

January 28th, 2025

Notice Of Meeting

You are requested to attend the Sustainability & Environment Committee meeting to be held on Wednesday, 29th January 2025 at 6:00 pm in Council Chamber, O'Hagan House, Monaghan Row.

Committee Membership 2024-2025

Councillor G Kearns **Chairperson**

Councillor C Enright **Deputy Chairperson**

Councillor T Andrews

Councillor J Brennan

Councillor P Campbell

Councillor K Feehan

Councillor D Finn

Councillor V Harte

Councillor J Jackson

Councillor M Larkin

Councillor O Magennis

Councillor H Reilly

Councillor M Ruane

Councillor D Taylor

Councillor H Young

Agenda

1.0 Apologies and Chairperson's Remarks

2.0 Declarations of Interest

3.0 Action Sheet arising from Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on 18 December 2024

[Action Sheet - 18.12.2024 inc. historic actions updated.pdf](#)

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Environment

4.0 Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

For Decision

[The Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations \(Northern Ireland\) 2024 report.pdf](#)

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Items deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014

5.0 Business Case - Cameras in Council Vehicles

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Appendix 2 to follow

[SE Report - Business Case - cameras in vehicles 29.01.25.pdf](#)

Not included

6.0 Business Case - Energy Contracts

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

[SE Committee Report - Energy Contracts 2025.26.pdf](#)

Not included

7.0 Feminine Hygiene Corporate Contract

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 **SE Committee Report - Feminine Hygiene Corporate Contract 29.01.25.pdf**

Not included

8.0 Residual Waste Contracts

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Report to follow

9.0 Waste Contract Extensions

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Report to follow

9.1 Mixed Dry Recyclables Contract

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 **SE Committee - Extension of Mixed Dry Recyclables Contracts - 29.01.25.pdf**

Not included

9.2 Direct Award Contracts

For Decision

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 **SE Committee Report - DAC Approval - Waste Management - 29th January 25.pdf**

Not included

10.0 Tree Surgery Update

For Information

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

📄 *SE Committee Report Tree Work.pdf*

Not included

11.0 Business Case - Contract for Asbestos Control Measures

This item is deemed to be exempt under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 - information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Report to follow

For Noting

12.0 Landlord Registration Scheme

For Decision

📄 *SE Committee Report Landlord registration scheme 29.01.25.pdf*

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Invitees

Cllr Terry Andrews
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Cllr Callum Bowsie
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Fionnuala Branagh
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Cllr Jim Brennan
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Lorraine/Emma Burns/McParland
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Cllr Pete Byrne
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Mr Gerard Byrne
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Cllr Philip Campbell
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Cllr William Clarke
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Cllr Laura Devlin
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Ms Louise Dillon
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Cllr Cadogan Enright
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Cllr Killian Feehan
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Cllr Doire Finn
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Cllr Aoife Finnegan
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Ms Joanne Fleming
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Cllr Conor Galbraith
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Cllr Mark Gibbons
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Cllr Oonagh Hanlon
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Cllr Glyn Hanna
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Cllr Valerie Harte
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Cllr Roisin Howell
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Cllr Tierna Howie
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Ms Catherine Hughes
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Cllr Jonathan Jackson
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Cllr Geraldine Kearns
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Miss Veronica Keegan
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Mrs Josephine Kelly
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Mrs Sheila Kieran
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Cllr Cathal King
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Cllr Mickey Larkin
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Cllr David Lee-Surginor
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Cllr Alan Lewis
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Cllr Oonagh Magennis
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Mr Conor Mallon
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Cllr Aidan Mathers
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Cllr Declan McAteer
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Cllr Leeanne McEvoy
.....
Cllr Andrew McMurray
.....
Maureen/Joanne Morgan/Johnston
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Cllr Declan Murphy
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Sinead Murphy
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Cllr Kate Murphy
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Cllr Selina Murphy
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Cllr Siobhan O'Hare
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Mr Andy Patterson
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Cllr Áine Quinn
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Cllr Henry Reilly
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Cllr Michael Rice
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Cllr Michael Ruane
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Mr Conor Sage
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Cllr Gareth Sharvin
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Donna Starkey
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Nicola Stranney
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Sarah Taggart
.....
Cllr David Taylor
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Cllr Jarlath Tinnelly
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Ms Sinead Trainor
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Cllr Jill Truesdale
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Mrs Marie Ward
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Cllr Helena Young
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SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT SERVICES COMMITTEE**HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 26 JANUARY 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/004/2022	Trade Waste and Caravan Refuse Collection Services	<p>Agreed to approve the report and recommendations:-</p> <p>1. Alternate Weekly Commercial Waste Collection Service</p> <p>Commercial refuse customers (shops and businesses) to be contacted and advised of the proposed move to an alternate weekly collection cycle of residual and dry recyclable waste, where this is achievable.</p> <p>Commercial customers, (not including Caravan Operators) to be provided with appropriate bins to facilitate this change, so there is no cost burden to customers as a result of this change.</p>	S Trainor	In progress	N

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 21 APRIL 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/052/2022	Compost Week 2022	<p>Note and approve the additional activities in 2.2 to highlight and promote the importance of recycling food waste.</p> <p>Note and approve the launch of an application process, with set criteria, to establish demand for deploying brown bins to residents of high rise buildings who were not previously provided with these.</p>	S Trainor	In progress	N
NS/057/2022	Various issues concerning the Events Space Kilkeel	Approve the Officers recommendation that the legal position of the Council regarding its maintenance of the events space, Kilkeel, is reviewed with a separate report to be provided to the Council once this has been considered further.	C Sage	In progress	N

NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING 22 JUNE 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
NS/091/2022	Enforcement Improvement Plan Update	Agreed to note the content of this update report and to agree review of key actions from the Enforcement Improvement Plan to be incorporated into a timebound programme of work for 2022/23 and annually thereafter. Test case footpaths – small footpath leading to WIN – officers to examine this area for dog fouling.	S Trainor	In progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 OCTOBER 2022					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/143/2022	Notice of Motion – revenue from EV Charging Infrastructure	Agreed to endorse the recommendation made at the Strategic Finance Working Group Meeting of 16 June 2022 as set out in Section 2.2 of the report and that officers consider the most appropriate way forward in relation to identifying appropriate spaces that may be suitable for the proposal as outlined in the Notice of Motion	C Sage	Contract now awarded for ORCs project. Currently agreeing preferred location for EV charging spaces.	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 17 OCTOBER 2023					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/105/2023	Notice of Motion – Clean Indoor Air	It was agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion subject to including that before proceeding with any works, that officers obtain costings for air filtration systems in Downshire Civic Centre and the new civic centre in Newry and report same back to the Sustainable and Environment Committee for consideration in due course.	C Sage	The central ventilation system in Downshire Civic centre includes the appropriate levels of filtration. Designs for Newry Civic centre ventilation systems include the required filtration. Consider information sharing on the importance if ventilating internal occupied spaces.	N
SE/107/2023	Notice of Motion – Animal Welfare	It was agreed to remove the final sentence of the notice of motion. It was agreed to defer a decision on the Notice of Motion until the outcome of the legal process was known.	S Trainor	On hold pending legal process	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 NOVEMBER 2023					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/125/2023	Report on Notice of Motion in relation to Livestock worrying	It was agreed that a meeting be organised with relevant partners to discuss a way forward to produce a publicity campaign highlighting the importance of ensuring dogs are kept under control in the Mourne Mountains.	S Trainor	In Progress	N
SE/128/2023	Upgrade to Town Centre CCTV and Council Facilities CCTV	It was agreed that members note the content of the report, and a business case be developed and brought to the committee with a number of options for a way forward for the proposed development of a new suite of digital CCTV systems for the Council's facilities.	C Sage	Update provided on Town Centre CCTV at September S&E Committee Capital project proposals completed, awaiting outcome.	N
SE/141/2023	Sustainable Food Places Bridging the Gap Funding Application	It was agreed to note the recent support for the "Bridging the Gap" funding application. Committee would be advised on the outcome of the application at the earliest opportunity.	C Sage	Council was unsuccessful in application for this funding,	Y

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 24 JANUARY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/004/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Defences	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Further investigate the possibility of a Shared Island application to assist with flood defences - Write to DFI Rivers and request a river maintenance schedule. 	S Murphy	In Progress	N
SE/005/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Flood Preparedness	The following was agreed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Liaise with local DEA forums to discuss and plan the set-up of Community Resilience Groups - Investigate the facilitation of sandbag availability and management through these Community Resilience Groups - Look into sharing information the website from the Regional Community Resilience Group 	S Murphy	Complete In Progress In Progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 FEBRUARY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/018/2024	Report on Notice of Motion – Climate Change	<p>It was agreed that this Council acknowledges the work done to date to help address the climate emergency; reaffirms previous motions regarding the degenerating global situation; and again, reiterates that the crisis is the biggest threat posed to our constituents, our district, and our planet.</p> <p>Further acknowledges, however, that recent data collated by Climate Emergency UK ranks NMDDC 8th out of the 11 Councils within NI; and thus, pledges to include ambitious targets in the forthcoming Sustainability and Climate Strategies and Action Plans to expedite implementation.</p> <p>It was also agreed that a benchmark report would be brought back to Committee regarding Council actions and progress to mitigating climate change impact.</p>	C Sage	In progress	N
					N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 MARCH 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/036/2024	Former landfill site review – Aughnagun and Drumanakelly	<p>It was agreed that officers develop a Business Case for the installation of Solar Panels at the former landfill site Aughnagun for further consideration.</p> <p>It was agreed that Council further explore the benefits of installing reed beds at both sites in order to make the sites self-sustaining in terms of the management of the leachate generated on site.</p>	<p>S Murphy</p> <p>S Murphy</p>	In Progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 23 APRIL 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/046/2024	Notice of Motion – Newry Market	<p>Officers continue their commitment to revitalise the market through engagement with traders, the business community and other potential stakeholders.</p> <p>It was also agreed that Officers reach out to other local councils with successful markets and explore additional uses to encourage footfall, including with arts and community groups</p>	<p>C Sage</p> <p>C Sage</p> <p>C Sage</p>	<p>A focussed social media campaign has been completed.</p> <p>Council Officers met with Belfast City Council colleagues to review St George's market.</p>	N

		It was further agreed that a report be brought back to committee in 6 months to provide detail of any progress made.			
SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 22 MAY 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/058/2024	Report on Treatment of Invasive Species on Council Estate	it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the use of herbicides containing glyphosate for controlling invasive species at Albert Basin outside of the current allocation for normal weed control and the development of an Invasive Species Management Plan for the Council Estate.	C Sage	In Progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 19 JUNE 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/079/2024	Business case for EV Charging infrastructure	It was agreed to approve the business case recommendation for the installation of 2 double electric chargers at each site as detailed within the officer's report.	C Sage	Procurement exercise underway	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 21 AUGUST 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/091/2024	Notice of Motion – Dog Fouling	<p>it was agreed to note the report and approve the following: The development of an online reporting form for Residents and Elected Members to report dog fouling issues to the Council while exploring alternative digital options for reporting dog fouling and other complaints to the department; and</p> <p>A mapping exercise to be undertaken by Officers of identified hotspots or problem areas against litter bin provision data to determine if additional litter bins can be provided to assist with the disposal of dog fouling.</p>	S Trainor	In progress	N
SE/093/2024	Proposed Installation of Height Restricting Barriers at Council Car Parks	it was agreed to approve the proposal to reinstate height restricting barriers at the Square, Warrenpoint and installation of temporary height restricting barriers at Castle Park, Newcastle for the duration of the Amgen Irish Open.	C Sage	Installation of barriers completed at Newcastle. Design completed for barrier at Warrenpoint. Instruction has been issued to the contractor.	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 23 OCTOBER 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/124/2024	Public Convenience Project – Dundrum Toilets	<p>it was agreed to approve the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council proceeds with the refurbishment of the Dundrum Public Conveniences using the funding available through UKSPF • The contract variation to include the refurbishment of the Dundrum Public Conveniences • The procurement of the refurbishment of the Dundrum Public Conveniences in line with recommendations of the Business Case in Appendix 1 • Any additional costs required beyond the allocated funding for the project should be sourced from the Newcastle Public Convenience Capital budget 	C Sage	Contract variations completed and instructions issued for the new facility at Dundrum. Works to be completed in March 25.	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 20 NOVEMBER 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/133/2024	Action Sheet item: NS/091/2022	it was agreed to submit a league table of other Councils' enforcement practices to the Strategic Finance Working Group	S Murphy	To refer through SFWG	N
SE/137/2024	Business Case for the Removal of Newcastle Sandbar	it was agreed to note the contents of the report and associated business case and to approve the preferred option of the business case, to progress a tender for the sand bar removal at Newcastle Harbour for a 3-year period from 2025 – 2027 in accordance with the Marine Construction License	C Sage	Marine license application has been made to DAERA. Procurement for new contract in progress.	N
SE/138/2024	Repair of Corry's Corner, Drumanness Bus Shelter and Adoption by Translink	it was agreed to adopt the bus shelter at Corry's Corner, and to consider future proposals from Translink regarding the adoption of bus shelters	C Sage	In progress	N
SE/139/2024	Business Case for Deep Cleaning Services	it was agreed to commence the procurement of contract for the provision of deep cleaning of public realm and other areas within the district for a period of up to three years	S Trainor	In progress	N

SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 18 DECEMBER 2024					
Minute Ref	Subject	Decision	Lead Officer	Actions taken/ Progress to date	Remove from Action Sheet Y/N
SE/149/2024	Action sheet of meeting held 20 November 2024	It was agreed to note the action sheet	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/150/2024	NOM – Vaping	it was agreed that the Council recognised the 2024 Northern Ireland Audit Office report on tackling the public health impacts of smoking and vaping that showed an increase in 11-16 year olds vaping; that Council is concerned that children vaping in schools is detrimental to a child's health and educational outcomes; agrees that greater awareness must be raised with children in schools about the risks of vaping; acknowledges that teachers and school staff must have the support and resources they require to raise awareness and inform children on the risks of vaping; agree to write to both the Minister of Education and Health urging them to bring forward a plan to end vaping in school grounds, to reduce the number of young people vaping and to eradicate the sale of vapes to children. It was also agreed to write to all Councils in	S Murphy	In progress	N

		the North asking them for support in tackling this issue.			
SE/151/2024	NOM – Newry Canal	it was agreed to request support from support from Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council to write to the Minister for Infrastructure and the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs for the urgent establishment of a multi- agency Newry Canal regeneration taskforce to work in partnership to deliver on the potential of inland waterways across both Council areas.	S Murphy	In progress	N
SE/152/2024	Draft biodiversity strategy and associated action plan following public consultation	it was agreed to approve the final draft of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/153/2024	Amended Warrenpoint and Newcastle public convenience opening times	It was agreed to adjust the closing times of the toilet facilities at Newcastle and Warrenpoint. It was also agreed to install visible signage to update members of the public as to the opening times of the toilet facilities.	C Sage	Complete	Y
SE/154/2024	Business case for arboricultural assessment and tree surgery	it was agreed to note the contents of the report and approve the business case to progress with a tender for two separate contractors as detailed within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/155/2024	Business case for mechanical building services contract	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/156/2024	Personal Protective Equipment	it was agreed to approve the recommendation to proceed with option 5 as detailed within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N

SE/157/2024	LANTRA national highway sector scheme training business case	it was agreed to approve the business case to procure a suitably qualified trainer to deliver essential LANTRA National Highway Sector Scheme Training for staff within the Sustainable and Environment Directorate	S Trainor	Procurement in progress	N
SE/158/2024	Business case for replacement of skips and containers at HRCs	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	S Trainor	Procurement in progress	N
SE/159/2024	Economic appraisal – liquid fuel requirements	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement in progress	N
SE/160/2024	Harbour Surveys	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	C Sage	Procurement options being reviewed	N
SE/161/2024	Waste Contracts	It was agreed to approve the recommendations within the officer's report	S Trainor	Completed	Y
SE/162/2024	Cleansing & Refuse Task Group Action Sheet – 20 November 2024	it was agreed to note the report from the Cleansing and Refuse Task Force Meeting held on 20 November 2024	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/163/2024	ARC21 joint committee in committee members bulletin of 3 Dec 24 and in committee minutes of 31 Oct 24	It was agreed to note the minutes	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/164/2024	ARC21 joint committee minutes of 31 Oct 24	It was agreed to note the minutes	S Murphy	Noted	Y
SE/165/2024	Letter from the DoH re Policy Proposals Public Health Bill	It was agreed to note the letter	S Murphy	Noted	Y

Report to:	Sustainability & Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 January 2025
Subject:	The Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024
Reporting Officer	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer	James Campbell, Head of Environmental Health

<table border="1"> <tr> <td>For decision</td> <td>X</td> <td>For noting only</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>		For decision	X	For noting only	
For decision	X	For noting only			
1.0	Purpose and Background				
1.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to update the Sustainability and Environment Committee of the Electrical Safety Standards under the Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 which were made on 27th November 2024.</p> <p>Committee had previously been informed of this legislation in a Report brought in February 2024 and a decision is now required on the level of fixed penalty.</p>				
2.0	Key issues				
2.1	<p>The intent of these Regulations is to reduce the risk of injury or death, caused by an electrical fault within private rental properties.</p> <p>The deadlines for compliance are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - New tenancies must be compliant from 1 April 2025 - Existing tenancies must be compliant by 1 December 2025 or the date the first electrical inspection and testing is carried out. <p>The Regulations introduce electrical safety standards for private rental properties and a landlord must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure a rental property has its hardwired electrical installation inspected and tested by a qualified electrician every five years, or less if the most recent report specifies a shorter timeframe. - Following the inspection obtain a report from the qualified electrician confirming whether the property has met the industry standard and passed, or if the report identifies a fault take remedial action within the required timescale. - Retain a copy of this report until the next inspection and test is due. - Provide a copy of the report to the tenant within 28 days of receipt and to the council within 7 days on request. 				
2.2	<p>Having a five-yearly inspection of a private rented property’s hardwired electrical installation will benefit both landlords and tenants as it will identify and allow corrective action to be taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - if any part of the electrical installation is overloaded. - there are any potential electric shock risks and fire hazards. - there is any defective electrical work, or 				

	<p>- if there is a lack of earthing or bonding which are the two mechanisms built into electrical installations to prevent electrical shocks. Once the compliance dates for new tenancies and existing tenancies have been reached, it will be a prosecutable offence for landlords not to comply with these standards.</p>
2.3	<p>Enforcement of these regulations will be via the option of the fixed penalty process, with a maximum penalty of £1000 (set by the Council) or a maximum level 5 fine (£5000) imposed by the courts upon conviction.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
3.1	<p>Members are asked to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Note the new legislative powers to be enforced by Councils in relation to the private rented sector under The Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (NI) 2024 - Agree the proposed level of £1000 for the fixed penalty fine for offences created under the Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	<p>The new Regulations provide Councils with additional enforcement powers to deal with issues in the private rented sector which will place demands on our existing resources. There is no financial support available from the Department for Communities (DfC) to assist Councils with these additional powers. The fixed penalty regime introduced may provide some income.</p>
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<p><i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i></p> <p>It is not anticipated the proposal will have an adverse impact upon equality of opportunity or good relations <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p>
5.2	<p><i>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</i></p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>

5.3	<p><i>Proposal initiating consultation</i></p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i></p>
6.0	<p>Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)</p>
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>
7.0	<p>Appendices</p>
7.1	<p>Appendix 1 The Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 The Electrical Safety Standards for Private Tenancies Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024 Department for Communities</p>
8.0	<p>Background Documents</p>
8.1	<p>None</p>

Report to:	Sustainability and Environment Committee
Date of Meeting:	29 January 2025
Subject:	Transfer of Landlord Registration Scheme to Local Councils
Reporting Officer (Including Job Title):	Sinead Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment
Contact Officer (Including Job Title):	James Campbell, Head of Environmental Health

<table border="1"> <tr> <td>For decision</td> <td>For noting only</td> <td>X</td> </tr> </table>		For decision	For noting only	X
For decision	For noting only	X		
1.0	Purpose and Background			
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide a final update to Members of the Sustainability and Environment Committee on the transfer of functions of the Landlord Registration Scheme from the Department for Communities to Councils as the project to manage the transfer nears completion.			
1.2	<p>Background</p> <p>In 2023, SOLACE considered a report from the Department for Communities (DfC) outlining the benefits of transferring the functions of Landlord Registration Scheme to local councils. In March 2023, it was agreed that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) would act as the lead council in the preparation for and transfer of the functions under the Landlord Registration Scheme within Northern Ireland.</p> <p>Background to this scheme and work relating this project is detailed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Landlord Registration was introduced through '<i>The Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014</i>' to create a single database of landlords who rent within the Private Rented Sector. The Scheme is currently managed by a Landlord Registrar and small team that sits within the Department for Communities. Local councils have enforcement powers to act against non-compliant landlords. In September 2023, a Programme Board was established to oversee the delivery of the project with representatives from DfC, LCCC and Belfast City Council to oversee the transfer of these functions from DfC to local councils by March 2025. Engagement has been ongoing with Councils and other stakeholders throughout the lifetime of this project including various all councils' group including Environmental Health NI (EHNI), IT officers', Head of Communications and Information Governance groups. Other stakeholders have included landlords, agents, tenants, DfC, PropertyPal and those who have contracts with the current scheme. This scheme operates on a cost neutral basis with all services offered by this scheme being funded from the registration fee only. 			
2.0	Key Issues			
2.1	<p>New Website and Registration Portal:</p> <p>Following an open procurement exercise conducted by LCCC in March 2024, an IT software company was awarded the contract for the build and management of a new dedicated</p>			

	<p>website and registration portal. Currently, this system is going through the User Acceptance Testing stage which once finalised in early February will allow the data stored on the current system to be migrated over.</p> <p>The transfer of the landlord registration functions to local councils will occur on Saturday 1st March 2025 with a 'go live' date for the new system on Monday 3rd March 2025. This will see the completion of Phase 1. Phase 2 will commence shortly after that date with all additional functionality completed by June 2025.</p> <p>Full training, including user guides for future employees who will access the database, will be provided to all councils and other users to maximise the benefits of the new system.</p>
2.2	<p>Appointment of New Landlord Registration Team:</p> <p>A recruitment exercise for a new landlord registration team ran was completed in 2024 and a team of three positions have now been filled, including the appointment of a new Landlord Registrar.</p> <p>This team is funded wholly from the income received from the landlord fee with no cost to any council.</p>
2.3	<p>Communications Plan:</p> <p>The Department for Communities have developed an advertising campaign as part of a wider communications plan associated with the transfer of functions. This includes radio and social media advertisements that will go live from February 2025. These advertisements will focus on the need of any landlords within the private rented sector to register with the scheme with updates being provided by email or letter to those already registered about the changes. Post-transfer any campaigns will be led by the Landlord Registrar and shared with all other councils for their social media channels.</p>
2.4	<p>Governance Structures Post Transfer:</p> <p>The Programme Board will formally agree a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), new operation model and timeline for regulation change being brought forward by Department for Communities at its meeting in January 2025. These documents provide clarity to the council on the governance structures for the scheme post transfer and proposes how the Landlord Registration Scheme can become more meaningful to councils and landlords in the long term.</p>
3.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the report and the update provided.
4.0	Resource implications
4.1	There is no financial implication to any council. All funding for the project to date has been funded by the Department for Communities. Post transfer of functions, all staffing costs, contracts and future initiatives will be funded through the registration fee. There will be no cost to any council.
5.0	Due regard to equality of opportunity and regard to good relations (complete the relevant sections)
5.1	<i>General proposal with no clearly defined impact upon, or connection to, specific equality and good relations outcomes</i>

	<i>n/a</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
5.2	<p>Proposal relates to the introduction of a strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or sensitive or contentious decision</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) has been equality screened <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>The policy (strategy, policy initiative or practice and / or decision) will be subject to equality screening prior to implementation <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
5.3	<p>Proposal initiating consultation</p> <p>Consultation will seek the views of those directly affected by the proposal, address barriers for particular Section 75 equality categories to participate and allow adequate time for groups to consult amongst themselves <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be 12 weeks <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>Consultation period will be less than 12 weeks (rationale to be provided) <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p><i>Rationale:</i> <i>n/a</i></p>	
6.0	Due regard to Rural Needs (please tick all that apply)	
6.1	<p>Proposal relates to developing, adopting, implementing or revising a policy / strategy / plan / designing and/or delivering a public service</p> <p>Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>If yes, please complete the following:</p> <p>Rural Needs Impact Assessment completed <input type="checkbox"/></p>	
7.0	Appendices	
	None	
8.0	Background Documents	