



May 28th, 2026

Chairperson: Alderman O Gawith

Vice-Chairperson: Councillor S Burns

Aldermen: J Baird, S Skillen

Councillors: J Bamford, D Bassett, P Catney, A Givan, A Gowan, G Hynds, C McCready, B Magee, M McKeever, R McLernon, N Parker

Ex Officio:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

Notice Of Meeting

A meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee will be held on **Wednesday, 3rd June 2026 at 6:00 pm** for the transaction of the undernoted Agenda.

Hot Buffet will be available in Lighters from 5.15pm for Committee Members.

David Burns
Chief Executive

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)

Attachment: Disclosure of Interests form Sept 24.pdf

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

3.1 Digital Depot - Update

For Noting

Attachment: Item 3.1 Digital Depot Update Report.pdf

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3.2 NI Reuse and Repair Week - Funding Award

For Noting

Attachment: Item 3.2 Re-use Repair Week Funding Award Report.pdf

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3.3 From Waste to Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme Consultation

For Decision

Attachment: Item 3.3 Waste to Worth Waste Prevention Programme Consultation 2026.pdf

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Attachment: Item 3.3 - Appendix 1 W&OS - Waste prevention programme consultation draft response.pdf

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3.4 Adjustment of Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) Opening Hours

For Decision

Attachment: Item 3.4 - HRCs revised opening hours V1.pdf

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Attachment: Appendix 2 W&OS - HRC opening hours Equality Screening.pdf

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4.0 Report by the Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning)

4.1 Food Control Service Plan 2026/2027

For Noting

Attachment: Item 4.1 - REPORT - Food Control Service Plan 2026-2027.pdf	Page 39
Attachment: Item 4.1 Appendix 1 EH - Food Control Service Plan 2026-2027 (f).pdf	Page 41
4.2 End of Year HMO Report	
<i>For Noting</i>	
Attachment: Item 4.2 - REPORT - HMO end of year report 2025-2026.pdf	Page 64
Attachment: Item 4.2 Appendix 2 EH - HMO year end report 2025-2026 LCCC.pdf	Page 66
4.3 Consultation: The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture	
<i>For Decision</i>	
Attachment: Item 4.3 - REPORT - Consultation The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture.pdf	Page 69
Attachment: Item 4.3 Appendix 3 EH - Consultation Response - The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture.pdf	Page 71
4.4 Consultation: Market Surveillance and Enforcement Framework	
<i>For Decision</i>	
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4.5 Consultation: Market Diversity and Innovation (Liquor Licensing)	
<i>For Decision</i>	
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4.6 Consultation: The UK's New Product Safety Framework	
<i>For Decision</i>	
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Attachment: Item 4.6 Appendix 6 EH - Consultation Response Product Safety Framework.pdf	Page 102
4.7 Notice of Motion - Update on Sustainable Burial Options	

For Decision

Attachment: Item 4.7 - REPORT - Notice of Motion - Sustainable Burials.pdf

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5.0 Report by the Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability)

5.1 Consultation Document: Department for the Economy Consultation on Geothermal Licensing

For Noting

Attachment: Item 5.1 Building Control - Consultation on Geothermal Licensing.pdf

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6.0 Confidential Report from the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

6.1 Redevelopment of Carryduff Household Recycling Centre and Waste Service Depot - Outline Business Case

For Decision

7.0 Any Other Business

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

MEMBERS DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

1. Pecuniary Interests

The Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors under Section 6 requires you to declare at the relevant meeting any pecuniary interest that you may have in any matter coming before any meeting of your Council.

Pecuniary (or financial) interests are those where the decision to be taken could financially benefit or financially disadvantage either you or a member of your close family. A member of your close family is defined as at least your spouse, live-in partner, parent, child, brother, sister and the spouses of any of these. Members may wish to be more prudent by extending that list to include grandparents, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces or even close friends.

This information will be recorded in a Statutory Register. On such matters **you must not speak or vote**. Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, if such a matter is to be discussed by your Council, **you must withdraw from the meeting whilst that matter is being discussed**.

2. Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interests

In addition you must also declare any significant private or personal non-pecuniary interest in a matter arising at a Council meeting (please see also Sections 5.2 and 5.6 and 5.8 of the Code).

Significant private or personal non-pecuniary (membership) interests are those which do not financially benefit or financially disadvantage you or a member of your close family directly, but nonetheless, so significant that could be considered as being likely to influence your decision.

Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, you must declare this interest as soon as it becomes apparent and **you must withdraw from any Council meeting (including committee or sub-committee meetings) when this matter is being discussed**.

In respect of each of these, please complete the form below as necessary.

Pecuniary Interests

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

Date of Meeting: _____

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

Nature of Pecuniary Interest:

Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interests

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

Date of Meeting: _____

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

Nature of Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interest:

Name:

Address:

Signed:

Date:

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*If you have any queries please contact David Burns, Chief Executive,
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council*

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service – Waste & Operational Services

Item for:	Noting
Subject:	Digital Depot - Update

1.0 **Background and Key Issues**

1.1 In June 2025, council approved the recommendation to progress the implementation of the 'Digital Depot' which included the following:

- Approval of the business plan for a new route optimisation system
- The progression and appointment of a suitable contractor
- The creation of a temporary post at PO2 to lead on project implementation

1.2 The system was successfully procured at the end of December 2025 and a project officer commenced on 01 February 2026 to lead on project implementation.

1.3 The system selected is 'Routeware', a cloud-based system designed to modernise the Council's waste and recycling services. It provides real-time communication between collection crews, supervisors and administrative staff, enabling more efficient route planning, improved service delivery, and enhanced health and safety monitoring.

1.4 The system captures live operational data to support performance management, service audits, and evidence-based decision-making. It also enhances the customer experience by improving the accuracy of information, speeding up responses to enquiries, and enabling more effective communication with residents.

1.5 **Progress to Date**

1.6 The team in Waste, working in partnership with colleagues in Innovation, are progressing this project which is managed by a project officer recruited specifically for this role. At the start of the year, the process commenced with engaging the supplier to transfer data and build the necessary information to support the system's range of functions. These include internal functions such as route planning and optimisation, capturing of live service data and external functions available to customers such as a waste wizard, sorting game, collection calendar available through a redeveloped and enhanced web page and on a newly available mobile app.

1.7 An extensive training programme will be delivered for all staff using the system; this will range from reception staff managing customer calls, drivers and operatives, admin staff through to supervisors and managers. This will ensure familiarity and acceptance of the system from early stages to gain maximum benefit from it.

1.8 Officers have engaged with other NI councils using this system to see it in operation, spoke with various users and will use this information to apply good practice in the implementation of the system for LCCC.

<p>1.9</p> <p>1.10</p> <p>1.11</p>	<p>It is anticipated this process will be completed by the end of June. This will allow a “soft” test of the system in a controlled environment to ensure all data is correct and the system is performing as intended before a public launch, scheduled for autumn 2026. Once officers are satisfied the system and its data are functioning correctly, a marketing campaign will be launched to raise public awareness and encourage engagement to coincide with its launch.</p> <p>We are continuing to use and maintain the old system which is now limited to providing customers with the on-line collection calendar. This part of the system will be retired when we fully transition to Routeware.</p> <p>Members will be provided with a further update as this project progresses to full implementation and a launch date is confirmed.</p>	
<p>2.0</p>	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that the committee notes this update.</p>	
<p>3.0</p>	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>As per agreed business case – costs for 4 years:</p> <p>Capital - £381,658 Revenue - £334,800 (includes licencing costs)</p>	
<p>4.0</p>	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
<p>4.1</p>	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p>	
<p>4.3</p>	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>4.4</p>	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p>	

<p>Appendices:</p>	<p>None</p>
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Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service – Waste & Operational Services

Item for:	Noting
Subject:	NI Reuse and Repair Week – Funding Award

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	The Council has been awarded £500 funding from Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN) towards the delivery of a repair related event. Officers have organised a textile repair skills workshop which is aimed at attendees with limited or no sewing experience. The workshop will provide an opportunity to learn and practice some basic sewing techniques which can be used in day-to-day life. The aim is to promote repair as the norm, and to equip attendees with practical skills and confidence to repair and extend the life of their garments, thereby reducing unnecessary textile waste.
1.2	<p>Workshop Details</p> <p>Facilitator: Angeline Murphy</p> <p>Focus: Simple clothing repair techniques suitable for beginners</p> <p>Aim: To equip attendees with practical skills and confidence to repair and extend the life of their garments</p> <p>Materials: All materials and equipment provided</p>
1.3	<p>Date and venues</p> <p>Thursday 4th June 2026</p> <p>Session 1: Lough Moss Leisure Centre, Carryduff - Committee Room 2-4pm</p> <p>Session 2: Island Arts Centre, Lisburn - Workshop 2&3 7-9pm</p>
1.4	<p>Promotions</p> <p>The workshops will be promoted via council social media channels and on-site posters. The facilitator promoted the event during the Mayors Family Fun Day, where they participated as part of the Sustainability Village.</p>
2.0	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that the committee notes this update.</p>
3.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>The cost for two workshops is £600 with an additional cost for room hire. Costs above the £500 funding from NIRN will be met from the Waste Management Communication and Education budget.</p>

4.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	No
4.2	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out. Not required, the workshops are open to all.	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
4.4	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out. Not required, the workshops are available in two locations and open to all.	

Appendices:	None
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Committee:	Environmental & Sustainability Committee
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Waste and Operations

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	From Waste to Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme Consultation

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) has launched a public consultation to seek views on the draft From Waste to Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme.
1.2	The Waste Prevention Programme brings together a range of waste prevention policies into a single document, outlining the current measures aimed at moving waste as far up the waste hierarchy as possible. The programme does not seek to introduce any new polices or strategies itself but lists a range of policy interventions in the waste prevention landscape.
1.3	The strategy outlines 10 targets and 63 actions to help Northern Ireland achieve its vision. These actions include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new support programmes, • statutory and best practice guidance, • campaigns, • data refinements, and • cross-departmental collaboration.
1.4	The consultation documents were shared with Members by email on 27 April 2026 for consideration and response.
1.5	A response has been prepared by officers attached at Appendix 1 W&OS . The closing date for responses is 10 July 2026.
2.0	<u>Recommendation</u> It is recommended that the committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • approves the proposed consultation response in relation to the From Waste to Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme and it is submitted by the closing date of 10 July 2026.
3.0	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> None

4.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	No
4.2	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out	Not required
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
4.4	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.	Not required

Appendices:	Appendix 1 WOS - Draft consultation response, From Waste to Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme Consultation
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What is your name?

Gemma Richardson

What is your email address?

Gemma.richardson@lisburncastlereagh.gov.uk

What local Council area do you represent/live in?

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council

Ards and North Down Borough Council

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council

Belfast City Council

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council

Derry City and Strabane District Council

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

Mid Ulster District Council

Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Other – Republic of Ireland

Other – UK

Other – EU

Other – Rest of World

Which category best represents you from the list below?

Local Government

NI Environmental group

Other, please specify.

Actions 1. Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

A key form of producer responsibility is Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), which is increasingly being adopted across the UK and internationally. Under EPR schemes, producers are required to fund or directly manage the collection and treatment of waste arising from their products. This encourages them to design products that are easier to reuse, recycle, or dispose of safely.

Action 1 - Extended Producer Responsibility and Reducing Packaging

DAERA will continue to work in conjunction with the UK Government and the Devolved Governments in the implementation of the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024 which aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging.

Question 1 - Do you agree with action 1 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

The Council supports DAERA continuing to work in partnership with the UK Government and the other Devolved Administrations to implement the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging and Packaging Waste) Regulations 2024, as a key mechanism for reducing unnecessary and hard-to-recycle packaging and improving overall recyclability. The Council also considers it essential that local authorities retain an appropriate role in the governance and management of any funding flows arising from Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR), including clear arrangements for allocation, administration, reporting and accountability, so that resources can be directed effectively to support efficient collection services, communications with residents and the delivery of improved recycling outcomes.

2. Collaboration with Defra and Other DG's in relation to Eco-Design and Eco-labelling

Eco-design and eco-labelling are two complementary approaches aimed at reducing the environmental impact of products throughout their life cycle. Eco-design refers to

the process of integrating environmental considerations into the design and development of products while Eco-labelling is a communication tool that helps consumers identify products with lower environmental impacts.

Action 2 – Eco-Design and Eco-Labelling DAERA will continue to work collaboratively with the Devolved Governments to support eco-design and develop eco-label frameworks.

Question 2 - Do you agree with action 2 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council agrees that DAERA should continue to collaborate with Defra and other devolved governments on eco-design and eco-labelling. However, eco-design should take account of the full product lifecycle, including end-of-life management, to ensure appropriate treatment routes and viable markets exist for materials once they become waste. In addition, disposal and collection options for household materials should be readily accessible through kerbside collections, take-back schemes, or household recycling centres (HRCs). For example, some materials currently available on the market, such as compostable coffee cups, are not accepted within local composting contracts and therefore must be managed through residual waste arrangements.

Eco-labelling should be clear, consistent, and supported by communications that enable consumers to make informed choices. At present, product labelling can be confusing, and it is not always straightforward to determine whether an item is recyclable or contains recycled content.

3. Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

A Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) is a circular economy initiative designed to reduce litter and increase recycling rates by incentivising the return of single-use drinks containers. Under the scheme, consumers pay a small deposit when purchasing drinks in containers such as plastic bottles or aluminium/steel cans.

This deposit is refunded when the empty container is returned to a designated collection point, such as a shop or a reverse vending machine.

Action 3 – Deposit Return Scheme

DAERA will implement the Deposit Return Scheme for single use drinks containers. This is due to go live from October 2027 to include PET plastic, steel, and aluminium drinks containers from 150ml to 3l to further drive-up recycling rates and reduce littering.

Question 3 - Do you agree with action 3 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

As materials captured through the Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) may reduce potential revenue for councils, DAERA should assume responsibility for the scheme's implementation and the associated communications to householders. In addition to revenue implications for Council contracts, removing these from kerbside collections may have other financial implications for contracts already let and that were based on these materials being included within the contract feedstock.

Councils should also be provided with timely, comprehensive information that can be shared with residents to support awareness and understanding of the new arrangements.

DRS will impact on the tonnages collected through Councils' kerbside collections schemes and negatively impact on the Council's recycling rate. Further information is required on the anticipated impact of diverting material from household collections to new return points on municipal waste recycling rates.

4. Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

WEEE refers to discarded electrical and electronic devices, such as computers, phones, household appliances, and lighting equipment. These products often contain critical raw materials like copper, lithium and cobalt, as well as hazardous substances such as lead, mercury, and flame retardants. Proper management of WEEE is essential to prevent environmental harm and recover resources.

Action 4 – WEEE Reform

DAERA will collaborate with Defra and the other Devolved Governments to implement WEEE Reform.

Question 4 - Do you agree with action 4 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council agrees with this action and believes that clear information should be provided to households to support the safe and appropriate disposal of WEEE, thereby preventing environmental harm.

The hazardous nature of lithium-ion batteries and vapes creates a need for proper and safe disposal to reduce the risk of fires at waste facilities. There is a further need for a nation-wide campaign to raise awareness of the risks and importance of safe disposal.

5. Carrier Bag Levy

The Carrier Bag Levy was introduced in Northern Ireland on 8 April 2013 through the introduction of The Single Use Carrier Bags Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 to address the environmental damage caused by the excessive use of carrier bags. Prior to its introduction, around 300 million bags were used annually across the region, contributing significantly to litter, landfill waste, and resource depletion. In April 2022 the levy increased to 25p per bag and still contains some exemptions, including an exemption for bags used to contain hot foods or hot drinks intended for consumption away from the premises on which they are sold.

Action 5 – Carrier Bag Levy

DAERA will continue to administer the levy and ensure the revenue is allocated to additional environmental projects within Northern Ireland

Question 5 - Do you agree with action 5 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

6. Absorbent Hygiene Products (AHP's)

Absorbent hygiene products (AHPs) include disposable nappies, incontinence pads, sanitary products, and other single-use items designed to absorb bodily fluids. Due to their mixed material composition, often combining plastics, cellulose, and superabsorbent polymers, AHPs are challenging to recycle and are typically disposed of in landfill or through energy recovery processes.

Action 6 – Absorbent Hygiene Products DAERA will support WRAP in conducting an AHP collection study into the separation of AHP waste.

Question 6 - Do you agree with action 6 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council agrees with this action and welcomes results from the WRAP AHP collection study to inform future approaches to collection of these materials. Councils should be engaged with early in the study to ensure operational feasibility and consistency with existing kerbside services and contracts. The study should also consider associated costs and funding arrangements (including any ongoing service implications), as well as measures to manage hygiene, odour and contamination risks and to protect frontline staff.

7. Waste Levies

Levies applied to waste products offer a range of benefits for waste prevention, particularly when designed to influence consumer behaviour, support sustainable alternatives, and fund waste prevention initiatives. Levies create a direct financial incentive for individuals and businesses to reduce waste. For example, charges on single-use items like plastic bags have led to dramatic reductions in consumption. By

making wasteful choices more expensive, levies encourage consumers to opt for reusable or more sustainable alternatives.

Action 7 – Waste Levies

DAERA will continue to tackle the problem of littering and work with stakeholders to advance the circular economy including the potential for introducing bans or levies on certain problematic product materials.

Question 7 - Do you agree with action 7 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

8. Plastic Pollution Reduction Plan

DAERA's Plastic Pollution Plan is Northern Ireland's strategic approach to tackling plastic waste and its environmental impacts. The plan aims to reduce plastic pollution, particularly in marine environments, and to support the transition to a circular economy where resources are used efficiently and waste is minimised. It builds on previous initiatives, such as the successful removal of unnecessary single-use plastics (SUP) from the government estate and aligns with broader UK and EU commitments on waste prevention and resource efficiency.

Action 8 – Plastic Pollution Plan

DAERA will publish a Plastic Pollution Plan for Northern Ireland to achieve a reduction in plastic pollution.

Question 8 - Do you agree with action 8 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council agrees with the need to produce a Plastic Pollution Plan for Northern Ireland, but recognises that further action is required to remove unnecessary single-use plastics across both the public and private sectors. While awareness is increasing of the environmental harm caused by single-use plastics, continued emphasis is needed on waste prevention and reduction, rather than substituting one unnecessary single-use product with another.

9. European Week for Waste Reduction

The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) is a major annual campaign across Europe that promotes awareness and action on sustainable resource and waste management. In Northern Ireland, it is coordinated by WRAP and supported by DAERA. Local councils, businesses, schools, and community groups are encouraged to register and carry out awareness-raising actions. Participants can access toolkits, communication resources, and even enter the EWWR Awards for outstanding initiatives.

Action 9 – European Week for Waste Reduction

DAERA will continue to support the European Week for Waste Reduction and will seek to build upon the outcomes and successes generated through participation in its associated competitions.

Question 9 - Do you agree with action 9 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR) is an established campaign supported by local authorities and voluntary organisations. Further work is required to broaden awareness beyond the existing core supporters and to encourage wider participation, generating new and innovative ideas for waste reduction initiatives.

10. Circular Councils

DAERA delivery partner, Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN), through its Local Authority Forums is developing a co-created education programme with councils to

raise awareness of the circular economy and waste hierarchy among council staff and elected members. They will showcase and celebrate reuse and repair initiatives currently being delivered by councils and to identify further opportunities for collaboration, innovation and public engagement.

Action 10 – Circular Councils

DAERA will assist NIRN to establish a Circular Councils network and develop a co-created waste prevention education programme with councils.

Question 10 - Do you agree with action 10 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council agrees that raising awareness of the circular economy and the waste hierarchy among council staff and elected members is important. However, early and meaningful engagement with councils will be essential, as many authorities already deliver established waste education and behaviour-change campaigns and have internal governance arrangements in place to support these. Any proposed education programme should therefore be designed to complement, not duplicate, existing activity, and must be flexible enough to reflect local waste collection systems, contractual requirements and strategic priorities. In addition, clear expectations should be set regarding resourcing, delivery responsibilities and how learning outcomes will be measured, to ensure the programme is practical, deliverable and capable of demonstrating impact.

11. Waste Prevention Metrics

Waste prevention metrics are essential tools for evaluating the effectiveness of policies, programmes, and interventions aimed at reducing the generation of waste at source. Current waste prevention metrics in Northern Ireland and across the UK face several challenges that limit their effectiveness in guiding policy and evaluating progress. One of the most significant issues is the incomplete coverage of data. In Northern Ireland, detailed monitoring is largely confined to municipal

waste collected by councils, which represents only about 10% of total waste.

Action 11 – Waste Prevention Metrics

DAERA will support NIRN to explore the establishment of a framework of metrics to monitor, evaluate, and report on waste prevention efforts across Northern Ireland.

Question 11 - Do you agree with action 11 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

12. Circular Communities

Circular Communities are grassroots initiatives that place community at the heart of the circular economy. These communities focus on waste reduction, reuse, repair, and sharing, creating local hubs where people can come together to extend the life of products, reduce consumption, and build social connections.

Examples include repair cafés, community fridges, tool libraries, and upcycling workshops, all designed to make sustainability accessible and practical for everyone

Action 12 – Circular Communities

DAERA will support NIRN to develop & deliver a Circular Communities Programme to embed reuse & repair into everyday community life.

Question 12 - Do you agree with action 12 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council agrees with this action in principle and recommends that NIRN works in collaboration with councils to establish Circular Communities. Councils already support a range of community-led initiatives, and a partnership approach should be adopted to embed the programme effectively within local communities.

13. Recognised Awareness Days

Recognised waste awareness days play a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices and reducing environmental impact. These days serve as focal points for education and advocacy, helping citizens and businesses understand the consequences of waste and the benefits of resource efficiency. By highlighting issues such as plastic pollution, food waste, and electronic waste, they encourage people to rethink consumption habits and adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

Action 13 – Recognised Awareness Days

DAERA will support NIRN to co-ordinate a schedule of recognised awareness day campaigns.

Question 13 - Do you agree with action 13 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council recognises and supports a number of awareness days and awareness weeks each year. Any schedule of recognised waste awareness days should also take account of non-waste campaigns to avoid clashes in messaging and to prevent core messages from being diluted.

14. Love Food Hate Waste Communications Campaign

The Love Food Hate Waste campaign is a UK-wide initiative launched in 2007 by WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) to tackle the growing issue of food waste, particularly in households. Its core mission is to help people reduce the amount of food they throw away by raising awareness, changing behaviours, and providing practical tools and advice.

Action 14 – Consumer Food Waste Prevention

DAERA will maintain its partnership with WRAP to support the delivery of the Love Food Hate Waste campaign, aimed at preventing consumer food waste. DAERA and WRAP will co-develop follow-up initiatives designed to strengthen behavioural change and enhance messaging around food waste prevention.

Question 14 - Do you agree with action 14 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

The Love Food Hate Waste campaign is well established and widely recognised by the public. Council welcomes strengthened messaging and coordinated national communications, which can deliver greater impact in supporting sustained behavioural change.

15. UK Food and Drink Pact

The UK Food and Drink Pact, formerly known as the Courtauld Commitment 2030, is a voluntary agreement led by WRAP that brings together nearly 200

organisations across the food and drink supply chain including businesses, trade bodies, local authorities, and charities to tackle key sustainability challenges. The Pact aims to build a circular food system that supports the planet, people, and business.

Action 15 – UK Food and Drink Pact

DAERA will continue to support WRAP with the UK Food and Drink Pact to deliver against UN Sustainable Development Goal 12.3: a 50% per capita reduction in food and drink waste by 2030 vs the UK 2007 baseline

Question 15 - Do you agree with action 15 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

16. Food Redistribution

Large quantities of edible food are wasted every year by producers, retailers, and consumers. This not only represents a loss of valuable resources such as water, energy, and labour but also contributes to environmental degradation through increased greenhouse gas emissions from landfill waste. Many individuals and families across Northern Ireland also face food poverty, struggling to access sufficient, nutritious food on a regular basis.

Food redistribution involves collecting surplus food, often from farms, manufacturers, supermarkets, and hospitality businesses and redirecting it to people in need through charities, food banks, and community organisations.

Action 16 – Food Redistribution

DAERA will work in partnership with NIRN to collaborate with food

redistribution networks to reduce avoidable food waste by enhancing their visibility and facilitating connections with businesses and public sector organisations. DAERA will provide support for targeted projects focused on food waste prevention.

Question 16 - Do you agree with action 16 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council recognises that food waste is a significant issue across both household and commercial settings. Food redistribution networks operate throughout Northern Ireland, with charities, food banks and community fridges receiving surplus food from manufacturers, supermarkets and hospitality businesses. DAERA should work with these established networks and provide support to strengthen and expand provision where required.

Targeted food waste prevention activity is also delivered through established national campaigns, such as Food Waste Action Week, supported by WRAP communications resources. Council welcomes the continued coordination of these campaigns, which are widely recognised and help reinforce consistent waste prevention messages.

17. Industrial Symbiosis

Industrial symbiosis is a collaborative approach where traditionally separate industries work together to exchange materials, energy, water, and by products in ways that create mutual economic and environmental benefits. It is a key strategy in the circular economy, aiming to keep resources in productive use for longer and reduce waste generation.

Action 17 – Industrial Symbiosis

DAERA will continue to collaborate with Invest NI to promote its waste

prevention initiatives, particularly those relating to resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis

Question 17 - Do you agree with action 17 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

18. Eco- Schools

Eco-Schools is the world's largest environmental education programme, empowering young people to lead sustainability efforts in their schools and communities. The programme began in 1994 and now spans 101 countries, with over 52,000 registered schools and more than 13.7 million students participating globally.

The programme follows a seven-step Framework that guides schools through forming eco-committees, conducting environmental reviews, creating action plans, linking sustainability to the curriculum, and engaging the wider community.

Schools work on up to 14 themes, including biodiversity, climate change, energy, litter, marine, transport, and waste.

Action 18 – Eco-Schools

DAERA will further support the Eco-Schools Programme to embed waste prevention and circular economy principles into the curriculum.

Question 18 - Do you agree with action 18 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Eco-Schools is an established environmental education programme delivered within local schools. DAERA should provide sufficient financial support to ensure that all schools in Northern Ireland can access a consistent level of Eco-Schools provision. At present, the level of support available is dependent on the funding that individual councils are able to provide to deliver the programme.

19. Circular Schools

The Circular Schools Programme in Northern Ireland is an educational initiative designed to embed circular economy and waste prevention principles into school communities. Its core aim is to help pupils understand how resources can be kept in use for as long as possible, reducing waste and promoting sustainability. Rather than focusing solely on recycling, the programme encourages schools to rethink consumption patterns, repair and reuse materials, and design out waste from everyday activities.

Action 19 – Circular Schools

DAERA will support NIRN to promote reuse and repair in school communities.

Question 19 - Do you agree with action 19 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Schools in Northern Ireland already receive waste education support from council officers, who have extensive subject knowledge and long-standing relationships with schools. Additional support is also provided through Live Here Love Here and the Eco-Schools Award Programme. Council recognises the pressures on schools to deliver a wide range of topics beyond the core curriculum within limited time and capacity, and it may therefore be challenging for schools to accommodate an additional waste

education programme. Schools should be engaged to provide feedback on their appetite for, and ability to participate in, any new programme prior to implementation.

20. Support to the Third Sector & Zero Waste Projects

DAERA provides targeted support to the third sector in Northern Ireland to help tackle waste and promote circular economy practices. This includes funding, strategic partnerships, and programme delivery aimed at empowering charities, social enterprises, and community groups to reduce consumption, increase reuse, and divert waste from landfill.

Action 20 – Support to the Third Sector for Zero Waste/Circular Economy Projects

DAERA will continue to provide support to the Third Sector for zero waste/circular economy projects as part of ongoing funding operations and investigate new ways to do so.

Question 20 - Do you agree with action 20 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

21. Reuse & Repair Week

Reuse and Repair Week 2025 marked a significant milestone for sustainability in Northern Ireland, running from 3rd to 9th March 2025. Led by the Northern Ireland Resources Network (NIRN) and funded by DAERA through the Carrier Bag Levy, this was the first time an entire UK region hosted a dedicated Repair Week. The initiative aimed to foster a culture of repair and reuse, helping individuals and communities extend the life of everyday items, from textiles and furniture to bikes

and electronics, while reducing waste and supporting the circular economy.

Action 21 – Reuse & Repair Week

DAERA will support NIRN to establish an annual Reuse & Repair Week to promote waste prevention across Northern Ireland.

Question 21 - Do you agree with action 21 above? If your answer is no, please explain why.

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Council recognises the importance of national campaigns and the greater impact that shared messaging can achieve. However, it should be noted that NIRN led Repair Week in March 2025; in 2026, this initiative has been renamed Reuse and Repair Week and rescheduled to June. If this is to be established as an annual waste prevention initiative, the campaign name and delivery period should remain consistent. Councils support a wide range of promotional campaigns each year; therefore, to ensure adequate resourcing at the appropriate times and to avoid dilution of impact through competing messages, clarity and consistency in scheduling are essential.

22. Waste Prevention Programme

The Waste Prevention Programme has previously been published as a standalone document, aimed at recognising its importance in its own right, however, consideration is being given to integrating it into the Resources and Waste Management Strategy. As waste prevention is a fundamental component of effective resource and waste policy and the core purpose of the Strategy is to set the strategic direction for waste policy over the next six years, embedding waste prevention priorities within the Strategy could ensure clearer alignment, strengthen policy coherence, and signal a more ambitious, long-term commitment to reducing waste at source.

Question 22 - Do you agree that the Waste Prevention Programme should be incorporated into the Waste Management Strategy?

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Waste prevention is the highest priority within the waste hierarchy and should be pursued ahead of all other waste management options. In recognition of this, Council considers that the Waste Prevention Programme should be incorporated within the Waste Management Strategy to ensure clear strategic alignment and appropriate emphasis on prevention.

23. Equality Screening Assessment

An Equality Screening is one of the key tools to enable public authorities to fulfil their statutory obligations and mainstream the Section 75 equality and good relations duties into policy development. It provides an opportunity to improve decision-making, support 'evidence based' policy making and can help improve a public authority's service provision through a systematic review of all services, policies, procedures, practices and/or decisions.

Question 23 - Do you agree with the conclusions of the Equality Screening Assessment of the draft Waste Prevention Programme?

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

24. Rural Needs Impact Assessment

Public authorities must undertake a Rural Needs Impact Assessment when developing, adopting, implementing or revising policies, strategies and plans and when designing and delivering public services. A Rural Needs Impact Assessment is a step-by-step process aimed at helping public authorities to ensure that the due regard duty imposed under section 1(1) of the Rural Needs Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 ('the Act') duty is fulfilled.

Question 24 - Do you agree with the conclusions of the Rural Needs Impact Assessment of the draft Waste Prevention Programme?

Agree

Disagree

No opinion

If you disagree, please explain your answer, free text (max 500 words)

Thurs 2 April 2026	204	103	29	14	7	8
Thurs 9 April 2026	227	107	42	11	16	10
Tues 14 April 2026	181	71	26	12	15	8
Thurs 16 April 2026	170	63	34	9	14	6
Tues 21 April 2026	182	85	36	11	9	14
Thurs 23 April 2026	186	90	29	12	14	6

1.4.1 From the table above, significantly greater numbers of customers cannot access our sites when they come in the morning on Tuesday and Thursday (sites open at 12.00 on these days) compared to those who come after 17.00.

1.5 Customers arriving at the sites when they are not open can be a contributing factor to queues forming. In addition, at The Cutts the nearby primary school releases some pupils at 12.00 which coincides with our opening time which can contribute to traffic congestion due to increased volumes of vehicles in a small distance of road.

1.6 The data collected would indicate that late evening opening in “summer hours” is not of significant benefit to large numbers of customers to justify it. More customers are being inconvenienced through later opening than benefit from it.

1.7 Retaining “winter opening hours” i.e. Mon-Fri 10.00-17.00, Saturday 09.00-17.00 is considered more efficient and effective in meeting customer needs throughout the year.

1.8 To extend opening hours from 10.00 until 19.00 on Tuesday and Thursday would require additional working hours of approximately 60 hours per week equating to an estimated annual cost of approximately £43,000 for extended opening over summer. For the numbers of customers accessing all sites in the evenings this would not indicate good value for money. It should be noted there is no provision in the 2026/27 budget for increased overtime costs.

1.9 It is Officers’ opinion that retaining “winter opening hours” throughout the year will meet the needs of a greater number of customers and reduce the potential for queues and traffic congestion outside the main sites and remain within the agreed budget.

1.9.1 Should Members agree to the “winter opening hours” proposed for year-round implementation, we will notify residents through the normal social media and web page channels as well as updated signage at the sites. If agreed, we will continue to monitor and review site usage, particularly as council progresses the refurbishment of Carryduff HRC.

2.0 **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the committee:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> considers and approves returning to and retaining “winter opening hours” as the normal operating hours across all 3 HRCs effective from Monday, 20 July 2026. 	
3.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>If Members agree to “winter hours” on a continuous basis there are no financial implications. There is no provision in the 2026/27 budgets for any increase in overtime costs.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	Yes
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>Screened out</p>	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>No rural needs requiring assessment</p>	

Appendix:	Appendix 2 W&OS – HRC Opening Hours Equality Screening
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Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Section 75 Equality and Good Relations Screening

Part 1. Information about the activity/policy/project being screened

This screening relates to proposed changes to the opening hours for Household Recycling Centres (HRCs) during summer months (April-September.)

Name of the activity/policy/project

Household Recycling Centre Opening hours

Is this activity/policy/project – an existing one, a revised one, a new one?

Revision of existing operational opening hours.

What are the intended aims/outcomes the activity/policy/project is trying to achieve?

The revision aims to better align opening hours with demand and reduce the number of customers being turned away from the HRCs.

The HRCs currently operate summer and winter opening hours

From 1 October until 31 March (Winter hours) all sites are open:

Monday to Friday 10.00 – 17.00

Saturday 09.00 – 17.00

From 1 April until 30 September (summer hours) all sites are open:

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 10.00 to 17.00

Tuesday & Thursday 12.00 – 19.00

Saturday 09.00 – 17.00

The proposed revision to operating hours would retain the winter opening hours throughout the year will meet the needs of a greater number of customers.

Who is the activity/policy/project targeted at and who will benefit? Are there any expected benefits for specific Section 75 categories/groups from this activity/policy/project? If so, please explain.

The revision of opening hours does not target any specific Section 75 categories or groups who live in LCCC.

Who initiated or developed the activity/policy/project?

Waste and Operational Services

Who owns and who implements the activity/policy/project?

LCCC

Are there any factors which could contribute to/detract from the intended aim/outcome of the activity/policy/project?

There are no known factors that could contribute to or detract from the intended outcomes.

Who are the internal and external stakeholders (actual or potential) that the activity/policy/project will impact upon?

Waste and Operational Services staff, residents and customers who use the Household Recycling Centres.

Other policies/strategies/plans with a bearing on this activity/policy/project

Name of policy/strategy/plan	Who owns or implements?
Waste Management Plan	LCCC/arc21
Capital Investment Plan	LCCC
Various waste management policies	WM&OSU
Waste Management Strategy	DAERA

Available evidence

What evidence/information (qualitative and quantitative) have you gathered or considered to inform this activity/policy? Specify details for each Section 75 category.

We do not hold Section 75 monitoring data on users of the Household Recycling Centres, however, data was recorded in April 2026 to analyse the number of users of the HRCs during ‘summer opening hours’. The data highlights that more customers are being turned away from the HRCs before 12:00 than are using the sites between 17:00 and 19:00.

Date	Turned away before 12.00 opening			Used site between 17.00 and 19.00		
	Cutts	Carryduff	Drumlough	Cutts	Carryduff	Drumlough
Thurs 2 April 2026	204	103	29	14	7	8
Thurs 9 April 2026	227	107	42	11	16	10
Tues 14 April 2026	181	71	26	12	15	8
Thurs 16 April 2026	170	63	34	9	14	6

Tues 21 April 2026	182	85	36	11	9	14
Thurs 23 April 2026	186	90	29	12	14	6

Most up to date NISRA population data from Census 2021 (published 22/09/22) [Lisburn and Castlereagh Census Data](#)

Section 75 Category	Details of evidence/information
Religious Belief	N/A (see above)
Political Opinion	
Racial Group	
Age	
Marital Status	
Sexual Orientation	
Men & Women Generally	
Disability	
People with and without Dependants	

Needs, experiences and priorities

Taking into account the information referred to above, what are the different needs, experiences and priorities of each of the following categories, in relation to the particular activity/policy/decision? Specify details for each of the Section 75 categories:

Section 75 Category	Details of needs/experiences/priorities
Religious Belief	No differential needs identified across Section 75 groups. The proposed change reflects existing winter operating hours, which are already in place for part of the year without identified issues, and is supported by data indicating improved overall accessibility.
Political Opinion	
Racial Group	
Age	
Marital Status	
Sexual Orientation	
Men & Women Generally	
Disability	
People with and without Dependants	

Part 2. Screening questions

1 What is the likely impact on equality of opportunity for those affected by this activity/policy, for each of the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	Details of likely impact – will it be positive or negative? If none anticipated, say none	Level of impact - major or minor* - see guidance below
Religious Belief	No differential impact identified across Section 75 groups. The proposed change reflects existing winter operating hours, which are	N/A
Political Opinion		N/A
Racial Group		N/A
Age		N/A

Marital Status	already in place for part of the year without identified issues, and is supported by data indicating improved overall accessibility.	N/A
Sexual Orientation		N/A
Men & Women Generally		N/A
Disability		N/A
People with and without Dependants		N/A

* See Appendix 1 for details.

2(a) Are there opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity for people within the Section 75 equality categories?

Section 75 Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
Religious Belief	N/A	None
Political Opinion	N/A	None
Racial Group	N/A	None
Age	N/A	None
Marital Status	N/A	None
Sexual Orientation	N/A	None
Men & Women Generally	N/A	None
Disability	N/A	None
People with and without Dependants	N/A	None

Equality Action Plan 2021-2025

Does the activity/policy/project being screened relate to an action in the Equality Action Plan 2021-2025? No

2(b) DDA Disability Duties (see Disability Action Plan 2021-2025)

Does this policy/activity present opportunities to contribute to the actions in our Disability Action Plan:

- to promote positive attitudes towards disabled people?
- to encourage the participation of disabled people in public life?

No

3 To what extent is the activity/policy/project likely to impact on good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	Details of likely impact. Will it be positive or negative? [if no specific impact identified, say none]	Level of impact – minor/major*
Religious Belief	None	N/A
Political Opinion	None	N/A
Racial Group	None	N/A

*See Appendix 1 for details.

4 Are there opportunities to better promote good relations between people of different religious belief, political opinion or racial group?

Good Relations Category	IF Yes, provide details	If No, provide details
-------------------------	-------------------------	------------------------

Religious Belief	N/A	None
Political Opinion	N/A	None
Racial Group	N/A	None

Multiple identity

Provide details of any data on the impact of the activity/policy/project on people with multiple identities. Specify relevant Section 75 categories concerned.

N/A

Part 3. Screening decision/outcome

Equality and good relations screening is used to identify whether there is a need to carry out a **full equality impact assessment** on a proposed policy or project. There are 3 possible outcomes:

- 1) **Screen out** - no need for a full equality impact assessment and no mitigations required because no relevance to equality, no negative impacts identified or only very minor positive impacts for all groups. This may be the case for a purely technical policy for example.
- 2) **Screen out with mitigation** - no need for a full equality impact assessment but some minor potential impacts or opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified, so mitigations appropriate. Much of our activity will probably fall into this category.
- 3) **Screen in for full equality impact assessment** – potential for significant and/or potentially negative impact identified for one or more groups so proposal requires a more detailed impact assessment. [See Equality Commission guidance on justifying a screening decision.]

Choose only one of these and provide reasons for your decision and ensure evidence is noted/referenced for any decision reached.

Screening Decision/Outcome	Reasons/Evidence
Option 1 Screen out – no equality impact assessment and no mitigation required [go to Monitoring section]	The evidence suggests that maintaining winter hours year-round would improve accessibility for a greater number of users and reduce the number of customers being turned away
Option 2 Screen out with mitigation – some potential impacts identified but they can be addressed with appropriate mitigation or some opportunities to better promote equality and/or good relations identified [complete mitigation section below]	
Option 3 Screen in for a full Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA)	

[If option 3, complete timetabling and prioritising section below]	
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Mitigation (Only relevant to Option 2)

Can the activity/policy/project plan be amended or an alternative activity/policy introduced to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations?

No

If so, give the **reasons** to support your decision, together with the proposed changes/amendments or alternative activity/policy and ensure the mitigations are included in a revised/updated policy or plan.

Timetabling and prioritising for full EQIA (only relevant to Option 3)

If the activity/policy has been ‘**screened in**’ for full equality impact assessment, give details of any factors to be considered and the next steps for progressing the EQIA, including a proposed timetable.

Is the activity/policy affected by timetables established by other relevant public authorities?

No.

Part 4. Monitoring

Public authorities should consider the guidance contained in the Commission’s Monitoring Guidance for Use by Public Authorities (July 2007).

Effective monitoring will help a public authority identify any future adverse impact arising from the activity/policy which may lead the public authority to conduct an equality impact assessment, as well as help with future planning and activity/policy development.

What will be monitored and how? What specific equality monitoring will be done? Who will undertake and sign-off the monitoring of this activity/policy and on what frequency?

Please give details:

The number of users of the HRCs will be monitored on an ongoing basis to ensure changes to opening hours meet the needs of residents.

Part 5 - Approval and authorisation

	Position/Job Title	Date
Screened by: Gemma Richardson	Waste Policy and Development Manager	06/05/2026
Reviewed by: Annie Wilson	Equality Officer	08/05/2026
Approved by: Wilfie Muldrew	Head of Waste & Operational Services	15/5/26

Note: On completion of the screening exercise, a copy of the completed Screening Report should be:

- approved and 'signed off' by a senior manager responsible for the activity/policy
- included with Committee reports, as appropriate
- sent to the Equality Officer for the quarterly screening report to consultees, internal reporting and publishing on the LCCC website
- shared with relevant colleagues
- made available to the public on request.
-

Evidence and documents referenced in the screening report should also be available if requested.

Appendix 1 – Equality Commission guidance on equality impact

*Major impact:

- a) The policy/project is significant in terms of its strategic importance;
- b) Potential equality matters are unknown, because, for example, there is insufficient data upon which to make an assessment or because they are complex, and it would be appropriate to conduct an equality impact assessment in order to better assess them;
- c) Potential equality and/or good relations impacts are likely to be adverse or are likely to be experienced disproportionately by groups of people including those who are marginalised or disadvantaged;
- d) Further assessment offers a valuable way to examine the evidence and develop recommendations in respect of a policy about which there are concerns amongst affected individuals and representative groups, for example in respect of multiple identities;
- e) The policy is likely to be challenged by way of judicial review;
- f) The policy is significant in terms of expenditure.

Minor impact

- a) The policy is not unlawfully discriminatory and any residual potential impacts on people are judged to be negligible;
- b) The policy, or certain proposals within it, are potentially unlawfully discriminatory, but this possibility can readily and easily be eliminated by making appropriate changes to the policy or by adopting appropriate mitigating measures;
- c) Any asymmetrical equality impacts caused by the policy are intentional because they are specifically designed to promote equality of opportunity for particular groups of disadvantaged people;
- d) By amending the policy there are better opportunities to better promote equality of opportunity and/or good relations.

No impact (none)

- a) The policy has no relevance to equality of opportunity or good relations;
- b) The policy is purely technical in nature and will have no bearing in terms of its likely impact on equality of opportunity or good relations for people within the equality and good relations categories.

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service - Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Item for:	Noting
Subject:	Food Control Service Plan 2026/2027

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	The Food Standards Agency (FSA) requires each competent authority to have an up-to-date, documented Food Service Plan, which is readily available to food business operators (FBOs) and consumers. The Plan must be subject to regular review and clearly state the period of time during which the Plan has effect.
1.2	The Food Standards Agency's 'Framework Agreement on Local Authority Law Enforcement' sets out what the FSA expects from local authorities in their delivery of official controls on feed and food law, based on the existing statutory Codes of Practice.
1.3	The Food Service Plan for 2026/2027 has been developed to meet the requirements outlined in the Framework Agreement. The Plan covers in detail: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The aims and objectives of the food service; • The profile of the council, including the organisational structure, and the scope of the service provided; • The ways in which the service will be delivered and the targets for its delivery; • The human and financial resources involved in providing the service; • The ways in which the quality of the service will be monitored and improved upon; • The ways in which the service will be reviewed and improved upon.
1.4	Attached as Appendix 1 EH is a copy of the Food Control Service Plan 2026/2027 for Members' information.
2.0	<u>Recommendation</u> It is recommended that the committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notes the content of the attached Food Service Plan for 2026/2027.
3.0	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u> Existing payroll and non-payroll provision has been made within the 2026/2027 budget.
4.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>

4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	N/A
4.2	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out Operational - Food Control Service Plan only.	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	N/A
4.4	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out. Operational - Food Control Service Plan only.	

Appendices:	Appendix 1 EH - Food Control Service Plan 2026/2027
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**Lisburn &
Castlereagh
City Council**

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council

**Environmental Health, Risk and
Emergency Planning Service Unit**

Food Control Service Plan 2026/2027

FOOD SERVICE PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

The Food Standards Agency, as part of its national Food Safety Framework Agreement, requires all local authorities to prepare an annual service plan which reviews the implementation of the previous year's plan and details the delivery of their food safety enforcement responsibilities for the following year.

This Food Service Delivery Plan is seen as an important document ensuring that national priorities and standards are addressed and delivered locally. It will also:

- Focus debate on key delivery issues.
- Provide an essential link with financial planning.
- Set objectives for the future and identify major issues that may cross service boundaries.
- Provide a means of managing performance and making performance comparisons.

This year's Food Service Delivery sets out our priorities in line with the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code) and will be implemented alongside the requirements of the 'Food Standard Agency's Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement' and sets out:

- The aims and key priorities of the services
- The organisational structure and the scope of the services.
- The ways in which the service will be delivered and the targets for its delivery.
- The human and financial resources involved in providing the service.
- The ways in which the quality of the service will be monitored and improved upon.
- The ways in which the service will be reviewed and improved upon.

The Food Safety Service Delivery Plan will next be reviewed in spring 2027 or sooner if there are new Food Standards Agency requirements.

1.0 SERVICE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 Aims and Objectives

Aim:

To ensure the safe production and sale of food within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area, reduce the possibility of food borne illness and protect the consumer with regard to composition and labelling of food. These aims and objectives are consistent with "Food you can trust - FSA Strategy 2022 to 2027"

1. To inspect food businesses for compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations (NI) 2006 and any EC Regulations relating to food made under the European Communities Act 1972, assess food-handling practices, identify hazards and take action to remedy any problems discovered. The frequency of inspection will be based on risk assessment of premises in compliance with the Food Law Code of

Practice (NI) 2025 and align with any changes made to the Food Law Code of Practice

2. To inspect food businesses for compliance with the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991 and EC Regulations relating to food standards, to ensure that legal requirements are met in relation to the quality, composition, labelling, presentation and advertising of food. The frequency of inspections will be based on the Food Standards Delivery model risk assessment of premises in compliance with the Food Law Code of Practice (NI) 2025 and align with any changes made to the Food Law Code of Practice.
3. To work towards and support the objectives of the NI Food Managers Group Workplan 2026/2027
4. To implement the mandatory Food Hygiene Rating Scheme as required by the Food Hygiene Rating (Northern Ireland) Act 2016, in order to ensure that Statutory Food Hygiene Ratings are displayed to assist consumers to make informed choices.
5. To provide advice and assistance to food businesses to enable them to comply with Food Standards Agency guidance "E. Coli 0157 Control of Cross Contamination"
6. To act as "Home Authority" to manufacturers and packers of food, located within the City, providing advice, food hygiene and food standards audit reports and responding to requests for "Home Authority" reports from other Councils.
7. To improve the understanding of food safety requirements by persons handling food during visits to premises and providing advice and recommendations.
8. To investigate complaints regarding premises, practices and food items.
9. To carry out a proactive and reactive food-sampling regime for chemical analysis.
10. To carry out a proactive and reactive food-sampling regime for bacteriological analysis.
11. To investigate individual cases and outbreaks of food borne illnesses as notified by the PHA and members of the public and to assist in the control and spread of foodborne diseases
12. To provide a Health Education and promotion service to the food industry and the public, to ensure greater awareness of food safety in both the commercial and domestic settings.
13. To deliver nutrition awareness to the catering sector by initiatives and incorporating the message during routine inspections. To implement schemes such as CalorieWise to increase the range of healthy choices for the consumer and to contribute to the implementation of the 'Healthy Futures' obesity strategic framework.
14. To comply with the requirements of the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement

TARGETS

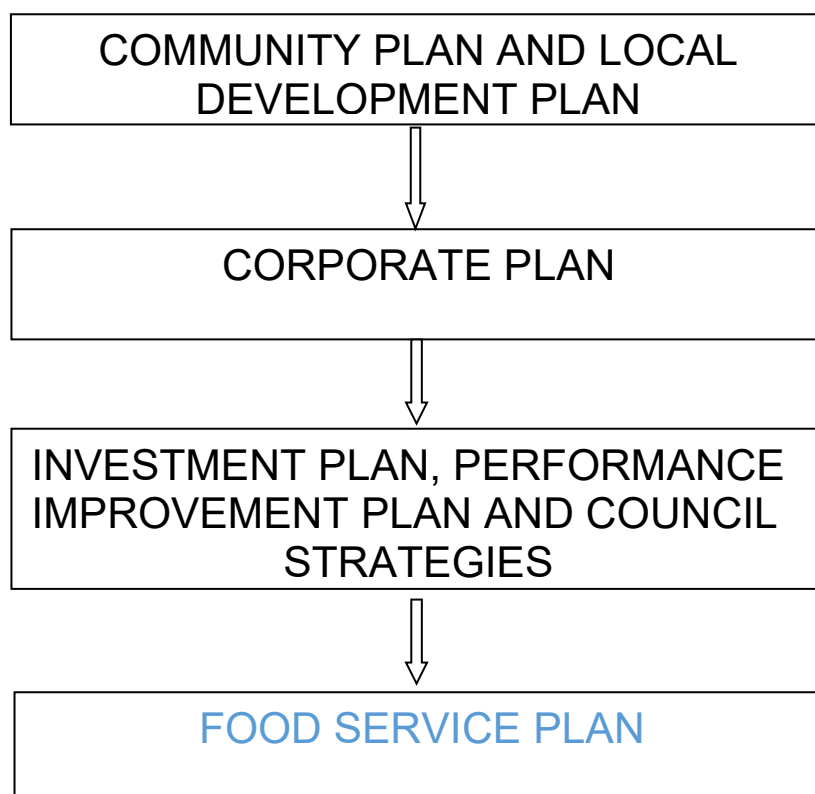
The objectives and actions detailed above will be measured in accordance with the following table of targets. Where deviations from the targets are found, the targets will be analysed and reviewed throughout the year.

Activity	Target
Inspection of Food Standards priority food premises	100% of priority interventions carried out.
Inspection of Food Hygiene high-risk food premises	100% of risk category A & B and broadly non-compliant C's
- Achieve an improvement in FH rating for those premises currently rated <3	70% of premises currently rated <3 improved
Issue of Food Hygiene Rating Notification.	100% of correspondence issued within 14 days of inspection.
Issue of Statutory Notices (excluding Emergency Notices)	100% of Notices issued within ten working days of inspection.
Issue of Emergency Notices	100% of Notices issued within one working day of inspection.
Complaints, requests for advice, responses to queries and Food Alerts for Information	90% responded to within three working days.
Food Alerts for Action	100% responded to within one working day.
Infectious Disease Notifications	90% responded to within one working day

1.2 Links to Corporate Objectives and Plans

The Food Control Service Plan is part of a wider strategic framework process adopted by the Council. The high level aims of the Council are translated into operational objectives and in turn into this service plan, which will be implemented by the Food Control Section of the Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning Unit

Strategic Framework Process



Service Plan

The Food Safety Service Plan contributes to the effective delivery of the Councils Corporate Plan, Community Plan, Local Investment Plan, Performance Improvement Plan and other relevant council Strategies.

Delivery of Service

The food service performance is reviewed annually against local and national performance indicators. External review is by reporting performance to the FSA on a biannual basis and through its ongoing monitoring of Food Hygiene Ratings. Internal review is facilitated through internal audit. An FSA audit of the Council's Food Service Plan was carried out in 24/25. The FSA reported that the council's Food Service Plan and its governance arrangements were compliant with the requirements of the Framework Agreement on Local Authority Food Law Enforcement.

Planning & Development

Environmental Health is consulted on planning applications and makes responses to planning service after considering the environmental health effect the proposed development could have on the locality. Directly, the unit aims to create a healthy, safe and sustainable environment on a day-to-day basis by influencing that environment as far as possible, such as consumer products, the working environment, the domestic environment and pollution control.

Community Involvement

The Section considers interaction with its 'customers' as paramount in delivering its services. The section will support Community Services initiatives to educate the community on food safety matters.

Health Promotion & Education

The service proactively aims to deliver health information and education to the public from primary school age to senior citizens. Examples of ongoing projects include food hygiene training for places of worship and schools, allergen training for the food industry and food safety advice to community groups. In 26/27 it is planned to provide an information and cookery demonstration for Coeliac's.

Business and Industry

The Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning Unit ensures that the regulatory services it carries out have due regard to business constraints while balancing this against actual public health risk therefore supporting economic sustainability. All proprietors of businesses are consulted on the service provided by the Food Control Section. The Section continually strives to keep businesses and industries updated and act as interfaces between the service and themselves, through promotions, provision of training on legislation and premise specific mailshots. Adherence to good Environmental Health

Practice, e.g. Food safety, Health & Safety and Environmental Protection makes good business sense and helps companies attract new customers and retain existing contracts.

Forward Planning and Development

The Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning Unit receives a large number of public service enquiries and refers these if necessary to the appropriate agency. Frequently this involves referrals being made to appropriate agencies on the complainant's/enquirer's behalf. Officers advise the Council to enable it to respond to consultations from other agencies.

Principles

The principles of the Food Control Section reflect the Corporate Plan and its ambitions 2024/2028.

Council Vision

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's vision is to achieve better lives for the people who work, live in or visit the LCCC area.

Strategic Themes and Our Partners

The Council's priorities are categorised under the strategic themes of 'Civic Leadership', 'People', 'Planet' and 'Prosperity'.

The Food Control Section will contribute where possible to the Council's Strategic Themes.

2 BACKGROUND

2.1 Profile of the Local Authority

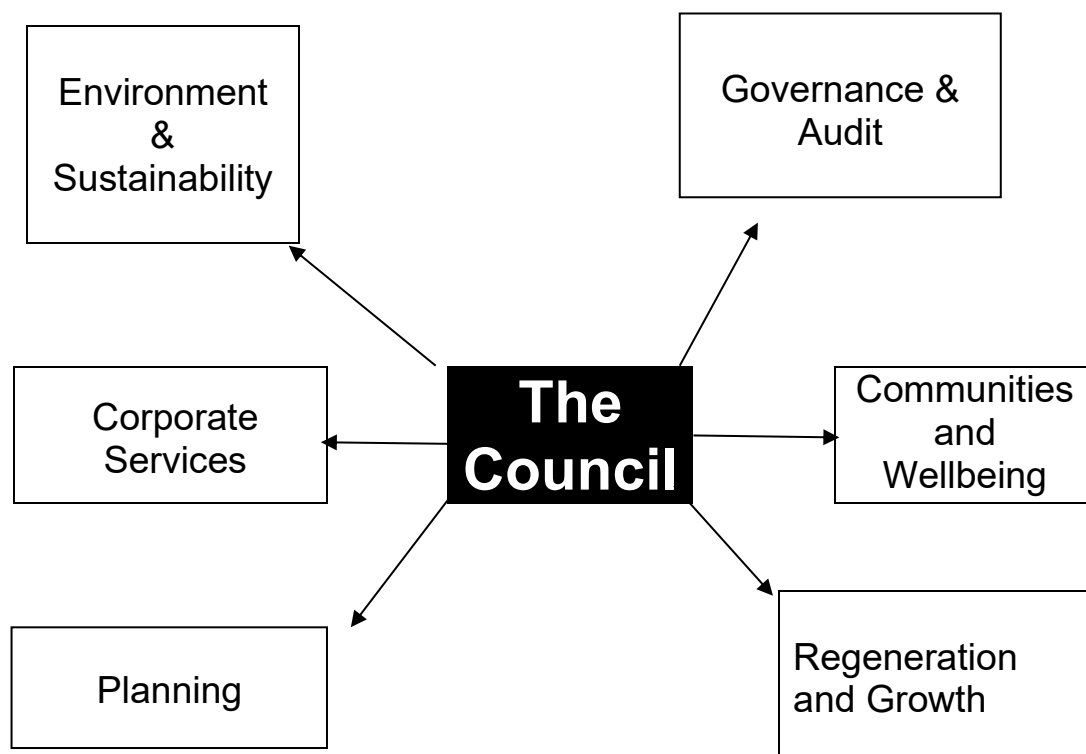
On the 1st April 2015 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council assumed responsibility for the new Council area, following the amalgamation of Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council.

The Council, made up of 40 Elected Members, represents 150,822 residents (NISRA ,2023) in 60,100 households and covers an area of nearly 200 square miles and stretches from Moira and Glenavy in the West, across the City of Lisburn to Dundonald in the East.



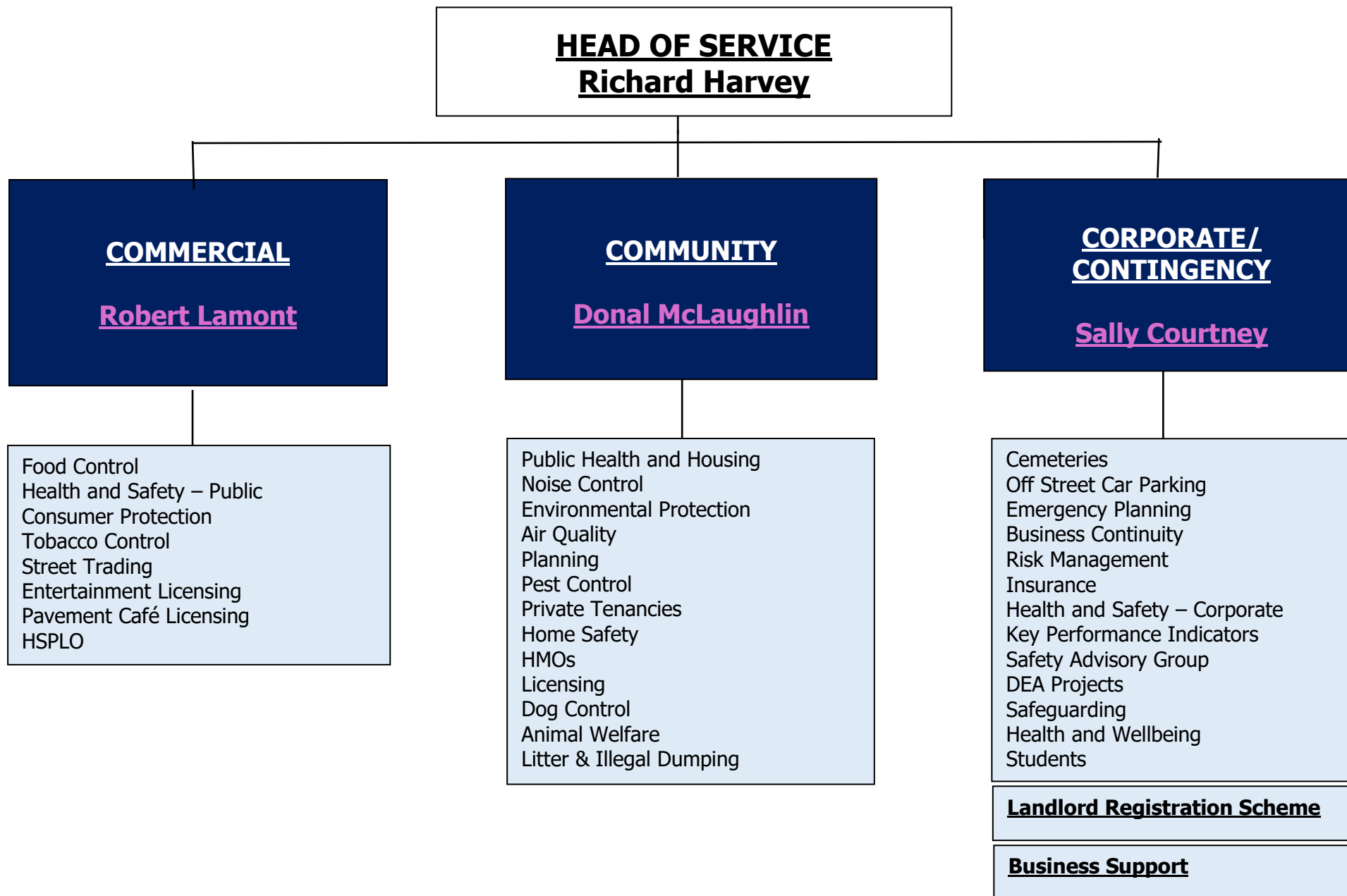
2.2 Organisational Structure

The Head of Service reports all food service issues to the Council via the Environment & Sustainability Committee, which is one of the Councils Statutory Member Committees.



The Council has delegated a number of powers to the Director and Head of Service of Environmental Services to allow for an improvement in the decision-making processes regarding food control (and other Environmental Health issues). All powers concerning the delivery of the food service (with the exception of the instigation of legal proceedings) rests with the Environmental Health Officers. Only Officers with the necessary competency and authorisations are permitted to issue Hygiene Emergency Prohibition Notices or Remedial Action Notices

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH, RISK AND EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE UNIT



Specialist Services

The Department also uses external specialist services, such as the Public Analyst, the Public Health Laboratory, The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Currently Public Analyst services, in respect of analysis and opinions regarding routine and complaint samples, are provided by Public Analyst -Eurofins Food Ireland Testing Ltd and there is a service level agreement determining the standard of service between the Council and the Public Analyst. The Public Health Laboratory Service (NIPHL) provides microbiological examination of routine and complaint food samples and samples of faeces and vomit obtained during investigation of food related illnesses. A Microbiology Sample Testing Agreement is in place between the Council and NIPHL.

2.3 Scope of the Food Service

The following outlines the various types of activities covered by the Food Control Service:

1 Inspection	<i>Planned Food Hygiene and Food Standards Inspections FHRS Rescore Inspections Re-visits Allergen assessment inspections</i>
2 Response Work	<i>Advice Food Complaints Telephone queries Advisory Visits Food Poisoning and Other Infectious Diseases Unsound Food Food Alerts Allergen Alerts Product Recalls Imported Food Control</i>
3 Sampling	<i>Bacteriological Chemical Pesticide residues Survey</i>
4 Service Management	<i>Officer monitoring and supervision Co-ordination and uniform enforcement Maintenance of the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme Forward planning Reporting to Council Court Proceedings Document control Consultation with Stakeholders</i>
5 Service Promotion	<i>Training Research Health Education/Allergen Promotion and Education Introduction of Nutritional Standards in Council facilities</i>

All Environmental Health Officers could be asked to carry out other duties at any time by the Head of Service e.g. Public Health calls during staff shortages or at holiday time.

2.4 Demands on the Food Service

At the time of writing Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council has 1251 premises registered as food businesses currently open for which the authority has food enforcement responsibility. They fall into the following premise categories:

Premises type	Premise registered
Primary Producers	10
Manufacturers/Processors	73
Importers/Exporters	7
Distributors/Transporters	48
Retailers	245
Restaurant and other caterers	868

The Food Control Section is located in Civic Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn. Food Control staff are available during normal working hours with out of hours planned work being carried out as required at any appropriate time e.g. Council and outside events e.g. Balmoral Show, firework displays, Mayors Parade, local racecourse events, etc. Officers work flexi-hours between 8.00am and 12.00midnight. An emergency response system is also available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week for notification of infectious diseases via the PHA and Food Alerts issued by the FSA.

The service can also be contacted via Officers direct e-mail addresses and a Council wide website (www.lisburnandcastlereagh.gov.uk).

2.5 Enforcement Policy

The Council's Enforcement & Regulation Policy was ratified in June 2020 (reviewed 2024) and is consistent with the principles set out in the Government's Better Regulation agenda which is intended to improve compliance with legislation while minimising the burden on businesses, individuals, organisations and the Council.

In preparing the Policy, the Council has considered the Regulator's Code and the "Statement of Intent" between the Better Regulation Delivery Office, the Department for the Economy and district councils.

The policy is available to the public and businesses on the Council's Website.

3 SERVICE DELIVERY

Food Premises Inspections

The Council intends to inspect food premises for compliance with all relevant legislation according to risk as set out in the FSA approved Food Law Code of Practice and as a result assess food hygiene and food standards requirements.

With the introduction of the Food Hygiene Rating Act 2016 Councils are required to inspect and rate all premises that fall within the scope of the Act.

This limits the use of alternative methods of enforcement for low-risk premises as guided by the FSA Food Law Code of Practice.

Appropriate action within the terms of the Council's Enforcement & Regulation Policy will be taken to remedy any non-compliance discovered.

Businesses are assessed on the risk they present to public safety and standards and are therefore inspected at a higher frequency.

During the year 2026/2027 the planned numbers of inspections are as follows:

FOOD HYGIENE PROFILE OF ACTIVITES

(all inspections hours are based on a regional time and motion study carried out in 25/26)

<u>Category</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Total Number of Premises</u>	<u>Inspections for 2026/27</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
A	6 months	2	4	10	40
B	1 year	5	6	7.5	45
C	18 months	152	109	3.8	414.2
D	2 years	417	236	3.25	767
E	Alternative Enforcement	626	184	1	184
Unrated, etc.	N/A	35	35	3.15	110.25
Outside the programme	N/A	14		0	
TOTALS		1251	574		1560.45

FOOD STANDARDS PROFILE OF ACTIVITIES

<u>Category</u>	<u>Frequency</u>	<u>Total Number of Premises</u>	<u>Inspections for 2026/27</u>	<u>Hours</u>	<u>Total Hours</u>
	6 months	1	1	3.3	3.3
	12 months	10	6	3.3	19.8
	24 months	100	82	2.5	205
	36 months	147	50	2.5	125
	48 months	128	9	2.1	18.9
	60 months	300	51	2.1	107.1
	72 months	440	22	1.9	41.8
	120 months	79	0	1	79
Unrated etc		46	46	2.5	115
Outside the programme		0			
TOTALS		1251	267		714.9

WORK PLAN FRAMEWORK

(based on 25/26 activities)

<u>ACTIVITY</u>	<u>CODE</u>	<u>TASKS</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
Planned FH Inspections	0101	574		1560.5	hours
Planned FS Inspections	0101	267		714.9	hours
Revisits	0205	106	1.6	169.6	hours
New Premises	0102	149		841.85	hours
Re-Score Visits FHRS	0211	11	2.5	27.5	hours
Advice Visits	0203	80	1.7	94	hours
Education/Food Safety Campaigns				120	hours
Out of Area/ Events		3	50	150	
Add. HA Premises	0203	52	2	104	hours
Bacto-Sampling	0501	483	0.75	362.25	hours
Chemical Sampling	0501	131	1	131	hours
Food Complaints Investigation	1806	43	1.7	73.1	hours
Food Poisoning Outbreaks	0207	1	50	50	hours
Communicable Diseases	0207	94	1.2	112.8	hours
Product Recalls/Imported Food	0201	7	8	56	hours
Unsound Food	0306	1	4	4	hours
Meetings, Training/Sems, Research				450	hours
Court Hearings, etc (including prep)	9800	1	100	100	hours
Officer Monitoring/Supervision, Co-ordination and Uniform Enforcement & Corporate Activities	9200			550	hours
Council Reports/LAEMS Returns	9302	10 / 4	2 / 20	100	hours
Forward Planning	9201	-	100	100	hours
Procedures	-	-	50	50	hours
Managing FHRS & Consistency	-	-	100	100	hours
Service Requests		149	0.5	74.5	hours
TOTAL HOURS REQUIRED:				6216 hours	

Staffing Allocations

The staffing resources of the Food Control Section for 2026/2027 are as follows: -

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>% time</u>	<u>Hours</u>
Head of Service	Richard Harvey	10%	140 hours
Environmental Health Manager	Robert Lamont	50%	702 hours
Lead Officers	Brona Turley/Sandra Pinion	30%	336.72
Environmental Health Officer	Liz King - 0.5 FTE	50%	702 hours
Environmental Health Officer	Heather Marshall	100%	1403 hours
Environmental Health Officer	Kerrie Simms	100%	1403 hours
Environmental Health Officer	Marguerite Morris	100%	1403 hours
TOTAL HOURS: 6089.7 hours			

Following analysis of the total work demand on the Food Control Section of 6216 hours compared with the officer time in the Service Unit structure available of 6089.7 hours.

The Service Unit is in the process of filling vacant posts arising from the restructuring process, and it is anticipated that additional resource will be available to support the food safety function to address the current staffing shortfall.

3.2 Food Complaints

The Council will investigate all food complaints in accordance with the FSA Code of Practice and the approved Northern Ireland Food Managers procedure (2025). It is estimated that approximately 43 complaints will be investigated during 2026/2027 with a total demand of time 73.1 hours.

3.3 Home Authority Principle

Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council formally adopted the LACORS Home Authority Principle in January 2001 although the food control service has been practising it since its inception in the late 1980's. Currently the Council is responsible for 73 manufacturing premise which distribute food outside the Council area.

3.4 Advice to Businesses

The Council will aim to improve the understanding of food safety requirements by persons handling food, through formal food hygiene courses and informal education during visits to premises, and in the provision of advice and recommendations. It shall also aim to provide a health education and promotion service to the general public to ensure greater awareness of food safety issues in both the commercial and domestic setting.

Advice to businesses is given during planned programmed inspections or when a food handler or member of the public contacts the food safety unit by phone, E-mail or letter. A Health Promotion and Education Service in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing Section is also provided to the General Public. Talks and presentations on any food hygiene/food standards or infectious disease topic can be organised and presented at any time. Food Safety Information has been translated in Chinese, Urdu as well as Polish and other ethnic languages and is available on request. This has of course become a statutory duty in the context of the Councils Equality Scheme.

The increased importance of information to be provided by food businesses regarding allergens will require engagement with food business operations to ensure that there are additional choices available for the consumer.

3.5 Food Inspection and Sampling

The Food Control Section adopted the NIFLG Policy for sampling in 2012.

Food Standards (Chemical Samples)

A sampling plan outlining the workload for 2026/2027 has been devised. The Council has an allocated budget for the purchase and laboratory analysis of samples which are submitted to the appointed Public Analyst. Planned sampling is supplemented by special surveys or complaints.

Food Hygiene (Bacteriological Samples)

The target number of bacteriological samples submitted is 11 per week. This may be supplemented by complaint samples or special surveys organised by FSA, PHLS etc. The Public Health Laboratory Service at the City Hospital, Belfast examines these samples free of charge, for resource implication see 3.1.

3.6 Control and Investigation of Outbreaks and Food Related Infectious Diseases

Although the Public Health Agency is the regional authority responsible for the investigation of infectious diseases the Council will investigate all individual cases of food poisoning as notified by the Public Health Agency within 1 working day. We will also investigate as appropriate alleged food poisoning if reported by GPs or members of the Public and report these to the Agency. These notifications are received and returned electronically to increase efficiency and confidentiality.

We investigate and act as agents to the Public Health Agency for any food poisoning outbreaks in the City Council area.

These procedures will be in accordance with the Public Health Agency policy on the investigation of food poisoning incidents and outbreaks where we report to the Consultant in gastrointestinal infection who is under the control of the PHA. On average we receive approximately 94 individual cases of food poisoning and 1 outbreak per year - for resource implication see 3.1.

3.7 Food Safety Incidents

The Council will act on all food safety incidents in accordance with the FSA Code of Practice and will deal with all notified Food Alerts. Food Allergy alerts will be responded to as required.

The resource implication is detailed in 3.1 and all food alerts will be responded to within one day.

3.8 Liaison with Other Organisations

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council have established strong links with other Councils via the Northern Ireland Food Managers Group and other regional working groups. These links have been maintained and serve to permit a close working relationship involving the sharing of information/expertise and joint working and training initiatives.

Liaison with Government and Professional Working Groups

Similarly, the Environmental Health Manager provides the main liaison point on behalf of the Council to such bodies as FSA, DAERA Agrifood Division, PHA, University of Ulster, CIEH and other professional groups.

Commitment to Local/Regional Groups

Under the Environmental Health Northern Ireland group a sub-group, known as the Northern Ireland Food Managers Group (NIFMG) was created. The NIFMG has representation from each of the 11 Councils. It provides advice and co-ordination of Food Control matters throughout the province.

The NIFMG produces a work plan on several food related areas each year which are undertaken throughout all the 11 Councils.

Liaison and Involvement with LACORS

Although the Council operates the principles of Home Authority as devised by LACORS, the organisation itself has ceased to exist and the Primary Authority system overseen by the Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) has to a great extent, replaced the Home Authority system in Great Britain. In the absence of the obligatory application of this system in Northern Ireland, local authorities, including, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council will follow as far as possible the protocols involved with Primary Authority principle. This only has implications for some of the larger businesses (e.g. superstores) and Councils in Northern Ireland will also continue with the Home Authority approach with businesses whose primary location is within the Council area.

Formal Liaison with Voluntary Group and Public Sector Bodies

The NI Food Managers Group provides specialist advice to voluntary groups, usually upon demand.

The Public Health Agency has a close working relationship with the Council, particularly in the area of infectious disease control. The relationship with the Public Health Consultant for Gastro-intestinal illness has proved to be the main interface in this aspect.

Formalised liaison is maintained with other services within the authority, including Planning Service, Building Control, Event Organisers and the Home Safety Group.

3.9 Food Safety and Standards Promotion

The Council will aim to:

- Improve food handler's understanding of food safety requirements, by provision of formal food hygiene courses and informal education during visits to premises, in the provision of advice and recommendations, and to
- Provide a health education and promotion service to the general public to ensure greater awareness of food safety issues in both the commercial and domestic setting.

In the coming year it is planned to undertake the following in conjunction with the Health and Wellbeing section.

1. To collaborate with a range of external organisations to embrace the aims and objectives of the Investing for Health Strategy and to contribute to the Councils Community Plan.
2. Continue to provide Hygiene Instruction Training to Volunteers who prepare food for Churches and Community Groups.
3. An information session for members of the public who have Coeliac disease or gluten intolerance.
4. Explore opportunities to work in conjunction with internal partners to deliver food safety education programmes.
5. Facilitate food hygiene training in schools
6. Ongoing education during inspection of premises
7. Participation in national promotional events such as Food Safety Week

4 RESOURCES

4.1 Financial Allocations

The Food Control Section is responsible for its own budget and has conducted a benchmarking of the Food Control resources available to all Northern Ireland Councils.

<u>Expenditure</u>	<u>2026/2027</u> £
Salaries	£300,443
Staff Travel and Subsistence	£9,000
Protective Clothing	£300
New Equipment	£910
Sampling	£35,000
Food Safety Promotions	£6,300
TOTAL	£351,953

Food Standards Agency Grant Funding

The FSA traditionally allocated funding to Councils based predominately on population, however from April 2015, grants were allocated based on food establishments types in the Council area. All monies are paid on a quarterly basis.

For 2026/2027

FSA Core Funding £110,928

This reflects a decrease from 2025/2026 of £39,313.83 due to a significant change in the premise profile of food businesses operating in the Council area.

4.2 Staff Development Plan

At present, staff training programmes are produced following an annual review of the training needs of each officer, as part of the internal monitoring processes operated in the Food Control Service. Training is tailored to the needs of both the department and the individual members of staff, and they are provided with opportunities as they arise. A positive attempt is made to ensure that these needs are met. A structured training programming is provided through the NIFMG, which Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council fully supports. Officers from the Council's Food Control Service attend courses organised by the Group.

It is also essential that officers meet the training requirements detailed in the Food Law Code of Practice. This requires that appropriately trained and experienced officers must only undertake food safety work. This necessitates access to external training on specialist topics, supplemented by regular in-house update training for authorised food safety officers.

As a minimum, all authorised officers will receive at least 10 hours training per year, specifically on food issues, as required by Food Law Code of Practice and a minimum of 20 hours per year overall continuing professional development training, or 30 hours for Chartered Environmental Health Practitioners

It is anticipated that a significant amount of update training will again be necessary this year for all enforcement officers. This will be provided to ensure continued professional development and officer competency

5 QUALITY ASSESSMENT

5.1 Quality Assessment

The section is committed to providing a food safety enforcement and advisory service of the highest quality in line with customer expectation. The consistency of approach, transparency and accountability of operations depends on the professional competence of its officers.

- **Monitoring of District EHO by Environmental Health Manager**
The Environmental Health Manager will review Food Hygiene Ratings, officer's inspection notes, letters and follow-up actions. Qualitative assessment of inspection procedures is also conducted through accompanied inspections where necessary and where resources permit.
- **Staff Meetings**
The Environmental Health Manager will meet with staff on a regular basis to discuss issues related to service provision and quality of the service.
- **Customer Engagement**
A questionnaire is sent to every completed programmed inspection and completed food complaint. All returned questionnaires are reviewed by the Environmental Health Manager

6 REVIEW

6.1 Review against the Service Plan

The performance of the Food Safety Team will be the subject of half year and end of year Performance Reviews.

The status and adequacy of the Food Service Plan in relation to new objectives resulting from changing circumstances will be revised annually.

Internal targets as stated in Section 1.1 are detailed in the table below, which includes performance achieved.

Activity	Target	Performance
Inspection of Food Standards priority food premises	100% of priority interventions carried out.	Target Met
Inspection of Food Hygiene high-risk food premises	100% of risk category A & B and broadly non-compliant C's	Target Met
- Achieve an improvement in FH rating for those premises currently rated <3	70% of premises currently rated <3 improved	Target Met
Issue of Food Hygiene Rating Notification.	100% of correspondence issued within 14 days of inspection.	Target Met
Issue of Statutory Notices (excluding Emergency Notices)	100% of Notices issued within ten working days of inspection.	2 Statutory Notices were issued. Target met
Issue of Emergency Notices	100% of Notices issued within one working day of inspection.	No Emergency Notices were issued
Complaints, requests for advice, responses to queries and Food Alerts for Information	90% responded to within three working days.	Target met
Food Alerts for Action	100% responded to within one working day.	Target met
Infectious Disease Notifications	90% responded to within one working day	94 infectious disease notifications were received .98% were responded to in one working day

In order to meet statutory priorities and maintain delivery against risk-based targets, the Food Control Unit has reduced the number of in-person advisory and education visits previously provided to new businesses. To continue supporting business compliance, new food businesses are provided with tailored advice and signposted to relevant guidance and resource material by email. The service will keep this arrangement under review, with the aim of strengthening support where capacity allows while continuing to safeguard standards, consistency and effective service delivery.

The Council is required to report its performance to the Food Standards Agency on a bi-annual basis. The FSA will provide a report on the Councils performance in due course.

6.2 Identification of Variation from the Service Plan

Areas of work will continue to be prioritised according to risk and public benefit. Monitoring review, using specifically designed internal performance indicators, will be carried out throughout the year, to assess variations from the Service Plan.

6.3 Areas of Improvement

The following priority improvement areas have been identified through review of the 2025/2026 Food Service Delivery Plan and will shape service delivery during 2026/2027. Together, these actions are intended to strengthen regulatory assurance, improve data quality, support compliance across the food sector and enhance outcomes for consumers.

- Deliver an information session for members of the public living with Coeliac disease or gluten intolerance. Although this initiative was not delivered in 2025/2026 due to funding constraints experienced by Safefood, it has now been confirmed for October 2026 and remains a key commitment within this year's programme.
- The Idox database will remain subject to ongoing review and development to ensure the Council can produce accurate, reliable and timely data for the Food Standards Agency. This work will be supported by a physical survey of food businesses across the city in conjunction with the Health & Safety Team.
- Continue to improve the proportion of broadly compliant premises and take targeted action to address non-compliance in premises rated 0, 1 and 2, with a clear focus on raising standards and reducing public health risk.

Richard Harvey
Head of Service
Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Date Ratified by Environment & Sustainability Committee: _____

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service - Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Item for:	Noting
Subject:	End of year HMO report

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>	
1.1	Belfast City Council's NIHMO service, on behalf of each of the 11 Northern Ireland Councils, is responsible for managing the HMO Licensing Scheme application process. This includes processing all licence requests, validating the requests, checks and inspections of HMO properties, issuing enforcement notices and dealing with breaches of licensing conditions.	
1.2	There are presently 9 HMOs licensed in the LCCC area with an occupancy of 46 persons in total. This has not changed from the previous year with no new applications received.	
1.3	A total of 10 inspections were carried out within these 9 HMO properties of which 3 related to the monitoring programme. Seven of these inspections related to enforcement and 4 enforcement actions arose resulting in £5,000 Fixed Penalty being paid.	
1.4	Attached as Appendix 2 EH for Members' information is a copy of the HMO year-end report for 2025-2026 for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.	
2.0	<u>Recommendation</u>	
	It is recommended that the committee:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> notes the content of the attached HMO year-end report 2025-2026 received from Belfast City Council for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. 	
3.0	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>	
	No resource issues.	
4.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	N/A
4.2	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions or rationale why the screening was not carried out	

	Year-end report only.	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	N/A
4.4	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out. Year-end report only.	

Appendices:	Appendix 2 EH – LCCC HMO year-end report 2025-2026
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1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues																																							
1.1	The report is intended to give members an update on the activity of the NIHMO service during the financial year 2025/26.																																							
1.2	Belfast City Council's NIHMO service, on behalf of each of the 11 Northern Ireland Councils is responsible for managing the HMO Licensing Scheme application process, which includes processing all licence requests, validating the requests, checks and inspections of HMO properties, issuing enforcement notices and dealing with breaches of licensing conditions.																																							
1.3	The granting, refusal, variation or revocation of an HMO licence rests with Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.																																							
2.0	Recommendations																																							
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the activity of the NIHMO service during the financial year 2025/26																																							
3.0	Main report																																							
	<u>Key Issues</u>																																							
	HMO Licensing																																							
3.1	Table 1 provides a summary of the number of HMO's licensed on 31 March 2026																																							
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	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Row Labels</th> <th>Count by Council Area</th> <th>Permitted Occupancy</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Antrim and Newtownabbey</td> <td>15</td> <td>70</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ards and North Down</td> <td>13</td> <td>80</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon</td> <td>59</td> <td>331</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Belfast</td> <td>2996</td> <td>12981</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Causeway Coast and Glens</td> <td>214</td> <td>927</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Derry City and Strabane</td> <td>250</td> <td>1202</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fermanagh and Omagh</td> <td>5</td> <td>20</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lisburn and Castlereagh</td> <td>9</td> <td>46</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid and East Antrim</td> <td>12</td> <td>76</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mid Ulster</td> <td>18</td> <td>120</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Newry Mourne and Down</td> <td>18</td> <td>97</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Grand Total</td> <td>3609</td> <td>15950</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Row Labels	Count by Council Area	Permitted Occupancy	Antrim and Newtownabbey	15	70	Ards and North Down	13	80	Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	59	331	Belfast	2996	12981	Causeway Coast and Glens	214	927	Derry City and Strabane	250	1202	Fermanagh and Omagh	5	20	Lisburn and Castlereagh	9	46	Mid and East Antrim	12	76	Mid Ulster	18	120	Newry Mourne and Down	18	97	Grand Total	3609	15950
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Grand Total	3609	15950																																						

- 3.2 Table 2 provides a summary of the number of licenses granted and renewed during the financial year 2025/26.

Table 2

Row Labels	New Applications	Renewal Application	Total by Council Area
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0	0	0
Ards and North Down	0	1	1
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	12	5	17
Belfast	150	578	728
Causeway Coast and Glens	16	44	60
Derry City and Strabane	44	33	77
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	1	1
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	0	0
Mid and East Antrim	4	0	4
Mid Ulster	2	0	2
Newry Mourne and Down	0	1	1
Grand Total	228	663	891

Note: New applications include those properties which had a license in the name of a different licensee and were subsequently sold / transferred.

- 3.3 Table 3 provides a summary of the number of HMO licence applications that have not been successful (by reason) during the financial year 2025/26

Table 3

Council	Not received from owner	Breach of planning control	Documentation	Notice of Publication	Overprovision Fee not Paid	Fit & proper person	Grand total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	0	0	0	0	0	2	2
Ards and North Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Belfast	0	4	10	3	0	5	22
Causeway Coast and Glens	1	0	0	2	2	0	5
Derry City and Strabane	0	0	1	3	1	0	5
Fermanagh and Omagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid and East Antrim	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Mid Ulster	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Newry Mourne and Down	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Grand Total	1	4	11	8	3	5	34

3.4 **HMO Inspections**
 Table 4 provides a summary of the number of inspections (by type) undertaken during the financial year 2025/26

Table 4

Council	No Access	Licensing Inspections	Interim (WIP)	Final	Enforcement	Grand Total
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2	3	0	1	22	28
Ards and North Down	0	6	1	2	6	15
Armagh City Banbridge and Craigavon	1	13	1	5	32	52
Belfast	37	869	12	262	235	1415
Causeway Coast and Glens	0	71	0	24	6	101
Derry City and Strabane	13	95	3	48	16	175
Fermanagh and Omagh	1	1	0	0	4	6
Lisburn and Castlereagh	0	2	0	1	7	10
Mid and East Antrim	1	6	1	1	23	32
Mid Ulster	0	5	0	1	8	14
Newry Mourne and Down	3	17	0	2	11	33
Grand Total	58	1088	18	347	370	1881

HMO Enforcement

3.5 Table 5 provides a summary of enforcement action taken in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Table 5

Row Labels	Count
Section 30(1): Non Licenced HMO (Owner)	1
Section 5(2) Evidence of household notice	1
Section 5(5) Household notice	1
Section 72 - Power to require persons connected to premises to produce documents	1
Grand Total	4

Key

Section 30(1) – Non licensed HMO (owner) - £5000 fixed penalty notice

Section 5(2) – Evidence of household notice

Section 5(5) – Household notice

Section 72 – Power to require persons connected to the premises to produce documents

3.6 During the financial year 2025/26 a total of £175,600 was paid following the issue of fixed penalties notices across all Northern Ireland Councils of which £5,000 relates to fixed penalty notices paid in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service - Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Consultation: The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	This consultation seeks views on important reforms to how fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture is regulated.
1.2	The government has recognised that the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture, and reform of the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988, is a longstanding issue considered at length by successive governments.
1.3	The government has taken an evidence-led approach to craft a set of policy proposals that will maintain a high level of fire safety, while meaningfully reducing the reliance on chemical flame retardants brought about by the Furniture and Furnishings (Fire) (Safety) Regulations 1988.
1.4	The consultation proposals set out the government's policy aim to maintain a high level of fire safety while reducing chemical flame-retardant use. The government will: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Introduce new furniture fire safety requirements based on a smoulder test. 2. Put in place pragmatic testing solutions to facilitate innovation. 3. Make proportionate scope adjustments.
1.5	The Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning Service Unit is responsible for enforcing the Construction Products Regulations and is responding to the consultation specifically regarding our legal remit.
1.6	At the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 6 May 2026, it was agreed to seek council approval for delegated authority at the June meeting of this committee to approve a consultation response. This will ensure that the response is submitted before the closing date of 23 June 2026.
1.7	An email was circulated to Members of the Committee on 8 May 2026, inviting comments by 15 May 2026, which could be incorporated into the final council response.
2.0	<u>Recommendation</u> It is recommended that the committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considers and approves the response to the consultation to be submitted on behalf of the council prior to the closing date of 23 June 2026.

3.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It is unknown at this stage whether financial support will be provided to support councils' market surveillance activities relating to construction products.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	No
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	

Appendices:	Appendix 3 EH – Consultation: The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture Draft Response
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Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Consultation: The Fire Safety of Domestic Upholstered Furniture

Response form

Introduction

This consultation seeks your views on important reforms to how we regulate the fire safety of domestic upholstered furniture.

The proposals set out below reflect the policy aim to maintain a high level of fire safety while meaningfully reducing chemical flame retardant use. They reflect the large volume of stakeholder engagement and evidence gathering that has taken place over a number of years. The Government will:

- Introduce new furniture fire safety requirements based on a smoulder test.
- Pragmatic testing solutions to facilitate innovation.
- Proportionate scope adjustments.

The proposed policy remains subject to review and may change as a result of the evidence and views provided by stakeholders in response to this consultation.

Please return to: furniturefiresafety@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Closing: 23:59 on 23 June

Confidentiality and data protection

DBT is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information. Details on how we collect and process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation when you respond to one of our public consultations are provided in the Confidentiality and data protection section of the [consultation document on GOV.UK](#). You can also read the [Public consultations privacy notice](#).

Your Details	
1. Your name	
2. Your email address	
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	X
4. Name of organisation	
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	
10 to 49	
50 to 249	
250 or more	
6. Type of organisation	
Business	
Trade Association	
Test House or Laboratory	
Consumer Body	
Local Authority	X
Fire and Rescue Service	
Government Body	
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions	
<p>1. Do you agree with the proposal to introduce reformed furniture fire safety sector legislation, based on a smoulder test?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	
<p>This proposed approach addresses the potential concerns of chemical flame retardants (CFR's) and their impact on health as there is evidence that they may migrate from products onto surfaces and into house dust as well as contributing to an increase in smoke toxicity. Furthermore, removing such chemicals should make furniture easier to recycle and re-use and for its safer disposal at end of life. It will also bring the UK into line with the legislative requirements already in place in the EU and US.</p>	
<p>2. Do you agree with the proposal to allow businesses to use composite/ representative sample testing or component testing to demonstrate compliance with the new regulations?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	
<p>The proposal allows flexibility for manufacturers to decide how they demonstrate their products are safe and compliant avoiding the burden of additional and often unnecessary testing. There should be clear, documented guidelines/standards for manufacturers that will define how to achieve and demonstrate compliance with either testing option. This clearly defined guidance would also provide for consistent enforcement encouraging a level playing field whilst also maintaining consumer safety.</p> <p>We are of the view that this would encourage innovation and future proof for advances in science and technology.</p>	

<p>3. Do you agree with the proposal to use the General Product Safety Regulations to regulate re-upholstery and repair of upholstered furniture?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	
<p>Re-upholsterers advised they would like clear advice as the guidance previously issued was confusing. Hence the provision of clear definitions and guidelines as to what constitutes upholstery, repair and a safe product under GPSR will reduce the risk of inadvertent non-compliance, support small businesses and enhance consumer safety and regulator confidence in product safety.</p> <p>This is essential to support these small, often independent businesses and provide confidence to the public and regulators that the products are safe. It will also prevent any confusion or ambiguity from the outset for all stakeholders</p> <p>The unique situation of NI having to be aligned to both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements needs to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and will avoid any potential divergence issues.</p>	
<p>4. Do you agree with the proposal to use the General Product Safety Regulations to regulate second-hand upholstered furniture?</p>	
Agree	Yes
Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree	
<p>You can provide comments in the space below.</p>	

Using the General Product Safety Regulations (GPSR) to regulate second-hand upholstered furniture is appropriate, provided clear and proportionate guidance is issued. This would protect consumers from unsafe products while recognising the practical challenges faced by charities, re-use organisations and small second-hand retailers. The increase in reliance on charity and second-hand shops was an issue already identified by the 11 Councils in Northern Ireland who have produced guidance for this sector, and we feel that having clear guidance/a checklist for second hand upholstered furniture would be extremely beneficial as clear criteria for assessing safety will be essential to support compliance and consistent enforcement.

The unique situation of NI having to be aligned to both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements needs to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and will avoid any potential divergence issues.

Please email response form to: furniturefiresafety@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service - Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Consultation: Market Surveillance and Enforcement Framework

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	This consultation seeks views on proposed reforms to modernise and strengthen the UK's market surveillance and enforcement framework under the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025.
1.2	<p>The Department for Business and Trade is seeking comments on the following proposed reforms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consolidating and modernising enforcement powers into a single toolkit. • Improving market surveillance across all routes to market, including online marketplaces. • Introducing proportionate civil sanctions and enforcement undertakings. • Strengthening information sharing powers between relevant authorities. • Exploring whether cost recovery should be included and for what activities.
1.3	The Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning Service Unit is responsible for enforcing the Consumer Safety Regulations and is responding to the consultation specifically regarding its legal remit.
1.4	At the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 6 May 2026, it was agreed to seek council approval for delegated authority at the June meeting of this Committee to approve a consultation response. This will ensure that the response is submitted before the closing date of 23 June 2026.
1.5	An email was circulated to committee members on 8 May, inviting comments by 15 May 2026, which could be incorporated into the final council response.
2.0	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considers and approves the response to the consultation to be submitted on behalf of the council prior to the closing date of 23 June 2026.

3.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It is unknown at this stage whether financial support will be provided to support councils' market surveillance activities relating to construction products.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	No
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	

Appendices:	Appendix 4 EH – Consultation: Market Surveillance and Enforcement Framework Draft Response
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Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

The UK's new core product regulation market surveillance and enforcement framework

Response form

Introduction

This consultation survey is to be read alongside the consultation document ([link to gov.uk page](#)) and seeks your feedback on proposed reforms to modernise and strengthen the UK's market surveillance and enforcement framework under the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025.

The proposals cover:

- Consolidating and modernising enforcement powers into a single toolkit.
- Improving market surveillance across all routes to market, including online marketplaces.
- Introducing proportionate civil sanctions and enforcement undertakings.
- Strengthening information sharing powers between relevant authorities.
- Exploring whether cost recovery should be included and for what activities.

Your views will inform the final design of a coherent, fair and effective enforcement and market surveillance system that supports consumer protection, compliant businesses, and efficient regulation.

Confidentiality and data protection

Information you provide in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be disclosed in accordance with UK legislation (the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want the information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please tell us, but be aware that we cannot guarantee confidentiality in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not be regarded by us as a confidentiality request.

We will process your personal data in accordance with all applicable data protection laws. See our [privacy policy](#). In addition, please be aware that OPSS uses Qualtrics survey software to process online responses, this involves personal data being sent outside the European Economic Area (EEA). Any processing outside of the EEA will be subject to the safeguards specified within the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR), and the Data Protection Act 2018.

We will summarise all responses and publish this summary on [gov.uk](#). The summary will include a list of names or organisations that responded, but not people's personal names, addresses or other contact details.

Your Details	
1. Your name	
2. Your email address	
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	<input type="checkbox"/>
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Name of organisation	
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 to 49	<input type="checkbox"/>
50 to 249	<input type="checkbox"/>
250 or more	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Type of organisation	
Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test House or Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consumer Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire and Rescue Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions	
Proposal B1 Consolidating and Modernising Powers	
<p>B1a. Do you agree that the UK product regulation market surveillance and enforcement legislation should be reformed to establish a single, coherent set of enforcement powers available regardless of where it might be utilised within the product journey (e.g. at the border)?</p>	
Strongly agree	X
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
<p>B1b. Please explain your answer</p>	
<p>The current enforcement framework is disjointed, inconsistent, often confusing and difficult to navigate with multiple pieces of legislation providing varying powers dependant on the product type and point in the supply chain. One single set of powers would provide greater consistency and transparency for both enforcing authorities and businesses.</p> <p>Merging the current framework to a simplified enforcement toolkit would also improve officer confidence when taking enforcement action, meaning it is more likely that officers will utilise their suite of resources. At present the need to correctly identify applicable product specific legislation, and match this to appropriate relevant enforcing legislation can act as a barrier to enforcement, and in some cases officers are discouraged from taking formal action due to the complication of interpretating available powers.</p> <p>Northern Ireland District Councils welcome the proposal of one single set of enforcement regulations that apply across GB and Northern Ireland equally.</p> <p>A single framework would support more effective and proportionate enforcement.</p>	

B2a. Do you agree this new enforcement 'toolkit' should apply to product regulation more widely, beyond product safety? For example, should apply to measuring instruments and non-automatic weighing instruments (but not to other metrology legislation e.g. specified quantities)	
Strongly agree	X
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B2b. Please explain your answer	
<p>Although District Councils in NI do not enforce weights and measures legislation, extending the toolkit beyond product safety would promote consistency with other areas such as construction products. It would also help address enforcement gaps that have been identified in practice, for example during the introduction of the Single Use Vape legislation.</p>	
B3. What challenges might there be in having fewer, more flexible, consolidated, enforcement powers for product regulations?	
<p>A proposed single enforcement framework must be capable of being used equally by Northern Ireland District Councils, including for the enforcement of EU Directives and Regulations that continue to apply in Northern Ireland. Without this, enforcement officers would face significant practical challenges in carrying out their regulatory functions.</p> <p>The framework should also address existing variations in enforcement powers between the Consumer Rights Act 2015 and the Market Surveillance (Northern Ireland) Regulations, where the latter currently provide broader and more effective powers.</p>	
B4. What additional reforms to existing powers would improve enforcement of metrology legislation?	
<p>District Councils in Northern Ireland do not enforce metrology legislation.</p>	

B5a. Which provisions in product regulation legislation create unnecessary administrative process? Please describe and explain any administrative burdens you are aware of.

The exercise of powers of entry, including determining when such powers are appropriate, together with the additional requirement to provide a notice of powers and rights under PACE, introduces additional complexity during enforcement visits.

A simplified approach, while still ensuring compliance with PACE requirements, would reduce the risk of enforcement action or prosecution being undermined due to delay or the incorrect application of these provisions.

B5b. Please provide what you think could be an alternative.

The use of notices similar to those available within health and safety and food functions, such as improvement notices, prohibition notices, or remedial action notices would provide an efficient and proportionate mechanism for taking immediate enforcement action.

Similarly, the availability of compliance notices under the Market Surveillance Regulation allows formal enforcement action to be taken without the need to progress directly to prosecution, mirroring the principles underpinning enforcement undertakings discussed later in the consultation. This approach supports timely compliance while reserving prosecution for the most serious or persistent breaches.

When creating a single enforcement framework, consideration must also be given to the powers available in respect of goods not yet in circulation, such as those at ports and borders, or in transit, to ensure that appropriate and equivalent enforcement options are available across all stages of the supply chain.

B6. How could we simplify enforcement provisions (including for market surveillance) across the UK to establish a coherent and consistent UK-wide framework that supports effective enforcement in both Great Britain and Northern Ireland, in line with the government's Windsor Framework obligations?

Enforcement regulations and officer powers need to be consistent across legislative regimes. At present, discrepancies exist for enforcement authorities in Northern Ireland depending on whether they are enforcing the Consumer Rights Act or the Market Surveillance (NI) Regulations.

For example, the Market Surveillance (NI) Regulations provide stronger powers to obtain products, including test purchases, for the purposes of determining non-compliance. Importantly, these powers may be exercised by officers acting under a cover identity, whereas comparable powers are not available under the current Consumer Rights Act 2015.

To assist Northern Ireland District Councils, the powers contained within the Market Surveillance (Northern Ireland) Regulations should be replicated or consolidated into a single set of regulations that can be uniformly enforced in Northern Ireland. Where this is not possible, clear, accurate and transparent guidance on which products fall within the scope of each regulatory regime is essential to support consistent and effective enforcement.

Proposal B2 Addressing the enforcement challenges of global and online supply chains

B7. What bespoke powers are required to enforce against online and overseas supply chain actors, in addition to the broad powers outlined under Proposal B1?

A requirement for businesses to have a verifiable presence in the UK or Northern Ireland, including a confirmed name, physical address and (where applicable) a Companies House registration, with an identifiable person responsible for product safety, is essential to enable effective enforcement.

District Councils have repeatedly received referrals where the provided business address, when investigated, is found to be vacant, non-existent, or a shared mailing address with no identifiable responsible person. Such arrangements significantly hinder enforcement action and regulatory engagement.

District Councils in Northern Ireland have observed an increase in these occurrences, particularly since EU Exit, highlighting the need for strengthened requirements to ensure accountability within online and overseas supply chains.

O	
B8a. To what extent do you agree with this approach of categorising offences?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	X
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B8b. Please explain your answer.	
<p>The distinction between pre-market and on-market responsibilities is generally clear for businesses to understand. However, some of the pre-market requirements listed relate primarily to technical or labelling irregularities rather than product safety concerns. As a result, it is difficult to justify this division solely on the basis of risk.</p> <p>Overall, the approach provides a strong and appropriate framework for proportionate enforcement, aligned with the regulators code, but its effectiveness will rely on consistent implementation, clear guidance and sufficient resources. Clear guidance will be required to assist enforcement authorities with this proposed approach.</p>	
B9a. Do you agree that this approach enables the application of proportionate penalties?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	X
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	

B9b. Please explain your answer.	
<p>As stated above, while the intention behind this division is understood, some pre-market requirements relate primarily to technical or labelling irregularities rather than product safety concerns. As a result, it is difficult to justify this distinction solely on the basis of risk. Clear and well-defined categories will therefore be required to support consistent and effective enforcement.</p> <p>Consideration must also be given to the fact that each Council operates under its own enforcement policy, and any proposed approach must be sufficiently flexible to operate effectively within these existing frameworks.</p>	
B10a. Should enforcement undertakings be available across all product regulations	
Yes	X
No	
Don't know	
B10b. if no, what products, regulatory obligations or types of non-compliance should be excluded and why.	
B11a. Should we consider whether to accept undertakings that seek to benefit those affected by the non-compliance?	
Yes	
No	X
Don't know	
B11b. Please explain your answer.	
<p>It is unclear from the consultation document what is meant by the term "benefit those affected by the non-compliance".</p>	

Compensation is outside the scope of product safety legislation, and its inclusion may encourage the use of enforcement undertakings in circumstances where they are not the most appropriate or proportionate enforcement response.

The provision of compensatory or other benefits could place officers in a position where they feel obliged, due to moral considerations or consumer pressure, to accept an enforcement undertaking, even where further formal enforcement action or prosecution would be more appropriate.

Councils recognise that undertakings can be a proportionate and efficient alternative to formal enforcement, and this approach is consistent with the Council's enforcement policy. Councils also consider it important to support businesses and contribute to economic growth.

However, authorities must retain the ability to escalate enforcement where undertakings are breached or where a serious risk exists.

Proposal B4 Civil monetary penalties

B12. Which instances of product regulation non-compliance would you consider fixed monetary penalties a useful, proportionate and effective response?

Civil monetary penalties are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. However, we would welcome their introduction if they prove to be an effective tool for securing compliance. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI.

This would be most appropriate for simple, clear-cut offences where non-compliance is easily evidenced and the burden of proof is straightforward, allowing proportionate enforcement without unnecessary complexity.

B13. For which instances of product regulation non-compliance would you consider variable monetary penalties a useful, proportionate and effective response?

Fees should be set consistently within the legislative framework to ensure transparency and fairness.

However, there may be scope to consider whether fees could appropriately reflect the size and turnover of a business, in order to maintain proportionality.

B14. In which circumstances would you consider an escalating monetary penalty system a useful, proportionate and effective response?	
Fees should be set consistently within the legislative framework to ensure transparency and fairness.	
B15. To what extent do you agree / disagree that monetary penalties should be escalated by a pre-set amount, or by a percentage of the original penalty?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	X
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B15b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	
Civil monetary penalties are not currently used by Northern Ireland councils, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism. If such a system were to be introduced in Northern Ireland, careful consideration would be needed on how the framework would be implemented, as these powers do not presently exist in NI. Detailed guidance would be required to ensure this is implemented fairly and proportionately.	
B16. Please list any other form of civil sanction that may be appropriate for either product safety, or broader product regulations.	
Fixed penalty notices may be beneficial for clear cut or absolute offences. Fixed Penalty Notices could be an effective civil sanction for low-level, clear-cut breaches of product safety or wider product regulations where there is minimal risk and no evidence of deliberate or persistent non-compliance. FPNs provide a swift, proportionate and resource-efficient enforcement option, encouraging early compliance without the need for more formal or punitive action.	

Proposal B5 Cost recovery framework	
B17a. To what extent would you agree / disagree that cost recovery would be an appropriate or beneficial feature within the UK product regulation enforcement regime?	
Strongly agree	
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	X
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	
B17b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	
<p>Should cost recovery be introduced, its application would need to be carefully considered by individual District Councils. However, we would welcome its introduction if it proves to be an effective tool for securing compliance. Where a statutory service is being provided, Councils may be unable to recover costs unless this is expressly enabled within the legislative framework.</p> <p>While cost recovery may not be appropriate for the routine delivery of statutory functions, there may be merit in permitting cost recovery where non-compliance is identified, during the investigation of non-compliance, or for disposal of non-compliant goods. Models such as the Health and Safety Executive’s “fee for intervention” approach demonstrate how cost recovery can assist in recouping enforcement costs and incentivising compliance.</p>	
B18a. Please list principles you consider should guide the design of any potential cost recovery provisions for product regulation enforcement.	
<p>To implement cost recovery effectively, councils would require additional capacity and resources, including administrative and debt-recovery support. Clear provision within the legal framework would therefore be essential to ensure cost recovery powers are within the legislative framework, proportionate and practical to administer.</p>	

B18b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.	
<p>Cost recovery is not currently used by Northern Ireland councils in regard to Consumer Protection, so we do not have direct experience with this enforcement mechanism, however we welcome its introduction if it proves to be an effective tool.</p>	
Proposal B6. Information Sharing	
B19a. To what extent would you agree / disagree that, there is a need for greater powers are needed, beyond establishing a legal framework, to facilitate sharing information between relevant authorities, emergency services, and specified persons for product regulation, safety, and compliance?	
Strongly agree	X
Somewhat agree	
Neither agree nor disagree	
Somewhat disagree	
Strongly disagree	

B19b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer. (optional)

This is essential to ensure efficient enforcement, and we strongly agree that greater powers are needed beyond the establishment of a legal framework to facilitate effective information sharing between relevant authorities, emergency services and specified persons for product regulation, safety and compliance. Information sharing between port authorities, MS authorities and other authorities such as Fire and Rescue Services will greatly assist consistent enforcement, particularly in Northern Ireland due to the small geographical area and the routine nature of collaborative working.

Greater powers to facilitate information sharing with neighbouring member states in particular ROI would also greatly assist with cooperation when dealing with business that operate cross border and complaints regarding these businesses.

Experience demonstrates that practical and operational barriers, such as data protection concerns, interpretations of information-sharing powers, and a lack of statutory duties to share information, often inhibit timely and effective collaboration. These barriers can delay interventions where there is a serious or emerging risk to safety, particularly in fast-moving product safety incidents.

B20a. Please list the information you consider should be made available for the purposes of product enforcement.

For the purposes of effective product enforcement, relevant authorities should have access to comprehensive information including complaint history, number of complaints received, action taken to date, product identification and traceability details; manufacturer, importer and distributor data; compliance and conformity documentation; incident, injury and risk information; product risk assessment, enforcement and compliance history; recall and corrective action data; and intelligence relating to supply chains, online marketplaces and distribution networks.

B20b. Please list which bodies or persons such information should be shared between to ensure effective market surveillance and enforcement.

Information relevant to product regulation, safety and enforcement should be shared between local authority enforcement bodies (including Environmental Health, Trading Standards and port health authorities); central government departments and national regulators responsible for product safety and standards; emergency services, including fire and rescue services and ambulance services; border, customs and import control authorities; and other relevant sector regulators.

Information from emergency services, port authorities and other regulators should also be available to support early identification of risks, coordinated intervention and proportionate enforcement action, subject to appropriate safeguards and data protection requirements.

Information sharing should also extend, where appropriate, to online marketplaces, fulfilment service providers, manufacturers, importers, distributors, conformity assessment bodies, and consumer protection organisations, as well as between enforcement authorities across regional and national boundaries. This joined-up approach is essential to support timely intelligence-led interventions, coordinated action on emerging risks, and consistent, proportionate enforcement.

B21a. Please list any additional safeguards you would wish to see within information sharing arrangements to prevent the improper use of data.

Information-sharing arrangements should include clear statutory limits on the purpose and use of data, supported by data minimisation principles to ensure only necessary and proportionate information is shared.

Clear retention and disposal policies should also be in place to ensure information is held only for as long as required and is securely disposed of in accordance with data protection requirements.

B21b. Please explain and give examples to illustrate your answer.

Role-based access controls, secure IT systems, audit trails and clear retention and disposal policies should be in place to prevent misuse of information.

The use of government security classifications on all correspondence should also be required.

These safeguards should operate alongside defined governance arrangements, staff training and full compliance with UK GDPR and data protection legislation.

Please email response form to

EnforceMarketSurvReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service - Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Consultation: Market Diversity and Innovation (Liquor Licensing)

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	The Department for Communities is conducting a Public Consultation on the effectiveness of the current liquor licensing arrangements in supporting market diversity and innovation.
1.2	Section 23 of the 2021 Act placed a duty on the Department for Communities within one year of the 2021 Act receiving Royal Assent, to appoint an independent person to undertake a review of the liquor licensing system. The regulation of the sale and consumption of alcohol in licensed premises in Northern Ireland is governed by the Licensing (Northern Ireland) Order 1996. The University of Stirling carried out a detailed examination of the liquor licensing system in Northern Ireland, including the surrender principle and has made 26 recommendations to the Department.
1.3	In NI The Department for Communities is responsible for the policy and legislation regulating the retail sale and consumption of alcohol in licensed premises in Northern Ireland. The Northern Ireland Courts and Tribunal Service (“NICTS”) is responsible for facilitating some practical aspects of the legislation e.g. the initial grant and subsequent renewals of licences to sell alcohol directly to the public by the court. The Police Service of Northern Ireland is responsible for enforcing the 1996 Order.
1.4	Under the 1996 Order, the council is a statutory consultee for the granting, renewal or transfer of a business’s liquor licence, but its role is limited to objections based on legal action taken by the council for breaches of conditions relating to the business Entertainment Licence, as required by the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985.
1.5	This consultation is seeking feedback on recommendation 18 of the independent report to award non-sellable, non-transferable ‘Cultural Venue’ licences to be created, prioritising businesses that would increase the diversity of venue types and/or promote cultural activities. Department of Communities has stated that it will consider solutions, including the potential to introduce secondary legislation to expand the categories of venue eligible to apply for a “place of public entertainment” licence under Article 5(1)(h).
1.6	At the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 6 May 2026, it was agreed to seek council approval for delegated authority at the June meeting of this Committee to approve a consultation response. This will ensure that the response is submitted before the closing date of 23 June 2026.
1.7	An email was circulated to Committee members on 8 May, inviting comments by 15 May 2026, which could be incorporated into the final council response.

2.0	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considers and approves the response to the consultation to be submitted on behalf of the council prior to the closing date of 23 June 2026. 	
3.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It is unknown at this stage whether financial support will be provided to support councils' market surveillance activities relating to construction products.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	No
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	

Appendices:	Appendix 5 EH – Consultation: Market Diversity and Innovation (Liquor Licensing) Draft Response
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Consultation – Market Diversity and Innovation (Liquor Licensing)

1. Are you responding as:

An individual

An organisation

2. If responding on behalf of an organisation, please provide the organisation's name

Name of organisation: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

3. What type of organisation is that?

Business

Existing Licensee

Cultural Charitable or
voluntary organisation

Religious Professional

Local authority

Other public sector organisation

Other, please specify

Type of organisation

4. In which sector(s) does your organisation operate? (Please tick all that apply)

Creative,

arts and entertainment activities

Libraries,

Archives,

Museums and other cultural activities

Sports activities Amusement and recreation activities

Public health Accommodation Food and beverage/hospitality

Tourism

Other

If other, please specify

5. Do you currently operate under one of the following licences? (Please indicate all that apply)

Public house, commonly known as a "pub licence"

Off licence Hotel Guest house

Restaurant

Conference centre

Higher education institution

Place of public entertainment - cinema

Place of public entertainment - ballroom

Place of public entertainment - theatre

Place of public entertainment - licensed track

Refreshment room within certain transport premises

Seamen's canteen

Indoor arena

Outdoor stadium

Local Producer's licence

Occasional licence Entertainment licence

None of the above / do not have a licence

6. What do you think about the level of market diversity in the types of licensed premises in Northern Ireland?

High level of diversity

Moderate level of diversity

Low level of diversity Unsure

Please explain your answer

The Council issue Entertainment Licences to a range of licensed premises, including pubs/clubs and open-air venues.

7. Does the current licensing regime adequately support market diversity in licensed venue type?

Fully supports

Partly supports

Does not support

Unsure

Please explain your answer with reference to the needs of (a) consumers, (b) prospective licensees, (c) current licensees, or (d) other as applicable

In respect of the Councils legal duty to issue an Entertainment Licence under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985, licensing conditions are imposed on the duty holder regarding the safety of the venue and occupancy irrespective of the type of venue.

Licensing conditions must be applied consistently and fairly across all venues ensuring that public safety is paramount.

8. Are there venues where the sale of alcohol in parallel to a form of entertainment / cultural activity / business should be permitted that are not currently supported by the licensing regime?

Yes

No

Q9 and 10 require an answer if Q8 states Yes

11. If no further support is needed, please explain your answer

Please explain your answer

12. Do you support expanding the categories of premises that can apply for a liquor licence?

No

Please explain your answer

Final Comments

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16. Do you have any additional comments?

NONE

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service - Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Consultation: The UK's New Product Safety Framework

1.0 **Background and Key Issues**

1.1 The UK Government started to carry out a Product Safety Review in 2019, the outcome of which was endorsed by Parliament in passing the Product Regulation and Metrology Act in July 2025. The Product Safety Regulatory Framework is highly complex and technical, spanning a large number of products with 150 pieces of legislation, covering a huge variety of requirements.

1.2 The current framework has been in place since 1987. The Consumer Protection Act contains officer powers and the General Product Safety Regulations in 2005, which has recently been updated for Northern Ireland under Regulation (EU) 2023/988 on General Product Safety, covering safety requirements for products on sale and responsibilities of those in the supply chain. Given the age of the UK regulatory framework, it has not kept up-to-date with technology, in particular how consumers buy products.

1.3 This consultation seeks views on proposed reforms to modernise and strengthen the UK's market surveillance and enforcement framework under the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025.

1.4 This consultation sets out the UK Governments proposals for the new framework, grouped into the following themes:

- Getting the basics right: proposals for the new framework to cover a wider scope of products, updating how a safe product will be defined, and how the safety of a product can be assessed.
- Accountability throughout the supply chain: proposals for the definitions of businesses in scope of the new framework – producers, onward suppliers and online marketplaces – and their core obligations to proactively protect consumers from dangerous products.
- A new approach to product information: proposals to allow product information to be provided more flexibly – both physically and digitally – and to move towards a 'digital by default' approach to product information.
- Supporting enforcement activity: proposals for a consolidated set of duties to cooperate effectively with enforcement action.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Building on the new foundations: proposals for additional tools to manage products posing greater risk of harm and paving the way for further reform of sector and product-specific regulations. 	
1.5	The Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning Service Unit is responsible for enforcing the Consumer Safety Regulations and is responding to the consultation specifically regarding our legal remit.	
1.6	At the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting held on 6 May 2026, it was agreed to seek council approval for delegated authority at the June meeting of this Committee to approve a consultation response. This will ensure that the response is submitted before the closing date of 23 June 2026.	
1.7	An email was circulated to Committee members on 8 May, inviting comments by 15 May 2026, which could be incorporated into the final council response.	
2.0	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that the committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> considers and approves the response to the consultation to be submitted on behalf of the council prior to the closing date of 23 June 2026. 	
3.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>It is unknown at this stage whether financial support will be provided to support councils' market surveillance activities relating to construction products.</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	No
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	No
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p> <p>Third Party / Central Government Legislation / Consultation</p>	

Appendices:

Appendix 6 EH – Consultation: The UK's New Product Safety Framework
Draft Response



Department for
Business & Trade



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Consultation on the UK's new product safety framework:

Response form

Summary

We are seeking views on a new, modernised and enhanced core product safety framework.

Please return to: ProductSafetyReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Closing: 23.59 on 23 June

Introduction

The existing product safety framework needs an upgrade. It is based on the General Product Safety Regulations 2005, introduced two decades ago, and overlaid with specific regulations for certain product sectors. We live in a world vastly different from the turn of the century, and the way people buy products has evolved. There are simply too many instances of dangerous products being sold to UK consumers, often online, resulting in serious harm.

The need for a new core framework was identified by the [Product Safety Review](#) and endorsed by Parliament in passing the Product Regulation and Metrology Act 2025. In this consultation we propose a new, modernised and enhanced framework giving people confidence that what they buy will be safe, thereby supporting growth and giving businesses incentives to invest by providing a level playing field, with clearer responsibilities and a more consistent and streamlined set of regulations.

Our proposals are grouped into the following themes:

1. Getting the basics right
2. Accountability throughout the supply chain
3. A new approach to product information
4. Supporting enforcement activity

The new core product safety framework will:

- require proactive action from everyone in the supply chain to protect consumers;
- reflect modern products and supply chains;
- capitalise on the opportunities new technology has provided for both businesses and consumers; and
- support delivery of the government's [Regulation Action Plan](#).

This consultation should be read together with its companion consultation on the market surveillance and enforcement aspects of the new framework. The proposals and questions in this document are in the format 'A1, A2' and in the other document are in the format 'B1, B2' Please ensure your answers reference the proposal and questions numbers with the correct letter and number.

[Read and respond to the consultation on market surveillance and enforcement.](#)

Confidentiality and data protection

DBT is committed to protecting the privacy and security of your information. Details on how we collect and process your personal data in accordance with data protection legislation when you respond to one of our public consultations are provided in the Confidentiality and data protection section of the [consultation document on GOV.UK](#). You can also read the [Public consultations privacy notice](#).

Your Details	
1. Your name	
2. Your email address	
3. Are you responding:	
As an individual? Please go to 'Consultation Questions'	<input type="checkbox"/>
On behalf of an organisation? Please continue	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Name of organisation	
5. Number of employees	
1 to 9	<input type="checkbox"/>
10 to 49	<input type="checkbox"/>
50 to 249	<input type="checkbox"/>
250 or more	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Type of organisation	
Business	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trade Association	<input type="checkbox"/>
Test House or Laboratory	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consumer Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Local Authority	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fire and Rescue Service	<input type="checkbox"/>
Government Body	<input type="checkbox"/>
Other (Please specify)	

Consultation Questions			
Getting the basics right			
Question A1: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed scope of the regulations, including the exemptions from scope?			
Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>We disagree in principle with the proposed scope of the framework, as products intended for business or workplace use are already subject to enforcement under existing directives for which HSENI is the competent authority, for example the Machinery Safety Directive.</p> <p>While we recognise that the framework seeks to address identified gaps in product safety enforcement, there must be clear guidance and explicit consideration of HSENI's enforcement role in relation to business products.</p> <p>Without clear statutory boundaries or joint guidance between OPSS, local authorities and HSENI, there is a risk of inconsistent enforcement and duplication, particularly for products that may be used both by consumers and within the workplace.</p>			
Question A2: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed definition of a safe product?			
Agree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>The extension of the scope to include maintenance requirements introduces additional variables that may affect whether the product considered safe. This will require suppliers to provide clear, reasonable instructions for maintenance supported by enforceable regulations.</p> <p>The proposed definition creates divergence with the definitions used in 2023/988 General Product Safety Regulation, which may create difficulties for NI Businesses and District Councils operating within a dual regulatory framework. In this context, detailed and consistent guidance will be essential to support enforcement.</p> <p>The inclusion of additional risks to property, domestic animals or the environment will allow more appropriate standards in relation to these products to be applied and enforced.</p>			
Question A3: Do you agree or disagree with the new list of considerations when assessing safety?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer			
<p>Agree as it broadly mirrors the considerations for assessing safety in 2023/988 General Product Safety Regulation.</p>			
Question A4: Do you agree or disagree with our proposal to revoke the Food Imitations (Safety) Regulations 1989?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>EU has repealed the equivalent EU law for food imitating products, so revoking these regulations will also ensure a consistent position across the UK.</p>			
Question A5: Do you agree or disagree that essential safety requirements, testing or conformity assessment may be useful in the new framework?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>Agree in principle there needs to be clear guidance and consideration should be given to mirroring the approach set out in 2023/988 GPSR to avoid divergence.</p> <p>The unique situation of NI which requires alignment with both UK and EU markets and legislative requirements, must be fully taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and avoiding any potential divergence issues.</p>			
Question A6: Do you agree or disagree with introducing the 'designation' mechanism for products covered by the framework?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>The unique position of NI requiring alignment with both EU and UK markets and legislative requirements need to be taken into consideration as this is key to enforcement, the achievement of business compliance and avoiding potential divergence issues.</p>			

Question A7: In what circumstances, if any, might it be appropriate to designate a standard from a competent standards body other than BSI, European standards bodies, or international standards bodies?

It may be appropriate to designate a standard from another competent standards body **only where there is a clear, objective justification**, such as:

- Absence of suitable recognised standards
- Sector-specific expertise not reflected in BS/EN/ISO standards
- Urgent or emerging risks
- Legal or international requirements
- Demonstrable equivalence or superiority

Such designations should be **exceptional, transparent, proportionate**, and avoid unnecessary barriers to compliance or competition.

Question A8: Are there any further actions you believe we should be taking to ensure lithium-ion batteries within consumer products are safe?

Overall, the aim should be to ensure lithium-ion batteries remain safe throughout their entire life cycle, not merely at the point of manufacture or sale.

This should include controls relating to replacement batteries, compatibility of chargers, and risks arising from repair, refurbishment and second-hand sales.

Accountability throughout the supply chain

Question A9: Do you agree or disagree with the requirement that producers must only place safe products on the market?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Links should be made to the definitions set out in 2023/988 GPSR to ensure consistency and avoid any divergence issues. Needs to be a more responsive attitude to the market and guidance for the different types of markets and their obligation.

In 2023/988 GPSR the definition of "Producer" has been changed to "manufacturer" causing the roles of an economic operator to be defined differently in GPSR 2005 2023/988 GPSR thus causing divergence issues within Northern Ireland.

Question A10: Do you agree or disagree with the requirement that onward suppliers should act with due care and not supply a product unless it is compliant?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Links should be made with 2023/988 GPSR definitions to ensure consistency and avoid any divergence issues. Needs to be a more responsive attitude to the market and guidance for the different types of markets and their obligation.

Question A11: Do you agree or disagree that online marketplaces should be required to act with due care to prevent, identify and remove non-compliant products from their sites?

Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer

From previous experience sites remove a single product on request however do not follow up with same product being sold by multiple other suppliers. We agree in principle that online marketplaces should be required to identify and remove all non-compliant product from their sites, however this needs to be supported by clear guidance and adequate enforcement powers provided to MS authorities.

From an Environmental Health and product safety enforcement perspective, we support the proposed requirement that onward suppliers must act with due care and should not supply a product unless it is compliant.

The proposal appropriately reflects that product safety is a **shared responsibility across the supply chain**, rather than resting solely with producers. To ensure the requirement can be implemented effectively and consistently, it will be important that:

- Clear and practical guidance is published illustrating what “due care” means for different types of onward supplier
- Guidance is aligned with enforcement practice and supported by appropriate training where necessary
- Expectations are clearly communicated to small and medium-sized enterprises

Question A12: Do you agree or disagree with the introduction of a requirement that online marketplaces should practice due diligence to identify and take action against non-compliant sellers and sellers that provide non-compliant goods?

Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>

Please explain your answer

This will help promote consistency across enforcing authorities and provide businesses with greater confidence in how to meet their obligations.

From enforcement experience, non-compliant or dangerous products are frequently encountered at the retail, wholesale or fulfilment stage, including cases where producers

are based overseas or are difficult to identify or engage. Introducing a clear duty on onward suppliers to:

- Remain alert to product safety alerts, recalls and known hazards
- Maintain proportionate checks and internal procedures
- Refrain from supplying products where compliance is uncertain

would enable earlier intervention before harm occurs, reduce reliance on reactive enforcement once products have reached consumers, and improve the effectiveness of corrective actions such as product withdrawals and recalls.

This approach is particularly important in the context of e commerce and fulfilment based supply models, where onward suppliers may represent the only UK based economic operator with meaningful control over products entering the market.

As officers we do not have the tools to trace, trace and take enforcement action against rogue online sellers / carry out online forensic investigation.

The proposed requirement for online marketplaces to verify seller contact details is essential, particularly in NI where Councils are experiencing an increase in businesses registering in vacant premises or addresses with multiple businesses registered to it in an attempt to hold both UK and EU registered addresses to comply with legislative requirements.

Question A13: In which situations or for which products do you think additional verification requirements or local presence requirements would be useful?

We are of the opinion that all products require additional verification and local presence requirements. If a responsible person will not be a legal requirement for all products this causes a divergence issue for NI under a number of different regulations i.e. 2023/988 GPSR and products in scope of Article 4 of the market surveillance regulation.

To differentiate between high and low risk products would require a risk assessment for each product type, and cause further confusion for consumers and business.

Question A14: Do you agree or disagree that we should give all supply chain actors a duty to participate in monitoring of products already supplied and to cooperate in corrective action?

Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	

Please explain your answer

Agree as this places an onus on businesses to notify MS authorities and take corrective action in line with 2023/988 GPSR requirements.

Question A15: Do you agree that all supply chain actors should have a duty to cooperate with relevant authorities and others in the supply chain?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>Effective cooperation is fundamental to protecting consumers and other users from unsafe products. In practice, enforcement action is often delayed or undermined by difficulties obtaining timely, accurate or complete information from businesses within the supply chain. A clear, consistent duty to cooperate would help address these issues and support more effective and proportionate enforcement.</p>			
Question A16: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for online marketplaces and producers to have a single point of contact?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>This is beneficial however there needs to be an onus on businesses to update contact details, understand the responsibilities associated with this role and for MS authorities to have adequate enforcement powers.</p> <p>We consider the proposal especially important for online marketplaces, given their central role in modern supply chains and the volume and speed at which products are made available to consumers. Clear and reliable contact arrangements would support more effective cooperation, particularly where rapid action is required to mitigate risk.</p> <p>Overall, a requirement for a single point of contact would be a practical and proportionate measure that strengthens communication between businesses and relevant authorities and supports a more effective product safety framework.</p>			
A new approach to product information			
Question A17: Do you agree or disagree with the proposal for information that must be provided on or with the product?			
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer			
<p>Should this progress the information needs to be provided in a consistent format, that is easy for the consumer to read and understand. This information must also contain, in a standard consistent format, information for MS authorities to suitably assess compliance.</p> <p>The proposed information requirements reflect the core purposes of product information, namely:</p>			

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enabling products to be used and handled safely • Supporting traceability and accountability within the supply chain • Allowing enforcement authorities to identify responsible economic operators and take timely action where risks arise. <p>However, the acceptance of digital labelling again will cause divergence for NI businesses and MS authorities who will be required to continue with printed information.</p>			
<p>Question A18: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed types of information that can be provided digitally?</p>			
Agree		Neither agree nor disagree	X
Disagree		Don't know	
<p>Please explain your answer</p>			
<p>We are of the opinion that the proposed information including safety warnings should remain present on the product or its packaging so it is clearly visible, and can easily be seen on purchase, particularly by vulnerable consumers on purchase.</p>			
<p>Question A19: What, if any, protections would be necessary to ensure that consumers with limited digital access or low digital confidence online are not disadvantaged?</p>			
<p>From an Environmental Health perspective, consumer protection frameworks must remain inclusive and proportionate. While digital labelling can improve efficiency and access to information, it is essential that critical product information remains accessible to all consumers.</p> <p>A combined approach is therefore necessary to ensure that no consumer is placed at increased risk due to limited digital access or low confidence.</p>			
<p>Question A20: Are there any further actions you believe we should take beyond the existing and proposed requirements to ensure period products are safe?</p>			
<p>We agree with the introduction of safety standards, and as MS authorities rely on the provision of standards to inform enforcement decisions and support consistent enforcement action.</p>			
<p>Question A21: Do you agree or disagree with the proposed information that producers and onward suppliers selling products online should provide on an online listing?</p>			
Agree	X	Neither agree nor disagree	
Disagree		Don't know	
<p>Please explain your answer</p>			
<p>We agree, however, this may present practical challenges in relation to the identification of businesses, access to closed or private online platforms (including those requiring registration), and the effective enforcement of such legislative requirements.</p>			

Question A22: Do you agree or disagree that online marketplaces should be required to design their interface to allow sellers to provide customer information?				
Agree	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Neither agree nor disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Disagree	<input type="checkbox"/>	Don't know	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer				
<p>Agree however this will present difficulties in the identification of businesses, accessing closed sites and the enforcement of such legislation. The measures must be supported by robust enforcement powers and appropriate penalties to ensure compliance.</p>				
Question A23: Should online marketplaces introduce additional steps, such as verifying certain product information or making some information mandatory, before listings are published?				
Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
Please explain your answer				
<p>From an Environmental Health perspective, online marketplaces should have a verified presence in the UK or Northern Ireland, including a confirmed name, physical address and (where applicable) a Companies House registration, with an identifiable person responsible for product safety, is essential to enable effective enforcement. Such businesses should also be able to verify key product safety information and making specified details mandatory before listings go live.</p> <p>Requiring information such as producer or importer details, compliance declarations, traceability information, and relevant safety warnings at the point of listing would help prevent unsafe or non-compliant products entering the market, particularly via third-party sellers and overseas suppliers.</p>				
Building on the new foundations				
Question A24: Do any of the provisions in existing sector regulations fit these categories?				
Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	Not sure	<input type="checkbox"/>
If you responded 'Yes', please provide details of the provisions and your reasons. If you consider that any of the additional tools in proposals A5 or A9 may be helpful for the relevant products, you may include this in your response.				
<p>Suggest review of children's nightwear and children's dress up costumes to fall under the new framework with product specific standards.</p> <p>Inclusion of food packaging which might cause physical harm and is not included under the materials and articles in contact with food regulations – i.e. sharp bottle tops / cans which District Councils have received complaints of following injury however no specific guidance / standard exists.</p> <p>Motor vehicle tyres and the pedal bicycles regulation could be incorporated with an additional standard.</p>				

Jewellery products are considered under REACH however additional requirements under GPSR would assist enforcement.

Question A25: Are you aware of any data or evidence on the types of AI-enabled products that are likely to be manufactured in the future?

Yes		No	X	Not sure	
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If you responded 'Yes', please detail the data or evidence you are aware of.

This Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.

Question A26: What do you think are the current or potential harms associated with AI-enabled products?

This Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.

Question A27: How can we ensure that the reformed product safety framework effectively addresses the unique challenges posed by AI-enabled products and digital innovations, while supporting innovation?

When responding to the question, please consider:

- Is the framework proposed in this consultation sufficient?
- Are any additional sector-specific provisions required?
- What new approaches might be needed to safeguard consumers while supporting innovation, and how could measures such as consumer information, standards, quality assurance, data governance, documentation requirements or human oversight improve the safety of AI-enabled products?

This Council has no experience enforcing AI-enabled products are therefore unable to respond to this question.

Question A28: Considering that the role of AI can adapt and evolve across a product's entire life cycle, how can regulation best account for this?

Regulation should be flexible, risk-based and take account of a product throughout its lifecycle subject to reasonable use, recognising that such products can evolve through updates and learning after being placed on the market.

Safety requirements should therefore include ongoing monitoring, clear responsibility across supply chains (including software providers and marketplaces), be proportionate, transparent to support enforcement and accountability.

Please return to: ProductSafetyReform@businessandtrade.gov.uk

Committee:	Environment & Sustainability
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service - Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning

Item for:	Decision
Subject:	Notice of Motion – Update on Sustainable Burial Options

1.0	<u>Background and Key Issues</u>
1.1	A Notice of Motion (NOM), in the name of Councillor Bronagh Magee, was approved by Committee on 1 October 2025 and subsequently ratified by council on 28 October 2025.
1.2	The Notice of Motion calls on the council to explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries, including the designation of natural burial grounds or woodland areas within our district.
1.3	In addition, the Notice of Motion requests the council to provide an update report to the All-Party Group on Climate Action on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally.
1.4	The NOM can be considered in 2 parts, the first to explore the feasibility of sustainable burial options within our cemeteries, and the second to engage with the All-Party Group on Climate Action.
1.5	<u>Part 1</u>
1.6	To explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing or new cemeteries, including the designation of natural burial grounds or woodland areas within our district
1.7	The statutory authority enabling councils to become involved in the provision of grave plots and cemetery services is set out in the following legislation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Public Health (Ireland) Act 1978, 2. The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1985 3. Burial Ground Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1992.
1.8	Lisburn New Cemetery Extension (Blaris) is currently the only LCCC cemetery open for new burials. It was designed as a lawn cemetery, the only one within the council area, and is traditional in design and practices. The plots are in uniformed rows and sections within the cemetery.
1.9	Whilst conventional burial remains highly significant throughout Northern Ireland, officers are aware, through their engagement with families and undertakers, that users may not want a traditional type of coffin/burial. Council endeavours to accommodate sustainable burials which include environmentally friendly coffins, such as wicker or cardboard, where circumstances allow.

- 1.10 Members should note that embalming is generally covered by funeral industry standards as well as Health and Safety Regulations. It is not under the control of council Cemetery Services and council cannot influence its use. However, for reasons of environmental sustainability and natural decomposition, embalming is not required for interment in council cemeteries. It is proposed that council's Cemetery Rules and Regulations are amended to make this explicit. Families may choose non-embalming options in accordance with Health and Safety Regulations.
- 1.11 At present ongoing work by the council appointed Integrated Design Team has identified areas within the current cemetery (Blaris), to utilise pockets of land that would be suitable as additional burial space and these continue to be developed. In addition, a Garden of Remembrance is currently being progressed to further enhance sustainable burial options within our cemetery. These measures are to include:-
- Single plots for burial of up to 12 ashes
 - Manicured space for burial of single ashes in 'vaults'
 - Provision for scattering gardens
- It is envisaged that the scattering gardens will provide an informal meadow or woodland setting for those who prefer this option rather than traditional burial.
- 1.12 In the council's long-term Strategy, it commits to meeting the needs of bereaved people by creating pleasant, peaceful and sympathetic resting places in the council cemeteries. In addition, it recognises that LCCC area is a culturally diverse place and we aim to meet the needs of all groups.
- 1.13 New and alternative ways for bereaved people to be buried are to be explored and subject to Members consideration, incorporated into the design of our future cemetery. This would facilitate those who choose an alternative to traditional burial.
- 1.14 **Part 2**
- 1.15 **Council to provide an update report to the All-Party Group on Climate Action on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally.**
- 1.16 The purpose of the All-Party Group on Climate Action is to provide a forum for discussion between politicians, NGOs, business leaders and academics, to drive progress on climate action and sustainable development in Northern Ireland. The Group is facilitated by Sustainable NI and aims to influence policymakers at the highest level in Northern Ireland.
- 1.17 Whilst the council play an important role in supporting sustainable burial practices, the legislative, planning, infrastructural or regulatory barriers extend beyond the remit of individual councils. A coordinated regional approach is required to address sustainable burial policy in Northern Ireland.

2.0	<u>Recommendation</u>	
2.1	It is recommended that the committee agrees: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to explore the feasibility of providing sustainable burial options within existing and new cemeteries; • update the Cemetery Rules and Regulations to make it explicit that embalming is not required for interment in council cemeteries; • to exploring new and alternative ways for people to be buried including the designation of natural burial grounds or woodland areas within the district in the long-term plan for new cemetery provision; and • the existing engagement by local government through Sustainable NI is used to support the All-Party Group on Climate Action on any identified legislative, planning, infrastructural, or regulatory barriers that may impact the delivery of these sustainable end-of-life options locally. 	
3.0	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>	
	None at present	
4.0	<u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u>	
4.1	Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?	N/A
4.2	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out Not required at this stage – to be considered in line with the cemetery strategy, plans for GOR and future provision. Decisions taken at that stage may need to be screened.	
4.3	Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?	N/A
4.4	Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out. Not required at this stage – to be considered in line with the cemetery strategy, plans for GOR and future provision. Decisions taken at that stage may need to be screened.	

Appendices:	None
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Committee:	Environment & Sustainability Committee
Date:	3 June 2026
Report from:	Head of Service – Building Control & Sustainability

Item for:	Noting
Subject:	Consultation Document: Department for the Economy Consultation on Geothermal Licensing.

	<p><u>Background and Key Issues</u></p> <p>1.0 The Department for Economy (DfE) issued a consultation on Geothermal Licensing proposals on 15th May 2026.</p> <p>1.1 The consultation runs for a 12-week period, closing on 7th August 2026. The purpose of this report is to notify Elected Members of the consultation and to seek their views and comments.</p> <p>1.2 The consultation documents, along with impact assessment can be found at: Proposals for Geothermal Regulation Consultation Department for the Economy</p> <p><u>Consultation Overview</u> (taken from DfE website)</p> <p>1.3 The Department for Economy (DfE) is seeking views on proposals to introduce a new regulatory framework for geothermal energy in Northern Ireland.</p> <p>1.4 Geothermal energy is the natural heat stored underground. It can be used to heat buildings, provide hot water, and in some cases cool buildings. It is a local, low-carbon energy source that is available at all times and does not depend on the weather. Increasing its use could help reduce carbon emissions, improve energy security, and reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels.</p> <p>1.5 Northern Ireland has significant potential for geothermal energy. While small scale systems for individual buildings are already in use, there is currently no specific regulatory framework in place, particularly for larger or more complex geothermal developments.</p> <p>1.6 This consultation sets out proposals to introduce new legislation that would create clear and proportionate rules for geothermal development. The aim is to support the growth of a sustainable geothermal sector, while ensuring environmental protection and fair use of underground resources.</p> <p><u>Governance</u></p> <p>1.7 Whilst the consultation period extends to 12-weeks, the timing does not sit favourably with the councils reporting arrangements. The closing date of 7 August 2026 falls within the committee summer recess.</p>
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1.8	<p>It is therefore proposed that a council response will collate all comments from Elected Members made to the Head of Service by 15 July 2026, allowing a final submission to be submitted to DfE by the closing date of 7th August 2026. The response will be presented to the September 2026 meeting of this committee for retrospective approval.</p>	
2.0	<p><u>Recommendation</u></p> <p>It is recommended that Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) Notes the report on DfE Consultation on Geothermal Licensing b) Agrees the proposal for submission and retrospective approval. 	
3.0	<p><u>Finance and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>	
4.0	<p><u>Equality/Good Relations and Rural Needs Impact Assessments</u></p>	
4.1	<p>Has an equality and good relations screening been carried out?</p>	<p>Yes</p>
4.2	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out</p> <p>Third Party Consultation</p>	
4.3	<p>Has a Rural Needs Impact Assessment (RNIA) been completed?</p>	<p>None provided</p>
4.4	<p>Brief summary of the key issues identified and proposed mitigating actions <u>or</u> rationale why the screening was not carried out.</p> <p>Third Party Consultation</p>	

<p>Appendices:</p>	<p>None</p>
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