Ballyquintin Point

Not Applicable

- Craigantlet Woods

Coastal and marine habitats are increasingly understood to have great benefits to humans in a multitude of ways. These ‘ecosystem services’ include improved water quality, sequestration of carbon, provision of seafood and other products, recreation, flood and erosion risk reduction, health and wellbeing benefits, and cultural services. These complex ecosystems, when allowed to function naturally without excessive pollution or physical modification, will process and remove nutrients and other pollutants from the water.

Council is responsible for cleaning amenity and recreational beaches under their ownership. Managed beaches require to be cleaned of litter and other materials harmful to the environment. Litter is picked regularly by Parks and Cemeteries staff as well as groups of willing volunteers across the borough.

On 27 August 2025, a group of Elected Members and Parks and Cemeteries Officers visited Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council to meet with Officers with responsibility for managing and maintaining beaches in this Council area. Beaches visited included Portrush East Strand Beach and White Rocks.

During the visit it was evident that Portrush East Strand was being mechanically cleaned. Advice was provided by managing Officers that the cleaning was targeted towards removal of small litter items, such as plastics, and not to remove seaweed build-up. This beach is not an ASSI and therefore legislative requirements are significantly different to those that govern the Ards and North Down coastline.

The visit to White Rocks presented no signs of mechanical cleaning with small amounts of seaweed visible. This beach does fall within the Whiterocks ASSI. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is currently engaged in a project of enhancing the dune system here by installing new planting of Marram grasses. Managers of these areas shared their experience that planting of Marram grasses needs to be in carefully chosen areas, so the new installations are not affected by tidal flows and given the best chance to establish.

On 3 September 2025 the same group of Elected Members and Parks and Cemeteries Officers visited Newry Mourne and Down District Council to meet with Officers with responsibility for managing and maintaining beaches in this Council area. Beaches visited included Cranfield and Tyrella.

During the visit to Cranfield, it was evident that no mechanical cleaning was taking place. This was confirmed to have ceased for approximately ten years by the managing Officer, due to legislative requirements. The beach is maintained through a process of manual litter picking as required. Regardless of the lack of mechanical cleaning and the stoney nature of the beach, it is utilised by residents of a large holiday home site and the Mae Murray Foundation. This beach falls within the Carlingford Lough ASSI.

At Tyrella Beach it was evident that no mechanical cleaning was taking place. This was also confirmed to have ceased for approximately ten years by the managing Officer due to legislative requirements. Large amounts of seaweed were visibly

deposited on the sand. The local Council has undertaken a project on site to protect and restore the dune system through the planting of coastal vegetation such as Marram grass. This beach fall within the Tyrella and Minerstown ASSI.

Evidence gained from these visits would lead Officers to the conclusion that beach maintenance in neighbouring Boroughs is in line with the maintenance approach applied in Ards and North Down, when considered against legislative requirements.

It should also be noted that approaches can vary at different locations given the variety of coastal conditions. A variety of rough seas, tide and wind strengths can cause varying amounts of marine material such as seaweed to get temporarily washed up on beaches. Warmer seas can also be a contributory factor; the Marine Conservation Society says UK sea temperatures have risen 2°C in the past 40 years. Research suggests that cold water seaweeds are moving further north where it's cooler, while the range of warm water species is expanding.

The definition of litter does not apply to seaweed, and the presence of seaweed is beneficial to beach ecology. Mechanical cleaning of beaches carried out near sand dunes or other sensitive beach areas can have significant impacts on the habitats and species supported here.

All maintenance activities on these foreshore's are restricted under legislation and governed by Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA). The NIEA is an Executive Agency within the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). In addition, The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) places a statutory duty on all public bodies (including Council) to "further the conservation of biodiversity in exercising any function."

While NIEA could support mechanical cleaning of amenity beaches in Ards and North Down, this would require adherence to bio-security measures, given the ASSI legislation. Biosecurity refers to measures aimed at preventing the introduction or spread of harmful organisms (e.g. viruses, bacteria, plants, animals etc.) intentionally or unintentionally outside their native range or within new environments. Strong biosecurity measures are an essential element of an ecosystems management plan where the seaweed along a coastline is being disturbed through mechanical cleaning.

A bio-security station is essentially an area where machinery can be fully washed before entering and again before exiting each beach location to avoid contamination. To effectively wash machinery of this size, a water source alone would not suffice but would instead require provision of power washing. Given the infrastructure around the amenity beaches, this would require a mobile unit at a cost of approximately £55,000. There would be a further requirement to purchase a new mechanical beach cleaner given the period of time this approach has not been undertaken. The approximate cost of this machinery is £70,000 There would also be additional cost consideration for additional staffing and vehicle maintenance.

The need for effective communication and education on the subject of our coastal environment is recognised through the Local Biodiversity Action Plan and by Council Officers. It is important that residents understand the reasons for the current

Not Applicable

approach to maintenance, the environmental benefits it provides and what they are physically seeing when visiting local beaches.

On 16 October 2025 Council hosted an initial Coastal Conference at Portavogie Community Centre. This free event provided an evening of expert talks, practical insights, and community action opportunities to understand, enhance and protect the local coastline. Residents were invited to hear from expert speakers in coastal science, conservation, and dune management and how we can work together to care for our coast through knowledge, connection and local action.

Experts at the event included Natural Science NIEA, Wild Ireland and AONB and Geopark Officer for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council, supported by Parks and Cemeteries Officers. Further events of this nature will be held at other locations across the Borough over the next number of months.

Parks and Cemeteries arrange a number of community-based activities across the Borough, over 90 within the last calendar year, with many focussed on education and promotion of the local environment. Following the Coastal Conference, a hands-on afternoon exploring and restoring Portavogie Beach was held. This special event combined a ‘Mini BioBlitz’ with a community dune restoration activity, offering a chance to discover local wildlife and help protect our coastline. Participants worked alongside local experts and organisations to learn about the plants and animals that call our beaches home and then get hands-on with a Marram grass planting session to strengthen and stabilise the dunes.

This event, coupled with the Coastal Conference, is seen as a starting point to similar projects across the Borough. Parks and Cemeteries Officers are currently exploring opportunities for these projects in conjunction with local representatives and expert organisations.

This educational approach is essential to overcome the misconception that beaches that contain seaweed or coastal grasses are not clean or safe. Coastal grasses and seaweed form an integral part of a beach ecosystem, providing food and stability to the sand structure. Grasses and seaweed are natural components of the ecosystem. The coastal zone must also be considered as a living and natural environment and not only as a recreational asset to be kept tidy. Thus, the management of grasses and seaweed on the beach should be sensitive to both visitor needs biodiversity.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the report.

ITEM 9

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	14 November 2025
File Reference	PCA123 / NOM 581 / 88004
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☐ If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Notice of Motion 581 - Cemetery Maintenance Six Month Review
Attachments	

Background
In September 2023 the following Notice of Motion was agreed by Council:

"That Council notes the increasing complaints regarding the poor condition and appearance of our cemeteries across the Borough and tasks officers to bring back a report on options to improve the maintenance of our cemeteries which are places of special significance to those who have lost loved ones."

A response was tabled at the Community and Wellbeing meeting in December 2023, and Elected Members requested a further detailed report to be presented on tangible options to improve the maintenance of Cemeteries. A further report was submitted in June 2024, January 2025 and June 2025. It was further agreed by Council that the recommendation be adopted and that the Council reviewed in six months.

Not Applicable

Service Overview
The Parks and Cemeteries Service have responsibility for the maintenance and development of over 300 hectares of Parks and other open spaces including responsibility for burials in twelve active cemeteries and the maintenance of a total of nineteen cemeteries, spread across the Borough. In the management of the nineteen cemeteries the operational Parks and Cemeteries team carry out service activities regarding the burial process and overall cemetery grounds maintenance. This is currently delivered by a multidisciplinary skilled team who work to a suite of Standard Operating Procedures. The burial service is dictated by the Burial Grounds Regulations 1992 (NI) and all service elements are carried out in line with this legislation.

All gravedigging is carried out by skilled in-house teams. Working to the Standard Operating Procedures, this element of the service includes the opening and subsequent closing of graves along with the interment service. Our team has made significant progress in ensuring that our cemeteries are safe, tidy and well-maintained.

This report outlines current operational practices and explains how they have been adapted to drive continuous improvement, address identified issues and respond to the impacts of climatic conditions. In addition, the Parks and Cemeteries Service has been implementing a transformation process with significant structural changes throughout the whole service area. Through effective teamwork and communication, we have streamlined our maintenance processes, allowing us to address tasks more efficiently and thoroughly. This collaborative approach has created a positive work environment and enhanced our overall productivity by utilising both Parks and Cemetries operational staff to cover busier times and areas.

Team	Cemeteries Covered	Staff Composition
North Cemeteries	1. Clandeboye 2. Bangor New 3. Ballyvester	• Area Manager • Assistant Area Manager • Cemetery Team Leader • Senior Gravedigger x 6 • Assistant Gravedigger x 4
South Cemeteries	1. Movilla 2. Comber 3. Loughview 4. Redburn 5. Priory 6. Kircubbin 7. Kirkistown 8. Greyabbey 9. Whitechurch	• Area Manager • Assistant Area Manager • Cemetery Team Leader • Senior Gravedigger x 6 • Assistant Gravedigger x 3

The service has successfully integrated new staff members and resources into our maintenance operations. These additions have provided us with the necessary support to manage our workload effectively. The utilisation of these resources has

enabled us to maintain high standards of care and attention to detail across all cemetery sites.

The introduction of PSS Ultimate monitoring system software has been successfully trialled; this software tracks our progress and ensures the effectiveness of our maintenance efforts and allows us to identify areas for improvement. The continued positive feedback we have received from visitors is a testament to our team's hard work and dedication. Cemetery visitors have complimented the current upkeep, noting the noticeable improvements in the appearance and safety of our cemeteries. The software has allowed us to:

- Centralise and streamline the scheduling, tracking, and management of maintenance tasks across all cemeteries.
- Improve accountability by providing real-time updates on task completion and staff assignments.
- Enable data-driven decision-making by integrating historical and current maintenance records into a single platform.

This phased rollout of PSS Ultimate is well underway, all locations now showing results of improved coordination among maintenance teams and a reduction in response times for urgent tasks.

Maintaining safe and well-kept cemeteries continues to be a key priority. Our team has updated all Risk Assessments and Standard Operating Procedures to promote safe, consistent, and efficient working practices. Regular inspections are undertaken to identify any issues and ensure they are addressed quickly. We have also strengthened our approach to general upkeep to provide a calm, respectful and welcoming environment for all visitors.

A range of infrastructure upgrades are planned across our cemeteries this year. At Comber Cemetery, resurfacing works will progress using funding already secured within an existing business case. At Loughview Cemetery, a new visitor shelter is currently in the design stage and will be installed later in the year.

Significant progress has also been made at Whitechurch Cemetery, where development of a new section has begun. We aim to complete this area during this financial year. Key design elements include improved drainage to prevent flooding, increased spacing between plots to reduce ground damage, reinforced pathways to minimise the impact of machinery, and concrete strip foundations to support the safe and efficient installation of memorial stones.

At Kirkistown Cemetery, planned upgrades include new benches, an additional water tap, and relocation and rebuilding of the gravediggers’ storage facility. These improvements will enhance the overall look, functionality and comfort of the site for visitors.

All of these initiatives have been informed by feedback from residents and Elected Members, demonstrating our commitment to listening to all our stakeholders.

Not Applicable

To further support our maintenance efforts, we have invested in new equipment for all cemetery areas. This includes path sweeping machinery which will be utilised in smaller areas where the contractor cannot access. We aim to replace some outdated plant equipment in the year 25/26 through the machinery replacement strategy to ensure burial services are carried out efficiently with up-to-date modern equipment. We are also researching options for up-to-date shoring equipment to assist in areas where cave-ins are likely, to help reduce the impact for staff and grave owners.

Although significant progress has been made, several ongoing challenges remain. These include environmental pressures, high burial demand and the recruitment of seasonal staff. We are continuing to manage and mitigate these issues through ongoing improvement initiatives, supported by strategic planning and effective resource allocation, to ensure our cemeteries remain safe, well-maintained and welcoming for all visitors.

Our efforts align with the Ards and North Down Borough Council's Corporate Plan, which emphasises the importance of creating a sustainable, well-maintained, and welcoming environment for all residents and visitors. Specifically, our maintenance activities support the Council's goals of enhancing community wellbeing, promoting environmental stewardship and ensuring the efficient use of resources.

Now in our fourth report since the original Notice of Motion, we are pleased to outline the substantial progress that continues to be made. Ongoing commitment from the team has led to clear improvements in both the presentation and safety of our cemeteries, with these enhancements reflected in the positive feedback received from visitors.

In conclusion, the combined efforts of our cemetery team, the effective deployment of existing and new resources and our focus on continuous oversight have strengthened our cemetery maintenance operations. We remain committed to sustaining these high standards and ensuring our cemeteries continue to provide a safe, well-maintained and welcoming environment for all.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

ITEM 10

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Estates
Date of Report	17 November 2025
File Reference	50002
Legislation	Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland)
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☒ If other, please add comment below: For information only
Subject	Quarterly Sustainable Energy Management Strategy Update 2025-26 Q2
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Updated Sustainable Energy Management Strategy Action Plan

Background
In June 2024 Council agreed the Sustainable Energy Management Strategy and Action Plan. One of the actions within the Plan was to “Improve governance arrangements to ensure that energy management has effective oversight and accountability within the Council.”

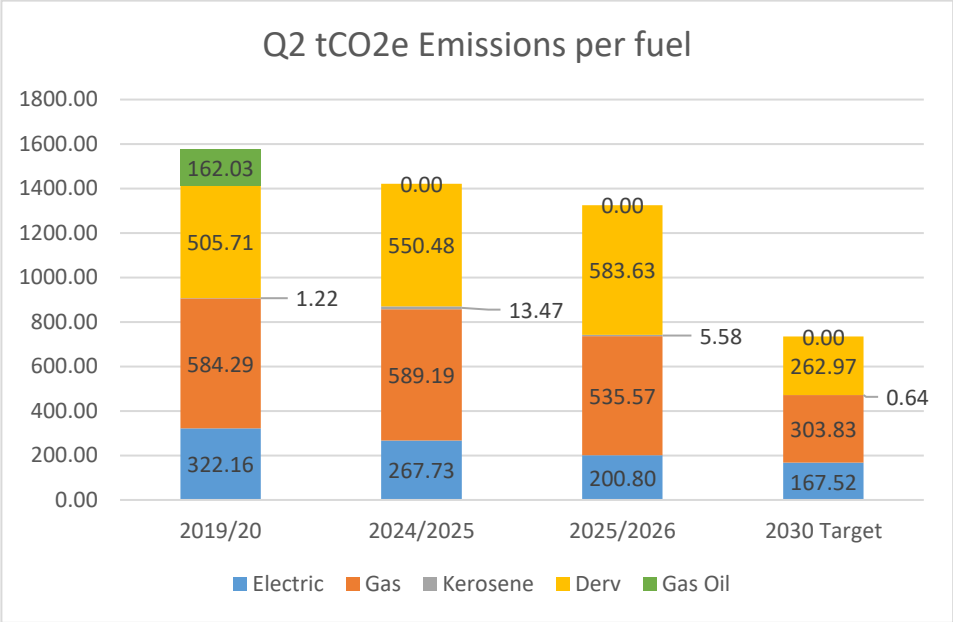
Improving oversight and accountability within the Council for energy management will ensure that consumption performance and the implementation of the Strategy and this action plan will be continuously monitored. Improved monitoring and governance will improve energy performance by ensuring actions are effectively implemented and consumption trends routinely monitored, which should result in reduced consumption, costs and emissions.

Not Applicable

Reporting Periods
This report is part of our ongoing quarterly series, tracking energy consumption against our 2019/20 baseline and highlighting current and upcoming energy-saving initiatives.

Period:	Reported in:
Quarter 1: April to June	September
Quarter 2: July to September	December
Quarter 3: October to December	March
Quarter 4: January to March	June

Energy Consumption for this Period



Electricity
As illustrated in the graph above, electricity consumption continued its downward trend in Q2, showing an 25% decrease compared to the same period in the 2024/25 financial year, resulting in a reduction of 66.93 tCO_2 in carbon emissions.

This positive outcome reflects our ongoing commitment to energy efficiency, supported by initiatives such as the integration of PV solar generation, the phased replacement of outdated equipment with modern, energy-efficient alternatives and continued efforts to encourage energy-conscious behaviour across our workforce.

When compared to our baseline year, Q2 also demonstrated a significant improvement, resulting in a 37.67% reduction in carbon emissions, equivalent to 121.36 tCO_2. We are committed to building on this momentum by implementing further energy-saving measures and enhancing staff engagement, both new and existing, to support our goal of achieving the 2030 emissions reduction target.

Not Applicable

Natural Gas
Natural gas consumption decreased by 9.1% in Q2, compared to the same period in the 2024/25 financial year, resulting in an estimated 53.62 tCO_2 reduction in emissions.

Relative to our baseline year, Q2 also showed continued progress, with an 8.3% decrease in gas consumption, equivalent to a 48.72 tCO_2 reduction.

A comparison of Q2 weather trend data for 2024/25 and 2025/26 shows broadly similar temperature and climate conditions. The reduction in consumption is therefore likely attributable to heating controls in some buildings automatically switching to a “summer profile” via the Building Management System (BMS). Previously, this process was manually managed within each building, which could be overlooked or overridden by operators. The automation of this function has allowed for temporary system shutdowns in certain buildings during warmer periods, leading to improved energy efficiency.

In addition, we have been assessing the rollout of new BMS installations and optimising existing BMS controls across selected sites to further enhance operational efficiency and performance.

Looking ahead, further action will be required to reduce gas consumption across the estate. Gas remains the Council’s second-largest source of carbon emissions and addressing this is critical to achieving our 2030 emissions reduction targets. Planned measures include:

- Reviewing and lowering existing heating control set-point temperatures to optimise energy use.
- Assessing the operational efficiencies of leisure centres with swimming pools. These are the Council’s largest gas consumers and carbon emitters. This assessment should identify opportunities for further savings through behavioural change and system optimisation.
- Reviewing and lowering swimming pool temperatures where operationally feasible.
- Automating heating controls and expanding remote management capabilities to enhance control and consistency.
- Transitioning to electric heating systems, supported by solar PV and other low-carbon generation technologies, to support long-term decarbonisation.

Kerosene
Kerosene oil is typically procured at the start of Q1 each year to replenish depleted stocks and ensure readiness for the autumn heating season. In some instances, depleted stocks are also replenished in Q2 where oil prices have shown further reductions over the summer period. This approach helps maintain continuity of public services in the event of an unexpected drop in temperature. This advance stocking ensures adequate supply when usage rises.

Kerosene consumption has seen a reduction of 58.57% in Q2 compared to the same period in 2024/25 financial year, resulting in a 6.5 tCO_2 emissions reduction.

Not Applicable

A comparison of Q2 weather trend data for 2024/25 and 2025/26 indicates broadly similar temperature and climate conditions. Therefore, the observed reduction in consumption can reasonably be attributed to depleted fuel stocks being replenished in Q1.

Consistent with the gas consumption analysis above, the reduction may also reflect heating controls in some buildings automatically switching to a “summer profile” via the Building Management System (BMS). Previously, this process was manual, which increased the risk of being overlooked or overridden by operators. The automation of these controls has enabled temporary system shutdowns during warmer periods, thereby improving energy efficiency.

In addition, we have been progressively deploying new BMS installations and optimising existing controls across selected sites to further enhance operational efficiency and performance.

Historical data from 2019/20 suggests that six community centre central heating systems were previously operating on Gas Oil (red diesel). These systems have since been upgraded to use Kerosene, which has contributed to an apparent increase in reported consumption. As such, caution should be exercised when comparing Kerosene usage data between 2025/26 and the baseline year, as the fuel switch impacts the comparability of figures.

As a result, kerosene stock data however shows an apparent increase in kerosene purchased in Q2 compared to the baseline 2019/20 year, for the reasons outlined above.

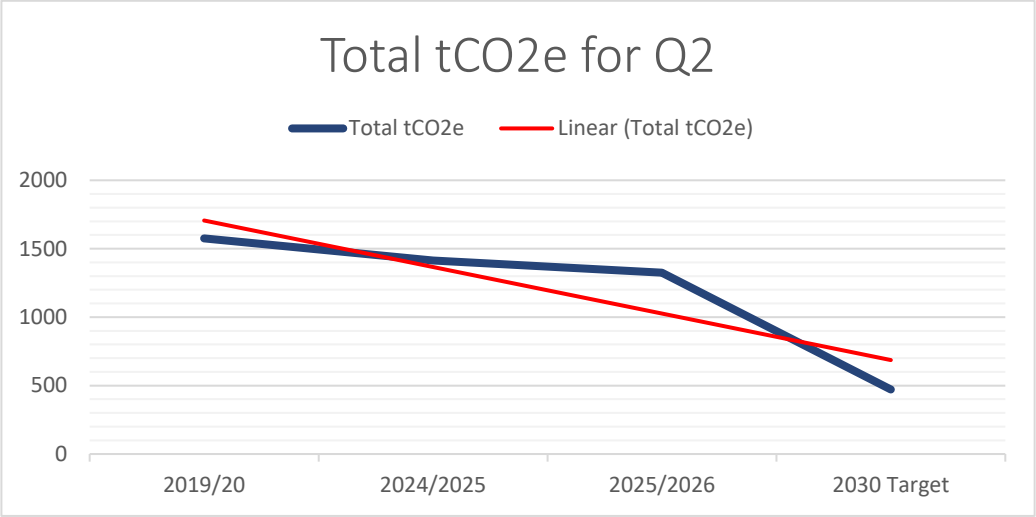
Diesel
Carbon emissions figures for gas oil (red diesel) used in small plant and Derv (diesel) used in the road fleet have been combined to provide a cumulative total for 2019/20 Q2 diesel emission, in line with the 2022 reform on red diesel usage.

Considering the combined reporting of diesel consumption, overall usage has decreased by 12.59% in Q2, leading to a reduction of 84.1 tCO_2 emissions compared to the 2019/20 baseline year

Notwithstanding the above situation regarding comparison of 2025/26 with the baseline year of 2019/20, diesel consumption in Q2 has increased compared to the same reporting period in 2024/25. This is primarily due to decreased operating efficiency across several vehicle types, including sweepers, rear-end lorries (RELs), refuse collection vehicles (RCVs), MacPac units and 4x4s. Although the fleet covered 12,121 fewer miles during this reporting period, an additional 6,475 litres of diesel were consumed. Carbon emissions have increased by 33.2 tCO_2 in this reporting period compared to last year, which equates to a 6.02% increase.

Targets and Trends
The graph below illustrates our overall fuel emissions for this period, set against the 2030 target. The linear trendline represents the trajectory required to achieve our 48% emission reduction target by 2030. A modest level of overall progress has been made towards achieving our emissions reduction goals. While we are currently

behind the linear trendline target, with continued efforts particularly regarding transition to a greener fleet, officers believe that we will achieve our long-term targets.



Consumption Costs

The table below presents fuel consumption costs for each year, along with the corresponding unit prices. This allows for a comparison of both usage and changes in market rates over time.

Quarter 2 Utility/Fuel Type	2019/20 Costs £(NET)	2019/20 Unit Rate £/unit (NET)	2025/26 Costs £(NET)	2025/26 Unit Rate £/unit (NET)	Projected Cost of 2019/20 Usage at Current Unit Rates £(NET)	Projected Cost Saving Between 2025/26 and 2019/20 Usage at Current Unit Rates £(NET)	Percentage Cost Difference Between 2025/26 and 2019/20 Usage at Current Unit Rates
Electric	£149,319	£0.12	£234,938	£0.21	£261,011	£26,073	10% decrease
Gas	£154,365	£0.05	£162,999	£0.06	£176,944	£13,945	8% decrease
Kerosene	£204	£0.42	£1,103	£0.50	£242	-£861	356% increase
Derv	£194,027	£1.03	£242,985	£1.11	£208,340	-£34,645	17% increase
Gasoil	£33,338	£0.57	N/A	N/A	£42,632	N/A	N/A
TOTAL	**£531,254**	**-**	**£642,025**	**-**	**£689,169**	**£47,144**	**7% decrease**

Highlights of Energy Saving Initiatives Delivered this Reporting Period

Not Applicable

List below of recent energy saving initiatives:

Description	Annual energy saving estimate	Annual tCO_2e reduction estimate	Annual cost saving estimate £(NET)
Signal Centre – LED Lighting Upgrade	4,837 kWh	0.86	£1,015
North Road Depot – Upgrade windows to UPVC double glazing (Partial)	17,172 kWh	3.14	£1,030
North Road Depot - Install Solar PV	81,358 kWh	14.4	£20,340
TOTAL	**103,367 kWh**	**18.4**	**£22,385**

Refer to the attached updated Sustainable Energy Action Plan for comprehensive updates on all noted actions.

Future Measures Currently Under Consideration/Planning

- Use the Council's monthly newsletter to share energy-saving best practices with staff, encouraging their active participation in further reducing energy consumption.
- Develop and implement a Council-wide policy for the seasonal shutdown of heating systems during the summer months across the entire estate.
- Develop and implement an employee e-learning programme to promote awareness and best practices for energy conservation in the workplace.
- Replacement of boilers at various Council properties and upgrade of control systems.
- Design of new lighting control and LED lighting at North Road Depot and Bangor Environmental Resource Centre.
- Design of new lighting control and LED lighting at various Council properties
- Solar PV Installation at chosen compatible Council properties.
- Continuation of Car Park lighting LED installation.
- Walk-round surveys of properties to examine and review existing controls and settings.
- Surveys of existing buildings for insulation installation to be carried out and implemented.
- Energy targets & KPI's for service unit managers to be agreed for 2025/2026.
- Possible introduction of Automatic Meter Reading (AMR) systems in highest energy consuming buildings.
- Installation of double-glazed windows at Church Street Offices.
- Installation of double-glazed windows at Ballygowan Community Centre

List below of planned works for Q2-Q4:

Description	Annual energy saving estimate	Annual tCO_2e reduction estimate	Annual cost saving estimate £(NET)

Not Applicable

Queen's Leisure Centre – LED Lighting Upgrade	11,977 kWh	2.12	£2,515
Ballygowan Community Centre Solar PV	8,230 kWh	1.5	£2,421
Green Road Community Centre Solar PV	6,758 kWh	1.2	£1,937
Skipperstone Community Centre Solar PV	4,250 kWh	0.78	£1,920
Manor Court Community Centre Solar PV	2943 kWh	0.5	£629
Portavogie Community Centre Solar PV	7348 kWh	1.3	£2,138
Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre Solar PV	226,515 kWh	40	£67,107
Bangor Sportsplex LED Lighting (Outdoor Floodlights)	11,866 kWh	2.1	£2,966
Bangor Waste Transfer Station Solar PV	81,358 kWh	14.4	£20,340
Bangor Aurora Leisure Centre LED Lighting upgrade	37,739 kWh	6.6	£9,057
North Road Depot Waste Transfer Station LED lighting upgrade	17,860 kWh	3.2	£4,338
Bangor Waste Transfer Station LED lighting upgrade	7,523 kWh	1.3	£1,805
TOTAL	**424,367 kWh**	**75**	**£117,173**

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the latest quarterly energy consumption update.

Appendix 1

Ards and North Down Borough Council Sustainable Energy Management Strategy **ACTION PLAN**

This action plan has been divided into the following sections/ themes:

1. Enabling Actions
2. Generic/ Behavioural Actions; and
3. Building Specific Actions

This action plan shall be for a three-year period, after which a revised action plan will be developed with further details.

It is envisaged that the follow up action plan will include more specific actions in terms of buildings and systems improvements i.e. after the actions within this plan related to further detailed surveys and feasibility studies are completed.

This initial action plan focuses on getting the systems, governance, and oversight arrangements in place within the Council to ensure effective sustainable energy management, with some specific actions also included which were identified during the high-level energy surveys.

Further update reports will include costs and timescales for the actions.

The actions presented within each of these sections/ themes are in order of priority and benefit in terms of consumption and carbon emissions reduction potential.

The actions are also classified as follows:

1. Urgent- within 6-9 months of the Actions Plan being endorsed.
2. Short Term- within 12 months
3. Medium Term- -within 24- 36 months

The Action Plan will be subject to annual review. A Progress Report shall be prepared, presented, and approved by Environment Committee.

Enabling Actions

Theme	Priority/ Lead Responsibility	Action	Rationale/ Notes	Benefit	Progress
Enhanced Energy Management Governance	**Urgent** Head of Assets & Property Services Director of Environment	Improve governance arrangements to ensure that energy management has effective oversight and accountability within the Council.	Improving oversight and accountability within the Council for energy management will ensure that consumption performance and the implementation of the Strategy and this action plan will be continuously monitored. Energy Management should be a standing agenda item to allow it to be regularly reviewed through the Council's 'Climate Change Working Group.	Improved monitoring and governance will improve energy performance by ensuring actions are effectively implemented, consumption trends routinely monitored, which should result in reduced consumption, costs, and emissions.	Ongoing
Formal Energy and Carbon Management Policy	**Urgent** Director Of Environment	Develop a formal policy for the Council to include a requirement for space heating to be switched off during a predetermined period during the summer.	Having a formal approved policy will support energy and carbon management efforts as well as demonstrate the Council's commitment to reducing energy consumption and carbon emissions.	Enhanced Reputation (the Policy should be made publicly available) Should support efforts/ actions to reduce consumption, costs, and emissions.	All heating switched off in Council offices between May and September, with the exception of any sporadic period of cold. Policy to be drafted for review and approval
Energy check/ audit programme	**Urgent** Director of Environment	Introduce an energy check/ audit programme to introduce a structured review process for energy and carbon management in prioritised buildings.	Having a programme where energy checks/ audits are completed will proactively monitor performance. Key areas to review during these checks/ audits include: ○ Time and temperature set points on heating controls and building management systems (e.g. AHUs, boiler heating timers etc.)	Reduced energy consumption and costs A thorough, robust, proactive audit programme has the potential to realise considerable savings in consumption, costs, and emissions. Estimated realistic savings of between 3-5% of energy costs.	Ongoing

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<td></td>
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<td>○ Lighting and equipment left on unnecessarily.
○ Out of hours consumption (where aM&T systems have been installed or where half hourly electricity data is available.</td>
<td>
<table>
<tr><td>Savings</td><td>Cost</td><td>Carbon</td></tr>
<tr><td>3%</td><td>£62k</td><td>124T</td></tr>
<tr><td>5%</td><td>£104k</td><td>207T</td></tr>
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<td>Energy and Carbon Awareness</td>
<td>Short term

Director of Environment

Director of Corporate Services Development and Administration</td>
<td>Development and roll out of an energy and carbon awareness campaign to promote energy efficiency and carbon emissions reduction. Key content could include:
○ Lighting and equipment switch off messaging.
○ Heating set points
○ Other key behavioural messages

The campaign should be designed and delivered to the following:
○ All staff, via generic sessions
○ Focussed sessions and materials for prioritised staff/ buildings i.e. those with high consumption e.g. leisure centres.

This should be completed to complement the Council’s existing Sustainability Communications Programme</td>
<td>Employee engagement in energy efficiency and carbon reduction has many benefits:
○ Energy savings: Saving energy saves money and reduces an organisation’s carbon footprint.
○ Employee satisfaction: participation in employee engagement schemes can make employees feel valued. Knowing that their organisation cares about sustainability can improve employee satisfaction and employee retention.
○ Reputation: an employee engagement/ awareness scheme around sustainability shows that an organisation cares about both its employees and the environment. This can improve an organisation’s reputation and improve employee attraction.

The campaign should comprise information/ training sessions as well as the design and display of awareness messages e.g. posters/ signage with equipment and lighting switch off when not in use.

Whilst the priority should be in higher consuming buildings, the messaging should be displayed throughout the Council Estate.</td>
<td>A well implemented employee engagement scheme can lead to energy savings of approximately 5-10%.

<table>
<tr><td>Savings</td><td>Carbon</td></tr>
<tr><td>5%</td><td>207T</td></tr>
<tr><td>10%</td><td>414T</td></tr>
</table>

It could also lead to:
○ Employee satisfaction
○ Council reputation

The campaign would also support the related commitments and actions within the Council’s wider ‘Corporate Plan’ and ‘Roadmap to Sustainability’</td>
<td>Energy Officer has approached Energy Saving Trust to trial their corporate platform

<u>Energy Officer has issued training material to sustainability team, who are now leading on this action.</u>

Energy consumption figures shared with Leisure and Community Centres to show big users.

<u>Estates to commission an audit of the leisure centre’s operational efficiency in 2026/2027 to identify best practices and areas for improvement.</u></td>
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Generic/ Behavioural Actions

Theme	Priority/ Responsibility	Action	Rationale/ Notes	Benefit	
Sustainable energy design	**Urgent** Director of Place plus Head of Strategic Capital Unit	Develop a Capital Projects Sustainability Policy to be agreed by Council	Consideration, in particular, should be given to the introduction of specifications which should include the following key criteria, subject to business cases: ○ Zero/ Low carbon technologies ○ Effective zoning e.g. of heating and lighting systems ○ Energy and carbon performance targets e.g. as set out in the BREEAM performance standard. ○ Effective commissioning of key plant and equipment e.g. AHUs, low carbon/ renewable technologies ○ Installation of efficient equipment, fittings, and controls e.g. boiler upgrades, LED lighting, PIR and daylight sensors, smart heating programmers, variable speed drives (VSDs) on pumps etc. Building sustainable structures not only reduces their environmental impact but also offers economic advantages. Sustainable buildings are more efficient and cost less to operate than conventionally built buildings.	Enhanced Corporate Reputation Consumption and carbon emissions reduction and cost savings. Although the upfront costs can be higher for more sustainable new builds and refurbishments, a newly built green asset has been found to have 14% lower operational costs over five years when compared to a conventionally designed and constructed building (World Green Building Council).[1] In addition, the briefing paper 'Assessing carbon emissions in BREEAM' published in 2016 demonstrated that the average CO2 savings for a BREEAM assessed building is 22%, whilst a BREEAM Excellent building is expected to reduce carbon emissions by 33% when compared to conventional builds.	We are implementing lighting controls and LED fittings in properties as and when we can. We are also implementing controls installations in larger consuming buildings to help reduce electric costs. Pursuing implementation of electric heating to reduce use of hydro-carbon heating systems. Future works to be aligned with 10-Year programme for M&E infrastructure renewal

[1] https://bregroup.com/breeam-news/six-ways-to-get-the-most-out-of-breeam/

Existing/ historic energy improvement quotations	**Urgent** Director of Environment	Complete an exercise to gather all energy efficiency related upgrade quotations e.g. LED lighting upgrades, which should then be reviewed with those deemed beneficial taken forward.	During the completion of the review and auditing project, it was advised that quotes had been received in the past which were not taken forward. Such quotes received would include estimated cost savings and payback. Reviewing these and revisiting them where the projects are deemed feasible will result in consumption and cost savings. LEDs are more energy efficient that traditional halogen bulbs. They also last five times longer and use 80% less energy to produce the same amount of light. (Energy Saving Trust)	Consumption and carbon emissions reduction and cost savings should projects be implemented. Considering that lighting can contribute to a third of a building's overall electricity consumption, transitioning to LED lighting is a swift and budget-friendly method to cut costs. For example, a traditional 600×600 4x18w fluorescent fitting, when swapped with a 600×600 30w LED panel, can reduce the related electricity consumption by approximately 55%. In many applications, the volume of fittings in-situ can multiply these savings even further. Adding lighting controls, such as dimming, and PIR sensors can also increase these savings further.	Ongoing Estates progressing car park lighting schemes currently.
Improve energy and carbon performance reporting	**Urgent** Director of Environment	Improve availability of energy consumption and carbon emissions information to high consuming building managers e.g. Leisure Centres	Examples of information which could be provided include: • Monthly reports on consumption and cost • Updates on work being completed e.g. related to actions contained within the action plan	This should promote and compliment energy awareness in the Leisure Centres and a sense of ownership to assist with energy management. Improved high level oversight of energy and	Ongoing Energy dashboard is progressing well. Year against year comparison capable within the dashboard.

		Improve reporting of energy and carbon performance through the Climate Change Working Group		carbon management through the Climate Change Working Group should increase the likelihood of energy improvements being realised.	Sub-dashboards are being created for the different department to easily view their own figures and compare to previous years.
Building insulation	**Short term** Director of Environment	Complete detailed building insulation reviews to identify opportunities to upgrade to improve efficiency	During construction, Council policy has been to typically to install insulation to meet but not exceed, the levels stipulated by the Building Control regulations at that time. These levels have varied over time and older buildings often suffer from inadequate insulation by modern standards. There therefore may be significant opportunities to complete insulation upgrades across the Council to reduce heat loss and improve energy efficiency. Works and reviews should focus in on older buildings and those with higher heating related energy consumption. Improvements to insulation levels in buildings will also increase the potential to lower temperature set points in heating boilers due to the reduction in heat loss from those buildings.	Reduced heating related energy consumption, costs, and carbon emissions. Estimated savings of 10% across 30% of the Council's Estate/ Building Stock heating costs (Natural Gas & Kerosene). Savings • Costs £64.5k • Carbon 255 tonnes	Ongoing Insulation to be upgraded as part of any significant refurbishment project. Estates to carry out building surveys on existing insulation levels and recommendation reports.
Space Planning/Rationalisation	**Short term** Corporate Leadership Team	Develop an effective space rationalisation regime to complement existing work on flexible working arrangements.	Rationalisation of office and other Council space should be prioritised where possible to poorer energy performing buildings. Energy efficiency of existing building stock should be a key consideration for any space rationalisation efforts.	Closing down inefficient buildings/ areas will result in low-cost reduction in energy-related running costs, reducing consumption and carbon emissions	Ongoing as part of corporate centralisation strategy

<table>
<tr><td></td><td></td><td></td><td>No energy efficiency expenditure should be completed on buildings/ areas identified for closure (including those ‘at risk’)</td><td></td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>Automatic Monitoring & Targeting (a M&T)</td><td>Medium term (Short term for the trial installation)

Director of Environment</td><td>Install an aM&T system in prioritised buildings on key energy supply meters to monitor consumption closely and proactively on a regular basis in targeted buildings.</td><td>aM&T is a key tool to proactively monitor and manage energy consumption.

Having aM&T systems available will vastly improve the Council’s energy management efforts through the timely identification of abnormal consumption patterns allowing them to be investigated and addressed quicker, resulting in reducing unnecessary consumption and costs.

It is recommended that such a system is installed in one trial building to assess suitability e.g. on the main incoming energy supplies in one of the leisure centres.

Linked to the need for dedicated energy management staff/ resource, aM&T systems are effective tools but only where there is enough time for them to be interrogated on a regular basis.

aM&T systems can be purchased outright or can be installed as part of a monthly management arrangement with a specialist consultant who install the system and monitor it on a client’s behalf.</td><td>It is estimated that this technology can help identify energy savings of 4 – 20% or more, with average cost savings of 10-15% being typically realised.

For the Council Estate, estimated carbon reduction would be on the lower side of the typical savings (estimated as 5%-10%) primarily due to the variance in the Estate’s building stock.

<table><tr><td>Savings</td><td>Carbon</td></tr><tr><td>5%</td><td>207T</td></tr><tr><td>10%</td><td>414T</td></tr></table></td><td>Ongoing

Further investigation into most suitable buildings required.

Investigation of costs, energy savings and payback period required for top consuming buildings initially, and then progress to other buildings.

Initial costings required to possibly address within 2025/26 budget.

Discussions are ongoing with the BMS supplier to assess the feasibility of integrating aM&T into the existing BMS infrastructure.</td></tr>
</table>

Wind Turbine Generator feasibility study	**Medium term** Director of Environment	Complete an options appraisal/ feasibility study on the potential to install wind turbine generators at Council sites.	A specialist consultant should be engaged with knowledge of planning implications to complete such an appraisal/ study.	Increased use of renewable electricity, resulting in reduced grid dependency, cost reduction and carbon emissions reduction	Further investigation required.

Building Specific Actions

Note: buildings referenced in the Action column are presented in order of focus/ priority)

Theme	Priority/ Lead Responsibility	Action	Rationale/ Notes	Benefit	
Building Management Systems	**Urgent** Director of Environment	Complete detailed BMS reviews at the following locations with focus on energy efficiency to assess potential to reduce consumption through time settings, temperature settings, the installation of additional controls etc. ○ Bangor Sportsplex ○ Comber Leisure Centre ○ Town Hall, The Castle	High level reviews of existing BMSs in the locations identified have the potential to reduce energy consumption considerably. By way of example, it was noted that the Air Handling Units (AHU's) associated with the main pool area at Ards Blair Mayne were running 24 hours per day. There is an opportunity here to reduce these 'out of hours' i.e. when the facility is closed, and the pool cover is on. Similarly, there would also be potential to ramp back on the pool recirculation pumps 'out of hours. The completion of more focussed BMS audits/ reviews are likely to identify more opportunities to reduce consumption, costs, and emissions.	Consumption, cost, and emissions reduction.	Recently completed works to upgrade BMS controls for zoning of NRD. Work now required at Ards Blair Mayne, Bangor Sportsplex Comber LC and Town Hall to be aligned with 10-Year programme for M&E infrastructure renewal Explore the development of a framework to deliver improvements in BMS operational efficiency
Boiler temperature settings	**Short term** Director of Environment	Complete exercises at each of the following locations to optimise the temperature settings on the heating to maximise the efficiency of the condensing boilers: ○ Comber Leisure Centre ○ Queen's Leisure Complex ○ Donaghadee Community Centre ○ Kilcooley Community Centre	An ideal design temperature for a condensing boiler commercial heating system would be 65°C supply, 45°C return. The lower return temperature means it can operate in part-condensing mode all year round. Although this is the most efficient setting other factors need to be considered. Such factors include: ○ how well the building is insulated, ○ the pipe runs throughout the building/ building size; and ○ potential for legionella risk.	Reduced consumption, costs, and emissions	Ongoing Propose aligning this initiative with scheduled major building insulation works to maximise operational efficiency Energy officer is developing strategy to simulate and assess reducing setpoint temperatures in

		○ Waste Transfer Station, Baloo Drive ○ Ards Blair Mayne (pool water and pool hall temperatures)	To complement this action, it is therefore vital that building insulation is also upgraded to prevent heat loss and support the lowering of temperature set points on boilers. It is recommended that set points are gradually lowered e.g. by 1°C each time, with periods of monitoring between each lowering until the set points gets to an optimum point in terms of lower temperature set point and building comfort.		offices and public buildings to reflect energy savings in gas heating.
Solar Reflective/ Control film on Windows	**Short term** Director of Environment	Install Solar Reflective/ Control film on Windows on the Church Street building. Install Solar Reflective/Control film and UPVC double glazing on the NRD Building Install Solar Reflective/Control film and UPVC double glazing on the Ballygowan Community Centre	The identified buildings were very warm during the audit visits, with staff members mentioning the overheating and comfort issues. Additional portable air conditioning had been introduced to try to address the issue (with the associated energy consumption implications). The application of solar film to the windows in those areas experiencing overheating will reduce solar gain and will also retain heat, thereby improving both comfort levels and efficiency. Installing uPVC double glazing offers significant energy-saving benefits by providing enhanced insulation, which helps reduce heat loss in the winter and keeps your the building cooler in the summer, reducing energy costs. Consider contact sensors on windows for feedback to BMS to control heating zone to prevent wasted heating/cooling when windows are left open.	Electricity consumption, costs, and emissions reduction. Film is a widely used solution which can result in up to 1/3 savings on associated cooling requirements/ costs for those spaces which are subject to excessive solar gain. It also has comfort benefits for space users.	UPVC double glazing installed in the NRD Buildings Works progressing with Church Street offices Works to replace Ballygowan scheduled for 2026/27 FY. Good practice guidance will be issued to staff to promote effective use of office space for cooling. The need for this initiative will be reviewed following implementation of the above.

Pipework insulation	**Short term** Director of Environment	Complete insulation of pipework at the following locations: ○ City Hall, the Castle (significant lengths requiring insulation) ○ Ballygowan Village Hall ○ Marquis Hall, Bangor ○ Ards Blair Mayne (fit jackets to sand filters)	Insulating pipework will reduce heat loss, thereby improving the efficiency of the heating systems	Electricity consumption, costs, and emissions reduction. Generally, maximum savings of 10-20% can be realised. This however depends on the length of uninsulated pipe run, pipe/ valve size etc.	Quotes received but deemed no feasible as installation costs far outweighed the energy savings its would bring. Possibly look at again in the future if surplus budget available. Insulation was completed at City Hall Bangor previously. Opportunities for improvement will be highlighted during the statutory building surveys. To be aligned with 10-Year programme for M&E infrastructure renewal
Solar PV	**Short term** Director of Environment	Consider the installation of Solar PV at the following locations: ○ Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre (add to existing system and check that existing system is operational) ○ Bangor Sportsplex (add to existing system and check that existing system is operational) ○ Queen's Leisure Complex	Engage a specialist installer or independent solar consultant to design/ specify systems for each building which optimises the amount of generated renewable electricity used on site, thereby minimising grid electricity use and avoidance of associated carbon emissions. Designs/ specifications should be developed using half hourly consumption/ load data.	Increased use of renewable electricity, resulting in reduced grid dependency, cost reduction and carbon emissions reduction	100kWp Solar PV installation completed at North Road Depot. Solar PV Installation completed in Ballygowan, Manor Court, Green Road and Skipperstone community centres. Works progressing Q3 to install Solar PV in

		○ Donaghadee Community Centre ○ Hamilton Road Community Hub ○ Manor Court Community Centre ○ Queen's Hall ○ Recycling Centre, Bangor ○ Skipperstone Community Centre ○ Glen Community Centre ○ Portavogie Community Centre ○ Green Road Community Centre ○ Alderman Green Community Centre ○ Kircubbin Community Centre ○ North Road Works Depot ○ Kilcooley Community Centre ○ Whitechurch Cemetery ○ 2 Church Street ○ Clandeboye Cemetery ○ Conlig Community Centre	There is likely to be potential to install additional PV systems at sites with such systems already installed. Consideration should also be given to the 'future proofing' of any installations i.e. to facilitate the introduction of battery storage systems once the technology is more commercially available.		Portavogie community centre. Installation to progress in Q4 with Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre Design proposal and costs prepared for extending Solar PV system on Bangor Waste Transfer station. Review costs proposal and looks to progress in Q1 2026/27. Pre-construction information to be prepared and detailed designs to commence with Londonderry Park and Bangor Aurora Leisure centre in 2026/27 business year.
Northern Community Leisure Trust (Serco) Operated Facilities	**Medium term** Director of Environment	Completion of energy assessments for each building/ facility	The completion of the assessments will ensure opportunities to optimise consumption are identified an Due to the nature of the facilities multiple leisure sites and pavilions), these are high consuming buildings and as such have the	Identification of reduction and other opportunities prior to facility handover and assessment of priority to rectify in terms of energy cost,	Explore the development of a framework to deliver improvements in BMS operational efficiency

			potential for good energy reduction opportunities to be identified. Efforts should focus on BMS settings and controls on key plant such as AHUs, pumps etc. and the potential to upgrade existing inefficient fittings e.g. lighting as well as introduce/ increase the use of low/ zero carbon technologies such as solar PV.	consumption, and emissions reduction.	Engage a specialist external provider to conduct building performance assessments
Boiler replacement	**Medium term** Director of Environment	Upgrade the following, less efficient heating boilers to improve the efficient use of energy: ○ Comber Adult Learning Centre ○ Green Road Community Centre ○ Groomsport Boathouse ○ Kircubbin Community Centre ○ Manor Court ○ Portavogie Community Centre ○ Queen's Hall ○ Skipperstone Community Centre ○ North Road Depot ○ Ards Blair Mayne (replace existing hot water boilers with plater heat exchangers)	Upgrading to a more efficient heating boiler should result on average 5-10% energy efficiency improvement benefits and subsequent reduction in consumption, costs, and emissions. These upgrades should be prioritised based on consumption and building use/ occupancy levels at each location. Upgrades should be completed after consideration has been given to the fuel switching action point in locations using kerosene.	Consumption, cost, and emissions reduction.	Boilers to be replaced at end of life aligned with 10-Year programme for M&E infrastructure renewal Works to commence in Manor Court community centre, Portavogie community centre and Bangor Waste Transfer station as part of 10 year M&E infrastructure renewal.
Low carbon fuel replacement	**Medium term** Director of Environment	Complete a feasibility review to assess potential to migrate to lower carbon fuels at the following locations:	The highlighted location using Kerosene as a heating fuel, which is a high carbon fuel when compared to others currently available.	Reduced carbon emissions Currently, LPG costs are comparable with	Review will start upon completion of the installation of above boilers.

		○ Bangor Sportsplex ○ Kircubbin Community Centre ○ Portavogie Community Centre ○ Queen's Hall ○ Skipperstone Community Centre	Lower carbon options include: ○ Natural Gas- limitations on availability may restrict this option. ○ Propane- this could be utilized where natural gas is not available. ○ BioLPG- a lower carbon alternative to 'virgin' propane, though it is a higher cost fuel. ○ Electric- electrification of heating in buildings could be considered, particularly along with the installation of solar PV. This action focuses on carbon reduction. Cost savings may be realized but its focus is more on reducing the Council's carbon emissions.	natural gas and kerosene costs. The benefit would be on lowering carbon emissions. BioLPG costs are approximately 15-20% higher than standard LPG. Carbon emissions associated with standard LPG are approximately 40% less carbon intensive than kerosene. BioLPG is effectively zero carbon rated.	Possible heat pump project at Kircubbin/Portavogie CC due to current UF heating. Feasibility Study to be carried out by APS To be aligned with 10-Year programme for M&E infrastructure renewal. Pursuing implementation of electric heating to reduce use of hydro-carbon heating systems. To be aligned Solar PV installation programme to allow electrical consumption to be offset by solar generation.
Lighting upgrades to LED equivalents	**Medium term** Director of Environment	Complete lighting upgrades to LED equivalents (and install PIR/ daylight controls) in the following buildings: ○ Baloo Waste Transfer Station (T5 fittings in the main waste 'shed')	Upgrading to LED lighting as well as introducing automated PIR and/ or daylight sensors will reduce electricity consumption, costs, and emissions. LED fittings also reduce 'whole life' maintenance costs due primarily to their longer life spans.	Electricity consumption, costs, and emissions reduction Typical savings of 30% can be realised through the installation of PIR controls and LED lighting when compared with older fittings.	Lighting controls added to dome area and internally within Ards Blair Mayne to control lights via daylight levels primarily and PIR sensing as secondary control.

		○ Bangor Sportsplex (internal lighting T8 & pitches to LED) ○ Glen Community Centre (T8 fittings) ○ Kilcooley Community Centre (install PIRs to existing LED) ○ Kircubbin Community Centre (T8) ○ Church Street Office ○ Comber Adult Learning Centre ○ Conlig Community Centre ○ Alderman George Green Community Centre (PIR) ○ Redburn Community Centre ○ Tower House (PIR) ○ Portavogie Community Centre (PIR) ○ Queen's Hall (PIR) ○ Queen's Leisure Complex (PIR) ○ Manor Court (T5 fittings to be replaced with LED) ○ City Hall, The Castle (existing fittings to be replaced with LED and controls) ○ Ards Blair Mayne (microcell and PIR sensors fitted and time control added) ○ North Road Depot (fit LED lighting to all other			Detailed design completed at North Road Depot to allow costs to be understood for replacement of remaining fluorescent lights with lighting controls. Currently working through zone by zone to replace light fittings and controls at Aurora Leisure Centre, and is ongoing. Opportunities for improvement will be highlighted during the statutory building surveys. Works completed in Signal Centre Works progressing in Queen's Leisure centre Works issued to Estates Squad to completed Portavogie community centre Design's progressing with North Road Depot and Bangor

		areas that currently do not have LED) ○ Aurora (LED replacements of fluorescent and microcell/PIR controls)			Waste Transfer station
Electric Storage Heaters	**Medium term** Director of Environment	Complete upgrades to more efficient alternatives to existing, aged storage heater units in the following locations: ○ Ards Arts Centre (partial replacement) ○ North Down Museum ○ Portaferry Market House	Move to more efficient storage heaters will reduce consumption.	Electricity consumption, costs, and emissions reduction	Opportunities for improvement will be highlighted during the statutory building surveys. To be aligned with 10-Year programme for M&E infrastructure renewal Pursuing implementation of electric heating to reduce use of hydro-carbon heating systems. To be be aligned Solar PV installation programme to allow electrical consumption to be offset by solar generation.
Glazing upgrades	**Medium term**	Complete glazing upgrades to the following buildings.	Upgrading glazing at the identified locations will reduce heat loss from the	Electricity consumption, costs, and emissions reduction.	Works to install secondary glazed windows at Church

	Director of Environment	Install secondary glazing in the following listed buildings: ○ North Road Depot ○ Ballygowan Community Centre ○ North Down Museum ○ Portaferry Market House (1st Floor) ○ Tower House	buildings, thereby improving energy efficiency.	Glazing upgrades from single pane reduces heat loss from the respective areas being upgraded. Up to 15% savings on heating costs in those areas can be realised.	Street offices to commence 2025/26 UPVC double glazing installed in the NRD Buildings Pre-construction information to be prepared and detailed designs to Ballygowan Community Centre in 2026/27 FY.

ITEM 11

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 December 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing
Date of Report	19 November 2025
File Reference	53042
Legislation	Waste and Contaminated Land (Northern Ireland) Order 1997
Section 75 Compliant	Yes ☐ No ☐ Other ☒ If other, please add comment below: Not relevant
Subject	Northern Ireland Local Authority Municipal Waste Management Statistics, April to June 2025
Attachments	None

Introduction
The official waste management statistics for the first quarter of 2025/2026 (April to June 2025) have been released by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.

The aim of this report is to:

1. Report key quarterly waste management performance statistics relative to the same period last year (found in part 1 of the report) and to our baseline comparator year of 2021-22 (found in the KPI section of part 2 of the report), and
2. Provide some detail around operational waste service management activities/actions that have been implemented during the quarter with the aim of improving performance.

Not Applicable

All key indicators are very positive for this reporting period. They show that we have been successful in maintaining and further building upon the gains achieved since we started a renewed programme of performance improvement in 2021-22. Furthermore, they indicate that the Council recorded the highest household waste recycling rate of all NI councils during the quarter.

Our residual (non-recycled waste) is now disposed of via a new residual waste treatment contract. During this quarter 31.2% of our residual waste was sent for energy recovery. This compares to 40% in the preceding quarter.

Summary Table of Key Changes Q1 2025-26 vs Q1 2024-2025

	Q1 2024-25	Q1 2025-26	Change
Household Waste Recycling Rate (KPI(a2)) (National recycling performance indicator)	59.8%	63.1%	↑ 3.3%
Waste from Households Recycling Rate (Official UK recycling measure)	59.7%	62.7%	↑ 3%
Recycling Rate Ranking	3rd	1st	↑ 2 places
Composting Rate	38.8%	37.3%	↓ 1.5%
Dry Recycling Rate	20.6%	25.4%	↑ 4.8%
Total HRC Waste	5,769 t	5,824 t	↑ 1%
HRC Residual/Landfill Waste Received	1,474 t	1,364 t	↓ 7.5%
HRC Recycling Waste Received	4,295 t	4,460 t	↑ 3.8%
Proportion of HRC Waste Received for Recycling	74%	76.6%	↑ 2.6%
Total Kerbside Waste	16,109 t	15,610 t	↓ 3.1%
Kerbside Residual Waste Received	6,029 t	5992 t	↓ 0.6%
Kerbside Recycling Waste Received	10,080 t	9,618 t	↓ 4.6%
Proportion of Kerbside Waste Received for Recycling	62.6%	61.6%	↓ 1%

The significant headlines contained within the latest DAERA report show that:

i. Our household waste recycling rate rose by 3.3% compared to the same quarter last year, from 59.8% to 63.1%
ii. Our household waste recycling rate of 63.1%, is 9.1 percentage points higher than the NI average of 54%.
iii. We were ranked first out of the eleven NI Councils for our household waste recycling rate, up two places from the same quarter last year.
iv. Our household waste composting rate fell by 1.5% compared to the same quarter last year - from 38.8% to 37.3%. Our household waste dry recycling rate rose by 4.8% compared to the same quarter last year - from 20.6% to 25.4%.

Not Applicable

v. Our household waste composting rate of 37.3% was 6.6% higher than the NI average of 30.7%.
vi. Our household waste dry recycling rate (i.e. recycling of items other than organic food and garden waste) of 25.4% was 2.4% higher than the N.I. average of 23%.
vii. Our kerbside recycling capture rate of 80.6% for household compostable waste materials compared to a NI Council average of 72.2%.
viii. Our lowest kerbside capture rate for recyclable materials was for mixed plastics, at 18.7%.

Kerbside Capture Rate for Recyclable Waste Types – Q1 April to June 2025		
Recyclable Material	**Kerbside Capture Rate for Recycling %**	**NI Average Kerbside Capture Rate for Recycling %**
Glass	60.1	49.6
Paper & Card	64.5	53
Mixed Metals	37.5	32
Mixed Plastics	25.4	23
Organic/Compostables	80.6	72.2

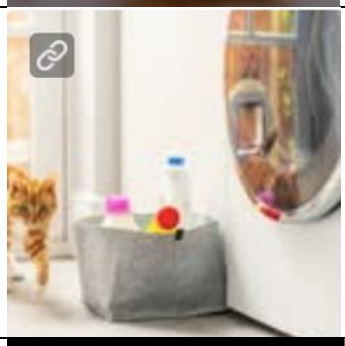
ix. Ards and North Down Borough Council ranked third in the Council performance table for 'dry' recycling rate and first for composting rate.
x. We received 47.6% less residual (non-recycled) waste per capita at our HRCs compared to the average for other Councils, compared to 10.6% less during the same period the previous year.
xi. We received 5.6% less total waste per capita at our HRCs compared to the average for other NI Councils; during the same period the previous year we received 20.1% less HRC waste per capita than the other NI councils.
xii. The proportion of waste collected at our HRC sites for recycling was higher than the average for other Councils – 76.6%, compared to an average rate of 65.6% for other Councils. During the same quarter the previous year, our HRC recycling rate of 74.5%, compared to an average of 65.6% for other Councils.
xiii. We collected 3.9% more waste per capita from homes through our kerbside bin collection services compared to the average for other Councils. During the same period the previous year, we collected 5.8% more
xiv. We collected 22.9% less residual/landfill waste per capita from homes through our kerbside bin collection services compared to the average for other Councils. During the same period last year, we collected 21.4% less.
xv. The proportion of waste collected for recycling through our kerbside bin collection system was higher than the average for other Councils – 62.6%, compared to an average of 49.5% for other Councils.

Not Applicable

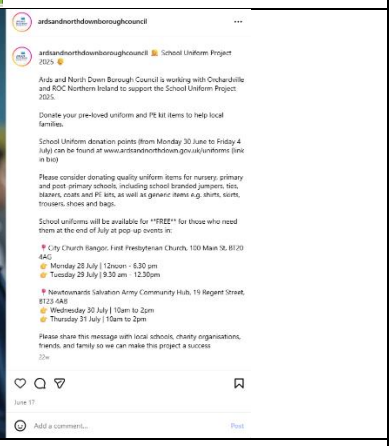
Operational Performance Improvement Measures
Marketing and Communications Indicators

MC1 – 41 social media posts were issued on Facebook, Instagram and X. These represented a mix of educational and operational messages including food waste/caddy promotion, the reuseable nappy scheme and school uniform project, anti-littering messages, aluminium/foil recycling, vape disposal and recycling, soil disposal and temporary changes to bin collections (Bank Holidays) and facilities access (HRC sites and public toilets.)

Examples included:

Launch of reusable nappy scheme / 1 April 2025	
Food Waste Recycling / 1 April 2025	
Spring clean – recycling cleaning product bottles / 9 April 2025	
Anti-littering message / 11 April 2025	

Not Applicable

Aluminium recycling (Alupro) / 16 April 2025	
Bank Holiday arrangements / 16 April and 19 May 2025	Ards and North Down Borough Council **EASTER BANK HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS** Due to the **Easter Bank Holiday 2025**, the following schedule has been arranged. Please make sure your container is set out for collection on the appropriate day by **7:00am.** Normal Collection Due On / Will Be Collected On Monday 21 April 2025 / Tuesday 22 April 2025 Tuesday 22 April 2025 / Wednesday 23 April 2025 Wednesday 23 April 2025 / Thursday 24 April 2025 Thursday 24 April 2025 / Friday 25 April 2025 **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES** Balloo, Ballygowan, Comber, Donaghadee, Holywood, Kircubbin, Millisle, Newtownards and Portaferry will be **CLOSED** on **Monday 21 & Tuesday 22 April 2025** Ards and North Down Borough Council **MAY BANK HOLIDAY REFUSE COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS** Due to the **Bank Holiday on 26th May**, the following schedule has been arranged. Please make sure your container is set out for collection on the appropriate day by **7:00am.** Normal Collection Due on / Will Be Collected On Monday 26th May 2025 / Tuesday 27th May 2025 Tuesday 27th May 2025 / Wednesday 28th May 2025 Wednesday 28th May 2025 / Thursday 29th May 2025 Thursday 29th May 2025 / Friday 30th May 2025 **HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES** Balloo, Ballygowan, Comber, Donaghadee, Holywood, Kircubbin, Millisle, Newtownards and Portaferry will be CLOSED on **Monday 26th May 2025**
Rescue Me, Recycle, 10 May 2025	
School Uniform Project / 17 June 2025	
HRC Summer Opening Hours	

Not Applicable

MC2 – Eleven Bin-Ovation 'News and Info' articles were published, eleven Bin-Ovation' push notifications' issued, and 2016 Bin-Ovation downloads recorded.

MC3 – Officers delivered 17 community and engagement events, talking to 1290 people:

- 7 x schools
- 6 x Adult groups
- 3 x Events
- 1 x Scout group

Household Recycling Centre Indicators
HRC1 Volume of blue bin recyclable materials separated from mixed waste by residents on-site: 719,940 litres.

This equates to approximately 30 tons of blue bin waste. This material includes recyclables removed from residual waste following intervention and engagement with HRC staff. This practice both increases recycling and provides an opportunity to engage with site users on the value of recycling – promoting more efficient separation of waste in the home and greater use of blue bins at the kerbside.

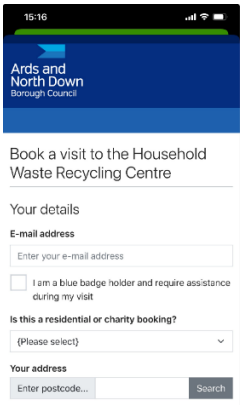
This represents just one type of recyclable waste category which was prevented from entering landfill skips at HRCs because of our more focused attention to supervision of landfill skip access. Many other recyclable waste types will also have been prevented from entering the landfill skips as reflected in KPI, HRC3.

HRC2 – Number of visitors turned away from site: 645

HRC2a – Number of HRC bookings: 80,136

HRC2b – Average number of HRC visits per household: 1.11 (averaged across the 71,976 households in the Borough)

Not Applicable



HRC3 % change in tonnage of total waste received (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced a **37.7% decrease** in the total amount of waste received at our HRCs, down from 9,350 tonnes to 5,824 tonnes.

HRC4 % change in tonnage of residual (non-recycled) waste received (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced a **62.7% decrease** in the amount of residual (non-recycled) waste received at our HRCs, down from 3,664 tonnes to 1,364 tonnes.

HRC5 % change in tonnage of waste received for recycling (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced an **21.6% decrease** in the amount of waste received for recycling at our HRCs, down from 5,686 tonnes to 4,460 tonnes.

HRC6 % change in proportion of HRC waste materials collected for recycling (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced a 15.8 percentage point increase in the proportion of all waste received at HRCs which was collected for recycling, up from 60.8% to 76.6%.

2.3 Kerbside Household Waste Collections Indicators

KSI – Number of recycling alert stickers applied to grey bins (yellow): 1938

KS2 – Number of recycling alert stickers applied to grey bins (amber): 161

Not Applicable

KS3 – Number of recycling alert stickers applied to grey bins (red): 88

KS4 – % change in tonnage of total waste collected (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced an **1.4% increase** in the total amount collected at the kerbside, up from 15,389 tonnes to 15,610 tonnes.

KS5 - % change in tonnage of grey bin waste collected for disposal (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced a **11.5% decrease** in the amount of grey bin waste collected, down from 6,772 tonnes to 5,992 tonnes.

KS6 - % change in tonnage of waste collected at kerbside for recycling (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced a **11.6% increase** in the amount of waste collected at kerbside for recycling, up from 8,617 tonnes to 9,618 tonnes.

KS7 – % change in proportion of kerbside waste materials collected for recycling (compared to same period in baseline year 2021-22)

- We experienced a **6.7% percentage point increase** in the proportion of kerbside waste that was collected for recycling, up from 55.9% to 62.6%.

Summary and Trend Analysis of Indicators

Indicator Reference	Monitoring Period 8 (October 2024 – December 2024	Monitoring Period 9 (January to March 2025	Monitoring Period 10 (April to June 2025)
MC1 Social media posts	53	83	41
MC2 Print press and online articles	1	6	0
MC3 Engagement events/sessions	13	9	17
HRC1 Blue bin waste (litres)	800,300	677,500	719,940
HRC2 Visitors denied entry	800	653	645
HRC2a No. of bookings	70,843	73,224	80,136

Not Applicable

HRC2b Average no. of HRC visits per household in the Borough	0.99	1.02	1.11
HRC3 Total HRC waste compared to same period 2021/22	↓ 33.7%	↓ 27.2%	↓ 37.7%
HRC4 Residual waste compared to same period 2021/22	↓ 54.3%	↓ 71%	↓ 62.7%
HRC5 Recycling waste compared to same period 2021/22	↓ 20.2%	↑ 3.8%	↓ 21.6%
HRC6 Proportion of HRC waste collected for recycling compared to same period 2021/22	↑ 12.2%	↑ 25%	↑ 15.8%
KS1 Yellow warning stickers on grey bins	2187	1860	1938
KS2 Amber warning stickers on grey bins	154	145	161
KS3 Red warning stickers on grey bins	76	71	88
KS4 Total kerbside waste compared to 2021/22	↑ 3.7%	↑ 13.3%	↑ 1.4%
KS5 Grey bin waste compared to 2021/22	↓ 2.9%	↑ 1.7%	↓ 11.5%
KS6 Kerbside waste collected for recycling compared to same period 2021/22	↑ 9.2%	↑ 26.4%	↑ 11.6%
KS7 Proportion of kerbside waste collected for recycling	↑ 2.8%	↑ 5.5%	↑ 6.7%

Not Applicable

compared to same period 2021/22			

Summary Analysis of Indicators
Waste tonnages fluctuate across the year because of changes in demand for services and seasonal factors, for example, increases in garden waste during spring and summer. This report demonstrates continued improvement in recycling across all ANDBC waste and recycling services. These improvements are the result of a combination of interventions including the design and delivery of a comprehensive kerbside recycling service, development and enforcement of policies to increase diversion at HRCs and coordinated communications and engagement with service users.

Ultimately, the success of ANDBC's recycling services is due to increasing positive engagement by residents. It is important therefore that Council provides feedback to residents on recycling performance and the end destination for materials sent for recycling.

During the quarter April to June 2025, we recorded:

- An increase in the proportion of kerbside waste captured for recycling through blue bins and green / brown bins.
- An increase in the proportion of HRC materials diverted for reuse and recycling.
- A household waste recycling rate of 63.1%; the highest household recycling rate of the 11 NI councils. This is an increase of 3.3% percentage points from the same quarter in 2024/25.

Significant, not incremental, change is expected to follow direction from NI Government. ANDBC, along with all NI councils, eagerly awaits DAERA's response to its 2024 Rethinking our Resources Consultation and the anticipated launch of a consultation on a new Waste Strategy for Northern Ireland. These documents are expected to set out requirements to collect a consistent range of materials, inclusion of 'plastic bags and wrapping' from March 2027, and an opportunity to support local businesses and non-household organisations to improve or introduce workplace recycling. Together, these documents will provide a direction for future waste and recycling services and will allow Council to update and progress its plans for future services.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.