

Agenda

1.0 Apologies

2.0 Declaration of Interests

- (i) conflict of interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)
- (ii) pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest (Member to complete disclosure of interest form)

3.0 Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services

3.1 Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Hazel Legge

Item 3.1 *NOM Cllr Hazel Legge re Postbox to Heaven.pdf* **Page 1**

Item 3.1 *Appendix 1 DES - UUP NoM Cllr Hazel Legge - Postbox to Heaven March 2023.pdf* **Page 4**

3.2 Kerbside Collection Services

Item 3.2 *Kerbside Collection Services AMENDED 5 April 2023.pdf* **Page 5**

Item 3.2 *Appendix 2a - NILGA 'PRE-ELECTION SENSITIVITY' GUIDANCE FOR MAY 2023 ELECTION.pdf* **Page 8**

Item 3.2 *Appendix 2b - Extract from the current waste collection policy.pdf* **Page 14**

4.0 Report by the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health)

4.1 Use of Smithfield Square Off Street Car Park by Lisburn City Old Vehicle Club (LCOVC)

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Item 4.1 *Appendix 1 EH - Use of Smithfield Square OSCP LCOVC Overview.pdf* **Page 18**

4.2 Draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030

Item 4.2 *Report - Consultation Draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030 2.pdf* **Page 19**

Item 4.2 *Appendix 2A EH - DV Consultation Correspondence dated 7 February 2023.pdf* **Page 22**

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5.0 Report by the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

5.1 Public Consultation on the draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland – arc21 Response

▢ *Item 5.1 arc21 Circular Economy Response Report (002).pdf*

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▢ *Item 5.1 Appendix 1 WMO -Combined arc21 response to the CE Strategy for NI.pdf*

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6.0 Confidential Report from the Acting Director of Environmental Services

6.1 Collection and Recycling of Rubble from Council Household Recycling Centres

Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

6.2 Collection, Recycling and/or Recovery of Wood from Council Household Recycling Centres

Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

6.3 Collection and Recycling of Scrap Metals from Council Household Recycling Centres

Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

6.4 Collection and Recycling of Plasterboard from Council Household Recycling Centres

Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

6.5 Collection, Recycling and/or Recovery of Paint & Aerosols from Council Household Recycling Centres

Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

6.6 Collection, Recycling and/or Recovery of Mattresses from Council Household Recycling Centres

Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

 *Item 6.6 Confidential Noting REDACTED- Mattresses Recycling from HRCs.pdf*

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6.7 Haulage of Residual and Green waste from Council Household Recycling Centres

Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

 *Item 6.7 Confidential Noting REDACTED - Haulage of waste from HRCs.pdf*

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7.0 Any Other Business



Environmental Services Committee

5th April 2023

Report from:

Acting Director of Environmental Services

Item for Decision

TITLE: Item 3.1 – Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor Hazel Legge

Background and Key Issues:

1. Members are reminded that the following Notice of Motion (NOM) in the name of Councillor Hazel Legge was referred to the Environmental Services Committee from the meeting of Council on 28 March 2023.
2. “Following a recent initiative in Antrim & Newtownabbey Council, I am proposing that we grant Agreement in Principle for LCCC to consider the installation of a “Postbox to Heaven” in all Council owned cemeteries within our Council area to provide a potential outlet for those grieving the loss of a loved one”.
3. Members are further reminded that the Council granted delegated authority to the Environmental Services Committee to progress any decisions taken on this matter.
4. Attached as **Appendix 1 DES** for Members’ information is a copy of the NOM from Councillor Legge.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members consider the Notice of Motion for the installation of a ‘Postbox to Heaven’ in all Council owned cemeteries within our Council area.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Cost of preparing ground and inserting a pole and postbox in Council owned Cemeteries in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council Area.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? N/A

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	N/A	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	N/A	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	N/A
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	N/A	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	N/A
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If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

N/A

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 DES - Notice of Motion from Councillor Hazel Legge

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



17 March 2023

To:

Mr David Burns
Chief Executive
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Following a recent initiative in Antrim & Newtownabbey Council, I am proposing that we grant Agreement in Principle for LCCC to consider the installation of a “Postbox to Heaven” in all Council owned cemeteries within our Council area to provide a potential outlet for those grieving the loss of a loved one.

Proposed by
Cllr Hazel Legge

Seconded by
Cllr Jenny Palmer



Environmental Services Committee

5th April 2023

Report from:

Acting Director of Environmental Services

Item for Decision

TITLE: **Item 3.2 – Kerbside Collection Services**

Background and Key Issues:

1. At the Council meeting on Tuesday 28 March 2023, Members requested that an additional report be brought to the Environmental Services Committee (ESC) regarding the Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) consultation process on proposed kerbside model.
2. As we are entering the pre-election period of heightened sensitivity which commences by 6 April at the latest, NILGA has developed guidance to support Members and Officers at this time.
3. Attached as **Appendix 2a DES** for Members' information is a copy of the NILGA guidance and particular attention is drawn to the highlighted section regarding consultations.

Extract from appendix as follows:

You should think carefully before you:

- **Launch any new consultations. Unless it is a statutory duty, don't start any new consultations or publish report findings from consultation exercises,**

which could be politically utilised or ideologically sensitive.

4. Members' agreed the recommendations of a confidential report on a new Kerbside Collection Model at Council on 24 January 2023.
5. Furthermore, a number of charities and lobbying groups have made representation to the Council either directly or through Elected Members. Officers have reached out to these groups to seek time to meet and understand fully their concerns prior to commencing any formal Equality Impact Assessment consultation.
6. During presentation of the full business case to Council in January, officers gave a commitment to review and update, as necessary, waste collection policies. Attached as **Appendix 2b DES** for Member's reference is an extract from the current waste collection policy. It is proposed that consultation on this policy progresses alongside the EQIA consultation following the engagement outlined in section 5 above to ensure any proposed policy reflects the most up to date views of such groups on grounds of equality. This would be progressed as soon as is practicably possible.
7. With EQIA consultation requiring a minimum consultation period of 12 weeks, a report on the outcome would be presented to Committee in the autumn.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members note the content of the report and agree the commencement of the public equality consultation as soon as practicably possible.

Finance and Resource Implications:

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? N/A

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	N/A	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	N/A	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	N/A
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?

If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

If Yes, please insert date:

NILGA Policy & Communication Guidance Note

Pre-election period of heightened political sensitivity

NI Local Government Elections 18th May 2023



6th April 2023

What is the 'Pre-election Period of Heightened Political Sensitivity'?

Formerly referred to as 'Purdah' this describes the period immediately before elections or referendums when restrictions on communications activity are in place.

The period of heightened sensitivity in Northern Ireland

On Thursday 18th May 2023, a Local Government election is due to be held for the 11 councils in Northern Ireland.

There is currently no legislation in Northern Ireland like the English Local Government Act 1986, formally governing publicity and council activity during the pre-election period for local government elections. Similarly, there is no directly comparable, formal Code of Practice for councils to the Code of Practice published by the English Department of Communities and Local Government in 2011.

NILGA has received several approaches for relevant advice and is keen to ensure that there is guidance to support a 'good practice' approach by councils and the wider public sector in Northern Ireland in relation to the period of sensitivity prior to the election.

The following is therefore provided, without prejudice, as informal practical advice for councillors, local government officers and partner organisations in the run up to the May 2023 election.

It is important to note that good pre-election practice suggests that activity is restricted wider than just publicity. Use of council facilities and resources; application of and adherence to the member's code of conduct, developing new policies and holding of events - including some meetings - featuring elected members should all be carefully considered during the period of heightened sensitivity.

When do we need to start considering pre-election sensitivities?

For the election in May 2023, it is recommended that council members and officers should commence a period of heightened sensitivity at the latest, by **Thursday 6th April 2023**.

This also is the date on which the Cabinet Office guidance for Civil Servants should take effect. Although the Cabinet Office guidance relates to the Civil Service, it means local government is in a period of 'heightened sensitivity'.

What does this mean in practice?

Sometimes this period is viewed as a time when external communication must shut down completely. This is not the case, and the ordinary functions of councils should continue, but some restrictions are recommended, for all councillors and council officers.

Publicity, i.e., any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or to a large section of the public; should be given particular consideration. The question should be asked; "Could a reasonable person conclude that you were spending public money to influence the outcome of the election?" In other words, publicity must pass the 'is it reasonable and corporately robust?' test.

When making a decision one should consider the following:

What you are strongly recommended not to do

- Produce publicity on matters which are politically controversial
- Make references to individual politicians, parties or groups in press releases
- Arrange proactive media or events involving particular or groups of candidates
- Issue photographs which include specific or groups of candidates
- Supply council photographs or other materials to councillors or political groups including council staff, unless you have verified that they will not be used for campaigning purposes
- Continue publishing / hosting third party blogs or e-communications
- Help with national political visits, as this would likely be perceived to involve using public money to support a particular candidate or party or group. These visits should be organised by political parties with no cost or resource implications for the council, including use of the council estate.

What you need to think carefully about

You should think carefully before you:

- Continue to run campaign material to support your own local (e.g. community or investment) campaigns. If the campaign is already running and is non-controversial - for example, on issues like recycling - and would be a waste of public money to cancel or postpone them, then continue. However, you should always think carefully if a campaign could be deemed likely to influence the outcome of the election. In such cases you should stop or defer them. An example might be a campaign on an issue which has been the subject of local political debate and/or disagreement (e.g. Brexit).
- Launch any new consultations. Unless it is a statutory duty, don't start any new consultations or publish report findings from consultation exercises, which could be politically utilised or ideologically sensitive.

What you can do

- Continue to discharge normal council business - including determining planning applications, even if they are controversial. **There are some caveats to this - See Appendix 1.**
- Publish factual information e.g. identifying candidate names, parties and constituencies.
- Publish factual information to counteract misleading, controversial or extreme (for example racist/sexist) information.
- Use relevant lead officers rather than members for reactive media releases in the heightened sensitivity period.
- Use a politician who is involved in an election when the council is required to respond in particular circumstances, such as the First Citizen in an emergency situation or where there is a genuine need for a member-level but corporate response to an important event beyond the council's control. Normally this would be the Mayor or Chairperson, that is, someone holding a civic / politically neutral role. If the issue is so serious, it is worth considering asking the council's party group leaders to agree to a response which would involve all of them, respecting the totality of the political makeup of the Council.
- Take advice when in doubt, from legal and compliance colleagues.

Ultimately, you must always be guided by the principle of objectivity and fairness. It is crucial that any decision you take would be seen as being fair and reasonable by the public and those standing for office.

Advertising

Paid-for advertising must comply with the Advertising Standards Authority's Advertising Codes. In general, councils should not issue any publicity which seeks to influence voters, ensure that publicity relating to policies and proposals from the UK or NI Assembly government is balanced and factually accurate and comply with laws which prohibit political advertising on television or radio.

Requests for Information

Official correspondence should be dealt with in the normal way, with responses issued as quickly as possible. There should be even-handedness in meeting specific requests for information from different political parties and their candidates, including independent political members. Caution must be exercised as information produced with complete impartiality and accepted as objective at other times, *may be* subject to greater scrutiny and publicity during the election period. Councils should continue to process all requests for information submitted under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) from members of the public including candidates in accordance with the FOIA.

Invitations and outside visits

The normal procedures for handling outside visits and invitations should be followed. There should be no officer involvement in party political events during the election campaign. Officers receiving invitations to outside events which may involve candidates should ensure that their attendance is necessary purely for the conduct of corporate business and attendees should avoid participation in any associated publicity activity.

Transport

Council vehicles should not be used for political party purposes.

Social Media Tips

1. It is strongly recommended that **all social media platforms** operated by staff are subject to the principles regarding heightened sensitivity.
2. When using social media, such as Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, Tiktok, Instagram, LinkedIn or Flickr, explain that as a council channel of communication you are adhering to sensitivity principles. It may be helpful to tweet a link to an explanation of heightened sensitivity for guidance.
3. Do not retweet or share **political opinion** or content posted by political parties or politicians.
4. Do not tweet, post images or share updates on matters which are **politically controversial**.
5. **Monitor your page** and delete any content which is **politically controversial**.
6. Do not stage a significant **social media-based campaign** unless it can be demonstrated that it was planned before the election was called.
7. Social media by and about the Mayor or Chairperson may be retweeted, shared, or used if it is **not of a political nature**.
8. **Disable** the ability to download images of politicians during the period of heightened sensitivity.
9. In exceptional circumstances **seek permission** from your communications, compliance and/or legal colleagues to tweet or retweet a comment by a politician or to use videos and images of a politician during the pre-election period.

10. Third party social media profiles, including business partnership profiles which the council supports, should also be governed by pre-election sensitivity principles. Council staff who update these profiles can either continue to add content in line with restrictions or hand over ALL admin to a non-council member of the partnership during this period.

Six Golden Rules

1. No publicity should be given to matters which are **politically controversial**.
2. The general presumption should be that **no references** will be made to individual politicians in press releases (except where there is a valid emergency, as described earlier).
3. Great caution should be exercised before undertaking any **significant media exercise** unless it can be demonstrated that this was included in the forward diary before the election was called.
4. **No photographs** of candidates in the election should be issued.
5. Before any request for council photographs and other materials is considered, **enquiries** should be made as to the use to which they are to be put and an appropriate restriction on use imposed if supplied.
6. The position of Mayor or Chairperson as the figurehead of the authority is different and material may be issued, providing it is not of a political nature, but it should be used proportionately and reasonably.

Frequently Asked Questions

Does this advice apply to councillors who are not running for election?

Council business continues so all sitting councillors, whether seeking election or not, should have regard for principles regarding the pre-election period of heightened sensitivity.

Can council officers get involved in campaigning in their own time?

Officers who hold politically restricted posts, or who are likely to be involved or employed in connection with the elections, should not take part in a political campaign or canvass on behalf of a political party or candidate.

Do the restrictions apply to officers who are members of a trade union?

Trade unions themselves are not required to have regard to the limitations surrounding this period, but individual officers should have regard to their council policies and principles related to periods of heightened political sensitivity.

Can council press offices still put out press releases ahead of the election?

Yes, but limitations are recommended. Official, factual press statements about council decisions for public information purposes may still be issued. However, it is advised that no publicity should deal with controversial issues or report views or proposals in a way which identifies them with individual councillors or groups of councillors.

Can a council put out a consultation, for example about changes to leisure provision, during the pre-election period?

Consultations should be considered very carefully during this time as it is a period of heightened sensitivity and should not be put out if they could be viewed as counter to the necessary principles.

Can we use the chair of a council-commissioned review, who is up for election, as spokesperson for the report?

The best approach could be to delay publication of the review until after the election. However, if there is an imperative to publish you should use another, non-political spokesperson.

Can we host a photo call for a council committee chairperson or other leading councillor to open a new council facility (such as a play park) during the pre-election period?

Generally, this is not recommended; however, if the timing of the event is unavoidable and postponing it would adversely affect local residents (for example the opening of the facility has been delayed by long-running work and postponing the opening will cause the council to lose income), you might choose to have the event hosted by a non-political spokesperson.

Do restrictions apply to council notice boards?

Councils are required to publicise details of the election and how to register to vote. Material relating to wider political issues should not be posted on official notice boards which may be seen by members of the public. It is advised that this includes publicity issued by, or on behalf of, a trade union.

Can councillors issue their own press releases or talk to the media?

Councillors are free to talk to the media and issue press releases but should not use council resources to do so and should always be mindful of the Code of Conduct.

Can councillors write letters 'for publication' to their local newspaper?

Yes, but they shouldn't use council resources (such as staff) to help them do it.

Can councillors still tweet or blog?

Councillors can continue but should not use council resources (such as council twitter accounts, email accounts, telephones etc.) to do so.

Can councillors who are up for election refer to themselves as councillors in their public statements?

A person remains as a councillor and can refer to themselves as such until such time as they retire shortly after the election.

Can candidates request to visit council establishments?

The guidance at local level may already vary by council. Generally, reasonable requests by candidates at the election to visit council establishments (including current council members in the case of their council function) should be approved in terms of diligent delivery of corporate business. Check your local arrangements - any such visits should not be supported by the council's media team or council officers.

Can candidates speak/canvas at a student union (which is a registered charity) during the pre-election?

Yes, they can; in fact, it is to be expected. Candidates standing for election can arrange to speak and canvass if these activities are neither funded nor arranged by local authorities. The fact that the union is a charity has no bearing – the guidance applies to local authorities, not to other organisations.

Can the council still publish its newsletter/magazine during the pre-election period?

Yes, if it is done in the ordinary course of business and meets all other relevant recommendations.

PRE-ELECTION SENSITIVITY AND PLANNING COMMITTEES – PLEASE SEE APPENDIX 1



**Northern Ireland Local Government Association
Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB**

PRE-ELECTION SENSITIVITY AND PLANNING COMMITTEES – APPENDIX 1

THE FOLLOWING ADVICE WAS PROVIDED BY THE LEGAL TEAM AT LGA, AT NILGA'S REQUEST.

There is no statutory restriction on a council's decision-making, meetings, or political debate during the pre-election period. It is "business as normal". However, given the restrictions on publicity, it may be that while the council's decision-making can carry on other factors may well limit it. Also, there will be practical issues if members are involved in elections.

Consideration must be given as to whether the matter is politically contentious creating a risk that the decision will be made on party political grounds rather than on its merits thereby making the decision challengeable.

In addition, bringing matters forward for decision during an election campaign could be seen as an attempt to gain political advantage. Council officers will need to be alert to the publicity, making sure it could not be perceived as seeking to influence public opinion in an election area or promote a candidate or group of candidates. There will be enhanced scrutiny during the pre-election period

The reference to planning is to the case:

Persimmon Homes Teesside Ltd v Lewis, R (on the application of) [2008] EWCA Civ 746 (01 July 2008)

The case considered whether the grant of a planning permission during the pre-election period involved actual or apparent bias or predetermination on the part of the planning committee. The court found that a decision made during a pre-election period does not, merely by virtue of its timing, become unlawful. All elected officials have a normal, and legitimate, political predisposition, and there is no reason (without further evidence) for concluding that during a pre-election period this is more likely to lead to a closing of minds than would otherwise be the case. (Section 25 of the Localism Act 2011 now deals with predetermination).

NB: The Localism Act 2011 is not applicable to NI, and restrictions are placed on councillors in Northern Ireland within Section 9 of the NI Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors.

Disclaimer

The Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) endeavours to ensure that the information contained within our Website, Policies and other communications is up to date and correct. We do not, however, make any representation that the information will be accurate, current, complete, uninterrupted or error free or that any information or other material accessible from or related to NILGA is free of viruses or other harmful components. NILGA accepts no responsibility for any erroneous information placed by or on behalf of any user or any loss by any person or user resulting from such information.

Appendix 2b DES

Extract from the current waste collection policy

The table below is an extract from the current waste collection policy. This will be reviewed and updated as necessary following the consultation process.

Requests for Additional Bins	
Landfill/Black	<p>Council operate a single landfill bin policy, with a second/larger landfill bin being provided in the following circumstances only:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where there are 6 or more permanent residents, • Where there is a medical condition that causes additional waste to be generated, or • Where there are families with young children in nappies. <p>Residents to make an application through the appropriate form. If the application is approved additional waste collection capacity will be supplied free of charge by Council. The need for an additional collection capacity will be kept under review. The standard landfill bin size will be 240 litre capacity. (180 litres being trialled in specified areas)</p>
Green 240 litre (dry recycling)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 2 free of charge;
Brown 240 litre (organics)	<p>Council restrict the number of brown bins that a household can have for organic wastes to 'one' bin per household. Additional brown bins shall only be provided in line with the Policy on the Provision of Additional Brown Bins.</p>
Kitchen caddy (7l)	Up to 2 free of charge
Wheelie box (150l)	One additional per household supplied free of charge based on an assessment of need by a Council Officer;
Food Waste Bin (23l)	One additional per household supplied free of charge based on an assessment of need by a Council Officer;
Kerbie box (55l)	Up to 4 supplied free of charge, additional supplied based on an assessment of need by a Council Officer;
Home composters	Up to 2 per household, charge applied per composter and for delivery if required.



Environmental Services Committee

5th April 2023

Report from:

Head of Service (Acting) – Environmental Health

Item for Decision

TITLE: Item 4.1 Use of Smithfield Square Off Street Car Park by Lisburn City Old Vehicle Club (LCOVC)

Background and Key Issues:

1. The Environmental Health Service Unit has received an application from Lisburn City Old Vehicle Club (LCOVC) to use Smithfield Square Off Street Car Park on Sunday 6 August 2023 as part of a vintage vehicle event in Lisburn City Centre.
2. The car park has 52 spaces and the club hopes to display 90 vintage cars in the car park and also in Lisburn Square. There will also be vintage motor cycles on display at Market Square on that day.
3. The LCOVC have requested the use of the car park from 8am until 6pm on Sunday 6 August 2023.
4. Attached as **Appendix 1 EH** for Members' information is an overview of the Club.
5. The car park is free to use on Sundays, so there will be no loss of income and adequate alternative free parking is available nearby.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the request from Lisburn City Old Vehicle Club (LCOVC) to use Smithfield Square on Sunday 6 August 2023 from 8am to 6pm.

Finance and Resource Implications:

6. The car park is free to use on Sundays, so there will be no loss of income and adequate alternative free parking is available nearby.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? N/A

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	N/A	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	N/A	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	N/A
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	N/A	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	N/A
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If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

N/A

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 EH - Lisburn City Old Vehicle Club (LCOVC) Overview.

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



LISBURN CITY OLD VEHICLE CLUB

A NON-AFFILIATED, INDEPENDENT CLUB WORKING FOR ITS MEMBERS



About the Club

Lisburn City Old Vehicle Club (LCOVC) was founded in 2011 to offer a focus for people with older/classic vehicles in the Lisburn Area. While the club does not restrict the age of vehicles used on club events and welcomes members with classic vehicles or simply who have an interest in these, for some events only vehicles of 25 years old or more are eligible. In practice, vehicles owned by club members differ greatly. The majority are cars; however, members also own classic motorcycles, commercial vehicles and tractors. Vehicles currently owned by members range in age from 1903 up to more modern classics.

Members mostly live in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area although a few come from neighbouring Council areas. Members range in age from early 20s to late 80s, although the majority would be in their 50s, 60s and 70s. We currently have 74 members, of whom around 30% have been involved in the club for 10 years or more. Activities and meetings usually attract around 30 members or more depending on what is planned.

The club is very active with around 30 events, meetings and activities planned throughout the year. Typically, activities include monthly club meetings (usually with a guest speaker) at our base in Lower Maze Community Hall. A monthly 'Sunday Dander' sees members meet up for a short walk, lots of chat and a cup of coffee. During Spring, Summer and Autumn months, a series of visits and runs to vehicle collections and other attractions are organised, usually using our older vehicles. Occasionally a weekend trip may be organised including visits to places such as Scotland, Dublin and Fermanagh. We also work closely with Council on various activities. This includes supporting the Mayor's Parade each year, organising a classic car and motorcycle run to the Ulster Grand Prix circuit to support the event and other activities as they arise, such as the Royal Hillsborough celebrations where we mounted a static car display. Where appropriate we may work in conjunction with other classic vehicle clubs to organise larger events.

We also participate in larger events such as the annual Kilbroney Vintage Vehicle Show, Magheragall Parish Fair, Claragh Bridge Show and others.

We publish a quarterly LCOVC magazine called The Lisburn Oily Rag which provides members and supporters with information and articles.

We also seek to generate funds for worthy charitable causes. We have organised a number of Cars and Coffee events in conjunction with the Thoroughbred and Sports Car Club NI. The last was held at the Hilton Hotel at Templepatrick and raised nearly £1,000 for Air Ambulance. We support the Mayor's charities through entry fees for the Mayor's Parade and in 2022/23 are supporting Friends of the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital. This has recently included the proceeds from sale of our club calendar.

www.lisburncityoldvehicleclub.co.uk



Environmental Services Committee

5th April 2023

Report from:

Head of Service (Acting) – Environmental Health

Item for Decision

TITLE: **Item 4.2 – Draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030**

Background and Key Issues:

1. The Environmental Health Service Unit has received a Consultation from the Department of Health and the Department of Justice in relation to the Draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030 which closes on 2 May 2023.
2. A copy of the correspondence received, which includes the link to the Consultation, is attached as **Appendix 2A EH** for Members' reference.
3. This Consultation replaces the Domestic Sexual Violence and Abuse Strategy currently in place.
4. The Strategy has extensively sought the views of statutory bodies, the voluntary and community sectors and most importantly, the voices of victims of abuse, including those of children. It re-emphasises that Domestic and Sexual abuse has no place in our society and reinforces commitment to zero tolerance.
5. A draft response to the Consultation is attached as **Appendix 2B EH** for Members' consideration. Any comments Members would like to have included in the final response should be forwarded to the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health) by **21 April 2023**.

6. The final Consultation response on behalf of the Council will be submitted to the Department of Justice prior to the closing date of 2 May 2023.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members approve the response to the Draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy 2023-2030 to be submitted on behalf of the Council prior to the closing date of 2 May 2023.

Finance and Resource Implications:

None.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? No

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

Consultation Response

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	No	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	No	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	No
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Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	No	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	No
--	----	---	----

If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

- Appendix 2A EH** – Consultation Notification Correspondence with link to Consultation document included.
- Appendix 2B EH** - Draft Consultation Response.

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

N/A

If Yes, please insert date:



7 February 2023

Dear Consultee

CONSULTATION: DRAFT DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL ABUSE STRATEGY

A draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy for 2023-2030 has been issued for public consultation today. The draft strategy has been developed jointly by the Department of Health and the Department of Justice and it has been informed by the feedback received to a Call for Views exercise undertaken by the Departments in 2022.

The draft strategy has been designed around four pillars:

- **Partnership:** Driving change together through joint commitment, leadership and partnership working.
- **Prevention:** Preventing domestic and sexual abuse from happening by challenging attitudes and behaviour that foster it and intervening early where possible to prevent it.
- **Support:** Ensuring that all victims of domestic and sexual abuse including children can access services supporting them to recover and rebuild their lives.
- **Justice:** Holding individuals who are abusive to account and ensuring justice responses are effective.

Underpinning these pillars are eight connected outcomes (as well as key priority areas) which relate to a coordinated response. These cover:

- awareness raising;
- an increase in the knowledge and skills about forming healthy relationships;
- early identification of domestic and sexual abuse;
- support services;
- access to safe accommodation based services;
- addressing abusive behaviours, holding individuals to account for this;
- reducing the risk of harm and enhancing victim safety; and
- increasing confidence to report abuse, reduce barriers to participation and ensure that Justice responses are effective.

We intend to expand on these in further detail through a series of action plans that will

outline clear responsibilities and timelines for implementation over the next 7 years.

This consultation seeks your views on the content of the proposed strategy which is available at <https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk/doj/domestic-and-sexual-abuse-strategy> along with a consultation document and response form. An **Easy Read** and **Children and Young People's Version** is also available. These, along with, Equality and Rural Needs Impact Assessments can be found on the Departmental websites.

The consultation exercise will also be supported by a number of online public engagement events which anyone can attend. The scheduled dates are:

Monday 06 March 2023	6.00pm to 7.30pm
Tuesday 07 March 2023	10.30am – noon
Thursday 09 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Tuesday 14 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm
Wednesday 15 March 2023	6.00pm – 7.30pm
Thursday 16 March 2023	2.00pm – 3.30pm

Further details of how to book these events are on the Departmental websites:

[Domestic and sexual abuse strategy 2023 2030 | Department of Justice \(justice-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

[Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy - 2023 – 2030 | Department of Health \(health-ni.gov.uk\)](#)

We are keen to hear feedback from as many people as possible, particularly those with lived experience of domestic and sexual abuse, including children and young people. Where possible, we would encourage our voluntary sector partners to make their clients aware of the consultation **and to seek their views** using the Easy Read and Children and Young People versions as appropriate.

Consultation responses must be submitted no later than **Tuesday 2 May 2023**.

Should you have any questions about the consultation process email us at DSAStrategyConsultation@justice-ni.gov.uk or write to us at Victims Support Division, Room A4.03, Castle Buildings, Stormont Estate, Belfast, BT4 3SG. We look forward to hearing your views.

Yours sincerely

Gavin Quinn

**Gavin Quinn,
Director of Mental Health
Department of Health**

Julie Wilson

**Julie Wilson,
Deputy Director, Victims Support Division
Department of Justice**

Draft Consultation Response**Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy Consultation****I am responding as (Please tick one option only)**

- A member of the public (Do not provide your name or email address)
- On behalf of an organisation - please specify below and include your organisation's email address

Please specify in the box below

I am responding on behalf of the Environmental Health Service which carries out the Safeguarding function within Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

ehealth@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

Question 1: Is the vision of the draft strategy reflective of what we want to achieve?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

We agree with the vision of the Draft Strategy.

Question 2: Does the definition of domestic abuse, as outlined in the draft strategy, reflect what you understand this to mean?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

The definition is inclusive and comprehensive.

Question 3: Does the definition of sexual abuse, as outlined in the draft strategy, reflect what you understand this to mean?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 4: Do you agree with the use of the four pillars in the draft Strategy (Partnership, Prevention, Support and Justice) as levers for change?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

The language used is coterminous with that of all the sectors working in the field of Domestic Violence and is well explained for anyone not familiar with it.

Question 5: Do you agree with the outcome and key priority areas identified under Pillar 1 (Partnership) and how we will know we are making a difference?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Outcome: A coordinated response to domestic and sexual abuse informed by victims' voices and community engagement.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Working collaboratively across all government Departments and with statutory, voluntary and community and faith organisations to tackle domestic and sexual abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Having effective governance structures underpinning the strategy's delivery with a performance framework to monitor outcomes and impact.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Informing policy, legislation and service development with better quality data, research and shared learning.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Having increased opportunities for victims' voices to be heard and ensuring the strategy's delivery is underpinned by intersectionality recognising that many people have multiple needs and face multiple barriers.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How will we know we are making a difference?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Listening to views of victims, including children.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Ensuring joined up working on cross cutting projects.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engaging regularly with key stakeholders at both a regional and local level.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Data from key stakeholders is shared, ensuring that as a system we understand and can respond to trends and emerging issues.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Review of action plans and performance indicators on a regular basis by all partners to ensure progress is made.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 6: Do you agree with the outcomes and key priority areas identified under Pillar 2 (Prevention) and how we will know we are making a difference?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Outcome: The public is informed about the different types of domestic and sexual abuse and its impact on victims including children.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Raising awareness, so that those experiencing, or at risk of experiencing domestic and sexual abuse, recognise it and know that help is available.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Empowering people to safely challenge attitudes, beliefs and behaviours that foster domestic and sexual abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outcome: An increase in the knowledge and skills of children, young people and adults about forming healthy relationships.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Supporting the education sector to build capacity, knowledge and skills to promote understanding about consent and healthy relationships and to teach about sensitive subjects such as domestic and sexual abuse, in an age appropriate and inclusive way, across schools and other youth settings, training facilities, Further Education Colleges and Universities.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>Outcome: Domestic and sexual abuse is identified and responded to earlier.</p>	●	○	○
<p>Key Priority area: Enabling people working in frontline and public-facing roles to identify and respond effectively to domestic and sexual abuse at the earliest opportunity.</p>	●	○	○
<p>Key Priority area: Supporting employers in the public, private and other sectors to make workplaces safer by raising awareness of domestic and sexual abuse and promoting workplace policies with effective measures to support staff.</p>	●	○	○

How will we know we are making a difference?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Public awareness of domestic and sexual abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased reporting of domestic and sexual abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Prevention initiatives supporting individuals to develop healthy relationships.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Referrals from a wider range of agencies to MARAC and domestic and sexual abuse services.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Domestic abuse is recognised as a workplace issue.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Prevention must be prioritised by awareness raising.

Question 7: Do you agree with the outcomes and key priority areas identified under Pillar 3 (Support) and how we will know we are making a difference?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Outcome: Victims including children are supported and feel safe regardless of diversity of need.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Providing support for victims, including children, as well as wider family, to reduce the risk and impact of abuse; recover from trauma and improve their health and well-being; and engage in the justice system in a way that ensures they feel protected and safe.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Ensuring there is a focus on tackling sexual abuse, including the sexual abuse of children and young people, and providing specialist support for victims.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Enabling services to better understand intersectional needs of individuals to ensure victims get the responses and support they need.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Outcome: All victims of domestic abuse including children can access safe accommodation-based services.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

<p>Key Priority area: Ensuring all victims and their children can access accommodation that is safe and appropriate to their needs and circumstances.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
<hr/>			
<p>Key Priority area: Supporting victims of domestic abuse to remain safely in their home if they want to and it is safe to do so.</p>	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How will we know we are making a difference?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Victims of domestic and sexual abuse access support.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Learning from the experience of victims to inform best practice.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Provision of services.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fewer victims of domestic and sexual abuse withdraw from the criminal justice process.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 8: Do you agree with the outcomes and key priority areas identified under Pillar 4 (Justice) and how we will know we are making a difference?

ADDRESSING ABUSIVE BEHAVIOURS

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Outcome: Individuals are responsible for their abusive behaviour, are held to account and supported to change, with the risk of harm reduced and victim safety enhanced.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Supporting individuals to address and manage their abusive behaviours and sustain positive change.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Encouraging individuals to change their abusive behaviour by removing barriers to participation.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Working collaboratively to target the most prolific offenders, improving risk assessment and management.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Providing integrated safety and support structures for victims where programmes to address abusive behaviours are undertaken.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Improving protections for those at risk of abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

JUSTICE SYSTEM

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
Outcome: Victims feel confident to report domestic and sexual abuse, barriers to participating in the justice system are reduced and justice responses are effective	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Understanding better the factors contributing to high attrition levels (drop out of cases) and under-reporting in domestic and sexual abuse cases in order to improve these.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Providing victims of domestic and sexual abuse with information and services to support them through the criminal justice process.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Key Priority area: Improving the efficiency of the justice system and how domestic and sexual abuse cases are dealt with in criminal, civil and family courts.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Key Priority area: Strengthening the police and criminal justice response to domestic and sexual abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

How will we know we are making a difference?

	Agree	Disagree	Don't know
A reduction in repeat incidents of domestic and sexual abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase in levels of convictions for domestic and sexual abuse offences.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Engagement in behavioural change programmes and associated reoffending levels.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increase in protection orders granted and reduction in associated breaches.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Increased reporting of domestic and sexual abuse.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Fewer victims of domestic and sexual abuse withdraw from the criminal justice process.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Time taken for domestic and sexual abuse cases to be completed.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>
Satisfaction with criminal justice system support.	<input checked="" type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>	<input type="radio"/>

Question 9: Do you have any further comments that you wish to make about the draft Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy? If so, it would be helpful if you reference which part of the document you are commenting on.

- Yes
- No

If yes, please add any comments you wish to make in the box below

Question 10: Do you agree with the outcome of the Rural Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment?

- Agree
- Disagree
- Don't know

Please add any further comments you may have

ANONYMITY

On the next page (and before you submit your response) you will be asked if you wish to provide an email address. You do not have to provide this. It is solely for the use of Citizen Space to send you a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response should you want this. Any email address entered on the next page is automatically deleted once the PDF email has been sent and is not retained by Citizen Space or shared with the Departments. Importantly, all responses will remain anonymous and you will not be identified.

You are about to submit your response. After you click submit, you will no longer be able to go back and change any of your responses. By clicking 'Submit Response' you give us permission to analyse and include your responses in our results.

Information provided by respondents will be held and used for the purposes of the administration of this current exercise and subsequently disposed of in accordance with the provisions of the Data Protection Act 2018 and General Data Protection Regulation.

If you wish to have a receipt, Citizen Space will send your responses to the email address you provide. Please ensure that you are inserting/have previously inserted the correct email address, as failure to do so may result in your responses being sent to a third party. Please note, if you have not been asked for your email address within the survey, the email address you input below will not be saved or stored and is used only by the system to automatically send you a receipt.

If you provide an email address you will be sent a receipt and a link to a PDF copy of your response.

Email address



Environmental Services Committee

5th April 2023

Report from:

Head of Waste Management & Operational Services

Item for Decision

TITLE: Item 5.1 Public Consultation on the draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland – arc21 Response

Background and Key Issues:

1. Members were contacted by e-mail on 3rd February 2023 and advised that the Department for the Economy had launched a public consultation on the draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland. This draft strategy set out their vision to create an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy, with responsible production and consumption at its core.
2. Members were advised that as the closing date for responses was 20th March 2023 at 11:59 arc21 would be producing a response on behalf of member Councils however given the scale and scope of the consultation it was not anticipated that this draft would be available for consideration in advance of the submission date. A copy of the response is attached at **Appendix 1 WMO**.
3. Members were advised that they would be provided with a copy of the response in April for retrospective endorsement but if they wished to provide any input to the response comments should be sent no later than Friday, 3rd March 2023.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members retrospectively endorse the Arc21 response to the public consultation on the draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Finance and Resource Implications:

N/A

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? No

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

N/A

If yes, what was the outcome?

Option 1		Option 2		Option 3	
Screen out without mitigation	Yes/No	Screen out with mitigation	Yes/No	Screen in for a full EQIA	Yes/No

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?	No	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?	No
--	----	---	----

If no, please given explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

N/A

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL: No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in

accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration”.

APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 WMO - Arc21 Response to CE Strategy for Northern Ireland

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:

Sent by email to: ces@economy-ni.gov.uk

20 March 2023

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Consultation on the Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland

arc21 is a Local Government sector entity embracing six Councils located along the Eastern Region of Northern Ireland which covers approximately 33% of the land base, populated by approximately 59% of the national population and accounts for approximately 60% of the national Local Government controlled municipal waste arisings.

The establishment of arc21, together with its functionality, has been enshrined in various pieces of legislation – with the most recent being The Local Government (Constituting a Joint Committee a Body Corporate) Order (NI) 2015. In essence, it is primarily responsible for activities associated with the production, ongoing development and implementation of a Waste Management Plan for the arc21 area.

The six constituent councils of arc21 are Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards and North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Newry Mourne and Down District Council.

arc21 welcomes the opportunity to respond to this consultation which will play a critical role in defining how to develop a Circular Economy for Northern Ireland and the contribution this can make locally to delivery of Government Net Zero commitments, prior to answering the specific questions contained in the consultation document, we would offer the following comments.

At a high level, while the document name checks waste many times, recognising the critical role waste and resources management will play in the delivery of a Circular Economy, it is circumspect in identifying exact actions which need to be taken, or when.

Similarly, beyond the 2050 target, it omits highlighting particular dates or clearly stating that during this transition to increase circularity is underway, there will remain an ongoing need for both existing and new facilities to manage the wastes which are generated in a legally compliant and demonstrable manner, with minimal financial, environmental and reputational risk.

The current management of waste is dealt with cursorily (page 30) with the emphasis being upon local authority collected municipal waste but the statutory duty of councils to produce Waste Management Plans, and cover what is already contained within the existing versions, is not referenced. This is a weakness as there needs to be recognition at a policy level that existing and proposed facilities have a critical role to play in the delivery of a Circular Economy.

arc21
Belfast Castle
Antrim Road
Belfast BT15 5GR

T 028 9037 3000
E info@arc21.org.uk
W www.arc21.org.uk



To be the partner of choice
on waste and resources

arc21 considers that this needs to be clearly articulated and reinforced through strategies, such as this in order to ensure ongoing alignment between policy and operation and to prevent institutional drift occurring. Overlooking this connection risks fostering/ accelerating a misalignment between Government policy objectives and local authority operational service delivery.

Further, arc21 considers that the draft Strategy would benefit from pictorially identifying the various targets within the different Strategies and legislation which are referenced throughout the text in a chronological order. This would embed the objectives, requirements and targets of these different directives in a manner which would greatly facilitate resource and financial planning, and would go a long way towards the routemap which will be needed to deliver the ambition within this document.

A Response Template has been prepared which is attached, along with Appendix 1. We also attach our response to the earlier Circular Economy Strategic Framework (CSEF) which was consulted upon in 2021 (see Appendix 2).

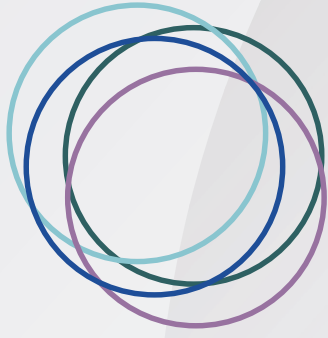
We hope you will find our response informative and are happy to discuss in more detail.

Yours sincerely



Tim Walker
arc21 Acting Chief Executive

Enclosed: arc21 template response plus references in response (see Appendix 1)
arc21 response to the CSEF (Appendix 2)



Department for the
Economy
www.economy-ni.gov.uk

Draft

Circular Economy

Strategy for Northern Ireland

Response Template

Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland

Response Template

Overview

We are consulting on the draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland which aims to transition our Linear Economy to a Circular Economy, where business, people and planet flourish. Adopting a circular mindset throughout society and business will be essential to a successful transition. This draft Circular Economy Strategy is a key enabler of the Department for the Economy's 10X economic vision for a decade of innovation, facilitating a sustainable, innovative and inclusive approach to economic growth, making the most of new opportunities and possibilities presented by the 4th Industrial Revolution.

We especially want to hear from those across industry, education and the public sector who will be vital in making the change happen, as well as private individuals who we want to embrace this change.

Why your views matter

We want you to tell us if we have accurately assessed the situation and if our proposals are right to kick start the transition to a truly Circular Economy, using a whole system approach. Feedback from this consultation will inform the final Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland and help to shape the design, remit and function of future delivery.

Responding to our Consultation

We would ask that you respond to the consultation using the online survey which can be accessed at the [Circular Economy Consultation page on the nidirect website consultations.nidirect.gov.uk](https://consultations.nidirect.gov.uk)

If you are unable to respond using the online consultation survey, please complete this response template and send it to: ces@economy-ni.gov.uk

Before you submit your response, please read the **Privacy Notice** published along with the Consultation Documents, which explains how we will use personal information as part of the processing of responses.

Draft Circular Economy Strategy Consultation Questions

Personal Details

1. **Name**

2. **I am responding as**

An individual

On behalf of an organisation

3. **Name of your organisation**

4. **What sector are you from?**

Agriculture

Bioeconomy

Central Government

Construction and Built Environment

Education

Local Government

Manufacturing

Representative Body

Research & Development

Services

Social Enterprise / Third & Voluntary Sector

Other

Vision

By 2050 Northern Ireland will have an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy where business, people and planet flourish, with responsible production and consumption at its core.

5. Is this vision the right vision?

Yes

No

Any other comments?

Target

According to the Circularity Gap Report, each person in Northern Ireland is consuming c.16.6 tonnes of resources per year. This is our individual material footprint. With the earth's finite supply of resources and our current production and consumption patterns, we must start to rethink our relationship with resources and reduce our demand for them. To live sustainably, the United Nations (UN) recommends that we should only be using an average of 6-8 tonnes of resources per year.

Within this strategy we have included a target to reduce our annual material footprint to 8 tonnes per person by 2050.

6. Do you agree with this target to halve our material footprint by 2050?

Yes

No

Any other comments?

Proposals for Change

Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change

Our behaviours and individual choices about what, where and how we purchase stuff, how long we use it for, whether we can reuse or repair it, and when and how we dispose of it, will ultimately determine if Northern Ireland can successfully transform to a Circular Economy.

A recent report issued by the House of Lords 'In our Hands' urged Ministers to lead a public campaign using all government levers to guide public behaviour change in order to stop biodiversity loss and achieve net zero.

Changing mindsets, business models and developing new products and services is going to be a complicated task, especially for Northern Ireland, which has many SMEs with limited time and resource.

This level of intervention is required to transform our relationship with resources.

7. What efforts do you think government should make to promote behavioural change?

Please put the following in order of priority.

(Ranking scale 1 = most preferred / 4 = least preferred)

Provide greater transparency and clarity on what government is doing to show commitment and create momentum.

Provide information and tools to increase awareness and help change attitudes.

Use regulatory and financial incentives to increase affordability and availability of sustainable options.

Provide or adapt physical infrastructure to help make it easier for people to change behaviours e.g. recycling centres, refill stations in supermarkets and bottle banks.

Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and facilitate collaboration

Many of the barriers to circularity will not be addressed without the utilisation of existing and new clusters and networks which will support industry to research, design, test and deliver transformative solutions.

Clusters are a geographic collection of interconnected companies producing similar or related goods/services that are innovation-orientated, seeking to benefit from integration across businesses.

Networks are an alliance of organisations (public/private or other) seeking to work together to achieve an economic goal, this could be within or outside a cluster. Networks may involve organisations within the same sector or across sectors which belong to the same value chain.

8. What existing clusters and networks could be utilised to deliver transformative solutions for increased circularity?

9. What clusters and networks do you think will need to be established to maximise resource use?

Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement

In Northern Ireland, public sector procurement has buying power in excess of £3 billion per annum. This provides strong potential to shape markets and behaviours through the development of specifications and contract management clauses to retain the value of materials for example purchasing refurbished computers or supporting leasing business models. This creates opportunity to influence the maintenance of the public estate, supply contracts including food and waste as well as delivery of infrastructure and capital projects.

10. How do you think public sector procurement can best influence the behaviours of industry to increase circularity of resources?

Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials

To improve the use of resources and retain their value, people and businesses need to know what is available, where it is and what condition it is in. Information is required for people and business to make choices about what they want to access. This can be provided through online platforms for typical fast moving consumer products e.g. the Olio platform which is dedicated to helping stop food waste within the UK. It can also be provided for industrial materials through established platforms such as International Synergies. We want to create more platforms and hubs to share products and materials.

11. What sorts of platforms do you think would be most useful in the future to enable people and business to share and reuse products and materials?

Maximise the value of materials locally

When products and materials are kept in use, it retains the maximum value of those materials and components, reducing the overall demand for material extraction to make new products. We can do this by increasing the repair and reuse sector, doing more with natural bio-based materials locally available as well as growing our reprocessing sector.

The European Commission established the 'right to repair' for consumers and similar regulations have been introduced for GB.

The 'right to repair' regulation requires manufacturers of household appliances such as dishwashers, washing and drying machines, refrigerators and televisions to ensure their products are repairable for at least ten years through providing repair manuals and making parts available.

12. What are the most effective tools that government could use to encourage and facilitate business and society to extend the life of products and services to keep materials and resources in use for longer?

Establish a Circular Economy funding programme

To unlock benefits at scale, we need to create economic incentives that enable Circular Economy solutions to succeed.

13. Which of the following interventions should be a priority focus for government funding?

Please put the following in order of priority.

(1= highest priority and 9 = lowest priority)

Research and development

Secondary material markets

Circular supply chains

Digitisation and technology

Job creation

Waste reduction

Carbon emissions reduction

Reuse and repair

Environmentally focused solutions

Further comments? Please enter response in box below

14. What funding instruments do you consider would be most appropriate in years 1-3?

Please put the following in order of priority.

(Ranking scale 1 = most preferred / 3 = least preferred)

Loans

Grants and subsidies

Blended finance (i.e. a mix of repayable and non-repayable finance)

15. Do you have any further comments to make on funding instruments that could be used to enable Circular Economy solutions to succeed?**Create a regulatory framework that enables circular solutions to become the norm**

Regulations, taxation and enforcement can further reduce waste and improve resource efficiency.

For example, the European Commission rules to establish the 'right to repair' for consumers. These regulations will affect the design, manufacturing and distribution of all applicable goods in Northern Ireland and will facilitate greater reuse and repair of such products.

16. Considering the EU right to repair regulation, what other regulatory tools do you consider government can use to stimulate greater circulation of materials?

Deliver a Skills programme to support a Just Transition

Unless we plan, anticipate and resource for the transition to a Circular Economy, skills shortages could derail long-term goals for circularity and jobs growth.

As we progress into the 4th Industrial Revolution, some jobs will be lost in traditional sectors and the demand for new skills will increase, for example the demand for diesel engineers will decrease while the demand for those skilled in electric vehicles will increase.

17. What three skills do you consider will be most critical to supporting the Circular Economy?

Skill 1

Skill 2

Skill 3

Future delivery

Delivery of Circular Economy Strategy

18. Do you consider that government should play a role in assisting the transition to greater circularity through a dedicated Circular Economy delivery body?

Yes

No

Don't Know

19. What do you think a Circular Economy delivery body should look like? e.g. government led or a public-private partnership.

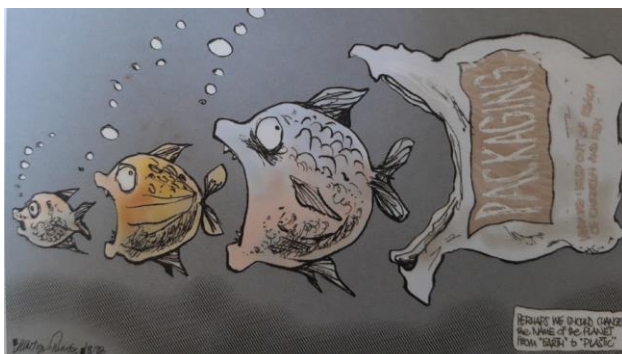
Please provide a rationale for your answer.

arc21 references in Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland Response Template

February 2023

- 1 [Coffey cites circular economy among Defra’s current priorities \(circularonline.co.uk\)](https://circularonline.co.uk)
- 2 https://www.linkedin.com/posts/helmut-maurer-prof-dr-jur-9a98a11b_330-illegale-deponien-in-deutschland-dar%C3%BCber-activity-7029018559225716736-L7Bf/?utm_source=share&utm_medium=member_android
- 3 <https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/search?q=buried>
- 4 https://www.endsreport.com/article/1812512/eco-chamber-podcast-trash-talk-acronym-overload-defras-sunset-clause-strife?utm_medium=EMAIL&utm_campaign=promotion&utm_source=20230208&utm_content=230208JY023&spMailingID=27853124&spUserID=NjlyNDc2MTIwNDA2S0&spJobID=2400488428&spReportId=MjQwMDQ4ODQyOAS2 (circa 23 mins)
- 5 [International Synergies NI | International Synergies NI \(international-synergiesni.com\)](https://international-synergiesni.com)
- 6 [Collaborative Growth Programme | Invest Northern Ireland \(investni.com\)](https://investni.com)
- 7 <https://www.energy.gov/lpo/inflation-reduction-act-2022>
- 8 [Green Deal Industrial Plan: EU pressed for clarity and swift delivery by Europe’s green economy - edie](https://www.edie.com)
- 9 [National Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Research \(NICER\) – UKRI](https://www.ukri.ac.uk)
- 10 [Report: Growing UK’s net-zero economy is a £70bn levelling up opportunity - edie](https://www.edie.com)
- 11 [MyWaste | Ireland’s Guide to Managing Waste | Recycling and Rubbish My Waste](https://www.mywaste.com)
- 12 [Freecycle: Belfast Group](https://www.freecycle.org)

13



14



- 15 [Britishvolt 'collapsed owing £120m' as UK car industry reports dismal year | Automotive industry | The Guardian](#)
- 16 [End of waste regulations | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs \(daera-ni.gov.uk\)](#)
- 17 [Digital DRS could offer 'significant' savings - letsrecycle.com](#)

APPENDIX 2

**arc21 Response
to the 2021 Call for Evidence
on a Circular Economy Strategic Framework (CESF)**

7 July 2021

In April 2021, Minister Dodds invited the chief executive of arc21 to be a part of the Northern Ireland Circular Economy Coalition (CEC), which represents a range of industries, sectors and interest groups, all of which will assist in transitioning to a Circular Economy. Participants of the CEC have been requested to respond to a Call for Evidence on a Circular Economy Strategic Framework (CESF) and it is his capacity as a Member of the CEC that the chief executive is responding.

Several councils have requested that the arc21 chief executive shares his submission with them to aid in their response to this call for evidence. The framework will prove a fundamental building block to inform emerging economic, environmental, and social policy development within Northern Ireland's Departments, raise awareness of what a Circular Economy is within the various sectors, and identify opportunities which may arise, or could be created, in Northern Ireland in general.

1 INTRODUCTION

By way of background, arc21 is a local government contracting organisation focused on procuring services for the waste and resources management operations of its six partner councils which are located along the east coast of Northern Ireland, covering 33% (approx.) of the region, 59% (approx.) of the population and accounting for 60% (approx.) of the Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) arisings.

arc21 and its functions have been defined in legislation, most recently The Local Government (Constituting a Joint Committee a Body Corporate) Order (NI) 2015. It is primarily responsible for activities associated with the production, development and implementation of a Waste Management Plan for the arc21 area.

The partner councils of arc21 are Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, Ards & North Down Borough Council, Belfast City Council, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, Mid & East Antrim Borough Council and Newry, Mourne & Down District Council.

The Circular Economy could have profound implications upon councils' waste activities and the chief executive of arc21 has drafted this response drawing on discussions and webinars with NILGA, NAWDO, CIWM and other public and private sector professional officers.

2 COMMENTS

I welcome this Call for Evidence to inform the development of a Circular Economy Strategic Framework (CESF) for Northern Ireland. My response is framed recognising the increasing urgency needed to address the unfolding climate crisis and that there is an increasing imperative for Governments to deliver upon their commitments to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of which mitigating climate change is critical. This has been recognised through the declaration of a climate emergency by the Northern Ireland Assembly in February, 2020. Delivery of a Circular Economy (CE) fits neatly within SDG12 – Sustainable Consumption & Production and the different approaches to managing materials and resources is increasingly being cited within UN literature¹, while increasing research is highlighting how cities and regions can apply this thinking to improve their performance.²

In terms specifically of the CE, the World Economic Forum (WEF) has recognised that the climate crisis cannot be mitigated without placing the CE at the heart of our societies.³ And this perspective is increasingly being overtly expressed by global non-governmental organisations and industry bodies, and many examples are now available.⁴⁵⁶⁷

Presently, in Europe ACR+ (Association of Cities & Regions for Sustainable Resource Management) have demonstrated the link between CE and climate mitigation and actions which local government can take – the circular economy is recognised as having a significant potential to mitigate the carbon impact of products by preventing waste generation, extending the lifetime of products, and closing the loops of materials.⁸

ACR+ shows that it is possible for European cities and regions to reduce their carbon footprint for several key sectors by implementing ambitious, yet feasible, circular economy initiatives. Current programmes aim to reduce carbon emissions linked with local resource management by 25% by 2025. The “*More circularity, less carbon*” campaign is taking into account the diversity of contexts, scope of actions and policy instruments across participating authorities.

In Northern Ireland, it is worth noting that at present waste management has a small impact on territorial carbon emission for Northern Ireland of only 4%. So, waste-centric approaches alone are likely to only have a limited impact on tackling the carbon footprint of material resources consumed locally. But it also highlights a fundamental truth about the transition needed from the linear economy to a circular one whereby materials consumed do not increase in value through the extraction, manufacturing, distribution and retail stages of the value chain until point of sale from which the same items then cascade through waste management activities to ultimate disposal. Increased circularity requires not producing items simply for discard (and the consequent reduction in pollution), increased longevity of products and finally, the management of these post-consumer in a way which minimises damage to the biosphere/ enhances

¹ <https://www.unido.org/our-focus-cross-cutting-services/circular-economy>

² <https://www.oecd.org/regional/cities/circular-economy-cities.htm>

³ <https://www.wbcsd.org/Overview/News-Insights/WBCSD-insights/Why-we-need-circularity-at-the-heart-of-climate-action>

⁴ <https://www.ellenmacarthurfoundation.org/news>

⁵ <https://www.climateaction.org/news/achieving-a-circular-economy-is-a-key-component-of-a-net-zero-carbon-future>

⁶ <https://www.accenture.com/gb-en/about/events/the-circular-economy-handbook>

⁷

<https://www.mckinsey.com/~media/McKinsey/Business%20Functions/Sustainability/Our%20Insights/McKinsey%20on%20Climate%20Change/McKinsey-on-Climate%20Change-Report.pdf>

⁸ <https://ec.europa.eu/environment/europeangreencapital/circular-economy-with-act/>

biodiversity. To achieve these objectives, far greater collaboration will be needed throughout the value chain to prevent/restrict leakage of product.

Delivering this approach will require a radical departure from the existing waste management models and, ultimately, may see the demise of the sector. But it needs recognised that, as with turning any tanker, changes of this magnitude across the whole of society (including the consumer) will take time (probably measurable in decades) and while this transition is occurring, appropriate facilities and infrastructure will be needed as central pillars in dealing with wastes. This point is often over-looked, downplayed or ignored and does not serve the changes needed at all well – indeed, this avoidance of the truth or ellipticism to the facts could undermine the whole agenda by allowing an over-simplification of the scale of the task at hand to prevail.

It's also worth highlighting that in a true circular economy, recycling is not one of the inner loops and indeed much of the literature here considers that the current approaches actually preserve the “*out-of-sight*” linear economy mindset to waste. Even within closed-loop recycling, there is an inevitable loss of utility, leakage of product and considerable economic and environmental cost for most materials. Nonetheless, such industry, and others are essential on the journey to a fully functioning circular economy where there is no waste.

Given the clear boundaries of sectors locally, and the relatively small contribution to climate emissions made by waste management in Northern Ireland, any CE strategies will therefore need to focus across the whole value chain and particularly on the production and consumption of materials as well as focusing on the reuse, recycling and recovery of relevant secondary materials which could help offset the use of virgin materials for manufacturing.

The central focus of the response to this Call for Evidence is that the CE, and resource efficiency thinking and approaches, should be framed within the context of the SDGs and in particular the key climate mitigation policy tools which will enable the delivery of net zero. Specifically, regarding developing a CESF, the Assembly has proposed a wide range of policies and strategies (i.e. Green Growth, the Climate Change Bill, emerging Energy Strategy, &c) all of which could or will benefit from explicitly incorporating relevant CE principles to spur new developments, and deliver attitude and culture change amongst consumers. In the process, this could improve Northern Ireland's resilience, with communities empowered to personally and collectively understand what facilities will be needed as we transition from a linear economy to a circular one, to take action to decarbonise, to make better informed choices and to minimise the amount of waste they produce. Ultimately, the Circular Economy Network and the CESF may consider it appropriate to push for the enactment of overarching legislation such as was introduced in Wales in 2015⁹ which provided the context within which resources, legislation and strategies could be developed and which has significantly contributed to this devolved administration becoming the third highest recycling country in the world (it also helped secure the ongoing investment which to date has amounted to over £1 Billion in new collection arrangements, facilities and infrastructure, and continues to be a primary driver in identifying the direction and priorities of the present waste strategy for Wales.¹⁰ This administration has also recognised that simply recycling ever-greater amounts of materials is not enough to deliver a CE and, as such has recently published a new strategy to affect even greater change on the journey to delivering a CE for the region.¹¹)

⁹ <https://www.futuregenerations.wales/about-us/future-generations-act/>

¹⁰ <https://gov.wales/towards-zero-waste-our-waste-strategy>

¹¹ <https://gov.wales/beyond-recycling-0>

This overarching approach becomes all the more relevant for Northern Ireland when consideration is given to the content of the recent Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) consultation. Introducing this legislation from 2023 onwards is likely to revolutionise waste and resources management but, if this concept is extended more widely to other materials and products placed on the marketplace (i.e. mattresses, furniture, &c) it could completely disrupt the current linear economy model. And taken collectively (bundled together under appropriate framework legislation?) with the various policy and legislative instruments outlined above provide the opportunity for a once in a lifetime paradigm shift in thinking and service operations as we strive to deliver our 2050 climate change actions.

I recognise that ultimately the CESF will be used to influence and inform policy and delivery across a range of Northern Ireland Departments and that its successful delivery is likely to require a range of new collaborations as Government and councils, the private sector, academia and others transition away from the existing silo-ed approach of the linear economy to develop new partnerships which seek to retain the inherent value in materials for as long as possible and improve the flow and recovery of materials through the economy. This will require an investment of time, resources and ultimately, will need new organisations and institutions to support and oversee this transition. And councils are ideally placed to contribute positively to this journey, being located at the crucial interface between the consumer and industry. There is a similar evolution of thinking and application occurring in the Republic of Ireland^{12,13} and, as waste has consistently been cited as a potential point of cross-border collaboration¹⁴, any consideration of increasing the scope of the CE should factor in this prospect/opportunity. I have confidence that arc21 and its constituent councils will be instrumental in contributing to the extent possible within their remit to this process to address these challenges and realise the opportunities.

3 ISSUES

As published, the Call for Evidence presents some difficulty for me – by focusing as it does on 4 x business sectors and 4 x material flows it limits the comments I can usefully make as my background has been primarily in local government and I have only limited experience or understanding of several of these. Notwithstanding, I will take this opportunity to reflect upon the key elements, and on some of the potential which I feel has yet to be realised. In this regard, councils have a number of statutory and other functions that could be used directly or in collaboration either with other principle organisations within their jurisdiction (anchor institutions), or neighbouring organisations to contribute to the development of a CE at a local level.

Councils have two fundamentally important areas of responsibility which directly impact upon development of the CE (i) Economic Development to encourage inward investment and local business start-ups, skills development and job creation to provide socio-economic benefits in their area and (ii) Waste & Resource Management (a statutory duty) to manage the planning, collection, treatment and disposal of the wastes arising from households, and other organisations which contract with the councils. There are several other ways in which councils can contribute to the development of the CE in their areas which I'll cover briefly below:

¹² <https://www.gov.ie/en/consultation/37078-public-consultation-on-the-proposed-publication-of-the-circular-economy-strategy/>

¹³ <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/7e05d-programme-for-government-our-shared-future/>

¹⁴ <https://www.northsouthministerialcouncil.org/areas-of-cooperation>

Obviously, councils have a role in “*place-shaping*”,¹⁵ a term coined in the [Lyons Inquiry](#) (2004-7) into the form, function and funding of [local government](#) in England. Lyons suggested local government should act as “*an agent of place*” by **Strategic Policy & Planning** – developing Community Plans, Corporate Plans and subsequent strategies and actions which would play a formative role in describing what they sought to achieve for their areas, when and how. There is considerable opportunity for councils to articulate their objectives to develop a CE for their area both at an organisational level (Corporate Plan) and through working with anchor institutions in their jurisdiction (Community Plan) – several have already drafted Corporate Plans outlining their intentions.¹⁶ The responsibility to engage formally with communities was enacted in Northern Ireland in 2015¹⁷ and underpins councils’ preparation of Local **Development Plans** (LDP) which set out how an area should look in the future by deciding the type and scale of development and where buildings should be allowed.¹⁸ By way of example, while in Belfast City Council, I worked closely with officers in the Planning Department to ensure that the need for future provision of waste, recycling and reprocessing facilities was included and zoned into the LDP with explicit reference to CE.¹⁹ This should provide the necessary locations where relevant infrastructure to support the CE could be sited and assist in speeding up decisions on planning applications if/when they are made.

Recognising that a CE provided a considerable opportunity for the city, working with WRAP I chaired a working group called “*Resourceful Belfast*” to consider how services could operationalise this objective. One of the key means of achieving this was for the Council to use **Procurement** of its capital and revenue budget to source products and services which supported circularity,²⁰ but mandate and authority were identified as limitations on using this further (I understand this is now being addressed). Another key area where the Council could drive the development of a CE was using **Economic Development** – the opportunity for councils has recently been presented in the publication “*The Role of Municipal Policy in the Circular Economy: Investment, Jobs & Social Capital in Circular Cities*”²¹ which explores the interface between councils adopting CE policies and organisations creating CE jobs. My experience was that it was difficult to secure time to engage across the Departments to develop a sufficient appreciation/ understanding of the opportunity or to identify how this could be realised. This was not unique and similar reports highlight that to introduce a CE, councils (municipalities) across Europe have typically used a number of regulatory, economic and other instruments.²²

The opportunity that CE affords councils locally is to create new jobs working in a variety of growing sectors, but the following issues will be crucial for councils to consider:
Policy & Planning: CE policy can influence investment decisions of CE organisations and create local jobs (for example, Smart Cities, pension fund investment, university R&D, clean-

¹⁵ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Place_shaping

¹⁶ <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/corporate-plan-2020-2024>

¹⁷ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2015/63/made>

¹⁸ <https://www.nidirect.gov.uk/articles/development-plans#toc-1>

¹⁹ https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/getmedia/473f71a1-e0d2-431a-971b-def39e550934/DPS001_DPS.pdf

²⁰ <https://minutes.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/g8657/Public%20reports%20pack%2004th-Dec-2018%2016.30%20People%20and%20Communities%20Committee.pdf?T=10> (pages 141-154)

²¹ <https://circulareconomy.europa.eu/platform/en/knowledge/role-municipal-policy-circular-economy-investment-jobs-and-social-capital>

²² <https://www.circle-economy.com/circular-jobs-initiative/news/municipal-policy-in-the-circular-economy>

tech/green-tech, &c). This will only increase with the institutional surge in interest in Environmental, Social & Governance (ESG) issues – and the increasing need for organisations to be able to demonstrate that this is a priority for their business.

Development Planning: Preparing LDPs which provide scope for “*traditional*” waste management infrastructure to be developed while an area transitions to a CE with appropriate facilities (and a rebooted supply chain).

Procurement: Using capital and revenue budgets to preferentially purchase products and services which support and promote the CE locally. This could disrupt existing supply chains but is likely to involve consideration of local renewable energy/food suppliers, better management of *internal* waste and resources management within councils (i.e. banning single use items), greater use of social value/sustainable development clauses within contracts. EPR could have a significant impact on the management of materials at the interface between sourcing and discarding...

Which brings me to **Waste & Resource Management**, these services typically represent the second largest budget and are frequently amongst the most valued council services. They are provided universally across a borough and the range of collection services to householders has grown significantly over the past decade and a half as the focus has shifted from “*hump & dump*” to increasing recycling. As the “*Blue Planet*” effect has increasingly resonated, there has been a commensurate welcome uplift in materials recycled over the years to the present circa 50%. The targets have been set for councils to achieve 65% by 2035, and this will require a balance of traditional waste management approaches while also working hard to increase engagement with consumers and householders, and develop new/enhance existing facilities. It must be noted that COVID has resulted in the recycling rates falling slightly. It should also be noted that another impact of the “*Blue Planet*” is an increasing focus on what happens to the recyclables which is identifying that much of it is exported and is thereafter mis-managed. Uncomfortable questions are increasingly being asked about the UK’s capacity to manage its own waste.²³ Finally, it should be noted that while much attention is paid to council-collected waste (a more mixed bag of materials than from other sectors), it makes up only slightly greater than 10% of the overall waste arising from an area – meaning there is a considerable amount/tonnage of other materials needing to be managed. This has direct bearing on Strategic Policy & Planning and LDP within an area, and for Northern Ireland as a whole. I have highlighted that I believe there to be an infrastructural deficit for dealing with several councils’ residual waste²⁴ but that doesn’t take into account management of these other wastes.

Councils are rightly focusing on how best to manage their budgets for waste management, while also delivering other parallel responsibilities which could align to deliver a CE for their area (as above). I consider that greater collective working between waste management and economic development teams could increase new CE start up opportunities – these should include:

- consideration of how operations at Household Recycling Centres could encourage greater segregation of materials (improved quality?),
- how waste services could use EPR funding to improve the quality of recyclate collected,
- how councils could engage encourage more/better with local remanufacturers,
- how can Invest NI/Industrial Symbiosis services be promoted to local businesses,
- how academic R&D around secondary materials could be supported,
- how could the concept of CE be normalised with their residents,

²³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-57680723>

²⁴ <https://www.circularonline.co.uk/news/report-northern-ireland-faces-potential-waste-crisis/>

- how best to support the local repair & refurbishment sector,
- how to share best practice/engage constructively with supply chains and how to ensure that, in a changing environment with the previous waste economics being reset in light of the Plastic Tax, Deposit Return Scheme, EPR and consistency of collections, councils continue to deliver services and ensure that there is appropriate infrastructure to reuse, recycle and recover their wastes.

This is not an exhaustive list, but it is indicative that the sector is on the cusp of a profound change and, as part of this process, other elements of the supply chain (e.g. producers, manufacturers, retailers) will be playing far greater attention to waste than previously as they consider ESG and how to move their own businesses onto a CE footing. This will provide a considerable opportunity for greater partnership-working between councils, and across the supply chains, to deliver value-for-money and improved materials management. This is an area which will be transformed as circularity increases.²⁵

4 BUSINESS SECTORS

The Call for Evidence requests comment on eight specific focus areas – 4 x business sectors and four x materials flows. I have provided information on as many of these as I feel competent to comment upon.

CONSTRUCTION & BUILT ENVIRONMENT

- 1 *Thinking about this focus area – can you provide any good examples of planned or delivered circular activities, innovations or solutions from Northern Ireland or elsewhere? If so, please provide details of where, when, the impact and any lessons learned?*

There is considerable scope for improvements to be made to increase recycling and reduce waste from this sector²⁶ and increased use of Building Information Modelling (BIM) holds much promise for the mid- and long-term management of assets and materials used in buildings²⁷ but, from a waste management perspective, the most obvious example would be the use of incinerator bottom ash as aggregate for road building purposes or as a substitute for other materials the manufacture of roads and cement building blocks.²⁸

- 2 *Thinking about this focus area - what are the current barriers to circularity or increased circularity in Northern Ireland?*

At present, there is a lack of accurate up-to-date data available on the types and amount of waste arising from this sector. As construction is a lead indicator in terms of economic performance, this sector is highly variable and systems have not been put in place to ensure that reliable information available on an on-going basis. This paucity of data risks undermining the development of greater circularity.

3. *Thinking about this focus area – What are the key opportunities to increase or encourage circularity?*

²⁵ <https://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/hsp/jscm/2021/00000003/00000003/art00003>

²⁶ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/highlights/improving-circular-economy-practices-in>

²⁷ [What Is BIM | Building Information Modeling | Autodesk](#)

²⁸ https://research.birmingham.ac.uk/portal/files/41963234/MIBA_as_Agg_in_Concrete_Const_and_Build_Mat_.pdf

See above, greater use of BIMs, targeted procurement of secondary materials (this sector already has the benefit of having adapted to the Aggregates Tax previously) and the better management and analysis of materials flows. There is also scope to explore with councils the provision of warehousing type arrangements for over-stock, recovered and surplus materials which could be supplied to the building trade at a discount.²⁹

4. *What interventions (e.g. programmes or policies) should be explored to overcome barriers and maximise opportunities? Please identify no more than three and provide a rationale for each.*
 1. Accurate on-going data/information gathering to permit regular material flow analyses to be conducted.
 2. Closer ties with academia to ensure that architects, designers, engineers, contractors (clients?) had a better understanding of new developments in materials science and how they could assist in reversing climate change and biodiversity loss.
 3. Amend the planning and building regulations to more clearly specify what will be needed to deliver (2) above

TOURISM

/

BIO-ECONOMY

- 1 *Thinking about this focus area – can you provide any good examples of planned or delivered circular activities, innovations or solutions from Northern Ireland or elsewhere? If so, please provide details of where, when, the impact and any lessons learned?*

Previously, I was involved in the Interreg NWE ReNEW project which considered how to valorise agricultural sludges and slurries prior to composting/anaerobic digestion. It sought to identify higher-value nutrients which could be extracted for use in the bio-economy.³⁰ Given the wealth of Northern Ireland's agri-food sector, its research institutions and academia and its size, there is considerable opportunity for partnerships to be developed to enhance CE in this sector.

Additional research in this area is being published on an on-going basis.³¹

- 2 *Thinking about this focus area - what are the current barriers to circularity or increased circularity in Northern Ireland?*

There is a lack of joined-up thinking around how to address issues like climate change, biodiversity loss, circular economy (see comments above regarding overarching legislative framework similar to the "Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act, 2015"), the absence of which inhibits developments and fosters "nimbyism".

²⁹ <https://www.ivl.se/download/18.4c0101451756082fbad9d/1603698664195/C547.pdf>

³⁰ <https://www.nweurope.eu/news-events/latest-news/renew-launches-its-action-plan/>

³¹ <https://www.eea.europa.eu/publications/circular-economy-and-bioeconomy>

This lack of strategic planning also restricts the creation of micro-generation and distributed energy production, such as associated with anaerobic digestion and other renewable energy sources, which limits prospects to decarbonise the grid.

There is a lack of positive support promoting alternative arrangements which also impedes developments.

3. *Thinking about this focus area – What are the key opportunities to increase or encourage circularity?*

An education programme needs developed to ensure that political and public understanding of what the CE could provide, and that this will not be achievable immediately but will need a realistic programme of work (investment, policy development, &c) during which transition technologies will be needed.

4. *What interventions (e.g. programmes or policies) should be explored to overcome barriers and maximise opportunities? Please identify no more than three and provide a rationale for each.*
 1. Any legislative or policy framework needs to more clearly articulate overtly the linkages between, for example, climate change and the circular economy, waste management and energy strategy.
 2. Once this legislation and/or policy landscape is created, there needs to be stronger political leadership to support the delivery of the stated objectives.
 3. Resources need to be aligned to ensure that what is outlined is delivered or, in its absence, that a viable alternative is achieved in its place. There may be funding accessible from the existing Catapult programme³² or new sources of finance may be created/available

ADVANCED MANUFACTURING

/

5 MATERIAL FLOWS

FOOD

- 1 *Thinking about this focus area – can you provide any good examples of planned or delivered circular activities, innovations or solutions from Northern Ireland or elsewhere? If so, please provide details of where, when, the impact and any lessons learned?*

The introduction of the Food Waste Regulations (NI) 2015³³ which made the collection of food waste from households mandatory increased councils recycling rates by several percentage points and demonstrated the benefits of providing simple, unambiguous public message.³⁴ This

³² <https://www.ukri.org/news/circular-economy-centres-to-drive-uk-to-a-sustainable-future/>

³³ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2015/14/contents/made>

³⁴ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/food-waste-northern-irelands-recycling-rate/>

increase in recycling rate diverted a highly methanogenic waste from landfill and provided a valuable feedstock for local industry from which they developed products.³⁵

2 *Thinking about this focus area - what are the current barriers to circularity or increased circularity in Northern Ireland?*

There is a risk of imbalances occurring in the supply and demand sides of food arising from Brexit and import/export uncertainties. This could increase the need for local food security and to ensure that an optimum a balance as possible is achieved between agri-food production, landscape restoration and climate change measures.

3. *Thinking about this focus area – What are the key opportunities to increase or encourage circularity?*

This could tie closely to *Bioeconomy* above, relating to the use of discarded foodstuffs for anaerobic digestion and biogas production.

4. *What interventions (e.g. programmes or policies) should be explored to overcome barriers and maximise opportunities? Please identify no more than three and provide a rationale for each.*

1. Any legislative or policy framework needs to more clearly articulate overtly the linkages between, for example, climate change and the circular economy, waste management and energy strategy.
2. Once this legislation and/or policy landscape is created, there needs to be stronger political leadership to support the delivery of the stated objectives.
3. Resources need to be aligned to ensure that what is outlined is delivered or, in its absence, that a viable alternative is achieved in its place. There may be funding accessible from the existing Catapult programme³⁶ or new sources of finance may be created/available

TEXTILES

1. *Thinking about this focus area – can you provide any good examples of planned or delivered circular activities, innovations or solutions from Northern Ireland or elsewhere? If so, please provide details of where, when, the impact and any lessons learned?*

Currently, following sortation, councils are heavily reliant on exporting textiles overseas for insulation or cleaning products (downcycling) or for resale in foreign markets. These markets were disrupted during COVID but have since been re-established, albeit the price per tonne is softer than it was previously. Concerns are growing about the climate and wider environmental impacts of fast fashion and the decline of quality/mix of hybrid materials which are likely to undermine further reuse options for these materials.

³⁵ <https://www.naturalworldproducts.com/>

³⁶ <https://www.ukri.org/news/circular-economy-centres-to-drive-uk-to-a-sustainable-future/>

There has been a growth in charity shops in recent years, and their retail offering has improved. There has also been a decline in the stigma that was previously expressed regarding purchasing items/clothing from these shops – much is being made of the Millennials' (those born between 1981-97) desire for a particular look or style without necessarily paying top price for the garment which is spurring this trend.

What the pandemic demonstrated though is that with global supply chains, there needs to be alternatives should a market be curtailed, or prices collapse. In this instance, Northern Ireland has limited infrastructure to deal with changing market conditions safe for indefinite storage, or landfill. This is not a robust or resilient position to be in.

Some steps are being taken to foster greater artisanal use of textiles, and there is scope for greater R&D for the reuse and remanufacturing of textile materials, but from a council perspective there is scope for increased partnership working across the supply chain to support this promise. Consideration has yet to be given as to how the separate collection of textiles by councils is likely to be delivered by 2025,³⁷ and there is a pervasive concern about criminality associated with textile bring banks and how this can effectively be policed.³⁸

2. *Thinking about this focus area - what are the current barriers to circularity or increased circularity in Northern Ireland?*

The heavy reliance on export for an end-destination for textiles, both from charity shops and textile banks is a weakness.

3. *Thinking about this focus area – What are the key opportunities to increase or encourage circularity?*

The primary focus should be on promoting the non-disposal of clothing³⁹. When a consumer is “tired” of a particular garment, they should be encouraged to gift⁴⁰, donate⁴¹ or sell⁴² the item. There is also the prospect of personally (or professionally) upcycling these items (and others) for wear or sale.⁴³ Ultimately though, the transition in clothing arising from COVID (a significant drop in the sales of “formal” wear, increased sales of lower quality casual clothing) will filter through to the textile market which will see a decline in resale value and markets and, combined with fast fashion, mean that alternative routes for the treatment and management of these products will be needed – especially in times of a glut.

There is a deeper issue here, connected with SDG12 regarding the rate of personal consumption and production. It's quoted that 95% of items purchased are discarded within six months and the quantum of this is a problem in terms of materials discarded and its carbon impact when these are aggregated together.⁴⁴ There is an opportunity for a partnership to be

³⁷

https://www.interregeurope.eu/fileadmin/user_upload/plp_uploads/policy_briefs/Separate_waste_collection_Policy_brief.pdf

³⁸ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/police-raid-waste-disposal-scheme-linked-new-ira/>

³⁹ <https://www.bbc.com/future/article/20200710-why-clothes-are-so-hard-to-recycle>

⁴⁰ <https://www.ilovefreegle.org/explore/BelfastUKFreegle>

⁴¹ <https://www.oxfamireland.org/oxfam-shops>

⁴² <https://www.facebook.com/groups/359589577445708/>

⁴³ <https://www.belfasttelegraph.co.uk/life/features/meet-the-creative-upcyclers-who-bring-new-life-to-old-fashion-items-40613230.html>

⁴⁴ <https://www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/press-release/true-size-scotlands-raw-material-consumption-footprint>

created to better promote and encourage reuse of garments, avoid fast fashion and warehouse items available in charity shops.⁴⁵

4. *What interventions (eg. programmes or policies) should be explored to overcome barriers and maximise opportunities? Please identify no more than three and provide a rationale for each.*
 1. Accurate on-going data/information gathering to better understand the amounts and quality of textiles being generated.
 2. Consider the end-destinations and alternatives in the case that these markets change and/or close.⁴⁶ Plugging the infrastructural deficit could help alleviate this situation short- to mid-term, while academic R&D could determine if there are options possible for the materials being produced.
 3. Behaviour and culture change trends to supplant fast fashion with reuse need to be supported by new partnerships, social media and websites to ensure that consumers can buy, swap and sell their garments (and other items) with increasing ease. New partnerships across the supply chain should be encouraged.

ELECTRICALS

1. *Thinking about this focus area – can you provide any good examples of planned or delivered circular activities, innovations or solutions from Northern Ireland or elsewhere? If so, please provide details of where, when, the impact and any lessons learned?*

Currently, councils deal with much of the electrical items using an EPR scheme which removes five categories from designated collection sites.

2. *Thinking about this focus area - what are the current barriers to circularity or increased circularity in Northern Ireland?*

Waste Electrical & Electronic Equipment (WEEE) is one of the fastest growing elements of the domestic waste stream, with the UK almost leading in terms of per capita production.⁴⁷ The UK however has missed its targets for the collection of these materials for several years now.⁴⁸ Given the valuable rare earth metals associated with WEEE, methods to increase their capture are being considered by DEFRA. The 2013 WEEE Regulations are likely to be refreshed in 2021/22 and may introduce a requirement for councils to introduce a separate collection service.

3. *Thinking about this focus area – What are the key opportunities to increase or encourage circularity?*

A greater amount of WEEE needs to be captured, more often and, following the introduction of “right to repair”⁴⁹ – this needs more widely publicised. It needs to be demonstrated to

⁴⁵ <https://www.mywaste.ie/>

⁴⁶ <https://www.songhaiadvisory.com/blog/2020/6/12/whats-the-future-for-africas-textile-sector-under-afcfta>

⁴⁷ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/uk-the-second-largest-producer-of-weee/>

⁴⁸ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/increasing-small-mixed-weee-collection-key-defra-says/>

⁴⁹ <https://www.edie.net/news/11/UK-s--right-to-repair--laws-come-into-force--in-bid-to-cut-electrical-waste/>

consumers that upgradability is possible,⁵⁰ and that second-hand is not necessarily second best⁵¹.

4. *What interventions (eg. programmes or policies) should be explored to overcome barriers and maximise opportunities? Please identify no more than three and provide a rationale for each.*
 1. Accurate on-going data/information gathering to better understand the amounts and quality of WEEE being generated. (The eDoc system is being withdrawn this year⁵² which makes the issue of data capture and analysis all the more relevant – this applies beyond WEEE).
 2. Greater promotion of options for how to deal with electricals (WEEE) is needed within which reuse and recycling need to be framed. This campaign should reference SDG12 and seek to counter consumer expectations that every item had to be the latest model. This will be a difficult task⁵³ and will involve many parts of the value chain (including designers⁵⁴ which have been late coming to many aspect of this discussion) – the inter-relatedness of biodiversity loss, “*Blue Planet*”, climate change, CE are all relevant here. Given the scale, reach and aspiration of such a campaign, this should be delivered as a partnership across several sectors (including Government) with consistent messaging, branding and budget which would run for a number of years.
 3. Investment in collection (separate collection from households?) and recovery facilities is urgently needed to recover the rare metals within electrical items. Such facilities do not exist in a vacuum and additional facilities will be needed to treat and dispose of those materials which do not retain the same value as these metals (e.g. waste motherboards, plastic casing, ceramic screens, &c). These types of facilities will need to be considered in the context of LDPs and, given some may be handling hazardous materials or “*controversial*” technologies, may require difficult political decisions to be made. These cannot be deferred.

PACKAGING - PLASTICS, PAPER, CARDBOARD, GLASS

1. *Thinking about this focus area – can you provide any good examples of planned or delivered circular activities, innovations or solutions from Northern Ireland or elsewhere? If so, please provide details of where, when, the impact and any lessons learned?*

Currently, councils deal with most packaging materials through their waste collection services. Following over a decade of investment, there are now comprehensive collection services available to every household in Northern Ireland (in some cases (e.g. apartments), these are individually tailored⁵⁶).

⁵⁰ <https://www.fairphone.com/en/>

⁵¹ <https://www.ebay.co.uk/itm/133807760775?hash=item1f27906587:g:bX0AAOSwTl1g4Gnt>

⁵² <https://www.mrw.co.uk/news/defra-new-waste-tracking-system-not-ready-for-edoc-closure-28-05-2021/>

⁵³ https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Status_Anxiety

⁵⁴ <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Affluenza>

⁵⁵ <https://www.thersa.org/blog/2021/03/design-for-living-change>

⁵⁶ <https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/building-control/waste-storage-guidelines#414-2>

Recent consultations however will introduce a systemic change in these arrangements with additional materials being expected to be collected in 2027⁵⁷, while much of the present materials may be redirected through proposals to introduce a financial refund direct to consumers.⁵⁸

Packaging from other sectors does not fall within councils' remit, but it is likely to be considerable and may be of high quality (e.g. clinical packaging, commercial/industrial, construction, agricultural, &c). This has been managed previously under the Packaging Recovery Note (PRN)/Packaging Export Recovery Note (PERN) system⁵⁹ but has come in for much criticism in recent years for incorrectly apportioning costs, and allowing for transgressions in treatment operations in other countries. As stated above, given the changing dynamics of the international marketplace to accept some of these materials however, the UK needs to consider what its infrastructural requirements are for these multiple waste streams – especially if it is going to achieve net zero by 2050 and meet the requirement for a CE.

2. *Thinking about this focus area - what are the current barriers to circularity or increased circularity in Northern Ireland?*

Similar to WEEE, packaging is a fast growing element of the domestic waste stream, with the UK almost leading in terms of per capita production.⁶⁰ Performance against targets has held up well, despite COVID.⁶¹ As I sit on the DEFRA Advisory Committee on Packaging (ACP), I am aware that there is considerable focus being given to how to improve the recoverability of packaging but, in my view, there are several key issues that need to be done –

- Use the scope for “*modulated fees*” within EPR scheme to encourage a switch from hybrid materials to those which can be more easily recovered
- Consider banning materials from the packaging value chain which are considered to be toxic or hazardous (some of the inks used in the print industry fall into this category)
- Consider restricting the placement of certain materials on the market due to difficulties in recycling these materials⁶² (this could tie into some plastic producers ESG commitments)
- Promote greater closed loop recycling – similar issues likely to arise regarding the development of facilities as per WEEE (3)
- Ensure that increased training regarding the CE is provided in academia and that students/practitioners test all packaging design briefs for reusability/recoverability/recyclability⁶³
- Cost packaging on a price/tonne basis – this may highlight that the proposed “*modulated fees*” are not yet sufficient to spur changes in production or use but, allied to EPR – this should dramatically change behaviour and use of certain materials

⁵⁷ https://consult.defra.gov.uk/extended-producer-responsibility/extended-producer-responsibility-for-packaging/supporting_documents/23.03.21%20EPR%20Consultation.pdf

⁵⁸ <https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/introduction-of-a-deposit-return-scheme-in-england-wales-and-northern-ireland>

⁵⁹ https://www.recycle-pak.co.uk/PRNs_Explained.htm

⁶⁰ [https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/united-kingdom-packaging-market#:~:text=The%20United%20Kingdom%20Packaging%20Market%20is%20expected%20to%20register%20a,period%20\(2021%20%2D2026\).&text=Major%20industries%2C%20such%20as%20food,to%20the%20COVID%2D19%20outbreak.](https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/united-kingdom-packaging-market#:~:text=The%20United%20Kingdom%20Packaging%20Market%20is%20expected%20to%20register%20a,period%20(2021%20%2D2026).&text=Major%20industries%2C%20such%20as%20food,to%20the%20COVID%2D19%20outbreak.)

⁶¹ <https://www.letsrecycle.com/news/latest-news/packaging-data-for-2020-a-credit-to-sector/>

⁶² <https://www.recyclenow.com/what-to-do-with/polystyrene-1>

⁶³ <https://www.cafre.ac.uk/business-courses/level-5-diploma-in-packaging-technology/>

3. *Thinking about this focus area – What are the key opportunities to increase or encourage circularity?*

See above.

4. *What interventions (eg. programmes or policies) should be explored to overcome barriers and maximise opportunities? Please identify no more than three and provide a rationale for each.*
 1. Accurate on-going data/information gathering to better understand the amounts and quality of packaging being generated – this needs considered in the context particularly of the packaging value chain given that EPR will be apportioning full cost recovery for councils for the various packaging materials collected.
 2. Consider the end-destinations and alternatives in the case that these markets change and/or close (this is particularly relevant given the negative press received regarding UK packaging materials being wrongly classified/sent for inappropriate treatment/discarded in overseas markets). Plugging the infrastructural deficit locally could help alleviate this situation short- to mid-term, while academic R&D could determine if there are options possible for the materials being produced.
 4. Investment in facilities is needed to recycle and recover the various packaging streams. Such facilities do not exist in a vacuum and additional facilities will be needed to treat and dispose of those materials which are not valuable even for down-cycling, which are contaminants to the recycling process, which have reached the end of their recycling life. These types of facilities will need to be considered in the context of LDPs and, given the amount of materials arising some may require “*controversial*” technologies for treatment and disposal which may require difficult political decisions. These cannot be deferred.



Environmental Services Committee

Confidential

5th April 2023

Confidential Report from:

Acting Director of Environmental Services

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when
report will
become available

Redacted
report
available

Never

Item for Noting

TITLE: **Item 6.6 Collection, Recycling and/or Recovery of Mattresses from Council Household Recycling Centres**

Background and Key Issues:

1. This report for Members' noting, is the outcome of a Single Tender Action (STA22/23-070) for the Collection, Recycling and/or Recovery of Mattresses from Council Household Recycling Centres. The contract is for the provision of a service for the collection, transportation, recycling and/or recovery of mattresses from the Council's Household Recycling Centres at The Cutts, Drumlough and Carryduff by an external contractor.

Members are asked to note the award of the tender to Ulster Support Employment Limited (USEL) from 01/04/2023 to 30/09/2023 (six months).

2. Council/Departmental objectives/need being addressed:

Council objective and needs being addressed as set out in the Council’s Interim Corporate Plan 2021/24 - Theme 4, Where We Live, Delivering a programme of environmental improvements across our DEAs and Theme 5, Our Community (i) the aim of reaching a firm conclusion on the preferred kerbside and associated waste models to reduce reliance on landfill.

- 3. Estimated total value of the tender for six months is [REDACTED].
- 4. The tender exercise was undertaken to ensure continuity of service provision and in consultation with the Council’s Procurement Section to ensure compliance with internal governance and Procurement Regulations.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members note the award of the tender for the Collection, Recycling and/or Recovery of Mattresses from Council Household Recycling Centres to USEL.

Finance and Resource Implications:

The cost of this contract is provided within the 2023 – 2024 revenue estimates.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? Yes

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?:

Option 1		Option 2		Option 3	
Screen out without mitigation	Yes	Screen out with mitigation	No	Screen in for a full EQIA	No

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

We have concluded that the proposed purchase of these supplies will have no direct impact on equality or good relations so a more detailed assessment is not necessary. All steps are already in place to ensure equality of opportunity in the procurement process.

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?

No

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?

No

If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

N/A

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

None.

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date:



Environmental Services Committee

Confidential

5th April 2023

Confidential Report from:

Acting Director of Environmental Services

Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014

Schedule 6 - Access to Information: Exemption Information

Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

When will the report become unrestricted:

Specify when
report will
become available

Redacted
report
available

Never

Item for Noting

TITLE: **Item 6.7 Haulage of Residual and Green waste from Council Household Recycling Centres**

Background and Key Issues:

1. This report for Members' noting, is the outcome of a Single Tender Action (STA22/23-071) for the Haulage of Residual and Green waste from Council Household Recycling Centres. The contract is for the provision of a service by an external contractor for the haulage of hook lift containers filled with residual and green waste from the Council's Household Recycling Centres at The Cutts, Drumlough and Carryduff to a designated disposal facility.

Members are asked to note the award of the tender to R&M Greenkeepers from 01/04/2023 to 30/09/2023 (six months).

2. Council/Departmental objectives/need being addressed:

Council objective and needs being addressed as set out in the Council’s Interim Corporate Plan 2021/24 - Theme 4, Where We Live, Delivering a programme of environmental improvements across our DEAs and Theme 5, Our Community (i) the aim of reaching a firm conclusion on the preferred kerbside and associated waste models to reduce reliance on landfill.

- 3. Estimated total value of the tender for six months will be [REDACTED].
- 4. The tender exercise was undertaken to ensure continuity of service provision and in consultation with the Council’s Procurement Section to ensure compliance with internal governance and Procurement Regulations.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that Members note the award of the tender for the Haulage of Residual and Green waste from Council Household Recycling Centres to R&M Greenkeepers.

Finance and Resource Implications:

The cost of this contract is provided within the 2023 – 2024 revenue estimates.

Screening and Impact Assessment

1. Equality and Good Relations

Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out on the proposal/project/policy? Yes

If no, please provide explanation/rationale

If yes, what was the outcome?

Option 1 Screen out without mitigation	Yes	Option 2 Screen out with mitigation	No	Option 3 Screen in for a full EQIA	No
--	-----	---	----	--	----

Rationale for outcome/decision (give a brief explanation of any issues identified including mitigation and/or plans for full EQIA or further consultation)

We have concluded that the proposed purchase of these supplies will have no direct impact on equality or good relations so a more detailed assessment is not necessary. All steps are already in place to ensure equality of opportunity in the procurement process.

Insert link to completed Equality and Good Relations report:

2. Rural Needs Impact Assessment:

Has consideration been given to Rural Needs?

No

Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) template been completed?

No

If no, please give explanation/rationale for why it was not considered necessary:

N/A

If yes, give brief summary of the key rural issues identified, any proposed actions to address or mitigate and include the link to the completed RNIA template:

SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

APPENDICES:

None.

HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?

No

If Yes, please insert date: