

January 29th, 2026

**Notice Of Meeting**

You are requested to attend the meeting to be held on **Wednesday, 4th February 2026 at 7:00 pm** in **Church Street, Newtownards**.

# Agenda

## Agenda

 [EC 04.02.26 Agenda.pdf](#)

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### 1. Apologies

### 2. Declarations of Interest

### Reports for Approval

### 3. Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Park Order) 2026

Copy attached

 [Item 3 Ards and North Down Off Street Parking \(Public Car Parks\) Order 2025.pdf](#)

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 [Item 3 Appendix 1 Item 5 of the Environment Committee dated 3 September 2025.pdf](#)

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 [Item 3 Appendix 2 Ards and North Down Off Street Parking \(Public Car Parks\) Order 2025.pdf](#)

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

Copy attached

 [Item 4 Notice of Motion 673 Extension of Public Toilet Opening Hours During the Summer Months.pdf](#)

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### 5. Parks and Cemeteries Climate Ready Update

Copy attached

 [Item 5 Parks and Cemeteries Climate Ready Update.pdf](#)

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 [Item 5 Appendix 1 Climate Ready Statement and Action Plan.pdf](#)

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### Reports for Noting

### 6. North Down Coastal Path Working Group Minutes

Copy attached

 [\*\*Item 6 North Down Coastal Path Working Group Minutes.pdf\*\*](#)

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 [\*\*Item 6 Appendix 1 Minutes of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group 06.10.25.pdf\*\*](#)

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## **7. Ashbury Play Park - Update Report**

Copy attached

 [\*\*Item 7 Ashbury Play Park - Update Report.pdf\*\*](#)

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## **8. Q3 Environmental Services Directorate Budgetary Control Report - December 2025**

Copy attached

 [\*\*Item 8 Environmental Services Directorate Budgetary Control Report - December 2025.pdf\*\*](#)

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## **9. Notices of Motion**

### **9.1 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cochrane and Councillor Thompson**

That this Council notes the growing popularity of Linear Park in Bangor East as a hub for the local community.

Further to this, officers will bring back a report exploring options for providing path markings in both Upper and Lower Linear Park for runners, such as distance indicators eg. 1 km, 2 km, along with appropriate signage to assist those who wish to keep fit in the park.

Officers will also examine options for upgrading the path and accompanying drainage system in Lower Linear Park between the bridge and the Ring Road, in light of persistent flooding and drainage issues.

### **9.2 Notice of Motion submitted by Alderman McIlveen and Alderman Armstrong-Cotter**

That this Council notes that the natural stone blinding pathways around Londonderry Park are prone to saturation with water resulting in significant standing water and sludginess which adversely impacts on the use and enjoyment of the park. Council therefore requests that officers prepare a business case with a view to paving or tarmac the paths in the park to improve the user experience.

### **9.3 Notice of Motion submitted by Councillor Cathcart and Councillor McClean**

That this Council recognises its responsibility to ensure that our city, towns and villages are looking the best

that they can be, to be welcoming places for visitors and our residents. It is therefore essential that the correct structures and policies are in place to ensure that within the resources made available all expected maintenance is being carried out efficiently and effectively.

A proactive maintenance regime was agreed when this Council was created and has worked well in some areas but hasn't had the desired impact in other areas. Basic maintenance and upkeep of our public realm particularly in our centres and prominent areas can and should be improved.

The Council therefore commits to reporting on a review of its current proactive maintenance and cleansing regimes, highlighting options and opportunities for improvement and associated budgetary requirements, so as to allow members to consider potential improvements in outcomes concerning the maintenance of Council property and the public realm.

## **10. Any Other Notified Business**

**\*\*\*IN CONFIDENCE\*\*\***

**Items Delegated for Decision/Approval (In Confidence)**

## **11. Extension of Tender for Supply of Electrical Fittings**

Copy attached

 *Item 11 Extension of Tender for provision of electrical fittings.pdf*

*Not included*

## **12. Extension of Gully Waste Haulage Contract**

Copy attached

 *Item 12 Extension of Gully Waste Haulage Contract.pdf*

*Not included*

## ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL

28 January 2026

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, 4 February 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

### Reports for Approval

3. Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Park Order) 2026 (Report attached)
4. Notice of Motion 673 Extension of Public Toilet Opening Hours During the Summer Months (Report attached)
5. Parks and Cemeteries Climate Ready Update (Report attached)

### Reports for Noting

6. North Down Coastal Path Working Group Minutes (Report attached)
7. Ashbury Play Park – Update Report (Report attached)
8. Environmental Services Directorate Budgetary Control Report – December 2025 (Report attached)
9. Notices of Motion

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**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

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	04 February 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Estates
Date of Report	13 January 2026
File Reference	65369
Legislation	The Road Traffic Regulations (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 Off-Street Parking Order 2025
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Item 5 of the Environment Committee dated 3 September 2025 Appendix 2 - Ards and North Down Off Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025

**Background**

At a meeting of the Environment Committee on 3 September 2025, a deputation on behalf of Ards and North Down Business Forum took place in respect of the draft Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025. As a result, Council agreed the following in respect of Item 5 of that committee agenda (attached at Appendix 1):

“The report is deferred for members to give consideration to the proposals set out in the deputation from the Borough’s chambers. A detailed officer’s report will consider the costs and implementations of the Chamber’s proposals, including the potential use of new number plate recognition technology. A report will also examine the proposed tariff changes in other Council areas throughout Northern Ireland.”

Not Applicable

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This report seeks to respond to that decision.

### **Automated Number Plate Recognition**

Officers have considered the proposals brought forward by the AND Business forum in respect of using number plate recognition to implement a 2-hour free parking tariff and undertook further research into the feasibility of implementing this technology. Officers acknowledge that this would be effective in implementing a period of free parking if that was part of the Council's tariff structure, however challenges would remain as highlighted below.

### **Enforcement**

- Parked in a disabled persons' parking space without clearly displaying a valid disabled persons' badge
- Not parked wholly within the markings of the bay/space
- Parked in an electric vehicle charging place during operating hours without charging.

These contraventions account for approximately one third of the Penalty Charge Notices issued across our car park estate. These offences cannot be enforced using ANPR technology, resulting in the need for a traffic attendant patrol to remain:

### **Legal Ability to use Technology**

It is the understanding of the Regional Off-Street Parking Group, Department for Infrastructure and Council's enforcement partner Marston Holdings Ltd, that there is no legal provision for Council to use these devices in its off-street car park enforcement under the current legislation. The use of these devices in car parks in Northern Ireland is currently for the issue of parking charge notices, enforced by civil law, i.e. issued by private car park operators.

As such, Council's enforcement partner is unable to provide definitive costs for the implementation of such a system of enforcement or negotiate any changes to the enforcement contract without a full legal opinion. Approximate camera installation costs, based on one camera at each car park entrance and one camera at each car park exit, is expected to be in the region of £640,000 for Council's 22 Pay and Display Car Parks.

Should Members be minded to further consider the implementation of ANPR, a full legal opinion will be required and if it is found that the understanding outlined above is correct, a legislative change is required to remedy this. It should be noted that a legislative change of this nature is not currently planned in line with the revocation of the Off-Street Parking Order 2000, therefore further liaison with the Department for Infrastructure will be required and a change of this nature is likely to take considerable time to implement, if necessary.

Following this, further exploration from a contractual perspective with the Council's car park enforcement service provider will be required. Council is currently in year 2 of its 5-year contract with Marston Holdings Ltd, which was procured through a Consortium of 8 Councils. Officers are unable to establish if suitable contract negotiations would be possible without a full legal opinion on its enforcement powers.

Not Applicable

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Officers are currently working towards obtaining a full legal opinion through the Regional Off Street Parking Group, however, the process of contract negotiation and procurement and installation of ANPR technology across our car park estate is likely to be a timely process and will take at least 12-24 months to implement, subject to appropriate legal powers, successful contract negotiations and budget allocation. No budget allocation has been made for ANPR technology or contractual changes within the 2026/27 year.

Furthermore, as has been previously reported and requested by Members, Officers are continuing to lobby the Department for Infrastructure and hope that they will revoke the Off-Street Parking Order 2000 in Autumn 2026, Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking Order 2025 must be ready to enact at that time (both orders cannot co-exist).

### Proposed tariffs in other Council areas.

A summary of the proposed tariff changes by Council area is provided below:

Council	Current tariffs	Proposed tariffs	New cost of 2 hour stay
<b>Armagh City, Banbridge &amp; Craigavon Borough Council</b>	30p per 3hrs or 40p per hour	No current proposals, tariffs will be reviewed at a later stage.	30p - 80p
<b>Antrim &amp; Newtownabbey Borough Council</b>	10p for 3 hours and 20p per hour thereafter (1 car park only) or 20p - 40p per hour	No current proposals.	10p in 1 car park / 40p - 80p
<b>Belfast City Council</b>	20p - £1.20 per hour	30p - £1.20 per hour (30p tariff being introduced in car parks which are currently free + 4 non-city centre car parks currently charged at 20-30p per hour)	60p - £2.40
<b>Causeway Coast &amp; Glens Borough Council</b>	50p - £1 per hour	No current proposals, new tariffs have been implemented.	£1 - £2
<b>Derry City &amp; Strabane District Council</b>	50p - 80p per hour	No current proposals, some new tariffs have been implemented.	£1 - £1.60
<b>Fermanagh &amp; Omagh District Council</b>	40p - 50p per hour	No current proposals, some new tariffs have been implemented.	80p - £1
<b>Lisburn &amp; Castlereagh City Council</b>	£1 for 3 hours and then 30p-70p per hour thereafter	No current proposals, tariffs will be reviewed at a later stage.	£1
<b>Mid &amp; East Antrim Borough Council</b>	60p-70p per hour or all day rate of £2.60 (10 hours)	No current proposals, new tariffs have been implemented.	£1.20 - £1.40
<b>Mid Ulster District Council</b>	£1 for 3 hours and 40p per hour thereafter	No current proposals.	£1

Not Applicable

<b>Newry Mourne &amp; Down District Council</b>	50p per hour	No current proposals, some new tariffs have been implemented.	£1
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Analysis of the current and proposed tariffs across the 11 Councils shows that the proposed tariffs in Ards and North Down could be interpreted as better value for money for car park users than the active or proposed tariffs in most other Council areas. For example, in Ards and North Down a two-hour stay would cost 50p and a two-hour stay in most other areas would cost between 60p and £1.20 (i.e. with the exception of some of the charged car parks in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council and Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council).

This is also expected to result in less expensive parking for most of our users when compared to our current DFI set tariff of £1 for up to four hours (see section 4.0 below).

In addition, it is expected that the proposed tariffs in Ards and North Down will increase turnover per parking space, with financial modelling predicting that this should yield up to £0.5M in additional annual income for Council. When new tariffs can be introduced, the projected additional income will provide much needed additional funds to support an expansion of our annual capital programme for car park maintenance and enhancements. This will ensure that the car park users pay for that service (which is not a statutory service provided for by default rates income), rather than the cost being levied through general rates to all ratepayers irrespective of whether they use car parks.

### Car Park Usage

When developing the Car Park Strategy, consultants advised that most car park users stayed for a period of 2 hours, which informed the concessionary tariff of 50p for 2 hours.

Officers completed a survey of our car park usage in from September to December 2025. Using information gathered by RingGo, 54% of RingGo users across our 22 car parks were staying for less than 2 hours, and a further 10% staying for less than 3 hours. This data shows that the average length of stay of car park users remains at 2 hours and supports the implementation of the 50p for 2 hours tariff to subsidise/incentivise shorter stay parking events for the period of time that the majority of shoppers/visitors stay. This is better value for our users who would currently pay £1 for a stay of 2 hours. An in-person sample survey supported this data.

Therefore, under the new tariff structure, over half of Council's car park users will pay less than they currently do for their stay.

20% of RingGo users were staying in our car parks for more than 5 hours, resulting in long stay parking/space blocking by those less likely to be contributing to local business revenues.

The tariff A & B structure will encourage the 20% of long stay users to utilise the car parks on the periphery of the city/town centre with no tariff or lower Tariff B, which prevents all day town /city centre space blocking and encourages more shorter stay parking events. It follows that this should therefore increase the footfall within our

Not Applicable

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city/town centres, benefiting businesses, and raise additional revenue for Council which can be used to maintain and enhance our car park estate.

The new tariff structure also encourages long stay car park users to utilise public transport and car share options, supporting the sustainable travel elements of our Car Parking Strategy and supporting Council's vision of A Sustainable Borough and the priorities laid out in the Corporate Plan.

### **Season Tickets**

At present there are Season Tickets available across a number of the charged car parks in Bangor, Newtownards and Holywood. A season ticket allows regular car park users to purchase a Monthly or Quarterly Monday – Friday car park ticket for a discounted rate.

It is proposed that Season Tickets should continue to be made available which assists in alleviating a number of the concerns raised in responses to the public advertisement, with new rates as follows:

<b>Tariff</b>	<b>Monthly discount</b>	<b>Quarterly discount</b>
A	25%	27.5%
B	25%	27.5%

The number of available tickets per car park and car parks where monthly and quarterly tickets are available will be monitored and amended as necessary by the Car Park Management Officer and responsible Service Unit Manager in line with the priorities of the Car Parking Strategy.

### **Officer Recommendations**

While Officers recognise the benefits of enforcement using ANPR technology, the challenges it presents in the current legal and contractual context will take a considerable length of time to overcome.

As a result, Officers recommend that Members proceed with the implementation of the Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025 as laid out in Appendix 1 at this time. Officers will continue to work with the other Councils through the Regional Off-Street Parking Group to explore new technology and will work towards the introduction of ANPR technology or a suitable alternative in future, either by way of enforcement contract negotiations (if possible) or at the end of the current enforcement contract.

With the implementation of Tariff A and B, the technology within our current pay and display machines and the RingGo app will allow Officers to review car park usage and report this to Members, while working closely with Council's Economic Growth Service to support the city and town centres.

### **Enactment Process**

The enactment process is as follows:

1. Council approves Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025.

Not Applicable

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2. DFI will inform Council of the date of revocation of the Off-Street Parking Order 2000. This will determine the date of implementation for Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025.
3. Council will advertise the Order in the local press, social media channels and on sites with the date of implementation, as required.
4. The Order will come into effect on the implementation date. Appropriate signage and communications with car park users will be put in place in advance of the changes.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council:

1. Agrees the draft Order as detailed in Appendix 2.
2. Agrees to implement the Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025, in line with the enactment process outlined in this report, with an implementation date which enables continuous service provision, as soon as DFI revoke the Off-Street Parking Order 2000.
3. Agrees the season ticket rates as detailed in this report.

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	03 September 2025
Responsible Director	Director of Environment
Responsible Head of Service	Interim Head of Regulatory Services
Date of Report	24 July 2025
File Reference	90303
Legislation	The Road Traffic Regulations (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 Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025
Attachments	Appendix 1 Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025 Appendix 2 Response from Ards & North Down Business Forum Appendix 3 Responses from Public Advertisement

**1.0 Background**

Members will recall that a Parking Strategy and Action Plan was agreed by Council in June 2021. The agreed strategy set out a range of key initiatives aimed at promoting a sustainable off-street car park service which supported town centre businesses, while promoting sustainable travel options and ensuring the car park estate can be maintained and improved to play their role as key economic assets in the Borough.

As part of the strategy, Council agreed not to extend car park charging beyond the previously charged car parks that transferred from DfI in 2015 and to introduce a

Not Applicable

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reduced tariff for the first 2 hours parking across all charged car parks to incentivise shorter stay visits by people coming into town centres to shop and do business, whilst also increasing charges for longer stay parking to dissuade 'bay blocking' by people who are not necessarily generating economic activity in town centre businesses.

The Strategy was widely consulted upon during development, and the proposals drew wide support across key stakeholders, including from the Newtownards Chamber of Trade which specifically indicated at the time that they were supportive of the planned parking tariff structure and concessionary rate along with other strategy initiatives.

## 2.0 New Car Park Order

The making of a new Car Park Order to implement some of the changes set out in the Council's agreed Strategy has been delayed due to a legislative anomaly that must be corrected by the Assembly. All Councils have now been urged by DfI to have their new Orders approved and ready for implementation, before the necessary enabling legislation is introduced to the Assembly.

In May 2025, Council agreed the draft Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025 and agreed to proceed with the enactment process under the Road Traffic Regulations (NI) Order 1997.

As part of the enactment process Council agreed that Officers would engage with the Town and City Steering Groups. As a result, a response was received from Derek Wright, President of Newtownards Chamber of Trade on behalf of Ards & North Down Business Forum and is attached at Appendix 2.

The Order was also publicly advertised and the responses are attached at Appendix 3.

## 3.0 Responses to Consultation and Public Advertisement and Officer Comment

The responses relate solely to the tariff element of the draft Order with Derek Wright making a submission on behalf of the Ards and North Down Business Forum calling for 2 hours free parking across the current charged car parks within the Borough.

The tariffs included in the draft Order were agreed by Council in June 2021 as part of our Car Parking Strategy, following a long period of consultation which included the town and city steering groups. The 50p for 2 hours tariff was agreed as a concessionary tariff in all charged car parks to support the town centres. It should be noted that 2 hours was the period of time identified in the strategy as the average stay for people shopping and doing business in the town centres.

Tariff A (50p for 2 hours and £1 per hour thereafter) was agreed to subsidise/incentivise shorter stay parking events for the period of time that the majority of shoppers/visitors said they needed to park but disincentivise long stay

Not Applicable

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parking/space blocking by those less likely to be contributing to local business revenues.

Tariff B (50p for 2 hours and 50p per hour thereafter) is a lower rate for the peripheral or less well utilised car parks. This encourages longer stay parkers to use these spaces rather than space block in the town centre car parks.

These tariffs only apply to the current charged car parks within Bangor, Newtownards and Holywood. Free parking would still be available in Eisenhower Car Park Bangor, Spafield Car Park Holywood, and Mill Street Gasworks South and Talbot Street Car Parks Newtownards, and in all car parks in Comber and Donaghadee.

In addition, the proposed tariffs facilitate promotion of sustainable transport options in line with both the Car Parking Strategy and the Corporate Plan.

It should be noted that the new 2 hours concessionary parking tariff of 50p is better value for short stay (up to 2 hours) car park users in 20 of our 22 charged car parks than the existing standard hourly tariffs (currently between 60p and £1.20) or use of the £1 for 5 hour rate.

Members should be aware that Council's current Pay and Display machines are not capable of facilitating a 2 hours free parking tariff. With newer technology, enforcement of the implementation of 2 hours free parking also faces challenges which are likely to be detrimental to town/city centre shopping, for example, inability to extend a parking event should you wish to stay longer than anticipated. The cost of replacement Pay and Display machines would be approximately £195,000 plus installation costs of approximately £39,000, and extensive additional enforcement time (more frequent and longer visits per car park) would be required at a large cost to Council. Furthermore, the latter would have to be explored from a contractual perspective with our car park enforcement service provider.

It should be noted that none of the other 10 Councils currently provide either a period of free parking tariff in any of their Pay & Display Car Parks or the £1 for 5 hour rate.

Members' attention is also drawn to a report that was brought to Committee in March 2025, which highlighted the poor condition of many of our car parks and identified a £2.1M capital budget requirement to bring the condition of our public car parks up to an 85% condition score in line with the condition score threshold for our buildings. Assuming that Council will want to invest extra capital into improving and maintaining our public car parks to a better standard than at present, if this cost is not borne by car park users, it will have to be levied upon all ratepayers through the District rate (whether they use the car parks or not).

Our consultants have estimated that introduction of the new Tariff structure as described above (Tariffs A and B) would yield around £0.5M in additional charging revenue (through increased turnover for a greater number of short term parking acts and higher charging for longer parking acts). Our consultant has further estimated that departure from the tariff structure agreed in Council's Car Park Strategy to make parking free across all charged car parks for the first two hours, and implement the

Not Applicable

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new Tariff A & B hourly rates (50p/£1) from hour 3 is likely to result in £0.4-0.5M less car park income than previously predicted and therefore no or negligible increase to car park revenue from where it is currently. They have cautioned that this estimate as best case scenario and advised that is based on installation of new technology Pay & Display machines, increased Traffic Attendant Patrols and a no return after 2 hours policy. As indicated above, there are uncertainties around the practical/contractual viability of facilitating the enforcement of such a period of free parking, and even if these hurdles could be overcome, there would be significant extra cost from enforcement (amount unknown) and new technology (£234K), further reducing the amount of car park revenue available for the necessary car park upgrades.

#### 4.0 Season Tickets

At present there are Season Tickets available across a number of the charged car parks in Bangor, Newtownards and Holywood. A season ticket allows regular car park users to purchase a Monthly or Quarterly Monday – Friday car park ticket for a discounted rate.

It is proposed that Season Tickets should continue to be made available which assists in alleviating a number of the concerns raised in responses to the public advertisement, with new rates as follows:

Tariff	Monthly discount	Quarterly discount
A	25%	27.5%
B	25%	27.5%

The number of available tickets per car park and car parks where monthly and quarterly tickets are available will be monitored and amended as necessary by the Car Park Management Officer and responsible Service Unit Manager in line with the priorities in the Car Parking Strategy.

#### 5.0 Amendments to the Draft Order

As part of the consultation process, it came to light that there was an error in Schedule 2 of the draft Order concerning the charging of Gas Works Mill Street Car Parks. Tariff A has now been applied Gas Works North which is currently charged and no charge has been applied to Gas Works South which is currently non charged and Items 58 and 59 in the Schedule 2 of Appendix 1 have been amended to reflect this.

#### 6.0 Enactment Process

Council should consider the comments received and agree to either proceed with the enactment process or alternatively agree to make amendments to the Order.

Once the Order is agreed, it will be signed and sealed by Council.

Council will further advertise the Order in the local press with the date of implementation, as required. The implementation date will be the date which is

Not Applicable

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determined by the Department for Infrastructure upon repeal of the Off-Street Parking Order 2000.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Council:

1. Agrees the season ticket rates detailed in this report.
2. Agrees the draft Order detailed at Appendix 1.
3. Proceeds with the enactment process.

## Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2025

*Made - - - - - XXXXXX*

*Coming into operation- XXXXX*

### ARRANGEMENT OF ORDER

#### PART 1 PRELIMINARY

1. Citation and commencement
2. Interpretation

#### PART 2 USE OF PARKING PLACES

3. Specified parking places
4. Vehicles of a specified class
5. Position in which a vehicle may wait
6. Parking bays for disabled persons' vehicles
7. Parking bays for electric vehicles
8. Parking bays for motorcycles
9. Parking bays for buses / coaches
10. Parking bays for caravans
11. Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait
12. Use of parking place other than for parking

#### PART 3 TARIFFS AND TICKETS

13. Requirement to pay appropriate tariff
14. Payment of charges
15. Pre-paid tickets
16. Use of telephone parking system
17. Display of printed tickets in Pay and Display car parks
18. Particulars of ticket in a Pay and Display car park

**PART 4**  
**RESTRICTION ON USE OF VEHICLES AND PARKING PLACES**

19. Requirement to stop the engine of a vehicle
20. Trading in a parking place
21. Noise Control
22. Driving in a parking place
23. Ball games
24. Miscellaneous activities
25. Use of parking place as a meeting place
26. Lighting of fires
27. Means of passage – Rights of Way
28. Consumption of intoxicating liquor
29. Use of entrances and exits, and direction of travel
30. Erection of structures
31. Reserving a parking bay
32. Suspension of parking places
33. Revocations

**SCHEDULE 1—PARKING PLACES**

**SCHEDULE 2—TARIFFS**

**SCHEDULE 3 - REVOCATIONS**

Ards and North Down Borough Council **(1)** makes the following Order in exercise of the powers conferred by Articles 10, 11, 13, 14 and 26(1) of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997**(2)** and Article 43 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 **(3)**, and now vested in it **(4)**.

The Council has consulted such persons as the Council considered appropriate in compliance with paragraphs 1 and 2 of Schedule 4 to that Order.

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(1) S.I. 1999/283 (N.I. 1) Article 3(1)

(2) S.I. 1997/276 (N.I. 2)

(3) S.I. 2005/1964 (N.I. 14)

(4) S.R. 1999 No. 481 Article 6(d) and Schedule 4 Part IV

## PART 1

### PRELIMINARY

#### **Citation and commencement**

1. This Order may be cited as Ards and North Down Borough Council Off Street (Public Car Parks) Order 2025 and shall come into operation on xx day of xxxx.

#### **Interpretation**

2. In this Order—

“blue badge” means a badge of a form prescribed under section 14(1) of the [1978 c. 53.] Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons (Northern Ireland) Act 1978,

“charging hours” means the period during which the driver is required to pay a charge for the use of a parking place specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 in accordance with the scale of charges set out in column 6 of Schedule 1,

“Council” means Ards and North Down Borough Council,

“disabled persons vehicle” means a vehicle lawfully displaying a blue badge,

“driver” means the person who whether as owner or otherwise has the charge or control of a vehicle or being present is entitled to give orders to the person having charge or control thereof,

“electric vehicle” means any vehicle which uses one or more electric motors for propulsion,

“electric vehicle charging post” means apparatus which supplies electricity for the charging of electric vehicles,

“hand-held device” means apparatus used by a traffic attendant which is programmed to interface with the telephone parking system,

“intoxicating liquor” means spirits, wine, beer, cider and any fermented, distilled or spirituous liquor with an alcohol content exceeding 1.2 per cent by volume,

“light goods vehicle” means a motor vehicle, constructed or adapted for use for the carriage of goods, the permissible maximum weight of which does not exceed 3.5 tonnes and for the purposes of this Order includes an electric vehicle of this type,

“motor car” means a mechanically propelled vehicle constructed solely for the carriage of passengers and their effects, seating not more than 6 persons in addition to the driver and for the purposes of this Order includes an electric vehicle of this type,

“caravan” means any structure designed or adapted for human habitation which is capable of being moved from one place to another (whether by being towed, or by being transported on a motor vehicle or trailer) and any motor vehicle so designed or adapted to provide mobile living accommodation for its users.

“motorcycle” means a mechanically propelled vehicle not being an invalid carriage or motor car having fewer than 4 wheels and the weight of which unladen does not exceed 410 kgs,

“invalid carriage” means a mechanically propelled vehicle the weight of which unladen does not exceed 254 kilograms and which is specially designed and constructed, and not merely adapted, for the use of a person suffering from some physical defect or disability and is used solely by such a person,

“bus” or “coach” means a public service vehicle which seats more than 8 passengers in addition to the driver and is used for hire or reward,

“parking bay” means a space which is marked out in a parking place for the leaving of a vehicle,

“parking charge” means any charge set by the Council for leaving a vehicle in a parking place authorised by this Order,

“parking ticket” means a ticket issued by a ticket machine relating to any parking place for which a charge is made identified in Schedule 2,

“pay and display parking place” means an off-street parking place authorised by this Order where permitted vehicles may park with a parking ticket issued by a ticket machine and displayed in the manner specified in Article 18 or whose driver is a registered driver who has paid the relevant fee via the telephone parking system,

“registered driver” means the driver of a vehicle who has, prior to leaving their vehicle in a pay and display parking place, registered so many of their personal details with a service provider as that service provider may require to enable the telephone parking system to be activated in favor of said driver,

“service provider” means a person or company providing services to or on behalf of the Council,

“telephone parking system” means a system to facilitate and monitor any parking charge paid using any telephone or internet enabled device via communication with the service provider in accordance with instructions indicated on signs located at each pay and display parking place where the system is operational; and

“ticket machine” means an apparatus designed to issue a ticket indicating payment of a charge and the day and time at which it was issued and the number of hours for which it is valid or the date and time at which the ticket expires.

## PART 2

### USE OF PARKING PLACES

#### **Specified parking places**

**3.** Each area of land specified by name in column 1 of Schedule 1 may be used subject to the provisions of this Order as a parking place for such classes of vehicles during such hours on such days as are specified in relation to that area in Schedule 1.

#### **Vehicles of a specified class**

**4.** Where in Schedule 1 a parking place is described as available for vehicles of a specified class, the driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in that parking place unless it is of the specified class.

#### **Position in which a vehicle may wait**

**5.** The driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a parking place other than in a position wholly within a parking bay where such has been marked out.

#### **Parking bays for disabled persons' vehicles.**

**6.** The driver of a vehicle, other than a disabled person's vehicle, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking as being reserved for a disabled person's vehicle.

#### **Parking bays for electric vehicles**

**7. – (1)** The driver of a vehicle, other than an electric vehicle, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking of the bay as being reserved for an electric vehicle.

**(2)** An electric vehicle waiting in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface marking as being reserved for an electric vehicle shall do so only if it is connected to an electric vehicle charging post

#### **Parking bays for motorcycles**

**8.** The driver of a vehicle, other than a motorcycle, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface markings as being reserved for a motorcycle.

#### **Parking bays for buses / coaches**

**9.** The driver of a vehicle, other than a bus / coach, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface markings as being reserved for a bus / coach.

#### **Parking bays for Caravans**

**10.** The driver of a vehicle, other than a caravan, shall not permit it to wait in a parking bay indicated by a sign or surface markings as being reserved for a caravan.

**Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait**

**11.** The driver of a vehicle shall not permit it to wait in a parking place for longer than the maximum period permitted for waiting specified in column 5 of Schedule 1 in relation to that parking place.

**Use of parking place other than for parking**

**12 (1)** The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for advertising is prohibited unless authorised in writing by the Council.

(2) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for displaying information to the public is prohibited unless authorised in writing by the Council.

(3) The use of part of the parking places specified in Schedule 1 for the collection of recyclable materials is prohibited unless authorised in writing by the Council.

(4) A person may apply to the Council for permission to use part of a parking place specified in Schedule 1 for any reasonable use or purpose or in such circumstances as the Council considers reasonable.

## PART 3

## TARIFFS AND TICKETS IN PAY AND DISPLAY CAR PARKS

**Requirement to pay appropriate tariff**

13. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place during charging hours shall pay the appropriate tariff set out in Schedule 2 in accordance with the scale of charges specified in column 6 of Schedule 1 in relation to that parking place.

**Payment of charges**

14. (1) The driver of a vehicle leaving it in a parking place specified in column 1 of Schedule 1 during the days and hours specified in columns 3 and 4 in relation thereto shall pay the appropriate charge in accordance with the scale of charges specified in column 6 in relation thereto and set out in Schedule 2.

(2) Charges may be paid by—

- (a) inserting into a ticket machine a coin or combination of coins of appropriate denominations.
- (b) inserting into a ticket machine or placing on a contactless pad, a credit or debit card of a type indicated, and following the instructions displayed, on the machine.
- (c) the purchase of a pre-paid charge card for use in a ticket machine; or
- (d) the use of pre-paid tickets; or
- (e) a registered driver using the telephone parking system.
- (f) Use of Direct Debit where available

(3) Telephone and credit/debit card charges incurred in the course of making any parking payment transaction shall be the responsibility of the registered driver.

**Pre-paid tickets**

15. In the case of pre-paid tickets, the instructions given on the tickets in respect of making distinct perforations in the tickets or taking other appropriate action to clearly indicate the date and time of arrival or the validity of the ticket shall be carried out by the driver as soon as he takes up position in the parking place.

**Use of telephone parking system**

16. If at any time a vehicle is left in a parking place during the specified hours and a check is carried out by, or on behalf of, the Council and no indication that a parking charge has been paid using the telephone parking system in respect of that vehicle for that controlled parking zone appears on a traffic attendant's hand-held device it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved that either—

- (a) a parking charge had not been paid in respect of that vehicle; or
- (b) the parking period for which payment was made had already expired.

**Display of printed tickets**

17. (1) The driver shall attach the ticket issued by a ticket machine or a pre-paid ticket on the inside surface of the windscreen or a side window facing the kerb or place the ticket on the

dashboard area immediately below the windscreen so that the particulars recorded on the front of the ticket are clearly visible to a person standing at the front or side of the vehicle.

(2) In the case of a motorcycle the ticket shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in a ticket holder or in front of the driver's seat

### **Particulars of tickets**

**18.**—(1) Where a vehicle is left parked in a parking place where charges may be collected by means of a ticket machine and the particulars on the ticket indicate that the period in respect of which payment was made has expired, for the purposes of any appeal under Articles 13, 16 or 28 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that said particulars are evidence of the expiry of such period.

(2) Where a vehicle is left parked in a parking place where charges may be collected by means of a ticket machine, and a ticket is not displayed in accordance with the provisions of Articles 15 or 17 for the purposes of any appeal under Articles 13, 16 or 28 of the Traffic Management (Northern Ireland) Order 2005 it shall be presumed, unless the contrary is proved, that the absence of a ticket is evidence of the fact that a ticket has not been purchased.

## PART 4

### RESTRICTION ON USE OF VEHICLES AND PARKING PLACES

#### Requirement to stop the engine of a vehicle

19. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place shall stop the engine as soon as the vehicle is in position in the parking place and shall not start the engine except when about to change the position of the vehicle in or to depart from the parking place.

#### Trading in a parking place

20. (1) Subject to paragraph (2) and save as provided in Article 24 of the Road Traffic Regulation (Northern Ireland) Order 1997, a person shall not use a parking place in connection with the sale of anything to persons in or near the parking place or in connection with the selling or offering for hire of their skill or services unless authorised by the Council in writing in advance or the person holds a valid trading licence for the location issued by the Council under the Street Trading Act (Northern Ireland) 2001.

(2) Paragraph (1) shall not apply in respect of any fee payable for the use of an electric vehicle charging post.

#### Noise Control

21. The driver of a vehicle using a parking place shall not:

- (1) sound any horn or other similar instrument except when about to change the position of the vehicle in, to depart from the parking place or to warn of potential danger; or
- (2) permit the playing of music to the annoyance of other users of the car park or local residents.

#### Driving in a parking place

22. A person shall not, except with the permission of any person duly authorised by the Council, drive any vehicle in a parking place other than for the purpose of leaving that vehicle in the parking place in accordance with the provisions of this Order or for the purpose of departing from the parking place.

#### Ball games

23. A person shall not play any ball game in a parking place

#### Miscellaneous activities

24.

(1) A person shall not use any part of a parking place, or any vehicle left in a parking place for the purposes of servicing or washing any vehicle or part thereof other than is reasonably necessary to enable that vehicle to depart from the parking place.

(2) A person shall not obstruct any part of a parking place with any receptacle, trailer, machinery or any other material unless authorised by the Council in writing in advance.

## Use of parking place as a meeting place

**25.** No persons shall use a parking place as a meeting place or point unless authorised by the Council in writing in advance.

## Lighting of fires

**26.** No person shall light or cause to be lit any fire in a parking place

## Means of passage

**27.** A person shall not use a parking place as a means of passage from one road to another road or to any premises unless a right of way or easement has been granted in writing by the Council

## Consumption of intoxicating liquor

**28.** A person shall not use any of the parking places specified in Schedule 1, or any vehicle in any of those parking places, for the purpose of consuming intoxicating liquor.

## Use of entrances and exits, and direction of travel

**29.** Where in a parking place, signs are erected or surface markings are laid for the purpose of:

- (a) indicating the entrance to or exit from the parking place; or
- (b) indicating that a vehicle using the parking place shall proceed in a specified direction within the parking place,

a person shall not drive or cause or permit to be driven any vehicle:

- (i) so that it enters the parking place otherwise than by an entrance, or leaves the parking place otherwise than by an exit, so indicated; or
- (ii) in a direction other than that specified, as the case may be.

## Erection of structures

**30.** In a parking place a person shall not erect or cause or permit to be erected any tent, booth, stand, building or other structure without the written consent of the Council.

## Reserving a parking bay

**31.** A person shall not reserve a parking bay in a parking place.

## Suspension of parking places

**32.** The Council may suspend the use of a parking place or any part of it in the following circumstances:

- (a) Upon request from a statutory agency, utility operator, contractor or similar body.
- (b) For the making of a film in or adjacent to a car parking place.
- (c) For any sporting event, social event, entertainment event or other activity deemed to be to the benefit of the public.

(d) Upon request from any person for any other use or purpose or in such circumstances as the Council considers reasonable.

**Revocations**

**33.** The Orders listed in Schedule 3 are hereby revoked.

Sealed with the Common Seal of Ards and North Down Borough Council

Xx day of xxxxxxx in the presence of

----- **Mayor**

----- **Chief Executive**

## SCHEDULE 1

### PARKING PLACES

	<i>Name of Parking Place</i>	<i>Classes of Vehicle</i>	<i>Days of operation of parking place</i>	<i>Hours of operation of parking place</i>	<i>Maximum period for which a vehicle may wait.</i>	<i>Scale of Charges</i>
1	2	3	4	5	6	
1	Ballyhalbert Harbour	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
2	Portavogie Road, Ballyhalbert	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
3	Springvale Road, Ballywalter	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
4	Ballywalter Promenade, Harbour, & Pier, Ballywalter	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge

		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
5	Ballywalter Car Park & Picnic Area, Whitechurch Road, Ballywalter	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
6	Banks Lane, Groomsport Road, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
7	Connor Park, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
8	Eisenhower Pier, Quay Street, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge

9	Luke's Point, Seacliff Road, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
10	Ward Arras Park, Gransha Road, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
11	Bangor Sportsplex, Old Belfast Road, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle & bus.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
12	Aurora Aquatic & Leisure Complex, Valentine Road, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle & bus.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
13	Bangor Castle, Castle Park Avenue, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
14	Abbey Street East, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2

		carriage & light goods vehicle.		6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
15	Abbey Street West, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle..	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff B as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
16	Bingham Lane, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
17	Castle Street, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
18	Central Avenue, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle..	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff B as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
19	Clifton Road, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff B as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge

			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
20	Holborn Avenue, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
21	Mills Road, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
22	The Vennel, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
23	Newtownards Road / Church Street, Bangor	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No Charge
24	Ratallagh, Cloughey (Cloughey Picnic Area)	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
25	Main Road, Cloughey	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, &	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge

		light goods vehicle.				
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
26	Island Hill, Comber	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
27	Bridge Street Link, Castle Street/Bridge Street Comber	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
28	Glen Link, Comber	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
29	Killinchy Street, Comber	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
30	Comber Cemetery, Newtownards Road, Comber	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge

		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
31	Whitespots Country Park, Conlig (Lead Mines)	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, light goods vehicle & bus.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
32	The Commons, Donaghadee	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, light goods vehicle & bus.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
33	Harbour Car Park, The Commons East, Donaghadee	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, light goods vehicle & bus.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
34	The Moat Car Park, Moat Street, Donaghadee (Dunallen)	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge

35	Donaghadee Community Centre, Parade, Donaghadee	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
36	Railway Street / William Street, Donaghadee	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
37	Templepatrick, Donaghadee	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
38	Manor Street, Donaghadee	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
39	Cromellin Park, Donaghadee	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
40	Church Road, Holywood	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge

			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
41	Hibernia Street, Holywood (formerly known as Hibernia Street North & Hibernia Street South)	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
42	Marine Parade, Holywood	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
43	Ballymenoch Park, Holywood	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
44	Queens Hall, Sullivan Close, Holywood	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
45	Seapark, Holywood	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge

		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
46	Spafield, Holywood	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
47	Shore Road, Kircubbin	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
48	The Green, Kircubbin	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
49	Ballywalter Road, Millisle	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
50	Ballywhiskin, Millisle	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge

		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
51	Moss Road, Millisle	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
52	Millisle Beach Park	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, light goods vehicle & bus.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
53	Cunningburn Amenity Site, Portaferry Road, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
54	Londonderry Park, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle & bus.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
55	Ards Blair Mayne	Motor car, motorcycle,	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge

	Leisure Centre, Dairy Hall Lane, Newtownards	invalid carriage & light goods vehicle & bus.				
	Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge	
56	Ann Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff B as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
57	Kennel Lane, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
58	Gas Works North, Mill Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
59	Gas Works South, Mill Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All hours	14 hours	No Charge
60	Mill Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge

			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
61	Old Cross Street East, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
62	Old Cross Street West, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
63	South Street / Court Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
64	South Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
65	Upper Court Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff B as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge

66	West Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage & light goods vehicle.	Monday to Saturday	8.00am to 6.00pm	10 hours	Tariff A as set out in Schedule 2
				6.00pm to 8.00am	14 hours	No charge
			Sunday	All hours	14 hours	No charge
67	Talbot Street, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
68	Cairn Wood Car Park, Craigantlet Road, Newtownards	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
69	Meeting House Street, Portaferry	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
70	The Ropewalk, Portaferry	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
71	Portavogie Amenity site	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
			Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours
72	Whiterock, Killinchy	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge

		carriage, & light goods vehicle.				
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge
73	Groomsport Beach	Motor car, motorcycle, invalid carriage, & light goods vehicle.	All Days	All Hours	14 hours	No charge
		Caravan	All Days	6.00am to 11.00pm	14 hours	No charge

## SCHEDULE 2

### TARIFFS

#### Tariff A

**Up to but not exceeding 2 hours £0.50**  
**Over 2 hours but not exceeding 3 hours £1.50**  
**Over 3 hours but not exceeding 4 hours £2.50**  
**Over 4 hours but not exceeding 5 hours £3.50**  
**Over 5 hours but not exceeding 6 hours £4.50**  
**Over 6 hours but not exceeding 7 hours £5.50**  
**Over 7 hours but not exceeding 8 hours £6.50**  
**Over 8 hours £7.50**

#### Tariff B

**Up to but not exceeding 2 hours £0.50**  
**Over 2 hours but not exceeding 3 hours £1.00**  
**Over 3 hours but not exceeding 4 hours £1.50**  
**Over 4 hours but not exceeding 5 hours £2.00**  
**Over 5 hours but not exceeding 6 hours £2.50**  
**Over 6 hours but not exceeding 7 hours £3.00**  
**Over 7 hours but not exceeding 8 hours £3.50**  
**Over 8 hours £4.00**

**Tariff amounts will be updated periodically in line with the Council's Charging and Income Policy.**

## SCHEDULE 3

### REVOCATIONS

#### **Ards and North Down Off-Street Parking (Public Car Parks) Order 2024**

**The Ards and North Down Borough Council (West Street Off-Street Car Park) Order 2016**

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	04 February 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Waste and Cleansing Services
Date of Report	20 January 2026
File Reference	NOM 673
Legislation	The 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 673 Extension of Public Toilet Opening Hours During the Summer Months
Attachments	None

**Background**

Ards and North Down Borough Council provides 26 public conveniences across the Borough.

In September 2025, Council agreed to the following motion:

“That this Council notes the popularity of public spaces such as beaches during the summer months.

Further to this Council will task officers to bring back a report to explore options for the extension of public toilet opening hours during the summer months to 9pm near beaches and other busy areas.”

At a meeting of the Environment Committee on 7 December 2025 when a report was tabled, members asked officers to return a further report outlining more details on the costs and options for extending summer opening hours at high footfall locations.

Not Applicable

44

Members indicated a wish to extend opening hours at facilities located at beaches, promenades, piers and other areas of high summer footfall.

This report identifies selected Council facilities located in higher summer footfall areas, estimates the time needed to travel between all sites, and provides an estimate of the additional costs required.

### Current service profile

The Council maintains 26 public conveniences across the Borough. This includes 4 Automatic Public Conveniences (APC) which are accessible 24 hours a day. Table 1.0 provides a list of all Council-maintained public conveniences and their current opening hours during the summer and winter seasons.

**Table 1.0 Council-maintained public conveniences and their opening hours**

		Summer hours (May to August)	Winter hours (September to April)
Bangor	Abbey Street	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	Bank's Lane	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	Ballyholme Promenade	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	Castle Park	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	South Pier	0800 to 1800 Open to 2100 during July and August APC open 24/7 all year	0800 to 1800
	Ward Park	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	Ballyhalbert	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Ballywalter	Springvale Road	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Cloughey	Main Road	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Comber	Castle Park		0800 to 1800
Donaghadee	Parade	0800 to 1800 Open to 2100 during July and August	0800 to 1800
Donaghadee	The Commons	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Greyabbey	Main Street	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Groomsport	Harbour Road	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Holywood	Hibernia Street	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	Seapark	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Kircubbin	Shore Road		APC open 24/7 all year
Millisle	Ballywalter Road	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Newtownards	Cunningburn		APC open 24/7 all year
	Kiltonga	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	Londonderry Park	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
	Mill Street		0800 to 1800
	Cairn Wood	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800
Portaferry	Castle Park		APC open 24/7 all year
Portavogie	Anchor Car Park	0800 to 1900	0800 to 1800

APC, Automatic Public Convenience

The service utilises two shifts to ensure public conveniences are opened in the morning, serviced during opening hours, and secured each evening. These comprise an early shift and a late shift. The teams are responsible for cleaning each facility, reporting any incidents of vandalism, opening and closing.

Not Applicable

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### NI Local Authorities

Officers contacted four Northern Ireland Councils to benchmark practices in similar areas. The survey identified broadly similar practices, over the summer period between them. Most public toilets in other areas are unmanned and generally operate on extended hours during the summer months, with variations depending on location and demand. However, approaches differ.

- Causeway Coast and Glens provides late openings in key tourist areas, including three APCs, from April to September. The Council resources this through a mix of agency and in-house staff.
- Fermanagh and Omagh extends the opening of all its public toilets to 8pm throughout its longer April–October season.
- Newry, Mourne and Down (NMD) uses a tiered seasonal model, with the longest hours limited to Newcastle and Warrenpoint during July and August only. Many of NMD's facilities have timed automatic closure.
- Antrim and Newtownabbey does not vary hours seasonally and maintains a consistent 8am–6pm schedule year-round.

### Extended summer opening in AND

In considering the specifics of the discussion at committee, such as higher footfall areas in the summer, officers have identified eleven public toilet locations where there may be a public benefit from extended summer opening hours. Table 2.0 lists these facilities, which includes four APCs which are available 24 hours a day, and the potential extension of opening hours for consideration.

**Table 2.0 Public conveniences in areas of high summer footfall**

		Current summer closing time	Potential later summer closing time
Bangor	Bank's Lane	1900	2100
	Ballyholme Promenade	1900	2100
	South Pier	1800	2100
		2100 during July and August	
	Ward Park	1900	2100
Ballywalter	Springvale Road	1900	2100
Cloughey	Main Road	1900	2100
Donaghadee	Parade	1800	2100
		2100 during July and August	
Donaghadee	The Commons	1900	2100
Groomsport	Harbour Road	1900	2100
Holywood	Seapark	1900	2100
Kircubbin	Shore Road		APC
Millisle	Ballywalter Road	1900	2100
Newtownards	Cunningburn		APC
Portaferry	Castle Park		APC

Not Applicable

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**Cost and challenges of extending opening hours**

It is estimated that it will take an individual approximately three hours each evening to visit and secure the eleven identified facilities. The proposal to extend opening hours from April to September inclusive represents 183 days.

There would be significant challenges in requiring existing staff to oversee the extended opening hours. The first lock up would be at 2100 and the last lock up could be around midnight. Resourcing the later lock up over a 6-month period with the Council's existing team could mean either extending overall working hours or delaying the start time of the late shift. Both approaches present challenges as the former would result in a contravention of working time regulations, and the latter would require a renegotiation of terms and conditions of employment.

As an alternative and as suggested at the committee, a contractor used by Parks and Cemeteries has been considered. Based on this, the indicative additional cost of engaging a contractor would be in the region of £20,000 per season.

This additional cost would only deal with late locking up and the current in house team would continue to be required to inspect, service and clean the identified facilities at the normal lock up time in advance, however it is likely to be the most effective method of extending opening hours.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council considers the option to extend public toilet opening hours as described in this report, subject to resource being identified in year, or agreed for the summer of 2027.

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	04 February 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	20 January 2026
File Reference	CW22
Legislation	Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below:
Subject	Parks and Cemeteries Climate Ready Update
Attachments	Appendix 1 - Climate Ready Statement and Action Plan

An action from the Parks and Cemeteries Service Plan for 2025/6 agreed by Council in March 2025, is to provide an annual update on how the Service is ready to deal with climate change and how it will support the Council's broader climate goals. The attached report meets that initial requirement in the form of a Climate Ready Statement and Action Plan.

In 2019, Ards and North Down Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency and is committed to making a positive contribution to the fight against climate change. The climate emergency is one of the defining challenges of our time, and its impacts are already being felt across our communities. From more frequent storms and heavy rainfall to prolonged droughts and rising temperatures, climate change is putting increasing pressure on how we manage both our natural and built environments.

Not Applicable

48

This Parks and Cemeteries 'Climate Ready' statement outlines a clear and practical plan for how the Parks and Cemeteries Service will support the Council's broader climate goals. It aligns closely with policies such as the Roadmap to a Green Fleet, the Tree and Woodland Strategy, and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Through coordinated action on energy, land use, procurement, workforce training, operational changes and community engagement, this strategy places parks at the heart of the Council's sustainability journey. It reflects our commitment to ensuring that these cherished spaces are resilient, inclusive, and climate-ready—now and for future generations.

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approves the attached Parks and Cemeteries Climate Ready Statement and Action Plan, progress with which will be reported on annually.

## Parks & Cemeteries: 'Climate Ready' Statement

### Introduction

The climate emergency is one of the defining challenges of our time, and its impacts are already being felt across our communities. From more frequent storms and heavy rainfall to prolonged droughts and rising temperatures, climate change is putting increasing pressure on how we manage both our natural and built environments.

Driven primarily by human activity, rising greenhouse gas emissions have led to global temperatures increasing by 1.1°C above pre-industrial levels. This shift is resulting in more extreme and unpredictable weather patterns. For Northern Ireland, this translates to warmer, wetter winters and hotter, drier summers—interspersed with periods of intense cold and storm events (ref CCRA3 Evidence Report, Northern Ireland Summary). Coastal areas such as Ards and North Down are particularly at risk, facing the combined threats of sea-level rise, coastal erosion, and increased storm damage.

In recognition of these urgent challenges, Ards and North Down Borough Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019. This was followed by the development of a **Roadmap to Sustainability, Climate Adaptation Plan** and the **Corporate Plan 2024–2028**, all of which prioritise carbon reduction, climate adaptation, and building long-term resilience. The **Climate Change Act (Northern Ireland) 2022** further strengthens the imperative for local action.

### Ards and North Down Borough Council Climate (Mitigation) Action Plan (2025-2030)

The Council has, also, recently approved its first Climate (Mitigation) Action Plan (2025-2030) to deliver the Council's legislative and organisational commitments to a 48% reduction in Council emissions by 2030 and net zero by 2050.

The Climate Action Plan focuses on mitigation. By reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency, we can cut bills and reduce our exposure to adversely changing energy prices. By investing in modern infrastructure, we keep up with changing technology and future legislation. By creating greener neighbourhoods, we make our communities healthier, safer, and more resilient. And by working with businesses, we can support innovation and growth in the local economy.

The Climate Action Plan is first and foremost about the Council leading by example. Most of the actions set out here focus on reducing emissions from our own buildings, fleet, services, and supply chains.

### Ards and North Down Borough Council Climate Adaptation Plan

The Council's Climate Adaptation Plan, developed across all services, identifies key risks and outlines responses to ensure climate readiness. From changing mowing regimes and retrofitting Council buildings to integrating climate-proofing into new developments, the Council is embedding climate considerations into every aspect of service delivery.

Green infrastructure and nature-based solutions are central to this approach. Initiatives such as the Tree & Woodland Strategy, Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Let's Grow Together Strategy, Greenways, and Nature Networks reflect the Council's commitment to climate resilience through landscape-scale change.

## The Role of Parks and Cemeteries Service

Parks, open spaces, and cemeteries are critical to our climate response. They provide vital green infrastructure that helps:

- Support local biodiversity
- Sequester carbon
- Reduce urban heat
- Manage flood risk
- Promote physical and mental wellbeing

These public spaces are uniquely positioned to lead in both mitigating the causes of climate change and adapting to its impacts.

This Parks & Cemeteries 'Climate Ready' Statement outlines a clear and practical plan for how the Parks & Cemeteries Service will support the Council's broader climate goals. It aligns closely with policies such as the Roadmap to a Green Fleet, the Tree & Woodland Strategy, and the Local Biodiversity Action Plan.

Through coordinated action on energy, land use, procurement, workforce training, operational changes and community engagement, this Statement places parks at the heart of the Council's sustainability journey. It reflects our commitment to ensuring that these cherished spaces are resilient, inclusive, and climate-ready—now and for future generations.

## Key Opportunities for Climate Action in Parks and Cemeteries

- Enhancing Green Spaces: Increasing tree cover, creating green roofs, and expanding urban forests to absorb CO<sub>2</sub> and reduce the urban heat island effect.
- Managing Flood Risk Naturally: Using wetlands, floodplains, and ponds to manage stormwater and reduce surface flooding.
- Boosting Biodiversity: Introducing wildlife corridors, planting native species, and reducing mowing to create richer, more resilient ecosystems.
- Investing in Renewable Energy: Installing solar panels and low-emission technologies to reduce operational carbon emissions.
- Planning for the Long Term: Embedding climate adaptation into parks planning and design to ensure future functionality and community value.

Recent years have reaffirmed the value of our natural environment. It provides the air we breathe, the water we drink, and the food we grow. With thoughtful, climate-smart management, nature not only improves our daily lives but also strengthens our collective resilience in the face of a changing climate.

These efforts are supported by the Local Biodiversity Action Plan, Tree & Woodland Strategy, Grassland Management Strategy, and the Let's Grow Together Strategy.

## Our Vision, Objectives & Strategic Framework

### Statement Vision

To create climate-resilient Parks & Cemeteries Service that supports biodiversity, promote wellbeing, and actively contribute to a carbon reduction, sustainable future for Ards and North Down.

### Statement Objectives

1. Contribute to Carbon Reduction Targets: Reduce operational emissions through sustainable energy use, low-emission vehicles and equipment, and carbon-smart land management.
2. Enhance Climate Resilience: Design and manage parks to cope with extreme weather, flooding, drought, and changing ecosystems.
3. Protect and Restore Nature: Expand biodiversity, improve habitat connectivity, and champion nature-based solutions.
4. Empower Communities and Staff: Engage the public and workforce in climate action through education, training, and collaborative projects.
5. Embed Climate into Governance: Ensure climate considerations are built into policies, capital projects, and procurement.

### How This Statement Aligns with Broader Policy

This Parks & Cemetery 'Climate Ready' Statement complements and supports the following:

- Climate Change Act (NI) 2022
- Corporate Plan 2024–2028
- Roadmap to Sustainability
- Climate (Mitigation) Action Plan (2025 – 2030)
- Climate Adaptation Plan
- Tree & Woodland Strategy
- Local Biodiversity Action Plan
- Let's Grow Together Strategy
- Green Flags
- Greenway Initiatives

**The statement considers the following Core Themes**

1. Energy & Carbon Reduction
2. Sustainable Resource Management
3. Adaptation & Mitigation
4. Operations & Behaviour Change
5. Monitoring & Evaluation
6. Communications & Engagement

**Our proposed actions against each of these is set out below.**

## Parks & Cemeteries: 'Climate Ready' Action Plan

<b>1. Energy &amp; Carbon Reduction</b>	<p><b>Reducing carbon emissions from energy use in Parks and Cemeteries is a key priority for achieving the Council's carbon reduction ambitions. This includes transitioning to low and zero-emission vehicles and machinery, improving energy efficiency in buildings and operations, and exploring opportunities for renewable energy generation.</b></p> <p><b>By targeting the most carbon-intensive activities and assets, we can make significant contributions toward the Council's overall sustainability goals while reducing operational costs.</b></p>		
	1	Fleet and Machinery	<p>The Council has developed and approved a Roadmap to a Green Fleet, informed by the East Border Region's Alternative Fuel Feasibility Study. The plan identifies battery electric vehicles (BEVs) as most viable for smaller vehicles, and hydrogen for heavier fleet vehicles. Of 108 Council vehicles, 49 are scheduled for replacement by 2030, with 10 (10.8%) being replaced in the next two years.</p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Parks &amp; Cemeteries Service will collaborate with the Transport Unit to ensure that any P&amp;C vehicles scheduled for replacement transition to electric or low-emission alternatives as soon as feasible.</li> <li>• All new machinery requests will, by default, specify electric alternatives where operationally feasible</li> </ul>
	2	Energy Efficiency	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver driver efficiency training for all Parks &amp; Cemeteries Service fleet drivers to reduce fuel consumption and emissions.</li> <li>• Work with the Sustainability Officer to launch an energy efficiency awareness campaign across parks depots and sites.</li> </ul>
	3	Decarbonise parks buildings	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Assets &amp; Property Services Unit to identify and implement renewable energy and energy efficiency upgrades at Parks depot locations. Prepare business cases and seek external funding where possible.</li> </ul>

	4	EV Charging & Renewable opportunities	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore commercial income opportunities by installing EV charging stations in Parks &amp; Cemetery locations.</li> <li>Assess the feasibility of on-site renewable energy generation (e.g., solar panels, wind microgeneration) in parks and cemeteries.</li> </ul>
2. Sustainable Resource Management	<p><b>Sustainable resource management practices aims to minimise waste, reduce reliance on single-use plastics, and work closely with suppliers to embed sustainability into purchasing decisions.</b></p> <p><b>By adopting circular economy principles and sustainable event management, we ensure resources are used efficiently and environmental impacts are minimised.</b></p>		
	1	Sustainable Resource Management	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review waste management in parks, ensuring alignment with the waste hierarchy and compliance with the new waste contract.</li> <li>Improve recycling of cemetery bin waste, particularly litter and organic waste streams.</li> <li>Enforce the Council's policy on single-use plastics (SUP) by eliminating avoidable plastics at events, across operations, and in contracts with vendors (e.g., cafes).</li> </ul>
	2	Sustainable Events	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply a sustainability checklist to events and develop a <b>"Sustainable Use of Parks &amp; Open Spaces" Guide</b> to ensure events align with environmental best practices.</li> </ul>
	3	Sustainable Procurement	<p><b>Action:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To support other Council departments to adopt and implement a Responsible Procurement Policy</li> <li>Continue to work, were feasible, with local suppliers</li> </ul>

<b>3. Adaptation &amp; Mitigation</b>	<p><b>Adapting to climate change impacts while mitigating future risks is essential for the long-term resilience of parks, cemeteries, and the wider borough. This involves protecting and enhancing natural assets, managing land sustainably, and integrating nature-based solutions that buffer against extreme weather events.</b></p> <p><b>By strengthening ecosystems and embedding climate resilience into planning and operations, parks and cemeteries will better withstand climate impacts and continue to deliver vital community and environmental benefits.</b></p>	
	1	<p><b>Tree &amp; Woodland Strategy (including hedgerows)</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to implement and expand the Tree &amp; Woodland Strategy, including identifying opportunities for land acquisition and partnership planting.</li> <li>• Upskill staff to manage a resilient tree stock suited to withstand climate extremes.</li> <li>• Quantify ecosystem services via tools like iTree or Treeconomics; expand this to include hedgerows, canopy cover, and grasslands</li> </ul>
	2	<p><b>Develop Nature Networks &amp; Nature Recovery</b></p> <p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance Local Biodiversity Action Plans (LBAPs) by developing adaptive strategies (e.g., Comber River study).</li> <li>• Create a Sand Dune Management Plan to improve biodiversity and mitigate climate impacts.</li> <li>• Implement Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) in parks and open spaces.</li> <li>• Conduct a study on the carbon sequestration value of grasslands and rewilding sites.</li> <li>• Establish buffer zones around water bodies to serve as biodiversity corridors and improve carbon storage.</li> <li>• Support the “Let’s Grow Together” Strategy by expanding growing spaces across the borough.</li> <li>• Ensure green infrastructure is embedded into all capital and regeneration projects.</li> </ul>

	3	Planning & Policy	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with the Planning Department to promote the inclusion of grasslands and green infrastructure within new development plans and policies.</li> <li>• Integrate climate adaptation and mitigation actions into Green Flag Management Plans, supporting sustainable park management.</li> </ul>
<b>4. Operations &amp; Behaviour Change</b>		<p><b>Effective operations and positive behaviour change are key to embedding climate resilience across all aspects of parks and cemeteries management. This includes preparing for extreme weather, adopting sustainable land management practices, investing in staff training, and fostering community involvement to support a culture of climate action.</b></p>	
	1	Severe Weather Preparedness	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop and maintain a Severe Weather Protocol based on past events (e.g., Storm Eowyn) including emergency closure kits and contractor call-out processes, events planning/cancelations (list to Risk in advance of events), equipment</li> <li>• Implement proactive maintenance schedules (e.g., drain clearance, tree pruning, salt stockpiling) to improve resilience.</li> </ul>
	2	Grassland Management Plan	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Classify and manage grassland sites by value: high amenity, high biodiversity, or informal/natural.</li> <li>• Study the carbon storage potential of these sites to inform management for carbon reduction targets.</li> </ul>
	3	Staff training & development	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide all staff with climate change training covering mitigation and adaptation, including Carbon Literacy certification.</li> <li>• Provide staff with key messages for responses to public (FAQs)</li> <li>• Incorporate climate change discussions into regular operational meetings and Green Flag Task and Finish Group to maintain focus on emerging challenges and solutions.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote research and trial of low-emission, electric, or alternative machinery through dedicated task groups.</li> <li>• Support ongoing staff development in innovative practices such as reduced mowing, rewilding, and grazing management.</li> </ul>
4	Land Use Planning	<b>Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify opportunities for SuDS in parks and cemeteries locations.</li> <li>• Ensure future cemetery developments account for climate impacts such as flooding and drought.</li> <li>• Identify sites suitable for biodiversity enhancement and nature recovery.</li> <li>• Use the Tree &amp; Woodland Strategy to guide strategic tree planting for shade, cooling, and carbon capture.</li> </ul>
<b>5. Monitoring &amp; Evaluation</b>		<p><b>Robust monitoring and evaluation are essential to measure progress, demonstrate impact, and inform ongoing improvements in delivering the Parks &amp; Cemeteries 'Climate Ready' Statement. Tracking carbon footprints, biodiversity health, and climate risks helps ensure accountability and guides adaptive management.</b></p>	
1	Carbon Footprint & Environmental Monitoring	<b>Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use the Council's Carbon Dashboard, and Parks and Cemeteries sub-dashboard to scrutinise emissions from vehicles, machinery, buildings and land management activities.</li> <li>• Monitor carbon sequestration through natural assets such as trees, grasslands, and rewilding sites using recognised tools and partner expertise.</li> <li>• Conduct regular surveys of flagship sites every five years to track species, habitat quality, and ecosystem health.</li> </ul>
2	Climate Risk and Resilience Monitoring	<b>Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify and map areas prone to flooding, drought, or other extreme weather impacts to prioritise management efforts.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Monitor tree health and canopy cover regularly to detect early signs of climate stress.</li> <li>• Review and update the Severe Weather Protocol and operational readiness based on monitoring outcomes and debriefs from weather events.</li> <li>• Keep records and monitor the cost of responding to a severe weather event</li> </ul>
	3	Reporting & Continuous Improvement	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Produce annual progress reports detailing key performance indicators related to emissions reductions, biodiversity gains, and climate resilience measures.</li> <li>• Use monitoring data to refine and adjust management plans and operational practices.</li> </ul>
<b>6. Communications &amp; Engagement</b>			<p><b>Effective communication and meaningful engagement are vital to build awareness, foster behaviour change, and create shared ownership of climate action within parks and cemeteries. By connecting with staff, partners, and the wider community, we can amplify the impact of sustainability initiatives and nurture a culture of environmental stewardship.</b></p>
	1	Internal Communication & Staff Engagement	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Embed climate readiness and sustainability into regular staff communications, meetings, and training sessions.</li> <li>• Highlight success stories and innovations within the Parks &amp; Cemeteries Service to celebrate progress and inspire ongoing commitment.</li> <li>• Create opportunities for staff to contribute ideas and feedback on climate action initiatives.</li> </ul>
	2	Community Outreach & Education	<p><b>Actions:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote climate-related messages through social media, newsletters, signage in Parks &amp; Cemeteries, and local media.</li> <li>• Develop educational programs and events focused on climate change, biodiversity, and sustainable land management, such as Forest Schools, wildflower meadow projects, bioblitzes and biodiversity workshops.</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Work with local schools, community groups, and volunteers to engage people in climate action projects and citizen science.</li></ul>
3	Partnerships & Collaboration	<b>Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Continue to build strong partnerships with environmental organisations, academic institutions, neighbouring councils, and government agencies to share knowledge and coordinate efforts.</li><li>• Support community groups and In Bloom initiatives to integrate climate action into their activities.</li><li>• Encourage businesses and traders operating in our sites to adopt sustainable practices aligned with Council policies.</li></ul>
4	Promoting the benefits of Green Spaces	<b>Actions:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Raise awareness of the role green spaces play in carbon sequestration, flood management, biodiversity, and public health.</li><li>• Use storytelling and visual media to connect people emotionally with nature and the importance of climate resilience.</li><li>• Incorporate climate messaging into all Parks &amp; Cemeteries Service communications to reinforce the link between local green spaces and global climate action.</li></ul>

Unclassified

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

Report Classification	Unclassified
Exemption Reason	Not Applicable
Council/Committee	Environment Committee
Date of Meeting	04 February 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	16 January 2026
File Reference	CW30
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	North Down Coastal Path Working Group Minutes
Attachments	Appendix 1 Minutes of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group held on 6 October 2025

A meeting of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group was held on 6 October 2025. Minutes of that meeting were agreed by the group at its last meeting on 5 January 2026.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes the attached minutes.

## **ARDS AND NORTH DOWN BOROUGH COUNCIL**

A Meeting of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group of Ards and North Down Borough Council was held in Church Street, Newtownards, on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2025 at 6:00 pm.

**PRESENT:** Councillor Brady (Chairman)

Alderman Graham

Councillor W Irvine

Councillor Hennessy

Councillor McClean

Councillor McKee

James Hunter (Greenspaces)

Charlie Reid (Friends of Columbanus)

Stephen McCrory (Ards and North Down Cycle Campaign Group)

Alison McQueen (For Another Path)

**Officers:** Director of Environmental Services (G Bannister), Parks & Cemeteries Development Manager (J Bettes) and Democratic Services Officer (R King)

### **1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received from The Mayor Councillor McCollum, Alderman McRandal, Councillor Cochrane, Councillor Hollywood, Councillor Harbinson, Ms Marianne Kennerley, Mr Frank Shivers and the Head of Parks and Cemeteries.

NOTED.

### **2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest notified.

NOTED.

### **3. MINUTES OF NORTH DOWN COASTAL PATH WORKING GROUP MEETING DATED 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025**

PREVIOUSLY CIRCULATED: Minutes of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group meeting dated 30<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

NOTED.

### **4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There were no matters raised.

## 5. UPDATE REPORT AND PRESENTATION

The Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager outlined his presentation to members which was summarised as follows:

### **Planning Application**

- Draft drawings were shared in June; further meetings held.
- Council approved intent to submit planning application in September.
- Initial surveys completed and ready for submission.
- Landowner discussions pending before application submission.
- Application scope reduced from 2 km to 600 m, focusing on Royal Belfast Golf Club section.
- Emphasis on sensitive design and prioritising undermined areas.

### **Maintenance (Pickie–Swineley Bay)**

- Vegetation and verge clearance carried out in spring and late summer.
- Full path width to be reinstated during winter 2025/26.
- Temporary barriers at Downshire Road/Smelt Bay to be replaced.
- Surfacing underway near Swineley Bay; drainage resolved at Skippingstone Beach.
- Completion expected by March 2026.

### **Audit of Assets**

- Ongoing signage and street furniture audit using ESRI GIS Field Maps App.
- 133 assets audited to date, including benches, bins, and signs.

### **Events and Promotion**

- Inclusive walk with The Outdoor Partnership held 29 October.
- Monthly Mindful Walks with TCV scheduled through February 2026.

### **Cycling Friendly Borough**

- Collaboration with Department for Infrastructure on Active Travel Strategy.
- Development of Ards and North Down Cycling Masterplan underway.
- Continued progress on greenway network between Bangor, Newtownards, and Comber.

### **Alternative Route (Sheridan Drive Link)**

- Landownership confirmed.
- Public Path Creation Agreement being explored.
- Route includes laneway from Sheridan Drive and links to lower coastal path.

The Working Group discussed the following areas of the presentation:

### **Planning Application**

The Chair asked whether the section of path leading to the first pinch point included a muddy area near the tree line. He noted that tarmacking this section could damage its character and potentially make it slippery. The Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager responded that the proposed works could avoid the tree line if it was deemed unsuitable.

Councillor McClean noted the planning application originally covered 2km and asked for clarification that it had been revised to 600 metres. The Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager confirmed the revision, explaining that a more complex application would take longer to process. Prioritising a smaller section made the planning more achievable. Councillor McClean welcomed the revised approach and felt the revision would help address budget pressures.

Ms Alison McQueen, representing For Another Path, welcomed the revised plan as pragmatic and sensible. She referred to some ongoing public distrust in the Council stemming from earlier greenway proposals, including concerns over previously suggested widening beyond what this group had agreed. However, she believed the new approach addressed health and safety issues, offered clear benefits, and would help rebuild public confidence in the Council's process

Councillor McKee noted that connectivity had emerged as a key priority in the direct feedback he had received from the public. He felt it would have been unwise to pursue a more elaborate plan while neglecting this core concern. He also highlighted budget constraints, noting that the adapted plan was more financially realistic. In his view, it represented a positive story of the Council listening and learning from previous processes.

Mr Charlie Reid (Friends of Columbanus) expressed concern about the potential loss of character along the path. While much of it was already hard surfaced, he noted that small sections still retained a sense of wonder and natural wildness. He described the fenced area near the golf club as unattractive due to the rock armour and fencing, but emphasised that the headland beyond remained both beautiful and ecologically valuable, and should therefore be treated with sensitivity. He also questioned the dismissal of porous surfacing options, suggesting these should not be ruled out and cited examples of their successful use elsewhere in the UK.

Mr Stephen McCrory (Ards and North Down Cycle Campaign Group) welcomed the plans but raised ongoing concerns about accessibility, pointing to public feedback on safety and access. He stressed the need for improvements to ensure inclusivity, particularly for elderly users and those with limited mobility.

He believed that a more solid and wider path could still preserve the area's character and beauty, but stressed that attention should be given to other areas that were currently inaccessible.

The Chair felt the two previous comments reflected broader feedback he had received and he recognised the revised approach looked to address a section that was of highest priority but stressed the importance of looking to other sections of the path when funding became available.

Ms McQueen added that it was important to look at accessibility, not just along the path itself but also in terms of joining it. She referred to an access point at Seahill as an example of where improvements could represent an easy win and could be considered for future improvements.

Mr James Hunter (Greenspaces Bangor) felt the original plan was overwhelming due to its many components and it risked being rushed. He supported a more manageable, phased approach and highlighted health and safety concerns, such as a steep slope near the archway. He believed the revised plan was more sensible and shared insights from a recent countryside access conference with regard to alternative surface types, referring to maintained grass and gravel and quarry dust. He emphasised the importance of preserving the character of the path and looked forward to negotiating future sections piece by piece. He welcomed the slower pace, which allowed for greater focus on the longer-term vision.

Welcoming the consensus, Councillor W Irvine queried the next steps and the officer confirmed that following general agreement, the business case would be the next step. He added that each section of the path involved different considerations, and this approach allowed the project to be tackled in smaller, more manageable phases.

### **Maintenance (Pickie–Swineley Bay)**

Ms McQueen welcomed the planned drainage repairs at Skippingstone Beach, noting that the area had experienced long-standing issues. The officer confirmed that it was the right time of year to proceed with the work due to resource availability.

### **Audit of Assets**

Both Councillor McKee and Ms McQueen highlighted numerous complaints about the removal of a bin along the Carnlea section of the path and cautioned against overlooking this location in the review of future bin provision. Both the Director of Environmental Services and Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager noted this issue.

Mr McCrory highlighted dog fouling as a persistent problem, noting that some individuals were leaving bags in trees. He also called for improved waste provision at Brompton, where bins frequently overflowed due to regular gatherings of young people.

The Chair agreed, referring to his own experience, and confirmed that the lack of bins had previously been noted.

The officer stated that bin provision would be included in the forthcoming audit, with entrance points identified as logical locations. He referred to an approach taken at Cairn Wood where bins were situated at the entrance and people had responded well. He acknowledged that there had been considerable campaigning on the issue and emphasised the importance of striking a careful balance in placing bins appropriately.

Mr Reid recognised the difficulties of servicing the bins in terms of logistics. Placing bins on headlands for example were difficult for vehicle access.

Councillor McClean referred to the issue of dog fouling and felt that enforcement of the issue needed to be stepped up rather than waste resources cleaning up after offenders.

Mr Reid acknowledged that while excessive signage could be overwhelming, there was no clear indication or signposting linking the train network to the coastal path. He pointed out that this connection was not widely known and believed that simple, well-placed signage would have been beneficial in raising awareness. Mr Reid felt that Translink should have been more actively engaged in promoting this link, as it could have encouraged greater use of the train service.

The Parks and Cemeteries Development Manager confirmed that officers would be assessing signage requirements including the connection from the railways to the coastal path and that would also include the removal of redundant signage.

Mr Hunter asked for views on signage relating to the shared use of paths by pedestrians and cyclists, including speed limits and warning signs. He referred to specific incidents that he had been aware of. The officer responded that such considerations would be particularly relevant at locations where the path narrowed or at pinch points. Ms McQueen felt it was important to clearly indicate these areas and encourage users to "share with care."

The potential for excessive signage was also noted as a concern in the discussion and the use of wooden signs was suggested as a visually appropriate option, it was recommended that some form of signage be placed at the start of the walk to set expectations.

Mr McCrory acknowledged that the trails officer had given consideration to how interactions between walkers and cyclists were best managed. While signage was helpful to a limited extent, there was a broader need that could potentially be addressed through education and awareness initiatives.

The officer explained that there had been a programme designed to demonstrate how people could interact respectfully on shared paths. The trails officer actively engaged with the public and educational groups, which was expected to have a

positive impact over the longer term. It was noted that signage was effective for those who paid attention to it, but direct engagement and education were seen as more impactful overall.

**NOTED.**

## **6. ANY OTHER NOTIFIED BUSINESS**

There were no items of notified business, but Ms Queen reiterated her support for the revised planning application as discussed earlier in the meeting, noting that it was pragmatic and more deliverable.

## **7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the North Down Coastal Path Working Group was scheduled to take place on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2026.

The Officer advised that the meeting in April 2026 would need to be rescheduled due to falling over the Easter public holidays. Monday 13<sup>th</sup> or Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April were suggested alternatives but this would be confirmed.

## **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting terminated at 6.40pm.

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	04 March 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Parks and Cemeteries
Date of Report	12 February 2026
File Reference	CW4
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	Ashbury Play Park - Update Report
Attachments	None

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the current status of the proposed Ashbury Play Park.

**Background**

Under the North Down Borough Council Play Park Strategy (2014) and reaffirmed in the Ards and North Down Borough Council Play Strategy (2021–2032), East Bangor was identified as having a significant shortfall in play provision.

Public consultation undertaken in 2019 identified two potential sites:

- Site A: Green space in front of Ashbury Shops (not Council-owned)
- Site B: Within Linear Park (Council-owned)

**Public Consultation Results**

- Residents in Area: 97% of respondents lived in Ashbury/Ballycrochan.
- Need for Play Facility: 81% agreed a play facility is required.
- Preferred Location:
  - Site A: 42%

Not Applicable

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- Site B: 46%
- Either: 3%
- No preference: 9%



The results of the consultation was reported through the Community and Wellbeing Committee in August 2020, and Council decided that the play park should be delivered at Site A

Negotiations then commenced with the landowners and Land and Property Services regarding acquisition of Site A. The landowners at the time were also considering an extension an extension to their existing commercial units, and so they agreed to the playpark site subject to them including it in a combined planning application incorporating:

- Additional commercial units
- Car park extension
- The proposed play park

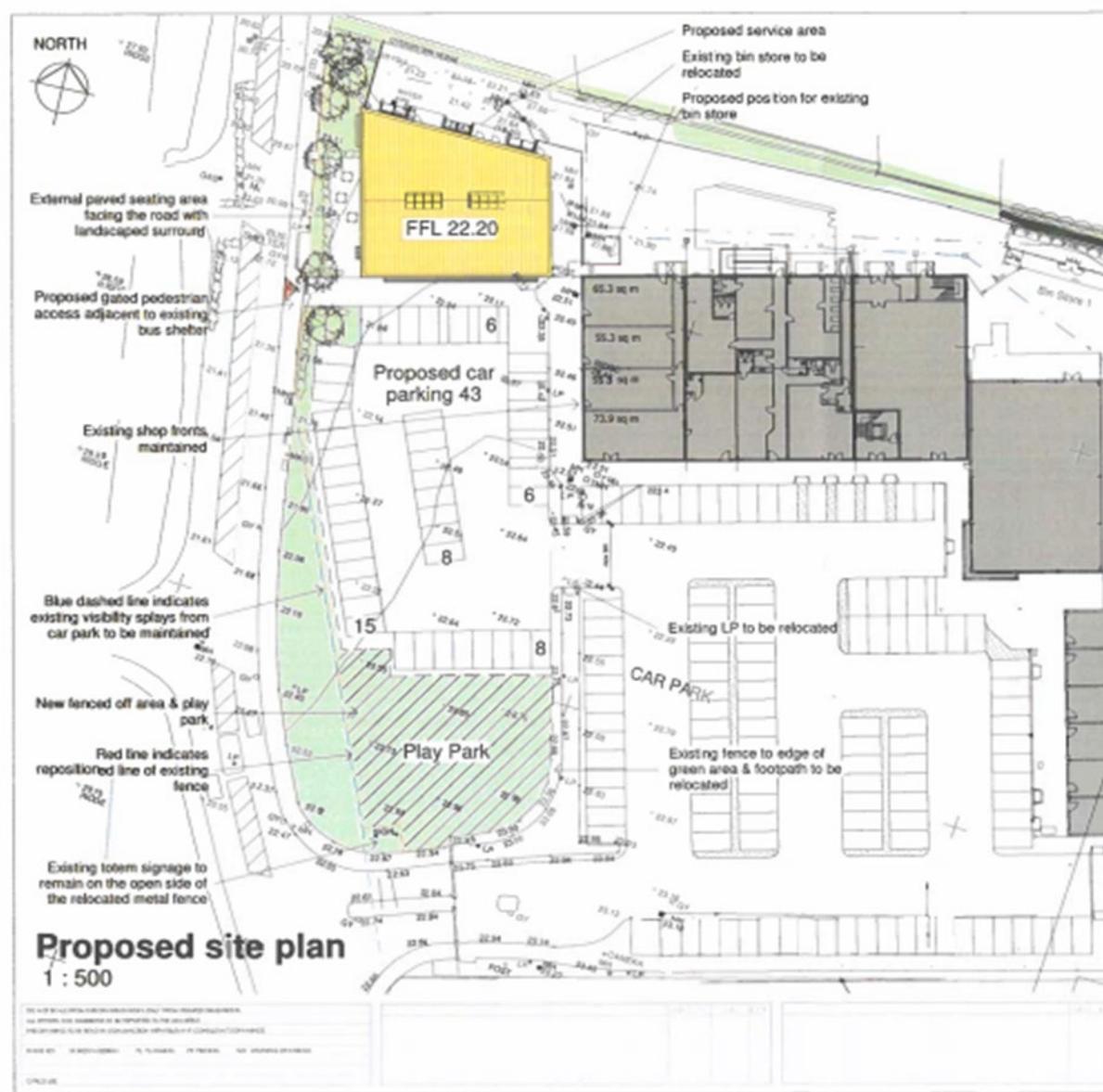
The Council provided the play park design drawings and paid the planning fee attributable to the play park (£848). The landowners indicated that, upon planning approval, they would then transfer the required land to the Council and Council would develop the facility.

### Planning Application

Planning application LA06/2022/0750/F was submitted on 20 July 2022, proposing: *Two Class 1 shop units, one hot food unit, first-floor accommodation for Class B1(a) or Class A2 use, associated car parking, and a children's play area.*

Not Applicable

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Officers are pleased to advise that Planning approval was granted on 24 November 2025 subject to conditions including pre commencement conditions, and that these conditions are in the process of being discharged.

*No development shall take place on site until the method of sewage disposal has been agreed in writing with Northern Ireland Water (NIW) or a consent to discharge has been granted under the terms of the Water (NI) Order 1999.*

The site owners along with their agents have now progressed with the detail of this planning condition in order to discharge NIW's requirements.

Officers are continually liaising with the landowner's agent and have recently been advised that they are progressing well with addressing the NI Water requirements as they have submitted a proposal and have addressed additional requests for information from NI Water. The landowner's agent has indicated that they will only begin the land transfer process when they have obtained the necessary approvals from NI Water.

Not Applicable

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**Current Position**

The play park will be delivered as soon as

- The developers proposals have been finalised and agreed by NI Water
- Land transfer terms are agreed
- The land has been transferred to Council

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Council notes this report and Council Officers continue to liaise with the site owners and their agents to progress the land transfer to enable the delivery of the play park.

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	04 February 2026
Responsible Director	Director of Environmental Services
Responsible Head of Service	Head of Finance
Date of Report	23 January 2026
File Reference	FIN23 / 40012
Legislation	Local Government Finance Act (NI) 2011
Section 75 Compliant	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> If other, please add comment below: N/A
Subject	Environmental Services Directorate Budgetary Control Report - December 2025
Attachments	None

The Environmental Services Budgetary Control Report covers the 9-month period 1 April 2025 to 31 December 2025 and it reflects the recent Organisational changes. The net cost of the Directorate is showing an underspend of £834k (3.6%)— box A on page 3.

**Explanation of Variance**

The Environmental Services budget performance is further analysed on page 3 into 3 key areas:

Report	Type	Variance	Page
<b>Report 2</b>	Payroll Expenditure	£320k favourable	<b>3</b>
<b>Report 3</b>	Goods & Services Expenditure	£350k favourable	<b>3</b>
<b>Report 4</b>	Income	£164k favourable	<b>3</b>

Not Applicable

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The Directorate's overall variance can be summarised by the following table (variances over £25k): -

Type	Variance £'000	Comment
<b>Payroll</b>	(320)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste &amp; Cleansing (£148k) – vacancies within Waste Collection.</li> <li>• Estates (£150k) – vacancies within Technical &amp; Maintenance Service Unit and Transport.</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Cemeteries (£23k).</li> </ul>
<b>Goods &amp; Services</b>		
Waste & Cleansing	105	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainly due to waste disposal plastic costs being more than anticipated (£41k).</li> </ul>
Estates	(523)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Technical &amp; Maintenance – (£644k). Capitalisation of Aurora Storm Damage from 24/25 – (£232k)</li> <li>• Other Maintenance – (£364k)</li> <li>• Utilities – (£76k)</li> <li>• Transport running costs - £73k – mainly Borough Cleansing vehicles.</li> </ul>
Parks & Cemeteries	65	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Range of small variances in Parks &amp; Cemeteries.</li> </ul>
<b>Income</b>		
Parks & Cemeteries	(147)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cemeteries income (£87k)</li> <li>• Outdoor Leisure (£61k)</li> </ul>
Estates	(61)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Wind Turbine (£67K)</li> </ul>
Waste & Cleansing	44	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waste Collection £31k</li> </ul>

Not Applicable

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REPORT 1		BUDGETARY CONTROL REPORT				
		Period 9 - December 2025				
		Year to Date Actual	Year to Date Budget	Variance	Annual Budget	Variance
		£	£	£	£	%
<b>Environmental Services</b>						
4100 Environmental Services HQ		163,999	160,000	3,999	214,500	2.5
4200 Waste and Cleansing Services		11,930,407	11,929,200	1,207	15,214,200	0.0
4300 Estates		6,297,410	7,032,400	(734,990)	9,595,400	(10.5)
4400 Parks & Cemeteries		4,218,788	4,323,400	(104,612)	5,925,700	(2.4)
<b>Total</b>		<b>22,610,604</b>	<b>23,445,000</b>	<b>A (834,396)</b>	<b>30,949,800</b>	<b>(3.6)</b>
REPORT 2		PAYROLL REPORT				
		£	£	£	£	%
<b>Environmental Services - Payroll</b>						
4100 Environmental Services HQ		136,641	135,100	1,541	180,500	1.1
4200 Waste and Cleansing Services		7,712,438	7,860,500	(148,062)	10,451,900	(1.9)
4300 Estates		1,847,884	1,998,200	(150,316)	2,658,100	(7.5)
4400 Parks & Cemeteries		3,800,387	3,823,700	(23,313)	5,048,100	(0.6)
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,497,350</b>	<b>13,817,500</b>	<b>B (320,150)</b>	<b>18,338,600</b>	<b>(2.3)</b>
REPORT 3		GOODS & SERVICES REPORT				
		£	£	£	£	%
<b>Environmental Services - Goods &amp; Services</b>						
4100 Environmental Services HQ		27,359	24,900	2,459	34,000	9.9
4200 Waste and Cleansing Services		6,956,238	6,851,000	105,238	8,986,200	1.5
4300 Estates		5,417,152	5,940,600	(523,448)	8,170,100	(8.8)
4400 Parks & Cemeteries		1,159,205	1,093,500	65,705	1,645,800	6.0
<b>Total</b>		<b>13,559,955</b>	<b>13,910,000</b>	<b>C (350,045)</b>	<b>18,836,100</b>	<b>(2.5)</b>
REPORT 4		INCOME REPORT				
		£	£	£	£	%
<b>Environmental Services - Income</b>						
4100 Environmental Services HQ		-	-	-	-	-
4200 Waste and Cleansing Services		(2,738,270)	(2,782,300)	44,030	(4,223,900)	1.6
4300 Estates		(967,626)	(906,400)	(61,226)	(1,232,800)	(6.8)
4400 Parks & Cemeteries		(740,804)	(593,800)	(147,004)	(768,200)	(24.8)
<b>Totals</b>		<b>(4,446,700)</b>	<b>(4,282,500)</b>	<b>D (164,200)</b>	<b>(6,224,900)</b>	<b>(3.8)</b>

## RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council notes this report.