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Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS

6th March, 2023

MEETING OF THEPEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The above-named Committee will be a Hybrid Meeting in the Lavery Room - City Hall on Tuesday, 7th March, 2023 at 5.15 pm, for the transaction of the business noted below.

You are requested to attend.

Yours faithfully,

John Walsh

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**

   (a) Apologies

   (b) Minutes

   (c) Declarations of Interest

   (d) Update on Committee Schedule (Pages 1 - 2)

2. **Restricted**

   (a) Financial Reporting - Quarter 3 2022/23 (Pages 3 - 10)

   (b) Belfast Citywide Tribunal Service - in year update (Pages 11 - 16)

   (c) GLL Leisure Management Contract - Six monthly update on contract compliance and performance (Pages 17 - 28)

   (d) Community Support Programme Additional Funding 2022/23 (Pages 29 - 32)

3. **Matters referred back from the Council/Motions**

    (a) Imagination Library NoM (Pages 33 - 38)

4. **Committee/Strategic Issues**

    (a) Timeframe for Reviews (Strategic Partners and Fuel Hardship) (Pages 39 - 46)

    (b) Consultation on a Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland and Operations Update (Pages 47 - 166)

    (c) More Circularity Less Carbon (Pages 167 - 196)

    (d) Belfast Boxing Strategy 2022-2023 Quarter 3 - Update and extension of programme for 2023-2024 (Pages 197 - 214)

    (e) Stadia Community Benefits Initiative 2022-2023 Quarter 3 Update (Pages 215 - 222)

    (f) Community Infrastructure Pilot Update (Pages 223 - 226)

    (g) Partnership Agreements 2023/24 (Pages 227 - 234)

5. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**

    (a) Pitch Partner Agreements Update (Pages 235 - 238)

6. **Operational Issues**

    (a) Proposal for Dual Language Street Signs (Pages 239 - 242)

    (b) Dog Warden Service Update (Pages 243 - 250)

    (c) Attendance at Welcoming Interactive Conference (Pages 251 - 254)

    (d) Port Health Update (Pages 255 - 258)

Belfast City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Schedule of Meetings 2023
Date:	7th March, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Sara Steele, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To advise the Committee of a change to the date of the June meeting of the People and Communities Committee.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is requested to approve the change from Tuesday, 6th to Tuesday, 13th June, as outlined.

3.0	**Main report**
  3.1	Key Issues It had previously been agreed that the June meeting of the People and Communities Committee would be held on Tuesday 6th June. However, due to a change in the date of the Local Government Elections it has been necessary to move this meeting to later in the month.
3.2	Accordingly, the meeting will now be held on Tuesday, 13th June at 5.15 p.m.
3.3	Financial and Resource Implications None associated with this report.
3.4	Equality or Good Relations Implications None associated with this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached** None associated with this report.

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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Agenda Item 2b

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Agenda Item 2c

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Imagination Library NoM – proposed pilot
Date:	7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales. Director or Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart. Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To report back to Members on the motion in relation to a proposed pilot of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, which was proposed by Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor Howard. The Standards and Business committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities committee.
1.2	To further report on the council agreement that the Book Trust be included as one of the interested partners the Council would work with to secure the success and sustainable funding of any scheme.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked: • To consider the proposed one year pilot of the Imagination Library and to note the facilitation model, resourcing and management of any Pilot.

2.2	• Given there is no budget and no staff resource for this work and there are other providers who operate in this area, committee are asked to consider and agree that the proposal could be looked at again by committee once external funding to cover project and staff costs are secured.
3.0	**Main report**
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	The Committee was advised that the Standards and Business Committee, at its meeting on 24th November, had referred the following motion, which had been proposed by Councillor de Faoite and seconded by Councillor Howard, to the People and Communities Committee for consideration: "Belfast City Council: - Acknowledges that the majority of physical brain development occurs in the first three years of life, when children form over 1 million new neural connections per second; - Recognises the benefits of reading, and reading aloud, to young children which can promote the development of basic literacy and vocabulary skills, establish strong inter-personal relationships between children and parents/guardians, as well as improving longer term educational, health, social and economic outcomes; - Is concerned about the rising cost of living which will limit the ability of families to pay for essential educational resources like books for young children; - Agrees to investigate and establish a pilot of the Dolly Parton Imagination Library in the City to provide a new book each month for children aged 0-5, working with any interested partners to secure the success and sustainable funding of the scheme."
3.2	The proposer of the motion, Councillor de Faoite, addressed the Committee and provided an overview of the motion. The Committee adopted the motion and agreed that a report on how this would be facilitated, resourced and managed would be submitted to a future meeting of the People and Communities committee.
3.3	Furthermore, at the request of Councillor Murray, the January meeting of Council agreed that the Book Trust be included as one of the interested partners the Council would work with to secure the success and sustainable funding of any scheme.

	How It Works
3.4	Following officer investigation, the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is a book gifting programme devoted to inspiring a love of reading in the hearts of children everywhere. Each month, enrolled children from birth to age five, receive a high quality, age-appropriate book in the post, free of charge. The Dolly Parton foundation will then work with the affiliate organisation to register children and contribute to the costs. The foundation indicates that books are carefully selected and full of variety. They include traditional stories and rhymes, books by beloved authors and illustrators, non-fiction content and newly published titles. Each month, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library mails a high quality, age-appropriate book to all registered children, addressed to them and at no cost to the child's family.
3.5	The Imagination Library provides the infrastructure of the core programme including managing the secure central database for the Book Order System and coordinating book selections and wholesale purchasing. It also incurs the cost of the programme's administrative expenses and coordinates the monthly mailings.
3.6	Acting as a Local Affiliate, Belfast City Council would be responsible for enrolling children to the programme within the geographical area.
3.7	The Imagination Library negotiates wholesale pricing for the books. Local Affiliates (in this case the Notice of Motion suggests that this could be Belfast City Council) and Partners are responsible for securing funds to cover that cost. Books are 100% free to enrolled children because their Local Affiliate has secured funds to cover the cost of the books and the postage and packing fees.
	Pilot Design
3.8	Officers met with the Councillors de Faoite and Howard to discuss the NoM and to outline their research in relation to the Dolly Parton Foundation and the Imagination Library scheme. As a result, the elected members are proposing that council operate an initial one year pilot project which will be offered to 200 participants across the city. It is suggested that 100 participants will be identified through Councils Registrar's office and a further 100 participants will be identified through linked community organisations within each of the 4 quadrants of the city.
3.9	The estimated cost of delivery of any approved pilot will be £5,200 which is based on a fee of £26 per child per year for 200 participants payable to Dolly Parton Foundation. Committee are asked to note that no provision has been made for the pilot in the 2023/24 budget

	estimates, however, elected members anticipate that local benefactors will provide this funding in order to make the proposed pilot viable.
3.10	If funds are secured, officers will be required to act as a link to the Dolly Parton Foundation, promote the project, work with the funding partners, identifying beneficiaries and administer the scheme.
3.11	Evaluation indicators will be designed to evaluate the Pilot. This will provide relevant information related to: i. Satisfaction with the project: How well perceived is the initiative by service users. ii. Outcomes achieved: How much the pilot has improved parental confidence and competence, parental attachment, and literacy. iii. Effectiveness measures: How do the outcomes relate to the effectiveness of the pilot A final evaluation report will be presented to include any recommendation on the Pilot.
3.12	To support any agreed pilot, it is further proposed that council officers will work with existing providers of similar schemes in order to add local value to the planned pilot scheme. There are two main initiatives currently being delivered in the Belfast area. - The Book Trust delivers the Book Start Early Years Pilot, where materials, parent support and practitioners support is given through partners such as Sure Start to almost a thousand children in the city. - Department of Education also deliver a similar scheme across all the nurseries in the Belfast area.
3.13	In the interim, and given there is no budget and no staff resource for this work and there are other providers who operate in this area, committee are asked to consider and agree that the proposal could be looked at again by committee once external funding to cover project and staff costs are secured.
	<u>Financial and Human Resource Implications</u>
3.14	The estimated total cost for a pilot scheme for 200 children is £5,200 based on a cost per child of £26 which is payable to the Dolly Parton Foundation. These costs have not been included in 2023/24 budget estimates, however, elected members anticipate that local benefactors will provide this funding in order to make the proposed pilot viable.

3.15	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment If delivered in the manner described, the pilot will not have equality, good relations or rural needs implications.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Timeframe for Reviews (Strategic Partners and Fuel Hardship)
Date:	Tuesday 7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Provision, CNS

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on timeframes for, and/or progress to date, re. taking forward reviews of funding awarded to Strategic Partners for Covid Response/Recovery (20/21and 21/22) and for Fuel Hardship Fund (22/23).
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the update in relation to: • timescales for, and current work being undertaken, in relation to the review of funding allocated to Strategic and Thematic Partners (20/21 and 21/22) – with a final paper planned to come through to committee in August 2023, • anticipated timescale for receipt of final monitoring returns from delivery partners in relation to implementation of the Fuel Hardship Fund scheme, • officer recommendation that the All Party Cost-of-Living Task Group (to be established and which will include member and officer representation) should review relevant collated information regarding same and make recommendations on next steps as to any further review and verification that might be required.

3.0	**Main report**
	Background
3.1	It was agreed at P&C committee in August 2022 (ratified at Council in September) that 'a review of strategic and thematic partners' would be undertaken and within the minute 'that a list of the current/proposed Strategic Partners be circulated to the Members of the Committee.'
3.2	It was then further agreed at SP&R committee in November 2022 when the Fuel Hardship Fund scheme was being developed that 'a report be submitted to the Committee within the next two months providing an update on the work being undertaken to review the strategic and thematic partners.' Then in December 2022, members requested that 'the report on the use of strategic partners, which was due to be presented to the Committee early in the new year, would also include information on the oversight measures in place for the Fuel Poverty Hardship Scheme.' Furthermore, in January 2023, SP&R committee agreed that 'an All-Party Cost-of-Living Task Group be established, to discuss the challenges and learnings of the scheme, that would be considered should a similar scheme be required in winter 2023.'
	Strategic and thematic partners
3.3	Following the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic and the associated pressure to readily respond to the needs of communities and communities of interest, Party Group Leaders identified and agreed a number of area-based strategic partners, and thematic partners, that Council would award relevant DfC/central government and BCC funding to, and work in partnership with, to address the needs of local residents during the initial lockdown period(s). Tables 1A and 1B provide a summary of the funding allocations to the respective partners.

Table 1A - 2020/21 – Strategic (area) Partners including allocations made)

East	EBCDA	**£550,792.00**
North	Crusaders FC	£52,468.00
	Intercomm	£181,064.00
	Loughview Community Action Project	£127,076.00
	North Belfast Advice Partnership	£179,544.00
	North Belfast Alternatives	£10,000.00
	Total	**£550,152.00**
South	Forward South	£129,370.20
	LORAG	£129,370.20

	Southcity Resource and Development Centre	£129,370.20
	Total	**£388,110.60**
West	Greater Shankill Partnership	£147,868.00
	Upper Anderstown Community Forum	£582,522.00
	Greater Shankill Community Council	£10,000.00
	Total	**£740,390.00**
Total		£2,229,444.60

Table 1B - 2020/21 – Thematic Partners (including allocations made)

Bytes	£32,173.00
Embrace / Nicras	£25,000.00
Forward South	£8,000.00
HereNI	£3,050.00
Red Cross	£50,000.00
Solas	£5,000.00
Store House	£18,000.00
Boring Wells - Food Larder	£14,910.00
Transgender NI	£2,000.00
West Belfast Foodbank	£17,131.00
Womens Aid	£10,000.00
Heart Project	£22,500.00
Age Friendly Partnership (via Engage With Age)	£20,000.00
Belfast and Lisburn Womens Aid 1	£10,000.00
Mens Advisory Partnership	£5,000.00
Belfast Migrant Forum (paid via NIACRO)	£15,000.00
Here NI	£7,500.00
CaraFriend	£7,500.00
Transgender NI	£7,500.00
Heart Project (counselling organisations)	£40,000.00
Belfast and Lisburn Women's Aid	£28,000.00
We are Pangs	£16,500.00

SVDP	£75,000.00
Salvation Army	£75,000.00
Community Food Providers (£2k x 45 groups)	£90,000.00
North Locality Group (via Ashton Community Trust)	£24,000.00
South Locality Group (via LORAG)	£24,000.00
East Locality Group (via Eastside Partnership)	£24,000.00
West Locality Group (via Upper Springfield Dev Trust)	£24,000.00
Colin Locality Group (via Colin N'hood P'ship)	£24,000.00
TOTAL	**£724,764.00**

3.4 Throughout the subsequent recovery phases from Covid, and ongoing changes and easing of restrictions, further funding allocations were made to strategic and thematic partners (via officer reports to committee and members then discussing and determining final approach re. same).

Table 2A - 2021/22 – Strategic (area) Partners (including allocations made)

East	EBCDA	**£155,920**
North	Intercomm	£53,700
	Loughview Community Action Project	£53,700
	North Belfast Advice Partnership - Vine Centre	£53,706.67
	Total	**£161,107**
South	Forward South	£37,456.67
	Southcity Resource and Development Centre	£37,456.67
	LORAG	£37,456.67
	Total	**£112,370.01**
West	Upper A'Town Community Forum	£174,120
	Greater Shankill Partnership	£46,470
		£220,590
	TOTAL	**£603,516.68**

Table 2B - 2021/22 – Thematic Partners (including allocations made)

Salvation Army	£90,000.00
SVP	£90,000.00
South Locality Group	£10,500.00
East Locality Group	£10,500.00
West Locality Group	£10,500.00
Colin Locality Group	£10,500.00
Age Friendly Partnership	£7,500.00
Belfast and Lisburn Womens Aid	£71,500.00
Mens Advisory Partnership	£16,500.00
Belfast Migrant Forum (paid via NIACRO)	£6,000.00
Here NI	£3,000.00
CaraFriend	£3,000.00
Transgender NI	£3,000.00
Heart Project (Counselling organisations)	£16,500.00
Parent Rooms	£6,000.00
TOTAL	**£355,000**

3.5 The DfC allocation of Social Supermarket Funding in 2021/22 and 2022/23 was also offered out to current strategic and thematic partners as a starting point with those partners, and elected members, encouraged to make officers aware of any other groups who might be interested in applying to deliver support under this scheme. Table 3 below outlines the funding allocations made, and to which groups.

Table 3 - 21/22 & 22/23 – Strategic (area) and Thematic Social Supermarket Funding allocations

2021/22 allocations		**2022/23 allocations**	
North		**North**	
		North Belfast Advice Partnership	£11,323.33
		Loughview Community Action Project	£11,323.33
		Ashton Community Trust	£11,323.33
South		**South**	
Southcity	£20,000.00	LORAG	£7,896.67
		Southcity	£7,896.67

		Forward South	£7,896.67
East		**East**	
EBCDA	£20,000.00	In this Together	£16,432.50
		Larder	£16,432.50
West		**West**	
Upper Andersonstown Community Forum	£30,000.00	Blackie River Centre	£36,700.00
Greater Shankill Partnership	£20,000.00	Greater Shankill Partnership	£9,780.00
TOTAL	**£90,000**	**TOTAL**	**£137,005**

<u>Approach to review</u>

3.6 In terms of the request to review strategic and thematic partners, it is important to note that given the selection of these partners had been a political decision, it would be inappropriate for officers to undertake such a review.

3.7 Therefore, in response to the request from members to conduct a review alongside recommendations made by AGRS-Audit Governance and Risk Services unit within Council, officers have commissioned Cavanagh Kelly to undertake an **independent financial audit** in relation to the allocation of Covid-19 related funding awarded to strategic (area and thematic) partners (as well as via the micro and medium and kitchen equipment grants schemes) during 20/21 and 21/22.

3.8 The main purpose of the audit is to ensure that all funds allocated during this period, and via the various schemes set out above, were spent in line with Letters of Offer/ Funding Agreements, as well as in line with guidance on public spending which was shared with delivery partners at the time. In tandem, officers are also collating and reviewing monitoring returns and supporting information to ensure that key targets and actions were achieved.

3.9 The financial audit has been underway since September 2022 with initial work focusing on:

i. A desktop review of 110 sample claims from projects resulting from open calls for Micro, medium, or Kitchen Equipment Grants (KEG) - up to a maximum value of £5,000
ii. A desktop review of 3 sample claims from projects arising from Direct Award Thematic funds with values between to £10,000 to £18,000.

	iii. Site verification visits to 12 Strategic (area) partnership organisations who received Covid-19 funding.
	<u>Timescales</u>
3.10	A draft interim report has recently been received (late-Feb 23) by Cavanagh Kelly for officers' consideration and feedback which will include views from Departmental finance and Corporate AGRS colleagues. A final report relating to this exercise is expected by the end of March/early May. The focus of this initial work is linked to the DfC funding allocations.
3.11	In addition, we have requested that the team within Cavanagh Kelly expand their work to include completing verification of an additional 9 Strategic area funding awards, and 10 Thematic awards, allocated from Council funding, to provide a complete picture.
3.12	It is anticipated that we will have all required information from both of these audit exercises, alongside the internal review of monitoring returns, by the end of June and therefore be in a position to bring a composite, comprehensive report through to Committee in August 2023.
	<u>Fuel Hardship Fund</u>
3.13	In order to ensure appropriate audit and assurance processes were applied to the delivery of the Fuel Hardship Fund, all identified strategic partners were issued with a range of supporting documents and guidance notes including; project proposal application form, BCC voucher protocols, client data capture sheet, monitoring s/sheet template and monitoring return template. The guidance notes in particular, provided detailed information on the scope and nature of the scheme including an overview of the aims of the scheme, the eligibility criteria as agreed by members, guiding principles, the expected duration (Dec22-Mar23), and an outline of payment terms including eligible, ineligible and restricted costs. The client data capture template issued to partners covered personal details, proof of eligibility and the need to retain supporting evidence as well as recording the voucher allocation noted against utilities). Members should note that as part of the guidance issued, the deadline for strategic partners to submit final monitoring returns on the Fuel Hardship Fund is 6th June 2023.
3.14	Officers met the with nominated delivery partners as a collective group on a number of occasions over recent months including prior to the scheme commencing on 30th November 2022, and again on 13th December 2022. Officers have also been in constant contact with partners throughout the delivery period – particularly between Dec22-Feb23 providing clarity, answering queries and to ensure the Council website was kept update in relation to scheme availability at

	a local level. An initial post-delivery review meeting with partners was held on 20th February 2023 to commence the formal process of gathering initial feedback.
3.15	Members will note that the verification and vouching of the Fuel Hardship Fund cannot therefore occur until after receipt of final monitoring returns from partners up to 6th June. NB. It has still to be determined whether this will be completed in-house by officers (very much dependent on staffing capacity and capability), or externally by an independent consultant.
3.16	Given the member request at SP&R committee in Jan 2023, that an All-Party Cost-of-Living Task Group be established, it is proposed that cross party nominations are sought post-Council elections in May via the PGL forum. The Members' Task Group, supported by officers, will consider the collated information and feedback gleaned via the returns (as noted previously due to be submitted in early June 2023 by the delivery partners) and agree next steps in relation to further verification, vouching and review.
	Financial & resource implications
3.17	Costs of securing the services of Cavanagh Kelly to undertake the financial audit of Covid-19 funding allocations to strategic and thematic partners during 20/21 and 21/22 have been met from within existing budgets within CNS. It is envisaged that any vouching and verification and review requirements needed in relation to the Fuel Hardship Fund will also be met by utilising existing CNS budgets in 23/24 (staffing and/or financial).
	Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment
3.18	Considered independently as part of the design and implementation or all related funding schemes in addressing Covid response, Covid Recovery and Fuel Hardship.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Consultation on a Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland and Operations Update
Date:	7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Matthews, Operations Director, Resources and Fleet
Contact Officer:	John McConnell, City Services Manager, Resources and Fleet

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To present to Committee Belfast City Council's draft response to the recently published Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: - Approve the draft Belfast City Council response to the Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland. - Note the recruitment of a Chief Executive by Arc21.

3.0	**Main report**
	Key Issues
3.1	Members may recall from last month's meeting (7th February 2023) that the Department for the Economy (DfE) has recently launched a public consultation on the draft Circular Economy (CE) Strategy for Northern Ireland. This draft strategy sets out the Department's vision to create an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy, with responsible production and consumption at its core.
3.2	The main goal of the CE Strategy is to adopt a circular model and reduce our material footprint to live responsibly, build resilience, exploit new opportunities and to secure future prosperity for businesses, people and the planet.
3.3	DfE has worked together with all government departments to develop the draft strategy, in collaboration with external stakeholders from local government, the private sector, academia, the voluntary and community sectors and others.
3.4	The overarching target is to halve Northern Ireland's annual material footprint per person to 8 tonnes by 2050. Our material footprint is the total volume of material embodied within the whole supply chain to meet our demands. It measures the global (domestic and foreign) extraction of raw materials required for goods and services used by the residents of Northern Ireland.
3.5	The draft CE Strategy sets out how this can be achieved through; switching to materials that can be reused, increasing use of fuels that can be replenished, designing things to be kept in use for longer and reducing waste.
3.6	The draft Strategy is set out in two parts: the Executive Summary and first four chapters provides an outline of the Circular Economy and the second part covers proposals for initiating change and how this can be monitored and measured.
3.7	The draft CE Strategy focuses on four business sectors: - Construction and the built environment - Bioeconomy - Advanced manufacturing - Tourism and Hospitality

3.8	It focuses on four types of materials: - Textiles - Food - Packaging - Electricals -
3.9	To help create more sustainable production and levels of consumption, the CE Strategy presents twelve proposals for change: **1.** Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change. **2.** Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and assist collaboration. **3.** Develop an outcome-focused Circular Economy monitoring framework. **4.** Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement. **5.** Work with businesses to increase circular design. **6.** Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials. **7.** Maximise the value of materials locally. **8.** Establish a Circular Economy funding programme. **9.** Create a regulatory framework that supports and incentivises greater circulation of goods and materials. **10.** Invest in research and development to support the valorisation of materials. **11.** Embed Circular Economy principles at all levels of education. **12.** Design of future skills programmes and reviews of current programmes to support a Just Transition.

3.10	There are 19 Questions posed in total within the response template. Questions 1-4 cover contact details and the remaining 15 questions cover views on the vision, materials footprint target, proposals for change, clusters and networks, embedding CE principles into public procurement, creating and supporting platforms and hubs, maximising the value of materials locally, a CE funding programme, funding instruments, a regulatory framework, development of a skills programme and delivery of the strategy.
3.11	The closing date for responses to the draft strategy is 20 March 2023.
3.12	The draft strategy is available at Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland and a full copy of the "Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland" is also attached as Appendix I
3.13	A copy of our draft response to the consultation questions is attached as Appendix II
3.14	A copy of arc21's draft response to the consultation questions is attached as Appendix III
	Operations Update
3.15	Committee is asked to note Arc21 has advised the Council of a recruitment exercise for the appointment of a Chief Executive on a permanent basis. Councils will be represented in the process by those on the Joint Committee and by involvement of a Chief Executive of a member Council. Committee will be updated on the outcome in due course.
3.16	St Patrick's Day 17th March 2023 Bank Holiday. Planning for coverage of bank holiday bin collections has been completed and a separate note updating elected members was sent out on the 27th February 2023. Planning for Easter Bank Holidays has commenced, and Members will be updated in due course.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.17	None in relation to responding to the consultations.
	Equality or Rural Needs Implications
3.18	None in relation to responding to the consultations.

	<u>Abbreviations</u> CE – Circular Economy DfC - Department for the Economy
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix I – Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland. Appendix II – Draft Belfast City Council response to the Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland. Appendix III – arc21 draft response to the Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland.

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

Draft
Circular Economy
Strategy for Northern Ireland

Our Vision

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

Responding to the consultation

Why are we consulting?

A Circular Economy will be a key enabler of the Department for the Economy's 10X Economic Vision for a decade of innovation. This will facilitate an innovative, inclusive and sustainable approach to economic growth and make the most of new opportunities and possibilities presented by the 4th Industrial Revolution.

We are all experiencing the impact of resource scarcity in the rising cost of living. We know the earth provides an abundant, but finite supply of resources that we are rapidly depleting. To secure the future of our planet for the next generations, we need to work together to rethink how we use our resources, to switch to regenerative resources minimising waste and maintaining the value of our products and materials.

This revolution of resources is going to be an essential part of reducing our emissions and will be embedded within climate action plans and the delivery of Northern Ireland's multi-decade Green Growth Strategy.

We have engaged with stakeholders across government, business, academia and the third sector in developing this strategy, but we need to ensure our thinking is sound. We want you to tell us if you think we have accurately assessed the situation, and whether you think our proposals are right to kick start the transition to a truly Circular Economy using a whole system approach.

How to respond to the consultation

We would ask that you respond to the consultation using the online survey which can be accessed at the **Circular Economy Consultation page on the nidirect website consultations.nidirect.gov.uk**

If you are unable to respond using the online consultation facility, you can email your response using the response template provided to the following email address: **ces@economy-ni.gov.uk**

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

An easy read version of the consultation document is available online but if you need documents to be provided in an alternative format, please contact the Circular Economy team by email: **ces@economy-ni.gov.uk**

Responses to this consultation are invited until 11.59pm on Monday 20th March 2023.

Executive Summary

We live in a world where we take valuable resources from the earth and make things that we may use only once before throwing them away. This 'take-make-use-dispose' model is known as the Linear Economy. It is unsustainable, costly and, moreover, it is unjust because it is based on a growth model which takes no consideration of the environmental and societal damage caused along the way.

The Circular Way offers an alternative model, that many countries are pursuing, in which:

- we rethink and reduce our use of earth's resources
- we switch to regenerative resources
- we minimise waste
- we maintain the value of products and materials for as long as possible.

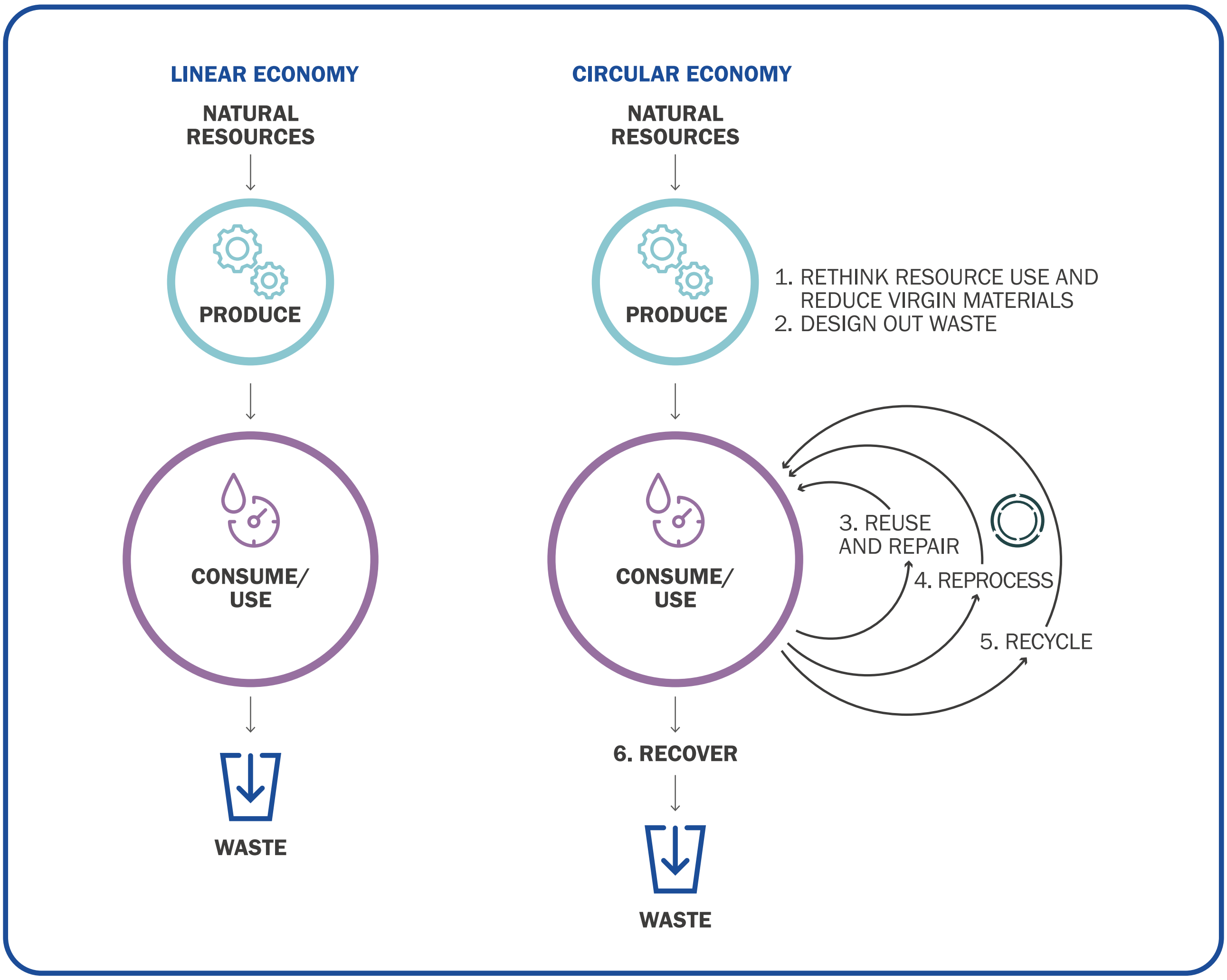


Figure 1 Linear vs Circular

Our research for this strategy has shown that Northern Ireland imports and extracts around **31.5 million tonnes of materials** annually. That is the equivalent weight of nearly 16 million cars.

Our current Linear Economy means that **92.1% or 29 million tonnes** of this is virgin material. Some of these materials are used for buildings and infrastructure which last for years. Unfortunately, the majority of these precious resources end up as waste rather than being reused, refurbished, remanufactured or recycled. With the development of this strategy, we aim to change this.

For a country the size and population of Northern Ireland, we are consuming a disproportionate amount of the earth's resources. It is estimated that each person in Northern Ireland is consuming some **16.6 tonnes of resources per year[1].**

This is our material footprint

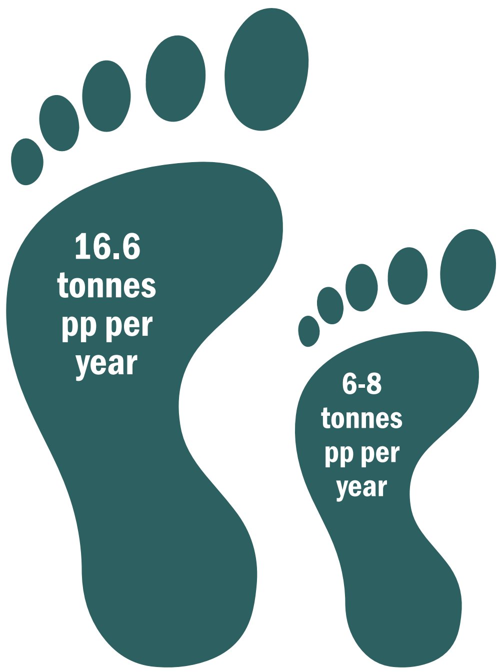


Figure 2 Current Material Footprint vs Recommended Material Footprint

It is a measure of the global (domestic and foreign) **extraction of raw materials** needed to meet the **final demand for goods and services** used by the residents of Northern Ireland. It is the total volume of material embodied within the whole supply chain to meet our demands.

To live sustainably, the United Nations recommends that we should only be using an average of **6-8 tonnes of resources per year.**

The goal of this strategy is to adopt a circular model and reduce our material footprint to live responsibly, build resilience, exploit new opportunities and secure future prosperity for businesses, people and our planet.

Our target is that, by 2050 we will have reduced our annual material footprint to 8 tonnes per person.

Rethinking our use of resources is also an essential part of tackling climate change and achieving net zero. Moving away from fossil fuels and increasing energy efficiency gains will address many, but not all emissions.

However, by transforming how we produce and use things, through applying circular thinking, we can reduce up to 45% of our emissions[2] and scale up our low carbon and renewable energy economy.

Recent events like the Covid pandemic and the war in Ukraine have shown us how interconnected we are globally, and how our societies, environment and economies are vulnerable to external shocks. The cost-of-living crisis is directly linked to resource scarcity and these global events will continue to impact us – unless we can work together to find system solutions. Circular approaches can help us do this.

Did you know?

- The average car is parked 92% of the time.
- 30% of food is wasted along the value chain.
- The average office space (pre-Covid) was only at 35-50% occupancy.

These are all wasted or under-utilised resources[3].

What we stand to gain: A more innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy

In the Linear Economy, societal and environmental issues rank behind economic ones. Moving to a more Circular Economy helps redress this imbalance. The 10X Vision outlines a transformative long term vision of a more innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy, where Northern Ireland is one of the top performing small advanced economies in the world. It places sustainable economic growth at the heart of our economic policy, with innovation acting as an engine for growth and creating positive outcomes for all our people and places.

This Circular Economy Strategy is a key enabler of the 10X Economic Vision and shares the same priorities, including building resilience to face any economic shocks, such as the current cost of living crisis. It will support innovation that will drive more responsible growth, creating new economic opportunities that reduce waste and carbon emissions. The benefits of which will be felt across all of our society.

The objectives of the 10X Economic Vision, as set out in the 10X Performance Management Framework, are:

- **Innovation:** Northern Ireland will have a high performing economy driven by innovation underpinned by high levels of collaboration across business, academia, government and civil society. To do this we will increase total research and development expenditure by 55% by 2030 from a baseline of £1,167m in 2020.
- **Inclusion:** To create opportunities for economic growth which are distributed across society to benefit everyone. To do this we will increase Northern Ireland Household Disposable Income above the small, advanced economy average while maintaining NI as one of the top performing small advanced economies in relation to the Gini-coefficient (a measure of income equality).
- **Sustainability:** To double the size of Northern Ireland's low carbon and renewable energy economy to more than £2bn turnover and achieve 80% electricity consumption from renewable sources by 2030 so that households and businesses have access to essential and affordable energy.

We recognise that simply achieving any one of these will not be enough: we need to deliver against all three at the same time and the transition to a more Circular Economy will make a significant contribution to achieving these societal outcomes.

This strategy also aligns directly with Northern Ireland's draft Programme for Government and the draft Green Growth Strategy. It also makes a significant contribution to many of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.[4] These are a global call to action to end poverty, protect the earth's environment and climate and ensure people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity.

Northern Ireland's unique position provides an exciting opportunity to establish ourselves as a Circular Economy champion in the UK, with sustainable production and consumption firmly at its core. We can utilise technological advancements and knowledge to maximise the value of all the biological and technical materials passing through the economic system. This strategy highlights many of the opportunities that transforming to a Circular Economy can bring to businesses.

Adopting a circular mindset throughout society and business will be integral to a successful transition. In practice, this means:

- We must prepare for the future by developing skills that can adapt to a changing environment.
- Everyone will need to think about the contribution their role can make to reducing emissions and material use.
- We must all strive to retain the value of resources – in construction, product development, purchasing decisions, reverse logistics, repair or through use of digital technology.

How we developed this strategy

The ambition to develop a Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland was initially set out in DfE's Draft Industrial Strategy. Recognising the importance of this area from a policy perspective, the Department sponsored a Policy Champions Network Task and Finish Group on the Circular Economy that recommended the development of a Circular Economy Strategic Framework. The following timeline provides a summary of the activities undertaken to develop a sound evidence base and the future plans:

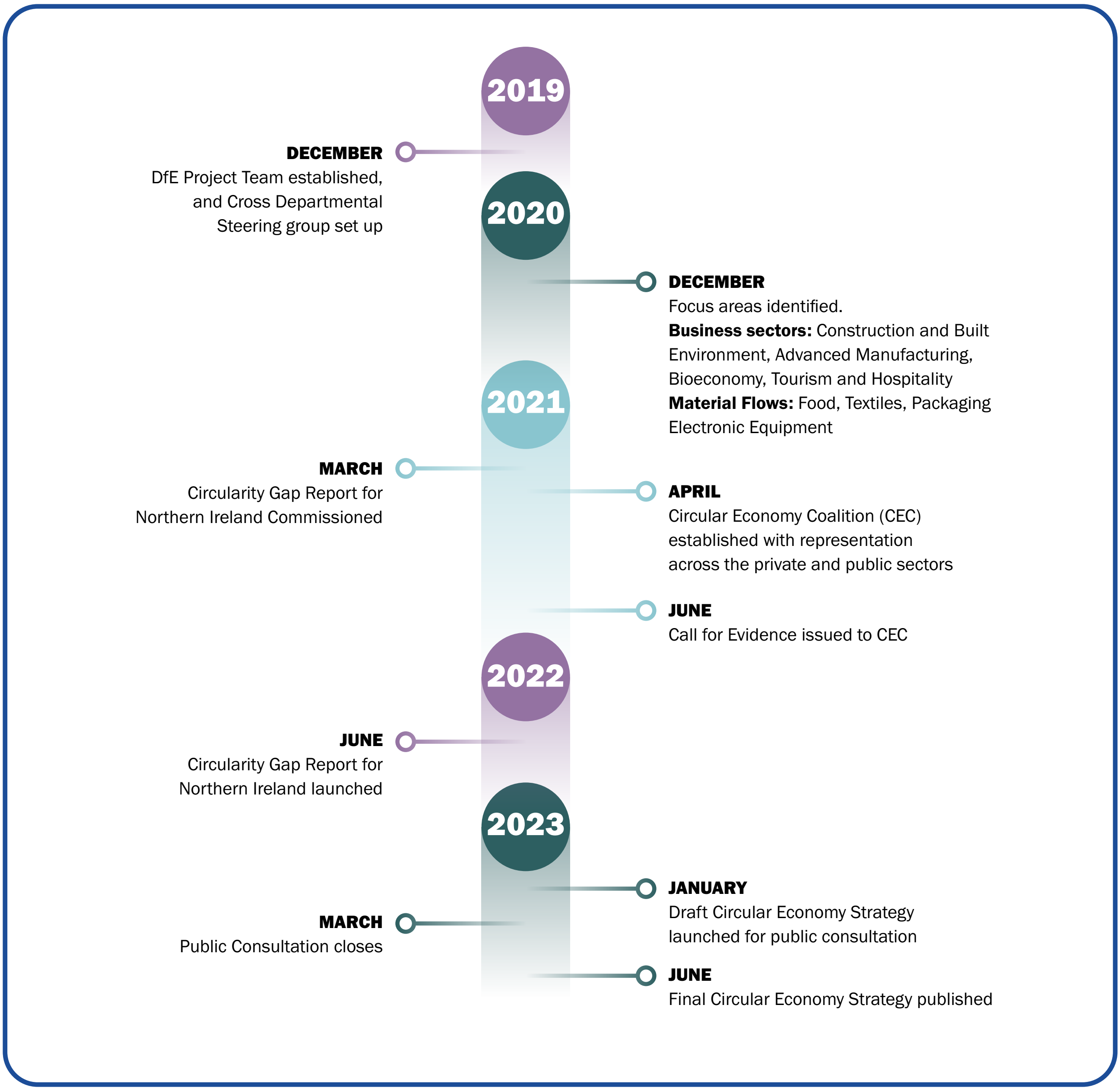


Figure 3 Timeline for development of the Circular Economy Strategy

In parallel with the workstreams identified in the timeline, we have sought to promote Circular Economy thinking across Northern Ireland government departments and embed the ethos of circularity in emerging policy. This work supports the delivery of key strategies across government and aligns closely with the workflows of our Vision for a 10X Economy, the Green Growth Strategy, the Environment Strategy, the Waste Management Strategy, the Skills Strategy and the Energy Strategy.

How will we make the transformation?

Reducing our material footprint and transitioning to a low carbon Circular Economy will require significant effort and involve numerous stakeholders. It also calls for strong collaboration across all sectors of society.

In the first instance, a great deal of effort will be required in order to raise awareness. A recent YouGov survey of 2,000 people across the UK found that **87%** had not heard of the Circular Economy concept[5]. What's more, understanding of the Circular Economy is often limited to a waste context, with a focus on recycling and recovery rather than reducing resource use, repairing, reusing and generating economic income. We aim to shift this focus and highlight the wider benefits.

The Circular Economy is not the end destination but provides a perspective which helps us make better decisions to design out waste and provide added value for business.

This strategy is a starting point to making the transition to a Circular Economy a reality. It provides a vision, a target and direction of travel for what can be achieved with the right investment and commitment from all stakeholders. The twelve proposals for change have been framed around the Ellen MacArthur Foundation Universal Policy Goals, informed by research and insight from the Circular Economy Coalition. It is important to note, however, this strategy will be dependent on securing sufficient funding to take it forward. Budgets beyond 2022/23 have not yet been allocated and are expected to be challenging.

Policy Goals	Proposals for Change
Collaborate for system change	**1.** Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change. **2.** Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and assist collaboration. **3.** Develop an outcome-focused Circular Economy monitoring framework.
Design out waste	**4.** Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement. **5.** Work with businesses to increase circular design.
Manage resources to retain value	**6.** Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials. **7.** Maximise the value of materials locally.
Stimulate system change with funding, incentives and penalties	**8.** Establish a Circular Economy funding programme. **9.** Create a regulatory framework that supports and incentivises greater circulation of goods and materials.
Invest in innovation, research and skills	**10.** Invest in research and development to support the valorisation of materials. **11.** Embed Circular Economy principles at all levels of education. **12.** Design of future skills programmes and reviews of current programmes to support a Just Transition.

Actions

We will lead and coordinate across government through the following initial actions:

- Examining options for a **delivery unit,** in partnership with DAERA, to translate the proposals for change into action plans.
- **Embedding** Circular Economy principles in the development of the **Climate Action Plan, Departmental and Sectoral Action Plans.**
- **Raising awareness** of Circular Economy and **increasing circular thinking**.

The transition from a Linear to a Circular Economy will ultimately affect the lives of every person in Northern Ireland: how we live, work, travel and consume.

1.
What is the Circular Economy?

1. What is the Circular Economy?

In our current economy, we take materials from the earth, make products from them, and eventually throw them away as waste. The process is linear and it presumes a) that we have an infinite supply of resources and b) that the earth has infinite capacity to deal with our waste. We don't, and it doesn't.

In a Circular Economy, by contrast, we significantly reduce the amount of waste being produced in the first place. Figure 4 below illustrates this.

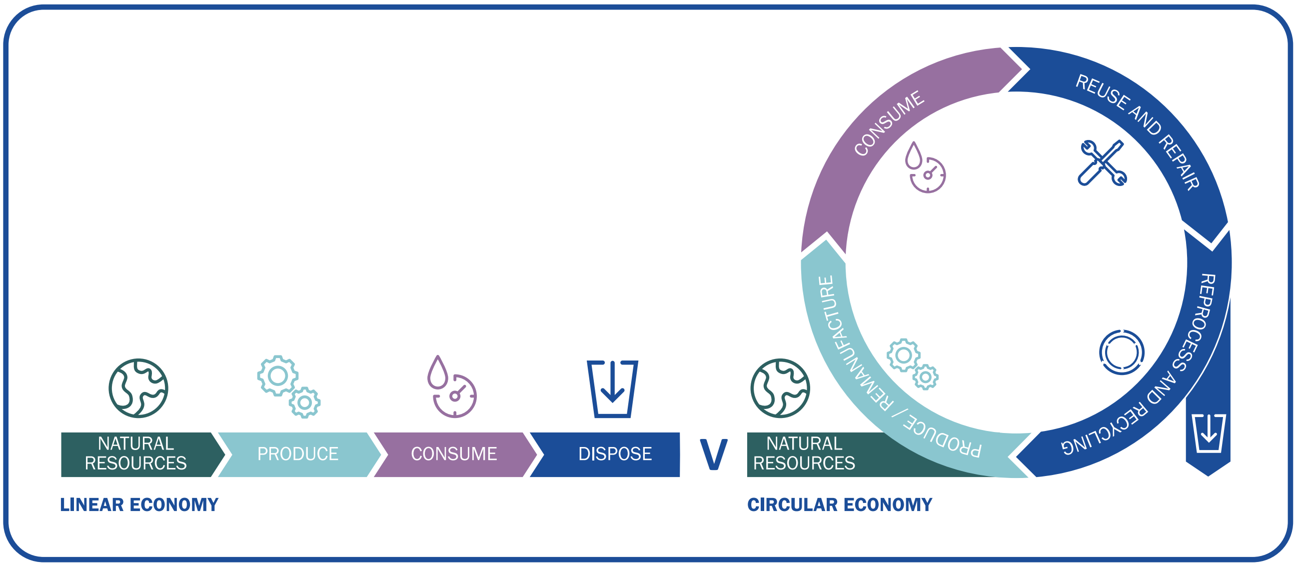


Figure 4 Linear vs Circular Economy

It's all about resources

Humanity relies on the earth's natural resources for everything: fuels to keep warm, building materials for shelter. We need its raw materials to feed and clothe ourselves, to make goods; to power our society.

The Circular Economy offers an alternative model in which:

- we rethink and reduce our use of finite resources
- we switch to regenerative resources which replenish themselves
- we minimise waste
- we maintain the value of products and materials for as long as possible.

By designing out waste from concept to production and use, we can embrace the idea that by-products and end-of-use waste can be a resource – and can be valued as a secondary raw material.

A circular business maximises benefits from all its resources, while reducing negative environmental impacts from their use. This can significantly reduce both material and carbon footprints – which is why Circular Economy principles are now interwoven with the net-zero agenda at a global level. USA[6], China[7] and Japan[8] have adopted circularity as a model for growth because they believe it helps to decouple growth from the depletion of finite resources. These countries have published circular plans and are investing heavily in repurposing their economies.

The United Nations Economic Commission, which represents 56 states in Europe, North America and Asia, has committed to pursuing circularity as a catalyst for change, pushing consumers, retailers and regulators to eliminate unnecessary materials. These countries don't consider embracing CE as an option, but an urgent imperative[9].

It requires whole-system transformation

Transitioning to a Circular Economy will require government at all levels, businesses, innovators, investors, entrepreneurs and consumers to play their part in the process and work together to minimise disruption. The issues to be addressed are too complex to be approached in a fragmented manner. Only by adopting a new, innovative whole-system approach can we realise our economic, environmental and social ambitions.

Underpinned by innovation

Innovation is critical for achieving greater outputs through more efficient use of resources. This whole system approach requires us to do things differently to create value which is essential for driving productivity and competitiveness. Whether incremental or revolutionary, greater circularity of materials will require new process improvements, data and analytics, emerging technology, skills and more agile thinking to increase productivity.

It will also require us to examine our global trade relationships which are immensely complex and involve many interlinked systems. Figure 5 captures the interplay across competing factors that must be considered to maintain balance in the system. Transitioning to a Circular Economy will require these elements to change simultaneously.

Figure 5 Global Trade Relationships[10]

We need both incentives and mandates which are set out in the proposals for change.

Beyond GDP: Sustainable economic growth

As the global economy emerges following the Covid-19 pandemic, a business-as-usual recovery based on GDP growth and profitability alone will not be enough. There is now a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to develop a new economic framework to compete in a more sustainable, innovative and inclusive economy. It is essential to integrate economic and social policy. There are many examples of high GDP per capita countries with high levels of inequality, or centres of innovation that have not had a positive impact on those living close by.

Northern Ireland's 10X Economic Vision establishes an ambition to create a step-change in how we think about our economy. It sets out a pathway for fundamental economic change and promotes inclusivity and recognises that when growth is more evenly spread the overall rate of growth is higher.

2.

Why we need to change

2. Why we need to change

The prospect is stark. If we do not change, by 2050 our existing natural resources will be depleted and our economic growth ambitions will be increasingly constrained.

Our current, linear economic approach of 'take-make-use-dispose' has resulted in an unsustainable growth model that is having an irreversible effect on the earth's ability to provide for us and threatens the way we live now. We are already seeing early signs of the impact, with the cost of oil, gas and electricity rising at unprecedented rates due to dwindling resources and disruption to supply chains.

We need to get ahead of the curve. A Circular Economy is not just an environmental imperative, it also has far-reaching economic and societal potential. It will give us the power to grow and thrive, by creating green jobs, upskilling our workforce, becoming more self-sufficient and improving our infrastructure.

Responsible growth

Adopting circular thinking will create opportunities for Northern Ireland to redefine growth, build greater resilience and provide a pathway to securing society-wide prosperity, without causing further environmental degradation. This echoes the 'Triple Bottom Line' approach from the 10X Economic Vision to promote innovative, sustainable and inclusive investment. Within industry there is already a move towards triple bottom line reporting, highlighting the importance of measuring financial, social and environmental impact. Within the Circular Economy this starts with addressing our current dependence on finite raw materials and carbon-intensive industries.

Supply and demand on global markets determines the cost of natural resources. As fossil fuels are phased out, there will be more competition for fewer resources. Unless we move to a new economic model that does not depend on depleting natural resources, our economy could retract irreversibly, we would miss out on opportunities to enter new markets and existing inequalities would get worse. Our activities would break additional planetary boundaries[11].

Growing a low carbon and renewable energy economy

The Circular Economy aims to be fuelled by renewable energy, created from sources that are not depleted when used e.g. wind, and reduces our dependence on fossil fuels. The demand for more sustainable industrial output is growing. To meet this demand we must prioritise the decarbonisation of the energy system to grow our low carbon and renewable energy economy. Solutions to reduce our dependence on fossil fuels should be designed with circularity in mind, developed with low carbon, resource efficient materials, and consider the full life cycle of all components.

Reconnect with nature

We can shape a nature-positive future and halt further loss of biodiversity by transforming how we produce, use and consume goods to adopt and mirror the regenerative processes of nature. People are rarely aware of how their choices impact nature. However, through this strategy and its delivery we hope to reconnect people with the earth's processes, which support and enable our daily life.

Respond to resource scarcity

The global population is expected to rise from today's figure of around 8 billion to an estimated 10 billion by 2050. While significant in itself, what is more concerning is that our increased demand for resources is not proportionate to the rise in population. Since 1970, our demand for resources has tripled while our global population has only doubled. This is largely driven by demand for resources which often causes greater environmental impacts and inequalities in lower-income countries. This rate of growth is placing unsustainable demand on natural, non-renewable resources.

It has been calculated that if the world's population lived as the UK currently does, we will need **the resources of three earths by 2050** just to meet our demands.

Figure 6 highlights the varying demand for resources across several countries. This strategy is the first time we have looked at economic growth through a circular lens, paying attention to the impact of our production and consumption patterns on the earth. It is an opportunity for Northern Ireland to lead on taking greater responsibility and creating new ways of creating shared prosperity.

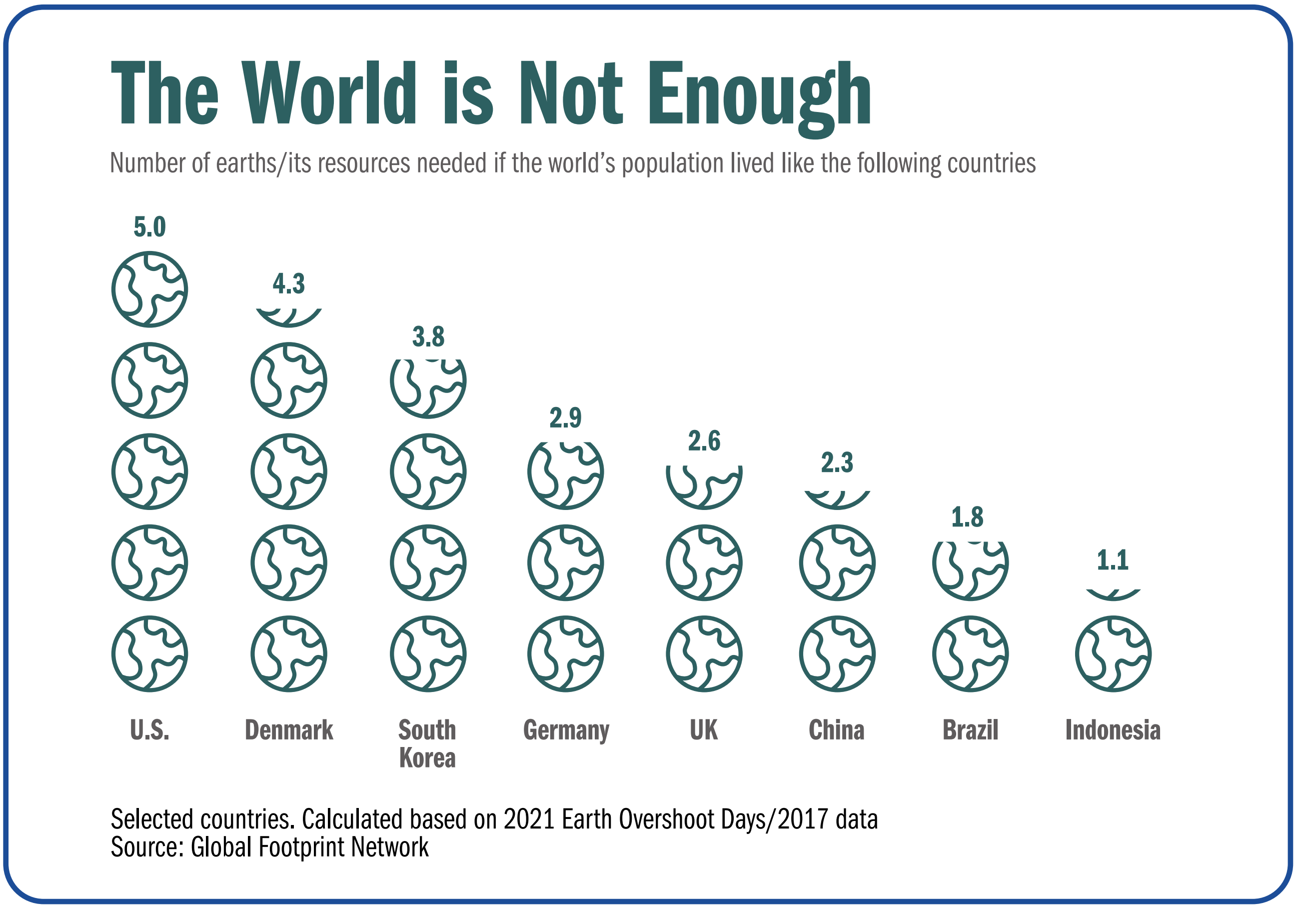


Figure 6 Chart: The World is Not Enough | Statista[12]

Reduce our material footprint

Our research has shown that Northern Ireland globally extracts **around 31.5 million tonnes** of materials annually to meet our final demand for goods and services. This is our current material footprint. Our current Linear Economy means that **92.1% or 29 million tonnes** of this is virgin material. Some of these materials are locked in, because they are located within buildings and infrastructure but unfortunately the majority of our resources end up as waste rather than being reused, refurbished, remanufactured or recycled. **Our material footprint per person per year is currently double the recommended footprint for sustainable living.**

We did not always live this way. Earlier generations were more mindful of the resources they used and needed. We used to live rurally and follow natural biocycles, but modern urban living and linear methods of production and consumption, which have undoubtedly brought huge advancements for society, have also introduced hugely wasteful practices and damaged our environment.

We need to rebalance the scales, focusing on significant reductions to our material footprint through innovative solutions to tackle the global climate, water and biodiversity emergencies – which is why this strategy introduces a target to halve our material footprint per capita by 2050.

Support the Net Zero agenda

In February 2020 the Northern Ireland Executive declared a climate emergency[13] and in March 2022 passed the Climate Change Act[14], which sets overarching targets for Northern Ireland of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to:

- 48% lower than the 1990 baseline by 2030
- net zero by 2050.

To achieve these goals, government has been tasked to develop a Climate Action Plan, Departmental and Sectoral Action Plans to ignite a major programme of work involving government bodies, industry and communities.

Many other countries have considered circularity as a prerequisite to meeting net zero goals and tackling climate change and have therefore embedded it within their decarbonisation plans. **Lowering resource use goes hand in hand with lowering carbon emissions.**

Northern Ireland has successfully focused on a transition to renewable energy, complemented by measures to improve energy efficiency. This effort will address many, but not all emissions.

According to 'Completing the Picture: How the Circular Economy Tackles Climate Change[15]' by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF), these efforts would address 55% of our global emissions. The **remaining 45%** relates to how we produce and consume things, which makes the Circular Economy transition an essential tool in tackling climate change. The calculations vary at a country level.

The Six Carbon Budget, issued by the Climate Change Committee and required under the Climate Change Act, provides ministers with advice on the volume of greenhouse gases the UK can emit during the period 2033-2037. It focuses on addressing 'territorial emissions' (those arising from UK sources, plus its contribution to international aviation and shipping). It also urges ministers to reduce consumption emissions, The Climate Change Committee advises that consumption emissions (i.e. the broader impact of UK consumption including emissions embedded in imported goods and services) are 50% higher than our territorial emissions. Rethinking our use of resources and increasing circularity of materials will help reduce both types of emissions through revolutionising production and consumption patterns.

Rethinking and reducing our demand for finite resources is as important as securing energy supply from sustainable sources and developing technologies to deal with carbon in the atmosphere.

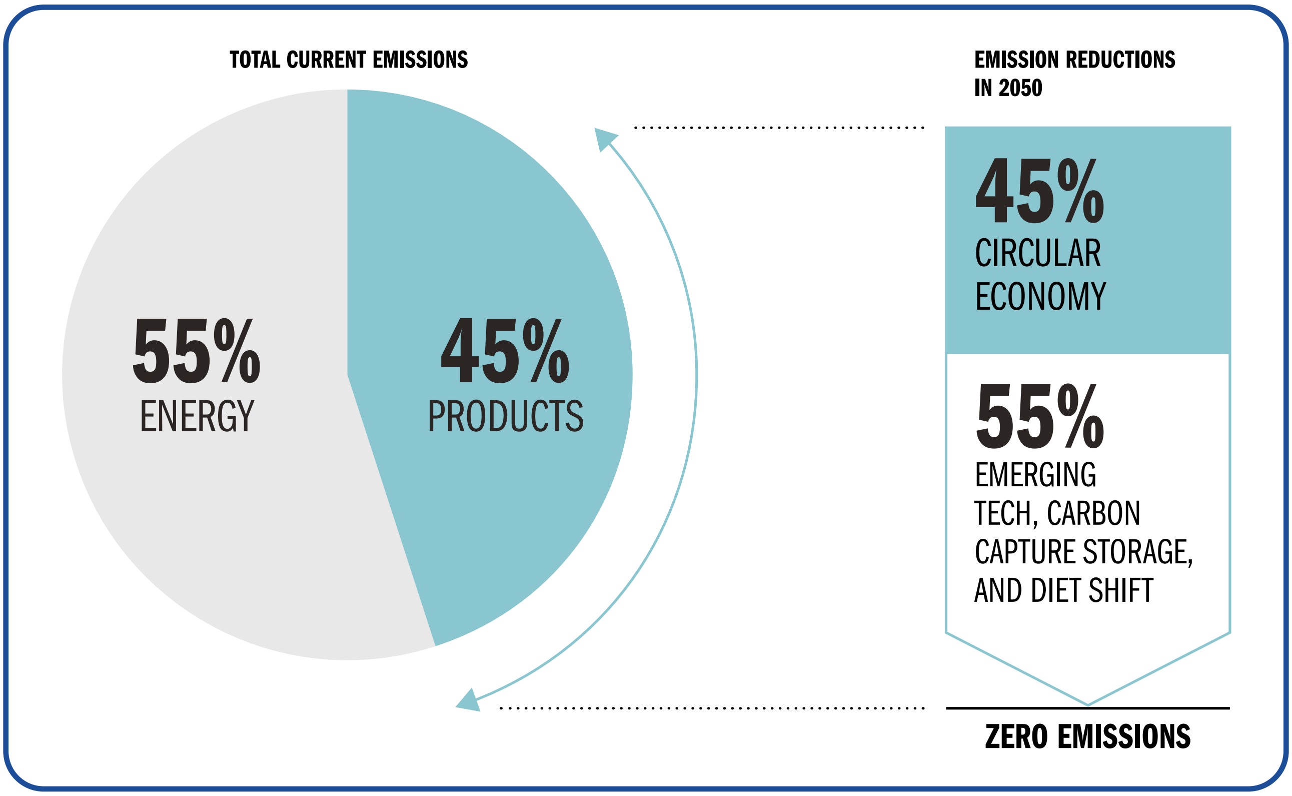


Figure 7 Completing the Picture, EMF

Figure 7 provides an overview of how global emissions may be reduced. While Northern Ireland percentages may be slightly different based on its manufacturing and agriculture sectoral profiles, there is still recognition that managing our resources more efficiently will play a significant role in emissions reduction. The EMF Completing the Picture paper explores the impact on emissions if circularity was increased in the production of food, steel, cement, plastic and aluminium.

Embedding CE principles within our climate action plan, departmental plans and sectoral plans will greatly assist wider government in reducing all emissions. It will also contribute to doubling the size of Northern Ireland's low carbon and renewable energy economy which is a target within the Energy Strategy.

Help industry reduce indirect emissions

All businesses will need to start measuring their emissions to calculate their carbon footprints and report on sustainability. Figure 8 depicts the different emissions which are categorised under Scope 1, 2 and 3 emissions.

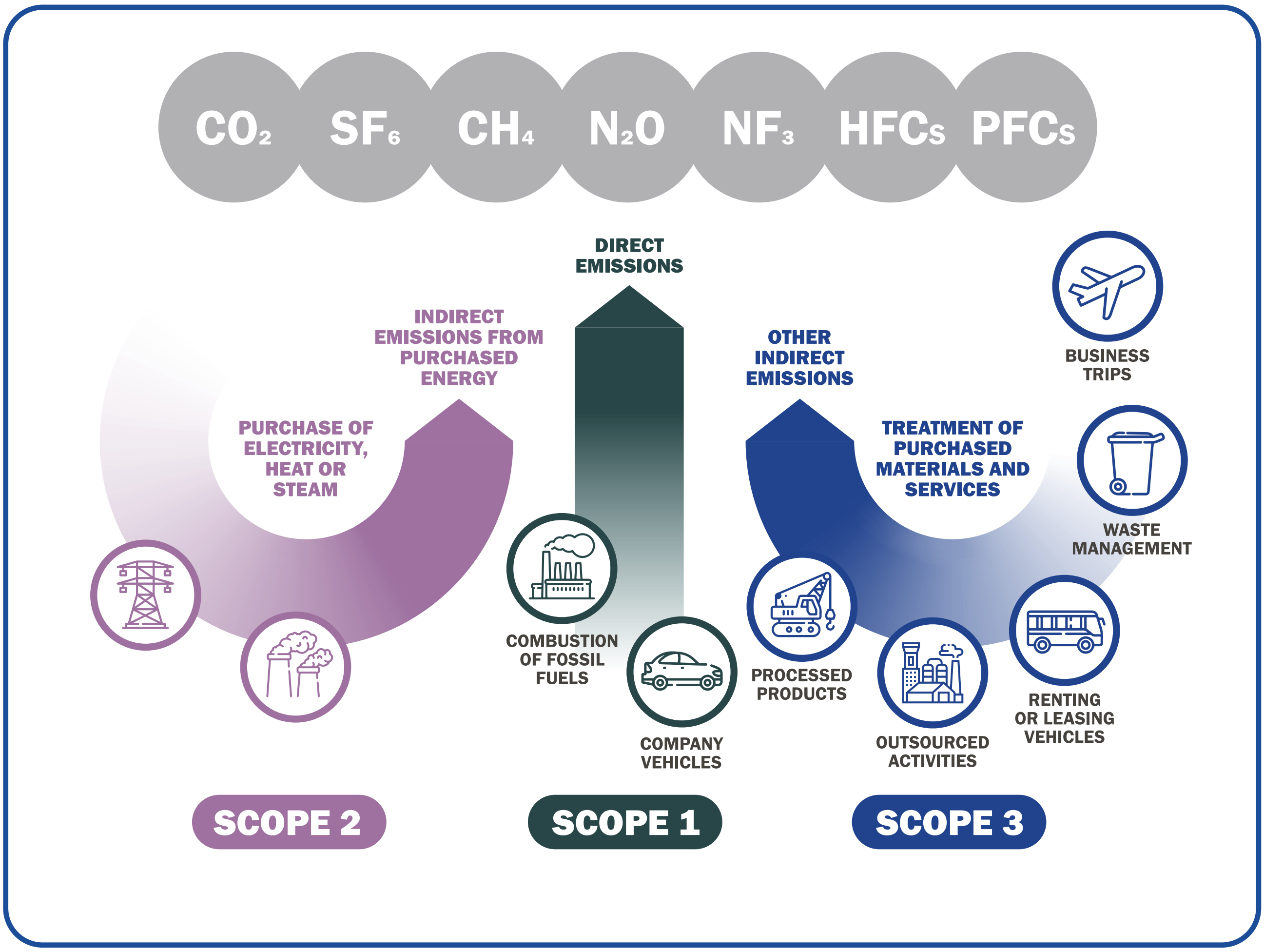


Figure 8 The Difference Between Scope 1, 2 & 3 Emissions – Tim Greenhalgh (SavemoneycutCarbon.Com)

Scope 1 covers direct emissions that a company generates while performing its business activities. Scope 2 covers indirect emissions from purchased energy, while Scope 3 covers indirect emissions in the value chain.

As climate action plans are developed and businesses start to make investments and interventions to achieve net zero, Circular Economy interventions will become more relevant and helpful, particularly in relation to reducing Scope 3 indirect emissions through more efficient use of resources. According to the Carbon Trust[16] Scope 3 emissions can account for up to 90% of a company's total emissions, which creates considerable opportunity for improving performance.

3. Where are we now?

3. Where are we now?

Up until 2020 the UK played a leading role in the development of the Circular Economy and was responsible for advocating for higher targets and ambition in the European Circular Economy Package. Whilst Northern Ireland is no longer part of the EU, we will still be impacted by the policies adopted elsewhere.

The Circular Economy is seen as an opportunity to secure access to vital resources, maintain global competitiveness and ensure a high-quality environment. Circular Economy approaches can cut industrial emissions, contributing to climate change mitigation, reduce the production of, and exposure to hazardous substances. Europe has committed to accelerating the transition to a Circular Economy – with circular principles central to both the EU's Industrial Strategy[17] and EU Green Deal[18].

The European Commission's Circular Economy Action Plan (2020) introduced legislative and non-legislative measures, including:

- improving product durability
- reducing use of hazardous chemicals
- increasing recycled content in products
- enabling remanufacturing and high-quality recycling
- restricting single-use and in-built obsolescence
- banning the destruction of unsold durable goods
- incentivising CE business models to keep things in use
- supporting the digitalisation of product information
- rewarding products based on their enhanced sustainability performance.

The Commission also recognises the need to **empower consumers to make sustainable purchases** – hence the introduction of a **right to repair** for electronic devices and use of **eco-labels** to make companies prove their green claims and tackle 'greenwashing'.

The Commission has also developed a **Green Public Procurement** (GPP) criterion for many goods and services to help raise standards and create demand for more circular products and purchasing arrangements.

Much of the legislation and directives from the European Circular Economy Package (CEP) have been adopted by the UK post EU Exit, and there is a willingness to continue on this path, with many of the original EU targets for waste prevention now passed into UK law.

In relation to waste, Northern Ireland transposed the following CEP targets which requires:

- **55% rate of recycling of municipal waste by 2025.**
- **60% rate of recycling of municipal waste by 2030.**
- **65% rate of recycling of municipal waste by 2035.**
- **Limits no more than 10% of municipal waste going to landfill by 2035.**

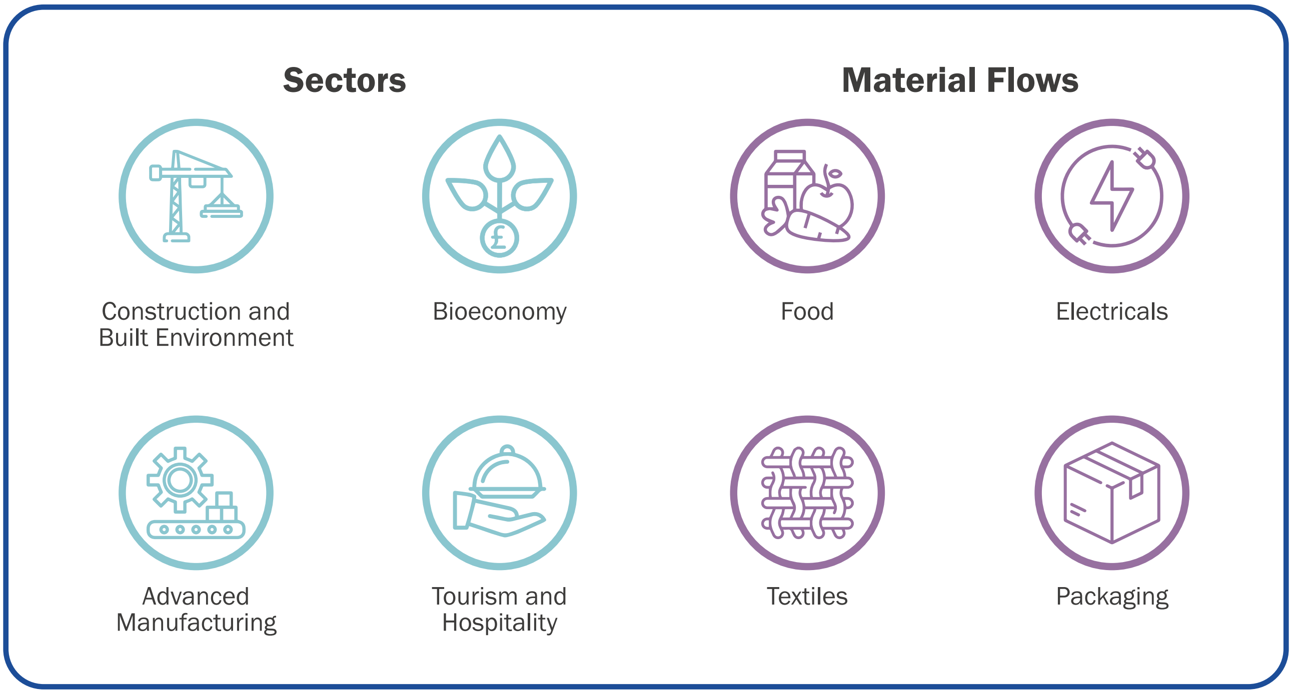
Further to these targets, the recent Climate Change Act introduced a target of a 70% rate of recycling for all waste by 2030 which further raises ambition.

In the same way that the European Circular Economy Action Plan is framed within the wider Green Deal programme, our Circular Economy Strategy will be a critical deliverable within Northern Ireland's Climate Action Plan and the Green Growth Strategy.

Developing our focus areas

A Circular Economy impacts on nearly every aspect of how we live and work because it deals with and aims to transform how resources/materials flow through and are allocated in an economy. Early in the development of this strategy, it was agreed that we could not meaningfully consider all business sectors and material flows for the Northern Ireland economy, so it was decided to follow the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF)[19] toolkit for Circular Economy policy-makers, which recommended the identification of focus areas.[20]

We identified four **sectors** and four **material flows** to be targeted with CE policy interventions:



Why were these focus areas chosen?

- Each has been identified as an essential sector to support the decarbonisation of industry.
- Greater circularity within this area presents a significant economic opportunity.
- It presents an opportunity to reduce material use and carbon emissions, and restore the natural environment.
- It has been identified as a high-value chain in the European Circular Economy Package Action Plan and aligns with other international Circular Economy strategies.

These eight focus areas provide opportunity to highlight the difference greater circularity can make in particular areas, but it will take all sectors to transform and rethink their relationship with resources to reach net zero.

The focus areas will have a mutually beneficial relationship with the sectors and clusters identified in the 10X Performance Management Framework to reduce our carbon footprint and waste. The sectors and clusters include:

- Agri-Tech
- Life and Health Sciences
- Advanced Manufacturing and Engineering
- Fintech/financial services
- Software (including cyber)
- Screen industries
- Low Carbon

The synergies between research and development in these sectors and clusters and our eight focus areas will become apparent through our Proposals for Change in chapter 5. While the focus areas, sectors and clusters will evolve and change over time, the desire to focus efforts where benefits can be maximised will remain.

Current management of resources

Waste

Waste is a critical sector in a Circular Economy because of its role in managing material to retain value. While waste is not identified specifically as a focus area, we have considered the interplay between it and other sectors as well as the opportunities for it to diversify and become a key circular enabler. Policy proposals will be brought forward in the new Waste Management Strategy, currently being developed by DAERA in which the role of the waste sector will feature prominently.

During 2020/21 Northern Ireland Councils:

- Collected over 1 million tonnes of waste.
- Recycled 50% of that waste.
- Sent just over 20% to landfill, of which nearly 130,000 tonnes (13% of total waste collected) were biodegradable in nature.
- Incinerated nearly 25% of the collected waste in the form of Refuse Derived Fuel (RDF)[21]. RDF can be used in energy from waste facilities to generate heat and power.

Water

Water is a valuable resource which goes through an energy intensive treatment process before reaching our taps. Currently in Northern Ireland we are consuming on average 145 litres of tap water per person (pp) per day, which is high in comparison to Portugal (132 litres pp per day) France[22] (128 litres pp per day). Our usage is slightly less than the UK average of 150 litres pp per day.

Northern Ireland benefits from having just one water company unlike England, so if government wanted to reduce water from being wasted, it could start monitoring usage across all users. This would complement the current work undertaken by the Northern Ireland Environment Agency, which measures and monitors water quality with enforcement powers to penalise those responsible for pollution.

Current barriers to circularity

When asked to identify current barriers to greater circularity, our Circular Economy Coalition identified several issues which have been collated and summarised below. In the following sections we set out proposals for circular systems change, utilising the levers available to government to address these barriers.

- Lack of data collection and measurement to understand material flows and management of waste.
- Material possession of new products is perceived as a sign of wealth and wellbeing.
- The current perception of growth and approach to capital investment is to build new.
- Lack of CE awareness and understanding of the opportunities CE can present for businesses.
- Inadequate research and innovation to identify circular solutions to current linear practices.
- Public procurement currently supports linear business models.
- Lack of leadership, vision and funding from government.
- Lack of incentives to source regenerative materials.
- Connections are lost between the demand for raw materials and the impact it has on climate change, biodiversity loss and inequality.
- Inadequate provision of networks to foster collaboration across sectors.
- Lack of the knowledge and appropriate skills to enable circularity across industries.
- The existing waste regulatory framework and waste classifications impede the circularity of materials and valorisation opportunities.

The Circularity Gap Report: Northern Ireland

Having established our eight focus areas, we appointed Circle Economy, widely known for its annual global Circularity Gap Report (CGR), presented at the World Economic Forum to develop a baseline of circularity for Northern Ireland. The CGR NI produced by Circle Economy has been used to inform this strategy.

The methodology looks at our consumption patterns and seeks to understand what level of material is required to meet our societal needs across seven areas: nutrition, manufactured goods, communication, mobility, healthcare, services, housing and infrastructure.

This emphasis on socio-economic needs is broader than our focus areas and includes mobility, housing, healthcare and communication. This provides helpful insights into the scale of demand for resources as a result of our consumption patterns.

The circularity metric is the share of secondary materials over total material consumption used to meet the needs of an economy. In Northern Ireland this has been calculated as 7.9%, made up primarily by the recovery and recycling of high-volume mineral construction and demolition waste, along with high-value metal, glass, animal and mixed food wastes.

Key findings

- Circle Economy has categorised Northern Ireland as a 'shift economy'. This means that while the country is home to a very small percentage of the global population (0.025%), its material consumption (0.03%) and carbon footprint (0.04%) are disproportionately higher.
- Our economy is **7.9%** circular – meaning that **92%** of it is dependent on materials from virgin resources.
- There is a lack of understanding of the correlation between business decisions/ lifestyle choices and their impact on the environment.
- The report highlights agriculture and construction as our most material and emission-intensive sectors.
- The key interventions proposed are to reduce consumption through awareness raising and introducing targets to reduce our material footprint.

The CGR challenges us to reimagine and redesign the way in which we extract and use our resources. This is referred to as a revolution in resource use, and actions need to be prioritised by the scale of material use. This signals a focus on the **construction** and **agriculture** sectors.

Benchmarking our material footprint

Figure 9 shows how Northern Ireland compares with the UK and global averages in terms of:

- our material footprint per capita per year
- carbon footprint per capita per year
- domestic material extraction per capita per year.

The CGR measures all of these metrics in tonnes per person per year. It is evident that our material footprint (16.6 tpa) is considerably higher than the global average (11.9 tpa) but slightly less than the UK average (18.4 tpa). According to other Circularity Gap Reports, Norway is one of the highest, consuming 44.3 tonnes per person per year, along with Sweden, which consumes 25 tonnes per person per year.

Deloitte has recently commissioned Circle Economy to undertake a CGR at a UK-wide level, which will provide a useful reference point and good opportunity for collaboration across jurisdictions.

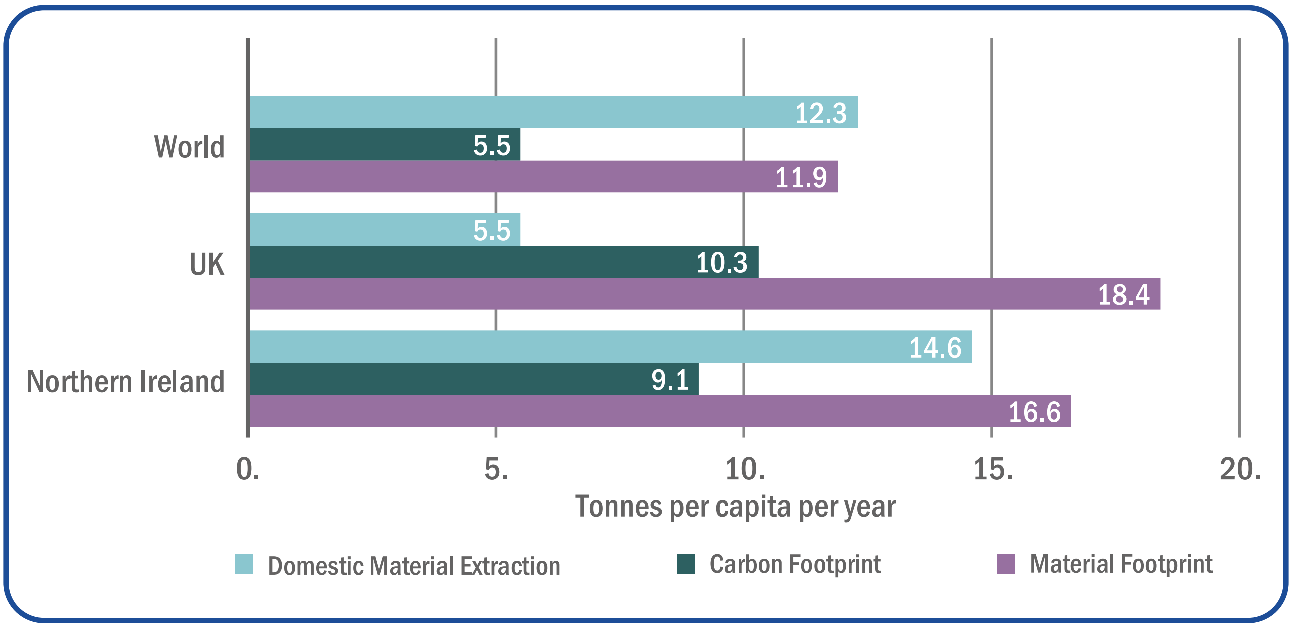


Figure 9 Comparison of metrics, in tonnes per capita per year

Envisioning a circular Northern Ireland

The CGR modelled several scenarios with interventions to boost Northern Ireland's circularity metric. These interventions are designed to challenge conventional thinking, raise awareness, and redefine the linkages between government levers, behaviour of industry and citizens with the resulting impacts on material use and carbon emissions.

The scenarios are not aligned completely to the focus areas but consider broader 'what if' scenarios which can be tested by the CGR model. Hence why mobility, procurement and a circular lifestyle appear in the scenarios but are not identified as focus areas.

The report concluded that these interventions can, if combined, more than double the level of circularity in the Northern Ireland economy from 7.9% to **16.1%,** while our material footprint would be reduced by **48%**.

Reducing our material footprint: Circularity Gap Report scenarios

Nurture a circular food system

A circular system based on a more balanced diet can *reduce the material footprint by* ***16%*** *and increase the metric by* ***1.9%***.

More sustainable production, with greater emphasis on organic, seasonal and local production, combined with more sustainable land management, can *reduce the material footprint by* ***0.5%*** *and increase the metric by* ***0.04%***.

Create a circular built environment

More re-using of building materials and components, a greater focus on renovation and retrofitting rather than new-build can *produce a* ***7.7%*** *decrease in material footprint and increase the metric by* ***1.4%***.

Increased use of local materials and supply chains, energy-efficient appliances and heat pumps running on renewable energy *can reduce the material footprint by* ***0.9%*** *and increase the metric by* ***0.1%***.

Increased occupancy of commercial and residential buildings *can lower demand for new-build, decreasing our material footprint by* ***2.6%*** *and increasing the metric by* ***0.2%.***

Champion circular manufacturing

Better resource efficiency – reduced use of virgin steel, aluminium, lower volumes of scrap metal, and more recycling *– can reduce material footprint by* ***2.3%*** *and increase the metric by* ***0.2%***.

Improving reuse, remanufacturing, refurb and repair of materials, and enhancing collaboration across supply chains *can reduce the material footprint by* ***2.3%****, increasing the metric by* ***0.2%.***

Power clean mobility

Increased use of public transport, more car sharing and shifting to bike and foot *can reduce the material footprint by* ***3.1%*** *and increase the metric by* ***0.3%***.

Improving fuel efficiency plus greater use of electric vehicles *can reduce material footprint by* ***4.7%*** *and increase the metric by* ***0.4%***.

Leverage public sector procurement

Restricting the expansion of public building stock while focusing on the renovation of older buildings combined with a sustainable food system *can reduce the material footprint by* ***3.8%*** *and increase the metric by* ***3%***.

Journey towards sustainable tourism

Shifting expenditure to the local economy away from overseas holidays would ultimately result in ***lower emissions*** and ***less pollution*** from travel. This would have a slightly negative effect on both the metric (decreasing it by 0.03%) and the material footprint (increasing by 0.3%). This is due to the increase in local consumption and demand for materials. However, it would also result in lower emissions and less pollution from travel.

Welcome a circular lifestyle

Shifting towards a community-based lifestyle that embraces sharing over ownership. Textile consumption is reduced; items are repaired and repurposed; single-use plastic is significantly reduced; paper products are made from recycled pulp; products are digitised, and staycations are preferred to long-distance travel. This could *reduce the material footprint by* ***13.5%*** *and increase the metric by* ***1.1%.***

Circularity Gap Report: Northern Ireland conclusions and recommendations

The Circularity Gap Report is very useful as it estimates our material footprint, where it comes from and conveys the environmental pressures that Northern Ireland is responsible for. However, it only considers the cycling of materials and therefore doesn't capture levels of repair or reuse, reprocessing or the impact of our actions on biodiversity, pollution or toxicity. We recognise therefore the need to develop a broader measuring framework to align indicators in the 10X Strategy and the Green Growth, and Climate Action Plans.

The CGR concludes that our current economic system is inadequate for the challenges ahead. It calls for radical transformation of how we extract, produce, use and dispose of our resources.

The Report recommends raising the material-use agenda on a par with emissions-reductions targets because the two go hand in hand. It suggests that we need to address our current barriers with the right economic incentives and provides some examples of how to go about this.

- Create a 'coalition of the willing', bringing together industry leaders, government, arm's length bodies and academics to boost capacity and capability.
- Establish a 'circular investment fund' for infrastructure and other enablers.
- Provide financial mechanism(s) to help fund capacity and knowledge-building.
- Develop metrics and mandatory targets to send signals to the private sector to adapt and mobilise resources.
- Measure progress. To do this, we must improve waste data collection, compilation and harmonisation to ensure robustness and enable tracking.
- Develop peer-to-peer learning and knowledge transfer from other regions in the UK, the Republic of Ireland and globally.

These recommendations have shaped our proposals for change and actions.

Through systemic changes that permeate government, the private sector, the third sector, academia and individuals, 'going circular' can become the country's new reality.

How do we compare to others on the Circular Economy journey?

UK

The National Interdisciplinary Circular Economy Research (NICER) programme, established by UKRI[23] is a four-year, £30m investment initiative that aims to deliver research, innovation and the evidence base to move the UK towards a resilient Circular Economy. It is facilitated through five research centres, with each centre leading on a particular sector including chemicals, metals, mineral-based construction materials, technology metals and textiles. This is the UK's largest and most comprehensive investment in the Circular Economy to date and signals the funding opportunities that could be open to Northern Ireland. This integrated interdisciplinary research and innovation community is committed to engaging with all interested stakeholders to ensure the benefits of the work are felt by many.

The UK has also started to tax companies that import into or manufacture in the UK, 10 tonnes or more of finished plastic packaging components annually. The tax is payable if the components contain less than 30% recycled plastic (and will be permitted under other regulations and food safety standards). The tax came into force on 1 April 2022 and is charged at a rate of £200 per tonne.

Scotland

The Scottish Government was the first of the UK nations to declare a climate emergency and to publish its Circular Economy strategy, 'Making Things Last',[24] in 2016. This set out a clear vision and priorities for action. Zero Waste Scotland (ZWS)[25] is the lead body in Scotland responsible for promoting and advising on all Circular Economy matters. It is committed to leading citizens to use products and resources responsibly, focusing on where they can have the greatest impact on climate change. ZWS works alongside government, local councils and other bodies to jointly deliver a more Circular Economy.

The country has proposed a Circular Economy Bill[26], which would introduce charges for single-use items and increase the charge on plastic bags (from 5p to 10p). The Bill includes a requirement for circularity in public procurement. Scotland is also delivering its Food Waste Reduction Action Plan and is supporting business innovation through its Circular Economy Investment Fund[27].

In addition, ZWS is leading research into measuring circularity. One study[28] concluded that no single metric can be used because it requires measuring emissions reduction across the whole supply chain from extraction of raw materials, transportation of materials, manufacturing use and reuse to disposal. ZWS has decided to focus on the use of a material flow account and carbon footprint as a starting point.

England

The Resources and Waste Strategy (RWS) 2018[29] for England forms part of the UK Government's 25-Year Environment Plan[30]. Much of the legislation and directives from the European Circular Economy Package (CEP) have been adopted by the UK post-EU exit, and there is a willingness to continue on this path, with many of the original EU targets for waste prevention now passed into law. England has started to publish its Material Footprint[31] as part of monitoring progress against the RWS.

Wales

The Welsh Government's strategy 'Beyond Recycling'[32] in 2021, sets out its aim of making a circular, low-carbon economy in Wales a reality, with a set of key actions to deliver the objective of zero waste by 2050. It commits to reducing resource use needed for one-planet living by 2050. The focus of the strategy is on reducing waste and supporting the reuse, repair and recycling industries. The Government has set a series of indicators to measure progress and has invested over £750m to date in improving recycling rates. Additionally, it has set up an innovation fund, which has to date provided support for 180 innovative projects.

These actions form a key part of Wales's drive towards becoming a zero-waste, carbon net-zero nation by 2050 or earlier.

Republic of Ireland

The Department for Environment, Climate and Communications published a waste action plan in March 2020, followed in December 2021 by 'Living More, Using Less'. This is a cross-government Circular Economy strategy designed to transition all sectors and at all levels of government.

The Department is also a partner of CIRCULÉIRE, a €4.5m public-private partnership that is a cross-sectoral, industry-led innovation network dedicated to accelerating the transition with a focus on Circular Bioeconomy, Industrial Symbiosis and Circular Procurement.

In March 2022, the Cabinet Office approved €98m of budget and passed a Circular Economy Bill[33] which became law in July 2022. It incentivised the use of reusable and recyclable alternatives to a range of wasteful single-use disposable packaging and other items. It also re-designates the existing Environment Fund as a Circular Economy Fund, which will remain ring-fenced to provide support for environmental and Circular Economy projects and introduces a mandatory segregation and charging regime for commercial waste, similar to what exists for the household waste market.

It streamlines the national processes for End-of-Waste and By-Products decisions, tackling the delays which can be encountered by industry. It also supports the availability of recycled secondary raw materials in the Irish market and consolidates the government's policy of keeping fossil fuels in the ground – by introducing prohibitions on exploration for and extraction of coal, lignite and shale oil.

France

France has embraced the Circular Economy through a programme of legislation that aims to eliminate waste and pollution at design stage, transforming production, distribution and consumption. The first phase introduced a ban on single-use plastic items and limiting plastic food packaging. The target is now the phasing out of single-use plastic packaging completely by 2040. It is also planning to ban paper till receipts and disposable dishes in fast-food restaurants from 2023. It was the first country to ban the disposal of unsold non-food products, requiring companies to reuse, donate or recycle them.

UK City Approaches

Given that many circular initiatives have more effect in urban areas, it is not surprising that cities have taken a lead in promotion of the Circular Economy. This place-based approach to investment is advocated in the 10X Economic Vision to differentiate Northern Ireland. London has set out ambitious plans and has appointed ReLondon to lead CE in the capital and is responsible for delivering its Circular Economy Route Map[34]. This prioritises food, textiles, plastics, electricals and the built environment.

In Scotland, the Chamber of Commerce in Glasgow initiated 'Circular Glasgow', which is leading businesses, in partnership with Zero Waste Scotland and the City Council, in raising awareness and highlighting the opportunities for growth, innovation and resilience through circular models.

Belfast City Council and Dublin City Council were recently awarded funding by the Shared Island Fund to jointly undertake a feasibility study to develop infrastructure, facilities, and institutional frameworks to support transition to a green economy and meet climate ambitions. This work will identify opportunities to make the island a leader in establishing a vibrant, equitable, and innovative Connected Circular Economy.

4.

A Circular Economy: Benefiting business, people and planet

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The Circular Economy delivers benefits in three major categories in creating a more innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy.

For business

- Swapping from finite, potentially risky or under-pressure resources to safer, sustainable materials provides resource security, price stability and creates resilience, helping businesses to prosper.
- Diversifying both the locations and materials in supply chains can also help reduce business risks.
- Innovative research and development will create new opportunities for enterprises to start up and grow.
- New by-products from recovered waste can open new markets and sales opportunities.
- Expanding business models to include repairs, remanufacturing, reselling and sharing can generate new and more consistent revenue streams.
- The Circular Economy promises significant benefits to the workforce as it supports the market for secondary products and materials across all regions, which will create new job opportunities.

For people

- People will be supported to develop relevant skills that will help them transition fairly and inclusively from carbon intensive industries into new jobs.
- Products and services will provide greater efficiency, durability, better end-of-life outcomes with greater overall consumer satisfaction.
- We will have greater choice and quality of products and services at a reduced cost through additional circular models and through reuse and introduction of quality standards.
- Traditionally marginalised groups will be supported by socially conscious businesses adopting circular business models, providing training and employment opportunities for those with disabilities or health conditions.
- Total ownership costs will reduce as products are designed for remanufacturing, repair and recycling.
- Better choice of healthy locally produced foods as the circular food system reduces our reliance on chemical farming interventions.

For planet

- We can ensure we function within the limits of our natural resources and that we sustain human life on our planet.
- Ecosystems are regenerated, and biodiversity thrives because extraction, waste and pollution are reduced.
- We will increase land productivity, reduce food waste from farm to fork and optimise nutrient return to the soil to combat such losses.
- By extending material cycles and making products last longer, we can reduce landfilling and energy-intensive recycling processes and cut down on the pollution caused by material extraction processes.
- For industries like concrete or steel production, becoming more circular could reduce emissions by up to 40%[35]. Reducing waste to landfill and transforming energy-hungry industries will significantly bring down greenhouse gas emissions.
- The planet's resources will be under less pressure as we scale up our low carbon and renewable energy economy.

Circular Business Models

The World Economic Forum consider the following circular business models as key for businesses to gain a competitive advantage:

1. **Circular input models**: Within the production process, traditional virgin material inputs are replaced with bio-based, renewable, or recovered secondary materials. It reduces the costs of supplies , increasing productivity and reducing demand for virgin resources.

2. **Resource recovery models**: The focus here is on the recovery of embedded materials, energy and resources at the end of a product's useful life. The material is kept in use at its highest value reducing waste while also displacing the extraction and processing of virgin resources. These models generally provide incentives for customers to return products.

3. **Product life extension models**: Products have been designed for repairability, upgradability, reusability, ease of disassembly, reconditioning, and recyclability of all components. These models slow the flow of materials through the economy and reduce the rate of resource extraction and waste generation.

4. **Sharing models**: Through sharing platforms, these business models facilitate the sharing of under-utilised products which reduces demand for new products and their embedded raw materials. It ensures idle assets are shared across a community or industry while providing customers with affordable and convenient access to products and services.

5. **Product as a service**: These models enable customers to purchase the use of a product for a period of time while the producer maintains ownership and responsibility for maintenance. It shifts the focus from product ownership to stewardship and from volume to performance, which incentivises green product design increasing durability and reducing overall demand for virgin resources.

As an island on the periphery of mainland Europe, we have to import many of the materials we need to power our industries and produce products. The invasion of Ukraine has heightened our awareness of risks to supply chains and price inflation. In an increasingly competitive world, having first-mover advantage will provide growth potential for our business community, but just as importantly result in better environmental performance and good socio-economic outcomes.

The new business models proposed will result in higher levels of innovation and more targeted research and development and increasing focus on innovation active firms. Northern Ireland can use this to its advantage if it starts to enact Circular Economy principles.

Potential for job creation

We don't yet know with certainty the level of potential jobs growth for Northern Ireland, but predictions from elsewhere indicate the scale of opportunity. ReLondon, for example, recently estimated that the Circular Economy could create over 250,000 jobs in London by 2030. These would be in addition to the existing 231,000 circular jobs in London[36]. This increase will be driven by consumer demands for eco-friendly products and services, new businesses in sharing, renting or leasing, increased reuse and repair and increased use of secondary materials.

Green Alliance[37] (GA) has also carried out research in this area for the UK. 'Levelling up through Circular Economy jobs'[38], published in 2021, showed how moving to a Circular Economy provides the UK with an opportunity to level up the country with jobs in remanufacture, repair, recycling and reuse. GA shows that with an ambitious approach from government, up to 450,000 jobs can be created across regions of the UK that need jobs the most.

As part of our research, we assessed the current number of jobs in Northern Ireland in circular activities as well as the potential opportunities for some of our focus business areas.

We calculated that circa 70,000 jobs – nearly one-tenth (8.9%) of the Northern Ireland total – are currently contributing to the Circular Economy either directly or indirectly. Figure 10 provides a breakdown of Core, Enabling and Indirect circular jobs. It is not realistic that all future jobs will be circular, but a doubling of the number of circular jobs would be a realistic target for Northern Ireland.

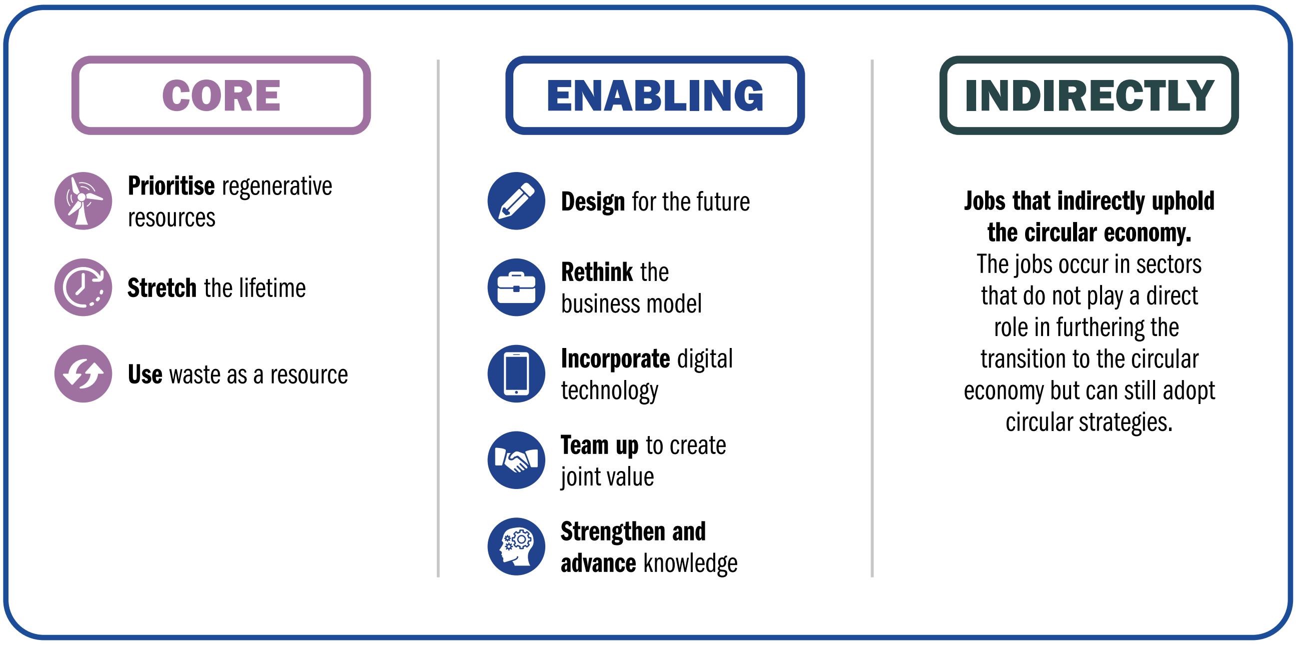


Figure 10 Circle Economy - Circular Jobs

To realise these jobs, we will prioritise and invest in innovation to develop new technological solutions, and the right set of skills and competences. Individuals skilled in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines are the frontrunners of new technological development and innovation, and the transition to a circular economy will increase demand for these skills.

While this draft strategy refers to circular jobs, we are aware of the drive by government to create green jobs in the 10X Economic Vision and as one of the three goals of the Draft Green Growth Strategy. A green job perhaps has a broader scope than a circular job. However, this is a developing area and is the subject of much debate. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) has launched a consultation on Defining and Measuring Green Jobs[37] to produce data and as a basis for measurement. In our response to the consultation, we have shown interest in Northern Ireland acting as a pilot/pathfinding project to explore the development of Environmental Goods and Services Sector (EGSS) accounts for Devolved Administrations which would help in the development of a Green Job metric.

Leading the way: Early adopters of circularity

Business will often lead systemic economic change, and Northern Ireland business is no different. Here are some examples of local companies that have already adopted circular business models.

Artemis Technologies

Artemis Technologies' growth plans include building a new facility in Belfast to test a new piece of green maritime technology, the eFoiler electric propulsion system. It is an example of circularity as it was developed through virtualising iterative designs, optimising use and negating the need to build physical pilots, reducing demand for materials. Artemis is part of a consortium tasked with designing and building zero-emission high-speed ferries and has received £30m from UKRI.

Frylite

Frylite supplies cooking oil to the food industry and also collects used cooking oil free of charge from businesses. It is circular for two reasons: the oil is transported in reusable containers which can be used ten times, and secondly the collected used oil is kept in use as it is cleaned and filtered before being sold to a biodiesel plant for further use. The company recently invested £2m in a new depot, which is hoped will create 25 new jobs – a further testament to the company's success.

Vyta

Based in Belfast, Vyta collects and disposes of IT equipment. The equipment is collected and wiped of all data, then repaired if necessary, preparing it for resale. If it can't be reused, they ensure it is shredded and recycled, but 9 times out of 10 the equipment is sold on and the revenue covers the client's costs. This is another company reaping the benefits of a circular model. They have recently grown their team from 37 to 120 in order to meet the demand for their services.

Responsible

Belfast start-up company Responsible has developed a technology solution to enable fashion brands to buy back previously worn items from shoppers. It operates a CE business model, by partnering with brands to give customers the option to sell items back at the end of their life for a predetermined price/store credit.

Lakeland Dairies

Organic wastes from Lakeland Dairies in Newtownards are sent to AD plants and the biogas generated is brought back and used to power the manufacturing process. This accounts for up to 40% of the energy requirements for the facility.

5.
Proposals for change

5. Proposals for change

Following significant stakeholder consultation, independent research and learnings from our evidence base, we have developed twelve proposals for change which will create more sustainable production and consumption patterns in Northern Ireland.

The proposals have been framed around the five universal Circular Economy policy goals developed by the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF)[38] which provide a blueprint to align ambition and create a common direction of travel.

Delivery of these proposals will depend on the commitment of stakeholders and their ability to collaborate.

Our proposals are ambitious, which is fitting for a country committed to a model of sustainable and inclusive economic growth. They are also strategic and cross-cutting, and we recognise sectors may progress at different speeds.

Policy Goals	Proposals for Change
Collaborate for system change	**1.** Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change. **2.** Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and assist collaboration. **3.** Develop an outcome-focused Circular Economy monitoring framework.
Design out waste	**4.** Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement. **5.** Work with businesses to increase circular design.
Manage resources to retain value	**6.** Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials. **7.** Maximise the value of materials locally.
Stimulate system change with funding, incentives and penalties	**8.** Establish a Circular Economy funding programme. **9.** Create a regulatory framework that supports and incentivises greater circulation of goods and materials.
Invest in innovation, research and skills	**10.** Invest in research and development to support the valorisation of materials. **11.** Embed Circular Economy principles at all levels of education. **12.** Design of future skills programmes and reviews of current programmes to support a Just Transition.

In the following sections, we will explain the need and opportunities presented by each of the proposals for change.

Collaborate for system change

Proposal 1: Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change

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

Our 'throw away' culture is full of single-use items. While many of these make our lives more convenient, they are contributing to significant levels of material waste and environmental damage. Small changes can make a significant and positive impact and will become more vital as resource scarcity continues to worsen.

A recent report 'In our hands, behavioural change for climate and environmental goals'[39] issued by the House of Lords, urged ministers to lead a public campaign using all government levers to guide public behaviour change in order to stop biodiversity loss and achieve net zero. It also claims that one third of our emission reductions must come from people changing their behaviours.

Educating citizens and businesses on how to embed circularity into their everyday lives and providing information to enable them to make more informed choices will be key. Over the last few years people have become more aware of and interested in calculating and monitoring their carbon footprint. We want to see this repeated in relation to material footprints.

While marketing and design can heavily influence our behaviours, it is our personal responsibility to move towards a system that is more aligned to nature.

We need to build an understanding of material use and circular options that will ultimately lead to people thinking in a more circular way in their day-to-day lives. Examples include promoting consuming products as a service through hiring or borrowing rather than ownership and 'product stewardship,' where 'everyone who imports, designs, produces, sells, uses and disposes of products has a shared responsibility to reduce the environmental and human health and safety impacts of those products.'[40]

Driving behaviour change will require a range of tactics, nudging businesses and citizens to think in a more circular way and make the choice for themselves, combined with regulation, legislation and enforcement. An example of this is the plastic bag levy, which has transformed our usage of single-use plastic bags.

Changing our patterns of consumption will require strong collaboration across all sectors[41] to address each stage of the consumer journey.

To avoid duplication, we will work alongside the Green Growth and Climate Action teams as they begin to implement their commitment to Support Behavioural Change, to align our approach. We will also work closely with organisations who currently lead on environmental behavioural change campaigns in Northern Ireland, such as WRAP and Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful.

Data and monitoring will be key to measuring the impact of campaigns and messaging and we will need to baseline current behaviour to measure the influence any campaigns would have.

Government will provide vocal and visible leadership to build momentum on the transition to a Circular Economy.

Potential impacts of changing behaviour:

- Cutting food waste could save households £500 a year. Over 70% of the food waste in the UK is from households, so that is a lot of potential savings. Some 4.5 million tonnes of that waste, valued at £14 billion is still edible. (WRAP UK)
- Just 4% of local people know that the production and consumption of clothing and textiles is harmful to our environment. The average UK household owns around £4,000 worth of clothes, around 30% of which have not been worn in the last year. This unused clothing is collectively valued at £30 billion. (Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful)

More details of the opportunities to change behaviours in respect of food, textiles, electrical and electronic goods[42] and packaging can be found in Annex 3 of this strategy.

Collaborate for system change

Proposal 2: Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and facilitate collaboration

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

Changing mindsets, business models and developing new products and services is going to be a complicated task. Especially for Northern Ireland, which has many SMEs with limited time and resources. We recognise that working collaboratively with companies, researchers and public authorities will provide the best opportunity for success.

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

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

The following three examples highlight potential areas of growth, which would benefit from collaborative clusters and networks:

Access to secondary construction materials

We need to increase the provision, quality and accessibility of secondary and regenerative materials. This will be in step with research programmes with our colleges and universities. Stakeholder engagement will be crucial to make the secondary building materials market competitive and will require collaboration across the entire value chain from architects, manufacturers, designers and regulators to contractors.

Growth of sustainable packaging

As well as working within existing sector networks to promote and make circular practices the norm, we will need to explore alternative solutions to existing industry problems, e.g. the Polymer Processing Research Centre at Queen's University will become an important source of expertise as the packaging sector seeks to increase use of secondary materials and make changes to design to increase recycling and reprocessing potential.

Irish Biomap Public Network

The Biomap[43] developed by the Irish Bioeconomy Foundation is an example of a project fostering collaboration across industries which would not normally interact to create new value chains. This interactive map, which covers the island of Ireland, plots organisations and technologies operating in agri-health, food processing, forestry, distilling, dairy, waste to energy, fisheries, agri-tech, etc. It aims to link companies that have overlapping value chains to reduce waste. This is through collaboration across businesses to explore new markets, develop new products, processes and services to maximise synergies.

Circular food manufacturing

The following diagram shows the amount and complexity of collaboration required across the whole UK food supply chain to reduce food waste/emissions and increase sustainable water management. What it doesn't show is the human and environmental interactions and how they will be impacted if flows are modified. We have an innovative food manufacturing industry in Northern Ireland which will play a key role in our transition, and which will need targeted support to ensure growth, jobs and opportunities are maximised as the economy transitions.

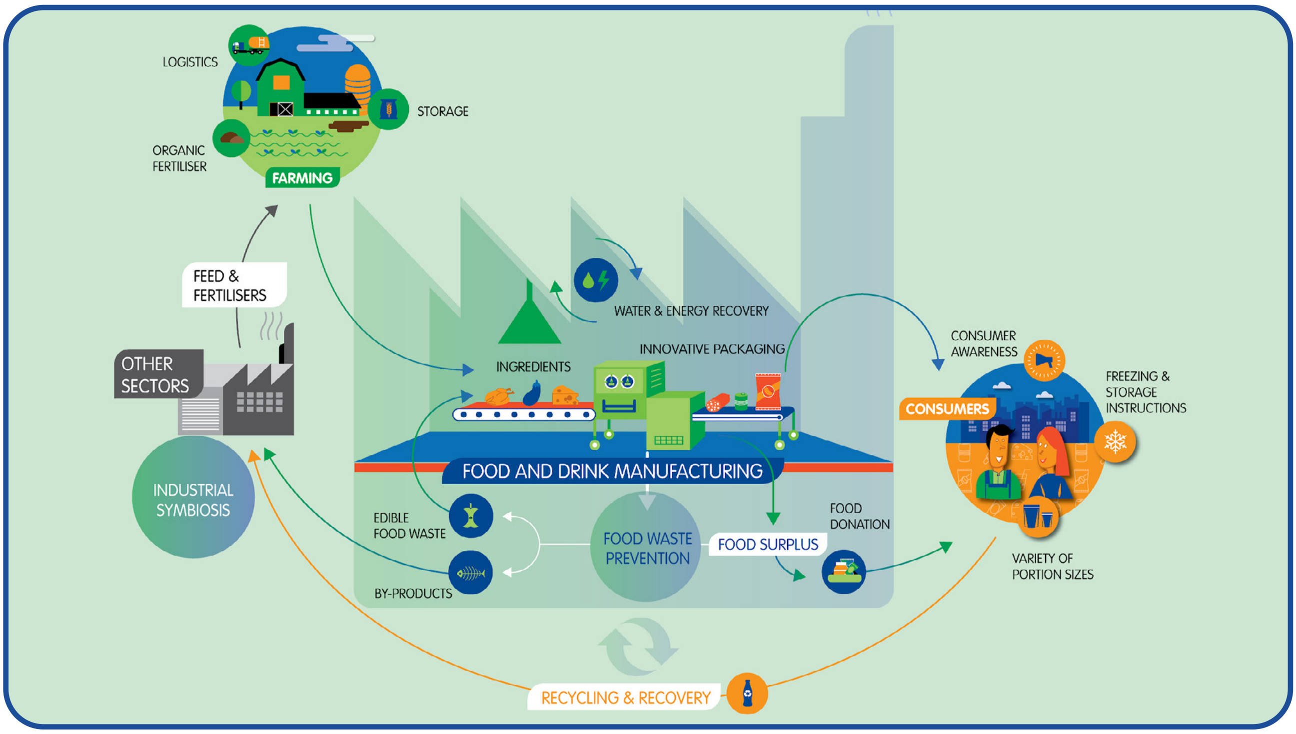


Figure 11: Ingredients for a Circular Economy, ©FoodDrinkEurope[44]

We will support businesses in the transition and encourage cooperative working and increased utilisation of existing programmes like Invest Northern Ireland's Resource Matching Service[45], which supports local companies with resource matching. Any clusters established as part of this strategy will complement the priority sectors and clusters identified in the 10X Performance Management Framework to enhance collaboration and maximise innovation.

Collaborate for system change

Proposal 3: Develop an outcomes-focused Circular Economy monitoring framework

To effectively measure the impact of this strategy and our transition to a Circular Economy, we will collect and analyse robust data.

The Circularity Gap Report has provided a baseline for key metrics such as our current circularity, material footprint and the number of circular jobs in Northern Ireland. It also highlighted the gaps in our information sources and the measurement and reporting of key data.

The Circularity Gap Report recommended developing metrics, setting goals and measuring progress. This strategy sets a target to halve our material footprint by 2050. To comprehensively measure progress, we need to improve collection and compilation of data, build capacity in measuring the flow of materials and adopt standards to account for carbon.

Working collaboratively to share metrics and data will be integral to developing a monitoring framework that aligns with the 10X objectives. Annual reporting on existing and new KPIs will also help us measure and monitor.

This will include:

- sharing the metrics and indicators developed as part of the measurement of the Climate Action Plan, departmental plans and Sectoral Plans
- aligning with metrics to measure and monitor delivery of the 10X Economic Vision.
- collaborating with Green Growth and ONS on developing the metrics for green jobs to include circular jobs.
- working with Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency, Ireland's Central Statistics Office, InterTrade Ireland and other cross-border bodies to align metrics and improve the collation of data on material movement.

Digital technology will be a key enabler to measuring circularity. Technologies like blockchain will become increasingly important tools to help us in these areas for improving efficiency, planning processes, quality control and quality assurances in supply chains. Material passports will also be necessary across sectors to track materials, so that use and reuse can be maximised.

Several mechanisms have been developed to measure Circular Economy performance at a business level. These include:

- the Circular Transition Indicators[46] by the World Business Council for Sustainable Development
- Ellen MacArthur Foundation's Circulytics[47] tool.

Over time the metrics will become standardised, and we will be able to see the impact we have had on reducing our overall material footprint and achieving the broader 10X objectives.

Design out waste

Proposal 4: Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement

In Northern Ireland, public sector procurement has buying power in excess of £3 billion per annum. This provides strong potential to shape markets and behaviours towards a Circular Economy.

The Northern Ireland Executive has already approved new approaches to procurement that require a minimum 10% scoring for Social Value[48] in tenders above the UK Threshold for services and works contracts. This policy supports a range of themes including social, economic and environmental outcomes.

Government must procure products sustainably to ensure that public spending protects and does not harm our environment.

To do this, those responsible for the spend 'Commissioners' must ensure that as far as possible, specifications for products should:

- embody circular design
- contain recycled or bio-based content
- are renewable
- can be purchased as a service.

To procure in a circular way will involve looking beyond short-term needs and considering the longer-term impacts of each purchase. Business cases must consider Whole Life cost analysis – and consider whether a purchase needs to be made at all.

The Green Growth Strategy also recognises the role of public spending to improve our environment and includes a commitment for government to lead by example and develop a green public procurement strategy. We will work with the DAERA Green Growth team and the Department of Finance to help shape this.

The UK, EU and ROI are all reviewing their procurement processes to consider the opportunities for reducing emissions. Local government can also drive change through use of Sustainable Procurement Toolkits[49] to effectively mobilise public spend to deliver relevant local priorities. Those priorities include targets to achieve 'net zero' or be 'carbon neutral', reducing consumption and waste, and inclusive local economic development.

In June 2022, Scotland introduced a new procurement policy note[50] to consider CE and climate change, signposting sources of support to embed this policy in practice.

Design out waste

Proposal 5: Work with businesses to increase circular design

Government will need to support businesses to scale up established Circular Economy operating models that build sustainability into design, improve material efficiency, utilise secondary materials and reduce waste.

In moving to more circular designs, each of our focus areas will be affected in different ways.

Built environment

Figure 12 below was produced by The London Energy Transformation Initiative (LETI)[51]. It provides a helpful hierarchy for the built environment sector to prioritise circularity, with maintenance and prolonging the life of a building, its components and materials at the top of the hierarchy.

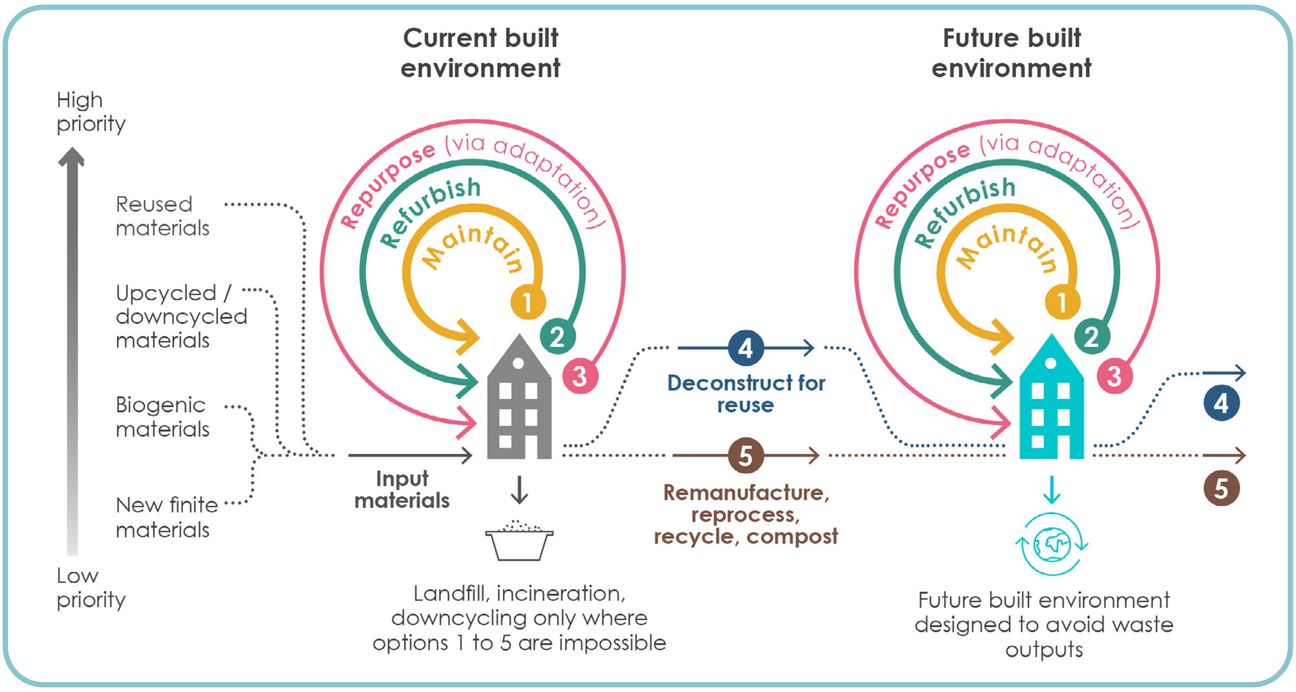


Figure 12: LETI London: CE for the build environment: A summary

Advanced manufacturing

This is a fast-growing sector, and its technologies are crucial to increasing circularity across all sectors. These technologies include Artificial Intelligence (AI), big data analytics, cloud computing, internet of things and 3D printing.

Electronics and electrical equipment

In the last twenty years the growth in electronics and electrical equipment has grown exponentially. The UN has referred to the situation as a 'tsunami of E-waste rolling across the world' caused by growing consumption, short product lifespans, difficulty of repair and inadequate recycling.

The components themselves are also problematic, as they include valuable rare earth metals and materials. The mining, crushing and grinding of these has caused significant biodiversity loss and water stress globally. Some of the materials would be classed as Critical Raw Materials[52], such as cobalt used in lithium batteries and indium used to make touchscreens and solar panels.

Other materials are hazardous, difficult to process and must be handled very carefully, such as arsenic, cadmium, lead and mercury.

The methods of managing E-waste can range from large-scale shredding technologies to smaller scale, manual or automated disassembly processes. We need to work with manufacturers and reprocessors to optimise the use of these devices through better design and to ensure we retain the value of the various materials they contain.

Packaging

Packaging can be made from a variety of materials including metal, aluminium, glass, paper, card and plastic. New packaging solutions are coming to market to increase use of reusable packaging, recycled content in packaging as well as using biodegradable or compostable forms of packaging.

Research and development will be essential to increase circular design and create demand for more innovation active firms. This can be generated through challenge funds, engaging universities and innovation centres, running competitions to stimulate discussion and action in relation to behavioural change and technological innovation. We can incentivise entrepreneurs, and start-ups in this sector to embrace circular business models.

Designing circular packaging is a lucrative business to pursue. According to the EMF, converting just 20% of plastic packaging into reuse models could provide a business opportunity worth 10 billion USD[53]. We need to be supporting these initiatives and considering introducing a sustainable packaging certification programme.

Manage resources to retain value

Proposal 6: Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials

To improve the use of resources and retain their value, people and businesses need to know what is available, where it is and what condition it is in.

We want to create more platforms and hubs to retain the value in resources. This information can be provided through online platforms for typical fast-moving consumer products e.g. food, as well as industrial materials.

OLIO sharing platform

OLIO is an app (online platform) that connects people to surplus goods, including food and other household items, that can be borrowed for free. It has over 30,000 'Food Waste Heroes', who collect unsold or unserved food from businesses such as Costa Coffee and Tesco for listing on the app. Users then request the items and arrange collection. OLIO has grown fivefold over the last year – demonstrating a step change in attitudes.

Industrial materials

To create a platform for industry, coordination, collaboration and information sharing is required across projects, sectors and country borders. Planning and capital investment is also needed to create regional and national hubs to store the materials until required.

The Welsh Government has committed to the development of regional 'eco-park' hubs and town centre hubs which would be places for people to practice repair and reuse activities.

To support greater circularity in construction, platforms would provide material passports for all the materials, capturing information for all stakeholders including architects, suppliers, clients or future users to access. The passports would contain data on production, maintenance, reprocessing, refurbishing or recycling of materials and give them a value for future recovery and reuse.

Northern Ireland has expertise in material handling which needs to be utilised to help deliver these hubs. Government, building contractors and the waste and resource management sector will need to work together to create, populate and support the ongoing operation of these sharing platforms and hubs.

International Synergies (IS) provides another type of platform for businesses to share resources. It supports industrial symbiosis, a process by which wastes, or by-products of an industry or industrial process, become the raw materials for another. IS worked with Seagate Manufacturing in Derry/Londonderry, who had identified a surplus stock of Aquasol sodium chloride due to a change in service provider. IS was able to match Seagate with Belfast company Chempar, who agreed to take the stock for future resale as part of its boiler water treatment service. This ensured the secondary material was kept in use and avoided disposal of the chemical waste. This service could be developed to create a shared platform where you can see all the materials available in one place.

Manage resources to retain value

Proposal 7: Maximise the value of materials locally

When products and materials are kept in beneficial use, they retain the maximum value of those materials and components – reducing the overall demand for material extraction to make new products.

Repair and reuse

We need to see this sector grow, normalising reuse and repair and removing any stigma attached to it. Many of the organisations already operating in the sector are charities or social enterprises, which highlights the importance this sector plays in growing skills, creating jobs, keeping materials and products in use, and lowering our overall material and carbon footprints. Other businesses are also seeing commercial opportunities to operate in this space. In Doncaster and across Surrey County Council, Suez has opened Reuse Shops alongside Household Recycling Centres, selling recovered goods to local residents.

The Rediscovery Centre[54] in the Republic of Ireland is working on metrics to measure the value of repair and reuse activities.

The Northern Ireland Resource Network has been tasked to grow and support a network of reuse and repair organisations across Northern Ireland. Its core objective is to mainstream reuse and repair. It supports over 30 member organisations including:

- Belfast Tool Library, which offers a range of hand tools and power tools including drills, sanders and gardening tools for people to borrow as opposed to buying their own.
- the 4Rs project in Derry/Londonderry that collects, repairs and repurposes furniture and laptops.
- the Repair Café Belfast, which works with volunteers to refurbish a wide range of household items including small electrical goods, clothing, furniture and bicycles.
- Restore, East Belfast Mission, which collects, refurbishes and restores furniture and other household goods for resale in charity shops or to be donated to those in need.
- FareShare and Foodbank, both involved in food redistribution to tackle food waste and food poverty.

Bio-based materials

Bio-based materials are made from substances derived from living organisms. We need to maximise resource efficiencies by using biological resources within product development to create economic value over multiple lifetimes. We must prioritise higher-value products such as the production of fine chemicals and biological pharmaceuticals followed by food, and feed for animals cascading down to higher volume but lower value products such as energy crops.

We need to maximise the value of resources we have on our doorstep, but this will require collaboration with nations close by to plan and deliver additional infrastructure to support homegrown industries e.g. wool, paper, barley. The Circularity Gap Report recommends exploring options to produce bio-based materials and composites that could support decarbonisation of sectors such as construction. For example, hemp could be used to create hempcrete as a substitute low-carbon building material.

Along with innovation, there will be increased need and demand for digital skills to capture, monitor and control data used to manage animal production, crop growth and environmental improvement schemes. To comply with regulations and receive subsidies, businesses already need to do this, but it will grow. Those employed must understand both the manual activities associated with the bioeconomy and have the technical skills needed to digitise data.

Bio-Marine

Bio-Marine in Killybegs, Donegal, has developed value-added products from fish by-products. It has started to produce high-value proteins, minerals and nutraceuticals for sale to Asia and Europe. With its turnover doubling annually, Bio-Marine has raised institutional funding and will be investing in the construction of a new £50m plant employing 100 people.

Reprocessing

Reprocessing is a vital means of keeping materials in use, and while some value may be lost in the processing, it is still preferable to landfill, recovery or exporting the waste elsewhere.

Currently councils across Northern Ireland are exporting recyclate materials collected from households, through waste management companies, overseas for onward processing. This means the domestic value of these materials is lost. In order to increase reprocessing, the sector has asked for government intervention, in particular targets to reduce export of waste and investment to increase reprocessing infrastructure.

Several local companies are reprocessing packaging materials including plastic, glass, paper, metal and card. These material flows, along with garden waste and food waste, account for nearly 80% of the recyclable waste collected by councils from households. Many of these reprocessors are importing recyclate materials to feed and grow their business processes but they are also importing the material because the local supply is not of sufficient quality.

The latest report from the Circular Economy Collaborative Network, funded by Invest Northern Ireland, highlights the opportunity and growing need for an expanded reprocessing sector in Northern Ireland, in terms of capability and capacity. To make this happen the report recommends:

- Enhanced collaboration and transparency across the supply chain.
- Establishing a Recyclate Reprocessing Circularity Hub.

The Hub would be expected to help address the current mismatch in the quality of local recyclate collected and the quality specifications required by the local reprocessing companies. While DAERA is developing a draft Common Collections Guidance document, the Department may need to consider mandating quality specifications to increase the supply of quality recyclate which will in part come through the Extended Producer Responsibility schemes.

Huhtamaki

With 560 employees, Huhtamaki Ltd in Armagh is the biggest reprocessor of recycled paper in Northern Ireland. It uses the material to manufacture egg cartons, egg trays and coffee cup carriers. Supported by Horizon2020, Huhtamaki has started to manufacture its fresh ready-meal trays, which are made from natural wood fibres – making them fully recyclable and certified for home composting.

Encirc Ltd in Fermanagh is another major reprocessor, taking glass cullet that is melted to create a range of different glass bottles. Encirc has identified opportunities to grow and expand if higher quality glass recyclate was available locally. It has been working with *Glass Futures to use bio-fuel in one of its furnaces. This could reduce carbon emissions at its manufacturing site by up to 90% when compared to fossil fuels.*

Reprocessing Electronic Equipment

In Northern Ireland, we have an opportunity to increase value retained from Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE).

Recycling of WEEE is important not only to reduce the amount of waste requiring treatment, but also to promote the recovery of valuable materials. UN report: Time to seize opportunity, tackle challenge of e-waste advises that globally, electronic waste is worth at least $62.5bn annually, the equivalent of the GDP of Kenya, largely from value of incorporated gold, silver, copper, platinum, and palladium.

Northern Ireland has seven Approved Authorised Treatment Facilities (AATFs) for WEEE materials. However, with the demand for critical raw minerals housed in electrical goods, there is an opportunity for more businesses to specialise in dismantling and reprocessing these goods to extract the minerals. The UK Government's strategy[55] on minerals advises that we will need four times as many critical minerals by 2040 as we do today. Through innovation, financial support and regulations, it is committed to increasing recovery, reuse, recycling and resource efficiency to alleviate pressure on the primary supply of critical minerals.

Northern Ireland could get ahead of the market and scope out the feasibility to develop capabilities to capitalise on this opportunity to create a Circular Economy for critical minerals.

Stimulate system change with funding, incentives and penalties

Proposal 8: Establish a Circular Economy funding programme

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

Finance is essential for business to help share risk and the investment costs associated with adopting CE business models, such as installing more resource-efficient machinery, rethinking logistics and distribution. Invest Northern Ireland, International Synergies (IS) and others are currently providing specialised support for embryonic CE projects. However, a lot more will be required.

A Circular Economy funding programme is necessary to address current barriers and incentivise regenerative, resource-efficient practices. This funding will be jointly developed with DAERA and ALBs but coordinated and delivered by a central CE delivery body that will also be responsible for providing signposting and offering expert support to assist in making funding bids that will unlock CE at scale in Northern Ireland.

While virgin materials remain cheaper, secondary materials cannot compete. However, with the correct economic incentives, secondary materials can compete and grow. The introduction of some tax relief for retrofitting existing buildings or using recycled content in buildings and reducing or removing tax relief for new build needs to be considered.

Nature-based solutions will also be an investment priority to increase resilience, reduce environmental impact and improve sustainability of our built environment (e.g., SUDS[56] and green roofs[57] to reduce flooding).

Other UK jurisdictions, and our neighbours in RoI and EU, have initiated CE programmes and have allocated funding to support projects and plans – the amount provided depends on the scale of ambition – but as success becomes evident, more support is being provided.

Until a dedicated CE funding programme is designed, it will be necessary to provide signposting and support to access other sources of available funding.

Stimulate system change with funding, incentives and penalties

Proposal 9: Create a regulatory framework that supports and incentivises greater circulation of goods and materials

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

Many of the circular regulatory initiatives came from EU legislation that was already underway prior to UK exit from the EU. One example is European Commission rules to **establish the 'right to repair' for consumers**. For household appliances, the rules currently apply for dishwashers; washing machines and washer-dryers; refrigeration appliances; televisions and other electronic displays. Similar regulations were introduced for Great Britain[58]. This means manufacturers of these electrical goods are required to ensure their products are repairable for at least ten years through providing repair manuals and making parts available. These regulations will affect the design, manufacturing and distribution of all applicable goods in Northern Ireland and will facilitate greater reuse and repair of such products.

Government regulations need to be linked to the waste hierarchy that will maintain and optimise the value of materials by refocusing activities towards prevention, reduction and reuse as opposed to end-of-pipe waste management. Over time we can measure the success of this intervention by seeing if the level of imported virgin material falls as the economy grows.

Schemes and legislation in the UK

As part of a UK-wide drive to bring forward circular solutions, Northern Ireland has been working to introduce and further develop several schemes and legislation, including:

- **Producer Responsibility schemes** which apply to electrical goods, batteries, vehicles and packaging, where the producers of goods contribute to costs of recycling and/or disposal at the end of a product's life. There is now a large shift to Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) which is a powerful environmental policy approach through which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended to the post-use stage. It forces producers to design their products to be capable of reuse, easily dismantled and/or recycled at end of life. EPR also impacts other parties in the value chain including retailers, the public and waste operators.
- **Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Regulations (WEEE) 2013 (updated in 2018) –**These regulations currently require 65% of the weight of EEE placed on sale to be reused or recycled every year. From the limited data available, most of it is recycled into low grade components as opposed to being kept in use through reuse or repair. The UK government is expected to consult on reforms to these regulations in 2023, at which time the emphasis is likely to be on eco-design, product labelling and increasing household collections for reuse and recycling and also adding obligations for online retailers.

- **Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme** – A new scheme is due to be introduced in 2024, when producers will be required to pay the full net costs of dealing with waste packaging materials. This will in turn incentivise changes from design to production, increasing the uptake of reuse and refill business models. The new scheme will increase reprocessing capacity to deal with recyclable material and support the development of solutions to deal with non-recyclable material.
- **Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)** – DAERA is working with English and Welsh governments to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS) for single-use drinks containers to increase the circulation of the materials used. A customer will pay a small deposit when they buy a drink in a container and will get the deposit back when they return the container for recycling. Some schemes elsewhere have seen return rates of 90% as well as increases in the quality of recyclate collected and reducing the amount of littering.
- **Textiles Extended Producer Responsibility Scheme** – Currently under consideration, the EPR for textiles would seek to create minimum requirements for eco-design, support re-use and closed-loop recycling, and require producers to provide more information and labelling, helping consumers to understand the environmental and human impact of their choices. Several large multi nationals like M&S[59] and H&M[60] have already made commitments to become more circular and consider the whole life cycle of their products.
- **A UK-wide Digital Waste Tracking Service** is currently being developed to track all waste movements within the UK. It is anticipated that the improved accuracy and availability of data on waste and potential resources will assist the functioning of a Circular Economy.
- **Plan to Eliminate Plastic Pollution** – DAERA is leading the development of a Northern Ireland Executive Commitment for a Plan to Eliminate Plastic Pollution[62] and is collaborating with the Department of Finance to implement a Single-Use Plastic Reduction Action Plan within the government estate.

Examples of regulations being used elsewhere:

- The EU-wide Single-use Plastics Directive has been in operation since July 2021 (including in the Republic of Ireland) banning 10 common single-use plastic items such as straws, cotton buds, plates and cutlery that have readily available non-plastic alternatives. The ban includes all oxo-degradable plastic products, i.e. plastics that fragment following exposure to air and sunlight. Labelling requirements on other products containing plastic have also been introduced across the EU through the same Directive.
- Scotland has become the first part of the UK to implement a ban on many of the most problematic single-use plastics, and the Republic of Ireland is following suit. The Scottish ban, which came into force on 1st June 2022, makes it an offence for businesses to provide plastic cutlery, plates and stirrers. Around 700 million of these single-use items are currently used in Scotland every year.
- The Republic of Ireland government is considering legislation that would require supermarkets to allocate 20% of their floor space for the sale of loose products to be purchased by people using reusable containers. This will reduce excess buying and reduce plastic packaging.
- France has banned supermarkets from throwing away unsold food and requires them to donate it to charity.

Outside the legislation and regulations currently in development, we have identified several other opportunities that would help enable circular solutions to become the norm.

Waste Regulations

The UK exports approximately 16.3 million tonnes of materials for recycling per year[61] and this is partly because of the lack of markets for this material domestically. According to some stakeholders, it is our current definitions of waste that are preventing the valorisation of many materials. When a product or material is classified as waste, there are strict rules about how it can be treated to ensure that human health and the environment are protected. However, these current definitions and associated regulations are considered a barrier to innovation and keeping products and materials in use.

If we revise the end of waste regulations, it creates opportunity to localise supply chains, making more material locally available. If secondary materials are present and easily accessible then supply chains are shortened and Northern Ireland PLC performs better. If the regulations make it easier to reuse and repair products, social enterprises can grow and provide services in partnership with Councils and waste operators to off-load particular products to extend their lifetime and provide jobs.

All of this should be considered as part of the Regulatory Transformation Programme (RTP) which is a reform of legislation and operation by DAERA. This will be critical if we are to create a regulatory framework that supports the Circular Economy. Its aim is to integrate environmental protection and economic growth by reducing the regulatory burden for businesses through a more streamlined and effective system. It will make it easier for regulators to assess and, where necessary, enforce compliance. As part of this, DAERA will develop policy proposals for, amongst other things how waste management activities should be regulated.

Building Regulations

We must also consider if building regulations could provide a means to enable and unlock opportunities for reuse, repurposing and reprocessing of building materials. The building regulations set standards for building work and recent uplifts have improved the energy efficiency and emissions performance of buildings. We will need to consider embodied carbon and the full life-cycle assessments of material, align methodologies with other UK jurisdictions and develop market capability, before we could introduce regulations requiring recycling and re-use within construction. The Department of Finance will soon be gathering evidence in a discussion document to inform any next steps.

Taxation

Tax is not a devolved matter for Northern Ireland, but it is important for us to feed into the design of new or revised UK-wide and Northern Ireland-specific regulations and taxation interventions that will support value retention of products and materials.

At present over 40% of UK public tax receipts come from labour tax (income tax and National Insurance) and only 5% comes from tax on goods (fuel, tobacco and alcohol)[62]. This creates little incentive for high carbon producers to change their operating models. Consideration should be given to the possibility of shifting some of that burden to taxing non-renewable resources.

Circular activities including repair, refurbish and remanufacture are often labour intensive which, given it is heavily taxed, makes it difficult for businesses involved in those activities to compete. At present the tax system provides more of an incentive to build a new house as opposed to renovating an existing house. Therefore, we need to rethink how labour is taxed when it comes to circular activities as well as how we reduce VAT on circular goods and activities.

Plastics Packaging Tax
The Plastics Packaging Tax is an example of how tax can be used. It is designed to provide a financial instrument to encourage businesses to use recycled plastic in the manufacturing of plastic packaging. The tax came into effect in April 2022 and levies £200 per tonne on plastic packaging that contains less than 30% recycled plastic. The aim of the tax is to drive increases in recycling infrastructure especially for plastics that are currently not usually recycled due to the low cost of virgin material.

Enforcement

Government needs adequate resources to enforce and take appropriate action against waste crime and to ensure sufficient deterrents are in place. Stakeholders have called for action including the introduction of enforced targets to reduce waste across the food industry, agriculture and the construction sector.

Food

In terms of food, we need to:

- enhance enforcement of the food waste regulations
- consider use of a mandatory food waste reporting system
- consider eliminating biodegradable waste from industry going to landfill.

The final measure alone would make a significant contribution to reducing waste sector emissions given 8-10% of the world's GHG emissions relate to food[63].

The Welsh Government has set a target to halve avoidable food waste by 2025 and reduce it by 60% by 2030. The Republic of Ireland has set a target of 50% reduction by 2030, and Scotland has pledged to reduce food waste by 33% and end the landfilling of biodegradable municipal waste by 2025.

Role of Householders

Other opportunities are missed when people fail to put their recyclable plastic, paper, card, tins and glass in the recycling bin. This can be tackled through effective communications from stakeholders including councils, education through the Eco-Schools Programme, and monitoring and potential consequences for persistent non-compliance.

Invest in innovation, research and skills

Proposal 10: Invest in research and development to support the valorisation of material

The aim of valorisation is to move materials up the value chain. Materials that are by-products of a process or currently thrown away can be reprocessed to produce more valuable materials. Finding these pathways will take intensive research and development. Our businesses and people will all need support from the public and private sectors to create enabling frameworks for this to happen.

Examples of valorisation include:

- using discarded plastics to infill potholes on roads[64]
- deriving fuel from coffee grounds[65]
- waste from plant-based protein manufacturing used for textiles, packaging, building materials (e.g. hempcrete), biofuel or pet food.

This innovation will be underpinned by high levels of collaboration across business, academia, government and civil society. Investment in research and development will be key to drive growth. The 10X Economic Vision commitment to increase total research and development expenditure by 55% from a baseline of £1,167m in 2020 will be key to delivering this proposal.

To increase local reprocessing, discussed in Proposal 7, we will need research to assess feasibility of local reprocessing and closed-loop recycling, including the technology needed to retain the value of material flows. This will involve working closely with local, national and international research institutions, forging research collaborations that will lead to the commercialisation of this research and the adoption of new innovations. This approach will drive growth across the economy into direct and indirect supply changes.

There are excellent research projects ongoing in Queen's University Belfast and Ulster University on the development of waste and by-products into less expensive and less carbon-intensive solutions for Northern Ireland industries[66].

There are significant opportunities to be explored and the Northern Ireland government will play its part in catalysing and supporting this vital work. At present there are numerous financial supports available throughout Northern Ireland, UK, EU and from private financing. The CE delivery body will assist and signpost business in accessing finance, both public and private by providing advice on the risks and rewards of various financial products.

Queen's University Belfast partnership with ReGen

QUB in partnership with ReGen[67] has been researching a manufacturing process for waterglass suitable for producing ‘cementless’ concrete products. Waterglass (sodium silicate) is a much sought-after chemical, also used in processing textiles and lumber, and in the manufacture of ceramics, and other materials. It can be created using by-products namely glass cullet and by-products from cement and steel production. The end products will have a significantly lower environmental impact than those currently on the market.

It requires a lower process temperature (around 150°C vs >1100°C) which is less energy-intensive and can utilise waste glass cullet rather than virgin material. Furthermore, the production cost is estimated at £100 per tonne (about 95% cost being sodium hydroxide) in comparison with the market price of commercially available sodium silicate at £450 - £900 per tonne.

The Belfast Region City Deal will see the establishment of a national Advanced Manufacturing Innovation Centre (AMIC) which plans to build upon existing research centres of excellence leading research and development into technological solutions to unlock greater growth.

New technologies will be needed to track material movements, and researchers must consider the opportunity to develop and utilise Radio Frequency Identification Devices (RFID), which are small, battery-less microchips that can be attached to consumer goods, cattle, vehicles and other objects to track their movements. We need to miniaturise products and reduce the production costs to promote mass uptake.

Invest in innovation, research and skills

Proposal 11: Embed Circular Economy principles at all levels of education

Our transition to the Circular Economy is dependent on how we learn to innovate and apply our learnings to all sections of our society. We need to develop our education system and skills to become more circular in our thinking and behaviours.

The pathway will be led by networks and clusters of Circular Economy leaders and champions, but we need everyone to be aware of the part they can play.

We need people to learn about the Circular Economy, the benefits it can provide and how to get involved. They need to be able to make the connection between material use and how it impacts on carbon footprint. Education programmes at all levels will be required so that the idea of a Circular Economy is better understood and becomes part of everyday life. It will also start to address over-consumption and production patterns to reduce resource scarcity.

This work will support the 10X Economic Vision to increase the proportion of the working age population with qualifications at level 3 and by increasing the proportion of individuals leaving higher education with qualifications in STEM subjects. This is essential to ensure our society is ready to maximise opportunities and grow our economy.

Eco-Schools initiative

The Eco-Schools initiative[68], which is an environmental education programme, has been very successful at embedding sustainability into the ethos and curriculum of schools, covering topics such as waste, marine conservation, transport, climate action, biodiversity and water. This could be expanded to consider material use and promote circular living, utilising technology and gamification to increase the reach of messages.

The Southwest Regional College has some excellent courses and projects[69] running which will facilitate capacity building, knowledge transfer and technology development within Advanced Manufacturing and Renewable Energy as well as sustainable construction.

Zero Waste Scotland[70], the Ellen MacArthur Foundation (EMF)[71] and Sitra (Finland)[72] all have innovative programmes to encourage Circular Economy thinking from an early age right through to higher and further education programmes – not just limited to the classroom but to wider life skills. We hope to emulate and use these resources in our own learnings.

Invest in innovation, research and skills

Proposal 12: Design of future skills programmes and reviews of current programmes to support a Just Transition

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

As we progress into the 4th Industrial Revolution[73], some jobs will be lost in old sectors and the demand for new skills will increase. For example, the need for diesel engineers will be replaced by those who specialise in electrical vehicles. Jobs may be lost in agriculture, fossil fuel extraction and processing but new jobs will emerge in sectors such as design, disassembly and biorefinery processing. In the event that the transition is not managed, the Climate Change Committee[74] has warned Northern Ireland that social upheaval can be expected including significant job losses in carbon-intensive industries, growing fuel poverty and an increasingly unaffordable housing stock that doesn't meet energy standards.

Skills for a 10X Economy

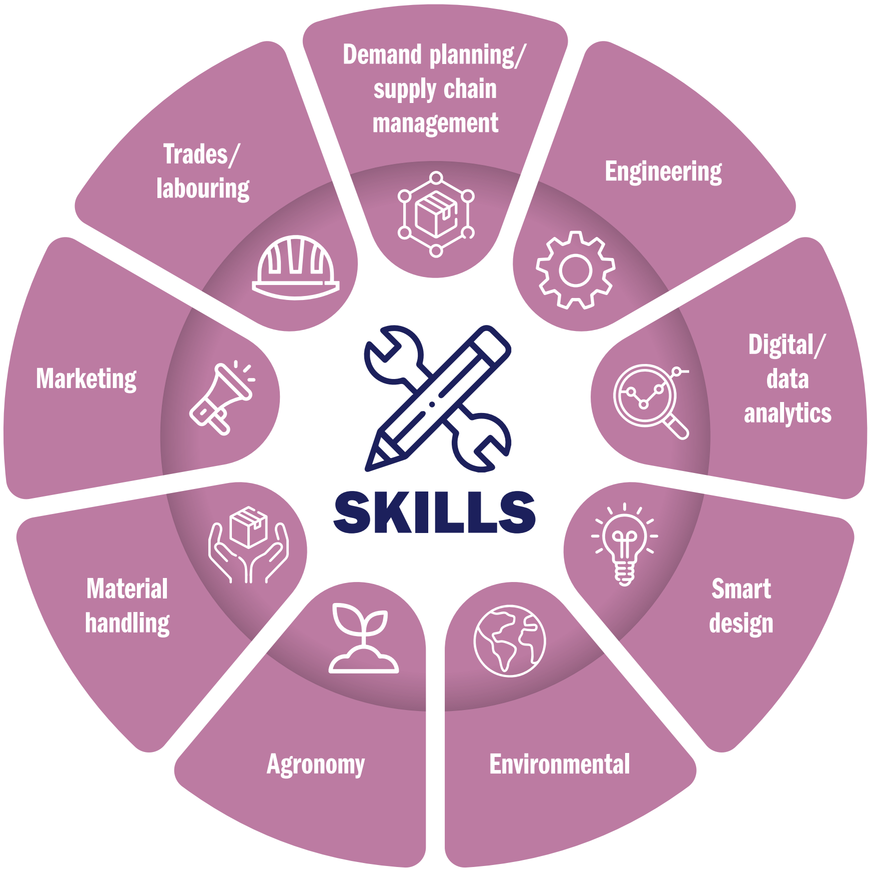
The Department's new Skills Strategy "Skills for a 10x Economy" was published in March 2022. The Strategy sets a strategic framework for the development of our skills system to 2030 making[49] recommendations for various actions to be taken across government, business and wider society.

The strategy recognises that *"it is imperative that work begins immediately to fully understand the short, medium and long-term requirements of our education and training sectors that will enable us to maximise the economic opportunities from the global drive to tackle climate change, deliver a just transition for individuals across our society and to meet our carbon reduction commitments."*

We will work closely with the DAERA Green Growth Team, the DfE Skills and Education Group and the Just Transition Commission (which is to be formed as part of the Climate Change Act) to incorporate the need to support a Just Transition into our wider skills delivery across multiple programmes. The Just Transition Commission and Just Transition Fund is being established to specifically manage the effects of change and reduce inequalities.

A focus on skills and material life cycles

Workers and employers will be required to retrain and develop new skills to adapt to changing environments. Activities and services will become focused on reusing materials and closing material cycles—processes that require diverse skills in design and engineering as well as practical labour-intensive roles. The diagram on the following page provides a selection of skills that will be needed.



Skills training and Further Education colleges will continue to play a crucial role in providing the skills and delivering traineeships, apprenticeships and sector partnerships to drive changes through revised industry standards and qualification requirements. By growing these skills, we will address the current skills imbalances, enhance digital skills and create a culture of lifelong learning which are objectives of the 10X Economic Vision.

In future, the principles of a Circular Economy (materials, remanufacturing, eco-design, recyclability, and practices that extend product lifetimes) will be integrated into all our lives, but especially in design, engineering, construction, industrial processes and customer service.

Examples of 'new' jobs

- Construction and Built Environment – retrofitters, heat pump engineers, insulation specialists, digital designers, disassembly and material handling.
- Advanced Manufacturing – reprocessing experts, bioengineers, logistics specialists, digital and blockchain for material tracking.
- Agriculture, Food Manufacturing and Bioeconomy – chemists, researchers, animal nutritionists.
- Tourism – digital specialists, procurement specialists, transport specialists (air/ferry/ cruise travel).

6. Monitoring and measurement

6. Monitoring and measurement

We are demanding more resources from the earth than it has to offer us. In the UK the average person is consuming *almost three times* the natural world's productive capacity[75]. We urgently need to address this alongside reducing emissions.

How will we know we have succeeded? The Green Alliance[76] recommends the need for an ambitious target to halve resource use in the UK and bring resource consumption within planetary boundaries by 2050.

The following list provides an overview of the ambition and targets of other countries pursuing the Circular Economy:

- France intends to increase resource productivity by 30% by 2030, using 2010 as the baseline.
- Austria aims to reduce domestic material consumption to 7 tonnes per capita per year by 2050.
- Spain aims to reduce national consumption of materials by 30% by 2030, using 2010 as the baseline.
- Wales has set an overall target to reduce resource use needed for one-planet living by 2050[77].
- England aims to double resource productivity by 2050.
- The Netherlands is aiming to be 100% circular by 2050, with an interim target to reduce 50% raw material use by 2030.[78]
- Circular Flanders, Belgium, has set a target to reduce its material footprint by 30% by 2030.

The Climate Change Act and the Green Growth Strategy are rightly focused on achieving net zero by 2050. We have set out in this strategy how Circular Economy helps meet this target with a reduction in our material footprint providing the greatest impact.

With a clear legislated target for net zero by 2050, Northern Ireland will begin to align reporting on progress within the UK carbon budget periods, as recommended by the Climate Change Committee. We will also align circularity metrics within the 10X Performance Management Framework to measure performance in-line with the three core themes of innovation, inclusion and sustainability.

By 2050 we will have reduced our material footprint to 8 tonnes per person per year.

This target is derived from the Circularity Gap Report insight and various pieces of scientific research[79] suggesting between 6-8 tonnes per capita per year is the sustainable footprint target we need for long term survival.

The Circularity Gap Report gives us a baseline and the 'what if' scenarios provided us with various interventions which, if implemented could theoretically reduce our material footprint by half. The target above and the proposals for change provide a strategic vision and direction, but it will take time and collaboration with all stakeholders to agree on a realistic roadmap to success. Such collaboration will be essential in setting any interim goals and developing sector and material specific action plans that support and complement the Climate Action Plan.

The EC has found measuring the Circular Economy difficult due to the numerous material streams and emission sources affected. It has created a Circular Economy Indicator Framework,[80] which complements the Commission's 'Resource Efficiency Scoreboard'[81] and 'Raw Materials Scoreboard'.[82]

The UN has also established a Task Force[83] to produce practical guidelines for measuring Circular Economy by June 2023.

In addition to the Circularity Gap Report baseline, we will develop a broader suite of indicators and metrics to measure sustainable performance in alignment with the Climate Action Plans, the 10X Performance Management Framework and the Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

Some indicators of success will increase, and others decrease, as set out in the table below. Some of these indicators are already being measured but others will require improved data collection. These will provide an overall picture of performance in terms of the impact of interventions on people, planet and business.

CE Indicators that will decrease	CE Indicators that will increase
• Material footprint • Waste generated from Households and sectors • Waste exported • Waste landfilled • Fly-tipping incidents • Virgin materials imported • Water use • Water pollution incidents • GHG emissions across sectors • Extractive industries • Overall energy use • Number of derelict buildings and empty homes	• Recycling • Reuse and repair enterprises • Greater awareness of Climate Change and Circular Economy • Companies publishing sustainability reports • Green/circular Jobs • Water, soil and air quality • Biodiversity • Public money spent on circular procurement • Patents for circular products and materials • Retrofitted homes

In the short term we might see an increase in our material footprint as the energy, waste and water transitions will require material and carbon-intensive infrastructure to be imported and constructed in Northern Ireland. Such development is essential to reach net zero in the longer term, but these short-term trade-offs will need to be factored in.

During this transition stage, we must focus on designing circularity into major infrastructure projects to ensure the full lifecycle of material has been considered, e.g. the repurposing of steel and apparatus from wind turbines when they are decommissioned.

7.
Next steps

7. Next steps

If we are to ensure that Northern Ireland meets its net zero target and reduces its material footprint by 2050, we need to adopt a Circular Economy mindset in everything we do.

Lord Deben, Chair of the UK Climate Change Committee, in a recent letter to the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs[84] said:

"Northern Ireland is already playing catch-up with the rest of the UK in many areas. The new (Climate Change Act) targets will quickly lose credibility if the policy focus does not shift quickly to implementation and success is seen in delivery of outcomes."

Likewise, we are playing catch-up in terms of circularity, but DfE has committed to take the following actions to initiate progress:

1	2	3
We will examine options for a delivery unit, in partnership with DAERA, to translate the proposals for change into action plans.	**We will embed Circular Economy principles in the development of the Climate Action Plan, Departmental and Sectoral Action Plans.**	**We will raise awareness of Circular Economy and increase circular thinking.**
The delivery vehicle to be established by 2024 will lead a whole-system approach across government to deliver agreed actions, while continually measuring and monitoring progress to ensure success. This will require investment in research, infrastructure, new technologies and circular business models.	To align reducing our material footprint with reducing GHG emissions we will work across government to promote Circular Economy principles in all climate action plans.	By engaging across government, business and society we will use our channels to promote, educate and communicate the benefits of Circular Economy.

The goal of this strategy is to adopt a circular model and reduce our material footprint to live responsibly, build resilience and exploit new opportunities. This will secure future prosperity for business, people and our planet. We have set out our vision and direction of travel in the proposals for change and our commitment to change through these next steps. It is important to note, however, this strategy will be dependent on securing sufficient funding to take it forward. Budgets beyond 2022/23 have not yet been allocated and are expected to be challenging.

We invite you to respond to this consultation and provide your feedback on our plan to transition to an innovative, inclusive and competitive economy, with responsible production and consumption at its core. The outcome of this consultation will also inform the next steps taken to implement the 10X Economic Vision, to create a more innovative, inclusive and sustainable economy.

Glossary

10X Economic Vision

The 10x Economic Vision represents a bold and ambitious new vision for the Northern Ireland Economy based around a decade of innovation acting as an engine for growth.

The vision sets out that growth will also be inclusive, providing better opportunities and wages to more people, and sustainable, by playing its part in tackling climate change and other environmental issues. The 10X Economic Vision focuses specifically on clusters and technologies where Northern Ireland has world class potential including cybersecurity, advanced manufacturing and engineering, and life and health sciences.

Carbon Footprint

Carbon footprint is the amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a particular individual, organisation, or community. It is expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e), which is the sum of all greenhouse gas emissions rolled into one. In the UK the average carbon footprint is 6.25 tonnes CO_2e per year.

CE strategies:

- Reuse - Reuse products by transferring them to another user.
- Repair - Repair components and parts so that products can be used longer by the user.
- Remanufacture – is the rebuilding of a product to specifications of the original manufactured product using a combination of reused, repaired and new parts.
- Reprocess – to deal with waste materials so they can be used again.
- Recycle - is the process of taking a component material and processing it to make the same material or useful degraded material.
- Recovery - the process of removing or extracting an energy source (e.g. battery) or industrial chemicals/materials for use, reuse, or waste treatment.

Circular Economy

A Circular Economy is a systemic approach to economic growth that reduces overall demand for resources. It requires us to rethink what we understand as economic success and, in the process, redesign our economic model. It entails gradually decoupling economic growth from the consumption of finite resources and designing waste out of the system. Underpinned by a transition to renewable energy sources, the circular model builds economic, natural and social capital.

Circular Economy principles
The Circular Economy is a framework of three core principles, driven by design:

- Eliminate waste and pollution
- Keep products and materials in use and
- Regenerate natural systems

It is based increasingly on renewable energy and requires us to rethink our relationship with materials/resources. It is accelerated by digital innovation. It is a resilient, distributed, diverse, and inclusive economic model.

Circularity
It is the process in which value is retained e.g. by-products from manufacturing being reused. Circularity increases when the value of resources and materials is recognised and maximised.

Circular jobs
A circular job is any occupation that directly involves or indirectly supports one of the principles of the Circular Economy.

Climate Change
The impacts of global warming on the Earth's weather patterns.

Closed–Loop economy
A closed-loop economy is an economic model in which no waste is generated; everything is shared, repaired, reused, or recycled. What would traditionally be considered 'waste' is instead turned into a valuable resource for the creation of something new.

Consumables
Consumables are goods used by individuals and businesses that must be replaced regularly because they wear out or are used up. They can also be defined as the components of an end-product that is used up or permanently altered in the process of manufacturing such as semiconductor wafers and basic chemicals.

Critical Raw Materials
Critical raw materials are raw materials of high importance to the economy and have a high risk associated with their supply (for example, China provides 98% of the EU's supply of rare earth elements). Raw materials are crucial to our economy. They form a strong industrial base, producing a broad range of goods and applications used in everyday life and modern technologies. Reliable and unhindered access to certain raw materials is a growing concern within the EU and across the globe.

Consumption

Consumption means the amount of something that people and other entities use. It is also the process of using something, often so that there is less of it available afterward

Decarbonisation

Decarbonisation is the term used for removal or reduction of carbon dioxide (CO2) output into the atmosphere. Decarbonisation is achieved by switching to usage of low carbon energy sources.

Deposit Return Scheme (DRS)

A deposit return scheme is an example of producer responsibility. Producer responsibility is about making sure businesses that manufacture, import and sell certain products also deal with the end-of-life environmental impact of those products.

Ellen MacArthur Foundation – EMF

Launched in September 2010, the Ellen MacArthur Foundation is a non-governmental organisation (NGO) most well-known for its heavy promotion and influence within the Circular Economy, a system designed to keep a material in use for as long as possible.

Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)

A policy approach in which producers are given significant responsibility – financial and /or physical for dealing with post-consumer products. It is intended to incentivise producers to design out waste and increase the value of resources.

Focus Areas

Areas of concern or where impact would be highest. For the purposes of this Strategy, it was decided that we needed to identify the most critical sectors and material flows which should be targeted with policy interventions aimed at addressing market and regulatory failures. These were Construction and Built Environment, Tourism and Hospitality, Bioeconomy, Advanced Manufacturing, Food, Textiles, Electricals and Packaging.

Global warming

Global warming is the long-term warming of the planet's overall temperature. Though this warming trend has been going on for a long time, its pace has significantly increased in the last hundred years due to the burning of fossil fuels. As the human population has increased, so has the volume of fossil fuels burned.

Green economy

A green economy is defined as low carbon, resource efficient and socially inclusive. In a green economy, growth in employment and income are driven by public and private investment into such economic activities, infrastructure and assets that allow reduced carbon emissions and pollution, enhanced renewable energy and resource efficiency, and prevention of the loss of biodiversity and ecosystem services.

Green Growth

The Green Growth Strategy is the Northern Ireland Executive's multi-decade strategy, balancing climate, environment and the economy in Northern Ireland. It sets out the long-term vision and a solid framework for tackling the climate crisis in the right way.

Green jobs

Jobs in areas of the economy engaged in renewable energy, producing goods and services for environmental protection purposes, as well as those engaged in conserving and maintaining natural resources[85].

Greenwashing

Greenwashing is the process of conveying a false impression or providing misleading information about how a company's operations are more environmentally sound. Greenwashing is considered to be an unsubstantiated claim to deceive consumers into believing that a company's products are environmentally friendly.

HWRCs

Household Waste and Recycling Centres (HWRCs) are where you can take everyday household items for reuse, recycling or disposal.

Innovation Active Firms

Enterprises that pursue opportunities focused on innovative products or services that will be tradable on regional or global markets.

Linear economy

A linear economy traditionally follows the 'take-make-use-dispose' approach. This means that raw materials are collected, and then transformed into products that are used until they are finally discarded as waste. Value is created in this economic system by producing and selling as many products as possible.

Low Carbon Renewable Energy Economy
Businesses are considered part of the Low Carbon Renewable Energy Economy if they report activity in one of 17 defined sectors, when surveyed by ONS. The Low carbon and renewable energy economy survey estimates the scale of such businesses including turnover and employment.

Material Footprint
Material Footprint (MF) is the attribution of global material extraction required to meet the domestic final demand for goods and services of residents in a country.

Material Flows
A material flow is the description of the transportation of raw materials, pre-fabricates, parts, components, integrated objects and finally products as a flow of entities. Analysis of material flows allows us to track materials throughout the economy.

Nature-based Solutions (NbS)
An umbrella term which covers a range of solutions to protect the environment, create habitat and offer alternative, low-carbon solutions to traditional grey infrastructure. NbS provide valuable natural capital e.g. SUDS

Precision Farming
An approach to farm management which applies technology to ensure crops and soils receive what they need. It can be used by famers to increase soil quality as well as optimising and increase productivity.

Production
The process of making or growing goods to be sold or the amount of something that is made or grown by a country or a company.

Raw Material Equivalent
Raw Material Equivalent describes the amount of raw materials which are embodied (over the whole production chain) in the products of domestic final uses of an economy. For instance, Chile exported 5.84million tonnes of copper in 2020 but the raw material equivalent was 580 million tonnes of ore – 99% of the resource dug out of the ground is left in Chile as waste.

Recyclate
Post-consumer goods and products which are collected for recycling.

Socio-economic cycling
This is the share of secondary materials in the total consumption of an economy and this is also the measure used for the Circularity Metric – which shows how circular our economy is.

Socio-economic outcomes
Outcomes that relate to or are concerned with the interaction of society and the economy.

Small Medium-sized Enterprises – SMEs
The UK definition of a SME is generally a small or medium-sized enterprise with fewer than 250 employees.

Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS)
SUDS are drainage systems that are considered to be environmentally beneficial, causing minimal or no long-term detrimental damage. They provide a means of efficiently and sustainably draining surface water, while minimising pollution and managing the impact on water quality.

Supply Chain
A supply chain is a network between a company and its suppliers to produce and distribute a specific product to the final buyer. This network includes different activities, people, entities, information, and resources. The supply chain also represents the steps it takes to get the product or service from its original state to the customer.

Value Chain
Value Chain is the process or activities by which a company adds value to an article, including production, marketing, and the provision of after-sales service.

Value Creation
Value creation is taking inputs (resources, capital) and turning them into outputs (outcomes, profits). For an output to be valuable, there needs to be a stakeholder that values the output. The aim of CE is to provide value to things that are currently wasted/thrown away/discarded and find a market for them.

Valorisation
Valorisation is the act or process of maintaining the price of something, usually through government action and can also be described as the act or process of giving, assigning, or enhancing value.

Waste and Resources Action Programme - WRAP
WRAP is one of the globe's leading sustainability charities. Based in the UK and with projects around the world, it works with businesses, governments, citizens, and charities to make the planet a healthier, safer place. Its vision is 'A world where resources are used sustainably.'

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Vision

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

Question 5: Is the Vision the Right Vision?

Yes

Any other comments?

We suggest that the draft Vision should make reference to the potential economic benefits of a functioning Circular Economy for Northern Ireland, as well as emphasising the virtue of preventing waste by design. Suggested wording change "By 2050, Northern Ireland will have an innovative, inclusive and ***thriving*** economy which is based on sustainable production and consumption, ***designs out waste*** and enables businesses, people and planet to flourish."

The initial focus, on four material streams and four sectors, tackles high CO2 emissions and material footprint and has the potential to provide positive results quickly thus acting as proof of concept. The Vision also aligns with the pre-committed 10X objectives of other regional strategies, making it compatible and supportive of these strategies in enabling the development of economic opportunities that address climate and waste issues in Northern Ireland.

Things to consider:

- Data collection processes need to be tested.
- Adequate financial backing for Local Authorities.
- Development of other 'enablers' (incentives, penalties, national campaigns, enforcement responsibilities etc.).
- A programme in place to explain the vision to the public, why it is important and the benefits it will bring.

Belfast City Council has committed to being a carbon neutral city by 2050, with an 80% reduction by 2030, and 100% by 2050 (based on baseline emissions in 2000). This sets Belfast on an urgent and rapid decarbonisation pathway. Creating a sustainable and circular economy is a key part of our draft economic strategy. We are committed to managing a just transition, one that will provide new skills and opportunities for local communities and businesses. It is important that long term strategies strike the right balance across business, people and the planet.

Target

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

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

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

Yes

Any other comments?

The target is ambitious; however, it may be challenging to achieve. To aid this, we suggest developing sub-targets for the focus sectors and materials; the individual targets have to be made clear. Currently they are mentioned as potential percentage change against seven scenarios rather than the eight focus areas. This should be better aligned.

Significant changes in public behaviour will be required. A key tool to influence public behaviour would be through education at all stages (schools and work). We suggest there will be a requirement for business and commercial adaptation of the Planet, People, Profit model in that order.

To achieve this target there will need to be some key enablers in place such as:

- Infrastructures that facilitate Reuse/ Repair such as: Second hand Markets, Platforms and Hubs.
- Central Government creating consistent national campaigns to support the work.
- KPIs for the economy that are measured in something other than GDP (as this does not necessarily factor the environmental impacts of business activities).
- Targeted legislation, such as the 5p levy on plastic bags, aimed at changing behaviour through disincentive tools.
- A **resourced** action plan with clear targets and roles for all parties involved, including the public, business and public sectors, for example, Belfast City Council and partners through structures such as the Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board and emerging Belfast Sustainable Food Partnership.
- A central Circular Economy unit to co-ordinate actions and report on progress against targets.

The changing of mindsets, business models and developing new products and services is going to be a complicated task, especially for Northern Ireland, which has many SMEs with limited time and resource. As per Q5 there will need to be a programme in place which explains these targets to the public if they are to accept them and join together in working towards achieving them.

Proposals for Change

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

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

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

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

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

Please put the following in order of priority. Ranking Scale 1 = most preferred / 4 = least preferred.

- Provide or adapt physical infrastructure to help make it easier for people to change behaviours e.g., Recycling centres, refill stations in supermarkets and bottle banks **[2]**
- Use regulatory and financial incentives to increase affordability and availability of sustainable options **[1]**
- Provide greater transparency and clarity on what government is doing to show commitment and create momentum. **[4]**
- Provide information and tools to increase awareness and help change attitudes **[3]**

Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and facilitate collaboration

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

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

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

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

There is a growing cluster of low-carbon industries and green entrepreneurs active in Belfast city. Many innovators are locating or linked to the development of the green port (which will be Net Zero by 2030) and Net Zero Zone in the Titanic Quarter. The Innovation District prioritised through the Innovation City Belfast partnership will act as an enabler to develop the technology-specific growth clusters.

Belfast City Council is a member of the Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor, a cross border partnership involving eight local authorities and two universities. This network is strongly positioned to support the delivery of transformative solutions to increase circularity, using the institutions, scale and capacity of a region of 2 million people. As referenced in the draft document Belfast City Council and Dublin City Council have partnered for a feasibility study into a joint capital project to support the circular economy and we hope to develop relationships and networks from this work. Belfast City Council is also part of a number of other learning networks – for example Core Cities, Resilient Cities Network and Four Cities Net Zero Carbon MOU all of which could demonstrate learning experiences and best practice exchange.

Belfast City Council is committed to supporting social enterprises and cooperatives as they play a vital role in delivering inclusive and sustainable growth and supporting community and economic resilience. Through our dedicated social enterprise and cooperative support programme we have provided support to develop the circular economy using the social economy business models.

Additional Networks and Clusters include:

Arc-21, Waste Resource Action Programme Environmental Campaigns (WRAP-ENCAP), Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE), Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action (NICVA), Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA), Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC), NI Resources Network (NIRN), Business in the Community (BITC), Business Improvement Districts (BIDS), Certified Institute of Waste Management (CIWM), Belfast Chamber, Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Federation of Small Businesses (FSB),Sustainable NI, Sustrans, RICS (Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors), Smart District, Innovation City Belfast, Belfast Sustainable Food Network, Belfast Region City Deal, Health Care District (around Kings Hall area) Science and Tech District (e.g. around Titanic), Civic Spine (Belfast City Council), Fuel

Hubs, NI Water, Translink and other collaborations, NIEL (NI Environment Link), Repair Café, Invest NI, Universities and Colleges, Belfast City Centre Management, Innovation City Belfast - Net Zero Park (Net zero/ industrial cluster on Queens Island), Belfast Resilience and Sustainability Board (key city institutions within the Belfast Community Planning Partnership, sectoral clusters established through the new Climate Bill.

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

The Draft Belfast Economic Strategy has identified priority enabling technologies in four areas. Digital, ICT and Creative Industries, Fintech and Financial Services, Life and Health Sciences and Advanced Manufacturing. By 2030 we aim to have at least four technology-specific place-based growth clusters where innovative businesses co-locate near key assets including those funded by the Belfast Region City Deal. For example, an opportunity for growth has been identified focussing on the development of zero emission marine vessels and shore power, development of e-fuel technologies and Belfast Harbour as a 'green port'. Maximising resource use will be helped by supporting this and similar place-based growth clusters.

Underpinning the establishment of the Belfast Retrofit Hub will maximise opportunities to upskill the workforce and increase the capacity of the construction sector to renovate and retrofit existing buildings. This will improve human resources within the circular economy and also the potential for co-operation on materials.

Potential cross-border networks across the island and the UK that would enhance scale or specialisation and ensure equivalence on standards. Belfast and Dublin are about to undertake a feasibility study and economic appraisal funded by the Shared Island Development Fund that will examine the existing and required measures to support a circular economy in and between both cities.

There will be a requirement for clusters / networks that focus on efficient collections of waste, giving consideration to the proximity principle and for Local Authority Networks that address legislative issues and collaborative approaches to shared problems.

Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement

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

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

Public sector procurement should place a higher emphasis on changing attitudes within procurement so that whole life costing is considered and that there is a desire to purchase used/non-version material in the first instance. Opting to lease/hire and contract equipment when appropriate will help stimulate the market for same and should reduce the negative carbon impact of production and acquisition. Buying products that fit with CE ideas: like recycled content, reusability.

Adopting a CE Standard (EG BSI 8001:2017) and applying it to procurement policy could further influence the growth of the CE. As could the development and adoption of a Single-use Plastic Policy that adds this consideration to procurement policies by default.

Public Sector procurement could influence industry on a range of factors linking to Circular Economy principles, including the reduction of scope 3 emissions, a regional framework for procurement to enable maximum impact, the role of procurement in energy use, landscaping contracts, catering, requiring suppliers to follow circular economy principles, use of buildings, land and office space by third parties and linking in with the voluntary and community sector etc. There is also significant scope to improve circularity through procurement when it comes to the creation of assets for the public benefit e.g. renovation and re-use of construction materials rather than rebuild, the use of less carbon intensive materials etc..

In 2020 Belfast City Council published 'Our Commitment to Inclusive Growth'. Reviewing and updating our approach to procurement in support of our inclusive growth ambitions was a key deliverable within this strategy. Specifically, Belfast City Council committed to the:

- Development and implementation of social value in procurement;
- Introduction of progressive procurement measures designed to support the local supply chain;
- Implementation of measures to increase the capacity of the local supply market; and
- Implementation of measures to ensure that our spend can boost the local economy.

The full document (https://www.belfastcity.gov.uk/documents/social-value-procurement-policy) presents the Council's approach to delivering on these commitments through its commissioning and procurement activities.

Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials

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

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

Initially there is a need for more methodological research to identify what exists now, and then to develop from there. With that said we suggest the following will be of use:

- Developing Knowledge sharing hubs to disseminate research, know-how and best practice. The gathering and publication of CE case studies would likely inspire and drive growth in the CE https://ce-hub.org/ce-stories/
- Belfast City Council's draft Economic Strategy includes a medium aim to establish an innovation 'platform' to link together consortia including large companies, universities, and SMEs, to compete for innovation funding.
- Utilize existing transport mechanisms and networks for easier accessibility to second-hand goods.
- The development of materials data hubs, scaling from local to national will help inform and cement the development of the Circular Economy.
- Promote existing platforms: eBay, vinted, Facebook etc.
- The development of a Pro-circ procurement research programme similar to Zero Waste Scotland would also help establish the CE.
- For businesses, the further development of the Invest NI's Industrial Symbiosis platform is useful for sharing one business' unused/wasted products which are valuable resources for others. https://www.investni.com/sites/default/files/documents/static/library/invest-ni/documents/industrial-symbiosis-guide-for-businesses-in-northern-ireland.pdf
- Consideration of the WARP-It app for use across the public sector network in particular to increase re-use.
- Research into the development and adoption of Business models that allow the end customers to buy specific goods and parts will help to cut down waste.
- Develop an offline network of facilities where people can drop off items suitable for reuse, which in turn can be then taken for use by other members of the public, either for free or for a small flat fee. The fee could help cover the cost of running the site, checking items are safe etc. Using current facilities, such as Household Recycling Centres would have obvious advantages and the public coming to dispose of items could be redirected to the reuse area instead.

Platforms and Businesses that give access and knowledge to 3D printing:

- Reduces waste in initial material manufacturing phase. (Beneficial in the focus sectors: Construction and Manufacturing)
- Precise technology enables greater control in product design to allow life-cycle considerations: lifespan, reusability, repairability, and recyclability.
- Fulfilling customer requests with ad-hoc manufacturing.
- Fab Lab- 3D printing allowing for ease of repair when paired with manufacturer schematics (for example a broken plastic clip on an otherwise sound vacuum cleaner).

Maximise the value of materials locally

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

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

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

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

Government could encourage products to last longer by design by accreditation for products that have longer guarantees. For example: requiring parts to be readily available to ensure repairability for an extended period of time, or if 3D printable, ensuring that the schematics for those parts are made available. These measures would be necessary to facilitate the success of "Right to Repair", legislation which should be introduced to Northern Ireland.

Develop training programmes to ensure the skills exist so people can find someone to repair their products or repair them themselves. Provide financial incentives to encourage people to keep items for longer e.g., subsidise the price of parts or cost of repair. Currently it is often nearly as expensive to get a product repaired as it is to buy a new one. Focus on items that will provide the maximum benefit. e.g., is it better to get a smartphone or a washing machine repaired in terms of carbon and materials footprint? Promote these schemes and benefits to the public to encourage behaviour change away from buying new towards repair or keeping for longer.

Work has been undertaken in Belfast to establish a retrofit academy to build capacity among existing and new tradesmen and officials, linked to the UK retrofit academy - a similar model could be used to support specific sectors within the circular economy. There is a need to link in with universities, Colleges of Further Education to provide repair apprenticeships in the key sectors identifies so that we have a flow of suitably qualifies individuals who can take advantage of future green jobs.

The Dublin City Council and Belfast City Council joint feasibility study and economic appraisal which will include analysis of aspects of the circular economy in both cities and will contribute to recommendations at operational and policy levels.

Taxes on goods, such as the £200 per tonne on plastic packaging that contains <30% recycled content use was successful thus this has to be expanded other goods to ensure use of virgin materials are disincentivised. Remove or adjust VAT on refurbishments/ reuse (e.g. refill tea had VAT whereas single-use cup did not.)

Local and Central Government must lead by example, for instance:

- Where the Housing Executive builds or refurbishes houses and accommodation, it should equip such premises with refurbished furniture and appliances as standard.

- Road and utility infrastructure should incorporate recovered/recycled materials (that may otherwise have been incinerated or landfilled) albeit not compromising the quality.
- Building projects (as above) should measure and document exact material inputs recorded so that when it comes to deconstructing/upgrading these assets, an exact list of materials is available. (x amount of steel girders, x amount of copper wiring, etc)
- Partner with Research organisations to educate and train on repairing.
- Set Clear goals and targets for different sectors.

Several Not-for-Profit Organisations/ Foundations (Such as Recoup, WRAP and the Ellen McArthur Foundation) have consistently worked in these areas - their research and guidance is readily available and should be considered.

Establish a Circular Economy funding programme

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

Question 13. Which of the following interventions should be a priority focus for government funding? Please put the following in order of priority. (Ranking scale 1 = highest priority / 9 = lowest priority)

Belfast City Council's ranking:

1. Research and development
2. Circular supply chains
3. Reuse and repair
4. Carbon emissions reduction
5. Secondary material markets
6. Digitisation and technology
7. Job creation
8. Waste reduction
9. Environmentally focused solutions

Further comments?

Whilst this is a subjective question, we believe that Research and Development should be addressed as a top priority, to create the technology and solutions, baselines and the knowledge required to enable circularity. Investing in this area first should also lead to more job opportunities and openings within the other areas listed. If successful, the top priorities will likely enable and support some of the lower priorities listed. Given city targets and council ambitions to reduce carbon emissions and the emphasis elsewhere and in the consultation on climate and carbon reduction, green growth etc., we have also ranked Carbon Emissions Reductions high on our list. Waste reduction and environmentally focused solutions should result as a natural consequence of the top tier priorities being implemented.

Question 14. What funding instruments do you consider would be most appropriate in years 1-3? Please rank. (Ranking scale 1 = most preferred / 3 = least preferred)

1. Grants & Subsidies
2. Blended finance (i.e., a mix of repayable and non-repayable finance)
3. Loans

Question 15. Do you have any further comments to make on funding instruments that could be used to enable Circular Economy solutions to succeed?

Available and future funding instruments is a large area of ongoing work in relation to net zero and the wider climate programme in Belfast and beyond. The work of 3CI (Cities Climate Investment Commission) may be of interest, and Just Transition Bond analysis by LSE, as well as research undertaken by PWC and UKRI on the potential co-benefits of place-based net zero.

The following additional steps may be considered:

- Widen access to finance (credits) when buying second-hand/circular products.
- Added incentives, e.g., vouchers, to purchase Circular Products (reused/ repaired).
- Better use of VAT to increase circularity of products.
- Grants and funds to initially fund R&D.
- Tax relief / VAT variations for new businesses/existing that employ circular design models and other practices that put circularity at the core of their business model.
- Blended finance to incentivise to choose circular materials or products over products made from virgin material (or virgin materials themselves).
- Supporting funding for a net-zero park at Queens Island to attract further investment

Create a regulatory framework that enables circular solutions to become the norm

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

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

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

- A Requirement for circular economy assessments to be built into decision making, budget allocation and procurement processes
- Minimum guarantee for lifespan of products based on price
- An incentive/ tax to encourage and prioritise repair / refurbishment etc.
- Eco-labels (especially for clothes and the four target areas): grade high to low circularity, then tax based on that.
- Higher tax on unrecyclable/ non-circular materials and products.
- Extend EPR to other materials
- Correct the balance between cheaper virgin materials against circular materials.
- Remove financial, and other barriers (identify as appropriate to different sectors)
- Mandate the Eco-design of products.
- Mandate Circular Criteria in Public Procurement.

- Standards on products based on circularity
- Principle of “Designing out waste” built into all products and services

Deliver a Skills programme to support a Just Transition

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

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

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

A range of the following skills:

1. Sustainable design: Designers need to be able to incorporate Circular principles into products. Also, consultants (equipped with ‘Re-design’ Skills) could help existing and new businesses in the transition to Circular Economy.
2. Repair and maintenance: Re-skilling traditional trades such as plumbers, electricians etc to ensure they are qualified to install future proofed green heating and electrical systems
3. Lifecycle assessment:
4. Logistics and reverse logistics
5. Sustainable supply chain management
6. R&D of technologies
7. Digital and Technological Skills: This will contribute to a ‘Digital Spine’ through product design, automation, data analysis, use of monitoring and sensors that will support circular systems.
8. Building retrofitting

Future Delivery

Delivery of Circular Economy Strategy

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

- Yes

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

Both models have their advantages. A government led, place-based approach delivered in partnership with local authorities, private and social enterprises, as well as the community and voluntary sectors seems feasible. It should be adequately resourced.

19B: Please provide a Rationale for your answer

We suggest a place based approach, through local authorities building on existing capacities and networks, adequately resourced to support delivery against city, district and regional targets would be most effective.

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

Draft Circular Economy

Strategy for Northern Ireland

Response Template

Draft Circular Economy Strategy for Northern Ireland

Response Template

Overview

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

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

Why your views matter

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

Responding to our Consultation

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

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

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

Draft Circular Economy Strategy Consultation Questions

Personal Details

1. Name

Tim Walker

2. I am responding as

An individual	☐
On behalf of an organisation	●

3. Name of your organisation

arc21

4. What sector are you from?

Agriculture	☐
Bioeconomy	☐
Central Government	☐
Construction and Built Environment	☐
Education	☐
Local Government	●
Manufacturing	☐
Representative Body	☐
Research & Development	☐
Services	☐
Social Enterprise / Third & Voluntary Sector	☐

Other

Vision

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

5. Is this vision the right vision?

Yes ☐

No ☒

Any other comments?

Given Northern Ireland's issues with planning, and the macro-geopolitics likely to arise over the next few decades, it would be more appropriate to highlight the regenerative element of the Circular Economy first so that "By 2050, by improving and restoring its environment, Northern Ireland will have a resilient, adaptive and dynamic economy where business, people and planet flourish, with responsible prooduction and consumption at its core."

Target

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

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

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

Yes ☒

No ☐

Any other comments?

Applaud the intention to be a leader in the UK but, in light of the UK's initial leadership in this space at EU level, wonder why the Department is just seeking to excel within this narrow horizon. Other regions objectives are similarly advancing at a pace (1)
There is also a need to ensure that just because there are noble aspirations, existing and proposed facilities will be needed to facilitate the transition to the Circular Economy (2), if this is overlooked, the risk of illegality increases significantly (3)
If this of ignored or unrealistic policies are introduced, there will be in increase in waste tourism as per Scotland and Wales (4) which will increase NI's financial, environmental and reputational risks

Proposals for Change

Develop and implement a programme to support and promote behaviour change

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

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

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

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

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

Please put the following in order of priority.
(Ranking scale 1 = most preferred / 4 = least preferred)

3	Provide greater transparency and clarity on what government is doing to show commitment and create momentum.
1	Provide information and tools to increase awareness and help change attitudes.
4	Use regulatory and financial incentives to increase affordability and availability of sustainable options.
2	Provide or adapt physical infrastructure to help make it easier for people to change behaviours e.g. recycling centres, refill stations in supermarkets and bottle banks.

Create clusters and networks to raise awareness and facilitate collaboration

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

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

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

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

Initial work on the Circular Economy has been done through International Synergies (NI) Ltd (5) but the opportunties and successes should be promoted more widely
Similarly, the InvestNI Collaborative Growth Programme has had some notable successes (6), one of which (the Collaborative Circulae Economy Network) is referenced on page 62. This emphasises the necessity for alignment of quality standards at the sortation plant/reprocessor interface. Work to address/resolve/improve this is essential for the delivery of a Circular Economy for UK and Ireland, as is the need to expand upon this for other supply chains (as per Chapter 3).
This will require investment and clear-headed thinking from the Department as, at the macro level, both the US - through the Inflation Reduction Act (2022) which is investing $billions into greentech (7) and the EU - through its Green Deal, are doing similar. The emphasis in both jurisdicitons is to translate lofty principles into tangible action (8)
Northern Ireland is in the same situation but it cannot leapfrog into the future (2050) without also building for the journey. Existing and proposed facilities will be needed, and need to be upgraded and, from a coucnil perspective, development of the infrastructure which has been identified as needed to deliver the statutory Waste Management Plans is critical and should be mirrored in Government policies.

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

As above, the need to develop a detailed routemap will be paramount to ensure that the Circular Economy is framed within the various other Government policies and delivers upon other legislative imperatives (e.g. 70% recycling by 2030).
There is funding available from UKRI (9) but assistance will be needed for Northern Ireland organisations to successfully apply and deliver upon this opportunity. Similarly, the levelling up agenda provide opportunity (10) but assistance will be needed to realise this (note: this UK report did consider NI).
There is a flip side to the maximisation of resource use in that, as materials are recovered, repurposed, repaired, &c from waste streams - what remains will be increasingly contaminated, problematic, hazardous (e.g. POPs) and as REACH increases, this is likely to continue for some time (indeed some materials previously considered ok for recycling may have to be redirected for disposal if it is uneconomic to clean). In this case, there will be an ongoing need for the foreseeable future to ensure that there are appropriate facilities to deal with these wastes in a resilient, cost effective manner and, as per the reference in the draft Strategy, recovery of heat and energy (and potential generation of efuels) could result from new facilities - while derisking Northern Ireland's reliance on export.

Embed Circular Economy principles in public procurement

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

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

There could be increased collaboration across public sector bodies around procurement. arc21 is well placed to offer its services to the wider public sector, although there may be Governance and resource issues to be addressed
In order to derisk the delivery of the Circular Economy, the public and private sector should co-design and plan to co-investment in new technology.
Extending Social Value could encourage increased employment and the repair of particular resources - this is likely to be limited given the volume of materials generated
Take Back schemes for particular items could be extended to ensure that the producer, importer, seller, &c retained responsibility for the final handling (disposal) which (as a version of EPR) would stimulate repair and redesign
EPR+ could be applied for multiple items within the public estate. This would require a policy imperative and would likely have a short-term financial impact

Create and support platforms and hubs to share goods and materials

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

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

There are a considerable number of platforms available to permit the sharing of products and materials. eBay and Vinted are well known, but there is also scope for Northern Ireland to develop an equivalent to Ireland's MyWaste (11) and schemes to increase the visibility of local schemes such as Freecycle (12) should be progressed more widely.
The International Synergies (NI) Ltd (5) should similarly be promoted amongst the business community
The draft Strategy highlights the Right to Repair (p65) and this should be twin-tracked with increased promotion of these platforms.

Maximise the value of materials locally

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

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

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

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

There is a need to "socialise" the idea of the Circular Economy and to affect not just behaviour (short term) but culture (long term) change. As the draft Strategy has highlighted, there is poor recognition of what this means in practice and if this is to gain traction, it needs to be promoted over a sustained period using multiple media sources.
From the cartoon (13) to the newspaper ad (14) to social media, the concept needs to be aired, discussed debated and publicised - over a prolonged period. This will require sustained investment (possibly through the introduction of targeted levies upon certain single-use items/difficult to manage materials)

Establish a Circular Economy funding programme

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

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

Please put the following in order of priority.
(1= highest priority and 9 = lowest priority)

7	Research and development
8	Secondary material markets
6	Circular supply chains
5	Digitisation and technology
3	Job creation
2	Waste reduction
1	Carbon emissions reduction
3	Reuse and repair
9	Environmentally focused solutions

Further comments? Please enter response in box below

See 12 above regarding publicity
In order to prevent a repeat of the collapse of BritishVolt (15), Government needs to recognise the importance of investment across the entire value chain, including in infrastructure for the reuse, recycling and recovery of materials
While this may be politically difficult, it will be essential to address these challenges in order to deliver upon the various commitments being made in policy and legislation, as well as to deliver upon targets.
It needs also to be recognised that much of the infrastructure needed to deliver thse commitments and targets may be transitionary (i.e.upon successful delivery of their goals and objectives, as specified in legislation and elsewhere, they could be dismantled and the facilities could then be repurposed or the sites cleared for other developments). It's worth stressing however that without continued and increased investment in existing and new technology and infrastructure in Northern Ireland, it will not deliver many of these stated targets. The misalignment between policy objectives and operational practices will be too great and this risks causing economic, environmental and reputational damage for Northern Ireland.

14. What funding instruments do you consider would be most appropriate in years 1-3?
Please put the following in order of priority.
(Ranking scale 1 = most preferred / 3 = least preferred)

3	Loans
2	Grants and subsidies
1	Blended finance (i.e. a mix of repayable and non-repayable finance)

15. Do you have any further comments to make on funding instruments that could be used to enable Circular Economy solutions to succeed?

Consideration should be given to making systems thinking a core element of the secondary schools curriculum and funding design and Circular Economy modules for all post GCSE pupils and third level students

Create a regulatory framework that enables circular solutions to become the norm

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

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

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

Government should consider extending EPR+ to a wide range of materials (e.g. textiles, furniture, mattresses, &c). Indeed, ultimately no product should be placed on the market (POM) without clarity as to the funding source to manage it once it had reached the end of its first life. This intention should be spelt out as part of the Circular Economy manifesto.
In advance of such a step, Northern Ireland should build on its early-adopter stance on plastic bags and extend levies to all single use/difficult to manage items to encourage product redesign
As Circular Economy encourages more materials to be recovered from the waste stream, the end of waste regulations (16) should be refreshed to avoid acting as a barrier. This will have implications for IT and staff both in terms of assessment and regulation
The issue of digital DRS (17) and blockchain is likely to offer greater security in the custody of materials and reduce the risk of the type of illegal operations uncovered at Mubouy (3)

Deliver a Skills programme to support a Just Transition

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

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

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

Skill 1

Design

Skill 2

Repair

Skill 3

Partner/Collaborate

Future delivery

Delivery of Circular Economy Strategy

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

Yes	●
No	
Don't Know	

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

Government led in the first instance until it has become established (could this be at arms-length, such as a GoCo?)

Please provide a rationale for your answer.

Government is setting the agenda with legislation and policy - it will be essential that a delivery body can work within political environment, such as experienced in Northern Ireland

PEOPLE & COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	More Circularity Less Carbon Report
Date:	7th March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Cathy Matthews Director City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Brendan Murray Waste Manager

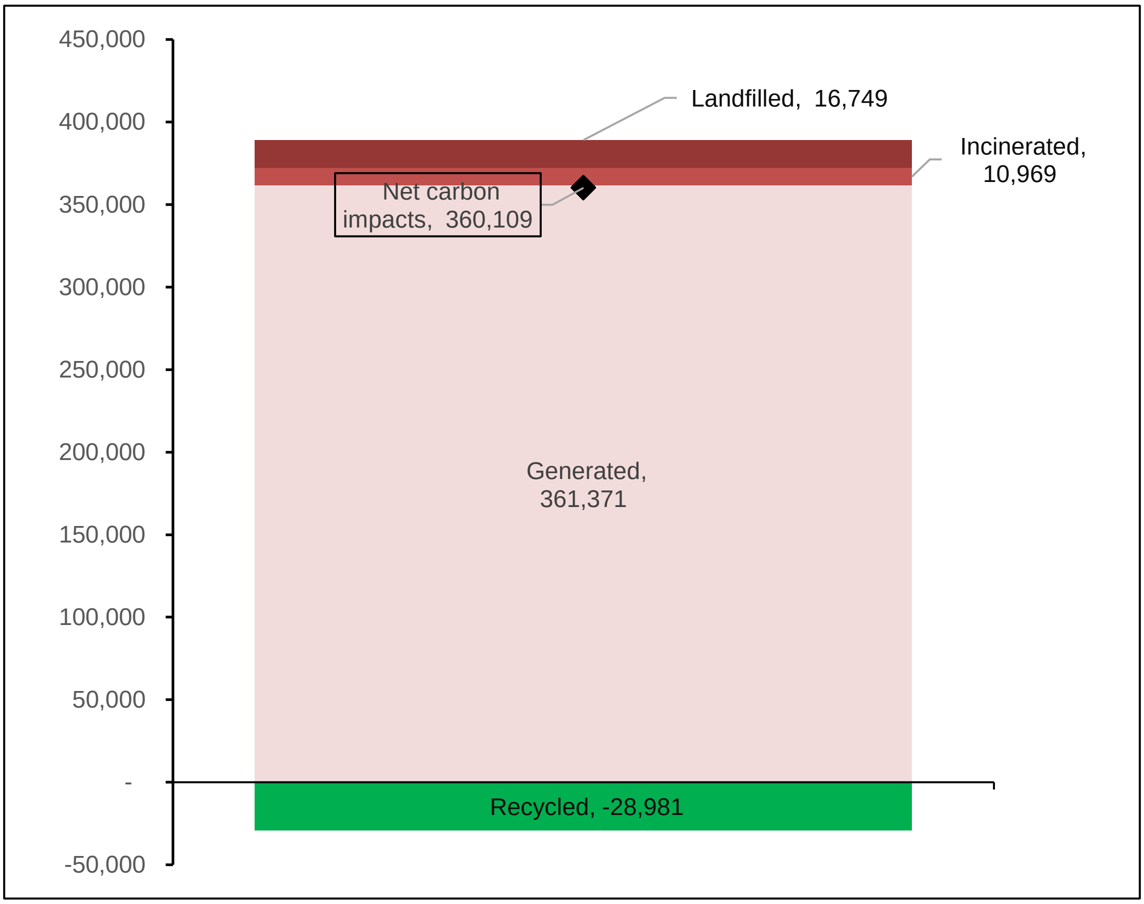
Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To present the “More Circularity Less Carbon” report for Belfast City Council’s waste management activities.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note the contents of the report and it is envisaged that the key findings and recommendations will be integrated into the next Council waste plan and contribute to the Council’s climate change actions.

3.0	**Main report**
	Background
3.1	The 'More Circularity, Less Carbon' (MCLC) campaign was launched by the Association of Cities and Regions Plus (ACR+) in November 2019, to help its members in addressing the carbon footprint of their waste. ACR+ has partnered with its constituent member Zero Waste Scotland to assess how individual territories can reduce the carbon impact of municipal waste by 25% by 2025.
3.2	Zero Waste Scotland's Carbon Metric International (CMI) tool, enables cities or regions to measure the carbon impact of their municipal waste, take effective actions to reduce it, and track their progress towards the 2025 target. Belfast is one of the ACR+ members which benefited from this project and received support to use the CMI to quantify the whole-life carbon impacts of its household waste. The results are summarised in the attached report (Appendix 1 – The Carbon Footprint of Waste - Belfast), which has three main objectives: • Provide a detailed breakdown of waste carbon impacts by materials and management/treatment process; • Enable Belfast to establish its 2025 waste carbon reduction target; • Assess several carbon reduction scenarios that can help Belfast achieve its target.
3.3	The Carbon Metric provides policymakers and stakeholders with an alternative to weight-based waste measurement, allowing them to identify and focus specifically on those waste materials with the highest carbon impacts and greatest potential carbon savings. The whole-life carbon impacts of household waste in Belfast were quantified in the report and based on 2020 data.
	Key findings
3.4	The carbon impacts of household waste in Belfast in 2020 were approximately 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent ($tCO_2eq.$), or 1.05 $tCO_2eq.$/capita.
3.5	The graphic below shows that the carbon saved through recycling was slightly more than the carbon impacts of landfilling and incineration, meaning Belfast's household waste management activity is net carbon negative. However, whenever the embodied carbon impacts of the waste material (i.e. the emissions generated by the extraction of resources, production, manufacturing, etc. of the corresponding products, labelled as "Generated") are considered this tips the scales into a carbon positive picture. These "generated" emissions are always the highest contributor to the net carbon impacts of waste, which is why waste prevention, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, offers the greatest carbon savings.

	Accounting for the full lifecycle impacts, Belfast's waste carbon intensity is 2.4 tCO_2eq./tonne of waste collected
3.6	**Breakdown of whole-life carbon impacts of waste by stage (tCO2eq).**

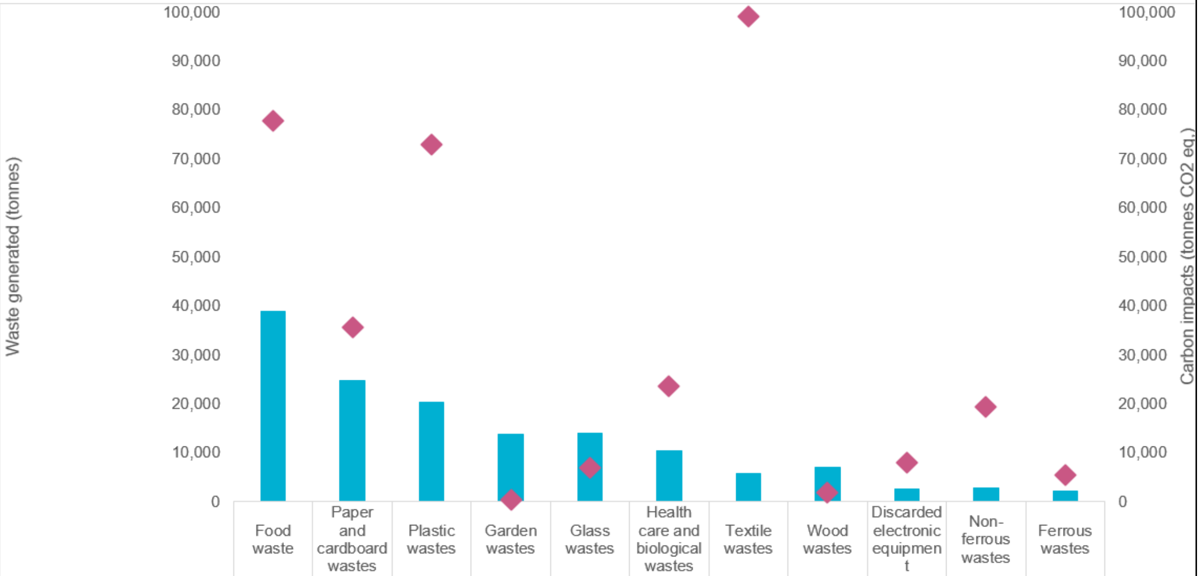


3.7 The different materials purchased, consumed and collected as waste have different impacts in terms of CO2e emissions. The following graphic shows the amount of waste collected by each waste category[1] and their associated carbon impacts. This highlights the importance of having a range of metrics available to decision makers tackling this issue, rather than solely relying upon the weight-based metric.

3.8 Textiles, plastic and food wastes are the most carbon-intensive fractions. It is interesting to highlight the importance of textile waste when it comes to carbon emissions, when the associated tonnages are relatively low. Textile production is hugely intensive in terms of carbon footprint and environmental impact. It is estimated that the fashion industry is responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions – more than international flights and maritime shipping combined.[2]

[1] Each category does not refer to waste tonnages in a single stream (e.g. "garden waste collected in civic amenity sites"), but rather to the total waste fraction that encompassed in multiple waste streams (e.g. garden waste collected in civic amenity sites, garden waste collected door-to-door, and garden waste improperly discarded in residual waste
[2] EPRS (2017) UN (2018)

3.9 **Weight vs carbon impacts of key wate categories in Belfast**



	Food waste	Paper and cardboard wastes	Plastic wastes	Garden wastes	Glass wastes	Health care and biological wastes	Textile wastes	Wood wastes	Discarded electronic equipment	Non-ferrous wastes	Ferrous wastes
Waste generated (tonnes)	38,724	24,688	20,165	13,823	14,040	10,429	5,619	6,883	2,581	2,787	2,214
Carbon impacts (tCO2eq.)	77,709	35,595	72,952	356	6,835	23,517	99,208	1,687	7,985	19,419	5,448

Scenarios

3.10 In relation to its waste activities, in order to achieve a 25% reduction in CO2e emissions by 2025, the Council must reduce its waste carbon impacts by 90,025 tCO_2eq, to a total of 275,075 tCO2eq. Given that most of the carbon impact is associated with the production of the item in the first place, various waste reduction scenarios are presented in the report to achieve this challenging goal with the spotlight on textiles, food, plastics, paper/cardboard wastes.

3.11 The report also outlines a number of scenarios which involve improved recycling. Increasing the recycling rate of plastics has the largest impact in terms of emissions reduction relative to business as usual. Increasing the recycling rates of paper, glass, and food can also help to reduce carbon emissions, but compared to the waste reduction scenario analysis, it is not as effective. It is important to note that the scenarios are indicative only, they do not reflect what may be achievable in an urban environment.

3.12 The report notes that further benefits could be achieved depending on the recycling routes used for the different materials. The impact of food waste recycling also depends on whether energy or fuel is produced, and on the bio-based products generated (soil conditioner, bio fertilisers, etc.). Therefore, in addition to increasing capture rate, exploring other treatment routes may bring further benefits.

3.13 During the compilation of the report where local data was unavailable, generic UK or European wide processes have been used to estimate life-cycle impacts. It should also be

	noted that the data may have been impacted by the covid pandemic and its influence on waste management operations during this period. In general, this seemed to depress recycling figures across the board.
	Conclusions
3.14	The 2020 carbon impacts of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste in Belfast are assessed by the International Carbon Metric at 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO_2eq.), or 1.05 tonnes CO_2eq./capita.
3.15	To achieve a 25% reduction by 2025 as part of the ACR+ 'More Circularity Less Carbon' campaign, Belfast must reduce its waste carbon impacts by approximately 90,000 tCO2eq, to a total of 270,000 tCO_2eq.
3.16	Prevention and re-use activities represent the main potential for reduction of carbon within waste management activities. In terms of levers to drive the prevention strand, much of this lies with central government policy which needs to create the environment to bring about the desired behavioural change. The Council can support any new policy direction through communications and collaboration with stakeholders such as the social enterprise and community organisations which currently make up the foundation blocks of the repair and re-use sector.
3.17	Further carbon savings can be achieved by capturing more materials for recycling instead of waste to energy (incineration) and landfilling. This is particularly the case for increased recycling of plastic (capture rate and quality of sorted plastic) although this may be more challenging for the Council when the Deposit Return Scheme is launched in 2025.
3.18	The Council must ensure that waste prevention, re-use and repair activities feature more prominently in the next waste plan which will be developed following completion of the DAERA waste strategy, due December 2023.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.19	There are no financial or resource implications associated with this report.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment
3.20	There are no good relations or rural needs associated with this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1 - More Circularity Less Carbon Report (2022).

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The Carbon Footprint of Waste

Belfast

ACR+ is an international network of cities and regions sharing the aim of promoting sustainable resource management and accelerating the transition towards a circular economy on their territories and beyond.

Circular economy calling for cooperation between all actors, ACR+ is open to other key players in the field of material resource management such as NGOs, academic institutions, consultancy or private organisations.

Find out more at www.acrplus.org

Zero Waste Scotland exists to lead Scotland to use products and resources responsibly, focusing on where we can have the greatest impact on climate change.

Using evidence and insight, our goal is to inform policy, and motivate individuals and businesses to embrace the environmental, economic, and social benefits of a circular economy.

We are a not-for-profit environmental organisation, funded by the Scottish Government and European Regional Development Fund.

Find out more at www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/

Project name: Carbon Metric International – ZWS & ACR+ partnership

Written by: Donald Chapman (Zero Waste Scotland), Jean-Benoit Bel (ACR+)

Reviewed by:

Research date: March – June 2022

Publication date:

Disclaimer:

While Zero Waste Scotland has taken reasonable steps to ensure the content of this document was correct in all material respects when originally drafted, it employs a methodology appropriate to the original purpose of the report. Accordingly, reliance should not be placed on this document if used for a purpose other than that for which it was expressly intended, and you should seek your own independent advice in connection with any use of the report or any information or data contained within it. Zero Waste Scotland does not accept liability for any loss, damage, cost or expense incurred or arising from reliance on this report. References in the report to any specific information, methods, models, data, databases, or tools do not imply endorsement by Zero Waste Scotland.

Contents

ACR+ 'More Circularity Less Carbon' campaign

The ACR+ has partnered with its member Zero Waste Scotland to launch the 'More Circularity Less Carbon' campaign in November 2019, to reduce the carbon impact of municipal waste among its members by 25% by 2025.

Zero Waste Scotland's Carbon Metric International (CMI) tool, developed from Scotland's ground-breaking Carbon Metric, will enable ACR+ members to measure the carbon impact of their municipal waste, take effective actions to reduce it, and track their progress towards the 2025 target.

Belfast is one of the ACR+ members which benefited from this project and received support to use the CMI to quantify the whole-life carbon impacts of its household waste. The results are summarised in this report, which has three main objectives:

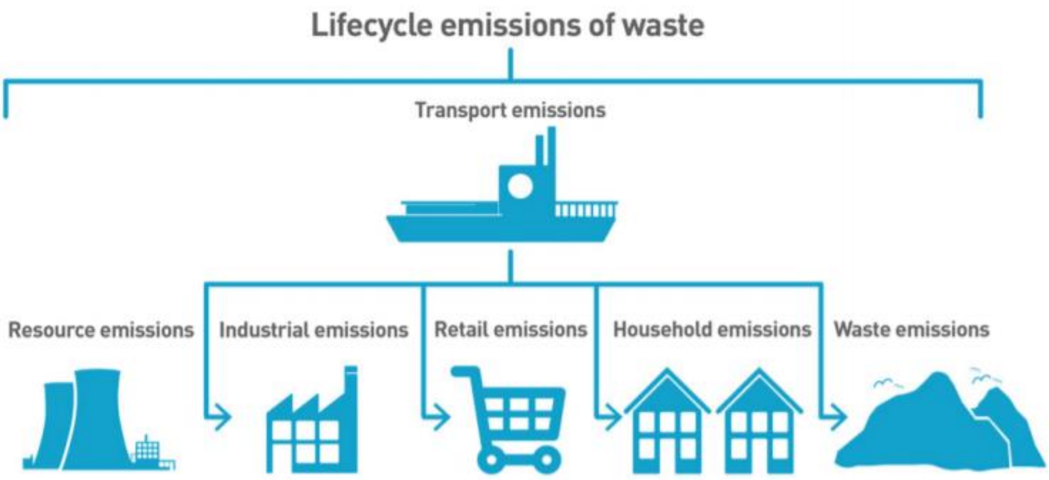
1. Provide a detailed breakdown of waste carbon impacts by materials and management process;
2. Enable Belfast to establish its 2025 waste carbon reduction target;
3. Assess several carbon reduction scenarios that can help Belfast achieve its target.

Zero Waste Scotland's Carbon Metric International

Zero Waste Scotland has developed a ground-breaking tool in the fight against global climate change. The Carbon Metric measures the whole-life carbon impacts of waste, from resource extraction and manufacturing emissions right through to waste management emissions, regardless of where in the world these impacts occur (Figure1).

"The Carbon Metric shows how reducing our waste, and managing what remains in a more sustainable way, is critical to the global fight against climate change."

Figure 1 Schematic diagram presenting the lifecycle emissions of waste.



The Carbon Metric provides policymakers and business leaders with an alternative to weight-based waste measurement, allowing them to identify and focus specifically on those waste materials with the highest carbon impacts and greatest potential carbon savings. Scotland's 33% per capita food waste reduction target is an example of a policy informed by the Carbon Metric[1].

Further details on the Carbon Metric methodology can be found on Zero Waste Scotland's website[2].

The Carbon Metric could be adapted to Belfast's data thanks to the collaborative work between Zero Waste Scotland and ACR+.

3 Method & Data source

The whole-life carbon impacts of **household waste** in Belfast were quantified in this report, based on 2020 data.

Stages covered in the analysis as follows:

- **Waste generated:** all waste generated by households in Belfast during the calendar year (2020). Embodied carbon impacts linked to the production of material (resource extraction, manufacturing and transport emissions) are included in this category. Impacts associated with the product's use (e.g. the impact of electricity consumption of an electronic good, or the impact of food storage and cooking) are excluded.
- **Waste recycled:** all recycled (or reused) materials, including biodegradable materials that have been composted or anaerobically digested. The analysis covers all activities linked to recycling waste, namely waste collection, sorting, recycling, and displacement benefits as recycled content substitutes virgin materials or for reuse.

[1] Scottish Government (2016) Making Things Last
[2] Zero Waste Scotland (2020) Carbon Metric Publications.

- **Waste incinerated:** all incinerated waste. The analysis covers waste collection and treatment (including carbon benefits of energy recovery as well as metal recovery when applicable).
- **Waste landfilled:** all landfilled waste, including incinerator ash and any recycling and composting rejects. The analysis covers the carbon impacts of waste collection and disposal.

4 About Belfast

Belfast is the capital and largest city in Northern Ireland. The population of Belfast in 2020 was 342,600[3]. Total amount of household waste generated in Belfast in 2020 was estimated to be 147,321 tonnes (Table 1), representing around 430 kg/capita. The data only includes waste generated by household, and no "assimilated" commercial waste. The composition of the generated household waste is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Breakdown of waste generated in Belfast in 2020.

Waste Category	Waste generated (tonnes)
Food waste	38,724
Paper and cardboard wastes	24,688
Plastic wastes	20,165
Glass wastes	14,040
Garden wastes	13,823
Health care and biological wastes	10,429
Wood wastes	6,883
Textile wastes	5,619
Non-ferrous wastes	2,787
Discarded electronic equipment	2,581
Ferrous wastes	2,214
Combustion wastes	2,196
Chemical wastes	1,726
Mixed ferrous and non-ferrous wastes	640
Household and similar wastes	458
Sorting residues	183
Mineral waste from C&D	73
Mixed and undifferentiated materials	55
Rubber wastes	21

[3] https://www.nisra.gov.uk/sites/nisra.gov.uk/files/publications/MYE20-Factsheets.pdf

Batteries wastes	15
Discarded vehicles	2
Total	147,321

Several waste categories can be further described:

- “Discarded vehicles” refers to discarded bikes.
- “Mixed and undifferentiated materials” designates Tetrapak packaging.
- “Household and similar wastes” includes mattresses waste and carpets waste.

4.1 Waste collection and separation

The main sources of materials are presented in the graph below:

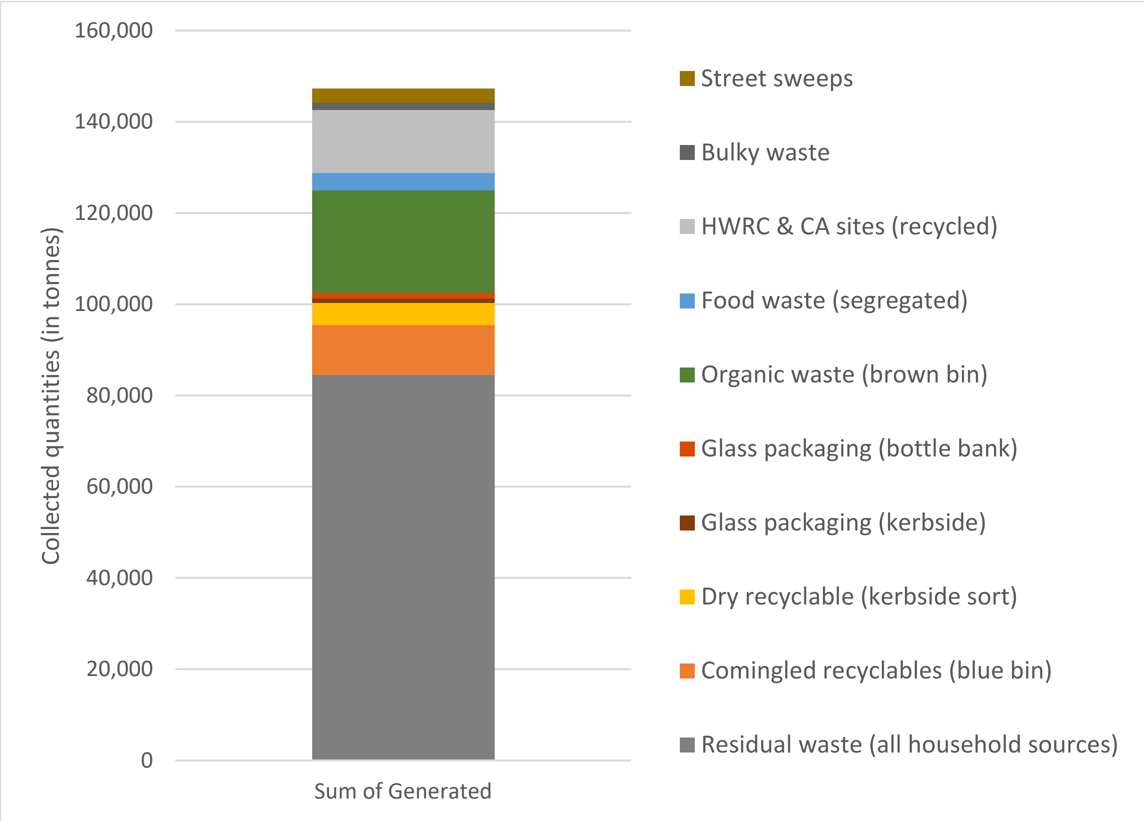


Figure 2 main collected waste streams in 2020 (in t)

Waste collection is organised differently in the city centre and in the outskirts of the city, explaining why there are different collection streams for dry recyclables and organic waste.

The composition of several streams is detailed below:

- The “co-mingled recyclate” collection (blue bin) includes paper and cardboard, metal packaging, Tetrapak, and plastic packaging.
- The “dry recyclables (kerbside sort)” refers to a segregated collection system operated by Bryson Recycling, consisting of four source-separated fractions collected at the kerbside in boxes: paper and cardboard, PMC (plastic, metal, and cartons), glass packaging, and food waste. Textile waste is also collected.
- Glass packaging waste is collected in bottle banks and in a pilot, in-house kerbside collection
- Mixed organic waste, brown bin collection refers to the comingled garden and food kerbside collection serviced by the Council.
- The segregated food waste streams are collected weekly by Bryson Recycling on the same Resource Recovery Vehicle as the segregated dry recyclables
- Bulky waste is collected at the kerbside.
- Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRCs) and Civic Amenity Sites are operated in-house and capture a range of bulky materials and additional

specialist wastes (paints, oils, mattresses, carpet, batteries, Waste Electrical & Electronic items)

- The data reported by Belfast City Council also includes street sweeps, which was not reported by previous MCLC participants.

Residual waste (kerbside & HWRC) street sweeps and bulky waste accounts for about 60% of the total collected quantities, while organic and recyclable waste collected on the kerbside and in bring banks represents about 30%. The remaining 10% of the total quantity is the recyclables collected at Household Waste Recycling Centres / civic amenity sites.

It is also interesting to see how the main materials are collected. The following graph shows in which waste streams the main materials are collected: kerbside schemes, HWRCs and civic amenity sites, unsorted and collected with residual waste, street sweeps, or bulky waste, or incorrectly placed in the wrong bin (for instance food waste collected with packaging waste, or glass packaging waste collected with paper and PMC i.e. contamination). The graph also shows the capture rate, meaning the share of materials that is separately collected compared to the total quantities generated.

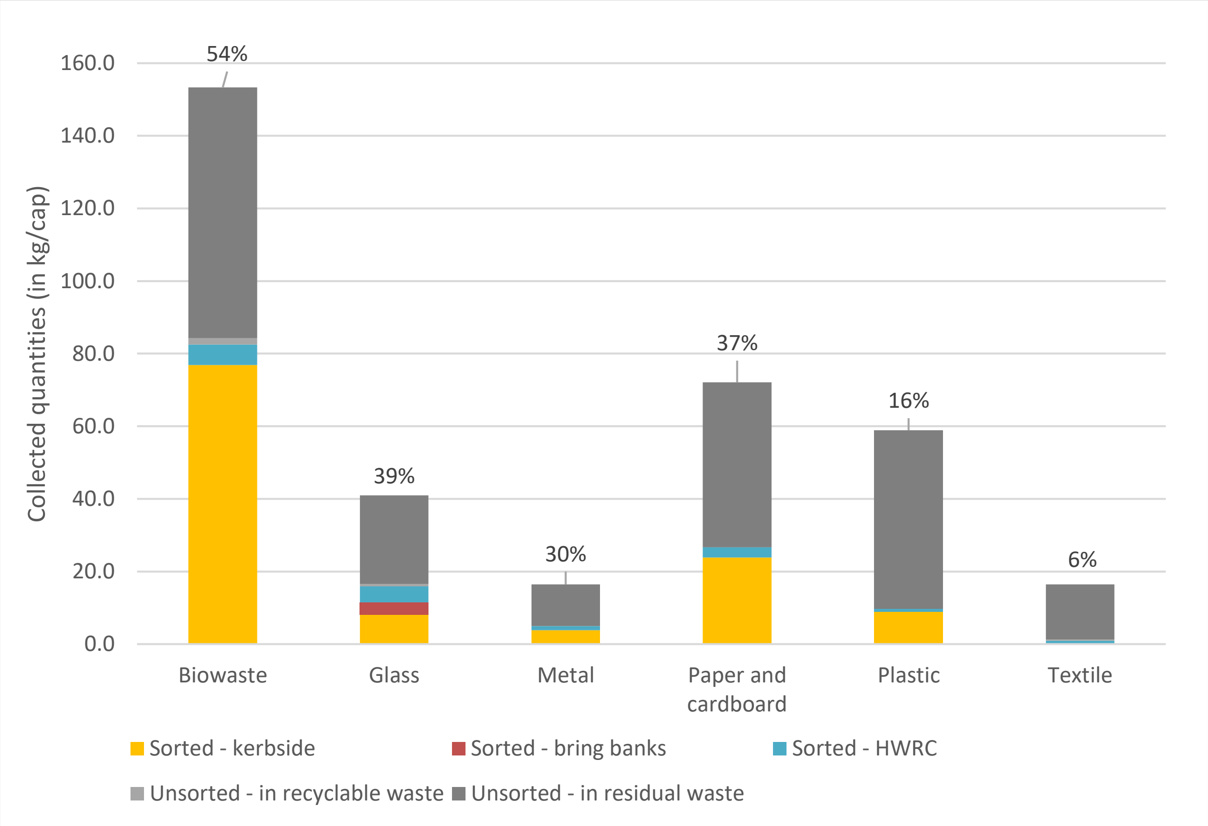


Figure 3 collected quantities in kg/cap for several waste fraction, by collection streams, and sorting rates in % (calculated as the quantities selectively collected and sent to recycling compared to the total arising).

Capture rates are relatively high for biowaste (including both food and garden waste), average for paper and cardboard, metal, and glass, and low for plastic and textile waste. Large quantities of recyclable waste remain within the residual waste stream.

4.2 Waste treatment

A breakdown of waste treatment and disposal route is shown in Figure 4. 43% of household waste is sent to recycling/composting, while the rest is sent to incineration and landfilling. The “other” category mostly refers to moisture loss during the solid recovered fuels processing of waste prior to incineration.

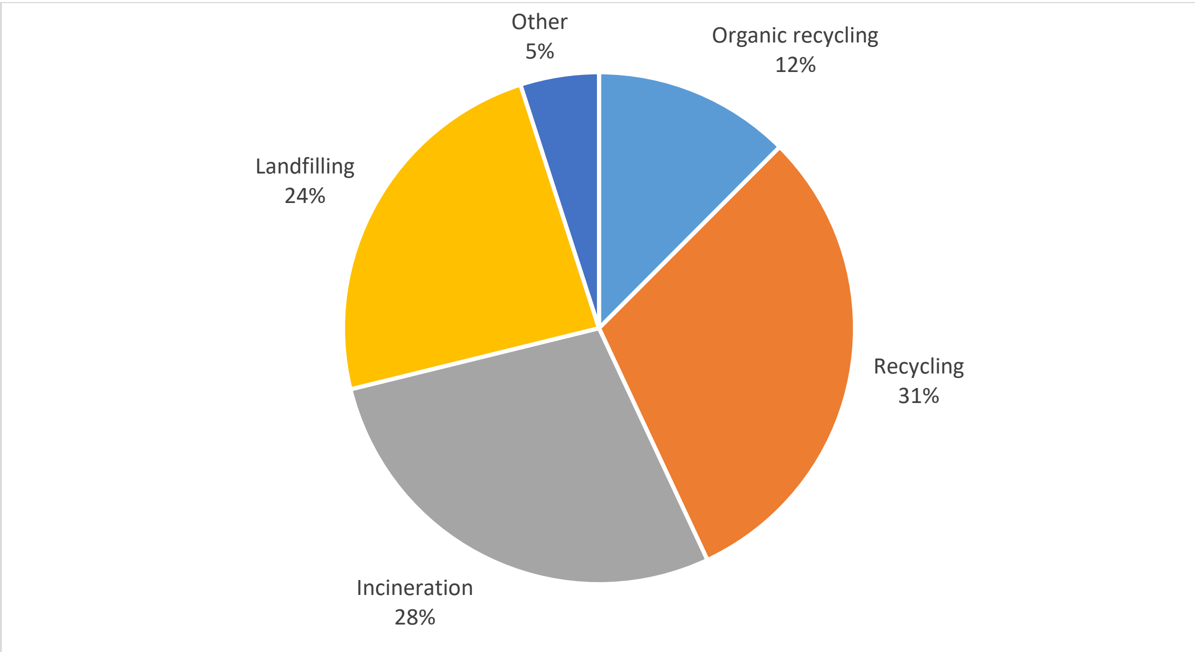


Figure 4 Final destination of household waste in 2020.

The distribution of each waste stream presented above according to its treatment destination is presented in the graph below:

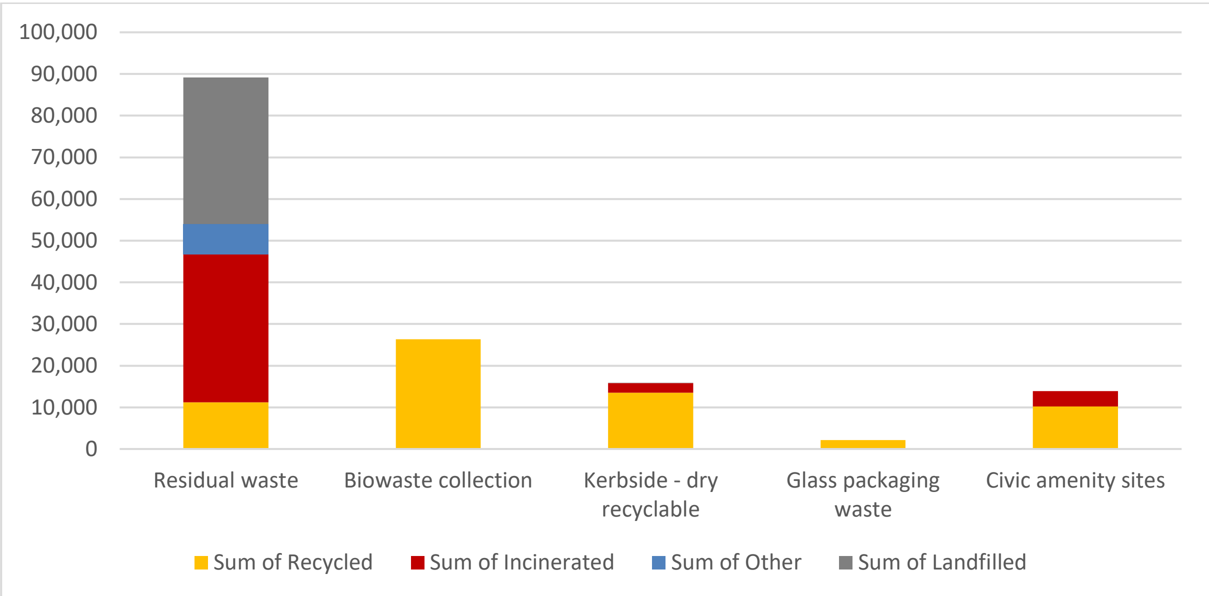


Figure 5 treatment destination for each of the reported waste stream (in t)

Approximately 65% of residual waste is sent to a sorting facility (“dirty Materials Recovery Facility”) that extracts recyclable materials to send for recycling, while the rest is either recovered as (RDF)/Solid Recovery Fuel (SRF) or sent to landfill. For the sorted fraction, contamination is not included (except for the contamination of the comingled dry recyclables collected in the” blue bin”).

More details on the treatment routes for the key waste streams are presented in the table below:

Waste stream	Treatment route
Residual waste	65% of residual waste is sent to a Materials Recovery Facility where a portion of the input is extracted for recycling (paper and cardboard, plastic, metal, glass, aggregate…) The remainder is either; processed as RDF/SRF and sold to Energy from Waste (EfW) operators or cement kilns. with residues disposed of at a landfill site. The other 35% of residual waste collected is directly sent to landfill. 77% of the incinerated waste is processed in a unit producing electricity, and 23% in a unit recovering heat only.
Food waste	44% of food waste is selectively collected, with 75% of the selectively collected food waste being collected together with garden waste at the kerbside. The remaining food waste stream is collected by means of a segregated, weekly collection. The rest is mostly collected together with residual waste. All separately collected organic waste including food is sent to in-vessel composting facilities.
Paper and packaging waste	Most paper and packaging waste is collected at the kerbside, either co-mingled or by means of segregated collection with paper/cardboard. Co-mingled streams recorded a contamination rate of approximately 14% in 2020.
Glass	Only about 40% of glass waste is selectively collected, mostly through kerbside collection, the HWRCs, and a network of bring banks. About 88% is sent to closed-loop recycling (e.g. bottle to bottle), while the rest recovered from the residual waste stream is sent to open-loop recycling as aggregate substitute.
Re-use	Re-used quantities are reported for three fractions: about 30 tonnes of large WEEE are re-used, as well as about 1 tonne of furniture and 3.3 tonnes of bikes.

Results

5.1 Key findings

The carbon impacts of household waste in Belfast in 2020 were approximately 360,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO_2eq.), or 1.05 tCO_2eq./capita. Figure 6 shows that carbon saved through recycling was slightly more than the carbon impacts of landfilling and incineration, meaning Belfast's waste management operation is net carbon negative. However, the embodied carbon impacts of waste material (i.e. the emissions generated by the extraction of resources, production, manufacturing, etc. of the corresponding products, labelled as "Generated" in Figure 6) are always the highest contributor to the net carbon impacts of waste , which is **why waste prevention, in accordance with the waste hierarchy, always offers the greatest carbon savings**. Accounting for the full lifecycle impacts, Belfast's waste carbon intensity is 2.4 tCO_2eq./tonne of waste collected.

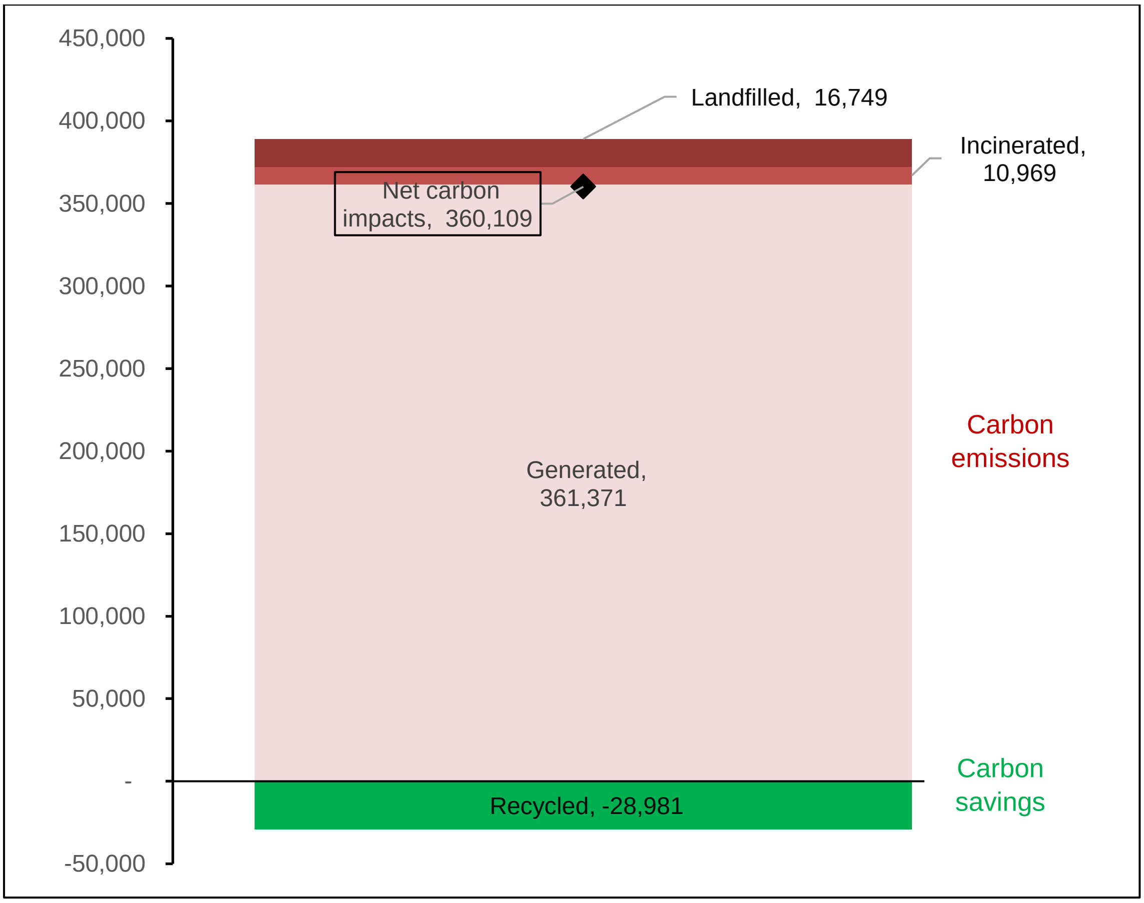


Figure 6 Breakdown of whole-life carbon impacts of waste by stage (tCO2eq).

Figure 7 shows that the amount of waste generated by each waste category[4] and their associated carbon impacts. Textile waste, plastic waste, and food waste are the most

[4] Each category does not refer to waste tonnages in a single stream (e.g. "garden waste collected in civic amenity sites"), but rather to the total waste fraction that encompassed in multiple waste streams (e.g. garden waste collected in civic amenity sites, garden waste collected door-to-door, and garden waste improperly discarded in residual waste

carbon-intensive fractions. It is interesting to highlight the importance of textile waste when it comes to carbon emissions, when the associated tonnages are relatively low.

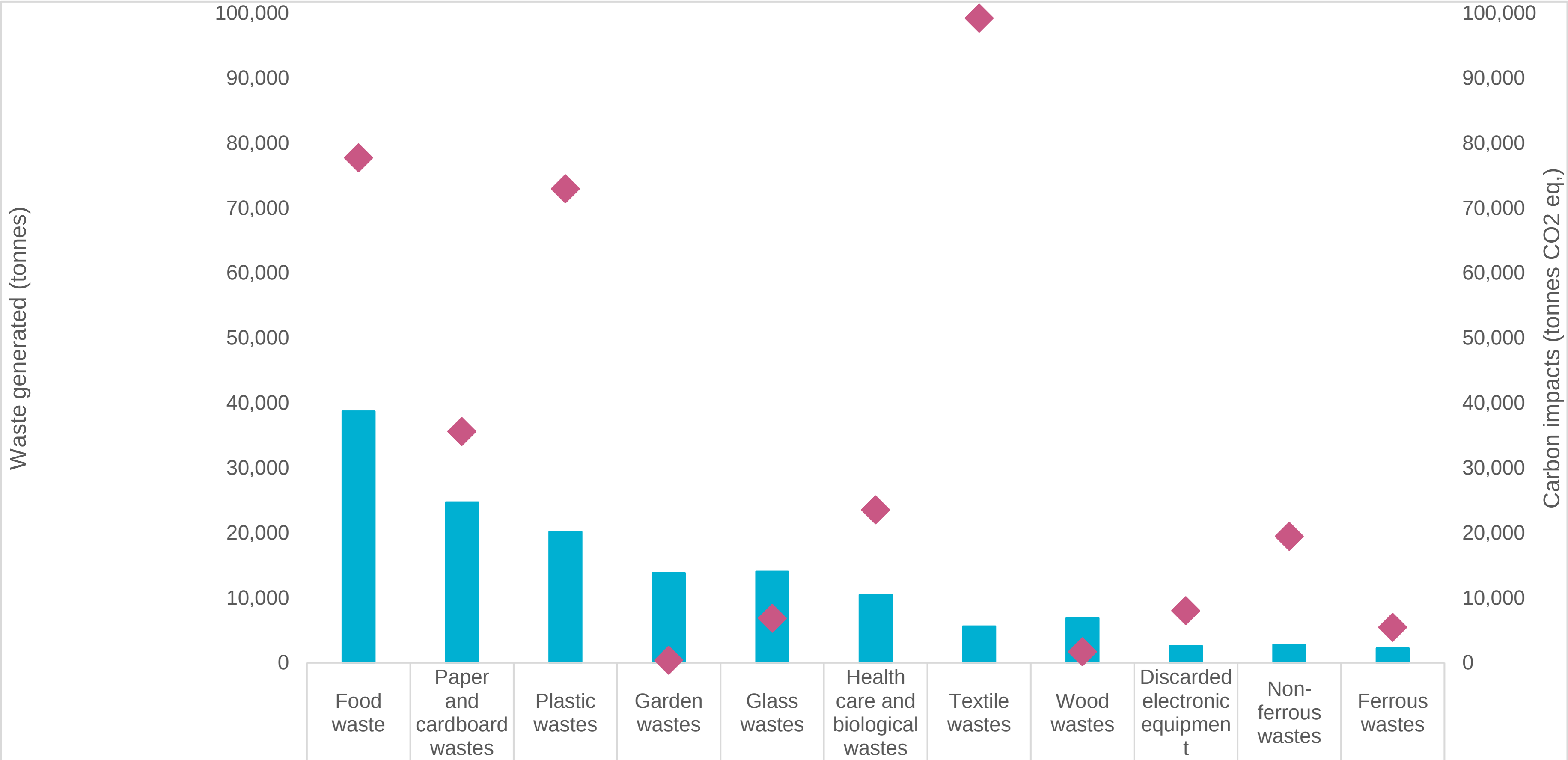
Further carbon savings can be achieved by capturing more materials for recycling instead of waste to energy (incineration) and landfilling (Figure 8). Overall, the vast majority of carbon impacts is attributed to the production of materials (i.e., “Generated”) as shown in Figure 9.

Overall, emissions linked to landfill account for around 5% of the total emissions. The impact of landfilling is most noticeable for paper/cardboard and food waste, accounting for approximately 18% and 7% of the waste streams’ total emissions, respectively.

The impact of waste to energy (incineration) is varied: the incineration of plastic waste accounts for 19% of the waste stream’s total net emissions, while energy recovery from the incineration of paper and cardboard waste offsets around 6% of the embodied emissions.

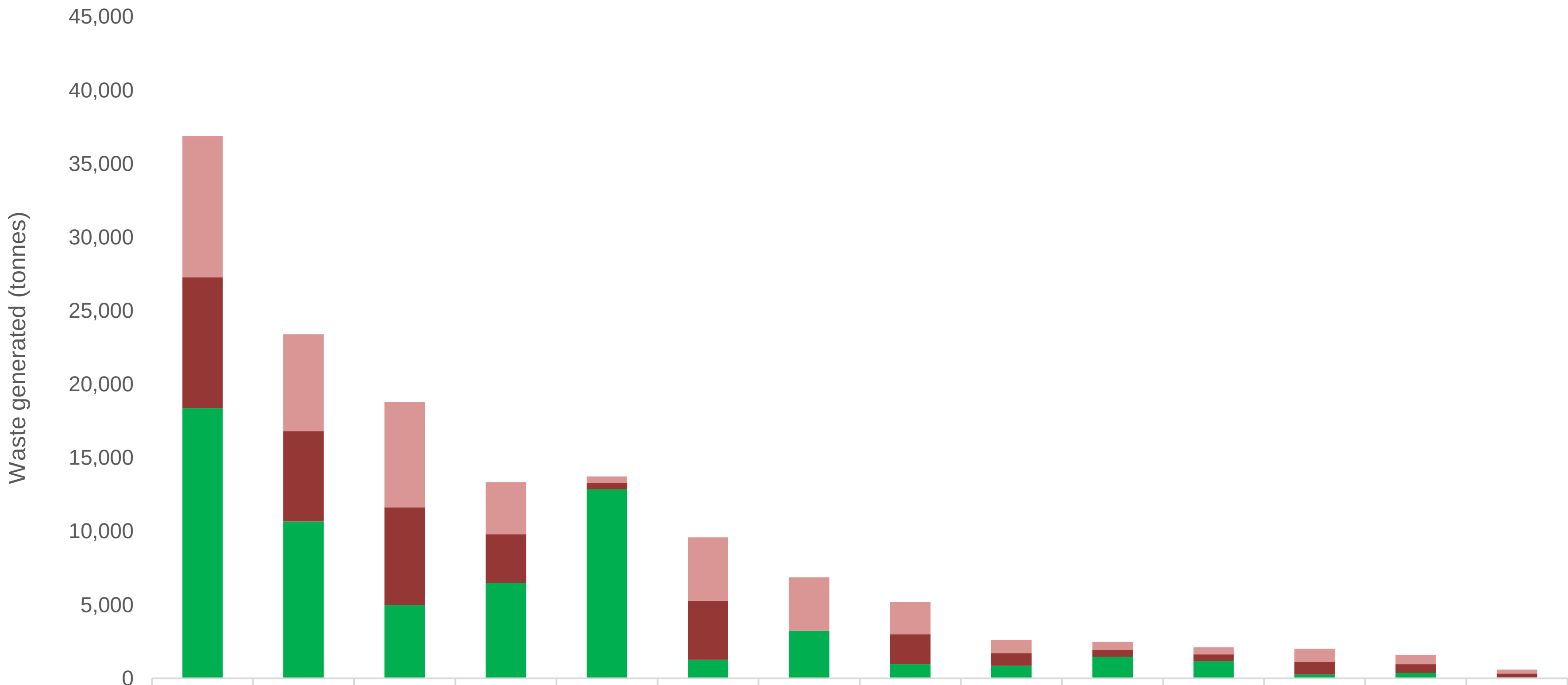
Recycling contributes to emissions reduction. The emissions saved by recycling amounts to approximately 8% of the embodied emissions of household waste. For glass and ferrous waste streams, recycling offsets 48% and 42% of the embodied emissions respectively. Recycling is also the most effective waste treatment option for textiles, plastics and non-ferrous metals compared to landfilling or incineration. The recycling impacts for textile waste include the impact of re-use, and in terms of carbon benefits (i.e., a reduction in carbon), re-use impacts dominate compared to recycling activities.

A detailed breakdown of waste tonnages and their impacts is available in Appendix 1 and 2 and can be used to identify areas for improvements in terms of both recycling rates and waste reduction.



	Food waste	Paper and cardboard wastes	Plastic wastes	Garden wastes	Glass wastes	Health care and biological wastes	Textile wastes	Wood wastes	Discarded electronic equipment	Non-ferrous wastes	Ferrous wastes
Waste generated (tonnes)	38,724	24,688	20,165	13,823	14,040	10,429	5,619	6,883	2,581	2,787	2,214
Carbon impacts (tCO2eq.)	77,709	35,595	72,952	356	6,835	23,517	99,208	1,687	7,985	19,419	5,448

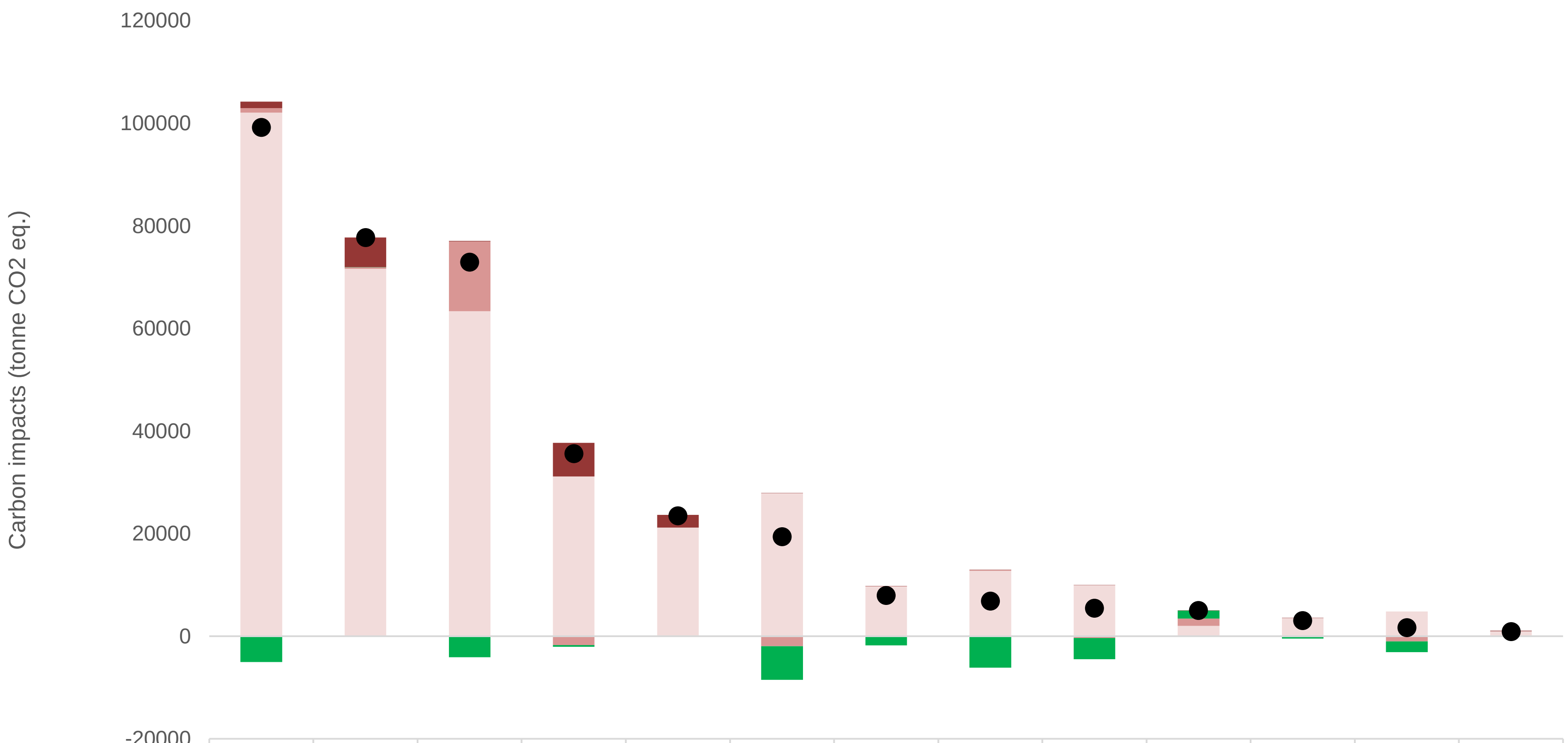
Figure 7 Weight vs carbon impacts of key wate categories in Belfast.



	Food waste	Paper and cardboard wastes	Plastic wastes	Glass wastes	Garden wastes	Health care and biological wastes	Wood wastes	Textile wastes	Non-ferrous wastes	Discarded electronic equipment	Ferrous wastes	Combustion wastes	Chemical wastes	Mixed ferrous and non-ferrous wastes
Incineration	9,578	6,593	7,141	3,552	453	4,307	3,645	2,192	907	529	491	907	642	264
Landfilled	8,915	6,137	6,647	3,306	422	4,009	-	2,040	844	492	457	844	598	246
Recycled	18,375	10,680	4,993	6,494	12,860	1,278	3,238	963	861	1,457	1,171	269	361	78
Generated	38,724	24,688	20,165	14,040	13,823	10,429	6,883	5,619	2,787	2,581	2,214	2,196	1,726	640

Waste category

Figure 8 Total tonnages of waste (key categories) in Belfast in 2020 by management route.

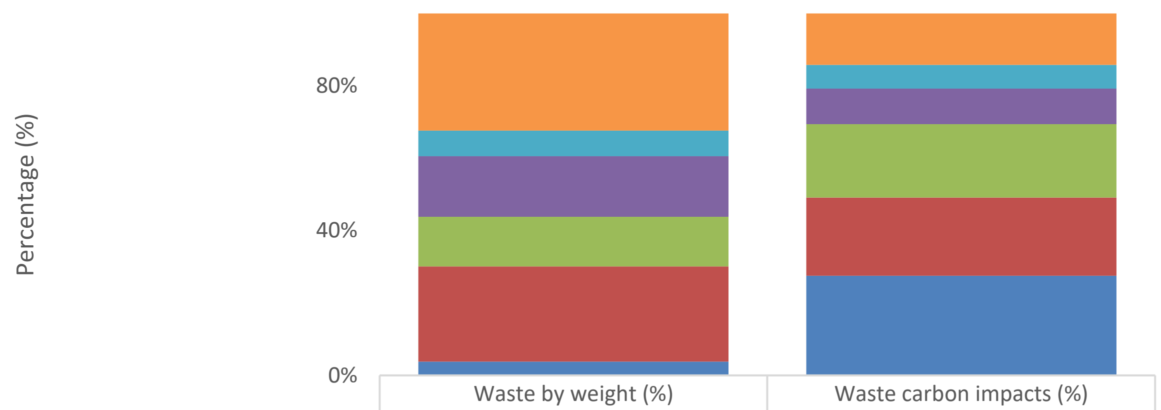


	Textile wastes	Food waste	Plastic wastes	Paper and cardboard wastes	Health care and biological wastes	Non-ferrous wastes	Discarded electronic equipment	Glass wastes	Ferrous wastes	Chemical wastes	Mixed ferrous and non-ferrous wastes	Wood wastes	Household and similar wastes
Landfilled (tCO2e)	1292	5747	96	6540	2504	17	20	52	9	69	5	0	90
Recycled (tCO2e)	-5026	64	-4101	-354	0	-6579	-1779	-6139	-4137	1518	-296	-2082	-136
Incineration (tCO2e)	850	253	13608	-1729	-143	-1934	30	169	-357	1445	-192	-1035	-11
Generated (tCO2e)	102092	71645	63349	31138	21157	27914	9715	12753	9932	2002	3541	4804	993
Total (tCO2e)	99208	77709	72952	35595	23517	19419	7985	6835	5448	5035	3059	1687	936

Figure 9 Whole-life carbon impacts of key waste categories by management route.

5.2 The Top Five Waste Materials: Weight vs. Carbon Impacts

Many of the high tonnage materials in Belfast's waste stream have relatively low carbon impacts (e.g. glass waste accounts for 10% of total waste generated by weight, but just 2% of total carbon impacts). The top five waste materials by carbon emissions in 2020, accounted for 86% of all carbon emissions, and 68% of the total weight. The largest contributor, textiles, accounts for only 4% by weight, but 28% of the carbon emissions.



	Waste by weight (%)	Waste carbon impacts (%)
All Other	32%	14%
Health care and biological wastes	7%	7%
Paper and cardboard wastes	17%	10%
Plastic wastes	14%	20%
Food waste	26%	22%
Textile wastes	4%	28%

Figure 10: Top five waste materials by carbon impacts and the associated weight

5.3 Scenario analysis

Belfast must reduce its waste carbon impacts by 90,025 tCO_2eq, to a total of 275,075 tCO_2eq by 2025, in order to achieve the 25% ACR+ target. A scenario analysis was carried out to investigate scenarios that Belfast might use to accomplish this.

As part of this project, we investigated waste-reduction scenarios that could help Belfast achieve the target. To achieve the 2025 carbon savings target, focus should be placed on the largest contributors to carbon emissions; the scenarios considered therefore focus on:

1. Textile waste
2. Food waste
3. Plastic waste
4. Paper and cardboard wastes
5. Health care and biological wastes

Table 2 lists scenarios considered in this analysis and their results, also presented in Figure 11.

Table 2 Summary of the scenario analysis results.

Scenario number	Description	Total carbon impacts (Tonnes CO_2eq.)	Reduction rate (%)
Scenario 0	Business as usual (BAU)	360,100	-
Scenario 1	Targeted materials - 20% reduction (all)	298,300	-17%
Scenario 2	Textile (50%), Food (20%), remaining targeted materials (20%)	268,600	-25%
Scenario 3	Textile (30%), Food (50%), remaining targeted materials (20%)	265,100	-26%
Scenario 4	All materials (25%)	270,081	-25%

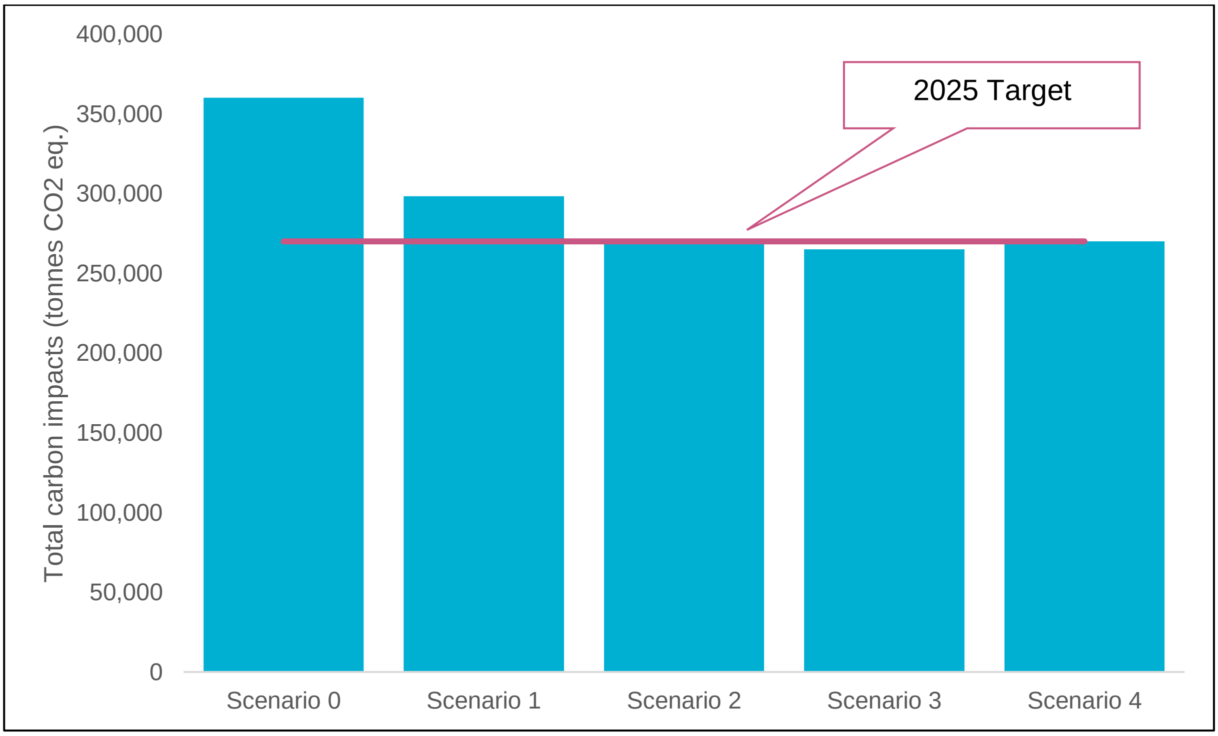


Figure 11 Results of the scenario analysis.

Results, presented in Figure 11, suggest Belfast can meet the 2025 carbon reduction target by adopting one of the following strategies:

1. Reduce the amount of textile waste by 50%, food waste by at least 20%, and other targeted waste materials (i.e., plastic, paper and cardboard, and health care and biological waste) by 20%; or

2. Reduce textile waste by 30%, food waste by 50%, and other targeted materials by 20%.
3. Introduce a waste reduction target of 25% for **all** materials.

In addition to waste reduction strategies, we also considered increasing recycling rates of plastics, glass, and food to 90%. The recycling processes themselves remain unchanged (i.e., the carbon factors for recycling in each waste stream are not changed). Table 3 shows the results. Increasing the recycling rate of plastics has the largest impact in terms of emissions reduction relative to business as usual. Increasing the recycling rates of paper, glass, and food can also help to reduce carbon emissions, but compared to the waste reduction scenario analysis, it is not as effective.

Table 3: Summary of recycling scenario analysis.

Material	New recycling rate (Old recycling rate)	Reduction (t CO2eq)	Reduction (%)
Plastics	90% (25%)	23,899	6.6%
Glass	90% (46%)	6,004	1.7%
Food	90% (47%)	5265	1.5%
Total		**35,169**	**9.8%**

Note that these results are indicative only, they do not reflect what may be feasible. While other European cities could reach a 90% recycling rate for glass, there are no or few examples of territories that could recycle 90% of food waste, or 90% of plastic waste. For plastic waste, such performance might be achieved through the use of deposit-return schemes applied to beverage packaging.

Further benefits could be achieved depending on the recycling routes used for the different materials. For instance, bottle-to-bottle recycling yields more benefits than open-loop recycling for glass packaging (although, given Belfast's high closed-loop recycling rate, improving this further may be unfeasible). The impact of food waste recycling also depends on whether energy is produced, and on the bio-based products generated (soil conditioner, bio fertilisers, etc.). Therefore, in addition to increasing capture rate, exploring other treatment routes may bring further benefits.

Due to the limited availability of data necessary to develop Belfast-specific carbon factors, the Zero Waste Scotland's analysis team used insights provided by partners in Belfast alongside default datasets based on the Scottish Carbon Metric[5] to estimate the carbon impacts of waste generated in Belfast. Default datasets used include substitution rate (amount of virgin material offset by recycling), and the composition of

[5] Zero Waste Scotland (2020) The Carbon Footprint of Scotland's Waste Technical Report [Online]. Available at: www.zerowastescotland.org.uk/

a number of waste categories (e.g. textile, food). In addition, generic UK or European wide processes have been used to estimate life-cycle impacts. Identifying Belfast specific data for these parameters and processes might provide more accurate assessment and have an impact of the recommendations, e.g. regarding the potential reduction or recycling of specific waste fractions. As an example, it could be relevant to analyse the current re-use rate for textile waste and possibilities to increase the re-used quantities.

It should also be noted that the data may have been impacted by the covid pandemic and its influence on waste management operations during this period. In general this seemed to depress recycling figures across the board.

Conclusion

The 2020 carbon impacts of municipal waste in Belfast are assessed by the Carbon Metric at **360 thousand** tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (t CO_2eq.), or **1.05 tonnes CO_2eq./capita**.

To achieve a 25% reduction by 2025 as part of the ACR+ 'More Circularity Less Carbon' campaign, Belfast must reduce its waste carbon impacts by approximately 90 thousand tCO2eq, to a total of 270 thousand tCO_2eq.

A number of scenarios, that focus on waste prevention measures, have been investigated in this report to explore pathways for Belfast to achieve the 2025 target. Prevention and re-use encompass the main potential for reduction, but significant reductions could also be achieved by increasing the recycling of plastic, meaning increasing the capture rate and quality of sorted plastic. However, the benefits associated with recycling are generally lower than those associated with prevention and re-use.

Follow-up activities might include further investigation on the actual composition of carbon intensive materials as discussed previously, as well as the identification of actions and policies that could contribute to reach the aforementioned reduction targets. Comparing these figures with the other participants to the MCLC campaign will also help to put these figures in perspective.

Appendices

Appendix 1 Total amount of waste generated in Belfast (2020). Unit: tonnes

Waste category	Generated	Recycled	Incinerated	Landfilled	Other diversion
Acid, alkaline or saline wastes	-	-	-	-	-
Animal faeces, urine and manure	-	-	-	-	-
Batteries wastes	15	15	-	-	-
Chemical wastes	1,726	361	642	598	124
Combustion wastes	2,196	269	907	844	176
Common sludges	-	-	-	-	-
Discarded electronic equipment	2,581	1,457	529	492	102
Discarded vehicles	2	2	-	-	-
Dredging spoils	-	-	-	-	-
Ferrous wastes	2,214	1,171	491	457	95
Food waste	38,724	18,375	9,578	8,915	1,855
Garden wastes	13,823	12,860	453	422	88
Glass wastes	14,040	6,494	3,552	3,306	688
Health care and biological wastes	10,429	1,278	4,307	4,009	834
Household and similar wastes	458	137	151	141	29
Industrial effluent sludges	-	-	-	-	-
Mineral waste from C&D	73	73	-	-	-
Mineral wastes from waste treatment and stabilised wastes	-	-	-	-	-
Mixed and undifferentiated materials	55	55	-	-	-
Mixed ferrous and non-ferrous wastes	640	78	264	246	51
Non-ferrous wastes	2,787	861	907	844	176
Other mineral wastes	-	-	-	-	-
Paper and cardboard wastes	24,688	10,680	6,593	6,137	1,277
Plastic wastes	20,165	4,993	7,141	6,647	1,383
Rubber wastes	21	21	-	-	-
Sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment	-	-	-	-	-
Soils	-	-	-	-	-
Sorting residues	183	22	76	70	15
Spent solvents	-	-	-	-	-
Textile wastes	5,619	963	2,192	2,040	424
Used oils	-	-	-	-	-
Waste containing PCB	-	-	-	-	-
Wood wastes	6,883	3,238	3,645	-	-
Grand Total	**147,321**	**63,405**	**41,429**	**35,169**	**7,317**

Appendix 2 Whole-life carbon impacts of waste generated in Belfast (2020). Unit: tonne CO_2 eq.

Waste category	Generated	Recycled	Incinerated (energy from waste)	Landfilled
Acid, alkaline or saline wastes	-	-	-	-
Animal faeces, urine and manure	-	-	-	-
Batteries wastes	85	-14	-	-
Chemical wastes	2,002	1,518	1,445	69
Combustion wastes	-	-	-	9
Common sludges	-	-	-	-
Discarded electronic equipment	9,715	-1,779	30	20
Discarded vehicles	18	-13	-	-
Dredging spoils	-	-	-	-
Ferrous wastes	9,932	-4,137	-357	9
Food waste	71,645	64	253	5,747
Garden wastes	-	105	-9	260
Glass wastes	12,753	-6,139	169	52
Health care and biological wastes	21,157	-	-143	2,504
Household and similar wastes	993	-136	-11	90
Industrial effluent sludges	-	-	-	-
Mineral waste from C&D	27	0	-	-
Mineral wastes from waste treatment and stabilised wastes	-	-	-	-
Mixed and undifferentiated materials	147	15	-	-
Mixed ferrous and non-ferrous wastes	3,541	-296	-192	5
Non-ferrous wastes	27,914	-6,579	-1,934	17
Other mineral wastes	-	-	-	-
Paper and cardboard wastes	31,138	-354	-1,729	6,540
Plastic wastes	63,349	-4,101	13,608	96
Rubber wastes	58	-27	-	-
Sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment	-	-	-	-
Soils	-	-	-	-
Sorting residues	-	-	23	40
Spent solvents	-	-	-	-
Textile wastes	102,092	-5,026	850	1,292
Used oils	-	-	-	-
Waste containing PCB	-	-	-	-
Wood wastes	4,804	-2,082	-1,035	-
Grand Total	**361,371**	**-28,981**	**10,969**	**16,749**

Appendix 3 Carbon factors for household waste generated in Belfast (2020). Unit: tonne CO_2 eq. per tonne of waste.

Model Waste Category	Generated	Recycled	Incinerated (Energy from waste)	Landfilled
Acid, alkaline or saline wastes	2.01	-	2.24	-
Animal faeces, urine and manure	-	-	-	-
Batteries wastes	5.69	-0.92	0.41	0.10
Chemical wastes	1.16	4.20	2.25	0.12
Combustion wastes	-	-	-	0.01
Common sludges	-	-	-	-
Discarded electronic equipment	3.76	-1.22	0.06	0.04
Discarded vehicles	8.00	-5.91	-	-
Dredging spoils	-	-	-	-
Ferrous wastes	4.49	-3.53	-0.73	0.02
Food waste	1.85	0.00	0.03	0.64
Garden wastes	-	0.01	-0.02	0.62
Glass wastes	0.91	-0.95	0.05	0.02
Health care and biological wastes	2.03	-	-0.03	0.62
Household and similar wastes	2.17	-0.99	-0.07	0.64
Industrial effluent sludges	-	-	-	-
Mineral waste from C&D	0.37	0.00	0.05	0.01
Mineral wastes from waste treatment and stabilised wastes	-	-	-	-
Mixed and undifferentiated materials	2.69	0.27	0.17	0.67
Mixed ferrous and non-ferrous wastes	5.53	-3.77	-0.73	0.02
Non-ferrous wastes	10.01	-7.64	-2.13	0.02
Other mineral wastes	-	-	-	-
Paper and cardboard wastes	1.26	-0.03	-0.26	1.07
Plastic wastes	3.14	-0.82	1.91	0.01
Rubber wastes	2.76	-1.28	1.29	0.02
Sludges and liquid wastes from waste treatment	-	-	-	-
Soils	0.01	0.00	-	0.02
Sorting residues	-	-	0.31	0.56
Spent solvents	0.97	-	1.97	-
Textile wastes	18.17	-5.22	0.39	0.63
Used oils	1.22	-0.70	1.96	-
Waste containing PCB	-	-	-	-
Wood wastes	0.70	-0.64	-0.28	0.83

-25%
BY 2025

MORE CIRCULARITY
LESS CARBON

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Belfast Boxing Strategy 2022-2023 Quarter 3 - Update and extension of programme for 2023-2024
Date:	7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of the Belfast Boxing Strategy for the period October to December 2022 (Quarter 3) and to seek committee approval to extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and delivery of the related programme for a further year to 31st March 2024 pending the production of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy for Belfast.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: i. Note the progress to date of the strategy annual work plan for the current year 2022/23. ii. Extend the Belfast Boxing Strategy and delivery of the related programme from 1st April 2023 to 31st March 2024 pending the production of the new Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy for Belfast

3.0	**Main report**
	<u>Background</u>
3.1	Council agreed, through the January 2018 Strategic Policy and Resources Committee, to provide £200,000 to the Irish Athletic Boxing Association Ulster Branch (IABA) for delivery of an agreed annual action plan supporting the Belfast Boxing Strategy. The current strategy is scheduled to finish on 31st March 2023
3.2	The IABA provided SP&R with a detailed breakdown of programmes to be delivered under six main areas. Salary – Development Officer and Coaches, Pathways, Events, Coach Education, Club Support and Governance.
3.3	Following this decision, the Belfast Boxing Strategy Steering Group has met quarterly with the most recent meeting taking place via MS Teams on 9 February 2023. The Steering Group is chaired by the Director of Neighbourhood Services with council officers, IABA officers and officials and County Antrim Board officials attending. Small variations to the budget across the six areas have been agreed to assist prioritisation in line with the agreed annual action plan.
	<u>Monitoring</u>
3.4	The Leisure Development Unit works directly with IABA officials to verify reporting on performance, vouching actual spend and provides detailed reports for discussion at the Steering Group.
	<u>Performance</u>
3.5	Council agreed a total of 37 Indicators with IABA to monitor delivery of the programmes. IABA have complied with reporting requirements and their performance report for 22/23 Quarter 3 is at Appendix 1. IABA have provided narrative against each of the KPIs to describe progress against each indicator and have advised that they anticipate that all KPIs will be achieved by the end of 22/23
3.6	<u>23/24 Action Plan</u> Pending the development of council's Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy. the IABA has asked that committee extend the current strategy and related level of annual support for a further 12 month period. In support of the request, they have developed a new programme action plan relating for 2023/24. The plan is attached at Appendix 2

	Financial & Resource Implications
3.7	A total of £200,000 is available within the current financial year to support the current Action Plan. It is likely that the full budget will be expended. A total of £200,000 has been included within the budget estimates for 2023-2024.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment
3.8	The strategy was equality screened in line with the Council's equality process. The screening showed that there were potential adverse impacts on a number of groups including females and people with a disability and mitigating actions were added to the strategy. Members agreed that an equality screening be undertaken prior to a decision being made in relation to funding for 19/20. Officers have finalised this screening and the initial findings show that progress has been made in increasing the participation of underrepresented groups and this has been reported separately through the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee. The IABA continue to target underrepresented groups in its delivery of the 22/23 programme with particular focus on the events, club based sessions and the non-contact boxing programme.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix (i): IABA 2022-2023 Quarter 3 Performance Report Appendix (ii): IABA 2023-2024 Proposed Action Plan

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Boxing Strategy KPI Report 22-23 Q3					
KPI	**Description**	**Female**	**Male**	**Total**	**Commentary**
1.1	Run 3 talent squads in Belfast (2 Male 1 Female)	0	0	0	These start on Tuesday 10th January 2023
1.2	To Run competitive opportunities for Belfast talent squads (2/3)	0	0	0	ongoing
1.3	Number of boxers getting Elite Gym Membership	0	0	0	GLL foundation grants currently open and close on 20th Feb
1.5	Number of boxers obtaining support for sport funding or outside funding	0	0	0	Completed Support for Sport Tranche 1 currently open also
2.1	To run 1 volunteer education event with 32 clubs represented and 40 participants	0	0	0	We have planned this for Feb/March 2023
2.2	To run 1 Volunteer recognition event with a minimum of 30 participants from clubs present	0	0	0	We have planned this for Feb/March 2024
3.1	To run 1 Scoring/Event Official Course per year with 10 newly trained officals	0	0	0	This will take place in Jan 2023
3.2	To run 1 Referee and Judging Course per year with 20 newly trained officals	0	0	0	We are working with the new national R&J committee on a date
3.3	Delivery of a minimum of 2 Committee training courses throughout the year to improve club governance	14	25	39	Safeguarding Courses took place with the following clubs in attendance(St Pauls, Ledley Hall, Eastside, Midland, St John Bosco, Dockers, Oliver Plunkett, Holy Trinity, Immaculat). First Aid in Sport Course 12 Belfast participants took part (Mc Cullaghs, Ormeau Road, Cairnlodge, Saints, Sacred Heart, Ledley Hall).

4.1	5 coaches receive talent coach training and mentoring	1	6	7	This is ongoing through the Ulster HP
4.2	20 new grassroots coaches trained	5	16	21	Belfast Fundementals coaching course including clubs (Emerald, Gleann, Ormeau Road, St John Bosco, McCullaghs, Sacred Heart, Holy Trinity, Dockers, St Georges, St Michaels).
4.3	50 new people accessing online resources	5	8	13	E-Coach modules completed in Mental Health for young players & Equality, Diversity & Inclusion in sport. Clubs included (Dockers, St Georges, St John Bosco, Emerald, Ardoyne, Ormeau Road).
4.4	Increase the number of female coaches	5		5	5 Female took part in the Fundementals course.
4.5	To work with mental health training providers to design a toolkit for every club and to deliver training and webinars. To encourage clubs to appoint a Mental Health and Wellbeing Champion. 10 Clubs to be involved	6	20	26	St Michael Boxing Club received a seminar workshop from our mental health partners TAMHI we have clubs who are also working with TAMHI in Q4
4.6	5 clubs trained on inclusive boxing module			21	21 New coaches completed the CARA inclusive boxing module on the new Fundementals course.
5.1	160 participants at come and try it event	89	126	215	Pupils from schools across the city attended the come try boxing day of boxing event

5.2	1600 pupils taking part in non contact boxing sessions	289	584	873	Schools programme included(St John the Baptist, Scoil Na Fuiseoige, Our Lady of Lourdes, St Jospehs College, Christ the Redeemer, Holy Evangelist, St Oliver Plunkett PS, Hazelwood College, Ashfield Girls)
5.3	160 participants at Belfast Day of Boxing	89	126	215	Pupils from schools across the city attended the come try boxing day of boxing event
5.4.1	2 new clubs established and availing of seeding grant			0	No new Belfast clubs this season
5.4.2	4 clubs obtaining equipment grants			0	Will go out Feb midterm
5.4.3	27 clubs obtaining membership development grants			0	18 clubs from across the city availed of the Halloween membership growth grants . Club who missed out will be offered at midterm.
5.5	50 new members in Belfast clubs	16	73	89	Our two medical days saw 89 new boxers registered from clubs in Belfast
5.6	15 clubs receiving for support for sport grants			0	Tranche 1 Currently open
5.7	180 participants in holiday camps	72	288	360	18 Clubs from across the city with a total of 360 participants took part in the Halloween membership growth schemes.
6.1.1	2 clubs to attain clubmark accreditation			0	Ongoing work with several clubs

6.1.2	8 clubs to attain reaccreditation				Ongoing work with several clubs
6.2	180 participants in good relations programme	72	288	360	18 Clubs from across the city with a total of 360 participants took part in the Halloween membership growth schemes.
7.1	Deliver 8 local events			0	Antrim 3's Jan 2023, Antrim 6's Feb 2023, County Antrim 4-7s March 2023 Intercounty March 2023
7.2	Deliver 2 international events			2	Halloween Open Box Cup 7 Harry Cunningham Youth International
7.3	150 male competitors		212	212	Halloween Open Box Cup 7 Harry Cunningham Youth International
7.4	50 female competitors		38	28	Halloween Open Box Cup 7 Harry Cunningham Youth International
7.5	50 visiting competitors		62	62	Halloween Open Box Cup 7 Harry Cunningham Youth International
7.6	150 Belfast competitors		189	189	Halloween Open Box Cup 7 Harry Cunningham Youth International
7.7	5 visiting officials		7	7	Halloween Open Box Cup 7 Harry Cunningham Youth International
7.8	15 Belfast officials		21	21	Halloween Open Box Cup 7 Harry Cunningham Youth International

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2023-2024 Plan

SUMMARY OF STRATEGIC CHALLENGES, AIMS AND KPIS

Strategic Challenge	Pathways	Coach Education	Club Development and Grassroots	Governance
Strategic Aims	1.0 To have an effective efficient Pathway to engage and nurture talent within Belfast. 2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast 3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast. 7.0 Events Schedule and Numbers.	4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are trained to the highest standards within Belfast	5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast	6.0 To promote and sustain good governance standards within Belfast boxing clubs.
KPI'S	1.1/1.2 - To run 2/3 talent squads in Belfast. 1.3 - To run competitive opportunities for Belfast talent squads 1.4 -To monitor numbers of boxers getting free elite gym membership 1.5 – 6 talented boxers obtaining outside funding 2.1 - 1 volunteer education event with 32 clubs represented 2.2 - 1 volunteer recognition event with 32 clubs represented 3.1 -Officials to receive training in line with world standards and systems. 3.2 - 20 new referees and judges per year 3.3 - Training for volunteers/committee members in line with best practice skills and procedures. 7.1 – 8 Local Events per year 7.2 – 2 International Events per year 7.3 – 150 male competitors 7.4 – 50 Female competitors 7.5 – 50 visiting competitors 7.6 – 150 Belfast competitors 7.7 - 5 visiting officials 7.8 – 15 Belfast officials	4.1 -5 coaches to received talented coach bespoke training and mentoring. 4.2 -20 new coaches to be trained each year. 4.3 - 50 people accessing online coaching area to be updated on a regular basis. 4.4 - Increase the number of female coaches across the city 7 new female coaches. 4.5 - All clubs to receive personalised toolkit with 10 of clubs to be trained up and appoint a mental health champion 4.6- Inclusive boxing module to be rolled out to clubs and volunteers. 5 clubs to participate.	5.1 - 160 participants at come and try it event & Day of Boxing events 5.2- 1600 pupils to take part in non-contact boxing 5.3.1 -No. of new clubs to be developed per year and to avail of seeding grant- target 2 5.3.2- No. of clubs to obtain equipment grants per year- target of 4 5.3.3 -No of clubs to obtain-membership growth grant- target of 22. 5.3.4 - Online Membership retention / community Partnership 5.4 - 50 of new members to boxing within Belfast. 5.5 -32 of clubs availing of the grant aid above. 5.6 - 15 clubs to Belfast City Council Community Support Funding 5.7 -180 participants on holiday camps per annum	6.1 -2 clubs to attain Club mark accreditation or 8 - 10reaccreditation per year. 6.2 - Delivery of good relations programme to 180 participants within the holiday camps.
Budgets	£19,500- Pathways & £42,000- Events	£11,500	£19,093	£2,000
Salaries				£105,907
Total				£200,000

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 1: PATHWAYS- FROM GRASSROOTS- TALENT-ELITE (BOXERS, VOLUNTEERS AND OFFICIALS)

1.0 Aim	**1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent.**			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
1.1/1.2 To run talent squads within Belfast for the following age groups. Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts & Open Class boys 6+ Bouts) Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)	1.2 To run talent squads within Belfast for the following age groups. Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts & Open Class boys 6+ Bouts) Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)	IABA High Performance Coach will oversee the design of the programme. In addition to his staff time, we will also ensure that the IABA Assistant High-Performance Coach takes some sessions for the talented coaches who will deliver the squad training. The Assistant HP Coach in Ulster will mentor the coaches taking the talent squad training sessions. All Squads will also be brought up to the High-Performance Unit in UUJ to take part in a session with the High-Performance Coach.	All Belfast Clubs who cater for the following age groups: Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x Open Class boys 6+ Bouts) Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)	IABA Staff time – High Performance Coach and Assistant High-Performance Coach Belfast City Council Funds requested for coaching costs of talented coaches. Venue Hire and appropriate equipment, refreshments for coaches involved.
1.0 Aim	**1.0 To have an effective, efficient pathway at all levels of boxing within Belfast, helping to engage and nurture talent. - continued**			
Action	KPI	Action	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
1.3To provide an end competition for the talent squads to compete against other county teams	To run 2-3 competitions/competitive opportunities for the young boxers to display their talent and to demonstrate their	The CAB representatives will arrange a county competition within a Belfast venue and will provide referee/judges and table officials. Belfast City Council employees to book the mayor and the chair of the people and communities committee	Boy 1,2& 3 (11-14) x 2 (Novice Boys 0-6 bouts & Open Class boys 6+ Bouts) Girl 1,2& 3(11-14)	CAB Volunteer time to organise, run and administer the county competition/competitive opp's.

	progression since being on the talent squad programme. These will be inter county match ups against other County's which we expect 5-10 Belfast Boxers Per event.	to attend the event and present medals and a short speech. BCC Marketing staff to provide PR support to gather local press and media coverage and interest.		Belfast City Council Funds requested for Venue Hire, officials' fees, and purchase of medals for participants- approximately.
1.4 Free Gym Membership for Elite Performers	Numbers of Boxers successful in obtaining free membership per year. 3 per year	BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group Steering group will be responsible for distributing and communicating widely the scheme and its criteria. IABA staff can help boxers fill out forms if necessary	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote Free Gym membership through GLL Scheme to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast. - No cost aside from staff time
1.5 Promote individual talents boxers' grants	6 Numbers of Boxers successful in obtaining grant aid per year. (Mary peters trust, GLL foundation, HP Athlete Support Scheme).	BCC to provide details of the scheme to the steering group. IABA Performance Pathways committee will be responsible to distribute and communicate widely the scheme and its criteria to all boxers within the HP Unit. IABA staff can help assist boxers fill out forms if necessary	All National champions and Ulster and Antrim Champion boxers	IABA Staff to distribute and promote grant aid schemes to the Ulster HP Unit and any talented boxers in Belfast No cost aside from staff time

Aim	**2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast**			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
2.1 To support the delivery of an IABA led volunteer education event made for boxing clubs in Belfast.	1 event to be delivered per year- targeting 40 participants from the 32 clubs across the city delivered by March 2023.	IABA to provide expertise of Club Development Officer within Ulster, Operations Manager and IABA Health and Safety Officer and Child Protection Officer to deliver a volunteer education and training event within Belfast IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the organisation each year. Topics and workshops to be included: • Health and safety of club facilities • Mental Health and Wellbeing workshop • New IABA Policies and procedures • Good Relations Training and update • Fundraising, Grant aid and sponsorship • Affiliation procedures • Volunteer committee roles and responsibilities • Committee Skills • Examples and workshops providing examples of best practice Community outreach programmes such as: boxing for fitness, mental health and well-being programmes, rehabilitation programmes for offenders. BCC- to provide Girdwood Venue through GLL. If this is not possible, we would seek to hire a Belfast Hotel venue	All 32 Belfast based clubs' representatives to attend. New Clubs under development. Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost.	IABA Staff time – Club Dev, Operations Manager, H&S Officer and CP Officer and Workforce Officer Belfast City Council Funds could be used for this if based in Belfast, however this could possibly be funding from other sources outside of Belfast. But we would like flexibility to host in BCC and to help cover BCC club costs if required. Clubs Outside Belfast could attend at a cost.
Aim	**2.0 To recruit, train and sustain active volunteers, who are trained to best practice standards within Belfast – continued**			
Action	KPI	Action	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
2.2 To host a volunteer recognition event, to help sustain the level of volunteering within the sport.	1 event to be delivered per year- targeting 30 participants from our 32 and clubs delivered by March 2023.	IABA to provide expertise of the Operations Manager to design, run and deliver a volunteer recognition event within Belfast IABA will also provide the time of all other staff Offices on the evening to run and administer the organisation of the event each year. Belfast City Council to book Mayor and Chairperson of the People and Communities Committee each year to speak and present prizes at the event.	All 32 Belfast based clubs' representatives to attend.	IABA Operations Manager Staff Time Independent Committee BCC Mayor and Chairperson of People and Communities Committee – Time at the event for short speech and presentation of a prize each.

		BCC Marketing and PR support from the media team within BCC, to help attract local press coverage. Independent committee to adjudicate on the entries. Operations Manager to draw up full categories and entry forms etc. IABA Ulster Staff to work with CAB to organise and administrate the event.		BBC Funds requested for marketing materials, venue hire, presenter costs and volunteer recognition certificates/trophies/awards/ Venue Hire/ Refreshments.

Aim	**3.0 To recruit, train and sustain active officials, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.**			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
3.1 Officials to receive training in line with world standards and systems. 3.2 To deliver grassroots refereeing, judging qualifications and table officials. 3.3 to Train committee members on best practice.	1 scoring/event official course per year- 10 newly trained officials per year. 10% will be females. Delivery of 1 referee & judging course- 20 new referees by 31st March each year. 10% will be females. Delivery of committee courses/training throughout the year to improve club governance.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also identify clubs who may not have qualified referees and judges within their clubs. UBC will also provide Referee Tutors to run the Level 1 and Level 2 referee and judging qualifications	New aspiring referees/judges aged 18+ Current Clubs without referee/judges New Clubs under development Clubs looking to run club events and tournaments. Link in some of the aspects of the club mark scheme to help clubs improve governance.	Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs. Possibility of running event for the assessment of new officials and for new computerised scoring system.
Aim	**7.0 Funding to support competitive local and international events in Belfast**			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
7.1 – Local Events per year 7.2 – International Events per year 7.3 – male competitors	To deliver the number of events, competitors, and	Through the CAB and Boxing Development Officer liaising together venues across the city will be used to host events & competitive opportunities for both	All Belfast Based clubs, boxers, and officials.	BCC funds will be used to host the events and consume the

7.4 – Female competitors 7.5 – visiting competitors 7.6 – Belfast competitors 7.7 - visiting officials 7.8 – Belfast officials	official opportunities in the events plan. 8 Local Events per year 2 International Events per year 150 male competitors 50 Female competitors 50 visiting competitors 150 Belfast competitors 5 visiting officials 15 Belfast officials	boxers and officials across the city as well as inviting in a range of competition from across the County, Province, Continent		costs agreed in the events plan.

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 2: COACH EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Aim	**4.0 To recruit, train and sustain active coaches, who are qualified to the highest standards within Belfast.**			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
4.1 To support the delivery of an IABA led Coach education programme for talented coaches within Belfast	To work with 5 coaches per year delivering a bespoke education programme by 31st March each year	IABA to provide expertise of Assistant HPC within Ulster and the performance pathways committee to help identify talented coaches within Belfast to take part in the programme. IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the administration for the programme each year.	Identified Level 1 and Level 2 Coaches, actively coaching in Belfast, identified by the Ulster HP Coach as potentially talented coaches with ability to progress to national and international coaching.	IABA Staff time and committee members time -HP Coach Ulster, performance pathways committee and Workforce Officer Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs.

Belfast Boxing Strategy 2023-2024 Plan

4.2 To Support the delivery of grassroots boxing qualifications- i.e., level 1	20 new coaches by 31st March each year.10% will be female.	IABA Workforce Development Officer to run and administer the programme each year CAB will advertise, market and promote these opportunities to its affiliated members. CAB will also identify clubs who may be either under or over capacity regards coaching-members ratios. CAB will also provide Coaching Tutors to run the Level 1 qualifications.	New aspiring coaches aged 18 + Current Clubs who's carrying capacity is exceeding their number of qualified coaches. Clubs looking to set up new sections to their clubs; e.g. female section, over 50's health and well-being etc	Belfast City Council Funds to cover cost of running course to include venue hire, hospitality, tutor costs.
4.3 To update online Coaching / volunteer resources and inform clubs of updates.	Area to be updated on a regular basis with up to 50 new participants accessing the online resources area per year target by 31st March 2023.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer who will liaise with the other development officers, HP coaches and CAB to provide a range of online learning opportunities to clubs / volunteers.	A wide range of coaches from grassroots up to talented coach level.	This has now been launched and we will continue to update the online learning areas & social media pages with constant updates and learning ops.
4.4 To increase the number of female coaches in Belfast	To ensure that all coaching courses that are ran throughout the city have female representation. 10% of course ran will have new female coaches.	IABA will utilise the strategy to help increase the number of female coaches in Belfast. Our Workforce Development Officer will work closely with the Belfast Development officer on assuring designated spots on course for females.	Parents of female boxers, female boxers themselves, youth and school groups, Women's groups etc- all in a bid to actively target females to become coaches.	BCC Funds and IABA Funds- no additional funds required.
4.5 To work alongside mental health providers to generate a boxing specific tool kit and train clubs up in mental health and wellbeing awareness	We will work with TAMHI and other providers to design a toolkit for every club and run training and webinars with each club where we will encourage clubs to appoint a mental health champion. 10 clubs in first year.	IABA will also provide the Workforce Development Officer who will organise with each club the training / webinar sessions that will be delivered by professionals to each individual club.	A wide range of coaches from grassroots up to talented coach level.	Belfast City Council Funds requested for design of toolkit and to bring in providers to deliver training and workshops with clubs.
4.6- Inclusive boxing module to be rolled out to clubs and volunteers	To have 20 participants from our clubs attend inclusive training module. This is to help put disability	IABA will provide the Workforce Development officer who will work with the Boxing Development Officer to set a date for training and to engage with clubs.	Coaches, Committee, Parents and Boxers.	Belfast City Council Funds Requested for room hire, refreshments and tutor costs.

	and inclusive physical activity into all our clubs.	Now incorporated within the IABA Fundamentals coaching course in partnership with CARA.		

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 3: Club Support and Grassroots Development

Aim	**5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast**			
Action	KPI's	Partners, Roles and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
5.1 To hold come and try it events in collaboration with BCC sports development initiatives. This will include come try boxing & Day of Boxing days	160 pupils. 10% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA to organise and arrange schools come and try it events in conjunction with CAB. 2 Community Based coaches to run the event. IABA Development Officer to arrange. BCC to fund and promote event as BCC Event, BCC Media and PR Team to help get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	*2X Community Based Boxing Coach-salary cost* *Venue Hire, additional coaches to deal with capacity and marketing and advertising info and hire o ring etc if necessary*
5.2 Continue to run non-contact boxing sessions in schools	1600 10% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA Development officer to organise and arrange non-contact sessions within schools 2 Community Based coaches to run sessions. BCC to fund and promote schools' sessions. BCC Media and PR Team to help do a media launch for schools' sessions and get good local press coverage.	Females Children and young people, schools, people with disabilities and people from areas of deprivation.	*2X Community Based Boxing Coach-* *Equipment to be purchased for new coach to conduct the duties of the role.*
5.3 Provide start up and or membership growth funding to allow for the development of new clubs or growing club membership across the city. 5.3.1 – New clubs grants 5.3.2 – Equipment grants 5.3.3 – Membership Development Grants	Monitor the growth of membership across Belfast. 2 new clubs. 2 New clubs grants 4 Equipment grants 27 Membership Development Grants	BCC to provide grant aid for seeding grants and equipment grants through the sports development team if possible. The Steering Group committee could help to administer and manage the process if the sports development team cannot administer this process. The levels of funding are minimal with only 2 seeding grants available per year and 4 equipment grants. The committee can devise the application process and scheme if required.	New Boxing Clubs within Belfast	• Seeding Grants for newly developed clubs or junior sections of senior clubs. • Equipment Grants for clubs who can demonstrate the need for equipment for new clubs or existing clubs who have grown or need replacement equipment. • Or Membership Development Grants All at a cost of £500 per club to run come and try it event/holiday camps in a bid to increase membership of their clubs. Up to 32 clubs a year x £500. = £16,000 approx.
Aim	**5.0 To grow and sustain club membership within Belfast - CONTINUED**			

Action	KPI's	Action	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
5.4 New members	50 new members within clubs. 10% will be females	To feed new members thorough the school's programme and membership growth programmes into the club environment. Link directly in with the clubs.	Targeting underrepresented groups within the sport	*Using initiatives listed above.*
5.5 Promote the Belfast City Council Community Support Funding	Encourage 15 clubs to apply per year	IABA Staff to work with clubs to work up applications for Support for sport schemes.	32 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast	N/a No programme costs, only staff time.
5.6 Boxing Holiday Camps	180 participants per year. 10% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA Staff to arrange and organise Easter and Summer Holiday Camps for Boxing. CAB to provide coaches to aid EBA and Community Coaches. 15 participants per camp x 4 camps per holiday period x 3 holiday periods. Total of 180 participants IABA will administer the booking process.	32 Boxing Clubs based in Belfast, target local schools also.	*2X Community Based Boxing Coach- salary* Programme Costs- Venue Hire, Coaching Wages for additional coaches, marketing materials to facilitate bookings onto camps.

STRATEGIC CHALLENGE NUMBER 4: GOVERNANCE

Aim	**6.0To promote, improve, and sustain good governance standards within Belfast Clubs**			
Action	KPI	Partners, Roles, and Responsibilities	Target Audience	Resource/Budget/eligible cost
6.1 To work with Belfast based clubs to achieve club mark	To work with 2 new clubs per year to attain accreditation and 8-10reaccreditation.	IABA Development Officer to work with clubs to achieve club mark.	All Belfast based clubs	IABA Club Development Officer Staff Time BCC Funds £500 for new accreditation.
6.2 To deliver a good relations programme within Belfast	To deliver a good relations programme to our clubs. 10% will be from underrepresented areas of the sport	IABA Operations Manager to build in Good Relations training into the holiday camps with 180 participants. This will link in directly with out holiday membership growth programmes and we will run individual club good relations training with our clubs at least once per year. Designing a bespoke scaled down training programme from what is currently delivered to IABA Members		IABA Staff Tie- Operations Manager over oversees Good Relations and Equality issues and programmes. IABA Good Relations bespoke Training Course designed for boxing in Ulster. Costs- tutor, venue hire and hospitality and any administration costs.

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Stadia Community Benefits Initiative 2022-2023 Quarter 3 Update
Date:	7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales-Director City and Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart- Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Sometime in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To advise Committee of progress with the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative (SCBI) for Quarter 3 of the current financial year and to provide an update on the action plan.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note progress to date.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	The Council has been undertaking the Leisure Transformation Programme to renew its Leisure facilities across the City. This Programme has been influenced by the Partnership opportunities presented by the NI Executive Stadia Programme.

3.2	The Council, Department for Communities (DfC) and the Irish Football Association (IFA) have recognised the opportunities presented by the Stadia Programme, have committed to work together to maximise these benefits and have agreed to establish a Stadium Community Benefits Initiative as part of the Belfast Community Benefits Initiative ('the Project') to implement and deliver agreed objectives including promoting equality, tackling poverty, and tackling social exclusion within the Belfast area.
3.3	In March 2016 the Council, DfC and IFA signed an agreement which sets out their respective commitments to the project. As other major stadia are developed in Belfast, it is anticipated that other sports governing bodies shall become parties to the agreement. At its April 2018 meeting People and Communities committee agreed that Council would work with the Gaelic Athletic Association (GAA) within the Stadia Community Benefits Initiative and recognised their significant planned investment in Gaelic Games in the city to support their Gaelfast strategy. GAA activities became fully incorporated into the action plan at the start of financial year 2019-2020, with Gaelfast staff imbedded into the governance structure at the Delivery Board and the Policy and Performance Group.
3.4	The agreement is for a period of ten years with financial commitment from Council and IFA in place to the end of March 2026. Delivery is managed through monthly meetings of the Delivery Board, which reports quarterly to the Policy and Performance Board. Financial and performance reports will be presented to Council and other partners' Boards as necessary.
3.5	The Policy & Performance Group is responsible for agreeing the Benefits Realisation Plan and associated annual targets. Work was undertaken to ensure the end benefits/outcomes are aligned to partners' strategies. To measure the progress of this the Council and the IFA have developed a range of indicators/intermediate benefits which are monitored through programme delivery: a. Number of coaching sessions provided b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching c. Number of sessions improving club governance d. Number of volunteering opportunities e. Participation opportunities for under 16s f. Female participation rates g. Number of people completing skills development programme i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups k. Community group usage of stadia l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark

	m. Educational opportunities o. Number of programmes targeting ASB q. Improved collaborative working r. Number of disabled participants s. Number of older people participating
3.6	The policy and performance group held their meeting on Friday 24 February to review performance to date and to be updated in terms of the programme for Q3 and Q4
3.7	Following the completion of a baseline assessment in early 2017, annual workplans are developed each year. The Action Plan for 2022-2023 has been produced by the partners and includes a mixture of sports specific programmes including National Governing Body specific coach education courses and some joint collaborative initiatives delivered by both sporting codes such as information webinars which continue to prove popular. A successful joint conference took place in January 2023.
	<u>Performance</u>
3.8	Delivery to date in Q1,Q2 and Q3 of year 6 (financial year 2022/2023) has been strong and details of the IFA and GAA specific activities are included at appendix 1 and appendix 2 A number of joint initiatives are also planned for Q4.
	<u>Financial Implications</u>
3.9	In accordance with the Council's obligations under its DfC Funding Agreement for the Olympia Regeneration Project, the Council has committed a sum of £100,000 per annum for a minimum of ten years, so that a minimum of £1,000,000 is contributed in total to the Project.
3.10	In relation to 2022/23 Q3 spend, partners have reported a normal level of spend in line with programmes delivered. Partners have projected full utilisation of the budget across both joint and individual work programmes by the end of March 2023.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.11	There are no additional impacts related to this report.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	Appendix 1: IFA Performance Report Quarter 3 2022/23 Appendix 2: GAA Performance Report Quarter 3 2022/23

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SCBI Performance Report_IFA_2022-2023

ACTUAL 2023 Quarter 3

Intermediate Benefits	TOTAL	Highlights (key contributors)
a. Number of coaching sessions provided	147	The highlights of quarter three were Christmas events at the stadium and training course and recreational opportunities through recreational programme, street soccer and NHS programme
b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	90	National Coaching Certificate within schools was prevalent over the third quarter with planning and booking confirmed for the National Coaching Certificate for adults. Participant numbers in Safeguarding Training was high this quarter
c. Number of sessions improving club governance	54	Safeguarding was a key focus this quarter
d. Number of volunteering opportunities	154	Volunteer opportunies were high through recreational programmes this quarter
e. Participation opportunities for under 16s	225	Seasonal camps, fanzone and female specific programmes
f. Female participation rates	286	With the success of the NI senior team the level of female participation was particularly high during this quarter
g. Number of people completing skills development programme	331	A range of National Coaching Certificate Courses in school and club environment were completed this quarter

i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	145	The street soccer programme provided massive opportunites for under represented groups and an application for additional funding through Belfast City Council Health Development Unit was successfully obtained to allow the programme to be maintained due to the withdrawal of previous funding and has allowed the programme to grow
j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	13	Schools programmes during this quarter were very successful
k. Community group usage of stadia	3	Christmas dinner, christmas ball and the fanzone were delivered successesfully this quarter
l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark	0	New check sheet to be launched this quarter and over 90 clubs have downloaded and used the tool which is hoped will lead to increased clubmark (people and clubs) completion
m. Educational opportunities	188	The educational team were busy in schools this quarter successfully providing educational programmes OCN and National Coaching Certificate
o. Number of programmes targeting ASB	109	Several programmes specifically targed antisocial behaviour. Primarily the street soccer programme with other programmes including the christmas events and recreational programmes had a anti social behaviour element.
q. Improved collaborative working	398	NHS programmme has been nominated for Sport NI Sportsmaker award
r. Number of disabled participants	20	Several programmes were specifically all inclusive and a number of participants with a range of disabilities fully participated in the programme
s. Number of older people participating	91	The main event involving older people in this quarter was the christmas dinner participants took part

SCBI Performance Report_GAA_
ACTUAL Q3 2022-23

Intermediate Benefits	Q3 TOTAL	Highlights (key contributors)
a. Number of coaching sessions provided	207	Super Games, Go Games Volunteer Development, Club School Link, Referees, Award 1, Winter Games
b. Number of coaches engaged in delivering coaching	211	Super Games, Referees, Winter Games
c. Number of sessions improving club governance		
d. Number of volunteering opportunities	428	Super Games, Go Games, Winter Games
e. Participation opportunities for under 16s	3520	Super Games, Go Games
f. Female participation rates	1764	Go Games, Super Games
g. Number of people completing skills development programme	104	Referee SG, First Aid
i. Number of sessions for under-represented groups	110	Go Games
j. Number of sessions for school and youth groups	171	Super games (schools), Go Games (CNaB) Club school link
k. Community group usage of stadia		
l. Number of clubs attaining club-mark		
m. Educational opportunities	104	Super Games, Go Games First Aid, Referees

o. Number of programmes targeting ASB	6	Super Games
q. Improved collaborative working	9	LGFA, Camogie, Handball, GAA, Schools, University, Super Games - schools & clubs
r. Number of disabled participants	122	Super Games, Go Games
s. Number of older people participating	20	Referees SG, masters, First Aid

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Community Infrastructure Pilot Update
Date:	Tuesday 7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services, CNS
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager, CNS Margaret Higgins, Lead Officer – Community Provision, CNS

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on work undertaken by officers in the last few months to identify issues and needs within the Community Infrastructure Pilot areas previously approved by Committee on 9th November 2021.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	Members of the Committee are asked to note the update, and • To liaise with the relevant Neighbourhood Integration Manager should they require more information, and/or if they would like to contribute to the ongoing mapping and engagement exercise, and • To agree that more detailed reports (on mapping, engagement and delivery in each of the pilot areas) are presented to the next round of Area Working Groups planned for August/September 2023, and • To agree that a composite report will then be brought to P&C committee in October 2023.
3.0	**Main report**
	Background
3.1	Committee (alongside Area Working Groups) previously considered reports in May and November 2021 which agreed the approach proposed within them (namely the development of Community Infrastructure Pilots) to help address weak community infrastructure in targeted

localities, with members subsequently deciding that there should be 8 pilot projects developed (2 per area – N, S, E & W, rather than the 4 – one per area of the city initially proposed). With each pilot area being supported with a £15k per annum budget for a 2-year period.

3.2 It was further agreed that Neighbourhood Integration Managers (NIMs), supported by the Neighbourhood Services Manager aligned with community planning and the community provision review within Neighbourhood Services/CNS, would lead on developing and delivering the approach, working alongside identified internal and external stakeholders, and key communities/community groups within the 8 areas selected. The table below, outlines the NIM for each area, as well as the areas chosen by members for targeting.

3.3 **Table 1 – Neighbourhood Integration Managers by area/Areas identified for targeting**

East Neighbourhood Integration Manager – Kathy Watters wattersk@belfastcity.gov.uk	• Ormiston DEA – Braniel • Lisnasharragh DEA – Clonduff
South Neighbourhood Integration Manager – Denise Smith smithdenise@belfastcity.gov.uk	• Botanic DEA – Ballynafeigh including Annadale) • Balmoral DEA – Finaghy
North Neighbourhood Integration Manager – Vacant gillilandk@belfastcity.gov.uk	• Oldpark DEA – Mid Antrim Road (Limestone/Glandore) • Castle DEA – Lower Shore Road
West Neighbourhood Integration Manager – Alice McGlone mcglonea@belfastcity.gov.uk	• Colin DEA – Black's Gate (former Visteon site) • Court DEA – Glencairn

3.4 The update report tabled at P&C Committee in November 2022, highlighted that this work had been significantly delayed as a result of staffing issues and competing service demands on the within CNS, and in particular, on the team tasked with leading this piece of work. The report also noted that the additional budget had also been impacted and was no longer available.

3.5 Following this update, members requested that 'a meeting be convened between officers and Elected Members to further explore any short-term actions that could be taken to support the participating areas identified in the Community Infrastructure Pilot.'

3.6 In the interim period, in preparation for further engagement with members, each Neighbourhood Integration Manager has been liaising with the internal Area Teams (these meet quarterly and comprise of council staff from across the range of service areas within neighbourhood services i.e. community services, community safety, good relations, leisure development, parks outreach, open space and street scene, health development, environmental education) in order to begin to map the following information:

- Groups active in the area
- Stakeholders to include in discussion
- Community Facility in the area - If yes – details of programming offered
- Community Assets – Eg Churches/Playgrounds/Parks/Centres – Youth/ Leisure/ Community
- Feedback on current needs or issues
- Funding – CNS/Physical Programmes/ external

3.7 NIMs have also commenced one to one engagement with elected members and key stakeholders operating within the pilot areas to build on this picture – and this element will continue throughout February and March 2023. Members are encouraged to contact the NIM for their area if they wish to share information, or discuss in more detail, their aspirations for, and understanding of needs/issues, in the area.

3.8 It is also worth noting that, in some areas, actions have already been undertaken or are underway, whereas for others it is still very much about assessing the need and capacity within that locality. This would be the case for example in North, where unfortunately the Neighbourhood Integration Manager posts has been vacant from November 2022.

3.9 As such, officers are proposing that this work continues between now and the summer months and that more detailed reports are then brought forward to the August round of Area Working Group meetings. These will outline the results of the mapping exercise, feedback from the stakeholder engagement, give an overview of any action(s) already undertaken, and make recommendations in relation to next steps/further actions required and how these might be taken forward.

3.10 Officers will then bring a composite report to P&C committee in October 2023 (as EAWG is only meeting on 7 September 2023).

Financial & resource implications

3.11 As previously reported at committee in November 2022, there is currently no additional budget identified to support this work in-year, or for 23/24. However, as noted above, any identified

	needs or asks will, where possible, be met via existing BCC resources, and by linking in with key statutory and VCSE partners in the identified areas to see what they can also provide.
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.12	Will be considered as part of the needs assessment and action planning and delivery processes within each pilot area.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None

Belfast City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Partnership Agreements 23/24

Subject:	Partnership Agreements 23/24
Date:	7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Kelly Gilliland, Neighbourhood Services Manager Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	√
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	√	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to advise members of the existing Partnership Agreements that are in place to deliver services aligned to Neighbourhood Services activity. Members are asked to consider future funding to continue these partnership agreements in 23/24.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	It is recommended that Committee agree to: - Continue funding to each of the partners at the same level for the 23/24 financial year (£240,109) - Enhance promotion of partnership efforts to increase public awareness of activity delivered through these funding agreements.
3.0	**Main report**
	Background
3.1	Members are aware that City & Neighbourhood Services works in partnership with a number of organisations that share common strategic objectives and that some of this work is supported through annual funding agreements to deliver against agreed outcomes.
3.2	In 2021/22 an extensive review of the first six Partnership Agreements listed below was completed; the review concluded that the agreements provided strategic alignment, added value and value for money. In line with these findings, council agreed that these partnership funding arrangements should continue at the same level to deliver services in 22/23.
3.3	At the start of 2023 a desktop review of the last two agreements listed below, which were not part of the original review, was carried out. It was agreed that these funded programmes should be considered as part of the overall departmental partnership arrangements and have therefore been included in this paper for consideration. In line with any decision to extend funding, officer will agree specific deliverables with these organisations in advance of next year's programme and events. These are likely to include

information in relation to economic impact, visitor numbers and increased audiences, and increased cultural diversity and awareness

3.3

Project	Funding
Belfast Hills Partnership	£36,900
Lagan Valley Regional Park	£67,000
Outdoor Recreation NI (promotion of mountain bike trails)	£5,000
Keep NI Beautiful (Live Here Love Here and Eco Schools Project)	£55,000
Mary Peters Trust	£5,000
Bryson Energy (previously Play Resource) *	£31,209
Belfast Mela	£20,000
Belfast International Arts Festival	£20,000
TOTAL	**£240,109**

* Note – Play Resource Warehouse is no longer in existence and instead has merged with Bryson Energy.

3.4 The review recognised the annual nature of budgeting within local government, however it highlighted that forward planning and service delivery could be improved if a longer term funding cycle could be provided to these partner funding arrangements.

3.5 Whilst this is recognised as desirable, given the wider financial support provided to the community/voluntary sector on an annual basis and the challenges to financial planning at present it is **NOT** recommended that funding is allocated beyond the 23/24 financial year at present to these partners.

3.6 Financial implications

The total financial allocation to these partner funding arrangements is £240,109. These budgets were approved as part of rate setting for 23/24.

3.7 Equality or Good Relations Implications

None identified at this stage.

4.0 Appendices – Documents Attached

4.1 **Appendix 1 – Review of Partner Funding Conclusions Summary Tables**

Abbreviations used

LVRP (Lagan Valley Regional Park)
KNIB – LHLH (Keep NI Beautiful Live Here Love Here)
BHP (Belfast Hills Partnership)
PRW (Play Resource Warehouse)
KNIB – Eco Schools (Keep NI Beautiful Eco Schools)
ORNI (Outdoor Recreation NI)
MPT (Mary Peters Trust)
BIAF (Belfast International Arts Festival)

Appendix 1 – Review of Partner Funding Arrangements Conclusions Summary Tables

1. Alignment to the Belfast Agenda

Partnership	Belfast Agenda Priorities			
Relevant issues within priorities	**Growing Economy** • *Increase tourism spend.* • *Attract investment into Belfast.*	**Living Here** • *Improve neighbourhoods.* • *Improve the city living experience.* • *Enable active, healthy, and empowered citizens,* • *Provide fit for purpose city services.* • *Support younger and older people.*	**City Development** • *Develop the city's infrastructure and improve connectivity locally, nationally, and internationally.* • *Drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre.* • *Deliver key strategic physical projects and policies.* • *Attract more tourists* • *Protect/enhance environment/built heritage.*	**Working and Learning** • *Enhance and increase the skill levels of our residents and attract and retain even more skilled people.* • *Match people and skills to opportunities across Belfast* • *Reduce poverty and economic Inactivity.*
LVRP	✔	✔	✔	✔
KNIB - LHLH		✔	✔	
BHP		✔	✔	✔
PRW	✔	✔	✔	✔
KNIB - Eco Schools		✔	✔	✔
ORNI		✔	✔	
MPT		✔		
Belfast Mela	✔	✔	✔	
BIAF	✔	✔	✔	

2. Alignment to other Council strategies/policy frameworks

Name of Strategy/Plan	LVRP	KNIB - LHLH	BHP	PRW	Eco-Schools	ORNI	MPT	Mela	BIAF
Belfast: Our Recovery (2020)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Belfast Resilience Strategy (2020)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Draft Local Development Plan (2020)	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Green and Blue Infrastructure Plan (2020)	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔			
Draft Belfast Open Spaces Strategy (2019-2023)	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Waste Agenda Framework (2017-2025)		✔		✔	✔				
Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy (2015-2020)	✔		✔					✔	✔
Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy (2009-2012)						✔	✔		
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)	✔	✔	✔						

3. Added value to the Council/city

Added Value	LVRP	KNIB - LHLH	BHP	PRC	Eco-Schools	ORNI	MPT	Mela	BIAF
Cost savings /Levering Additional Funds	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Volunteer in-kind Resources/Support	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Access to Expert Advice/Knowledge	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Marketing Platform/ Positive Publicity/ Enhanced Branding Recognition	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔
Strategic Leadership/Influence /Advisor	✔	✔	✔						
Enhanced ability to deliver to influence change	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔			✔	✔
Partnership Collaborative Advantage/Economies of Scale	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔		✔	✔
Health/Wellbeing benefits for Children/Young People		✔	✔	✔	✔	✔	✔		
Supporting Central Government plans/strategies	✔	✔	✔		✔	✔	✔		
Responsiveness to anti-social behaviour	✔	✔	✔	✔					
Responsiveness to public hazards	✔		✔			✔			
Evidence based approach to supporting environmental quality standards/responding to local and national consultations	✔	✔	✔						

Environmental Education Support leading to Positive Behaviour Change		✔		✔	✔				
Improved Council-School Relationships					✔				
Financial Incentives for Belfast Schools					✔				
Council involvement in an International/Global Environmental Eco-Programme					✔				

4. Value for Money

Partnership	Council Funding	Council's proportion of total partnership budget	Deliverables Achieved – Rag Rating
LVRP	£67,000	50%	• 6 deliverables – 100% fully achieved.
KNIB – LHLH Programme	£41,000	7.3%	• 3 deliverables - 67% fully achieved (2 out of 3). • 33% partially achieved – due to Covid-19 restrictions (1 out of 8)
BHP	£36,900	12.5%	• 8 deliverables – 87.5% fully achieved (7 out of 8). • 12.5% partially achieved – due to Covid-19 restrictions (1 out of 8)
PRW	£31,209	8%	• 8 deliverables – 62.5% fully achieved (5 out of 8). • 12.5% partially achieved – due to Covid-19 restrictions (1 out of 8) • 25% deliverables not achieved – due to COVID-19 restrictions and organisational change (2 out of 8)
KNIB – Eco-Schools Programme	£14,000	9%	• 15 indicators - 53% fully achieved (8 out of 15). • 40% partially achieved (6 out of 15)– due to Covid-19 restrictions • 0.7% not achieved due to Covid-19 restrictions (1 out of 15)
ORNI	£5,000	1.75%	• 5 deliverables - 60% fully achieved (3 out of 5). • 40% partially achieved - due to Covid-19 restrictions (2 out of 5)
MPT	£5,000	1.9%	• 1 deliverable – 100% fully achieved.
Belfast Mela	£20,000		• TBC
BIAF	£20,000		• TBC
Total	**£240,109**		46 deliverables 32 (70%) achieved 11 (24%) partially achieved 3 (6%) not achieved

Note – In all circumstances during the value for money assessment, the review concluded that the main barrier to full achievement for the majority was the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, which was outside the control of the respective partnerships. The review also concluded that it was highly likely in 'normal' circumstances further deliverables would have been fully achieved.

Appendix 1 – Review of Partner Funding Arrangements Conclusions Summary Tables

1. Alignment to the Belfast Agenda

Partnership	Belfast Agenda Priorities			
Relevant issues within priorities	**Growing Economy** • *Increase tourism spend.* • *Attract investment into Belfast.*	**Living Here** • *Improve neighbourhoods.* • *Improve the city living experience.* • *Enable active, healthy, and empowered citizens,* • *Provide fit for purpose city services.* • *Support younger and older people.*	**City Development** • *Develop the city's infrastructure and improve connectivity locally, nationally, and internationally.* • *Drive the physical and cultural regeneration of the city centre.* • *Deliver key strategic physical projects and policies.* • *Attract more tourists* • *Protect/enhance environment/built heritage.*	**Working and Learning** • *Enhance and increase the skill levels of our residents and attract and retain even more skilled people.* • *Match people and skills to opportunities across Belfast* • *Reduce poverty and economic Inactivity.*
LVRP	□	□	□	□
KNIB - LHLH		□	□	
BHP		□	□	□
PRW	□	□	□	□
KNIB - Eco Schools		□	□	□
ORNI		□	□	
MPT		□		
Belfast Mela	□	□	□	
BIAF	□	□	□	

2. Alignment to other Council strategies/policy frameworks

Name of Strategy/Plan	LVRP	KNIB - LHLH	BHP	PRW	Eco-Schools	ORNI	MPT	Mela	BIAF
Belfast: Our Recovery (2020)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Belfast Resilience Strategy (2020)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Draft Local Development Plan (2020)	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
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Waste Agenda Framework (2017-2025)		☐		☐	☐				
Belfast Integrated Tourism Strategy (2015-2020)	☐		☐					☐	☐
Belfast Physical Activity and Sports Development Strategy (2009-2012)						☐	☐		
Local Biodiversity Action Plan (2007)	☐	☐	☐						

3. Added value to the Council/city

Added Value	LVRP	KNIB - LHLH	BHP	PRC	Eco-Schools	ORNI	MPT	Mela	BIAF
Cost savings /Levering Additional Funds	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		
Volunteer in-kind Resources/Support	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐		☐	☐
Access to Expert Advice/Knowledge	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Marketing Platform/ Positive Publicity/ Enhanced Branding Recognition	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Strategic Leadership/Influence /Advisor	☐	☐	☐						
Enhanced ability to deliver to influence change	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐			☐	☐
Partnership Collaborative Advantage/Economies of Scale	☐	☐	☐		☐	☐		☐	☐
Health/Wellbeing benefits for Children/Young People		☐	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐		

Supporting Central Government plans/strategies	□	□	□		□	□	□		
Responsiveness to anti-social behaviour	□	□	□	□					
Responsiveness to public hazards	□		□			□			
Evidence based approach to supporting environmental quality standards/responding to local and national consultations	□	□	□						
Environmental Education Support leading to Positive Behaviour Change		□		□	□				
Improved Council-School Relationships					□				
Financial Incentives for Belfast Schools					□				
Council involvement in an International/Global Environmental Eco-Programme					□				

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			• 25% deliverables not achieved – due to COVID-19 restrictions and organisational change (2 out of 8)
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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Pitch Partner Agreements Update
Date:	Tuesday 7th March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales , Director of Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Cate Taggart, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	This purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress on implementation of Partner Agreements for the Quarter 3 period from October to December 2022 and to recommend an extension of all current partner agreements to 31st March 2024 or until any new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Community Asset Transfer Pilot.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: i. Note the progress to date at Partner Agreement sites for quarter 3 (October to December) 2022/23; ii. Agree to extend all current partner agreements until 31 March 2024 or until new arrangements are put in place following completion of the Community Asset Transfer Pilot.

3.0	**Main report**
3.1	**Legal Agreements** Council agreed to enter into Partner Agreements at the following sites with the clubs identified below. The original agreements were for a period of 5 years with the option to extend for up to a further two years. The Department has extended all of the Agreements beyond the initial 5 year period.

Location	**Partner**
Dixon Playing Fields	Sirocco Works FC
Alderman Tommy Patton Memorial Park	East Belfast FC
Woodlands Playing Fields	Co Antrim Board GAA
Loughside Playing Fields	Loughside FC
Shore Road Playing Fields	Grove United FC
Orangefield Playing Fields	Bloomfield FC
Ulidia Playing Fields	Rosario FC

3.2	On 10 March 2023, the Committee was asked to note that, under the Scheme of Delegation, the Director had extended the current Partner agreements for the sites at Shore Road Playing Fields, Woodlands, Dixon Park and Orangefield Park until 31 March 2023.
3.3	Regular checks on the necessary Insurance, Health and Safety and Governance have been completed at all sites. The reporting documents were amended in accordance with audit requirements and sent to partners one month in advance of reporting deadlines. All partners are compliant on these matters.
	Financial Support to deliver Sports Development Plans
3.4	Successful applicants submitted their plans in early 2022 to improve sports development outcomes at each site in the 2022 – 2023 financial year. Funding of up to £20,000 per annum has been available for each partner to deliver a programme supporting their Sports Development Plan. Letters of offer to all partners are based on approved sports development plans for the financial year. Partners must submit Sports Development plans annually which are aligned to the financial planning calendar for the incoming year.
	Monitoring
3.5	Following the easing of Covid 19 restrictions the end of quarter face to face monitoring meetings with our delivery partners have now resumed. These meetings include updates on site

management and bookings, health and safety, finance and their sports development plan. Action plans are reviewed and agreed with the partners during these discussions to ensure that planned outcomes are achieved and improvements identified where required.

Sports Development Impact

3.6 In line with Council objectives, the diversification of use and improved sports development impact are priorities at the partner agreement sites. Programme delivery continues to achieve positive achievements across the sites.

The table below indicates outputs at the sites as reported by the 7 partners for Quarter 3 (October-December) 2022.

A. Participation type	
1. Members of different codes	740
2. People with a Disability	24
3. People from a minority ethnic background	2282
4. Females	2113
5. Older people	1656
6. Schools / youth organisations	2
B. Participation usage	
Number of full pitch/adult matches on site	199
Number of full pitch/adult match participations	6780
Number of small sided/youth matches on site	227
Number of youth match participations	9486
Number of training sessions held on site	270
Number of training session participants	8400
Number of other bookings / activities on site	48
Number of other bookings/activity participants on site	1308
C. Partnership working	
1. Working with Belfast City Council	4
2. Sport's Governing Bodies	15
3. Other teams / groups in your sport	11
4. Other teams / groups in different sports	1
5. Community / voluntary groups	5

D. Social value	
1. Young people at risk	661
2.Encourage participation of under- represented groups	279
3. Promote positive cross community relations	117
4. Promote health and wellbeing in socially deprived communities	1201
5. Promote Volunteering skills	66
6. Develop skills that will improve employability	30

3.7 **Request to extend existing agreements**

All existing agreements will terminate on or shortly after the 31 March 2023.

3.8

Council is currently developing a new policy regarding the management of assets within the community with a pilot being delivered across a number of sites. One of the sites included in the initial pilot is Ulidia Playing Fields and this site has been assessed using the pilot approach. At their meeting in October, Strategic Policy and Resources committee endorsed this committee's recommendation to transfer the existing Partner Agreement at Ulidia to a long term lease. It is anticipated that, following review of the Community Asset Transfer pilot process, a number of the sites listed at 3.1 above may also be made available for consideration under new management arrangements.

3.9

Until that time, and to ensure continuity of service provision, it is proposed that existing Partner Agreements continue until any new arrangements are put in place.

3.10 Financial & Resource Implications

A total of £140,000 per annum is available within revenue estimates to support annual Sports Development Plans at the Partner Agreement sites.

3.11 Equality or Good Relations Implications and Rural Needs Assessment

None.

4.0 Appendices – Documents Attached

None

Belfast City Council

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES

AGENDA ITEM : PROPOSALS FOR DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGNS

Subject:	**Proposal for dual language street signs**
Date:	7th March, 2023
Reporting Officer:	Kate Bentley, Director of Planning and Building Control
Contact Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager Roisin Adams, Business Coordinator

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	**Yes** ☐ **No** ☒
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	☐
After Council Decision	☐
Some time in the future	☐
Never	☐

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes** ☒ **No** ☐

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
	To consider applications for the erection of dual language street signs for three existing streets within the city.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	As at least fifteen percent of the total numbers of persons surveyed in the streets are in favour of the proposal to erect a second street nameplate in Irish at La Salle Drive, Hopefield Avenue and Suffolk Parade the Committee is asked to consider the applications.

3.0	**Main report**
3.1	Key Issues The power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.
3.2	Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect a second street nameplate showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.
3.3	(table below)

English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Persons surveyed
La Salle Drive, BT12 6DB	Céide La Salle	Off Falls Road, BT12	63
Hopefield Avenue, BT15 5AP	Ascaill Hopefield	Off Antrim Road, BT15	121
Suffolk Parade, BT11 9JR	Paráid Suffolk	Off Suffolk Avenue, BT11	26

3.4 The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council.

3.5 In accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual language street signs, surveys of all persons appearing on the electoral register plus owners or tenants in actual possession of commercial premises, for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.

3.6 **La Salle Drive, BT12**

- 45 occupiers (72%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 2 occupiers (3%) were not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 16 occupiers (25%) did not respond to the survey

Hopefield Avenue, BT15

- 41 occupiers (34%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 1 occupier (1%) was not in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
- 1 occupier (1%) had no preference either way
- 78 occupiers (64%) did not respond to the survey

	Suffolk Parade, BT11 • 14 occupiers (54%) were in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate • 12 occupiers (46%) did not respond to the survey
3.7	The Council's policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least fifteen percent (15%) of the occupiers surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English, in order to progress to Committee for consideration.
3.8	<u>Financial & Resource Implications</u> There is a cost of approximately £750 to cover the cost of the manufacturing and erection of the dual language street signs. The cost for these street signs has been allowed for in the current budget.
3.9	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u> Each application for a dual language street sign is subject to an initial assessment for any potential adverse impacts on equality, good relations and rural needs. The initial assessments have not identified any adverse impact.
4.0	**Appendices**
	None

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Subject:	Dog Warden Service Update - Responsible Dog Ownership; Internal Review and Proposed Changes to Fixed Penalty Fines.
Date:	7th March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Helen Morrissey, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Sometime in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	To provide members of the People and Communities Committee with an update on the Dog Warden Service and in particular: Responsible Dog Ownership; our Internal Review and Proposed Changes to Fixed Penalty Fines for dog fouling offences. The proposed changes to the Fixed Penalty Fines also apply to littering offences. The Committee noted the previous update at the meeting on 11 October 2022 and agreed that a follow up report would be submitted to a future meeting which would consider, amongst other issues: • Enhancing and localising the dog foul media campaign. • Developing a further stencilling campaign (including liaison with DfI in this regard.

	• Increasing the use of signage. • Consideration of the use of the Customer Hub in identifying 'hotspots'. • Linking directly with the Elected Members for identified hotspot areas. • The provision of free dog foul bags in problem areas. • Ensuring adequate bins for disposal were available. • The development of responsible dog ownership campaigns in the Council's parks and playing field locations.
2.0	**Recommendation**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note the update on Responsible Dog Ownership. • Note an Internal Review is underway. • Consider Options 1 – 3 in relation to the new fixed penalty limits for dog fouling and agree a preferred option. • Consider Option 4 - applying any changes made to the fixed penalty limits for dog fouling offences to littering offences.
3.0	**Main Report**
3.1 3.2 3.3	Dog fouling and irresponsible dog ownership go hand in hand and can impact the quality and amenity of our neighbourhoods. Clearly, whilst the majority of dog owners exercise responsible dog management, there are a small number of owners who have less regard for this and this can have an impact on areas in the city. This requires on-going re-direction of our resources to address in terms of its removal from the streets, as well as providing a wide range of education and awareness programmes together with the use of fines where infringements are detected. The Dog Warden Service as part of their role deploy routine monitoring patrols, to detect dog fouling incidents. However, it is widely recognised that the problem of dog fouling cannot be addressed solely by enforcement intervention. To encourage a change in behaviour, a wider programme supporting responsible dog ownership is an essential element of the Council's approach to reducing levels of dog fouling throughout the city. Part 1 of this report summarises the activities undertaken to address the issue of dog fouling and encourage Responsible Dog Ownership.

3.4 PART 1 – RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Enforcement

3.5 Enforcement and visibility of same is an integral part of dealing with dog fouling. Councils are required to provide the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) with statistical information on a wide range of dog control service areas and enforcement for example: dog licences, complaints regarding stray dogs, dog attacks and dog warden enforcement actions. This information is provided by Councils on a quarterly basis, collated and held by DAERA. It is then referred to by Councils and DAERA when providing responses to dog related information requests from the media, the public and animal welfare stakeholders.
https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/council-dog-summarystatistics

3.6 The following table provides enforcement statistics for BCC for along with the DAERA NI average for 21/22.

Year	17/18	18/19	19/20	20/21	21/22	22/23 to date	DAERA NI Average per Council 21/22
Fixed Penalties issued - Fouling	82	54	101	5	20	14	Not recorded by DAERA
Summons issued - Fouling	17	13	4	0	3	1	Not recorded by DAERA
Fixed Penalties issued - Straying	384	387	328	61	170	22*	42
Summons issued – Straying	120	126	81	0	21	9	6
Fixed Penalties issues – No license	338	341	244	61	180	122	65
Summons issues –	180	175	116	0	31	32	7

No license							
Total Dog Licenses issues	11,872	11,819	11,519	10,741	10,774	9,856 (to end of January)	12,631

* Dramatic reduction in straying FPNs due to legal opinion on definition of a stray.

Environmental Education and Outreach Team (EEOT)

3.7 The Environmental Education and Outreach Team have a project plan detailing a range of activities through educational, promotional and community-based programmes scheduled throughout the course of each year, which aims to highlight the problems of dog fouling.

3.8 In late 2019, prior to the pandemic, the EEOT launched the Green Dog Walkers Project, which is a non-confrontational, voluntary, UK wide scheme to change attitudes towards dog fouling. On signing, individuals pledge to commit to the principles of good dog ownership i.e. to clean up after their dog and encourage others to do the same. They get a lead with messaging on it and poo bags. The Team is in the process of re-instating this initiative and is encouraging Green Dog Walkers to sign-up at their events with Scoop Dog. The project will also go live on our website in the next few weeks.

3.9 The EEOT provide our community centres with a supply of poo bags for members of the public, to further broaden the reach of their support of the Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign.

3.10 The EEOT engage with schools and to make the biggest impact, in person visits are their preference. They have computer games, curriculum packs, activities and digital files they can give to schools. Large banners are also available for school railings.

3.11 They have a new campaign inviting local school children to design colourful billboard ads, urging owners to clean up after their dogs and keep our local communities clean. Four winners will have their designs displayed on a billboard in their area.

Stencilling

3.12 The legislation that relates to local authorities placing functional advertisements on pavements e.g. stencilling, has been updated since we last liaised with the Department for Infrastructure and we have written to DfI again, seeking permission to re-instate a stencilling

	programme. We await a response. Over the last 3 months colleagues in OSS have been carrying out stencilling in parks across the City.
	Dog Fouling Campaign
3.13	Following a request from P&C, for a 'hard hitting' campaign, marketing and corporate communications designed and activated a fully integrated campaign for 3 weeks from 10 October 2022. The second burst of the advertising campaign is currently in market (running from 13 February 2023 and finishes on 5 March 2023. The overarching campaign message is #YourDogYourJob. Tactical outdoor advertising on buses and adshels was used as part of the media mix to target hotspot areas and across main arterial routes. Analysis of complaints, information from dog fouling patrols and Elected Members was also used to determine hotspot locations. As well as outdoor, the advertising media mix included; radio, online advertising and paid for social media promoted posts.
	High Visibility Patrols
3.14	Dog Wardens routinely carry out high visibility patrols and in October 2022, to support the media medic campaign, they carried out 30 high visibility patrols, totaling 46.3 hours.
3.15	**Evaluation of October 2022 Dog Fouling Advertising Campaign** • The adshels were seen on average 10.7 times by over 70% of all adults. • The T-sides on buses were seen on average 3.4 times by 472,747 people. • The Q radio advert was heard on average 4.9 times. • The U105 advert was heard by 243,661 people on average 5.9 times. • Click through rates were strong. • 58% of dog owners recalled seeing the adverts.
3.16	In general respondents were pleased to see a campaign tackling the issue. However, it was recognised there are challenges to having an influencing impact on that minority of irresponsible dog owners.
3.17	Advertising alone will never deal with this issue and it is recognised there is a need to continually reinforce our Responsible Dog Ownership messages through education and enforcement.
3.18	Colleagues in the Quality Team assessed the levels of dog fouling in 10 streets in North, South, East and West Belfast before and after the campaign. They looked at old dog

	fouling and new dog fouling, before and after. New dog fouling decreased across all areas, bar west. Old dog fouling increased across all areas. Dog Wardens routinely make colleagues in OSS aware of hotspots as street cleaning schedules may need to be adjusted.
3.19	**Dog Fouling Signage** We have continued the use of signage, throughout the City, where there appears to be an increase in the incidence of dog fouling.
3.20	**Parks and Open Spaces** The Dog Wardens carry out high visibility fouling patrols across the City and are assisted in the parks by Park Wardens. Dog Wardens and Park Wardens are carrying out joint patrols, when possible, to increase awareness of our Responsible Dog Ownership Campaign in the Council's parks and playing field locations. Traditionally, there was a high level of detection of fouling in parks and Dog Wardens are currently targeting our parks, along with other hotspots.
3.21	**Local Hotspots** Analysis of complaints and information from dog fouling patrols and Elected Members are used to determine current hotspot locations. We are investigating the use of map info to help with the analysis of complaints. This will enable the Dog Wardens to see the weekly / monthly hotspots on one map of Belfast and target resources appropriately.
3.22	<u>PART 2 - INTERNAL REVIEW OF DOG WARDEN SERVICE</u>
3.23	The Dog Warden Service operates 7 days a week (except Bank Holidays) from 08:00 to 20:00 hours. There are 12 Dog Wardens who operate in 4 teams, 2 Supervisors and a Dog Warden and Animal Welfare Manager (temporary post until September 2023 with any extension subject to finding the finances).
3.24	There were 2,821 service requests in 2021/22 with 2,239 between 1 April and 31 December 2022, averaging 249 per month. The top two categories of service request going back 4 years are straying and fouling, with barking and dog attacks third and fourth.
3.25	We are in the process of reviewing the Dog Warden Service through a process known as Service Design. This approach moves away from a pure focus on a specific structure to a

	focus on the service being delivered to the customer. Designing a service that the customer needs involves designing, processes, procedures, technology solutions and a structure to support the delivery.
3.26	We aim to have most of the findings of the review implemented in the next 9 – 12 months.
3.27	PART 3 - PROPOSED CHANGES TO FIXED PENALTY FINES FOR DOG CONTROL OFFENCES
3.28	The Environmental Offences (Fixed Penalties) (Miscellaneous Provisions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2022 which were made on 8 December 2022 came into force on 30 December 2022 and amend the previous 2012 Regulations. The effect is to alter the amount of a fixed penalty capable of being specified by the Council for a fixed penalty under: (a) Article 6 (6A) (a) of the Litter Order; (b) Section 44 (1) (a) of the 2011 Act insofar as it relates to an offence under a Dog Control Order set out in Schedule 1 to the 2012 regulations i.e. offence of dog fouling. and specifying that it shall be not less than £50 and not more than £200. Legislation previously specified not less than £50 and not more than £80.
	Current Situation
3.29	The Council previously agreed to set the level of fixed penalty fine for dog fouling at £80, reduced to £50 if paid within 10 days.
3.30	**Options** **Option 1** – no change **Option 2** – increase to maximum of £200 with reduction if paid within 10 days. Suggested reduction to £100 as an incentive to pay the fixed penalty promptly and avoid court action. **Option 3** – increase but not to maximum with reduction if paid within 10 days. Could be anything from £90 - £190, with any level of reduction.
3.31	If a change is made we will have to update our signage. Officers and Elected Members are inundated with complaints about dog fouling. It is extremely difficult to catch offenders as they often modify their behaviour and pick up after their dog if they see a Dog Warden patrolling.

	Patrolling is really only a deterrent but it is labour intensive. During the 46.3 hours of patrols carried out in October 2022 only one dog fouling incident was observed and therefore only 1 fixed penalty notice was served.
3.32	This is a sensitive time to consider increasing the cost of anything. We recognise a balance has to be struck – on the one hand the public, staff and Members are clearly frustrated with the level of dog fouling across the City but on the other, an increase in the fixed penalty fine should act as a deterrent to the minority of dog owners who are irresponsible.
3.33	**Option 4** – Consider applying any changes made to the fixed penalty limits for dog fouling offences to littering offences. The Council previously agreed to set the level of fixed penalty fine for littering at £80, reduced to £60 if paid within 10 days. There would be no additional signage costs as most signs include information about dog fouling and littering.
	<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>
3.34	There will finance implications for some of the actions falling out of the Internal Review in Part 2 of this report e.g. mobile technology, but this is being considered within existing budgets and across the Service.
	There are cost implications for Part 3 of this report if changes are required to signage. We do already have a budget for signage and cost varies depending on the size of the sign and the method of mounting but is in the region of £20 - £25 plus VAT each. We were about to order signage when we became aware of the changes to the legislation and have held off on placing an order until Elected Members make a decision.
	<u>Asset and Other Implications</u>
3.35	None
	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>
3.36	None.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Attendance at Welcoming Interactive Conference 26th – 28th April 2023
Date:	7th March 2023
Reporting Officer:	David Sales, Director, City & Neighbourhood Services Department
Contact Officer:	Nicola Lane, Neighbourhood Services Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues**
1.1	Members are asked to note the Council's intention to send an officer to attend the Welcoming Interactive Conference from 26th – 28th April 2023 in San Jose, California which we have been invited to attend as part of the Inclusive Cities Project.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: • Note that, as the lead operational officer for the Inclusive Cities project within BCC, Leish Dolan will be attending the Welcoming America Interactive Conference in San Jose, California from 26th April – 28th April 2023 as per invitation from Inclusive Cities. • Note that the only cost to Council would be return travel from Belfast to Dublin, any visa costs and associated subsistence costs on the 2 days of travel.

3.0	**Main report**
3.1	The Inclusive Cities project is a knowledge exchange initiative supporting UK cities and their local partners to achieve a change in their approach towards the inclusion of newcomers in the city. Council had been invited by the Global Exchange on Migration and Diversity at the University of Oxford to participate in the Inclusive Cities project, which is a three year initiative.
3.2	Council agreed in November 2019 that BCC could participate in the project. A requirement of joining was to nominate two people who would engage in the project on behalf of the city: a senior official or elected representative that would head up the city's taskforce and an operational lead who has capacity to develop and deliver the action plan and manage the taskforce and is able to drive forward progress day-to-day. Council had nominated Councillor John Kyle as Chair of SCP as the Lead member and Leish Dolan as the Lead Operational Officer.
3.3	Council also agreed to BCC involvement in two 5-day convenings as well as a European Exchange. However, due to the pandemic, there has only been one UK convention held in person which the Good Relations Officer attended and there have been no European Exchanges as yet. However, there have also been online conferences and meetings which have yielded beneficial information around civic engagement initiatives with refugees and asylum seekers as well as minority ethnic communities.
3.4	The aims of the project closely align with the current Strategic Intent within the Belfast Agenda Refresh relating to good relations and the commitment of Council and other partners to progress the findings of the recently published "Inequalities Experienced by Black, Asian, Minority Ethnic and Traveller People living in Belfast. The latter was commissioned in partnership with the BHSCT and the PHA.
3.5	As part of the Inclusive Cities Project, an invite has been extended to Council to a conference presented by Welcoming America in San Jose, California from 26th April – 28th April 2023.Welcoming Interactive is an annual conference that highlights successful practices and inspiring stories about immigrant inclusion, programmes, policies, and partnerships. From economic development to civic engagement, government leadership, and beyond, the conference features presentations and interactive sessions from a diverse range of inclusion experts. Inclusive Cities sees this as a huge opportunity to share good practices and build new partnerships.
3.6	Topics being covered include: • Race and Belonging • Building Welcoming Schools

	• Immigrant Civic Leadership • Breaking Down Barriers (Policing) • Building Strategies for Inclusion • Equitable Access • Physical Spaces of Welcome • Elevating the Voices of People with Lived Experience • Study of Newcomer Inclusion
3.7	Given the strategic importance of the issue of inclusion, the fact that Council have also signed up to be a City of Sanctuary and wish to see Belfast as a welcoming safe and inclusive city, alongside the upward trend in reporting of racist hate crime within the City, this will be an opportunity for the Good Relations Officer, as a lead officer in this work, to feed the learning into the Council's own Race Equality Plan, the Belfast Agenda on Good Relations, the TEO Dispersal Fund for Asylum Seekers, PEACE PLUS Local Action Plan, the District Council GR Plan and as facilitator of the Migrant Forum for Belfast to share good practice with members of that Forum and the Shared City Partnership.
	Financial & Resource Implications
3.8	Inclusive Cities has advised that they are able to fund the participation of one person who has been substantially involved with the programme per city**.** This will cover conference registration, accommodation and board from 25th April – 29th April, return flights to San Francisco arriving 25th April and leaving on 29th April and ground transport. This would have an approximate cost of £2,000. They will not cover travel/health insurance, visas or taxis.
	Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment
3.9	Attendance at the conference will provide opportunities to promote greater equality and good relations outcomes.
4.0	**Appendices**
	Further information on the conference can be found at **Welcoming Interactive in San Jose, April 26-28**

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PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Belfast City Council

Subject:	Port Health update
Date:	7 March 2023
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director City Services
Contact Officer:	David Cuthbert, City Protection Manager

Restricted Reports				
Is this report restricted?	**Yes**		**No**	X
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?				
After Committee Decision				
After Council Decision				
Some time in the future				
Never				

Call-in				
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	**Yes**	X	**No**	

1.0	**Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues**
1.1	The purpose of this report is to: a) Provide a brief update on current Port Health operations; and b) to seek approval to sign a number of operational Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) that clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Council, Food Standards Agency and DAERA in respect of joint working arrangements.
2.0	**Recommendations**
2.1	The Committee is asked to: i) Note the update on Port Health operations ii) Agree to sign the draft Operational MOUs to clarify roles and responsibilities of BCC and DAERA for joint working arrangements.
3.0	**Main report**
3.1	**Port Health operations** Members will be aware that Belfast City Council's Port Health service have been working jointly with DAERA at Belfast Port for many years, and this has continued since the UK's exit from the European Union. Members will also be aware that since the beginning of 2021, the Port health

	function services an increased volume of food consignments entering via Belfast Port, ensuring that food is fit and safe to eat.
3.2	**Funding**: The service is currently funded on an annual basis via the Central Competent Authorities for the respective food policy areas (Food Standards Agency for fish, high risk food and plastics/kitchenware from China/Hong Kong and DAERA for organic products and Illegal Unreported and Unregulated Fishing). Bids have been submitted by FSA and DAERA to Department of Finance for 2023/24 and FSA and DAERA have indicated they anticipate that these will be successful. It is also anticipated that a longer term financing model for the service will need to be considered and agreed following the final and agreed outcome of the recent UK/EU discussions
3.3	**Staffing**: To facilitate increased service levels, the Port Health team was expanded in late 2020, however recruitment and retention challenges prompted an interim review of staffing structure to rebalance the number of Environmental Health Officers required. This resulted in a small increase in support roles to offset a similar small reduction in EHO numbers. Recruitment campaigns have reduced the number of vacant posts. Staff wellbeing and health and safety is a key issue and improved welfare facilities on site, additional health and safety training and equipment have been provided.
3.4	**Facilities:** Belfast City Council's port health function continues to operate from the inspection facility at Corry Place, which is shared with DAERA for some inspections. To ensure the facility is fit for purpose to meet the required standards, DAERA invested in upgrades at the site, providing additional office accommodation, food storage facilities and security measures. An MOU to clarify DAERA responsibilities for these upgrades, together with the practical arrangements for managing use of the facility has been prepared.
3.5	**IT systems:** Officers are engaging with DAERA and FSA and DEFRA on emerging developments at regional, national and global levels, to ensure that IT systems used by the Council are fit for purpose and effectively integrated to ensure a more efficient and streamlined approach.
3.6	**Facilitating joint service delivery – Memorandums of Understanding** To clarify joint working arrangements, roles and responsibilities in a number of key areas related to food exports from NI and imports to NI, draft Memorandums of Understanding have been prepared. These include the following:

	Subject of MOU	Main contents/issues
1	Shared use of Point of Entry Facilities at Corry Place	Sets out roles and responsibilities for maintenance of upgraded equipment and facilities by DAERA, roles and responsibilities of Food Standards Agency as a Central Competent Authority, roles and responsibilities of Belfast City Council as the leaseholder for the site, and arrangements for joint working including cleaning, health and safety, security, and prioritisation of bookings.
2	Shared use of Point of Entry facilities at Corry Road (Dufferin)	Sets out roles and responsibilities for maintenance of the site by the main leaseholder (Border Force) and roles and responsibilities of users including DAERA, Food Standards Agency, and Belfast City Council, and arrangements for joint working, including cleaning, health and safety and prioritisation of bookings.
3	Use of contract services at Point of Entry facilities	Sets out the roles of responsibilities of contract services provided to Councils by DAERA in respect of Stevedores at inspection facilities, including loading/unloading, cleaning, health and safety etc.
4	DAERA Trade Export Certification programme – (trade certification, export health certificates and support health attestations)	Sets out arrangements for certifications / attestations by Environmental Health Officers of Belfast City Council, on behalf of DAERA, for businesses within the council area who wish to export fish, eggs and related composite products, to ensure they meet food import requirements of other countries across the globe. The number of requests for attestations/certifications in Belfast is extremely low, and this is not expected to impact significantly on Council resources. Should this change a review of the MOU would be requested. This MOU was drafted in consultation with all 11 District Councils and has been approved by Environmental Health NI (EHNI) and the Society of Local Authority Chief Executive and Senior Managers NI (SOLACE).

3.7	The draft MOUs above have been considered in detail to ensure that the contents support the Council in delivering its statutory functions, while ensuring all operational requirements are addressed to facilitate the Councils staff in carrying out their roles. **<u>Finance and Resource Implications</u>**
3.8	None **<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u>**
3.9	None.
4.0	**Appendices – Documents Attached**
	None