

ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

18 December 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, 7 January 2026** 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
- 3. Deputation – Strangford Lough and Lecale Partnership

Reports for Approval

- 4. Ards and North Down Borough Council Waste Working Group Update (Report attached)

Reports for Noting

- 5. Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Annual Report 2024-25 (Report attached)
- 6. Half Yearly 1 - Services Performance Reports (Copies attached)
 - 6.1. Estates Services
 - 6.2. Parks and Cemeteries Services
 - 6.3. Waste and Cleansing Services
- 7. Schools Growing Clubs Update (Report attached)
- 8. Notice of Motion 619 – Greyabbey Tennis Courts (Report attached)
- 9. Notices of Motion

9.1. Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman Smith and Councillor Chambers

This Council notes the Ulster Farmers' Union's unprecedented motion of no confidence in the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), which reflects deep and widespread frustration within the farming community.

This Council recognises the unrelenting pressures faced by family farmers across Northern Ireland, including:

- the unresolved and escalating crisis surrounding Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB);
- uncertainty regarding future Inheritance Tax arrangements for farm succession;
- continued planning paralysis affecting essential agricultural development; and
- increasing policy and regulatory pressures, with little meaningful assurance, progress, or action from DAERA to address these challenges.

This Council further acknowledges that family farmers are the backbone of Northern Ireland's agri-food sector, sustaining rural communities, underpinning the regional economy, and serving as essential custodians of our environment and biodiversity. This Council therefore calls on the Minister for DAERA to move beyond an "open door" approach and to actively engage, listen, and deliver tangible action in partnership with the Ulster Farmers' Union. Family farmers must be treated as key stakeholders in shaping policy that secures the future of the agri-food industry, protects our environment, and sustains rural livelihoods.

9.2. Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman McRandal and Alderman McAlpine

That this Council notes with concern the signs of erosion which have arisen on Station Road, Craigavon in recent years and that this Council recognises that Station Road, Craigavon is an integral section of the North Down coastal path and the Ulster Way.

That this Council reassess whether it has responsibility for maintaining the road and for strengthening the sea wall and sea defences along the North Down coastal path section of Station Road, in view of:

the fact that Council was prepared to assume responsibility for the road and sea defences under the failed Greenway project;

the fact that this is a right of way as asserted by Council.

That a report is brought back to the relevant Committee, to include assessment of who owns or is responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the sea wall and sea defences along Station Road.

10. Any Other Notified Business

*** IN CONFIDENCE***

Reports Delegated for Decision/Approval (In Confidence)

- 11. Tender for the Provision of Minor External Works (Report attached)
- 12. Extension of Tender for Plumbing Work at Various Council Properties (Report attached)
- 13. Ward Park Redevelopment – Appointment of Integrated Supply Team (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 Newman
Councillor Cathcart	Councillor Wray

Unclassified

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ITEM 4

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	07 January 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing Services
Date of Report	16 December 2025
File Reference	68012
Legislation	Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Ards and North Down Borough Council Waste Working Group Update
Attachments	

Background

Since June 2020, the Department of Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has engaged with stakeholders, including through public consultations, on policies, guidance and resources to support increases in the quality and quantity of recycling in Northern Ireland.

As part of the Council's drive for continuous improvement and, in anticipation of changes to policy and regulation in this area, Ards and North Down BC established a cross-party task and finish Member working group to explore collection options. The group last met in November 2024 to consider the outcomes of a review of the kerbside collections service model.

It is intended to reconvene this group in March 2026 to revisit the previous work and to update Members on the status of Northern Ireland waste and recycling policy.

Not Applicable

5

Policy development, consultation and engagement

The Waste (Circular Economy) Amendment Regulations (NI) 2020 commit Northern Ireland to recycling 65% of municipal waste by 2035. In addition, the Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022 sets a waste sector recycling target of 70% by 2030. Meeting these targets will require significant improvements in both household and non-household recycling performance.

Current waste policy is largely limited to tonnage-based targets for recycling of household waste. There is limited additional policy or regulation to guide councils in the design of waste and recycling services, and few requirements placed on non-household organisations.

Northern Ireland's household recycling rate has plateaued at just above 50% since 2019/20. To catalyse a stepped change in recycling, DAERA has issued two public consultations to gauge feedback on proposals for guidance, support, policies, and regulations. DAERA has additionally engaged with NI councils to discuss proposals on how there might be greater consistency in the way waste and recycling services are delivered. The Departmental response to its most recent 'Rethinking our Resources' consultation is currently with the Northern Ireland Executive for consideration.

With support from officers and the DAERA-funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP), Ards and North Down BC's members' cross-party 'Kerbside Working Group' has been considering how the performance of its kerbside services might be improved. The group has considered a wide range of factors which are proven to influence recycling. These include the range of materials targeted the kerbside, containers, frequency of collection, waste policies, and communications and engagement.

Cross-party Waste Working Group

It is proposed to reconvene the members' cross-party working group at 6pm on Tuesday 24 March 2026. In response to the anticipated scope of waste and recycling policy change, it is recommended that the scope of work be extended beyond the consideration of kerbside collection services. It is proposed that the group be renamed the 'Waste Working Group'.

It is further proposed that the reconvened Waste Working Group remit be extended to include:

- Kerbside waste and recycling service model
- Core materials, consistent with future Common Collections Guidance
- Additional targeted materials, for example, plastic bags and wrapping, plastic tubes
- Household policies, communications and engagement
- Household Recycling Centre estate, services, and performance
- Non-household recycling policies and service delivery

Not Applicable

6

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council agrees the change of scope and related name change for the Working Group.

Unclassified

ITEM 5

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	07 January 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing Services
Date of Report	16 December 2025
File Reference	53042
Legislation	Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Statistics, Annual Report 2024-25
Attachments	Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, Annual Report 2024-25

Background

The Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) has published a report on the finalised and validated information on local authority collected municipal waste managed during the 2024/25 financial year. This report combines provisional information previously published in four quarterly reports for the year.

Municipal Waste

Municipal waste is all waste and recycling collected under arrangements made by the Council. This includes all household waste and similar waste collected by the Council from non-household businesses and organisations.

In 2024-25, the Council collected 83,605 tonnes of municipal waste. Of this, 47,214 tonnes (56.5%) was prepared for reuse and sent for composting or recycling. An additional 12,276 tonnes (14.7%) was sent for energy recovery, and 23,915 tonnes (28%) was sent to landfill.

Not Applicable

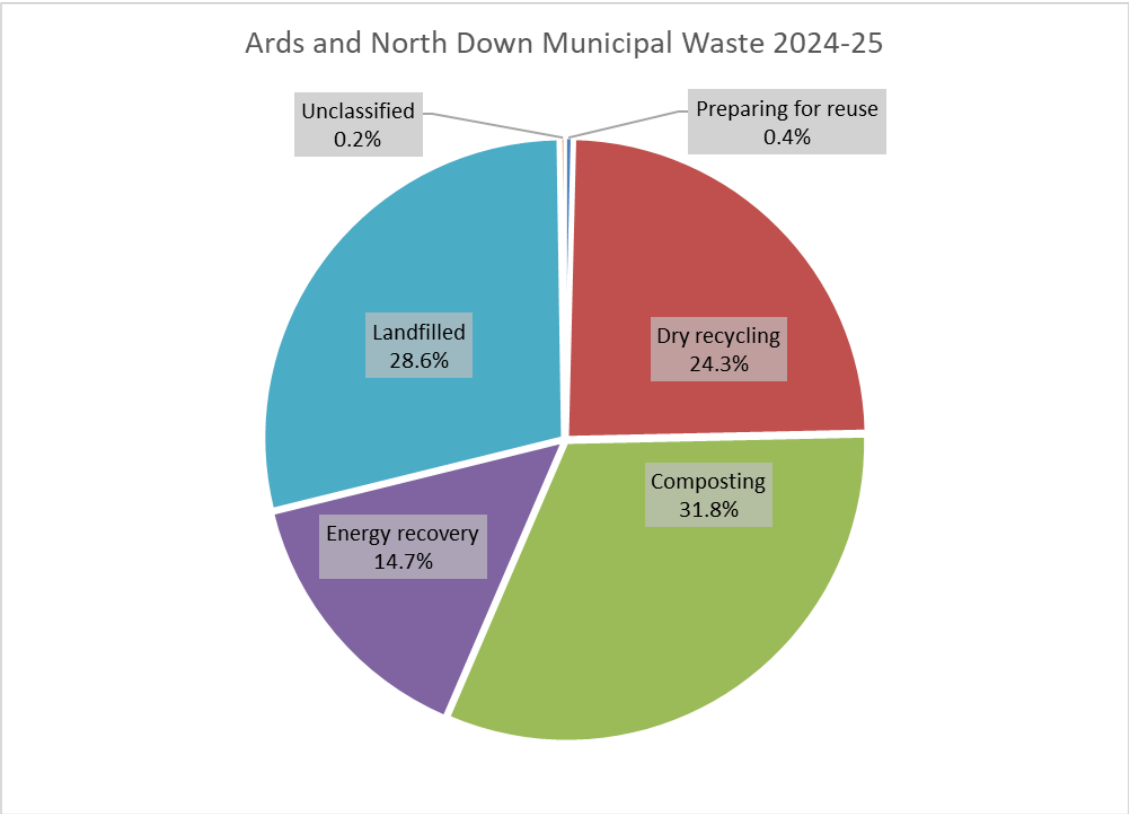


Figure 1, Ards and North Down Municipal Waste, 2024-25

Household Waste Arisings

Household waste includes materials collected from households through kerbside collections, HRCs and bring sites. It does not include soil, rubble, or plasterboard.

Northern Ireland households produced 877,988 tonnes of waste during 2024/25, an average of 1.1 tonnes per household. Over the same period, households in Ards and North Down produced 78,230 tonnes of waste, an average of 1.09 tonnes per household, and similar to the NI average.

	Household waste (tonnes)	Household waste per household (tonnes)	Household waste per capita (kg)
Northern Ireland	877,988	1.11	455
AND BC	78,230	1.09	473

Table 1, Household waste arisings

Recycling Performance

KPI(a2) Household waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting rate (%)

During 2024/25, households in Northern Ireland separated 447,965 tonnes of household waste for recycling through kerbside, HRC and bring site recycling. The NI household recycling rate was 51% for the period.

Householders in Ards and North Down produced 78,230 tonnes of household waste, and separated 43,871 tonnes of household waste for reuse, dry recycling, and composting through the Council’s services. This included kerbside collections, HRC

Not Applicable

and bring site recycling. The household waste recycling rate was 56.1% for the period – more than 6% above the NI average for the year. AND was the third highest performing council for this KPI at that time.

Household preparing for reuse	Household dry recycling	Household composting	Total household waste recycled KPI(a2)	Household landfill rate KPI(b)
324 tonnes	17,292 tonnes	26,256 tonnes	43,871 tonnes	22,672 tonnes
0.4%	22.1%	33.6%	56.1%	29%

Table 2, Household waste sent for recycling, composting and landfill, 2024-25

Since the formation of the Council in 2015, the household recycling rate has increased from 40.2% to 56.1% in 2024-25.

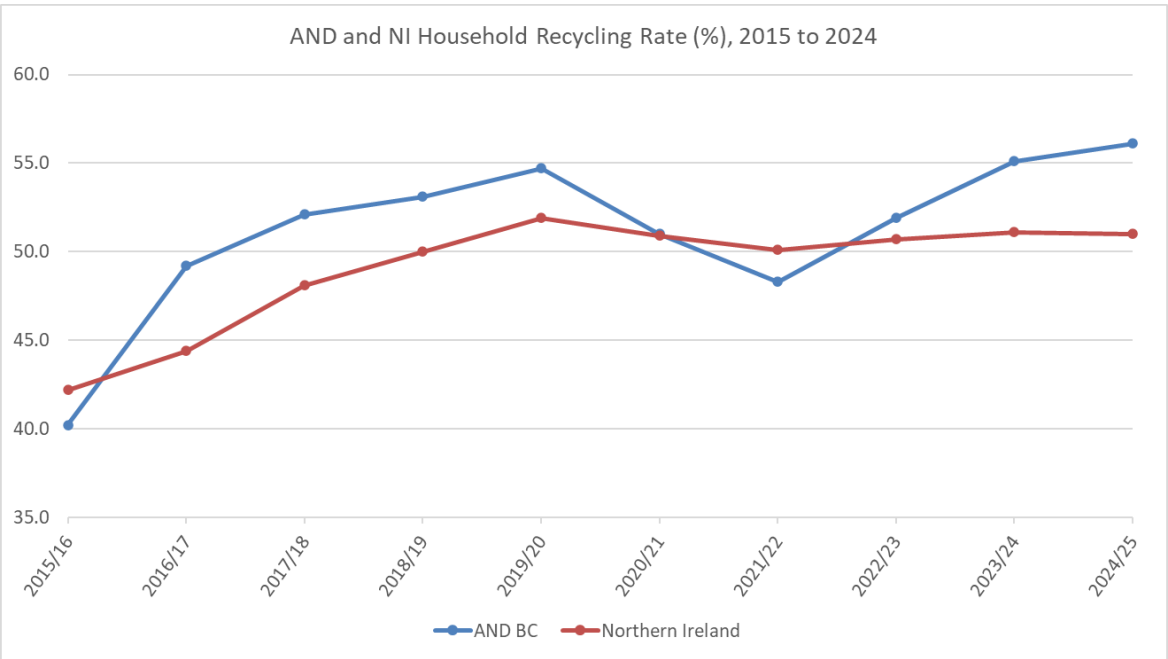


Figure 2, AND BC and NI Household Recycling Rate (%), 2015-16 to 2024-25

Waste from households recycling rate (%)

The report also publishes a ‘Waste from households’ recycling rate for each Council and for Northern Ireland. This recycling rate is calculated consistently across all UK nations to provide a comparable indicator of performance.

In 2024/25, Ards and North Down achieved 55.9% recycling compared to a NI average of 50%. AND was the second highest performing council in NI for this performance measure.

Energy Recovery and Landfill

During 2024/25, Ards and North Down was still sending some residual waste to landfill. In 2024/25, the Council sent 22,672 tonnes of household residual waste to landfill. Since January 2025, the Council has been sending residual waste for additional treatment where some recyclable materials are recovered, before the remainder is sent for energy recovery.

Not Applicable

10

References

NI local authority collected municipal waste management statistics 2024-25 published on 11 December 2025 (attached) / [Northern Ireland local authority collected municipal waste management statistics 2024-25 | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#).

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.



Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics

Annual Report 2024/25



Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe

Department o'

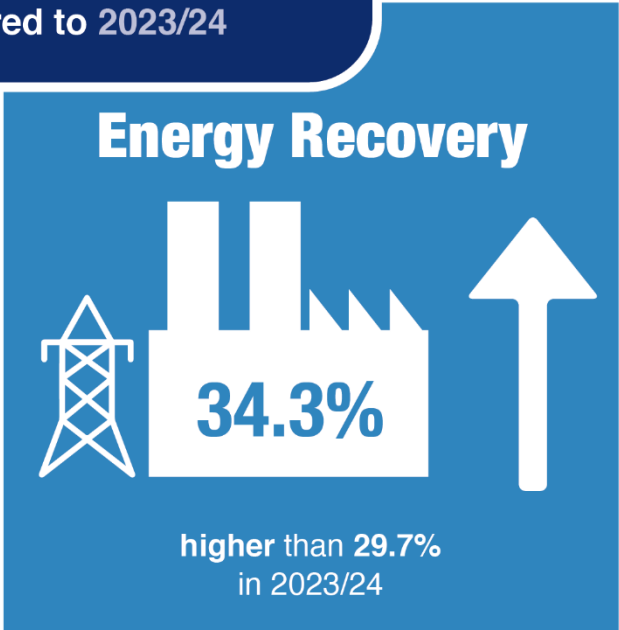
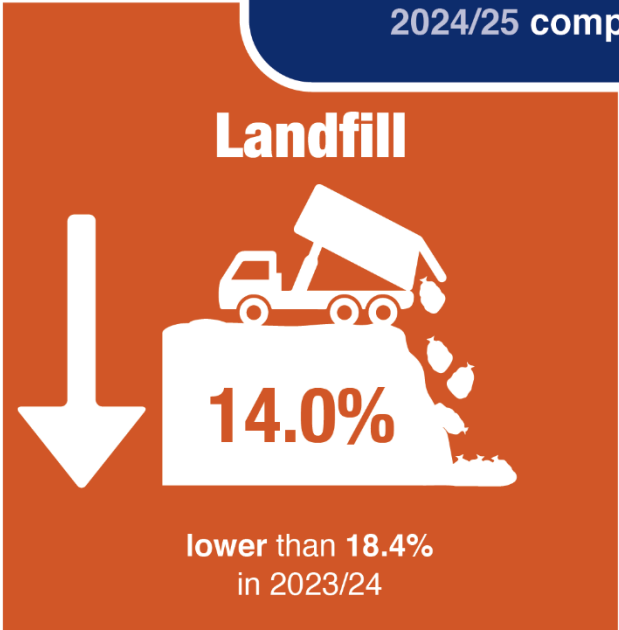
Fairmin, Environment an' Kintra Matthers

www.daera-ni.gov.uk

Northern Ireland waste management statistics annual report 2024/25



Recycling, energy recovery and landfill rates of LAC municipal waste 2024/25 compared to 2023/24



Key Points for Northern Ireland

- Northern Ireland’s councils collected 1,010,410 tonnes of waste during 2024/25 which was 1.0 per cent higher than the amount collected in 2023/24. During 2024/25, half (50.4 per cent) of the waste collected by councils was sent for recycling which was similar to the recycling rate reported in 2023/24.
- The landfill rate for waste collected by councils was 14.0 per cent in 2024/25, a fall from 74.0 per cent in 2006/07 and 18.4 per cent in 2023/24.
- In 2024/25, over one third (34.3 per cent) of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery. This compares to 29.7 per cent in 2023/24 and 0.4 per cent in 2009/10.
- Household waste accounted for 86.9 per cent of all local authority collected waste during 2024/25. The recycling rate for household waste was 51.0 per cent whilst the landfill rate for household waste was 13.8 per cent.
- Belfast generated the smallest amount of household waste per capita at 397 kg whilst Antrim & Newtownabbey recorded the largest at 555 kg per capita.
- There were 71,828 tonnes of biodegradable waste sent to landfill during 2024/25, a decrease of 24.7 per cent from the quantity reported in 2023/24 (95,425 tonnes).

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Reader Information

This document may be made available in alternative formats, please contact us to discuss your requirements. Definitions of key terms used in this publication are available in [Appendix 2 – Glossary](#).

The data are also used by media, the general public and special interest groups to inform policy and lifestyle choices related to the treatment of waste.

Further details are available in [Appendix 1 – Main Uses of Data](#)

Purpose

This is an annual publication which reports finalised figures on the key measurements of local authority collected municipal waste for councils and waste management groups in Northern Ireland.

The data contained are used by local authorities, waste management groups, Devolved Administrations, UK Government and the EU to measure progress towards achieving targets from various waste strategies including:

- The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy
- The Waste Framework Directive

Data on household recycling was a population indicator for the previous Programme for Government (PfG) and has been included as an indicator in the current PfG 2024-2027 ‘Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most’.

Next Updates

- Provisional figures for July to September 2025 will be available in January 2026.
- Finalised data for 2025/26 are scheduled to be published in November 2026 and will supersede previously published data from the four quarterly returns for that financial year.
- The scheduled dates for all upcoming publications are available from the GOV.UK statistics release calendar: <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics>

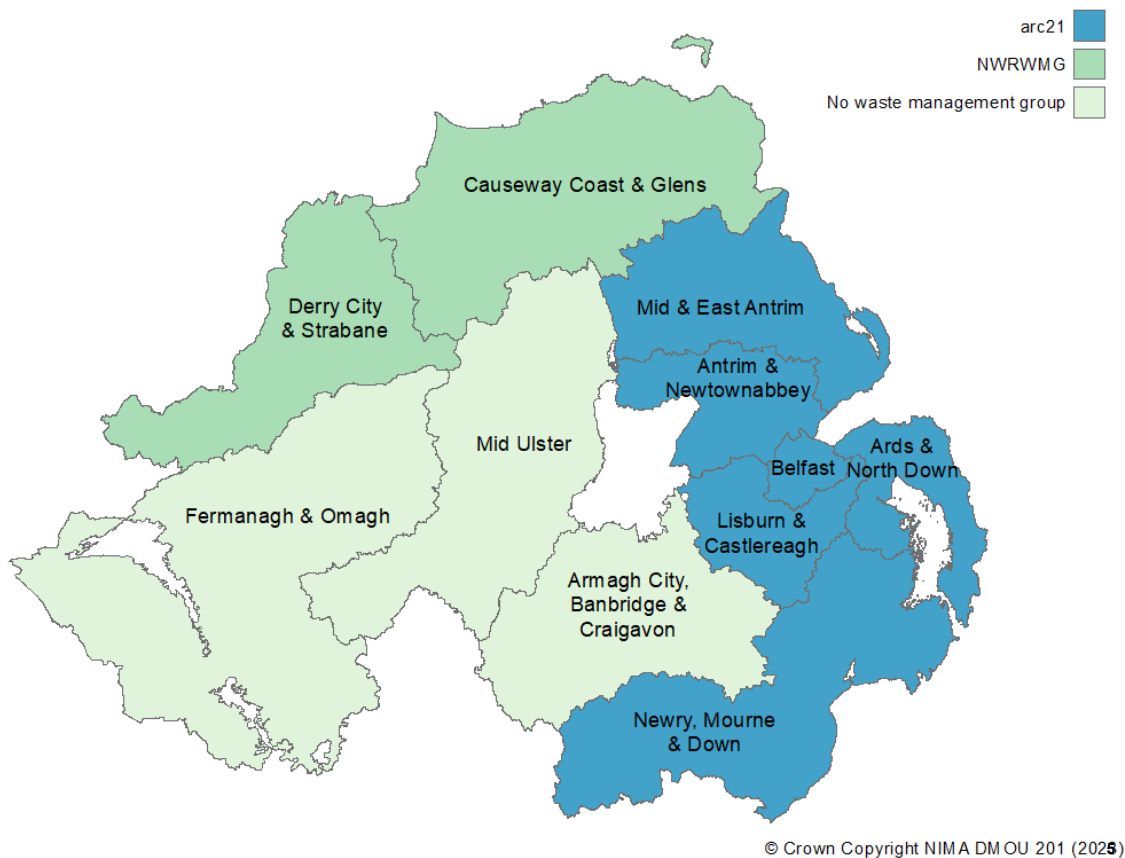
Introduction

This report presents finalised and validated information on the quantities of local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste collected and managed in Northern Ireland over the 2024/25 financial year, as well as trend data over previous years. It provides information on the quantities of waste arising, sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling, composting, energy recovery and sent to landfill. Some of these measurements are key performance indicators (KPIs). These are used to assess progress towards achieving waste strategy targets and where appropriate this is highlighted in the tables and charts.

Waste Management Groups (WMGs) produce, develop and implement Waste Management Plans for their areas of responsibility and are an important part of the data submission process. Figure 1 shows how eight councils have formed into two WMGs with 3 councils unaffiliated to any group. The group with the largest share of the population is arc21 with 59 per cent. The North West Regional Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) has 15 per cent of the population with the remaining 26 per cent residing in councils not belonging to a waste management group.

There are six councils in **arc21**: Antrim & Newtownabbey; Ards & North Down; Belfast; Lisburn & Castlereagh; Mid & East Antrim; and Newry, Mourne & Down.
NWRWMG contains two councils: Causeway Coast & Glens; and Derry City & Strabane.
The remaining three councils are not members of a WMG: Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon; Fermanagh & Omagh; and Mid Ulster.

Figure 1: Map of councils and waste management groups in Northern Ireland

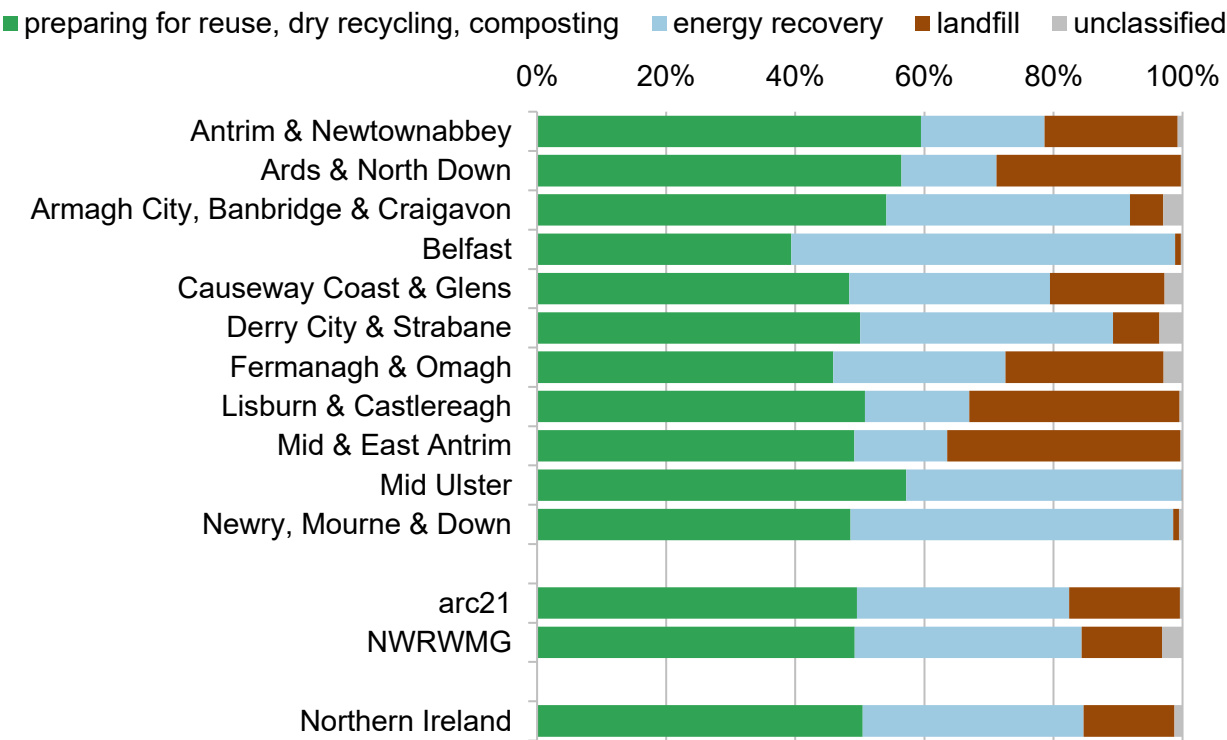


Overview

This report presents information on the quantities of local authority collected municipal waste managed in Northern Ireland during the 2024/25 financial year. The report is split into four sections, each of which cover local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste and, where appropriate, household waste:

- waste arisings (pages 5-8),
- reuse, dry recycling and composting (pages 9-13),
- energy recovery (pages 14-15),
- landfill (pages 16-18).

Figure 2: Waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfill rates by council and waste management group
Northern Ireland, 2024/25



At the Northern Ireland level, half (50.4 per cent) of the waste collected by councils was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting during 2024/25. Energy recovery accounted for 34.3 per cent whilst 14.0 per cent was sent to landfill. The remaining 1.3 per cent is likely to involve moisture and/or gaseous losses from the amount of waste collected. Each of the rates are discussed in detail in the appropriate section of the report.

The rate of waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting was similar to the rate recorded in 2023/24. The energy recovery rate increased by 4.6 percentage points whilst the landfill rate decreased by 4.3 percentage points.

Household waste accounted for 86.9 per cent of total waste. Household waste includes materials collected directly from households via kerbside collections, material taken to bring sites and civic amenity sites as well as several other smaller sources.

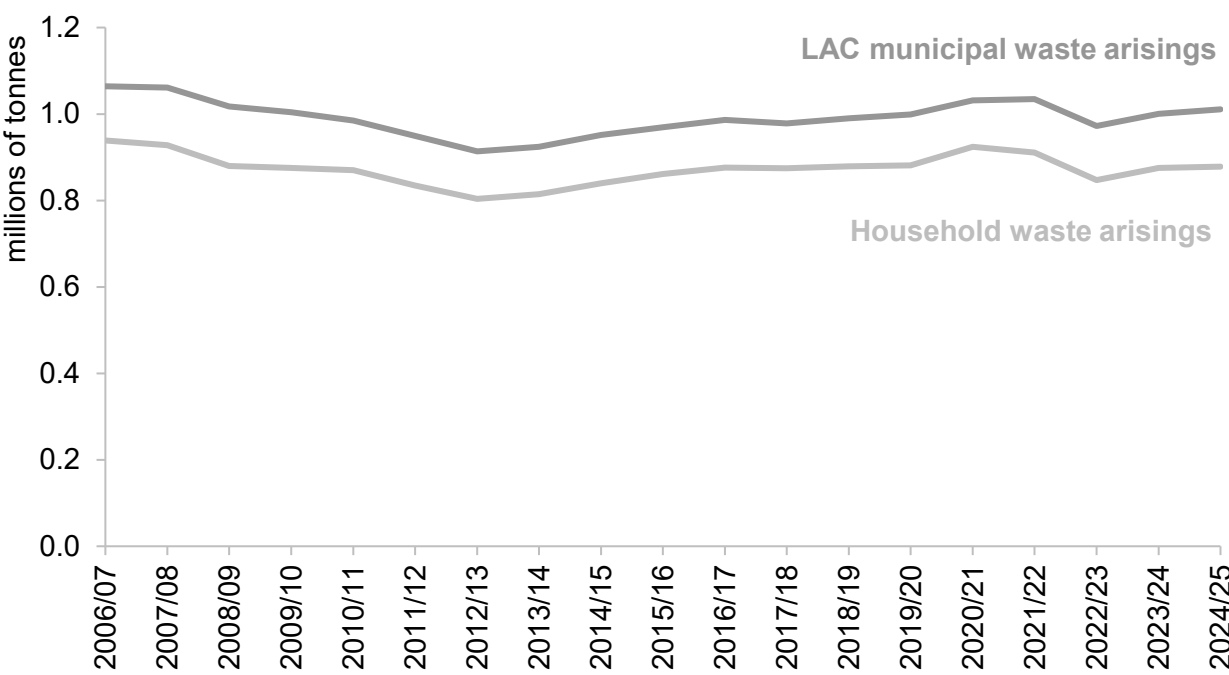
Waste Arisings

In 2024/25, Northern Ireland’s councils collected 1,010,410 tonnes of waste. This is 1.0 per cent higher than in 2023/24 when 1,000,681 tonnes were collected. Factors affecting waste arisings, the majority of which is household waste, include individual household behaviours, the advice and collection services provided by councils, the state of the economy and the weather conditions during the year. The tonnage of waste collected at kerbside decreased by 1.1 per cent during 2024/25 compared to the previous year, whilst waste collected at civic amenity sites increased by 5.4 per cent.

The total quantity of local authority collected (LAC) municipal waste arisings is a key performance indicator, KPI (j). This indicator is also used to monitor performance under the [Local Government \(Performance Indicators and Standards\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#).

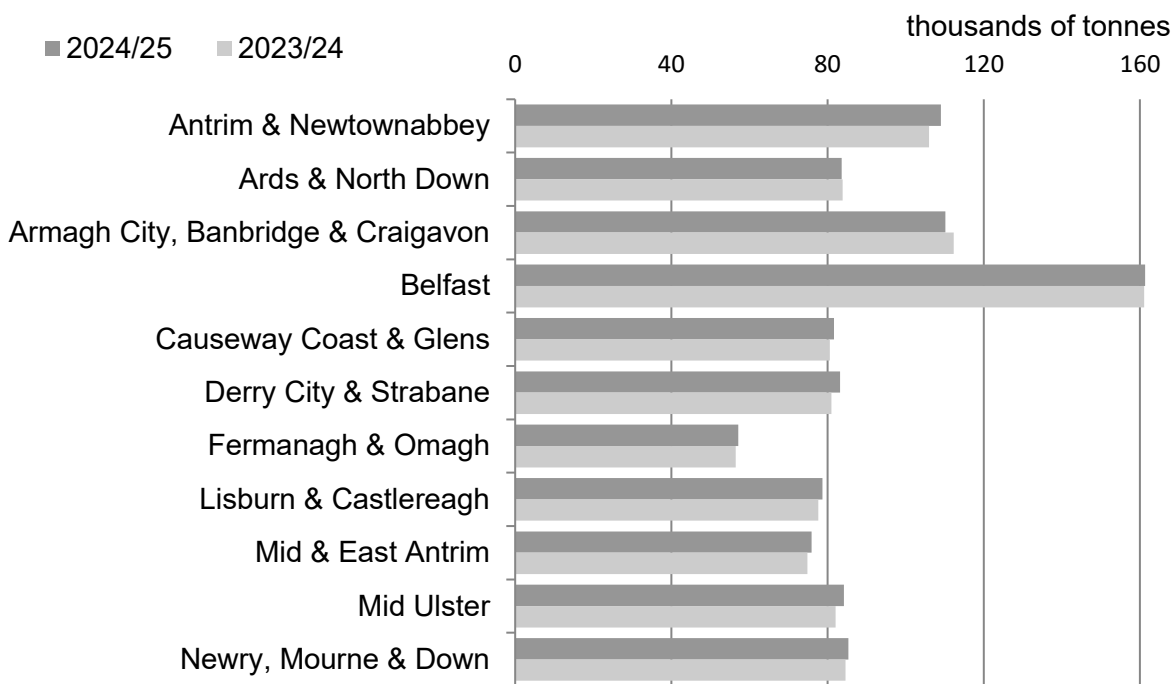
Since 2006/07 household waste has accounted for 86-90 per cent of total waste collected by councils. In 2024/25 household waste accounted for 86.9 per cent. Household waste includes materials collected directly from households via kerbside collections, material taken to bring sites and civic amenity sites as well as several other smaller sources. The remaining 13.1 per cent was non-household waste such as rubble/soil and commercial/industrial waste.

Figure 3: Waste arisings
Northern Ireland, 2006/07 to 2024/25, KPI (j)



Total waste arisings fell from 1,064,090 tonnes in 2006/07 to a low of 913,546 in 2012/13, a 14.1 per cent decrease. From then until 2021/22, total arisings showed a generally increasing trend. A reduction in arisings was recorded in 2022/23 with arisings increasing to 1,010,410 tonnes in the latest year.

Figure 4: Waste arisings by council
Northern Ireland, 2023/24 and 2024/25, KPI (j)



The proportion of waste collected by each council broadly reflects the population within the councils. Belfast City Council had the greatest waste arisings in 2024/25 with 161,320 tonnes. This was 16 per cent of total Northern Ireland waste arisings, with 18 per cent of the population living in this council area. Fermanagh & Omagh District Council had the lowest arisings in 2024/25 with 57,134 tonnes collected. This represented 6 per cent of total arisings during this period, the same as the proportion of the population living in the council area.

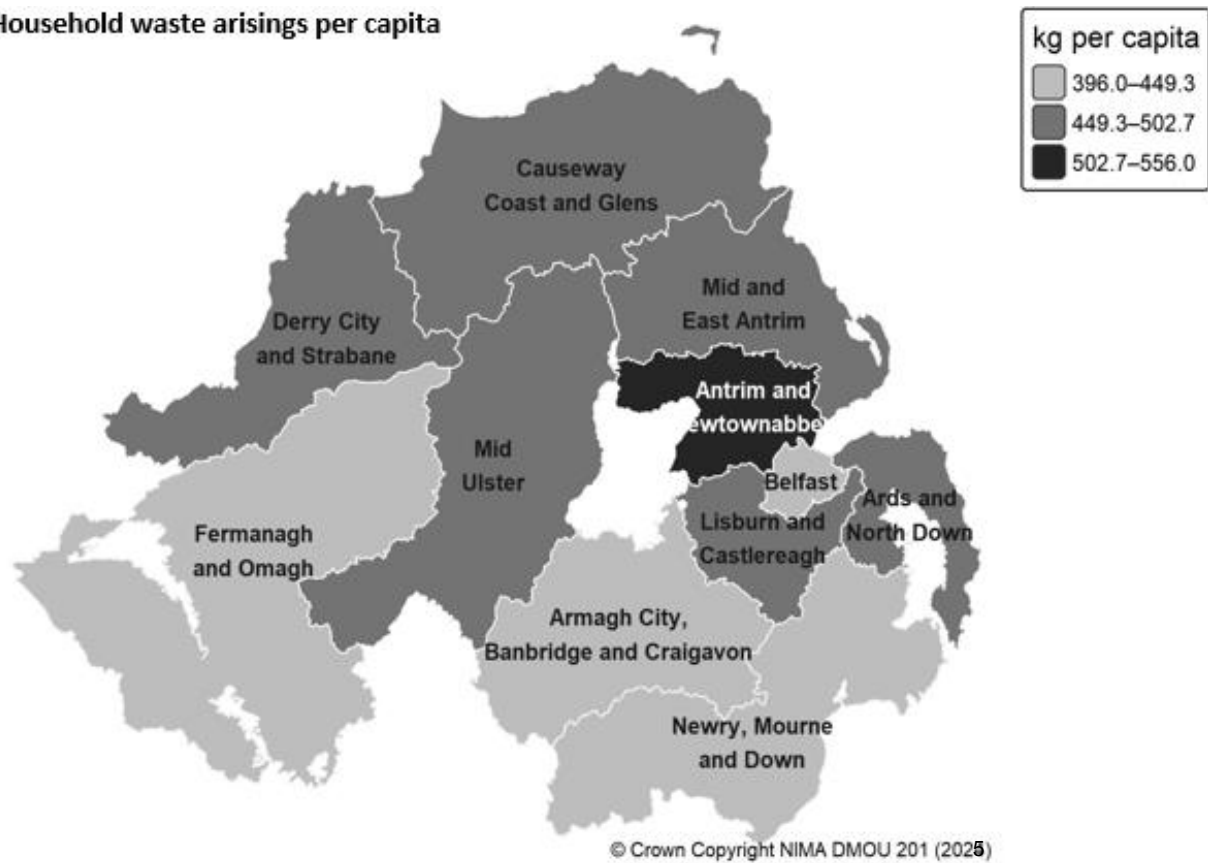
Eight councils reported increases in their waste arisings compared with last year, with Antrim & Newtownabbey reporting the largest increase at 2.8 per cent. Derry City & Strabane and Mid Ulster reported increases of 2.7 and 2.6 per cent respectively. Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon reported a decrease in waste arisings to that reported in 2023/24¹.

There are two key performance indicators which look at household waste arisings in more detail by considering household waste arisings per capita, KPI (p), and per household KPI (h). In Northern Ireland there were 455 kilogrammes (kg) of household waste collected per capita and 1,114 kg per household during 2024/25, compared to 456 kilogrammes (kg) of household waste collected per capita and 1,118 kg per household during 2023/24.

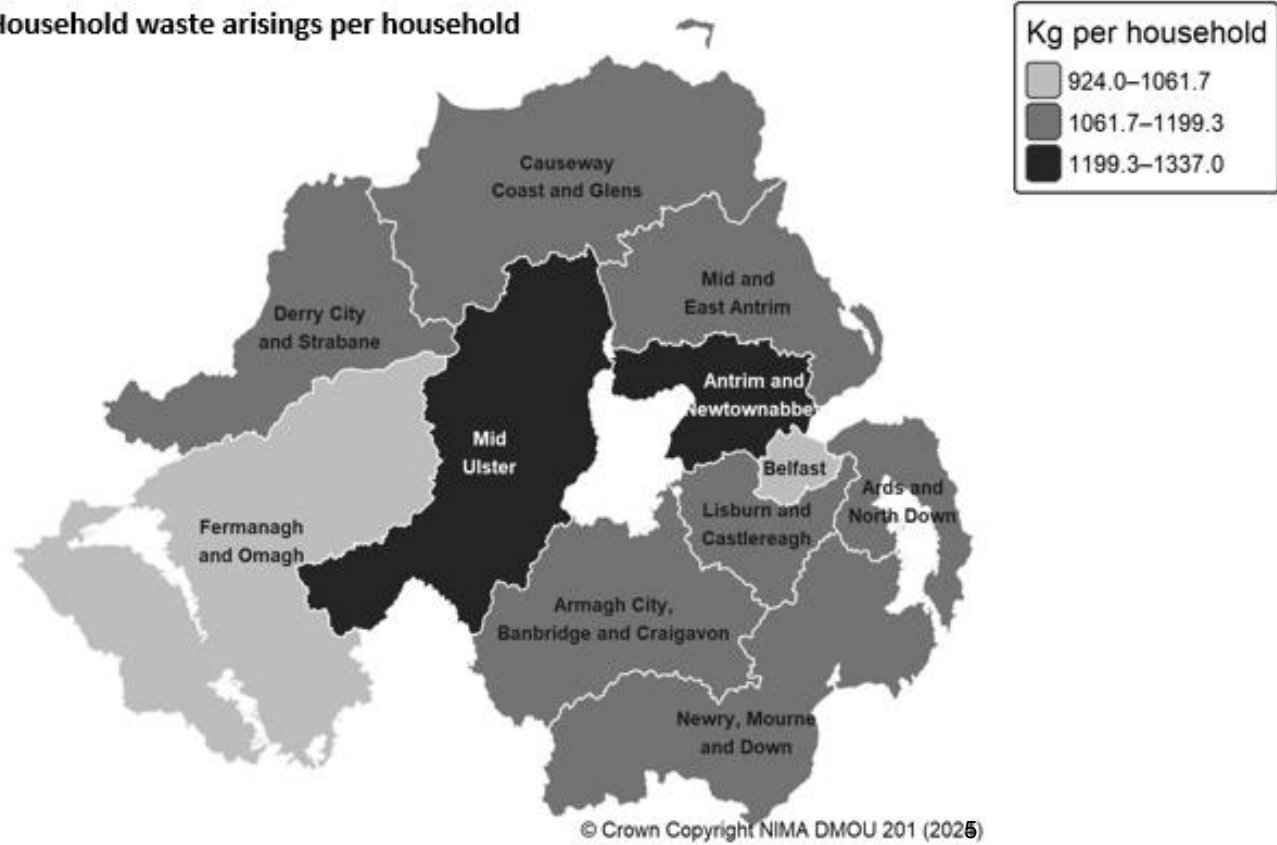
¹ Very small increases or decreases in figures (<0.5 per cent or <0.5 percentage points) are not highlighted in the commentary.

Figure 5: Household waste arisings per capita and per household by council
Northern Ireland, 2024/25, KPIs (p) and (h)

Household waste arisings per capita



Household waste arisings per household



Belfast generated the smallest amount of household waste per capita at 397 kg in 2024/25, followed by Fermanagh & Omagh and Newry, Mourne & Down. The largest quantity was recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey at 555 kg per capita. Household waste per capita increased in five council areas compared to 2023/24 (2023/24 per capita figures updated from published using 2023 mid-year population estimates). The largest increase compared to last year was recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey at 2.6 per cent.

Household waste arisings per household are also shown in figure 5. Belfast City Council generated the smallest quantity of household waste per household at 924 kg per household. The largest quantity per household was recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey at 1,337 kg per household.

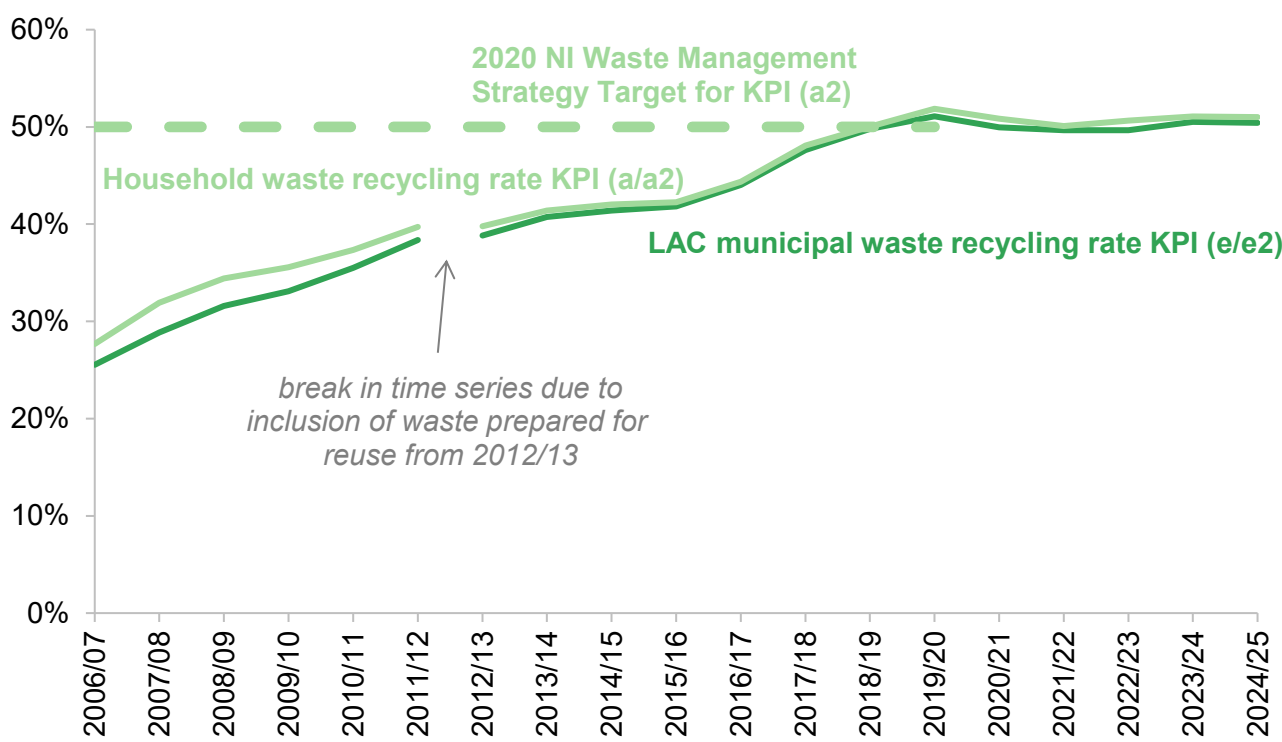
The arisings figures can be found in Tables 1 and 2 of the data tables appendix. The per capita and per household figures can be found in Table 18. All figures are also available from the [time series dataset](#).

Recycling (preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting)

This section of the report looks at local authority collected (LAC) municipal and household waste recycling rates. Both are key performance indicators and now include waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting. Previously used key performance indicators KPI (a) and (e) have been modified, in line with the rest of the UK, to include waste sent for preparing for reuse, and relabelled as KPI (a2) and (e2). The impacts were small, adding 0.1 - 0.3 percentage points to the rates, and resulted in the break in the time series visible in Figure 6. The KPI (a2) indicator is also used to monitor performance under the [Local Government \(Performance Indicators and Standards\) Order \(Northern Ireland\) 2015](#).

In 2024/25, the LAC tonnage of waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting (referred to as 'recycling' for the rest of this section) was 509,578 tonnes. The recycling rate was 50.4 per cent, similar to the recycling rate recorded in 2023/24.

Figure 6: Waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting
Northern Ireland, 2006/07 to 2024/25, KPIs (a), (a2), (e), (e2)

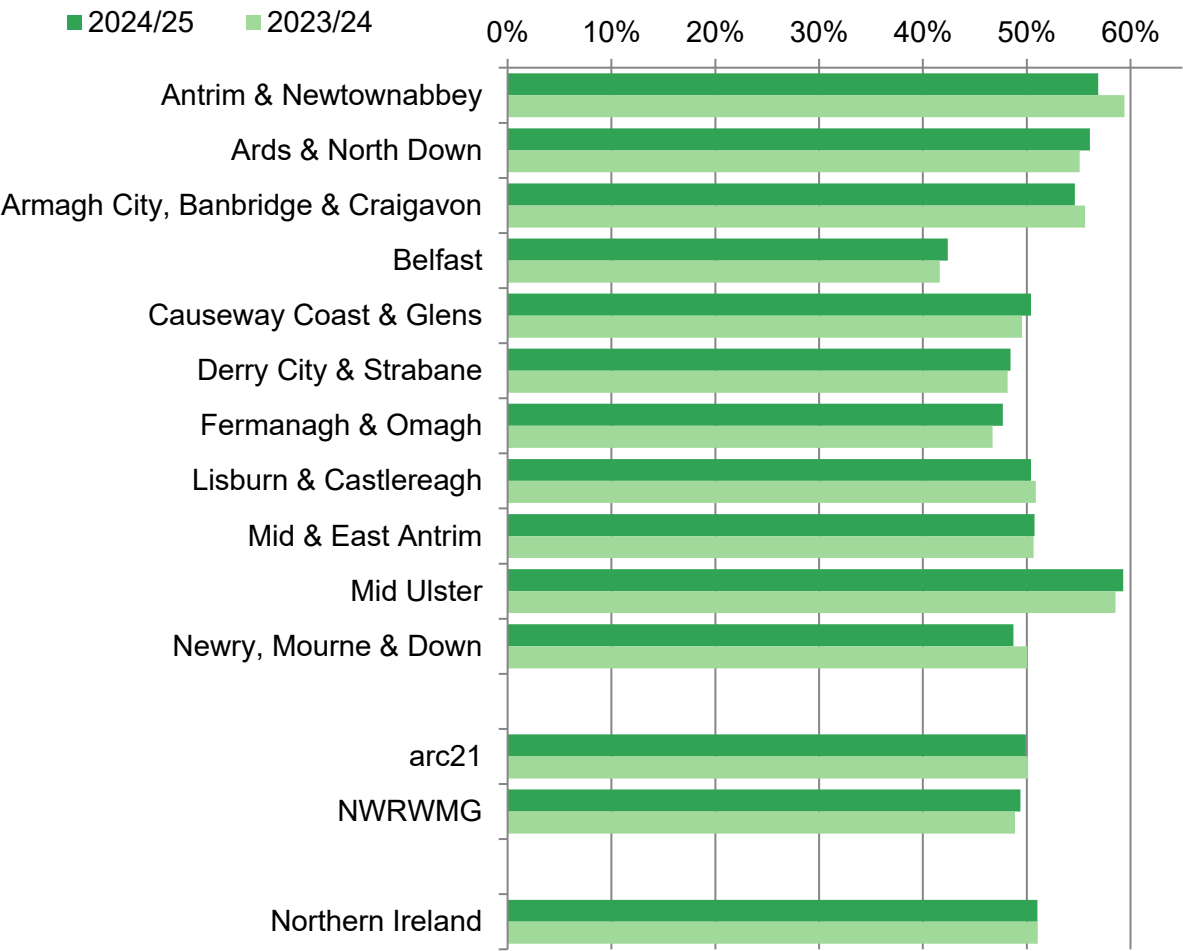


The household waste recycling rate was 51.0 per cent in 2024/25, similar to the household waste recycling rate recorded in 2023/24. The proportion of household waste sent for preparing for reuse was 0.3 per cent, dry recycling made up 23.5 per cent and composting was 27.2 per cent.

The household waste recycling rate continues to meet the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy target to recycle 50 per cent of household waste by 2020. The percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted is included as an indicator for the current [Programme for Government](#) (PfG) 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing What Matters Most'.

Figure 7a compares the household recycling rates for 2024/25 and 2023/24, whilst figure 7b illustrates changes to the component parts of the household recycling rates for each council.

Figure 7a: Household waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting rate by council and waste management group
Northern Ireland, 2023/24 and 2024/25, KPI (a2)



The lowest household waste recycling rate was recorded in Belfast at 42.4 per cent. The highest household waste recycling rates were recorded in Mid Ulster and Antrim & Newtownabbey at 59.3 per cent and 56.9 per cent respectively.

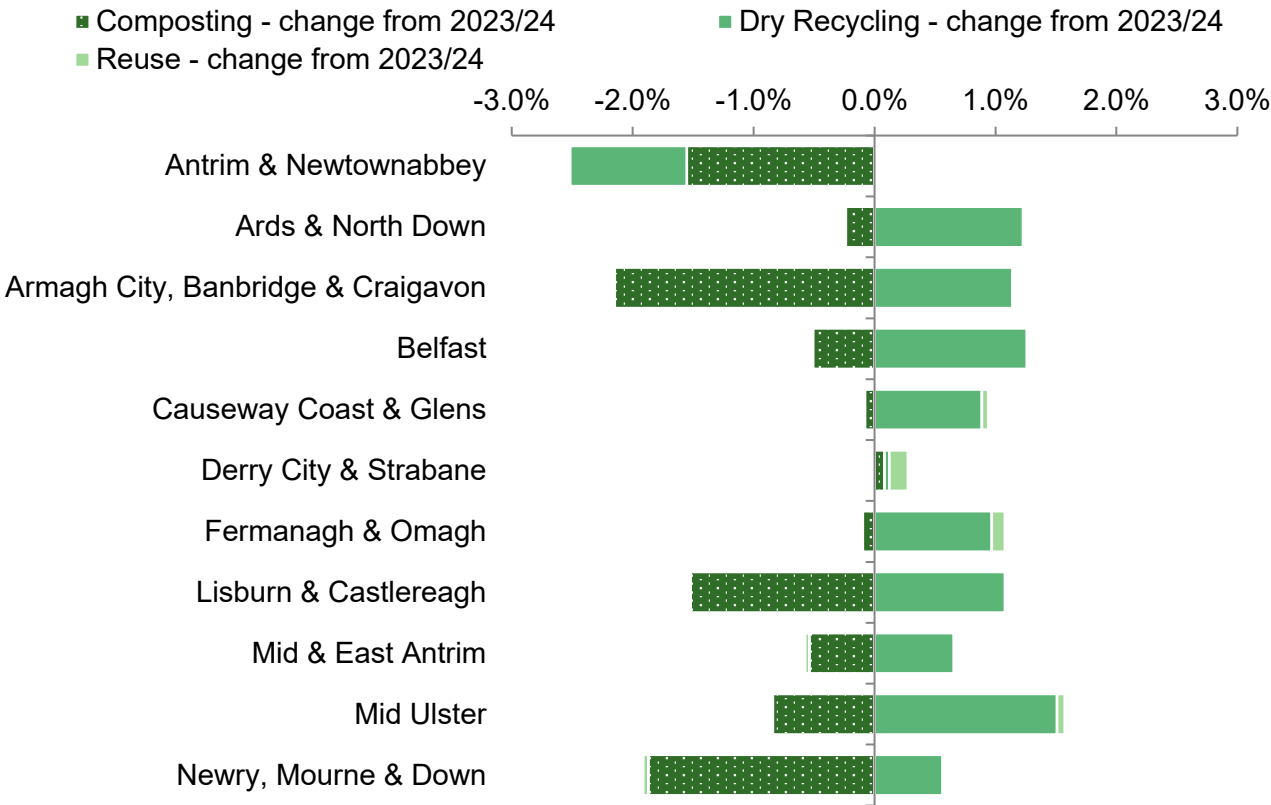
Five councils reported increased household recycling rates compared to 2023/24. Four councils reported decreased household recycling rates compared to 2023/24, with Antrim & Newtownabbey reporting the largest decrease at 2.5 percentage points. The remaining councils reported similar rates to 2023/24.

There was considerable variation in household dry recycling and composting rates between councils. Derry City & Strabane recorded the highest dry recycling rate at 29.3 per cent, whilst Mid & East Antrim recorded the lowest rate at 18.2 per cent. The highest composting rate was recorded in Antrim & Newtownabbey at 35.0 per cent with Belfast having the lowest rate at 18.0 per cent, followed by Derry City & Strabane with 18.7 per cent. Differences in composting rates across the council areas can be affected by variations in the urban-rural characteristics of the council areas.

Dry recycling and composting rates for household waste remained relatively stable for most councils compared to the previous year. The largest change in composting was a decrease recorded in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon where the rate decreased by 2.1 percentage points. The largest change in dry recycling rate was an increase of 1.5 percentage points in Mid Ulster compared to the rate in 2023/24.

Figure 7b: Change reported for household waste preparing for reuse rate, dry recycling rate and composting rate by council

Northern Ireland, 2024/25 compared to 2023/24



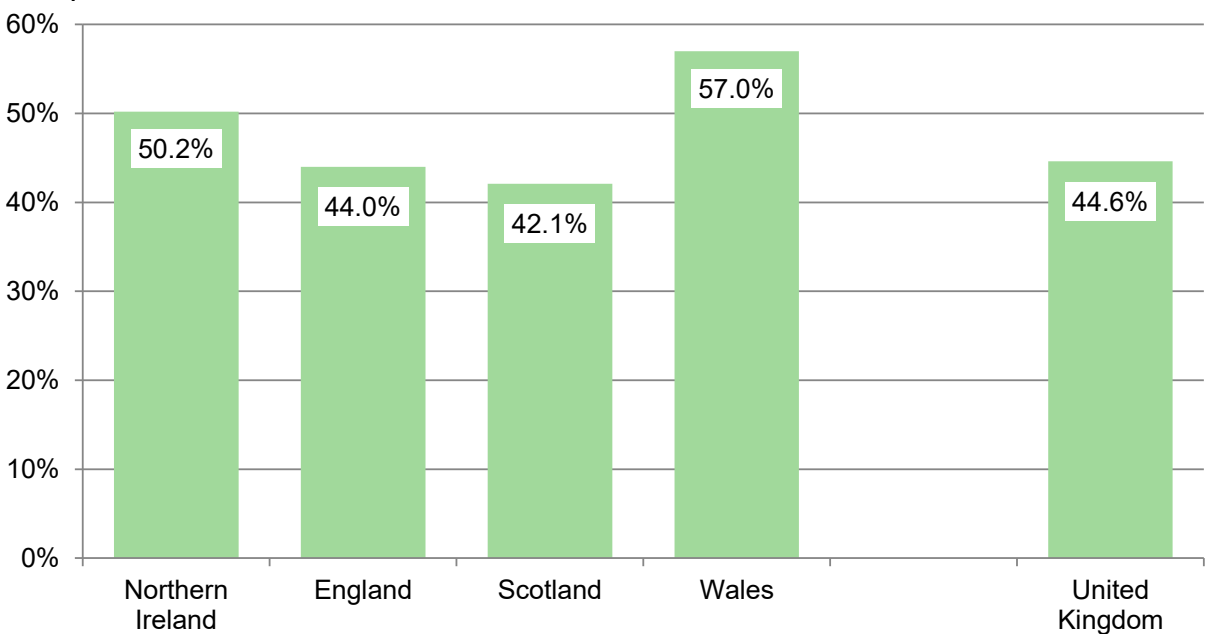
Waste from households recycling rate (including preparing for reuse and composting)

An additional recycling rate metric named ‘waste from households recycling rate’, whilst not a key performance indicator, can be used to make comparisons between each of the four UK countries. The UK waste from households recycling rate is reported by calendar year and was 44.6% in 2023, an increase compared to the rate reported in 2022 which was 44.1%. The waste from household recycling rate for Northern Ireland was 50.2 per cent in 2023, compared with 44.0 per cent in England, 42.1 per cent in Scotland and 57.0 per cent in Wales.

The latest comparison for finalised annual figures (by calendar year) is shown in Figure 8, with further data available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/uk-waste-data>

Figure 8: Waste from households recycling rate (including preparing for reuse and composting)

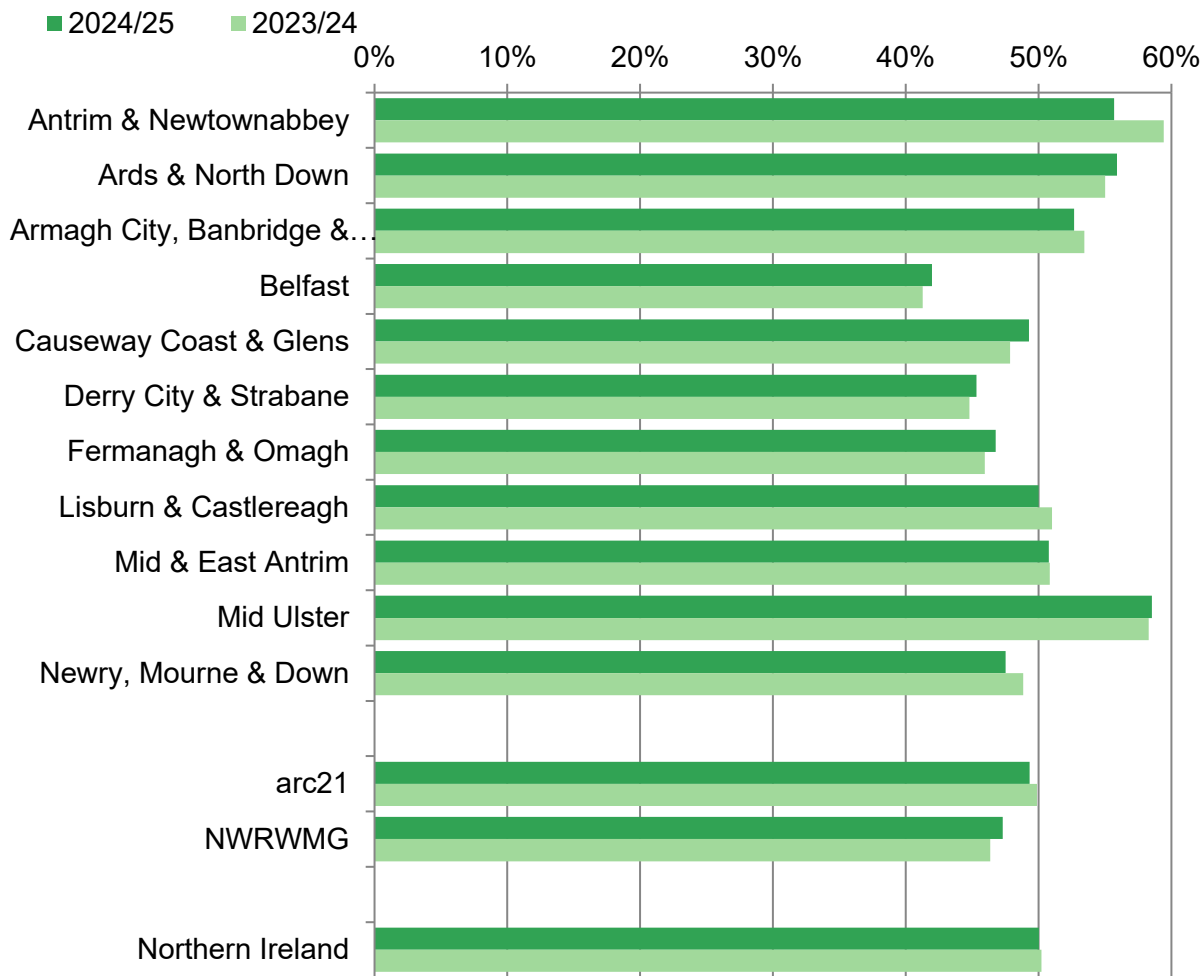
Comparison of UK Countries, 2023



The latest statistics available for waste from household in Northern Ireland are provided below and relate to the 2024/25 financial year.

In 2024/25 there were 423,021 tonnes of waste from households sent for recycling (including preparing for reuse and composting). The waste from households recycling rate was 50.0 per cent. This was similar to the waste from household recycling rate recorded in 2023/24.

Figure 9: Waste from households recycling rate (including preparing for reuse and composting)
Northern Ireland, 2023/24 and 2024/25



All figures for the recycling section can be found in the accompanying data tables spreadsheet and also in the [time series dataset](#).

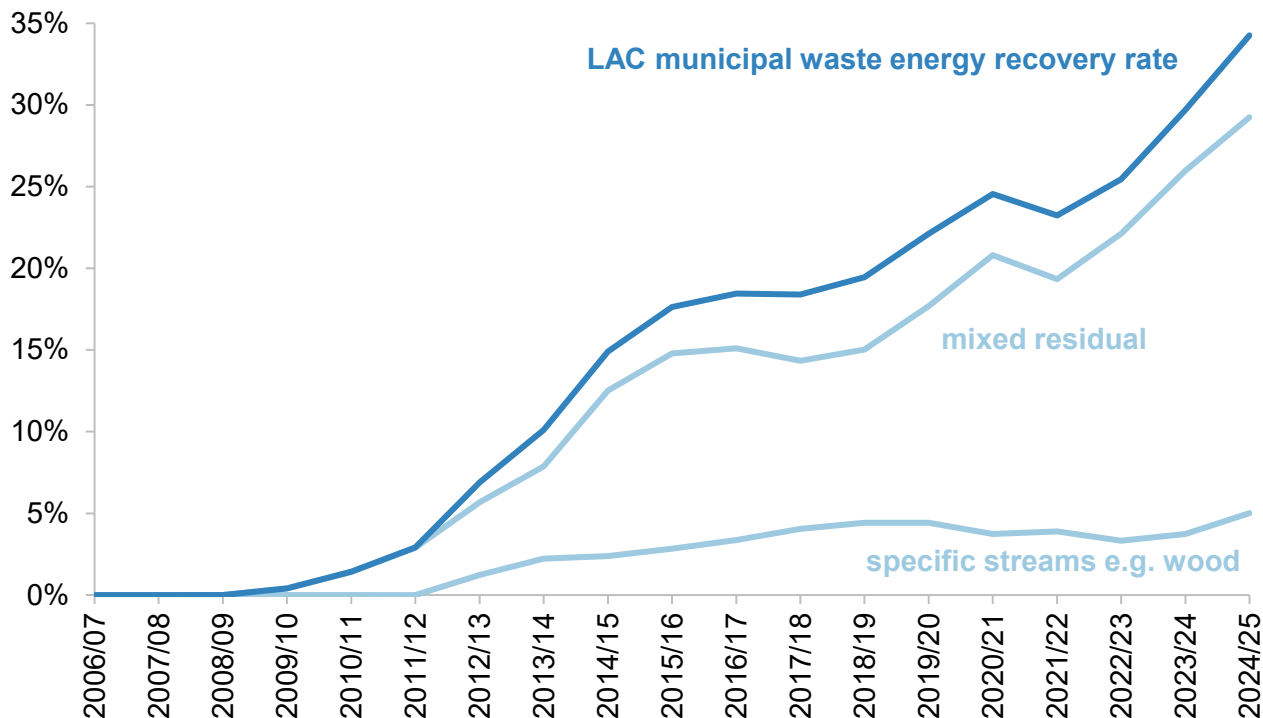
- Tables 3 and 4 (Waste recycling)
- Tables 16 and 17 (Household waste recycling)
- Table 23 (Waste from household recycling)

Energy recovery

This annual report includes figures on energy recovery, which is the term used when value is gained from waste products by converting them into energy. All energy recovery figures reported in this section are derived from material sent for energy recovery via incineration/gasification, although other technologies exist. Energy recovery via anaerobic digestion is not included in the figures below and is discussed in more detail at the end of the section.

In 2024/25, 346,138 tonnes of waste arisings were sent for energy recovery. This produced an energy recovery rate of 34.3 per cent, higher than the 29.7 per cent recorded in 2023/24. The majority of energy recovery is derived from mixed residual waste with a smaller proportion from specific streams, e.g. wood.

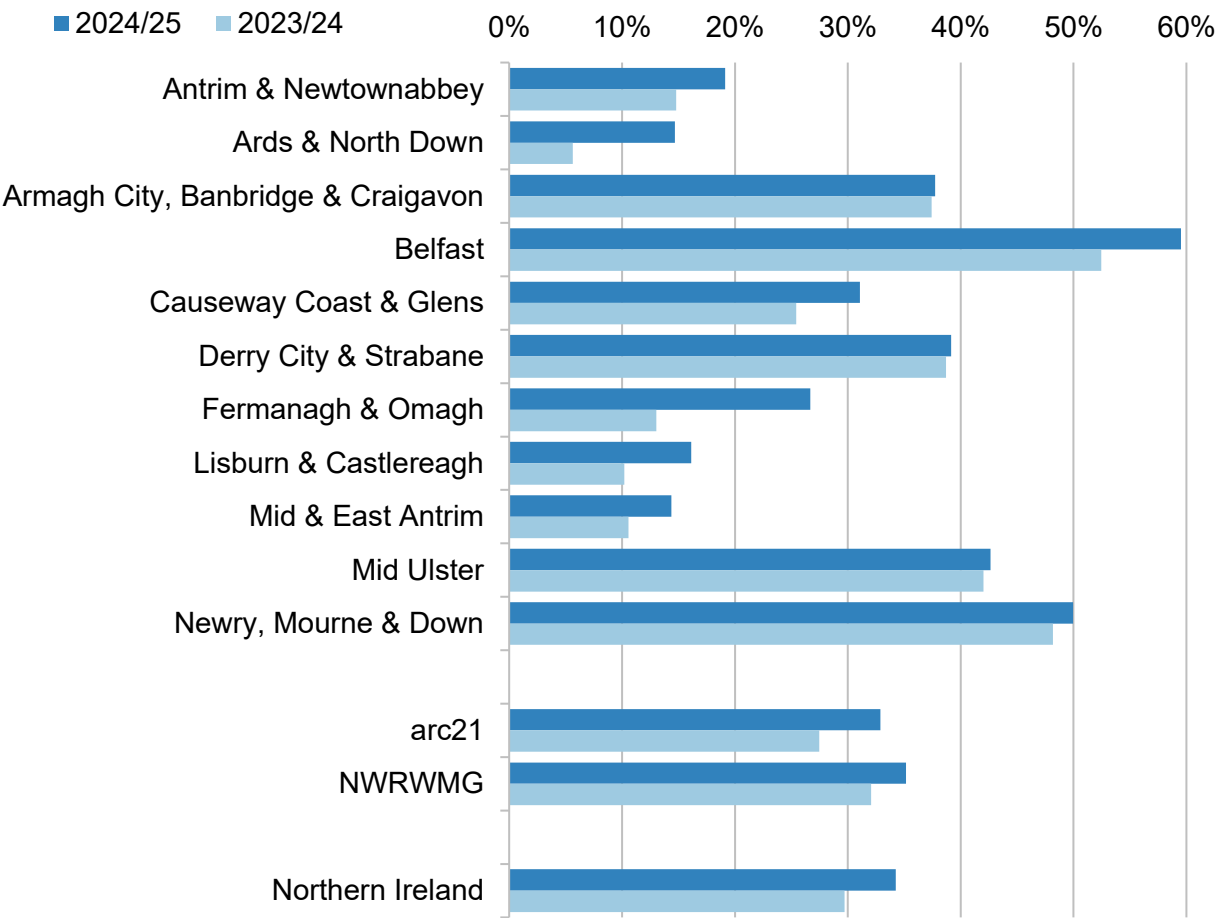
Figure 10: Waste sent for energy recovery via incineration
Northern Ireland, 2006/07 to 2024/25



There was zero, or very small quantities, of waste sent for energy recovery before 2009/10. Strong growth followed from 2010/11, with the energy recovery rate increasing from 0.4 per cent in 2009/10 to 34.3 per cent in 2024/25.

Mixed residual waste sent for energy recovery is combustible residual waste collected from the kerbside and from civic amenity sites and processed into refuse derived fuel at material recovery facilities. The specific streams element of energy recovery is mostly wood but also includes furniture, carpets and mattresses, mostly collected from civic amenity sites.

Figure 11: Waste energy recovery by council and waste management group
Northern Ireland, 2023/24 and 2024/25



Belfast and Newry, Mourne & Down had the highest energy recovery rates in 2024/25 at 59.5 per cent and 50.0 per cent respectively. The lowest energy recovery rate was 14.4 per cent recorded in Mid & East Antrim.

Ten councils reported an increase in the energy recovery rate in 2024/25 compared to 2023/24, the largest of which was in Fermanagh & Omagh at 13.7 percentage points, followed by Ards & North Down and Belfast with increases of 9.0 and 7.0 per cent respectively.

Antrim & Newtownabbey had the highest energy recovery rate for specific streams at 8.9 per cent while Belfast had the highest energy recovery rate for mixed residual waste at 57.6 per cent.

Energy Recovery via Anaerobic Digestion

The tonnages relating to energy recovery from material undergoing anaerobic digestion are still accounted for under the recycling section since the vast majority of the tonnage of waste undergoing this process eventually ends up as a compost (once the methane generated from the anaerobic digestion process has been collected). Table 13 in the data tables appendix shows the amount of food waste anaerobically treated to recover energy before ending up as a compost.

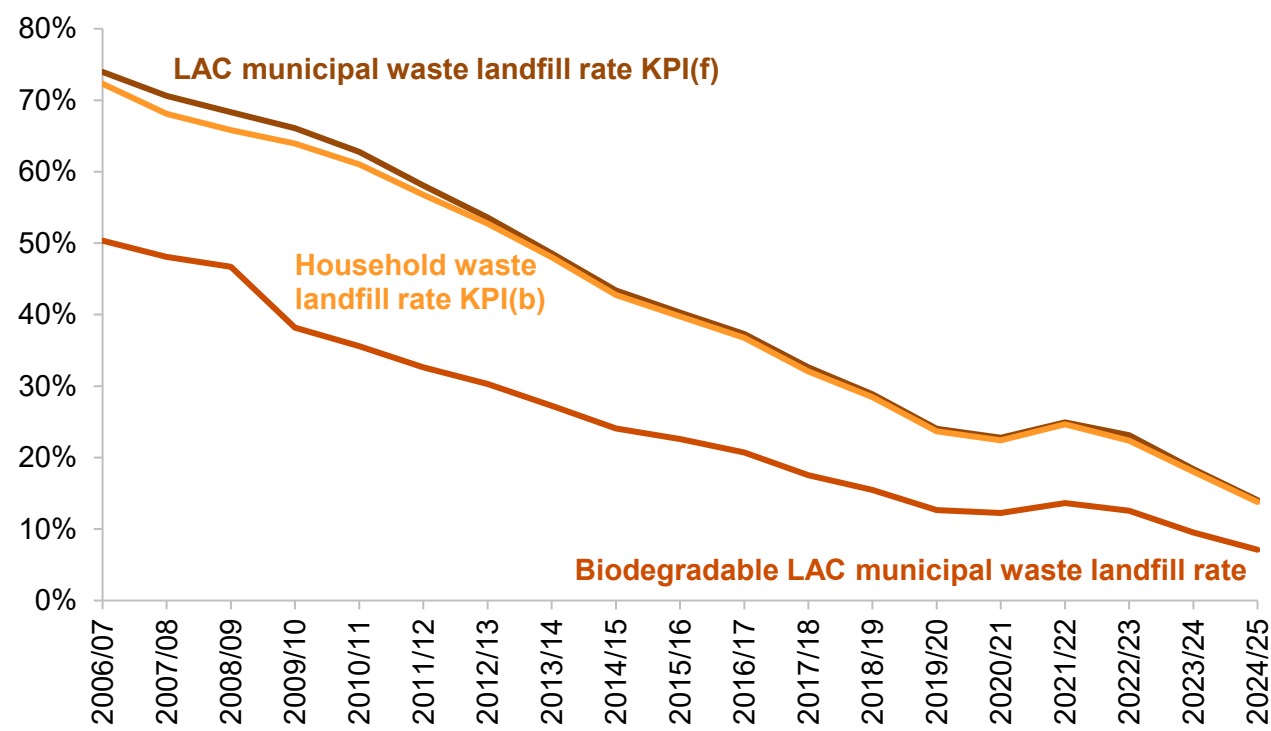
These figures can be found in Tables 3, 4 and 13 of the data tables appendix and in the [time series dataset](#).

Landfill

The quantity of waste sent to landfill decreased by 22.8 per cent from 183,748 to 141,836 tonnes between 2023/24 and 2024/25. This produced a landfill rate of 14.0 per cent for 2024/25, 4.3 percentage points lower than the 18.4 per cent recorded in 2023/24 and the lowest rate ever recorded.

The landfill rate for household waste also recorded its lowest value in 2024/25 at 13.8 per cent, a decrease of 4.2 percentage points from 18.0 per cent in 2023/24.

Figure 12: Waste sent to landfill
Northern Ireland, 2006/07 to 2024/25, KPIs (b) and (f)

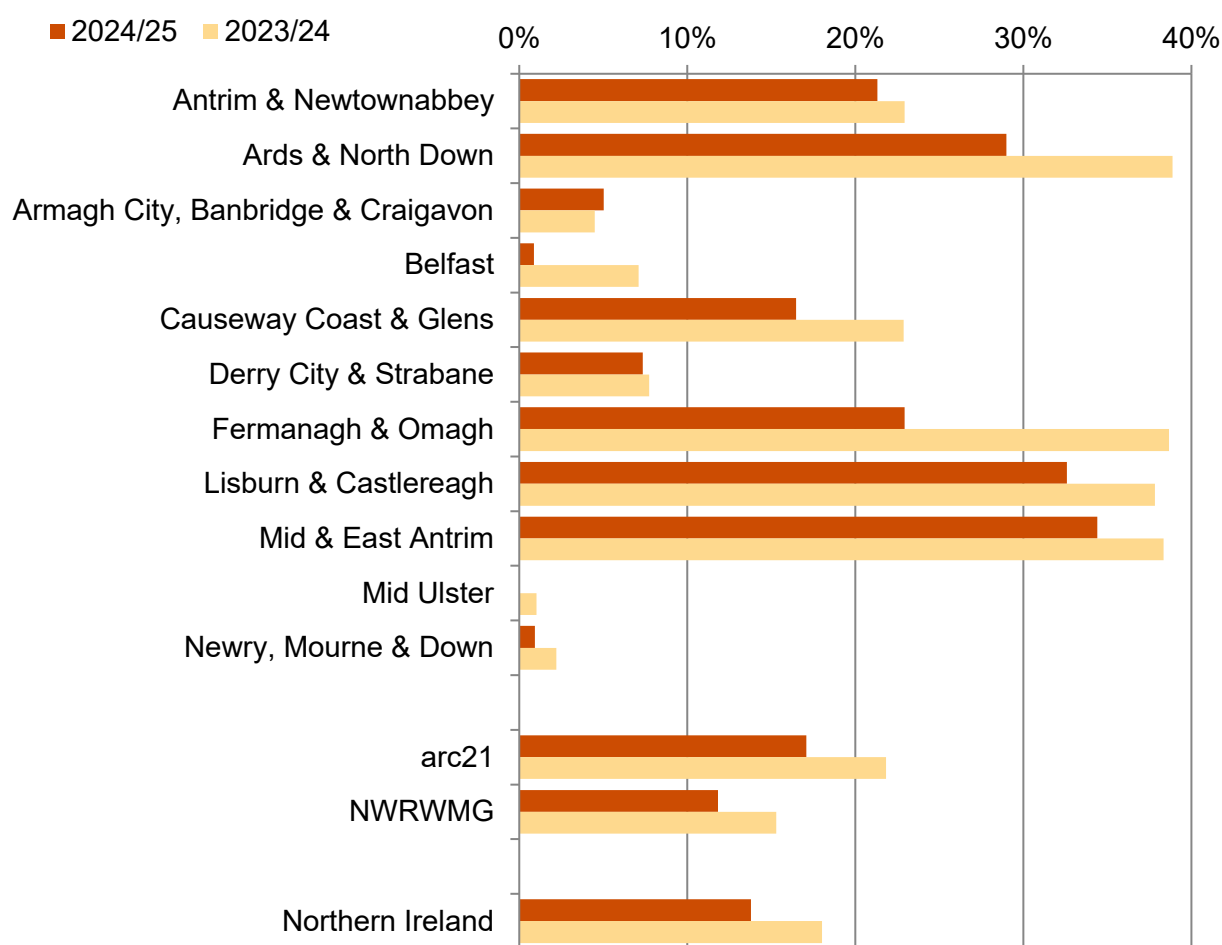


The long-term trend has seen the household waste landfill rate fall from 72.3 per cent in 2006/07 to a low of 13.8 per cent in 2024/25.

Increasing energy recovery rates, a tax on landfill and the statutory requirement for all councils in Northern Ireland to provide households with a container for food to enable its separate collection have all contributed to the long-term reduction in landfill rates. Material, mainly from residual waste treatment, can be sent for energy recovery in the form of refuse derived fuel (RDF) which diverts it from landfill.

Landfill Tax for household waste continues to be the main driver for local authorities to reduce landfill. Other considerations include a limit on the amount of biodegradable Waste as measured by KPI (g). Generating energy from waste by incineration is preferable to landfill, although recycling and reuse are preferable to both.

Figure 13: Household waste landfilled by council and waste management group
Northern Ireland, 2023/24 and 2024/25, KPI (b)



Nine councils recorded a decrease in their household landfill rate compared to last year with Fermanagh & Omagh recording the largest decrease of 15.7 percentage points. The household landfill rate increased slightly in Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon by 0.5 percentage points.

Mid Ulster recorded the lowest household landfill rate at almost zero per cent while Mid & East Antrim recorded the highest household landfill rate at 34.4 per cent.

The NWRWMG had a household landfill rate of 11.8 per cent, 1.9 percentage points lower than the Northern Ireland rate. Arc21's household landfill rate was higher than the Northern Ireland rate at 17.1 per cent. However, the landfill rate for Arc21 decreased 4.8 percentage points compared to 2023/24.

This data and more information including collection method can be found in the data tables appendix. Tables 3 and 4 cover all waste collected and Tables 16 and 17 cover household waste. The data are also available from the [time series dataset](#).

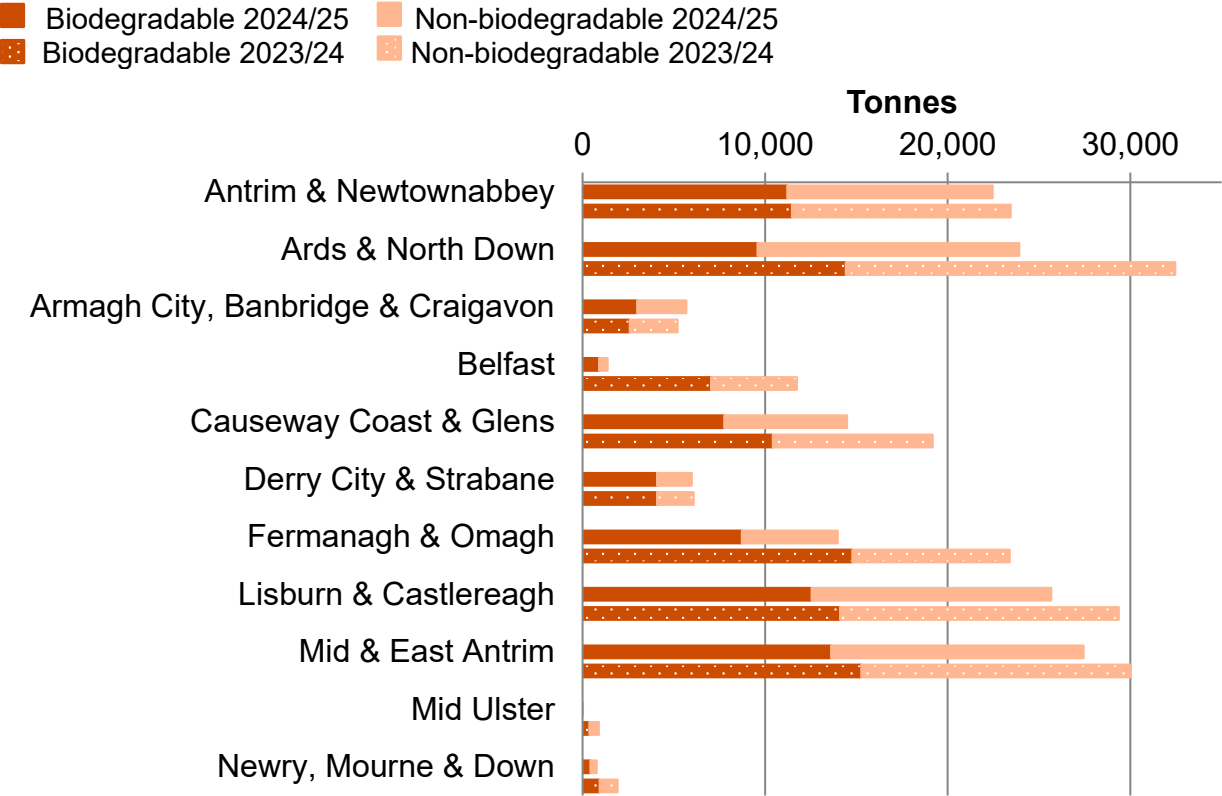
Biodegradable waste to landfill

The Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 (as amended) placed a statutory responsibility on councils, in each scheme year, to landfill no more than the quantity of biodegradable waste for which they had allowances. The scheme concluded at the end of the 2019/20 financial year, however the continued monitoring of biodegradable waste is required for [existing target commitments](#) which specify that it must be reduced to 35 per cent of the total amount (by weight) of biodegradable municipal waste produced in 1995.

Northern Ireland’s councils sent 71,828 tonnes of biodegradable waste to landfill during 2024/25, which was 50.6 per cent of all waste sent to landfill. During the previous year, 95,425 tonnes of biodegradable waste was sent to landfill, which was 51.9 per cent of all waste sent to landfill.

Figure 14 displays the tonnages of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste sent to landfill by each council, comparing them with other councils and to the same quarter last year.

Figure 14: Biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste to landfill by council
Northern Ireland, 2024/25



There is considerable variation between councils in the quantities of biodegradable waste sent to landfill, as well as the proportion of biodegradable waste in total landfill. In Derry City & Strabane, Belfast and Fermanagh & Omagh over 60 per cent of all waste sent to landfill was biodegradable, whilst in Ards & North Down 40.1 per cent of all waste sent to landfill was biodegradable.

This data can be found in Table 21 of the data tables appendix and in the [time series dataset](#).

Northern Ireland Key Performance Indicators 2024/25

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) are a set of measures used to gauge performance in terms of meeting waste strategy targets. They were originally defined in the Environment and Heritage Service (now the Northern Ireland Environment Agency) municipal waste data monitoring and reporting: interim guidelines, published in March 2003.

The table below has been included to help users find a specific KPI value or location in the report or data tables. Previously used key performance indicators KPIs (a) and (e) have been modified, in line with the rest of the UK, to include waste sent for preparing for reuse, and relabelled as KPI (a2) and (e2).

KPI	Performance during 2024/25	Section in report and Appendix Table
a2	51.0 per cent of household waste sent for recycling (including composting and preparing for reuse)	Recycling (pages 9-13) Data table 17a
b	13.8 per cent of household waste landfilled	Landfill (pages 16-18) Data table 17b
e2	50.4 per cent of waste sent for recycling (including composting and preparing for reuse)	Recycling (pages 9-13) Data table 4a
f	14.0 per cent of waste landfilled	Landfill (pages 16-18) Data table 4b
g	71,828 tonnes of biodegradable waste landfilled	Landfill (pages 16-18) Data table 21a
h	1,114 kg of household waste generated per household	Waste arisings (pages 5-8) Data table 18
j	1,010,410 tonnes of waste generated	Waste arisings (pages 5-8) Data table 1
m	See Tables 22i and 22ii for capture rates by primary waste category	Data tables 22i and 22ii
n	1.0 per cent increase in waste generated	Waste arisings (pages 5-8) Data table 2
p	455 kilogrammes of household waste generated per capita	Waste arisings (pages 5-8) Data table 18

The fully validated figures that are published in the annual report have undergone checks by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and further validation by Statistics and Analytical Services Branch (SASB) in the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The annual validation acts as a check that all issues raised at the quarterly validation stage have been addressed. Additional validation checks incorporated later in the working year are then also applied backwards to all quarters in the reporting year via the annual validation.

The table below outlines the differences between finalised data in this annual report and the provisional twelve-month rolling figures and time series dataset for April 2024 to March 2025 presented in the data tables for the [January to March 2025 quarterly report](#).
(Data tables - Table 18)

Comparison of provisional and final figures for 2024/25 key performance indicators

KPI	Definition	2024/25 provisional	2024/25 finalised	difference
a2	Percentage of household waste sent for recycling (including composting and preparing for reuse)	50.9 per cent	51.0 per cent	0.1 percentage points
b	Percentage of household waste sent to landfill	13.8 per cent	13.8 per cent	0.0 percentage points
e2	Percentage of waste sent for recycling (including composting and preparing for reuse)	50.3 per cent	50.4 per cent	0.1 percentage points
f	Percentage of waste landfilled	14.1 per cent	14.0 per cent	-0.1 percentage points
g	Reported biodegradable waste sent to landfill	72,249	71,828	-421 tonnes (-0.58 per cent)
h	Annual household waste collected per household	1,115	1,114	1.0 kg (0.09 per cent)
j	Waste arisings	1,010,323	1,010,410	87 tonnes (0.009 per cent)
m	Capture rates	See Tables 22i and 22ii for capture rates by primary waste category		
n	Waste arisings growth rate	1.0 per cent	1.0 per cent	0.0 percentage points
p	Annual household waste collected per capita	458	455	0.3 kg per capita (0.07 per cent)

The differences between provisional and final figures are small but arise due to the additional validations carried out before the finalisation of this annual publication.

Progress against targets

Data contained in this release provide an indication of the progress towards achieving waste strategy targets. They allow for the assessment of the performance of the councils and waste management groups in Northern Ireland in managing waste arisings, recycling, composting and landfill.

Overview of progress against targets

Indicator	Source	Progress/ Outcome
To achieve a recycling rate of 45 per cent (including preparing for re-use) of household waste by 2015	Targets 1, 2 & 3 on p39 of the revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy	KPI (a2) Target first met in 2017/18 – 48.1 per cent Latest figures 2024/25 – 51.0 per cent
To achieve a recycling rate of 50 per cent (including preparing for re-use) of household waste by 2020	As above	KPI (a2) Target first met in 2018/19 – 50.0 per cent Latest figures 2024/25 – 51.0 per cent
To achieve a recycling rate of 60 per cent (including preparing for re-use) of LACMW by 2020	As above	KPI (e2) Progress in 2024/25 – 50.4 per cent

Delivering Resource Efficiency - The Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2013 has now formally concluded with its [Closure Report](#) published in June 2022.

Following the publication of the Closure Report DAERA are currently in the process of developing a new Waste Management Strategy.

[Waste management strategy | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

Appendix 1: User Guidance

This statistical release is part of a regular data series presenting finalised information on local authority collected municipal waste managed in Northern Ireland.

Description of data

Local authority collected municipal waste (LACMW) data in Northern Ireland. This is municipal waste which is collected under arrangements made by a district council.

Main Uses of Data

Data contained in this release are published primarily to provide an indication of the progress towards achieving waste strategy targets. They allow for the assessment of the performance of the councils and waste management groups in Northern Ireland in managing waste arisings, recycling, composting and landfill. Targets are set for an annual period and performance against targets is considered in the Progress against targets section.

The revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy sets out targets for the management of local authority collected municipal waste.

- To achieve a recycling rate of 45 per cent (including preparing for re-use) of household waste by 2015.
- To achieve a recycling rate of 50 per cent (including preparing for re-use) of household waste by 2020.
- Proposals to achieve a recycling rate of 60 per cent (including preparing for re-use) of LACMW by 2020.

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/articles/waste-management-strategy>

The percentage of household waste that is reused, recycled or composted was a population indicator for the previous Programme for Government (PfG) and has been included as an indicator in the current PfG 2024-2027 'Our Plan: Doing

What Matters Most'.

The Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (Northern Ireland) 2015 came into operation on 28 September 2015. It contains three waste management indicators which correspond to KPIs (a2), (g) and (j) in this publication.

The Waste Framework Directive statutory target requires member states to recycle 50 per cent of waste from households by 2020.

The data are also used to assess performance against the Landfill Directive targets.

<http://www.ciwm.co.uk/ciwm/knowledge/landfill-directive.aspx>

This annual report provides final validated information on several key performance indicators (KPIs) used to assess progress towards achieving local authority collected municipal waste targets.

The waste data may help to inform particular lifestyle choices of the public, specifically decisions about how to treat their waste. This information feeds into Northern Ireland specific and UK wide research projects and articles carried out and published by Waste and Resource Action Programme (WRAP) – see the following web resources for more information:

<https://www.recyclenow.com/ni>
<http://www.wrap.org.uk/>
<http://laportal.wrap.org.uk/>

These projects are funded by each of the governments within the UK. The results of research by WRAP assist governments to devise strategies to deal with issues such as using resources sustainably, helping people to recycle more and to waste less both at home and at work, offering economic as well as environmental benefits.

Additionally, waste management information is used to inform the media, special interest groups such as the Chartered Institute of Waste Management (CIWM) which is the professional body representing waste and resource professionals, academics, for example those who would have an interest and/or involvement in the WRAP research mentioned above, and by DAERA to respond to parliamentary / assembly questions and ad hoc queries from the public.

The NISRA Data Portal provides access to waste information with the aim of making it available to as wide an audience as possible by providing interactive tables and charts that enable the statistics to be interpreted conveniently.

<https://data.nisra.gov.uk/>

Local Government Reorganisation

The 26 councils covered by previous reports were reorganised into 11 new councils from 1 April 2015. Prior to this, we consulted with users of the report, the proposed changes and summary of responses are available on the Statistics and Analytical Services Branch (SASB) website <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/changes-quarterly-ni-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-publication>

At that stage the opportunity was also taken to update the report using feedback from NISRA's peer review group.

Data Developments

Key Performance Indicators (a) and (e)

Prior to 2015/16, Northern Ireland recycling KPIs did not include waste sent for preparing for reuse, unlike the other UK devolved administrations. Waste sent for preparing for reuse has been added to the calculations of these KPIs and they have been renamed KPI (a2) and KPI (e2). This change has been

backdated to include data from 2012/13 onwards and allows comparisons across time to be made for these KPIs.

The difference this makes to the quantity of waste recycled is small. During 2024/25 this change added 2,750 tonnes of waste sent for preparing for reuse to the recycling total. This added approximately 0.3 percentage points to the KPI (a) and KPI (e) rates.

These measures are now more consistent with the rest of the UK and more consistent with the definition of the targets in the Waste Management Strategy 2020 and the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (NI) 2015, which include waste sent for preparing for reuse.

Waste from households recycling rate

In Northern Ireland, the household recycling rate is based on 'household waste' as defined in the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 (the 1997 Order) and Schedule to the Controlled Waste and Duty of Care Regulations (NI) 2013. The 'waste from households' recycling rate was introduced for statistical purposes to provide a harmonised UK indicator with a comparable calculation in each of the four UK countries.

This 'waste from households' measure has been added to the report and data tables to enable UK comparisons. However the main focus of this report is still the previous 'household waste' definition because it is the measure most directly related to current Northern Ireland policy targets. There are targets in the revised Waste Management Strategy and the Local Government (Performance Indicators and Standards) Order (NI) 2015 that reference the prior 'household waste' definition.

There is a difference between 'household waste' and 'waste from households'. The latter has a generally narrower definition than the former. There are a number of

sources of waste that were considered under 'household waste' that are not considered by 'waste from households', for example waste from street recycling bins and street cleaning. More information is available from the 'waste from households' calculation guidance on the WDF website.

http://www.wastedataflow.org/documents/guidancenotes/NorthernIreland/OtherGuidanceNotes/WfHrecyclingguidanceNI_v2.pdf

Analysis using 2024/25 data has shown that the 'waste from households' rate is 1.0 percentage points lower than the 'household waste' recycling rate at the Northern Ireland level. However, the difference between these rates vary across councils, ranging from equal figures to waste from households 3.1 percentage points lower than the household waste recycling rate. The time series file allows the difference in these rates to be compared over quarters and across councils.

Data Sources

Waste Management Data

The information presented in this report is taken from WasteDataFlow (WDF), a web based system for local authority collected municipal waste reporting by UK local authorities to central government. The data are based on returns made to WDF (relating to approximately 40 questions on local authority collected municipal waste management) by councils, within two months of the end of each quarter.

It is increasingly rare that residual waste may still be disposed of directly to landfill. Waste is collected by the councils directly from the kerbside and some civic amenity sites; third parties under contract to the council also collect from the remaining civic amenity sites and almost all of the bring banks. Some larger councils use intermediate bulking up stations where the waste is weighed both coming into and leaving the transfer station. In all cases the waste is weighed on arrival at

treatment sites for recovery e.g. Material Recovery Facilities (MRFs) and/or disposal e.g. landfill sites. MRFs, which sort the co-mingled waste into different resource streams, almost always have more than one input source. If these all undergo the same treatment, then the weighed tonnages of each stream coming out of the plant are assigned pro-rata to each source i.e. based on their input tonnages as a percentage of all input tonnages for that period. If the treatment differs between sources then so may the attribution of the outputs. Weighbridge dockets are generated which form the basis for statutory Waste Transfer Notes (WTNs) as the waste moves further down the treatment chain/onto reprocessors. These WTNs and/or internal reports (which also form the basis for invoices) are then sent to the council on a monthly basis. These are summarised on a quarterly basis and organised into the relevant WDF questions/categories and finally input by hand into the WDF web portal. Data providers (councils in Northern Ireland) are supplied with technical guidance documents outlining the methodologies that should be used in the collection, reporting and validation of the data returns. These documents can be accessed on the WDF website.

www.wastedataflow.org/htm/datasets.aspx#NorthernIrelandGuidance

Population Data

Population data used to calculate KPI (p), household waste arisings per capita, was sourced from the 2024 Mid Year Population Estimates produced by NISRA and are the most up to date available at the time of publication.

Household Data

Household data used to calculate KPI (h), household waste arisings per household, are based on the Land and Property Services (LPS) housing stock from April 2025. Note these household figures do not include caravans. An adjustment is made to account for the estimated number of vacant properties. A council-specific occupancy rate was calculated

from 2021 Census data and is applied to the LPS data. The datasets can be accessed from the LPS website.

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/housing-stock-statistics>

<https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/topics/statistics-and-research/new-dwelling-statistics>

Data Quality

The data are final and are based on, but supersede, previously published data from the four quarterly returns for the financial year. The data download from WDF were completed on 12 November 2025. At that time, all the district councils had made a return, giving a 100 per cent response rate.

Information contained in this report has been sourced from WasteDataFlow (WDF), which is the web based system for local authority collected municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to central government. The data in this report are based on returns made to WDF by district councils in Northern Ireland at the end of the 2024/25 financial year.

The fully validated figures that are published in this annual report have undergone audit by Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and further validation by Statistics and Analytical Services Branch (SASB) beyond that which is done on a quarterly basis. The annual validation acts as a check that all issues raised at the quarterly validation stages have been addressed. Additional validation checks incorporated later in the working year are then also applied backwards to all quarters in the reporting year via the annual validation.

Strengths of Data

Data are derived from WDF with full coverage for all councils to support statutory NILAS diversion targets. As the data are derived from an administrative system, they provide a complete picture of council controlled waste activity in NI.

Validation

Various validation checks are carried out by both NIEA and SASB. Validations are conducted for each individual question, with additional global validations carried out to ensure that total tonnage of waste types is equal to the sum of the component parts. Comprehensive variance checks are employed as an integral part of the production process for all reports.

Any anomalies or discrepancies are subsequently queried with the relevant council. As WDF data can usually only be amended at council level, it is then necessary to 'reject' or release the data back to the waste management group and subsequently back to the council so that it might be corrected as appropriate.

Limitations of Data

Waste Management Data

Despite the intensive validation carried out on the data prior to publication, any administrative system involving manual data compilation will always be open to a degree of clerical error.

Unclassified waste

Unclassified waste is calculated as a residual amount of municipal waste after municipal waste sent to landfill, sent for recycling (including composting), sent for energy recovery and preparing for reuse have been accounted for, instead of being extracted directly from the WasteDataFlow system. The majority of the total unclassified tonnage can be attributed to moisture and/or gaseous losses. Small negative tonnages can arise in the unclassified column if more waste is sent for treatment in the quarter than was actually collected as is more likely at councils operating transfer stations. Transfer stations move waste quickly but if a particular transfer occurs the day after arriving, which also happens to be the start of the next quarter, then a small inconsistency can arise.

Types of waste

There are many different forms of waste, including municipal solid waste, commercial and industrial waste, construction, demolition and excavation waste, hazardous waste, agricultural waste, and waste water and sludges. The latest published report on construction, demolition and excavation waste arisings is for 2009/10:

<https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/construction-demolition-and-excavation-waste-arisings-use-and-disposal-northern-ireland>

Following on from the UK's agreement to revise its interpretation of 'municipal waste' to include much more commercial and industrial waste than previously; it should be noted that this report, as with all previous ones, reflects local authority collected municipal waste only.

Material Recovery Facilities

MRFs usually have more than one input source and the pro-rata assignment to each source based on their input tonnages can lead to a small over or under estimation of the actual tonnage being recovered from each individual source.

Capture Rates

Capture rates are no longer included in the body of the report but are still available in the data tables appendix. The calculations for capture rates are based on a Compositional Study undertaken in 2017 and may not accurately reflect the current situation. However, it is the best available estimation of the proportions of the primary waste categories contained within kerbside residual waste. Levels of uncertainty around the results of the Compositional Study are discussed in the full report.

The accuracy of these estimates is expected to decrease over time as

household recycling habits continue to change.

Waste Crime

Waste crime is the unauthorised management of waste, including illegal dumping. It can be difficult to quantify the impact of such activity upon these official figures as it is not always possible to determine the source, date and tonnage of illegally deposited waste. Where possible the extent and any implications of such activity will be communicated to users.

Energy Recovery via Anaerobic Digestion

The tonnages relating to energy recovery from material undergoing anaerobic digestion are still accounted for under the recycling section since the vast majority of the tonnage of waste undergoing this process eventually ends up as a compost (once the methane generated from the anaerobic digestion process has been collected).

Rounding and Summing

It should be noted that in some instances totals may not add up due to rounding. If tonnages work out to be less than 0.5 tonnes, they will be rounded to zero.

On occasion percentages work out to be less than 0.1 per cent or more than 99.9 per cent. Users should be aware that in such cases, the percentage is rounded to zero or 100 per cent respectively.

Whilst tonnages may be summed over councils and/or Waste Management Groups to give totals for higher level geographies, such totals may suffer from rounding errors when compared with any given totals.

However where fractions or proportions, such as recycling rates, waste arisings per capita etc are stated for councils or waste management groups, these indicators cannot be simply added or averaged to produce a rate for a higher level geography. Such information is

often available in the data tables appendix, or otherwise may be available upon request.

Data for Northern Ireland and Waste Management Groups are only added to charts with rates and percentages to avoid distorting the scale of the charts.

Notation and Terminology

Please see the glossary (appendix 2) for clarification of key terms.

Guidance on using data

All figures in the report and the accompanying Excel tables are annual figures and refer to the stated period. These annual figures are the final, validated figures for the year and supersede those figures published in the quarterly reports for the period. Please note that any comparisons with prior year use the final validated figures as published in the annual report for that period. Very small increases or decreases in figures (<0.5 per cent or <0.5 percentage points) are not highlighted in the commentary and should be interpreted with care.

Waste Management information elsewhere in the United Kingdom and Europe

While it is our intention to direct users to waste management information elsewhere in the UK and Europe, users should be aware that local authority collected municipal waste statistics in other administrations are not always measured in a comparable manner to those in Northern Ireland. Details of waste management data published elsewhere in the UK and Europe can be found at the following links.

England

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/waste-and-recycling-statistics>

Scotland

<http://www.sepa.org.uk/environment/waste/waste-data/waste-data-reporting/>

Wales

<https://gov.wales/local-authority-municipal-waste-management>

Ireland

<http://www.epa.ie/waste/municipal/>

European Union Member States

http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/Municipal_waste_statistics

The basis of the data collection across the UK using WDF is broadly consistent, however there are some minor definitional differences such as Northern Ireland recycling KPIs do include material used as 'backfill' (using suitable waste material to refill an excavation instead of non-waste material) which is not directly comparable with the revised Waste Framework Directive recycling measurements.

The meetings of the WasteDataFlow Operational Group ensure a conscious effort to share waste management developments on a UK-wide basis with Northern Ireland representation on this group.

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Appendix 2: Glossary

Term	Explanation
Biodegradable waste	Any waste that is capable of undergoing decomposition (especially anaerobically in landfill), such as food and garden waste, and paper and cardboard.
Bring site	An unmanned site with a container or a collection of containers for depositing recyclable waste.
Capture rate for household kerbside collected waste	The amount of 'available' material that is actually being collected for recycling through household kerbside collection schemes.
Civic amenity site	A manned site for depositing waste.
Composting	An aerobic, biological process in which organic wastes, such as garden and kitchen waste, are converted into a stable granular material which can be applied to land to improve soil structure and enrich the nutrient content of the soil.
Composting rate	The percentage of waste sent for composting. It excludes waste collected for composting that was rejected at collection or at the gate of the reprocessor.
Dry recycling	The recycling of dry materials such as paper, card, cans, plastic bottles, mixed plastic, glass.
Dry recycling rate	The percentage of waste sent for recycling. It excludes waste collected for recycling that was rejected at collection, during sorting or at the gate of the recycling reprocessor. It includes residual waste which was diverted for recycling but excludes waste sent for preparation for reuse.
Energy recovery rate	The percentage of waste sent for energy recovery. It includes mixed residual and specific sources components.
Household waste	Includes materials (except soil, rubble and plasterboard) collected directly from households (e.g. kerbside collections) or indirectly (e.g. bring sites, civic amenity sites, collected by private and voluntary organisations not included elsewhere or street sweepings).
Kerbside	A regular collection of waste from premises.
Key Performance Indicators (KPIs)	A set of measures used to gauge performance in terms of meeting waste strategy targets.
LAC	Local Authority Collected, as in Waste.
Landfill sites	Any areas of land in which waste is deposited. Landfill sites are often located in disused mines or quarries. In areas where they are limited or no ready-made voids exist, the practice of landraising is sometimes carried out, where waste is deposited above ground and the landscape is contoured.
Local authority collected municipal waste	Waste which is collected under arrangements made by a district council.

Term	Explanation
Mixed dry recyclables	Waste streams intended for recycling found together with each other but separately from other waste.
Mixed residual waste sent for energy recovery	Combustible residual waste collected from the kerbside and civic amenity sites and processed into refuse derived fuel at material recovery facilities.
NILAS	Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme
Non household waste	Asbestos, beach cleansing, fly-tipped materials, gully emptyings, commercial and industrial, construction and demolition, grounds waste, highways waste, other collected waste and other.
Other household waste	Healthcare waste, bulky waste, street cleaning and other household.
Recycling	Any recovery operation by which waste materials are reprocessed into products, materials or substances whether for the original or other purposes. It does not include energy recovery and the reprocessing into materials that are used as fuels.
Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)	Consists largely of organic components of municipal waste (such as plastics and biodegradable waste). This can then be used in a variety of ways to generate electricity, most commonly as an additional fuel used with coal in power stations or in cement kilns.
Regular residual household waste	Household regular kerbside collection.
Residual waste	Waste that is not sent for preparing for reuse, sent for recycling or composting.
Specific streams e.g. wood	Used in the context of Waste sent for energy recovery. It is mostly wood but also contains furniture, carpets and mattresses, mostly collected from civic amenity sites.
Waste arisings	The amount of waste collected in a given locality over a period of time.
Waste collected for disposal to landfill	Collected for disposal is residual waste that has not been sorted to separate out recyclable material from other waste before being presented to the Council for collection at various locations.
Waste from households	Not the same as 'household waste'. This is a narrower definition and includes material (except soil, rubble and plasterboard) collected only from households (e.g. kerbside collection, bring sites, civic amenity sites or community skips managed by councils).

Term	Explanation
Waste sent to landfill	The amount of waste sent to landfill. Excludes residual waste which was diverted for energy recovery, recycling or composting. Includes household waste collected for energy recovery, recycling or composting which was diverted to landfill.
Waste Transfer Note (WTN)	A note which must be created for any transfer of controlled waste. The exception to this is householders, who are not required to produce transfer notes.
WasteDataFlow	The web based system for local authority collected municipal waste data reporting by UK local authorities to government (www.wastedataflow.org).
Recycled material types	
Compostable (excluding wood)	Green waste only, green garden waste only, mixed garden and food waste, waste food only, other compostable waste (excluding wood).
Construction, Demolition and Excavation	Plasterboard, rubble, soil and aggregates.
Electrical Goods	Large and small domestic appliances, TVs and monitors, fluorescent tubes and other light bulbs, fridges and freezers, auto batteries and post consumer batteries.
Glass	Brown, clear, green and mixed glass.
Metal	Aluminium, mixed and steel cans, aluminium foil, bicycles, aerosols, gas bottles, fire extinguishers, other scrap metal and Incinerator Bottom Ash (IBA) metal.
Paper and Card	Books, card, mixed paper and card, paper, yellow pages and cardboard beverage packaging.
Plastics	PET(1), HDPE(2), PVC(3), LDPE(4), PP(5), PS(6), other plastics(7), mixed plastic bottles, and plastics.
Textiles	Textiles and footwear, footwear only, textiles only and carpets.
Unclassified	Derived category including all other recycled material collected not included in the main categories (all of which exclude water).
WEEE (Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment)	As electrical goods above but excluding auto batteries and post consumer batteries.
Wood	Wood, chipboard and MDF, composite wood materials and wood for composting.

Appendix 3: List of Acronyms

This is a list of commonly used acronyms in this report.

arc21	Regional waste management group in Northern Ireland
BLACMW	Biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste
CIWM	Chartered Institution of Wastes Management
DAERA	Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
EC	European Commission
EU	European Union
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LAC	Local Authority Collected
LACMW	Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste
LPS	Land and Property Services
MDR	Mixed Dry Recyclables
MRF	Materials Recovery Facility
NI	Northern Ireland
NIEA	Northern Ireland Environment Agency
NILAS	Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme
NISRA	Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency
NWRWMG	North West Regional Waste Management Group
RDF	Refuse Derived Fuel
SASB	Statistics and Analytical Services Branch, DAERA
UK	United Kingdom
WDF	WasteDataFlow
WEEE	Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment
WRAP	Waste and Resource Action Programme

Accredited Official Statistics

[Accredited Official Statistics](#) are official statistics that have been independently reviewed by the Office for Statistics Regulation (OSR) and confirmed to comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the [Code of Practice for Statistics](#). Producers of accredited official statistics² are legally required to ensure they maintain compliance with the Code.

These accredited official statistics were independently reviewed by OSR in September 2013 in the [Assessment Report 263 Statistics on the Environment and Waste Management in Northern Ireland](#), with [accreditation confirmed](#) in January 2014. They comply with the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice and should be labelled National Statistics (or 'accredited official statistics').

In October 2020, a [compliance check](#) was completed for the waste statistics produced by each of the UK regions and confirmed that the designation (or 'accredited official statistics' labelling) should continue. The trustworthiness, quality and value of the statistics, including the coherence of the data source, methods and quality assurance (QA) arrangements, and the presentation of the statistics were reviewed with a final outcome that the statistics can continue to be designated as National Statistics (or 'accredited official statistics').

Our [Statistics Charter](#) provides further details of how we apply the principles and practices of the Code in the production and publication of our official statistics.

Our statistical practice is regulated by OSR. They set the standards of trustworthiness, quality and value in the Code of Practice for Statistics that all producers of official statistics should adhere to.

You are welcome to contact us directly with any comments about how we meet these standards.

Alternatively, you can contact OSR by emailing regulation@statistics.gov.uk or via the [OSR website](#).

² Accredited Official Statistics are called National Statistics in the Statistics and Registration Service Act 2007

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303 Airport Road West
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Department of
**Agriculture, Environment
and Rural Affairs**

An Roinn

**Talmhaíochta, Comhshaoil
agus Gnóthaí Tuaithe**

Depairtment o'

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an' Kintra Matthers**

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Unclassified

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ITEM 6.1**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	07 January 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Estates
Date of Report	17 November 2025
File Reference	43600
Legislation	Local Government Act 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: For information only
Subject	Half Yearly 1 - Estates Services Performance Report
Attachments	Estates Services Performance Indicator Summary

Context

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council has in place a Performance Management Policy and Handbook. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan 2024-2028)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved annually in March)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Not Applicable

Reporting Approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Half Year (H1)	April – September	December
Half Year (H2)	October – March	June

The report for April to September 2025 is attached.

Corporate Plan 2024-2028

In line with the Corporate Plan 2024-2028, our service has contributed to three outcomes as follows.

Outcome 2

An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets.

Key achievements:

- Numerous Energy Saving Initiatives Complete (see quarterly update report for further info)

Outcome 4

A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors.

Key achievements:

- Planned Maintenance of public areas completed at Portavogie Promenade, Kircubbin Promenade, Comber Square, and Holywood Seapark
- Hibernia St and Holborn Avenue car park refurbishments complete.

Outcome 6

Opportunities for people to be active and healthy.

Key achievements:

Play area replacements completed at:

- Ward Park
- Sea Park
- Londonderry Park

Emerging issues:

As part of the commitment to continuous improvement the annual Service Plan is reviewed on a monthly basis. The Service Risk register has also been reviewed to identify emerging issues and agree any actions required detailed below:

- The works to implement the “Roadmap to Green Fleet” are progressing albeit slowly than was originally hoped. Several new charge points installed at our

Not Applicable

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Depot and Officers are currently investigating Lease/Purchase options for small vans. Update report tabled before the end of the financial year.

- Maintenance budgets are under pressure, as reported last month.
- The staff transformation is almost complete, with only one remaining change to implement.

RECOMMENDATION










It is recommended that Council notes the report.

Not Applicable

Assets and Property - Performance Indicator Summary

Generated on: 17 November 2025

Last Update H1 2025/26

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	To provide update to Council on our Roadmap to Green fleet	No	Yes
	% completion of monthly Car park inspections to identify key issues requiring cross departmental remediation	100%	100%
	% spend against budget	108.21%	100%
	% staff attendance	96.21%	94.5%
	To gain satisfactory outcome of Designated Persons annual audit of safety systems at our Harbours	Yes	Yes
	To Implement the Service transformation outlined in section 4	No	Yes
	Implementation of the action plan arising from the Sustainable Energy Management Strategy	50%	50%
	Carry out regular refurbishment projects across the estate. We will ensure our facilities are maintained to an acceptable standard. Refurbishments carried out according to the schedule	100%	100%
	Implement the schedule for planned maintenance of public areas. Public areas will be safer and more attractive. Planned maintenance of public areas carried out according to schedule	100%	100%

Not Applicable

ITEM 6.2

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	07 January 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	18 November 2025
File Reference	CW22 / 43600
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: For information only
Subject	Half Yearly 1: Parks and Cemeteries Performance Report
Attachments	Parks and Cemeteries Performance Indicator Summary

Context

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council has in place a Performance Management Policy and Handbook. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan 2024-2028)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved annually in March)

The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Reporting Approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Half Year (H1)	April – September	December
Half Year (H2)	October – March	June

The H1 report for Parks and Cemeteries is below.

Corporate Plan 2024-2028

In line with the Corporate Plan 2024-2028, our service has contributed to;

***Outcome 1:** An engaged Borough with citizens and businesses who have opportunities to influence the delivery of services, plans and investment*

List Key Achievements for Outcome 1 in Period April to September 2025:

- Ards and North Down in Bloom Community Competitions took place over the summer with categories for local people, groups and businesses. A Community Awards event will be delivered on 23 October 2025.
- In Bloom funding released with 19 successful applicants receiving over £22,000 to make their communities' greenspaces more attractive.
- A new Dementia Friendly Sensory Garden and Play Park opened in Ward Park achieved through securing of £246,000 of external funding. Design for the Garden agreed through collaboration with Dementia NI, Alzheimer's Society, Making Connections, and SE-HSCT Dementia Friendly Partnership.
- New play park delivered at Seapark with £250,000 external funding.
- Children consultation events for Moss Road Ballygowan (older children provision), Northfield – Donaghadee, Islandview – Greyabbey and Groomsport Seafront (plays parks) involved 180 children across 3 schools.
- Construction has started on the new play park at Groomsport Seafront.
- Construction has started on the delivery of a Multi-Use Games Area at Moss Road, Ballygowan.
- Our Service worked with Community Planning Sustainable Tourism group – continue to be on this group.
- Ongoing engagement with the Friends of Bryansburn Allotments. A series of autumn and winter events is planned.
- Multiple 'Friends of' events and activities undertaken assisting in the recruitment of new volunteers and strengthening local engagement, and support.
- Play Strategy review underway with children at summer schemes and schools engaged and consulted.
- Construction is underway on the delivery of a Greenway between Newtownards and Bangor with completion in early 2026.

- Multiple play events held across the Borough, including a celebration of International Play Day in August. Reported to Environment in November 2025.
- Multiple walking and cycling events held across the Borough, including events to celebrate National Walking Week and National Cycling Week.
- Monthly Park Pedal events have been established in multiple venues in the Borough. Reported to Environment in November 2025.

Outcome 2: *An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets*

List Key Achievements for Outcome 2 in Period April to September 2025:

- Vigorous removal of invasive species such as Japanese Knotweed.
- Successful tender completion for new, more efficient machinery that emphasises modern technology with environmental efficiencies achieved.
- Derek McClure, volunteer in the walled garden, shortlisted for National Volunteer of the Year Award. Results confirmed on 20 November 2025.
- Community Tree Nursery applications advertised with Orchardville awarded.
- Working with a Queens University Student through the summer to develop the Growing Strategy – define a baseline, identify new land for growing, skills sharing event.
- Agreement reached with DFI on installation of Urban Street trees when project timescales allow. First trees are going into Frances Street in November when Tree Planting season begins again.

Outcome 3: *A thriving and sustainable economy*

List Key Achievements for Outcome 3 in Period April to September 2025:

- Over 91 events held to increase skills and knowledge for local people.
- Successful events at Bangor Castle Walled Garden including Chilli Festival (5,000 people attending) and Awake the Garden (3,000 attending).
- Northern Ireland Green Flag Awards are held in Bangor Walled Garden with 150 people attending.
- Open House continues to use to Walled Garden to host its annual Open House Festival and at Ward Park for the Picnics in the Park.
- Renewal of Hot Drink and Ice Cream Vendor Contracts.
- Appointment of Boroughs first Mobile Sauna Provision Contract.

Outcome 4: *A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors*

List Key Achievements for Outcome 4 in Period April to September 2025:

- Floodgates Park progressing towards planning application.
- Greenway (Newtownards to Green Road) Project underway with pedestrian bridge now in place.
- Whitespots Country Park – team working through RIBA Stage 2 with further environmental surveys being prioritised to inform the concept design.
- Continue to work on the Castle Park redevelopment – draft plan is complete
- A Bioblitz at North Down Coastal Path was undertaken in June.

Outcome 5: Safe, welcoming and inclusive communities that are flourishing

List Key Achievements for Outcome 5 in Period April to September 2025:

- Forestry School events undertaken between April and June with many young people.
- Events and volunteering activities with Orchardville have led to the establishment of a community tree nursery, developed in partnership with Orchardville to support environmental education, skills development, and local biodiversity enhancement.
- Shared Education programme with St Columbas Portaferry and Strangford College, Carrowdore, including school sessions and a Citizen Science event at Cloughey Beach with 80 children attending.
- Love Parks Empowering Women events to encourage participation of women and girls in activities within our own parks and outdoor spaces.
- Love Parks events focused on families at Linear park, Kiltonga, pop up plays, biodiversity walks. 18 events across 10 days attracting a total of 400 people.
- Opportunities to learn through workshops on navigation, biodiversity, tree and plant identification, dawn chorus, bird watching, swift and bat walks and cooking with seaweed attracted 100 people across a series of events and workshops.
- Summer of Play series saw pop up play in some of our play parks and open spaces. This attracted over 700 visitors across 8 events, specific events held at Bangor Sportsplex with Inclusive bikes.
- Supported visits with STRIDES a Young Adult Support Group.

Outcome 6: Opportunities for people to be active and healthy

List Key Achievements for Outcome 6 in Period April to September 2025

- Play Park improvements planned for Island View, Greyabbey, Northfield, Donaghadee and Shorefront, Groomsport.
- New Multi Use Games area delivery is underway at Moss Road, Ballygowan.
- Mindfulness in the Walled Garden – 8 sessions June and July.
- Events held in May for International Dawn Chorus Day.
- In June eight mindfulness sessions in Bangor Castle Walled Garden allowed for 160 people to enjoy some relaxation in the peaceful surroundings of the Walled Garden.
- Ongoing opportunities for group walking – celebrated Walking Week, Tree tours, History and Heritage Walks and Our Siren Song celebrating art and walking together.
- Various cycling (Park Pedal), BMX, skateboard and scooter (Teens on Wheels) sessions to target families, increase cycling skills and awareness and engage with more teenagers and young people had nearly 100 attending.
- A variety of activities and events in Bike Week (June) had almost 200 in attendance.
- Mobile Easter trail at six locations aimed at getting young children and families engaged at some of our smaller locations – attracting nearly 1500 visitors.

Outcome 7: Ards and North Down Borough Council is a high performing organisation

List Key Achievements for Outcome 7 in Period April to September 2025:

- Green Flag Awards are retained for Castle Park, Londonderry Park, Kiltonga Nature Reserve, Linear Park and Ballymenoch Park, Clondeboy Cemetery and Cairn Wood.
- Success at the NI Amenity Council ‘Best Kept Awards’ with the Borough receiving awards for: Groomsport (Best Kept Large Village) and Donaghadee (Best Kept Small Town); plus Runner-Up awards for Bangor (City Category), Holywood (Medium Town) and Finalist for Newtownards in Large Town Category.
- At the Ulster in Bloom Awards Donaghadee was awarded first place in the Town Category and Crawfordsburn achieved a second place in the Village Category.
- At the (RHS) Britain in Bloom Awards Donaghadee was awarded a 'Gold Award' in the Town Category.
- National Green Flag Awards – Best of the Best Volunteer of the Year.
- Staff Business Planning Day being organised for 28 November with all Parks and Cemeteries staff attending to influence the Service Plan for 2026/7 and ensure we continue to meet and exceed our KPI's.

Emerging issues:

As part of the commitment to continuous improvement the annual Service Plan is reviewed monthly. The Service Risk register has also been reviewed to identify emerging issues and agree any actions required as detailed below:

Identified KPI at Risk	Reasons as to why KPI has not been met	Action to be taken	Designated Officer	Date for Review
% Staff attendance (94% Target)	Although staff absence rates have improved, it remains challenging. With 92.89% achieved in this period.	Service management team continues to meet regularly with HR, vigorously implementing procedures and changes made to reporting sickness, has improved rates.	Head of Parks and Cemeteries	January 2026
Reduce the amount of herbicide used (litres) in council land	Increased usage of herbicides on pitches and control of invasive species.	Improved training, alternative products continue to be identified including use of stem injection for invasive species.	Head of Parks and Cemeteries	January 2026












RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes the report.

Parks and Cemeteries - Performance Indicator Summary

Generated on: 16 December 2025

Last Update H1 2025/26

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	% Spend Against Budget	98.64%	100%
	% staff attendance	92.89%	94.5%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period April 2025 to March 2026	97%	95%
	Implement and embed the new Parks and Cemeteries Structures	100%	100%
	Monthly Staff Performance Improvement Meetings organised	100%	100%
	Maintain 130,000m2 of rewilded council land	132,000	130,000
	Amount of herbicide used (litres)	149.55	130
	Investment of £26,000 in funding for In Bloom Projects	£22,472.59	£26,000.00
	Achieve four in Bloom/ Best Kept awards	8	3
	70 Community Projects Organised	91	40
	% of available allotments utilised	100%	100%
	Annual Business Planning Day organised	100%	100%

✓	Continue to develop new revenue initiatives including rolling out mobile sauna business placements	100%	100%
✓	Seven Green Flag awards obtained	7	7
✓	Plant 15,000 trees as part of the STAND4TREES Initiative	0	15,000
✓	Report annually on progress towards building on our Service being Climate Change Ready with actions and policies in place to assist wider Corporate Strategies	100%	100%
✓	Create a trail Social Value initiative and report to Council Committee	100%	100%
✓	Establish five 'Friends of' Groups	5	5
✓	Providing annual report of progressing corporate action of 1,250sqm (0.125ha) of community growing space per 10,000 households by 2028	100%	100%
✓	Embed 5 Steps to Wellbeing into all aspects of our Service with 5 internal and 15 externally focussed information sessions, activities and programmes delivered	(6 + 19) 21	20

Unclassified

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ITEM 6.3**Ards and North Down Borough Council**

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	07 January 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing Services
Date of Report	16 December 2025
File Reference	43600
Legislation	Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 Local Government Act (NI) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: For information only
Subject	Half Yearly 1: Waste and Cleansing Services Performance Report
Attachments	Waste and Cleansing Performance Indicator Summary

Context

Members will be aware that Council is required, under the Local Government Act 2014, to have in place arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the exercise of its functions. To fulfil this requirement Council has in place a Performance Management Policy and Handbook. The Performance Management Handbook outlines the approach to Performance Planning and Management process as:

- Community Plan – published every 10-15 years
- Corporate Plan – published every 4 years (Corporate Plan 2024-2028)
- Performance Improvement Plan (PIP) – published annually in September
- Service Plan – developed annually (approved annually in March)

Not applicable

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The Council's 18 Service Plans outline how each respective Service will contribute to the achievement of the Corporate objectives including, but not limited to, any relevant actions identified in the PIP.

Reporting Approach

The Service Plans will be reported to relevant Committees on a half-yearly basis as undernoted:

Reference	Period	Reporting Month
Half Year (H1)	April – September	January
Half Year (H2)	October – March	July

The report for April to September 2025 is attached.

Corporate Plan 2024-2028

In line with the Corporate Plan 2024-2028, our service has contributed to 3 key corporate outcomes as follows:

Outcome 2

An environmentally sustainable and resilient Council and Borough meeting our net zero carbon targets.

Key achievements:

- Increased household recycling rate to 62.07%
- Increased HRC reuse and recycling to 78.12%
- No waste sent directly to landfill during the first half of this financial year.
 - From the beginning of 2025, Ards and North Down sends its residual waste for further processing and treatment. During the first half of this financial year, we produced 15,440.1 tonnes of household residual waste. A two-stage process first recovered 1597.8 tonnes (10.4%) of recyclable material before sending 13,842.7 tonnes (89.6%) for energy recovery in the form the Refuse-Derived Fuel
 - A small quantity of non-target material collected for recycling is rejected by our contractors. This material continues to go to landfill.

Nb. These waste data are drawn from NIEA's Q1 waste data report and Q2 information from the Council's contractors. These data are considered provisional and subject to change until final and validated waste data is published by NIEA in November 2026.

Outcome 4

A vibrant, attractive, sustainable Borough for citizens, visitors, businesses and investors.

Key achievements:

- Achieved success in the Loo of the Year Awards (2025), receiving four platinum awards and one diamond award.
- Success in the Best Kept Awards 2025:
 - Best Kept Small Town – Donaghadee
 - Best Kept Large Village – Groomsport
 - Runner up, City – Bangor

Not applicable

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- Runner up, Medium Town – Hollywood
- Finalist, Large Town – Newtownards.

Outcome 7

Ards and North Down Borough Council is a high performing organisation

Key achievements:

- Services delivered within agreed budgets.

Emerging issues:

As part of the commitment to continuous improvement the annual Service Plan is reviewed on a monthly basis. The Service Risk register has also been reviewed to identify emerging issues and agree any actions required detailed below:

- Achieve or exceed NI average Cleanliness Index Score of 75%
- Work with arc21 Councils to agree a timeline for the addition of plastic tubes to the kerbside dry recycling service.

Action to be taken:

- Identify and implement regular and independent surveys of Borough cleanliness as a measure of performance against the NI average Cleanliness Index Score.
- arc21 Councils have agreed that it is contractually possible that plastic tubes can be accepted in the kerbside dry recycling bin. Officers will work with arc21, Bryson Recycling, and partner councils to agree a coordinated timeline for their acceptance and communication of this change.

Identified KPI at Risk	Reasons as to why KPI has not been met	Action to be taken	Designated Officer	Date for Review
Cleanliness Index	Independent surveys not able to be completed by service provider.	Engage with potential providers of independent cleanliness surveys to reintroduce measurement against the KPI for the 2026/27 Service Plan.	Head of Service	Q4 2025/26

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

Not applicable



Waste and Cleansing Performance Indicator Summary

Generated on: 11 December 2025

Last Update H1 2025/26

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	% spend against budget	98.68%	100%
	% staff attendance	92.53%	94.5%
	% of completed Employee Appraisals in the period April 2025 to March 2026	97.54%	100%
	Reported biodegradable waste sent to landfill (tonnes)	0	10,000
	Annual household waste collected per household (tonnes)	0.58	0.6
	Annual Waste Arisings (tonnes)	42,038.84	45,000
	Annual household waste collected per capita (kgs)	254.14	275
	% of household waste sent for recycling (including composting and preparing for reuse)	62.07%	60%
	% of household waste sent to landfill	0%	10%

Next Update H2 2025/26

Performance Data Traffic Light Icon	PI Short Name	Performance Data Current Value	Performance Data Current Target
	Improve recycling rate (%) at Council HRCs		70%
	Achieve 100% success in Loo of the Year Awards (Gold or Platinum Award)		5

Unclassified

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ITEM 7

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	07 January 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	16 December 2025
File Reference	PCA111 / 88005
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: For information only
Subject	Schools Growing Clubs Update
Attachments	

The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the Schools Growing Clubs project for the period 2025/2026. School's Growing Clubs is an initiative aimed at enhancing the educational experience, health, and well-being of children in the Borough through growing, gardening and community engagement. The purpose of this report is to inform the Council about the recent developments in the program, including the selection process, its potential contributions to the curriculum and the positive impact it will have on students' growth.

Selection Process and Participants

All schools across the Borough were contacted and offered the opportunity to apply to join the initiative. The program was also promoted across Council social media platforms. Council received a total of ten applications from various schools that expressed interest in becoming a Growing Club. As per the agreed process, a selection panel comprised of Parks and Cemeteries Officers evaluated the applications and choose the most suitable schools to participate. After thorough review and consideration, the panel selected five schools to be part of the program.

Not Applicable

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The selection criteria included factors such as the school's commitment to sustainability and environmental education, the availability of space and existing infrastructure for gardening activities, the engagement level of teachers, PTA and the potential for community involvement. The panel's objective assessment ensured a fair and transparent selection process, resulting in the choice of schools that were best aligned with the goals of the Growing Club initiative.

The five new schools selected through this process were:

- Portavogie Primary School, Portavogie
- Castle Gardens Primary School, Newtownards
- Bloomfield Primary School, Bangor
- Lakewood School, Bangor
- Sullivan Upper School, Holywood

For 2025/2026, Parks and Cemeteries Officers will pilot the programme with one secondary school, extending the Schools Growing Clubs to an older age group for the first time. This year, Sullivan Upper School in Holywood has been selected to take part.

Parks and Cemetery Officers will continue to support schools from the previous year's cohort as below.

- Kircubbin Integrated Primary School
- Alexander Dixon Primary School, Ballygowan
- Killard Primary School, Donaghadee
- St Patricks Primary School, Holywood

Contributions to Curriculum and Development

The School's Growing Club has immense potential to enrich our children's learning experiences and holistic development. By integrating gardening and horticultural activities into the curriculum, students will gain hands-on knowledge about plant life cycles, nutrition, ecology, and sustainability.

Furthermore, the Growing Club offers an avenue for interdisciplinary learning, connecting subjects such as science, mathematics, and even art. Students will be encouraged to observe, measure, and analyse various aspects of plant growth, fostering critical thinking and problem-solving skills. In addition, the club will promote teamwork, responsibility, and a sense of accomplishment as students work together to tend to the garden and observe the fruits of their labour.

Health and Well-being Impact

Engaging in gardening activities has been proven to have positive effects on mental and physical well-being. The act of nurturing plants and being in nature can reduce stress, improve mood, and enhance concentration. Our students will have the opportunity to disconnect from screens and engage in a more active and hands-on form of recreation, fostering a healthier lifestyle. Children will also have the chance to learn where their food comes from and appreciate the process of growing your own

Not Applicable

food and how they can contribute to sustainable food production in their communities for the future.

Community Engagement and Education

The Growing Club will not only benefit the students directly involved but will also extend its impact to the broader community. As the garden flourishes, it can serve as a hub for workshops, events, and educational sessions, involving parents, community members, and other schools. This will promote a sense of unity and shared responsibility for environmental stewardship, further strengthening the ties between the school and the community.

In conclusion, the School's Growing Club is a valuable addition to our educational offerings, with the potential to enhance the curriculum and promote health and well-being. We are excited about the positive impact this initiative will have on the children and the community at large. Members continued support is instrumental in ensuring the success of this endeavour.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.

Unclassified

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ITEM 8

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	07 January 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	16 December 2025
File Reference	NOM 619
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Notice of Motion 619 - Greyabbey Tennis Courts
Attachments	

Background

In May 2024 the following decision was agreed by Council as a result of a Notice of Motion:

“That this Council notes with concern the temporary closure of Groomsport tennis courts due to issues around the safety of the playing surface. Further to this Council tasks Officers to bring back a report on Tennis Court maintenance throughout the Borough and will commit to ensuring all our tennis facilities are properly maintained and are fully accessible to all. Council will also promote the use of tennis facilities in the Borough as we approach the spring/summer season.”

A subsequent update report was brought to Council by the Head of Leisure in January 2025 outlining the costs and anticipated works required for each tennis court across the Borough and the following was agreed:

“That the Council agree the recommendation of the Committee but further tasks officers to explore the feasibility of incorporating a MUGA as part of the redevelopment of Greyabbey Tennis Courts including engagement with current users, sports clubs

Not Applicable

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and community groups to ensure use for all sports and maximum investment and sport participation for the community of Greyabbey.”

Furthermore, Rosemount Rec Junior Football Club then brought a Deputation to the May 2025 Community and Wellbeing Committee and expressed their desire for a Sports Hub consisting of a 3G synthetic surface MUGA which would incorporate football, tennis and basketball and it was agreed that their Deputation would be considered as part of the follow up report.

Current Position

At present under the Leisure Strategy Implementation Plan agreed by Council earlier in 2025, Council, as part of the Leisure Strategy implementation group, will be carrying out a facilities need audit which will inform what level of need there is for pitches and tennis courts and other facilities across the Borough. Until that has been completed it cannot yet be determined how many tennis courts it will recommend are required in Greyabbey and if a MUGA pitch for sporting purposes is required. Local consultation will be required as part of that process. Furthermore, the extant play strategy recommends an older children's play facility in the area as well, which may be a MUGA, wheel park or similar, depending on local consultation around that already identified need.

The site is quite confined in terms of space and therefore it may be difficult to accommodate all facility requests within the current site. Additional land acquisition may be required in the future dependant on the outcomes of the facilities need audit. Currently there are two tennis courts and a community orchard to the rear. A new path and picnic area with some natural forest school features is also in the process of being installed.

Multi Use Games Areas (MUGA's) are designed for informal use by teenagers as part of the older children provision as outlined in the Play Strategy and include provision for football and basketball although other informal uses such as skating, scooting and younger children riding their bikes in them has also been observed in places. They are predominantly surfaced in tarmac and have surrounding fencing, they are open and free to use at all times.

MUGA's of this nature are not designed to be used as formal sports pitches for matches or training purposes that would require the development of a synthetic surface pitch. Tennis cannot normally be facilitated on a MUGA due to the need to remove nets and posts etc.

In the Play Strategy (currently under review) it identifies Greyabbey as a location for older children provision; it also outlines that a public consultation is required. Previously such consultations have been undertaken at Holywood, Kircubbin, and Ballygowan as well as consultations with local schools, to allow people to decide what type of older children facility they prefer: MUGA, Parkour, Skate Park or Pump Track. The preferred facility type will then be delivered. However in the case of Greyabbey, this process cannot occur until the leisure facilities audit has been completed determining what level of facility provision is required.

Not Applicable

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The Play Strategy also outlines a settlement hierarchy approach to older children provision delivery. The remaining locations for older children facilities as identified in the Play Strategy in hierarchical order are:

- Bangor (76,403 population, 2021 census) (Bangor Cycle Park being delivered as part of Peace Plus and another facility to be delivered as part of the Bangor Waterfront Scheme)
- Holywood (10,757) (Seapark, consultation completed MUGA proposed, currently under consideration by Planning)
- Donaghadee (7,325) (Pump Track being delivered as part of Peace Plus)
- Portaferry (2,372)
- Ballywalter (2,008)
- Cloughey (1,347)
- Groomsport (1,224)
- Greyabbey (879)

Therefore, a number of other locations need to be delivered first before any older children facilities would be delivered in Greyabbey as it the smallest settlement.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council await the outcome of the Leisure Facilities Audit and the further delivery of other older children provision locations as outlined in the Play Strategy in order to accurately determine the level of facility provision required across the Borough, as well as Greyabbey, and the priority areas to be delivered in accordance with available budgets provided through the rates and grants that will be sought.