

Public Document Pack

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



**Belfast
City Council**

6th May, 2020

PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The following is a list of reports with recommendations which were due to be considered by above-named Committee on Tuesday, 12th May, 2020.

These decisions will now be taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the authority delegated to her by the Council.

A table of Recommendations to Committee will also be sent separately by email and these should be completed by Party Leaders and returned by the deadline indicated in the email.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Declarations of Interest
2. **Committee/Strategic Issues**
 - (a) Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing - Memorandum of Understanding (Pages 1 - 8)
 - (b) 2019 Waste Prevention Programme Consultation Response (Pages 9 - 114)
3. **Physical Programme and Asset Management**
 - (a) Playground Improvement Programme 2020 - 2021 (Pages 115 - 138)

4. **Operational Issues**

- (a) Proposal for naming a new street and the continuation of an existing street (Pages 139 - 140)
- (b) Proposal for Dual Language street signs (Pages 141 - 144)



Subject:	Houses in Multiple Occupation Licensing - Memorandum of Understanding in relation to legacy prosecutions, complaints, Ombudsman investigations concerning the registration of houses in multiple occupation
Date:	12 th May 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Valerie Brown, City Services Manager

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 was commenced on 1 st April 2019. Staff from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive transferred to BCC on 1st April 2019, and since then the HMO Unit has been administering and delivering the new HMO Licencing Scheme function for all councils in Northern Ireland.
1.2	The Committee was advised in January 2020 that in order to provide this service, a series of documents including Memorandum of Understandings and SLAs have been developed to

	formalise the working relationships with the Department for Communities (DFC), 11 Councils, the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and other statutory agencies.
1.3	The purpose of this report is to update the Committee that another Memorandum of Understanding has been developed between the Council and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive in relation to legacy prosecutions, complaints and Ombudsman investigations concerning the registration of HMOs formerly administered by the NIHE.
1.4	This report provides further detail regarding this document.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To note contents of this update report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members are reminded that the Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) Act NI 2016 received Royal Assent on 12 th May 2016 and was commenced on 1 st April 2019. This transferred responsibility for regulating HMOs from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) to local district councils. The purpose of the new HMO regime is to properly and effectively regulate HMOs to ensure the health, safety and wellbeing of the occupants and at the same time minimise any negative impact on the local surrounding area.
3.2	The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was developed to ensure that the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) and the Council have a clear understanding and agreement concerning the management of legacy prosecutions, formal complaints and complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Northern Ireland arising from the actions taken by the NIHE prior to the transfer of the function to Councils on 1 st April 2019 when the House of Multiple Occupation Act 2016 commenced.
3.3	The MoU assists and provides clarity on the roles and responsibilities regarding the respective roles of the Councils and the NIHE in the following matters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Arrangements for the handling of any complaints received by the Council relating to the registration scheme and the arrangements for accessing all documents and information relevant to the complaint. Arrangements for handling complaints received by the Ombudsman relating to how NIHE administered the Registration Scheme prior to 1 April 2019.

3.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrangements for handling judicial reviews which will be retained by the NIHE arising as a result of a decision taken by NIHE prior to 1 April 2019. • Arrangements for outstanding prosecution cases at the time of transfer on 1st April 2019; the Council's Legal Services will progress these cases and accept liability for the costs associated with the outstanding cases unless otherwise agreed by NIHE. • Arrangements for processing requests for access to personal data and information submitted under the General Data Protection Regulation / Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations 2004 as all data relating to the Registration Scheme previously held by NIHE, was transferred to the Council for the purposes of administering the 2016 Act. <p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>In accordance with the arrangements for the transfer of the HMO function from the NIHE to Councils, the deferred income transferred by agreement from the NIHE to the Council was included in the calculated costs to ensure that the Councils could support the overall operational costs of the new licensing scheme over the next four years. The HMO licence fee was calculated based on the anticipated ongoing costs of administering and implementing the scheme.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p>
3.5	None.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 – Memorandum Of Understanding In Relation To Legacy Prosecutions, Complaints, Ombudsman Investigations Concerning The Registration Of Houses In Multiple Occupation

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MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING IN RELATION TO LEGACY PROSECUTIONS, COMPLAINTS, OMBUDSMAN INVESTIGATIONS CONCERNING THE REGISTRATION OF HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPATION

Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this document is to clarify the roles and responsibilities between the Northern Ireland Housing Executive ('NIHE') and Belfast City Council ('BCC'), as the lead Council for the Northern Ireland HMO Service, in respect of the management and processing of legacy prosecutions, formal complaints and complaints to the Public Services Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (Ombudsman) where the complaint relates, either wholly or in part, to actions taken by NIHE prior to the commencement of the Houses of Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 ("the 2016 Act") on 1 April 2019.
- 1.2 The relevant council is the council for the area within which the HMO is situated.

Enforcement Action

- 2.1 It is acknowledged that on 1 April 2019 there will be a number of enforcement cases in respect of alleged offences under the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1992 which have not reached a conclusion.
- 2.2 By virtue of Article 3 of the Houses in Multiple Occupation (Commencement and Transitional Provisions) Order (Northern Ireland) 2019, a house in multiple occupation that has been registered immediately before 1 April 2019, in accordance with a registration scheme under Article 75B of the Housing (Northern Ireland) Order 1992, shall be treated for all purposes of the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 as having been issued with a licence under section 7 of that Act. In light of this provision, the parties agree that all pending enforcement cases and investigations shall be transferred to the relevant council on 1 April 2019.
- 2.3 BCC Legal Services shall take over conduct of any extant prosecution cases on 1 April 2019 unless otherwise agreed in advance.
- 2.4 BCC shall be responsible for any costs, fees or other monies incurred in relation to those prosecution cases for which it takes over conduct save for any legal fees incurred prior to 1 April 2019, unless otherwise agreed in advance.
- 2.5 Where BCC has taken over conduct of the prosecution case, any legal fees incurred prior to the 1 April 2019, will be paid by NIHE on receipt of the relevant Bill of Costs and vouching documentation in accordance with the terms of the NIHE third party contract.

Formal complaints

- 3.1 Where a complaint is received by BCC in relation to how NIHE administered the registration scheme prior to 1 April 2019 (the Registration Scheme), BCC shall seek the expressed consent of the complainant to notify NIHE of the complaint or that part of the complaint which relates to its administration of the Registration Scheme. Alternatively, BCC may advise

the complainant to lodge their complaint or part of the complaint, which relates to the administration of the Registration Scheme, directly with NIHE, for investigation.

- 3.2 Where BCC has received such consent, to forward a complaint or part of a complaint to NIHE, which relates to its administration of the Registration Scheme, it shall do so within 2 working days. Any complaint or part of complaint so referred, will be investigated by NIHE.
- 3.3 BCC shall not forward the complaint or that part of the complaint which relates to the administration of the Registration Scheme, including any relevant supporting documentation, to NIHE, unless it has the expressed consent of the complainant.
- 3.4 BCC and the relevant council will cooperate fully where necessary with the NIHE in its investigation of a complaint to the extent that it relates wholly or in part to its administration of the Registration Scheme prior to 1 April 2019 and provide all reasonable assistance in terms of the provision of all relevant information, documentation and access to staff in connection with same.

Ombudsman Cases

- 4.1 Where a complaint or any part of a complaint is made to the Ombudsman relating to how NIHE administered the Registration Scheme prior to 1 April 2019, NIHE will maintain carriage of that complaint or that part of the complaint. BCC and the relevant council will cooperate fully where necessary with the investigation of that complaint or part of that complaint by NIHE and provide all reasonable assistance in terms of the provision of all relevant information, documentation and access to staff in relation to the subject complaint.
- 4.2 Where a complaint or any part of a complaint relating to how NIHE administered the Registration Scheme prior to 1 April 2019 has been upheld by the Ombudsman, NIHE acknowledges that the making of any recommended consolatory payment or compensation is the responsibility of NIHE to the extent that it relates solely to actions of NIHE prior to 1 April 2019.
- 4.3 Where a complaint or any part of a complaint relating to how BCC and the relevant Council administered the 2016 Act, following 1 April 2019, has been upheld by the Ombudsman, BCC and the relevant Council acknowledge that the making of any recommended consolatory payment or compensation is the responsibility of BCC and the relevant Council to the extent that it relates solely to actions of BCC and the relevant Council following 1 April 2019.

Judicial Review

- 5.1 NIHE will retain all current judicial review challenges including those that may arise as a result of a decision taken by NIHE prior to 1 April 2019 and for which the time limits for making a leave application remain viable but for which no formal notification has been received by NIHE prior to 1 April 2019.
- 5.2 BCC and the relevant council will provide all reasonable assistance to NIHE, in terms of the provision of all relevant information, documentation and access to staff, to enable its response to and defence of any threatened judicial review challenge or resulting application in connection with same.

Removal of Statutory Charge

- 6.1 NIHE, will on request from an owner of a HMO property, seek to remove Statutory Charges placed on HMO properties, if appropriate, which were registered by NIHE prior to 1 April 2019. NIHE will pay the relevant fee for the removal of such charges.
- 6.2 On receipt of a request to remove a Statutory Charge, NIHE shall request BCC to verify in writing that the charge relates to a HMO property, and that due to expiry of the relevant period the charge should now be removed.

Requests for access to personal data and information submitted and received under the General Data Protection Regulation / Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations 2004

- 7.1 It is recognised that both NIHE and BCC will have its own information governance protocols and guidelines and these should be adhered to for the purposes of this document.
- 7.2 Between 1 April 2019 and 31 August 2019 all data and/or information relating to or in connection with Registration Scheme applications, renewals and or registrations and held by NIHE, was transferred to BCC for the purposes of administering the 2016 Act.
- 7.3 From 1 April 2019 all access to the Registration Scheme database was removed from NIHE staff with remote access granted and restricted to certain BCC staff pending its electronic transfer on or before 1 November 2019 to a BCC system.
- 7.4 For the avoidance of doubt, NIHE does not hold that data and/or information referred to in 7.2 and 7.3 above within the meaning of the General Data Protection Regulation / Data Protection Act 2018, Freedom of Information Act or Environmental Information Regulations 2004. That data and/or information is now held by BCC.
- 7.5 Where a request is received by NIHE which relates to Registration Scheme applications, renewals and or registrations as mentioned above, NIHE shall advise the applicant that NIHE is no longer responsible for such functions and does not hold the data and/or information requested. Furthermore, NIHE shall advise the applicant that BCC is now responsible for these functions and may hold the data and/or information requested.
- 7.6 Where a request is received by NIHE which relates to Registration Scheme applications, renewals and or registrations, NIHE shall advise the applicant to re-direct their request to BCC; either to the NIHMO unit or the Information Governance Unit (foi@belfastcity.gov.uk).
- 7.7 NIHE shall not forward an applicant's request directly to BCC, unless they have the expressed consent of the applicant concerned, to do so. Where NIHE has received such consent to forward a request to BCC, it shall do so within 2 working days.

Signed _____

Siobhan McCauley

Director of Regional Services

For and on behalf of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive

Date _____

Signed: *Siobhan Toland*

Siobhan Toland

Director of City and Neighbourhood Services

For and on behalf of Belfast City Council as Lead Council

Date: 23 April 2020



Subject:	2019 Waste Prevention Programme Consultation Response
Date:	12 th May 2020
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Jennifer Stephens

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To provide the Committee with an update on DAERA’s recent consultation on the 2019 Waste Prevention Programme for NI, “Stopping Waste in its Tracks” and to provide a copy of our draft response to the consultation, taking into account its potential impact on the Council’s service delivery.
1.2	The Waste Framework Directive (WFD) required member states to produce a Waste Prevention Programme, by December 2013, which were to be reviewed and revised every six years.

1.3	This WFD requirement was transposed into the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011.
1.4	The Waste Prevention Programme (WPP) was originally published by the Department Of Environment in December 2013, as “The Road to Zero Waste”. This is now due to be reviewed and revised.
1.5	The 2013 WPP, “The Road to Zero Waste” outlined thirteen waste prevention actions. These actions have either been implemented or are ongoing.
1.6	The new WPP sets out 20 separate actions for comment, some of which are new from the previous iteration and some relate to existing commitments.
1.7	The Consultation opened on 22 January 2020, with a closing date for responses by 18 March 2020. In response to a written request from Belfast City Council (seeking DAERA to consider an extension to the consultation period), DAERA extended the deadline for Belfast City Council to provide a response, to 15 th April 2020.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • note the consultation responses from Belfast City Council (Attached as Appendix 2 to this report).
	<u>Main report</u>
3.1	Building on ‘The Road to Zero Waste’ 2013 programme it is proposed to continue to support waste prevention measures through this updated 2019 programme, ‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’.
	<u>Background</u>
3.2	The Department of Environment prepared the first Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – ‘The Road to Zero Waste’ in December 2013. This was required by Article 29 of the Waste Framework Directive [2008/98/EC]. Thirteen waste prevention actions were proposed in the 2013 Programme. These have been implemented or are ongoing.

3.3	<p>There is a requirement to review and, if necessary, revise the Programme every six years. This programme is an interim measure designed to meet the legal requirements set out in the Waste Framework Directive and the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011. It provides information on the actions that DAERA is currently undertaking and planning to implement, which will address waste prevention in Northern Ireland but does not seek to introduce any new waste prevention policies.</p>
3.4	<p>In line with the Programme for Government, “Stopping Waste in its Tracks” aims to set out a plan to enable a more sustainable approach to the use of resources, deliver environmental benefits and support economic growth in Northern Ireland.</p>
3.5	<p>The new Circular Economy Package (CEP) is due to come into effect later in 2020. DAERA may consider undertaking a further update to the review of the NI WPP following transposition of the CEP, as well as clarity on the situation following exit from the EU. This programme, therefore does not intend to introduce new strategic policy departures or to change the landscape of how waste is managed in Northern Ireland at this time. Its core aim is to comply with the requirements of the Waste Framework Directive.</p>
3.6	<p>Due to the interim nature of this programme, there are no specific consultation questions. Instead, DAERA is welcoming broad views and comments on the actions.</p>
3.7	<p>Key objectives include; stimulating a culture of resource efficiency in all organisations, encouraging re-use and repair of products, developing and supporting information and awareness campaigns; in particular in relation to food waste, improving producer responsibility schemes and encouraging less waste generation.</p> <p>Responses will be used to inform waste prevention policy following the transition to a post EU Exit environment and the introduction of the CEP.</p>
3.8	<p>Within the draft response, Belfast City Council notes that the measures within the Programme are positive. However, they generally appear quite broad and unfocused with little rationale and coherence behind them.</p>
3.9	<p>Belfast City Council recommends a more strategic approach, linking in with regional planning, national and cross border contexts, SOLACE, The Environment Strategy, the Green New Deal and the Industrial Strategies (both UK and NI). Reference could also be given to the Stern report around the economics of climate change. The Circular Economy</p>

	<p>also needs to be considered as part of the programme as this would provide many opportunities for councils, government, the third sector and industry to work together in their approach to waste management and to support economic growth, innovation and job creation across the province.</p>
3.10	<p>Belfast City Council stresses within the response paper that the Waste Prevention Programme needs to be integrated, collaborative and underpinned by an NI wide resourced strategy. Centrally, DAERA and other departments have a significant role to play in this.</p>
3.11	<p>Within the response document, Belfast City Council outlines these main issues and concerns and then sets out specific responses to each of the twenty action points contained within the Consultation document.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.12	<p>There are no financial or resource implications in responding to the consultation.</p>
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p>
3.13	<p>There are no Equality or Good Relations implications in responding to the consultation.</p>
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1: Belfast City Council Draft Response to DAERA Waste Prevention Programme Consultation</p> <p>Appendix 2: DAERA Waste Prevention Programme 2019 Consultation, “Stopping Waste in its Tracks”</p> <p>Appendix 3: Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – The Road to Zero Waste (2013)</p>

Belfast City Council DRAFT Response to the Waste Prevention Programme 2019 “Stopping Waste in its Tracks”

Belfast City Council welcomes the opportunity to respond to DAERAs consultation on its proposed Waste Prevention Programme 2019.

It is noted that this programme is an interim measure designed to meet the legal requirements set out in the Waste Framework Directive and the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 and that it does not seek to introduce any new waste prevention policies. Our broad view of this light-touch approach is that an opportunity may have been missed by the Department, to develop a targeted waste prevention programme, with measurable results and prioritised actions, for Northern Ireland.

The measures within the Programme are positive. However, they generally appear quite broad and unfocused with little rationale and coherence behind them. A more strategic approach, linking in with regional planning, national and cross border contexts, SOLACE, The Environment Strategy, the Green New Deal and the Industrial Strategies (both UK and NI) could be considered within the Programme. Reference could also be given to the Stern report around the economics of climate change (it is worth noting that Belfast City Council has commissioned a Mini-Stern report, to include a full economic review and baseline for the city. The production of a full economic growth plan for the city is expected by autumn 2020). The Circular Economy also needs to be considered as part of the programme as this would provide many opportunities for councils, government, the third sector and industry to work together in their approach to waste management and to support economic growth, innovation and job creation across the province.

It is worth noting, that, from a council perspective, we are downstream of waste production and are limited to what we can do in relation to waste prevention. The Waste Prevention Programme needs to be integrated, collaborative and underpinned by an NI wide resourced strategy. Centrally, DAERA and other departments have a significant role to play in this.

The Department’s previous Waste Prevention Programme had monitoring and measurements built in to the model as demonstrations of success. However, it is disappointing that the current draft does not reference such indicators. Whilst it may prove difficult to quantify waste prevention measures, we would recommend that consideration is given, within this programme, to developing meaningful and measurable Key Performance Indicators. In addition, it is noted that there are no policies within the current draft referencing the further decoupling of economic growth from the generation of waste (such factors were detailed in the previous report). Another approach that the Department may wish to consider is Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA), in line with the Programme for Government.

Development of robust KPIs, along with prioritised actions and a strategic approach would provide the Programme with a more structured and focused framework. ‘In developing such KPI’s, we suggest that consideration should be given to ensuring consistency with broader systems-level thinking around suitable KPI’s for circular economies.’

To facilitate a strategic approach to waste prevention, and in the context of creating a circular economy, we recommend that DAERA commissions a large-scale study of the flows of materials in Northern Ireland to establish and map the whole picture of consumption, production & waste. Such a map would clearly identify the main issues in the system and, therefore, clarify what the priorities should be. As well as encouraging a systematic approach to waste prevention, this map would serve to facilitate NI’s transition to a circular economy.

The Circle Scan undertaken in Glasgow

(<https://circularglasgow.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Glasgow-City-Scan.pdf>)

And a similar study in Amsterdam

(<https://www.circle-economy.com/insights/developing-a-roadmap-for-the-first-circular-city-amsterdam>) provided lots of useful information across water, energy and solid waste to inform the most impactful opportunities for those cities. (It is worth noting that the initial Glasgow study cost

£25k). Belfast City Council has already explored this concept by mapping consumption, production and waste in the NI Furniture industry. ONS is already exploring the viability of a similar approach nationally – in the form of a National Materials Database - and could be approached by DAERA with a view to focusing on Northern Ireland.

We also recommend that DAERA undertakes to identify and address where there are systemic barriers to reuse across industries and material streams (areas to be investigated) could well be identified and informed by or form part of the study of the materials flow within Northern Ireland outlined above). This may include public policy barriers (for example, it is often cheaper to demolish and rebuild a building than to repair or refurbish it - largely due to the fact that VAT is applied to materials for refurbishments but not for new builds). The current system, means that it might actually be cheaper to create waste than to avoid it. Economic instruments, existing across various industries, (designed possibly to create more manufacturing work), could actually mean that, by default, they create more products, consumption and waste. Consideration must be given to advocating VAT or other policy changes which would favour reuse / refilling and resource efficiency.

There may also be other barriers to address in terms of the ‘attractiveness’ of reusable items to potential users or buyers. We note that the programme does allude to this to some extent via the quality mark – but while that may help address buyers’ concerns about quality and reliability, other measures might be needed to address other perceptions and stigma around buying ‘second-hand’ items.

Finally, on a general note we would encourage DAERA to ensure that the Waste Prevention Plan is socially inclusive and that it provides opportunities to all, not only in terms of jobs creation, training and skills development within the waste and production industries but to everyone impacted by the policies contained within the strategy.

Consultation Questions.

1. Extended Producer Responsibility

DAERA will continue to work in conjunction with the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations to design and implement an EPR scheme that is consistent with the polluter pays principle and which aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging.

BCC is broadly supportive of this. We would advocate that EPR schemes are further integrated into local recycling networks and that hard or expensive to recycle materials could be used to fund more environmentally friendly alternatives. (For example disposable nappies helping fund a scheme for reusable cloth nappies). We note that there could be a significant burden associated with administering such funding schemes and we would stress that resources for the impacts on local government are fully costed, resulting in minimal or no financial impact to rate payers.

2. Collaboration with Defra and Other DA's in Relation to Eco-Design

DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other devolved administrations to extend eco-design standards to a range of non-energy resource intensive product groups with the aim of preventing avoidable waste.

BCC is broadly supportive of this concept but the information provided is light on detail, for example details on the types of products, a clear definition of "eco-design" and clarity on what is being measured.

3. Collaboration with Defra and other Devolved Administrations in Relation to Enhanced Eco- Labelling

DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other Devolved Administrations to develop new mandatory consumer information and labelling aimed at conserving resources and preventing waste.

BCC is broadly supportive of this proposal as clearer standardised labelling would help with mass communication and consumer choice. However, we would caution that the scheme be fully thought through to avoid unintended consequences, such as dis-incentivising more eco-friendly products through incurring higher product costs.

Achieving a desirable status on products eco label could help be a driver for producer resource efficiency. We suggest that the concept goes beyond just a label and that producers are encouraged to stimulate real sustainable change.

We suggest that advice is sought from the food industry on lessons learned from experience of similar concepts (e.g. food labelling as well as the sugar tax). We would want to see the label provide information that customers can easily relate to and understand (as opposed to an abstract number which is not meaningful to the general public).

4. Tackling Plastics Project

DAERA will aim to reduce plastic waste through a number of mechanisms being delivered as part of the Tackling Plastics Project that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful are undertaking on behalf of DAERA.

BCC is broadly supportive of this action as it is another channel through which to raise the profile of waste prevention and to highlight the range of products out there, for example, single use plastics. However, a more coherent plastics strategy is required from DAERA, addressing designers, manufacturers, retailers and consumers.

5. Carrier Bag Levy

DAERA will continue to review the Carrier Bag Levy charging administration and if appropriate make changes to the charging regime.

BCC notes that within Section 4.2.2 Carrier Bag Levy, DAERA has highlighted that a Single Use Carrier Bag Levy was introduced on 8th April 2013 through the Single Use Carrier Bag Levy Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013.

These Regulations initially required retailers to apply a 5p charge for new carrier bags but were extended in January 2015 to apply to all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20p. The overriding objective of the levy has therefore been to protect the environment and achieve significant reductions in the number of single use plastic bags circulating in Northern Ireland.

DAERA have highlighted that the Carrier bag Levy is now in its 6th year of operation and has generated over £19 million to date, with the proceeds used to deliver local projects to both enhance and improve the environment. DAERA have also highlighted that the funds have been disbursed via the Environment Fund to allow not-for-profit organisations and councils to deliver key environmental priorities across Northern Ireland.

As a consequence of the improvements funded via the carrier bag levy, DAERA have advised under Action 5 of the Waste Prevention Programme 2019 that the Department will continue to support the Carrier Bag Levy charging administration, to review the Carrier Bag Levy charging administration and if appropriate to make changes to the charging regime.

The council would nevertheless highlight that funds from the Carrier Bag Levy charging have recently been used to support district council local air quality management functions under Part III of the Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002. It is noted that Article 18 of the Order provides for the Department to make grants or loans to anybody or person for the purposes of or in connection with carrying out an air quality review or assessment, preparing and implementing an action plan; and the assessment or management of the quality of air.

The council would highlight that four Air Quality Management Areas remain across Belfast, associated with exceedances of annual and hourly mean human health based objectives for nitrogen dioxide. These exceedances have been determined principally to be as a consequence of road transport emissions.

The council's current Air Quality Action Plan is scheduled to conclude at the end of 2020 and so we are presently preparing to engage with our relevant authority partners to produce a new Action Plan. It is intended that this new plan will not only address the remaining nitrogen dioxide hotspots across the city but also address emerging pollutants of concern such as fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in order to safeguard human health and the environment.

The council would therefore emphasise the importance of the Department continuing to provide a suitable level of funding to support district council local air quality management functions and the development and implementation of ambient air quality mitigation actions, via either Carrier Bag Levy charging or an alternate local air quality management specific funding stream.

The council provides these comments in view of the Department's advice to councils in its various local air quality management letters of offer that local air quality management funding levels are subject to sufficient receipts being received by the Department from the Carrier Bag Levy and the Department's recently published Carrier Bag Levy Annual Statistics, which indicate that proceeds from the levy in 2018-2019 were £4.6 million; a decrease of £0.3 million or 6.1% from the previous year.

6. Ban on Microbeads

DAERA will continue to support the ban on microbeads by working with councils.

Whilst BCC supports this ban, it is not a new proposal. This statement is light on detail as to how DAERA will be supporting Councils on the ban. We would encourage the Department to develop a more thorough plan and extend the concept from microbeads to other problem areas (for example, clothing fibres from washing machines through to water treatment plants and beyond and also the problem of marine plastic and nurdles on our shorelines).

7. Consumer Food Waste Prevention

DAERA will continue to work with WRAP to deliver its Love Food Hate Waste consumer food waste prevention campaign in Northern Ireland. WRAP will establish and engage a network of campaign partners through the campaign will effectively engage with consumers, community groups, local authorities and educational bodies WRAP and DAERA will collaborate to develop follow-up campaigns to build capacity for behavioural change and waste prevention messaging aimed at food waste reduction.

BCC is broadly supportive of this campaign but it could be improved by demonstrating a strong commitment to addressing social issues such as food poverty and developing a joined up approach around re-distribution of food (and perhaps even other products) to those who need it the most.

8. Champions12.3

DAERA learn from the Champions 12.3 coalition and will get involved in activities which are aligned with its goals.

BCC is broadly supportive of this concept. However, more detail would be welcomed, on the types of activities and degree of involvement suggested.

9. Courtauld 2025

DAERA will continue to support WRAP in this campaign to work with local businesses, NGOs and sector organisations to reduce food and drinks waste arisings in the UK by 20% by 2025 compared to 2015, calculated as a relative reduction per head of population.

BCC is broadly supportive of this but would welcome more detail of the level of support to be offered, as well as the local impact within NI (including measurements).

10. Food Redistribution

DAERA will collaborate with FareShare and other food redistribution networks to minimise avoidable food waste by raising the profile of the organization and identifying opportunities for them to partner with both businesses and public bodies. DAERA will support specific projects aimed at prevention of food waste.

BCC welcomes this proposal and would encourage a regional approach to tackling food re-distribution across Northern Ireland. (For example, working in partnership with local governments, through SOLACE NI).

11. Business Resource Efficiency - Invest NI

DAERA will collaborate with Invest NI to promote their waste prevention initiatives particularly those relating to resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis. This will help to build closer links with business, industry and their representatives.

BCC broadly supports this and would welcome the development of a platform, such as a marketplace database or software to share such information.

We would re-iterate our comments in the opening section on the opportunity to develop a Materials Flow Survey: We recommend that DAERA commissions a large-scale study of the flows of materials in Northern Ireland to establish and map the whole picture of consumption, production and waste, which will serve to identify the issues and most impactful opportunities.

We would highlight that other mechanisms already exist to support waste prevention, and suggest that some work should be done to identify and promote these. For example, WARP-IT is a web-based system which facilitates reuse within and between organisations: <https://www.warp-it.co.uk/>

12. Prosperity Agreements

DAERA will work with our Prosperity Agreement partners to identify opportunities to promote resource efficiency and waste prevention measures. In particular and where possible we will aim to include food redistribution actions and areas of agreement around the reduction of packaging to help reduce waste.

BCC supports this proposal and would encourage DAERA to promote the existing scheme better with case studies and highlights of the benefits and results, including annual reports.

13. Eco-Schools Programme

DAERA will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme in order to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching about waste prevention. We will aim to introduce a specific topic on waste prevention into the Eco-Schools curriculum.

BCC encourages DAERAS support around opportunities for learning and teaching about waste prevention. However, it is also worth noting that the Eco-Schools programmes depends on funding, including that from local authorities. In the current climate of austerity measures, decisions continually need to be made regarding the best use of council financial resources.

14. Eco-Hospitals Programme

DAERA are investigating the feasibility of introducing a similar scheme in Northern Ireland. By engaging staff, students, local businesses, contractors and suppliers as well as visitors, we will highlight the importance of environmental protection and in particular waste prevention. We aim

to initiate a trial on one site to further assess the potential environmental and financial benefits of such a scheme. If successful this scheme can be rolled out wider within the health sector.

BCC supports this feasibility investigation and awaits the outcome on the findings.

15. Working with NI Education Authority

DAERA will collaborate with the Education Authority to help reduce waste both in classrooms and through their catering service. DAERA will use the learning generated through this forum to help inform further waste prevention interventions with the wider public sector in NI.

BCC strongly supports this proposal and awaits the findings from the learning generated.

16. Reuse and Repair Network

DAERA will undertake a feasibility study into the economic and social benefits of establishing a reuse and repair network in Northern Ireland. If found to be a viable option we will develop a business case to work towards establishing this. If established further investigations will be carried out to ascertain whether a reuse quality mark would add further value to a network.

BCC supports this concept and would welcome a pathways to employment approach that supports participants as they work to improve their quality of life, gain skills, realise their potential and have greater opportunities for employment.

17. Support to the Third Sector

DAERA will continue to support the Third Sector as part of ongoing funding operations and investigate new ways to do so.

BCC fully supports this action. We would welcome reference to social inclusion and support of a Social Value Act for NI. There is an opportunity here for DAERA to link up with other government departments to stimulate the circular economy and to promote the associated socio and economic benefits as well as environmental ones. One simple step that government could take could be through insuring that social value is included in public procurement. The potential of the circular economy is huge within Northern Ireland and it could provide many opportunities to bring social benefits, (such as strengthening local economies and businesses), empowering communities and building resilience.

18. Zero Waste/Circular Economy Projects

DAERA will continue to support “zero waste” projects where our objectives align and funding is available.

BCC strongly supports this action and suggests that a good step would be to perform a regional materials flow study as this would better inform other actions. To facilitate a strategic approach to waste prevention, and in the context of creating a circular economy, we recommend that DAERA commissions a large-scale study of the flows of materials in Northern Ireland to establish

and map the whole picture of consumption, production & waste. Such a map would clearly identify the main issues in the system and, therefore, clarify what the priorities should be. As well as encouraging a systematic approach to waste prevention, this map would serve to facilitate NI's transition to a circular economy.

19. European Week for Waste Reduction

DAERA will continue to support the European Week for Waste Reduction and build upon any successes arising from entries to its competitions.

BCC supports this continuing programme and welcomes opportunities to expand to include other sectors and best practice studies.

20. Tap Water Refill Scheme

DAERA will continue to promote and publicise water refilling schemes in conjunction with NI Water, local Councils, local businesses and their staff to reduce waste from single-use plastic bottles and to promote reusable bottles.

BCC supports this this scheme and would be keen to explore potential opportunities to work in partnership to expand developments in Belfast.

21. Social Media Campaigns

DAERA will continue to promote reuse and reduction through social media campaigns on our new social media platform, MyNI, in tandem with existing messaging on NI Direct and associated social media posts to raise awareness of the content. DAERA will develop specific campaigns in conjunction with these channels to raise awareness of waste prevention.

BCC supports the opportunities that social media campaigns offer and agree that these should be delivered as one part of a wider, holistic programme aimed at behavioural change.

22. Local Authorities

DAERA will continue to collaborate with and support local authorities/councils to ensure they develop waste prevention plans in their areas and will continue to encourage and assist with further developing their plans into the future.

Whilst BCC Broadly supports this concept, we would note that Local Authorities have more input downstream than upstream with regards to material generation and flow. Local authorities are dealing with the collection and treatment of a product that has already been produced and are somewhat limited to what they can do in reducing established patterns of production and consumption. It is also worth highlighting that local authorities are bound by legislation that promotes recycling and diversion targets, rather than waste prevention. Again, this is not in the true spirit of the Waste Hierarchy.

To re-iterate, we require a regional approach to waste prevention and central government plays a significant role in this. The Waste Prevention Plan needs to be integrated and collaborative and underpinned by a NI wide, resourced strategy.

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Waste Prevention Programme 2019

‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’

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1. Introduction

1.1 What is Waste Prevention?

The best way to deal with waste is to prevent it from being created in the first place. Waste prevention focuses on at-source waste production, reducing the amount and toxicity of waste before recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfilling become options. It also includes measures to reduce the adverse impacts of waste on the environment and human health. Waste prevention can be achieved by reducing the quantity of material used in the creation of products and increasing the efficiency with which products, once created, are used. Preventing waste can also be achieved by limiting unnecessary consumption and encompasses actions once a product reaches its end-of-life. Rather than discarding the product, reuse, repair or refurbishment can be considered as options. Waste prevention supports the principles of a circular economy.

1.2 The Waste Hierarchy

All forms of dealing with waste are covered in the “waste hierarchy”. This legally binding hierarchy, introduced in the European Waste Framework Directive (WFD) [2008/98/EC], has established an order of preference for actions in sustainable waste management. If properly implemented, it minimises the amount of waste generated and improves the overall waste management process.

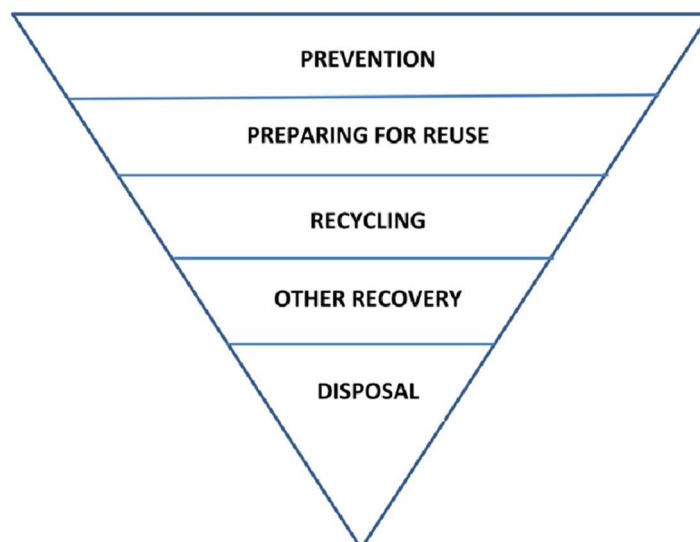


Figure 1

The waste hierarchy forms the policy context for managing waste.

1.3 Circular Economy

The circular economy refers to the notion of the continual use of resources and the elimination of waste. In contrast to the current linear system of “make, use, dispose”, a circular economy keeps resources in use for as long as possible, extracting the maximum value from them and minimising the generation of waste. Products and materials are then recovered and regenerated at the end of each service life.

Circular economy principles build on elements of the traditional waste hierarchy and move toward a cyclical, or closed loop system, demonstrating the need for ‘life cycle thinking’ in order to create a more sustainable, low carbon, resource efficient and competitive economy.

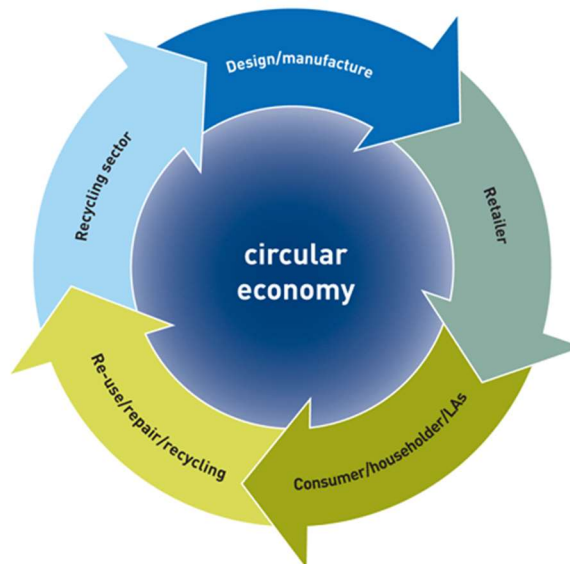


Figure 2

Waste prevention is an essential component of an effective circular economy. It both helps prevent waste from having a negative impact on the environment and health and directs it to more efficient uses. The actions required to move toward a more circular economy are twofold. In the first instance, waste must be reduced in order help eliminate the use of virgin materials and to support our finite biosphere. Secondly, the waste that is generated must be used in a resource efficient manner. This can be achieved in a number of ways. Encouragement and education to create a culture that values its resources is of high importance, as well as making information about how to reduce waste, how to reuse and how to repair easy to access. There is a responsibility for producers to undertake building waste into

design and alternative business models must be implemented to enable the success of circularity. Eco-design is important to help achieve this, as well as the introduction of producer responsibility schemes.

As well as creating new opportunities for growth, a more circular economy can:

- reduce waste;
- help create 'green' jobs;
- drive greater resource productivity;
- deliver a more competitive economy;
- position Northern Ireland to better address emerging resource security and scarcity issues in the future;
- help reduce the environmental impacts of our production and consumption.

Many of the areas for action listed in section 4 of this programme already incorporate the principles of a circular economy, for example, prosperity agreements which help reduce waste while promoting circular activities and resource efficiency at the same time as ensuring positive business growth and development.

2. Review of the 2013 Waste Prevention Programme - 'Road to Zero Waste'

The WFD requirement to produce a Waste Prevention programme was transposed into The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011¹.

The EU Legislative Framework requires Member States to;

- Establish waste prevention programmes, initially, by December 2013, which were to be reviewed and revised every six years,
- Assess existing national waste prevention measures,
- Define national waste prevention objectives,
- Evaluate the suitability of the strategies for inclusion in national waste prevention programmes,
- Take appropriate measures to promote product reuse,
- Support the establishment and development of reuse and repair networks, as well as public procurement criteria and quantitative objectives for reuse,
- Determine qualitative or quantitative benchmarks for waste prevention measures,
- Adopt targets and indicators, if appropriate, to monitor and evaluate the success of waste prevention measures and progress towards objectives.

The Department of Environment subsequently published the first Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – “The Road to Zero Waste”. Thirteen waste prevention actions were proposed that have either been implemented or are ongoing (Annex A). A significant aim of the programme was to reduce waste and decouple waste generation from economic growth. It was intended to encourage people to use resources efficiently and generate less waste. This has been achieved through actions such as the introduction of separate food waste collections, which was accompanied by behaviour change campaigns. This has been very successful,

¹ Northern Ireland Statutory Rules 2011 No. 127 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2011/127/contents/made>

evidenced in the diversion of biodegradable material to landfill by over 950,000 tonnes since its implementation in 2015.

2.1 Legal Background to Waste Prevention

The WFD provides a legal framework for all European waste legislation. Along with legislation on hazardous waste and waste shipments, this provides a framework for defining waste, ensuring it is handled without causing damage to the environment or human health and for controlling conditions for moving waste throughout Europe. The WFD has evolved over that time. In 1975, when it was implemented, Member States were simply tasked with encouraging waste prevention. As EU policy highlighted the need to achieve decoupling between economic growth and environmental pressures, waste prevention and management became a priority. Responding to this priority, the 2008 update to the WFD defined waste prevention for the first time, and emphasised the waste hierarchy, with waste prevention at its apex.

The waste prevention programme has to be reviewed every six years. The review of the actions in Annex A of this document, fulfil this obligation. Of the thirteen action points listed, seven have been brought forward and updated for inclusion in this programme.

2.2 Decoupling of Waste Generation and Economic Growth

Historical trends in most industrial economies show that resource use (and the resulting waste generation) has been linked to economic activity.² It has however been demonstrated that it is possible to decouple economic growth from resource use through resource efficiency by “doing more with less”. The Road to Zero Waste recognised the importance of decoupling waste and growth. However, it also noted that although there appeared to be a decoupling of the relationship between economic growth and waste generation at certain points over the period 2002-2010, analysis over a longer period was required before definitive conclusions could be drawn. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, (DAERA) has analysed data from the years following the launch of the Road to Zero Waste.

² Krausmann, F., Gingrich, S., Eisenmenger, N., Erb, K-H., Haberl, H., and Fischer-Kowalski M. (2009) Growth in global materials use, GDP and population during the 20th century. *Ecological Economics* 68(10), 2696-2705

Figure 3 displays the relationship between economic growth and waste generation for the years 2002 – 2017, taking 2002 as the index year. Overall, Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita rose from £14,142 to £21,172 while there was a fall of waste arisings per capita from 603kg to 523kg.

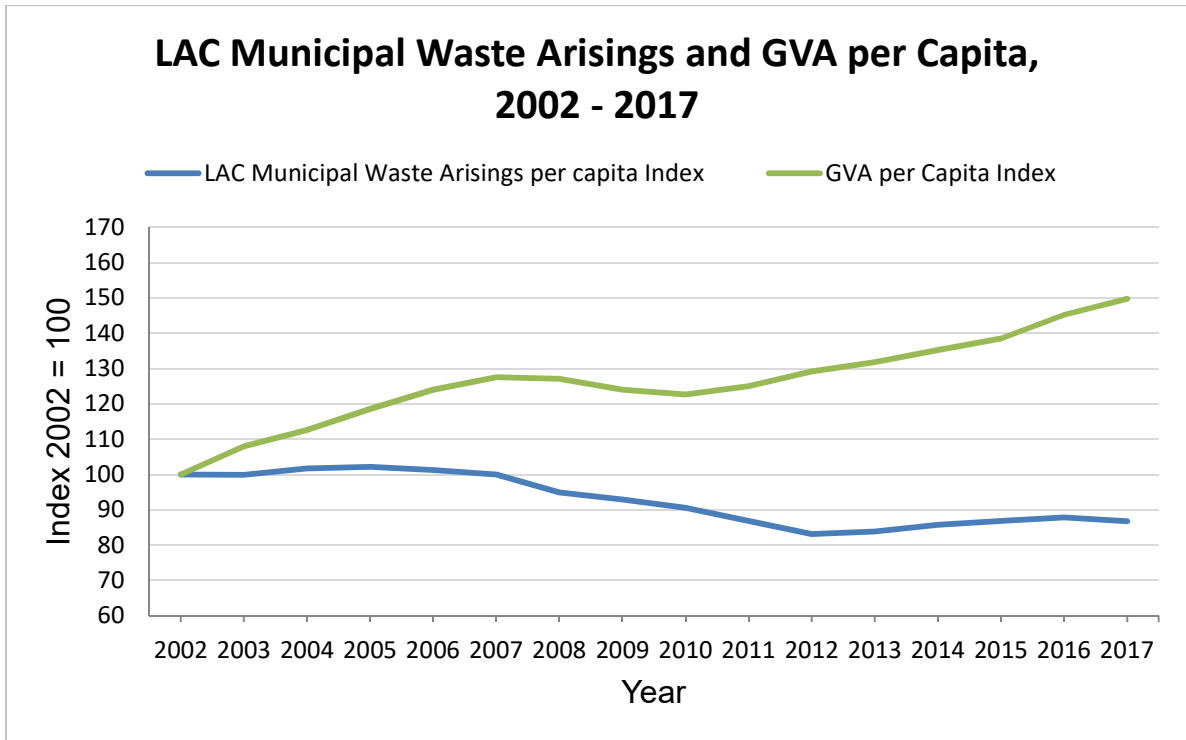


Figure 3

It is difficult to confirm that the relationship between waste arisings and GVA has decoupled due to the number of factors involved. To help interpret the data, Figure 4 shows an index of the ratio of waste arisings against GVA taking 2002 as the base year with a value of 100. This shows that, for every unit of GVA produced, waste arisings per capita has decreased.

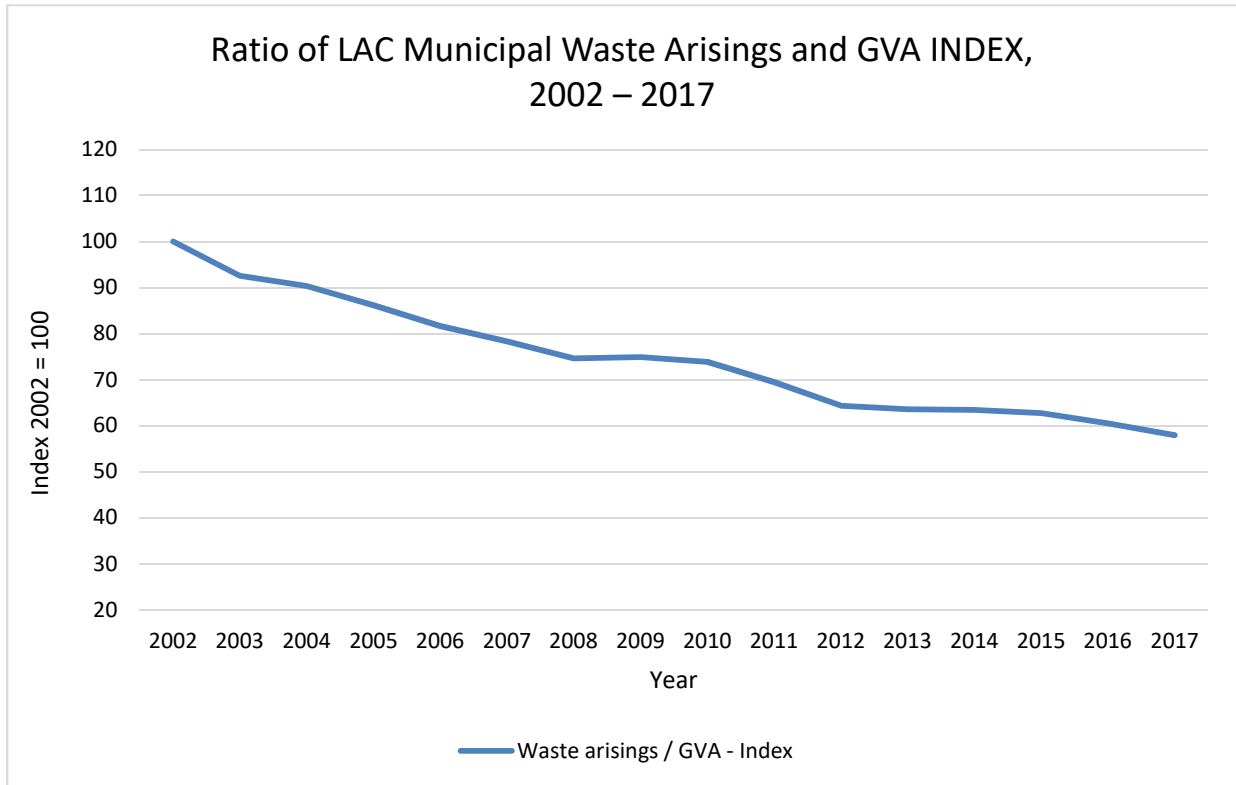


Figure 3

2.3 Food Waste

One action worth singling out, following the review of ‘The Road to Zero Waste’, is the introduction by the DAERA of the Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015³. These regulations place a duty on food businesses producing in excess of 5kg of food waste per week to present food waste for separate collection and effectively ban separately collected food waste from going to landfill.

The regulations also require district councils to provide receptacles for the separate collection of food waste from households. All Councils in Northern Ireland have successfully introduced household food waste collections resulting in 950,810 tonnes of biodegradable waste being diverted from landfill from 2015-2019. Most council collected organic waste is sent for composting, with some being sent for anaerobic digestion. This has resulted in a significant fall in the amount of organic waste being sent to landfill.

³ Northern Ireland Statutory Rules 2015 No. 14 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/nisr/2015/14/made>

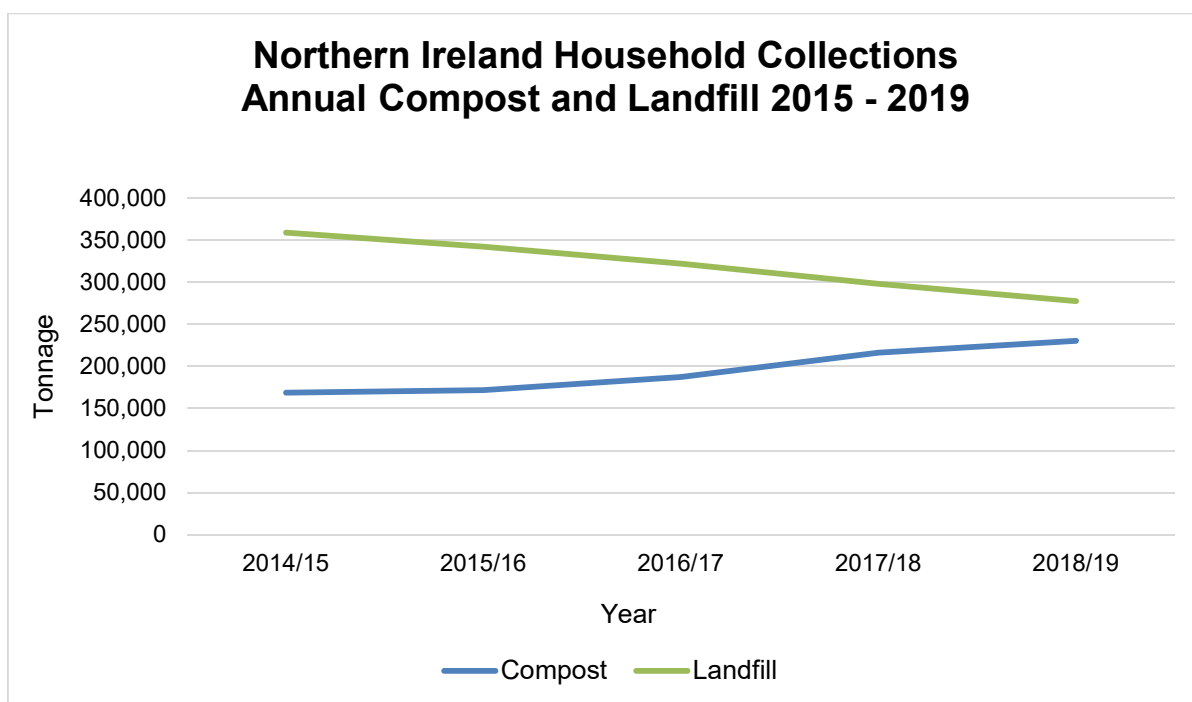


Figure 4

Separate collection of food waste has positively impacted the levels and quality of waste recycling. There is still an issue of organic waste in residual bins, with a recent WRAP study showing that up to 24.7% of residual waste is organic, but local councils are working to improve performance further. DAERA is supporting this work through engagement with councils, both directly and through the WRAP, with actions such as awarding grants for food waste recycling campaigns.

The separation of food waste has had positive effects on the collection of dry mixed recyclables by reinforcing the recycling message leading to an increase in dry mixed recyclable collections. Further benefits include the reduction of contamination in dry mixed recyclables, improving the quality for recycling processes. Recent published figures show that in 2018/19, 50% of household waste was sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting.⁴ This is the highest rate ever recorded for Northern Ireland.

⁴ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2018>

In addition, some councils have reported that after an initial spike, the volume of organic waste collected has decreased. Anecdotal evidence from doorstep interviews and social media feedback suggests that following the introduction of the separate food waste collection many householders have become aware of the quantity of food that they are wasting unnecessarily and have taken steps to reduce this.

3. Stopping Waste in its Tracks – Waste Prevention Programme 2019

Building on ‘The Road to Zero Waste’ 2013 programme it is proposed to continue to support waste prevention through this updated programme, ‘Stopping Waste in its Tracks’.

3.1 The Waste Prevention Programme Framework

The way in which waste is dealt with has changed dramatically over the last twenty years in Northern Ireland, as have attitudes towards it. There has been a large decrease in waste being disposed of to landfill (29% of all household waste in 2018/19, compared to 32.6% in 2017/18) and an increase in recycling, with recent published figures showing a household waste recycling rate of 50%.⁵ This programme incorporates ongoing actions from the 2013 programme, with the intention of building on the work achieved by the ‘Road to Zero Waste’ to help support and maintain the upward trend in waste prevention in line with policies of the previous Executive.

Outcome 2 of the Northern Ireland draft Programme for Government framework (PfG) is “we live and work sustainably – protecting the environment” and further to this indicator 29 states that “environmental sustainability” must be increased.⁶ Following this, “Stopping Waste in its Tracks” sets out a plan to enable a more sustainable approach to the use of resources, delivering environmental benefits and supporting economic growth in Northern Ireland in line with the draft Programme for Government. This will be achieved through prioritising efforts to prevent waste in line with the waste hierarchy and reducing the carbon impact of waste, whilst also continuing to promote a range of measures to encourage reuse and recycling, supporting greater resource efficiency. The PfG’s outcome 2 supports the principles of a circular economy and the Executive had agreed the need for a Circular Economy Strategy.

⁵ <https://www.daera-ni.gov.uk/publications/northern-ireland-local-authority-collected-municipal-waste-management-statistics-2018>

⁶ <https://www.northernireland.gov.uk/sites/default/files/consultations/newnigov/draft-pfg-framework-2016-21.pdf>

It is proposed that this programme will be an interim programme to meet the requirements of the existing WFD, rather than the new Circular Economy Waste Package (CEWP) which will come into effect in 2020. It would be an option for a further update to the review of the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme to be undertaken following transposition of the CEWP and clarity on the situation following exit from the EU. This programme is, therefore, not intended to introduce new strategic policy departures or to change the landscape of how waste is managed in Northern Ireland at this time. Its core aim is to comply with the requirements of the WFD.

3.2 Programme Aim & Objectives

Aim

To maintain the downward trend in waste arisings in Northern Ireland. This will have a significant impact on meeting EU landfill diversion targets.

Objectives

To achieve this aim and in keeping with the outcomes of the PfG, this programme focuses on the following objectives;

1. Continuing the trend of decoupling economic growth from the environmental impacts associated with waste generation.
2. Continuing to support a culture of resource efficiency, influencing behaviour through awareness raising, education and skills development.
3. Generating less waste.
4. Extending Producer Responsibility schemes.
5. Encouraging the reuse of products and the setting up of systems promoting repair and reuse activities.
6. Developing and supporting information and awareness campaigns; in particular in relation to the management and reduction of food waste.

The next section sets out the actions which comprise the Programme.

4. Areas for Action

4.1. Producer Responsibility

4.1.1 Extended Producer Responsibility

Producer responsibility schemes require that producers take on responsibility for collection and environmental management of their goods with the aim of minimising the impact of waste arising from their goods on the environment through the reduction in the amount of goods produced and used. There are four statutory producer responsibility schemes in Northern Ireland – for packaging, batteries, electrical goods and vehicles. These schemes operate on a UK-wide basis and have been instrumental in improving the environmental management of these goods, e.g. 45% collection rate for portable batteries placed on the market, 80% recycling rate for fridges, 70% recycling rate for packaging.

Extended producer responsibility (EPR) is a powerful environmental policy approach through which a producer's responsibility for a product is extended from the design stage to the post-use stage. This incentivises producers to design their products to make it easier for them to be reused, dismantled and/or recycled at end-of-life, and for waste to be prevented. We consider EPR to be a crucial tool in reducing the amount of packaging waste produced, improving recycling and recyclability and so moving waste up the hierarchy, and stimulating secondary markets. It has been adopted in many countries around the world, across a broad range of products, to deliver higher collection, recycling and recovery rates.

DAERA, alongside the UK Government and the governments in Scotland and Wales is working to maximise value from our resources and minimise waste through the circular use of materials. We are actively exploring ways to incentivise producers to manage resources more efficiently, including placing greater responsibility on producers for the environmental impact of their products and for full net cost recovery through EPR. The concept of EPR must reward good design whilst penalising linear products. In addition to this, the right to repair, as well as adequate information about the product, its durability and life cycle should be guaranteed and safeguarded.

The existing statutory producer responsibility schemes have been in place for some time now, e.g. packaging has been in place since 1998, and are ripe for reform. This year DAERA alongside the UK Government and the governments in Scotland and Wales commence a review of producer responsibility for packaging with view to radically reforming the system.

In February 2019, consultations were launched on a range of proposals for reforming the producer responsibility packaging scheme and the introduction of a Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). We had an overwhelming response to the introduction of DRS in Northern Ireland receiving over 32,000 responses. Further consultations in 2020 will set out the detailed design of the schemes.

We have also commence a review of the producer responsibility schemes for electrical goods and batteries with a view to consideration of reform of these systems in the medium term. Consideration will also be given to identifying priority waste streams which could be made subject to producer responsibility schemes.

Action 1 - Extended Producer Responsibility and Reducing Packaging

DAERA will continue to work in conjunction with the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations to design and implement EPR schemes that are consistent with the polluter pays principle and which aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle goods.

4.1.2 Collaboration on Eco-design with Defra and Other DA's

Early and inappropriate disposal of products can create unnecessary waste and products may not have been designed with circularity in mind. Consumers currently do not have affordable and readily available options to extend the lifetime of their products, for example, through reuse schemes, repair and remanufacture.

The associated negative environmental and economic costs from poor product design include:

- Resource depletion due to demand on virgin raw materials
- Lack of markets for recycled/secondary materials,
- Environmental pollution associated with unnecessary waste disposal as products are less likely to be repaired and/or recycled.
- Increased GHG emissions and water usage: even if materials are recycled rather than sent to landfill, this can mean substantial GHG emissions.

The result is that increasingly large volumes of avoidable waste (which could still retain some economic value and product life) end up in landfill, are littered or incinerated. For example, a WRAP study shows the significant environmental impact associated with clothing life-cycle with estimated global footprint of UK consumption of clothing to be 23 MtCO_{2e}, 7,060 million m³ of water and 1.7 million tonnes of waste in 2016⁷. To improve resource efficiency, the UK aims to extend the eco-design standards to non-energy resource intensive product groups, for example, furniture and textiles. This can help boost the UK repair industry and can deliver wider economic benefits to the economy by providing both low and high skilled jobs.

Action 2 - Collaboration with Defra and Other DA's in relation to Eco-Design

DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other devolved administrations to prepare to extend eco-design standards to a range of non-energy resource intensive product groups with the aim of preventing avoidable waste.

4.1.3 Collaboration with Defra and other Devolved Administrations on Improved Eco-Labeling

In line with the key aspects of resource efficiency and waste hierarchy, encouraging products that are durable, repairable and recyclable can make an important contribution. One of the barriers to doing so is the lack of relevant product

⁷ WRAP (2017); Valuing our Clothes: the cost of UK fashion.

information that enables consumers to make informed decisions on the products they purchase, use and discard.

Eco-labels and consumer information are used around the world to show that a product or service meets a certain standard of environmental performance and provide a level of trust for consumers. They can also combat dubious 'greenwashing' by manufacturers. Whilst a number of private sector eco-labels have emerged that cover a range of aspects around environmental sustainability, the three key resource efficiency aspects of durability, repairability and recyclability are central. Awareness and communication of information can be inconsistent and lacking in clarity. This can make items more difficult to recycle if, for example, product information is missing.

Improving eco labelling can drive the production and consumption of more resource efficient and sustainable products and packaging. It will support aims of protecting natural capital through more resource efficient products being placed on the market and rebalance the use of primary raw materials for more sustainable secondary ones. Providing transparency of information on resource efficient choices can help those consumers who want to make environmentally friendly choices to do so.

Action 3 – Collaboration with Defra and other DA's in Relation to Enhanced Eco-Labeling

DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other DA's to develop new mandatory consumer information and labelling aimed at conserving resources and preventing waste.

4.2. Plastic Waste

4.2.1 Tackling Plastics

The 2013 Road to Zero Waste focused on actions such as the “Rethink Waste” campaign, a communications campaign which included waste prevention messaging, as well as the recycling of plastics. Following on from this, and taking into account the recent upsurge in public consciousness surrounding the issue of plastic pollution, DAERA is funding a project which is being delivered by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful aiming to reduce plastic waste by a number of measures including:

- raising awareness of the benefits of reusable items through media communications, seminars and focus groups,
- building upon the research that is generated as part of the project and taking this forward to develop future actions,
- changing behaviours by engaging with businesses, schools, local councils and the general public.

Action 4 - Tackling Plastics Project

DAERA will aim to reduce plastic waste through a number of mechanisms being delivered as part of the Tackling Plastics Project that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful are undertaking on behalf of the Department.

4.2.2. Carrier Bag Levy

The Single Use Carrier Bag Levy was introduced on 8th April 2013 through the Single Use Carrier Bag Levy Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013. This required all retailers to apply a 5p charge for new carrier bags. It was extended further in January 2015 to apply to all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence. The overriding objective of the levy is to protect the environment and achieve significant reductions in the number of single use plastic bags circulating in Northern Ireland. Reusing carrier bags saves natural resources and reduces the need for landfill. It is estimated prior to the levy being introduced 300 million single use bags were used each year in Northern Ireland.

Since implementation the levy has delivered the removal of over 1 billion bags from circulation. Published validated statistics show that in 2017/2018 (Year 5 of the 5p levy), 98.8 million bags were dispensed by retailers; a reduction in bag numbers of 67.1% compared to the baseline figure of 300m in April 2013. This was 1.1% lower than Year 4, with 1.1 million fewer bags dispensed. The carrier bag levy is now in its sixth year of operation and so far has generated over £19 million, with the proceeds used to deliver local projects to both enhance and improve the environment. The Environment Fund is one of the mechanisms through which the proceeds of the carrier bag levy have been used to allow not-for-profit organisations and councils to deliver key environmental priorities across Northern Ireland. Through funding these projects, the carrier bag levy proceeds helps to sustain, improve and enrich the natural environment in Northern Ireland.

Action 5 – Carrier Bag Levy

DAERA will continue to support the Carrier Bag Levy charging administration.

4.2.3. Ban on Microbeads

Microbeads are small plastic particles used in many cosmetics and personal care products, such as face scrubs and toothpastes. They are washed down drains into sewer outlets from households, but are too small to be filtered out in sewage treatment systems and so enter our rivers and seas. Estimates suggest that these products used in a single shower could result in 100,000 plastic particles entering the sewage system.

Research indicates that pollution from microplastics is potentially more dangerous to the marine environment than that of larger pieces of plastic. This is because smaller pieces of plastic are more likely to be ingested by wildlife and either fully or partially metabolised, thus entering the food chain. Furthermore, microplastics can act as vectors for other pollutants or for invasive alien species.

Suitable alternatives to microbeads are available and microbeads are therefore an avoidable source of marine plastic pollution.

On 11 March 2019 a ban on the manufacture and sale of rinse off personal care products containing microbeads became effective in Northern Ireland. The ban was introduced through the Environmental Protection (Microbeads) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019. The Regulations make it an offence to use microbeads in the manufacture of any rinse-off personal care product or to supply or offer to supply any rinse-off personal care product containing microbeads.

The ban is enforced by local councils.

Action 6 – Ban on Microbeads

DAERA will continue to support the ban on microbeads by working with councils.

4.3. Tackling Food Waste

In addition to DAERA's support for campaigns aimed at influencing consumer behaviour, DAERA is looking for other opportunities to reduce food waste at all stages of the supply chain.

WRAP has calculated that around 70% of the food 'waste' we generate is 'preventable', in that it was fit for human consumption, or animal feed.⁸ DAERA supports the redistribution of this 'surplus food', as another thread of preventing food from becoming waste. In 2019/2020, DAERA is supplying grant aid to Farehsare NI to increase their ability to maintain the freshness of surplus food they receive, so that more can be supplied to charities and turned into meals.

⁸[http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Food%20Surplus%20and%20Waste%20in%20the%20UK%20Key%20Facts%20\(22%207%2019\)_0.pdf](http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Food%20Surplus%20and%20Waste%20in%20the%20UK%20Key%20Facts%20(22%207%2019)_0.pdf)

With support from UK governments, WRAP has been running a voluntary scheme of 'Courtauld Commitments', which supports businesses to reduce food waste. The approach they have developed can be summarised as:

- **Target** which sets ambition and motivates action;
- **Measure** food wasted, and
- **Act.**

WRAP has taken these results forward with other stakeholder groups, publicising the benefits which businesses have experienced in reports such as [The Business Case for Reducing Food Loss and Waste: Restaurants](#).⁹ This report analysed results from a wide range of restaurants and showed that for every £1 invested to reduce food waste, on average £7 was saved in operating costs over a three year period – a 600% return on investment. The financial benefits came from a range of actions, such as reduced expenses on food purchases, extra sales from using food for new meals, which would otherwise have been thrown away during preparation and lower waste management costs. In addition to this, on average, restaurants achieved a 26% reduction in food waste in just one year – which rose to nearly 90% within two years.

These activities will make a significant contribution to Northern Ireland achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal Target 12.3- “By 2030, halve per capita global food waste at the retail and consumer levels and reduce food losses along production and supply chains, including post-harvest losses”.

4.3.1 Love Food Hate Waste Communications Campaign

Almost half of all food wasted in the UK occurs in our homes. The ongoing WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) 'Love Food Hate Waste' campaign raises awareness of the issue and offers simple easy ways to take action. It focuses on practical everyday actions both in the home and behaviours when away from the home, such as shopping habits.

⁹ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/business-case-reducing-food-loss-and-waste-restaurants>

In 2017/18, the Citizen Food Waste Prevention (CFWP) campaign began to segment the target audience and deliver key messages to the different segment types identified. The campaign focused on certain food types and campaign moments and has begun to move more towards behaviour change models and interventions, including nudges, education and incentives as well as more traditional communication methods.

Another recent WRAP initiative under the 'Love Food Hate Waste' banner is the Compleating campaign which encourages the consumption of the whole ingredient or food and avoids edible parts going to waste.

Action 7 – Consumer Food Waste Prevention

DAERA will continue to work with WRAP to deliver its 'Love Food Hate Waste' consumer food waste prevention campaign. WRAP will establish a network of campaign partners and will engage with consumers, community groups, local authorities and educational bodies. WRAP and DAERA will collaborate to develop follow-up campaigns to build capacity for behavioural change and waste prevention messaging aimed at food waste reduction.

4.3.2. Champions 12.3 – Food Waste Prevention in line with U.N. Sustainable Development Goal 12.3

Champions 12.3 is a coalition of executives from businesses, governments, international organisations, research institutions and civil society dedicated to accelerating progress toward achieving what is the action SDG target 12.3. An estimated one third of all food produced in the world is never eaten resulting in significant economic, social and environmental consequences. The coalition of champions convene several times each year to:

- assess world progress toward achieving Target 12.3,
- share how leaders are pursuing food loss and waste reduction, overcoming barriers, and achieving economic, food security, and environmental benefits,

- publicise in the global and national media new analyses on food loss and waste, success stories of effective food loss and waste reduction, and remaining barriers that need the attention of policymakers, companies, financiers, researchers, and innovators,
- identify windows of opportunity to advance improvements in enabling conditions (e.g., upcoming policy decisions, upcoming investment programmes).

Between meetings, Champions lead by example, showcase, and advocate in a manner aligned with their interests and capabilities. The Champions 12.3 2018 Progress Report benchmarks progress against Champions 12.3's road map showing a pathway for achieving the target by 2030 and highlights key achievements.¹⁰

In Northern Ireland, there have been a number of companies that have adopted the Champions 12.3 framework. These companies have undertaken a range of actions to help prevent food waste from their businesses. An example of this is Moy Park in association with Tesco, who have worked closely with FareShare on redistribution of food to vulnerable people throughout the province. They have also improved their packaging to ensure the food in it lasts longer, as well as investing in new equipment to streamline the production process, resulting in less wastage. Awareness raising and funding will enable more companies of all sizes to embrace the Champions 12.3 framework and help prevent food waste across Northern Ireland.

Action 8 – Champions 12.3

DAERA will learn from the Champions 12.3 coalition and will get involved in activities which are aligned with its goals.

¹⁰ <https://champions123.org/2018-progress-report/>

4.3.3 Courtauld 2025

Launched in 2012, the Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (HaFSA) was a three-year voluntary agreement developed by WRAP with the food and packaging industry and supported by the UK Government and devolved administrations. It was open to large and small companies in the food and hospitality sector across the UK to support efforts to reduce food and packaging waste and increase recycling. The HaFSA had two targets, for prevention and waste management, which were managed by WRAP and collectively delivered by the signatories. The agreement aimed to cut food and associated packaging waste by 5% (a CO₂e reduction of 234,000 tonnes), the equivalent of approximately 100million meals. It also aimed to increase the overall rate of food and packaging waste recycled, sent to anaerobic digestion or composted to 70% (a CO₂e reduction of 336,000 tonnes).

Over 230 leading signatories supported these aims, covering approximately 25% of the UK food and packages sector. Between 2012 and 2015 the HaFSA signatories had avoided an estimated 24,000 tonnes of food waste, saving businesses £67 million which is equivalent to 48 million meals. They also saw a reduction in CO₂e of 11% and an increase of recycling rates of food and packaging of 14 percentage points to 56% over the lifetime of the agreement, an increase of one-third.

Building on the momentum of the HaFSA, the Courtauld Commitment 2025 (C2025), was launched in 2016. This 10-year voluntary agreement brings together a broad range of organisations involved in the food industry to make food and drinks production and consumption more sustainable. The agreement has a collective ambition to reduce food and drinks waste arisings in the UK by 20% by 2025 compared to 2015.

Achieving this target would reduce per capita food waste from 10.2 million tonnes or 156kg per person/year to 125kg per person/year, resulting in 1.5 million tonnes a year less food waste arising in 2025 compared to 2015 in the UK, post farm gate. WRAP promotes the agreement and works in partnership with leading retailers, brand owners, manufacturers and suppliers who signed up to support the delivery of the targets.

Organisations signed up to Courtauld 2025 include individual businesses, sector bodies and trade associations, as well as research and academic organisations, national and local governments, and NGOs (non-governmental organisations). With a focus on the areas of biggest resource impact, WRAP is collaborating with food and drink organisations across key sectors to increase the adoption of methods for measuring and monitoring food waste. 170 organisations from farm to fork are now engaged in Courtauld 2025.

£3-4 million per year (indicative) has also been invested by UK government and devolved national administrations in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. Progress to date has been positive and further information can be viewed in the most recent annual review for 2017/18.¹¹

Action 9 - Courtauld 2025

DAERA will continue to support WRAP and their work with local businesses, NGOs and sector organisations to reduce food and drinks waste arisings in the UK by 20% by 2025 compared to 2015.

4.3.4 Food Redistribution

Fareshare NI is a regional food sharing network that aims to help vulnerable groups in food poverty by distributing surplus food, donated by the food industry, to member organisations who provide meals to disadvantaged groups across Northern Ireland. They have operated the [FareShare](https://fareshare.org.uk/)¹² model - a UK wide food sharing network that aims to help vulnerable groups in food poverty by distributing surplus, 'fit for purpose' food - under license, across NI, since 2011.

In 2018, the Fareshare Centre in Belfast redistributed 66.3 tonnes of food that would have otherwise gone to waste, which is approximately 160,000 meals). Currently, Fareshare NI have 40 industry partners and 115 charity partners. They are also

¹¹ http://www.wrap.org.uk/sites/files/wrap/Courtauld_2025_Annual_Review_2017_18.pdf

¹² <https://fareshare.org.uk/>

supported by the Food Standards Agency, Public Health Agency NI, Henry Smith Foundation and Garfield Weston Foundation amongst others.¹³

Action 10 - Food Redistribution

DAERA will collaborate with FareShare and other food redistribution networks to minimise avoidable food waste by raising the profile of the organisation and identifying opportunities for them to partner with both businesses and public bodies. DAERA will support specific projects aimed at prevention of food waste.

4.4. Commercial and Industrial Activity

4.4.1 Business Resource Efficiency - Invest NI

InvestNI offer a wide range of service to businesses which can assist resource efficiency and deliver cost savings to businesses such as:

- Resource efficiency audits: consultancy to manage and implement resource efficiency projects,
- Industrial symbiosis: workshops/ advice on how business waste or excess resources can be used by other businesses,
- Resource efficiency capital grant,
- Water efficiency programme.¹⁴

The Invest NI report: 'Industrial Symbiosis - Improving productivity through efficient resource management' identified that since the service began in 2007 202,089 tonnes of resources have been diverted from disposal. This equates to £9 million savings to the companies involved, with savings continuing to grow.¹⁵

¹³ <http://www.chni.org.uk/fareshare.html>

¹⁴ <https://www.investni.com/support-for-business/manage-business-energy-and-waste.html>

¹⁵ <https://secure.investni.com/static/library/invest-ni/documents/industrial-symbiosis-guide-for-businesses-in-northern-ireland.pdf>

Action 11 - Business Resource Efficiency - Invest NI

DAERA will collaborate with Invest NI to promote its waste prevention initiatives, particularly those relating to resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis.

4.4.2 Prosperity Agreements

DAERA, led by NIEA, works with selected progressive businesses to deliver positive environmental outcomes through voluntary agreements called Prosperity Agreements. These agreements contain commitments from both NIEA and the partner organisation. These help to develop a more strategic relationship to realise environmental gains while also increasing competitiveness. In order to secure an agreement a candidate organisation must be compliant with environmental regulatory requirements and demonstrate a desire to achieve additional environmental outcomes.

DAERA has signed 8 agreements with a range of businesses from agri-food operations to social enterprises. Many of the companies are signatories to key UK initiatives such as the Courtauld agreement and the WRAP plastics pact. The prosperity agreement provides a framework for them to integrate these into a strategic approach which aligns with environmental objectives.

All the agreements have commitments around resource efficiency and waste reduction. Businesses in the programme can maximise circular economy opportunities and contribute to social and community benefits through food redistribution initiatives and educational activities.

Action 12 - Prosperity Agreements

DAERA will work with Prosperity Agreement partners to identify opportunities to promote resource efficiency and waste prevention measures. In particular, and where possible, we will aim to include food redistribution actions and areas of agreement around the reduction of packaging to help reduce waste.

4.5 Waste Prevention in the Education and Health Sectors

4.5.1. Eco-Schools Programme

Developed in 1994, the primary aim of the Eco-Schools programme is to educate and empower young people to make positive decisions regarding the environment. It also aims to make environmental awareness an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of a school involving students, teachers, staff and parents, as well as local authorities, the media and local businesses.

Sixty seven countries and 51,000 schools are now signed up to the Eco-Schools programme, sharing the same methodology and concept, and are identified by the Eco-Schools logo and Green Flag. The Eco-Schools Green Flag, awarded to high achieving schools, is a recognised and respected eco-label for environmental education and performance. Northern Ireland is now ranked sixth out of the sixty-seven participants for the number of Green Flag Status Schools (a record 295 in 2018/19, representing 26% of all our schools). We were also the first country in the world to award a green flag to one of its schools (in 1994) and also the first to have all schools registered on the Eco-Schools programme. The Eco-Schools programme here is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful. It is supported by DAERA and all of our local councils.

Eco-Schools have reduced waste sent to landfill by, on average, a third, with some schools achieving a weight reduction of 85% (12.0kg per day) in food waste and 71% (17.9kg) in all waste. Schools also remove litter and over 10% of all schools submit reports showing they lift over 2,500 bags of waste of which over a quarter is

recyclable. Eco-Schools have also increased the time spent learning outdoors by over 3% per week and awareness of global issues by 49% while reducing car journeys by 40% during the 'Travel Challenge' fortnight.¹⁶

Action 13 – Eco-Schools Programme

DAERA will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme in order to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching about waste prevention. We will aim to introduce a specific topic on waste prevention into the Eco-Schools curriculum.

4.5.2. Eco-Hospitals Programme

The Foundation for Environmental Education (FEE) EcoCampus is an award programme that provides a framework to guide higher education institutions on sustainability as an integral part of campus life. It involves staff, teachers and the student body. Eco-Hospital, (an extension of the EcoCampus Programme) offers campuses the opportunity to apply innovation and research in day-to-day management of the hospital campus. It provides opportunities to take advantage of areas where environmental and financial sustainability coincide.

In 2015, Cork University Hospital became the first hospital in the world to be awarded the prestigious Green Flag by An Taisce's Green Campus programme on behalf of the international Foundation for Environmental Education.

Key achievements in 2013 and 2014 which aided in the achievement of the flag include:

- Reductions in waste of 11% despite an overall 10% increase in hospital activity in that period. This includes a 205 tonne reduction in waste going to landfill, a 21 tonne decrease in clinical waste and a 77 tonne increase in recycling.
- 860 MWhr decrease in gas consumption.

¹⁶ <https://www.eco-schoolsni.org/cgi-bin/generic?instanceID=20>

- 1,185 MWhr decrease in electricity consumption.
- 785 tonne decrease in CO2.

The scheme has been shown to promote a wide range of waste prevention and environmental protection messages in another jurisdiction and, as such, a Northern Ireland based case study could form the ideal proof of concept to make this a scalable initiative.

Action 14 - Eco-Hospitals Programme

DAERA's is investigating the feasibility of introducing a similar scheme in Northern Ireland. By engaging staff, students, local businesses, contractors and suppliers as well as visitors, we will highlight the importance of environmental protection, and in particular, waste prevention. We aim to initiate a trial on one site to further assess the potential environmental and financial benefits of such a scheme. If successful, there is scope for a broader rollout within the health sector.

4.5.3. Collaboration with NI Education Authority

DAERA has been working with the NI Education Authority to consider options for reducing and preventing waste in schools. As an added benefit, waste prevention is an immediate route to cost reduction and this has been recognised by the Authority. The Schools Catering Service will be encouraged to review processes and pupil meals provided in line with industry advice such as the WRAP 'Your Business is Food' programme to improve food waste prevention.

DAERA has Department has also provided prize money for two school competitions targeted at different age groups designed to encourage students to consider pathways to reduce the use of single use plastic in schools.

Action 15 - Working with NI Education Authority

DAERA will collaborate with the Education Authority to help reduce waste both in classrooms and in school catering services.

DAERA will use the learning generated to help inform further waste prevention interventions with the wider public sector.

4.6. Support to the Third Sector

'Third sector organisations' is a term used to describe the range of organisations that are neither public sector nor private sector. It includes voluntary and community organisations (both registered charities and other organisations such as associations, self-help groups and community groups), social enterprises, mutuals and co-operatives.

Public services can gain a lot from working with third sector organisations such as;

- Understanding of the needs of service users and communities that the public sector needs to address,
- Closeness to the people that the public sector wants to reach,
- Ability to deliver outcomes that the public sector finds it hard to deliver on its own,
- Innovation in developing solutions, and
- Performance in delivering services.

4.6.1 Reuse and Repair Network

In Northern Ireland, WRAP has used initiatives to stimulate capacity and awarded grants to the following programmes: New2You at Pennyburn, Tools for Solidarity, Habitat for Humanity, Voluntary Service Lisburn, and East Belfast Mission.

DAERA has participated in reuse and repair forums convened by Belfast City Council including discussions on the use of the Waste Action Reuse Portal (WARP-IT) software solution.

Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) is a network established to support social enterprise in reuse and recycling. CRNI's vision is for communities to benefit from the social, environmental and economic value of all reusable resources. The network supports its members to bring the community resources sector into the mainstream. This includes capacity building through member training, networking, knowledge sharing and business opportunities, providing members with opportunities to access policy makers and funders, promoting members activities and conducting research to help overcome barriers to reuse.

Action 16 – Reuse and Repair Network

DAERA will undertake a feasibility study into the economic and social benefits of establishing a reuse and repair network in Northern Ireland including establishing a reuse quality mark.

4.6.2 Third Sector Funding

Up to £240k was made available in 2014/15, with a maximum grant of up to £50k per application for capital funding for the Third Sector for waste infrastructure. WRAP administered and managed the fund. One example of the capital funding was the purchase of mattress recycling equipment which became the foundation for a successful mattress recycling social enterprise.

Action 17 - Support to the Third Sector

The Department will continue to support the Third Sector as part of ongoing funding operations and investigate new ways to do so.

4.6.3 Zero Waste Projects

Zero Waste is the conservation of all resources by means of responsible production, consumption, reuse and recovery of products, packaging and materials without

burning, and with no discharges to land, water, or air that threaten the environment or human health.

In 2016/17, DAERA grant funded the voluntary organisation Zero Waste North West (ZWNW) to pioneer a zero waste initiative in Derry City and Strabane District Council. ZWNW subsequently teamed up with Eunomia to produce a Zero Waste Strategy for the Council in 2017.

The strategy aims to deliver environmental, economic and social benefits, aligning with the Council's community planning thematic pillars. The document sets out the current position in the Derry and Strabane Council area and it suggests policies for a strategy to take the council area towards the vision of a Zero Waste Circular Economy and offers examples of how key sectors within the area could become more circular and the benefits this could yield.¹⁷

Action 18 - Zero Waste/Circular Economy Projects

DAERA will continue to support “zero waste” projects where objectives align and funding is available.

4.7. Awareness Raising Actions for Waste Prevention

4.7.1. European Week for Waste Reduction

The European Week for Waste Reduction (EWWR), is an initiative which began in 2009 and is held in November each year. Its main objectives are;

- to raise awareness about waste reduction, product reuse and material recycling strategies, and related European Union and Member States policies.
- to highlight the work accomplished by EWWR participants.

¹⁷ <http://www.derrystrabane.com/getmedia/5d4cbd1f-f6ae-4272-9386-9177d850e25d/Final-Strategy-Zero-Waste-Circular-Economy.pdf>

- to mobilise and encourage European citizens to concentrate on four key action themes.
- to reinforce EWWR stakeholders' capacities by providing them with targeted communication tools and training.

WRAP is the Coordinator for EWWR in Northern Ireland. WRAP engages with key partner organisations in NI who mobilise Action Developers in the 5 EWWR categories:

- public administration and organisation.
- Association/NGO and body/organisation of public interest.
- business/industry.
- educational establishment.
- citizen(s).

Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful engages with educational establishments through the Eco-Schools programme. During the EWWR, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful encourages schools to think about waste reduction and prevention as part of a Europe wide campaign. Schools are encouraged to register as an Action Developer on the [EWWR website](#)¹⁸ and download resources and posters to promote any waste actions. They are asked to record the actions they take and report them on the EWWR website. Any measurements recorded are a bonus for the Eco-Schools Data Zone. This collaboration will help to raise the profile of Northern Ireland during the EWWR.

In 2019, Cloughmills Community Action Team was nominated for its 'Library of Things' initiative and won the European award in the Association/NGO category. The initiative put a different spin on the concept of a library, lending out hardware instead of books. The team sought to build the capacity of the local community to perform chores locally and to reduce waste by avoiding the need for residents to purchase items themselves.

¹⁸ <http://www.ewwr.eu/en>

Action 19 – European Week for Waste Reduction

DAERA will continue to support the European Week for Waste Reduction and build upon any successes arising from entries to its competitions.

4.7.2 Tap Water Refill Scheme

Figures from a Marine Litter report (2018) conducted by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful revealed that 78% of litter collected on Northern Ireland's beaches was plastic. In Northern Ireland it is estimated that 12,000 tonnes of plastic bottles are collected every year equating to 181 million plastic bottles per year.

With a strong focus on the water environment and as part of its commitment to tackling the problems caused by plastics which block up our rivers and drains and pollute our seas, NI Water urged the public to take part in the national day of action across the UK, together with 'Refill' at Water UK on 27 September 2018. On this day, everyone was asked to switch to a reusable bottle that could be refilled from the tap. NI Water also launched a new campaign aimed at encouraging local businesses to offer tap water from their premises to those who ask for it using refillable bottles. In June 2019, NI Water launched a campaign against single use plastic bottles for water under the banner of "Refillution".

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council in association with Cloughmills Community Action Team with support from the Children's Health Fund has also launched an 'H₂O on the Go' scheme to provide free water. So far, six businesses have signed up to take part, along with Council's Arts Centres in Limavady, Portstewart and Ballycastle Marina, while free water will also be available at Downhill, Benone, West Strand and Whiterocks beach. The Council aim to extend the network and raise awareness about how switching to free tap water can make a difference to the environment.

A further two schemes having a presence in Northern Ireland are 'City to Sea' and 'Refill Ireland'. Both schemes follow the same concept – premises and organisations

voluntarily join the scheme, offer the public facilities to refill their bottles for free, advertise this with a sticker placed on the front door or window and are mapped onto a website or app. City to Sea, established in 2015 in Bristol, now has over 1,600 refill sites across the UK, including 22 in Belfast (3 of which are Belfast City Council sites). Premier Inn and Starbucks have also signed up to this scheme and are mapped in Belfast.

Refill Ireland is primarily based in the Republic of Ireland, although has a presence in Northern Ireland – Mount Stewart currently has six refill points mapped. As part of a feasibility study, Belfast City Council is recommending that all eight of its drinking water fountains in Belfast City are added to the City to Sea refill scheme. They are also planning to promote the scheme through their operating partners (Greenwich Leisure Ltd. and Amadeus) and representative bodies such as the Chamber of Commerce and Retail NI. The uptake of the scheme will be monitored and reported.

Action 20 - Tap Water Refill Scheme

DAERA will continue to promote water refilling schemes in conjunction with NI Water, local Councils and local businesses to reduce waste from single-use plastic bottles and to promote reusable bottles.

4.7.3 Social Media & Internet Campaigns & Messaging

DAERA recognise the importance of adapting to rapidly advancing technology and using new technology to interact with the public to promote waste prevention messages and activities.

MyNI is a digital stakeholder engagement tool that uses social media channels, supported by a website. These channels and the site use engaging content as well as digital marketing tools and techniques. They are designed to appeal to individual people in Northern Ireland with different needs, and interests. The purpose of MyNI is to pro-actively make people aware of government bodies and public services, as well as this, MyNI aims to contribute to the PfG Outcomes. MyNI uses its social

media feeds to make people aware of interactive map of household recycling centres. By clicking on the map, users can see where their nearest centre is and the variety of household waste that the centre will take for recycling. Additional content will motivate these users to sort and take their waste to that centre.

In the 15 months since MyNI went live (January 2018-March 2019), the content has been seen 8.5 million times on social newsfeeds across Northern Ireland. There have been over 83,000 views of MyNI web content, and the team continues to exceed industry standards in levels of engagement and interaction with citizens online. MyNI is currently running as a pilot and will develop over the next couple of years with more cross-cutting, cross-Departmental Programme for Government-driven campaigns.

The NIDirect online service offers NI government information on a single, dedicated website organised by subject rather than by responsible department. In 2018/19 there were more than 28 million visitors and almost 51 million page views. NIDirect has seen 20.7 million transactions undertaken online, equivalent to savings to the taxpayer of an estimated £99.9 million.

Action 21 - Social Media Campaigns

DAERA will continue to promote reuse and reduction through social media campaigns MyNI, in tandem with existing messaging on NI Direct and associated social media posts to raise awareness of the content. The Department will develop specific campaigns in conjunction with these channels to raise awareness of waste prevention.

4.7.4 Council Led Initiatives – Working with Local Authorities

Local authorities are ideally placed to implement a range of waste prevention measures. Their role within waste collection provides them with an opportunity to engage widely with householders and businesses at a local level. Local authorities are already engaged in actions and trials aimed at preventing waste and DAERA will

continue to work with them to develop initiatives to realise the benefits of waste prevention at the local level.

Action 22 - Local Authorities

DAERA will continue to collaborate with local councils to develop waste prevention plans.

5. Summary of Action Points - DAERA Waste Prevention Programme 2019

The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (hereinafter referred to as the Department)

Action Heading	Action
1. Extended Producer Responsibility	DAERA will continue to work in conjunction with the UK Government and the Devolved Administrations to design and implement an EPR scheme that is consistent with the polluter pays principle and which aims to reduce the amount of unnecessary and difficult to recycle packaging.
2. Collaboration with Defra and Other DA's in Relation to Eco-Design	DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other devolved administrations to extend eco-design standards to a range of non-energy resource intensive product groups with the aim of preventing avoidable waste.
3. Collaboration with Defra and other DA's in Relation to Enhanced Eco- Labelling	DAERA will collaborate with Defra and other DA's to develop new mandatory consumer information and labelling aimed at conserving resources and preventing waste.
4. Tackling Plastics Project	DAERA will aim to reduce plastic waste through a number of mechanisms being delivered as part of the Tackling Plastics Project that Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful are undertaking on behalf of DAERA.
5. Carrier Bag Levy	DAERA will continue to review the Carrier Bag Levy charging administration and if appropriate make changes to the charging regime.
6. Ban on Microbeads	DAERA will continue to support the ban on microbeads by working with councils.

Action Heading	Action
7. Consumer Food Waste Prevention	DAERA will continue to work with WRAP to deliver its Love Food Hate Waste consumer food waste prevention campaign in Northern Ireland. WRAP will establish and engage a network of campaign partners through the campaign will effectively engage with consumers, community groups, local authorities and educational bodies WRAP and DAERA will collaborate to develop follow-up campaigns to build capacity for behavioural change and waste prevention messaging aimed at food waste reduction.
8. Champions12.3	DAERA learn from the Champions 12.3 coalition and will get involved in activities which are aligned with its goals.
9. Courtauld 2025	DAERA will continue to support WRAP in this campaign to work with local businesses, NGOs and sector organisations to reduce food and drinks waste arisings in the UK by 20% by 2025 compared to 2015, calculated as a relative reduction per head of population.
10. Food Redistribution	DAERA will collaborate with FareShare and other food redistribution networks to minimise avoidable food waste by raising the profile of the organisation and identifying opportunities for them to partner with both businesses and public bodies. DAERA will support specific projects aimed at prevention of food waste.
11. Business Resource Efficiency - Invest NI	DAERA will collaborate with Invest NI to promote their waste prevention initiatives particularly those relating to resource efficiency and industrial symbiosis. This will help to build closer links with business, industry and their representatives.
12. Prosperity Agreements	DAERA will work with our Prosperity Agreement partners to identify opportunities to promote resource efficiency and waste prevention measures. In particular and where possible we will aim to include food redistribution actions and areas of agreement around the reduction of packaging to help reduce waste.
13. Eco-Schools Programme	DAERA will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme in order to maximise opportunities for learning and teaching about waste prevention. We will aim to introduce a specific topic on waste prevention into the Eco-Schools curriculum.

Action Heading	Action
14. Eco-Hospitals Programme	DAERA are investigating the feasibility of introducing a similar scheme in Northern Ireland. By engaging staff, students, local businesses, contractors and suppliers as well as visitors, we will highlight the importance of environmental protection and in particular waste prevention. We aim to initiate a trial on one site to further assess the potential environmental and financial benefits of such a scheme. If successful this scheme can be rolled out wider within the health sector.
15. Working with NI Education Authority	DAERA will collaborate with the Education Authority to help reduce waste both in classrooms and through their catering service. DAERA will use the learning generated through this forum to help inform further waste prevention interventions with the wider public sector in NI.
16. Reuse and Repair Network	DAERA will undertake a feasibility study into the economic and social benefits of establishing a reuse and repair network in Northern Ireland. If found to be a viable option we will develop a business case to work towards establishing this. If established further investigations will be carried out to ascertain whether a reuse quality mark would add further value to a network.
17. Support to the Third Sector	DAERA will continue to support the Third Sector as part of ongoing funding operations and investigate new ways to do so.
18. Zero Waste/Circular Economy Projects	DAERA will continue to support “zero waste” projects where our objectives align and funding is available.
19. European Week for Waste Reduction	DAERA will continue to support the European Week for Waste Reduction and build upon any successes arising from entries to its competitions.
20. Tap Water Refill Scheme	DAERA will continue to promote and publicise water refilling schemes in conjunction with NI Water, local Councils, local businesses and their staff to reduce waste from single-use plastic bottles and to promote reusable bottles.

Action Heading	Action
21. Social Media Campaigns	DAERA will continue to promote reuse and reduction through social media campaigns on our new social media platform, MyNI, in tandem with existing messaging on NI Direct and associated social media posts to raise awareness of the content. DAERA will develop specific campaigns in conjunction with these channels to raise awareness of waste prevention.
22. Local Authorities	DAERA will continue to collaborate with and support local authorities/councils to ensure they develop waste prevention plans in their areas and will continue to encourage and assist with further developing their plans into the future.

Annex A - Programme Review of the 2013 Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme: The Road to Zero Waste.

As required by Article 30 of the 2008 Waste Framework Directive and by Regulation 13 of the Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme has been reviewed in its 6th year. This interim waste prevention programme is an output from the 2019 review and is designed to provide a short extension to the programme pending the introduction of a new Circular Economy Waste Package (CEWP) that is required to be transposed by 2020 and clarity on post-EU exit arrangements.

Road to Zero Waste – Actions

The following table lists each of the 13 actions set out in the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme and describes the progress to date.

Action	Progress
Action 1 – Stakeholder Forum	
<p>DAERA of the Environment will organise a stakeholder forum on waste prevention by December 2014.</p>	<p>A stakeholder forum on waste prevention was held on 4 November 2015 at CAFRE Food Innovation Centre, Loughry Campus.</p> <p>Representatives from reuse enterprises and local authorities attended the workshop, led by WRAP.</p>
Action 2 - Rethink Waste Communications Campaign	
<p>The Department of the Environment will develop a follow-up communications campaign to build on the success of the initial Rethink Waste campaign. The campaign will continue to include waste prevention messaging.</p> <p>Food waste is considered a priority waste stream to tackle. The communications campaign will have a particular focus on preventing food waste and continue to support the ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ campaign.</p>	<p>There has been an ongoing Communications Plan, to support the Rethink Waste brand and campaign.</p> <p>This has concentrated on recycling, waste prevention and food waste recycling.</p> <p>Through ‘Love Food Hate Waste’ and WRAP’s Citizen behaviour change activity – a number of campaigns – with messaging designed to reach different audience segments. Campaigns focused on key food types identified as the most wasted items, e.g. bread, chicken, potatoes.</p> <p>DAERA provided funding to the Love Food Hate Waste Ten Cities campaign that included Belfast. It was launched at the NI Assembly in September 2014.</p>



10 Cities – Belfast Victoria Square Sept 2014

A further roadshow event for the 10 cities was an installation – ‘Big Freeze’ – located in CastleCourt – to feature the benefits of correctly using domestic freezers and fridges to preserve food.

‘Love Food Hate Waste’ shifted from building capacity in community segments to targeting key audience segments with specific messages.




Big Freeze Castle Court 2016

In 2015, DAERA introduced the Food Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015 that placed a duty on businesses producing in excess of 5kg of food waste to present food waste for separate collection and a requirement to ensure that food waste is not deposited in a sewer. In addition the regulations required local councils from 2017 to provide a separate food waste collection service to households. All Councils in Northern Ireland have successfully introduced household food waste collections resulting in 950,810 tonnes of biodegradable waste being diverted from landfill from 2015-2019 (Q1).

	<p>However a recent WRAP waste constitutional analysis has shown that the average residual waste bin in NI still contains 24.7% of organic waste. DAERA continues to provide support and funding to Councils to encourage behaviour change among householders to remove this organic fraction from the residual waste stream.</p>
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Action 3 – European Week of Waste Reduction

<p>The Department of the Environment will continue to support an annual waste prevention week and promote waste prevention across local government, the public sector, the Third Sector, businesses, schools and the public throughout Northern Ireland.</p> <div data-bbox="323 1108 611 1489" style="text-align: center;">  <p>EUROPEAN WEEK FOR WASTE REDUCTION</p> </div>	<p>WRAP NI was supported by DAERA to register each year for the EWWR and also to promote EWWR at National Communications Action Programme meetings.</p> <p>In recent years WRAP has placed strong emphasis on food waste prevention during EWWR both at individual and organisational levels. Each year a number of councils promote EWWR events and activity in their areas – e.g. Belfast City Council putting on eco-themed film nights in Belfast Barge on the River Lagan.</p> <p>The 2018 Cloughmills Library of Things activity supported by Causeway Coast & Glens council was submitted to the EU-wide EWWR awards event, was short-listed and eventually went on to win in its Association/NGO category.</p> <p>It is likely that this action would be updated and continue in a future modified programme.</p>
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Action 4 – Eco-Home Programme

<p>The Department of the Environment will assess the feasibility of expanding the Eco-Home Programme across Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful did establish the Eco-Homes website as a resource. However, the website did not attract significant use and it was considered a more effective to use the resources for the Eco-Schools programme and the setup of the MyNI website. MyNI promotes waste prevention, reuse and reduction through</p>
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	<p>social media campaigns, such as #onesmallthingMyNI – which focuses on changing one thing such as preventing purchase and use of single use plastics. MyNI work in tandem with existing messaging on NI Direct and associated social media posts to raise awareness of the content.</p>
<p>Action 5 – Eco-Schools Programme</p>	
<p>The Department of the Environment will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme, including the waste topic relating to waste prevention and recycling.</p>	<p>Eco-Schools programme in NI is ongoing with DAERA support to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful and is modelled around the waste hierarchy starting with “Reduce” i.e. the prevention of waste. DAERA is also working with KNIB and the Education Authority for Northern Ireland to reduce waste from schools and has recently supported a specific initiative to reduce plastic waste.</p>
<p>Action 6 – Carrier Bag Levy</p>	
<p>The Department of the Environment will extend the carrier bag levy to low-cost reusable bags from January 2015.</p>	<p>The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013 were made on 15 January 2013 and came into operation on 8 April 2013. From that date, all sellers of goods in Northern Ireland had to charge their customers at least 5 pence (“the levy”) for each single use carrier bag supplied new so as to enable goods purchased to be taken away or delivered. From 19 January 2015, the levy was extended to all carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence.</p> <p>Since implementation, the levy has already removed approximately 1 billion single use plastic carrier bags from circulation. Published statistics show that in 2017/18 (Year 5 of the levy), 98.8 million bags were dispensed by retailers; a reduction in numbers by 67.1%, compared with a figure of 300m in April 2013.</p>

Action 7 – Support for Voluntary Agreements with Business

The Department of the Environment will work with partners to ensure that voluntary agreements with business on waste and resource efficiency work well in Northern Ireland and include a focus on preventing waste.

The Hospitality and Food Service Agreement (HaFSA) was a three-year voluntary agreement developed by WRAP with the industry and supported by the UK Government and devolved administrations. It was launched in 2012 with the aim of reducing waste, in particular food waste, and increase recycling rates within the sector. Over 230 leading signatories and supporters signed up to support these aims, covering approximately 25% of the UK sector (calculated by food and drink sales, including wholesale and distribution). A number of hospitality sector organisations in NI committed to the VA, for example, City Hotel, Derry and Jury’s Hotel.

The HaFS work continued beyond 2014 via WRAP’s Courtauld Commitment ‘C2025’ voluntary agreement.

WRAP developed and delivered the HaFSA using funds from the governments in England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The HaFSA had two targets, for prevention and waste management, which were and collectively delivered by the signatories.

Action 8 – Zero Waste Projects

The Department of the Environment will support “zero waste” projects through the Rethink Waste Fund.

DAERA grant funded the charity Zero Waste North West to pioneer a zero waste initiative in Derry City & Strabane District Council (DCSDC). ZWNW subsequently teamed up with Eunomia to produce a Zero Waste Strategy for DCSDC in 2017. However, DCSDC , supported by DAERA and in keeping with other NI Councils, subsequently concentrated on achieving the EU mandated waste recycling targets

Action 9 – Voluntary Construction Sector Schemes	
<p>The Department of the Environment will periodically review the effectiveness of voluntary environmental schemes within the construction sector in determining whether to consider statutory instruments in the future.</p>	<p>The UK Government introduced the Red Tape Challenge designed to help cut unnecessary regulation which in turn led to the Better Regulation agenda.</p> <p>The positive impact on resource efficiency in the sector through the ‘Halving Waste to Landfill’ commitment reduced the need for formal regulation, which was considered for site waste management planning. There was no regulation made in NI and the SWMP regulation for England and Wales was repealed as part of the UK Government Red Tape Challenge</p>
Action 10 – Voluntary Agreement for the Construction Sector	
<p>The Department of the Environment will work with partners and stakeholders to develop a follow-up voluntary agreement to Halving Waste to Landfill appropriate for Northern Ireland.</p>	<p>The commitment was ‘Halving Waste to Landfill’ commitment - a voluntary agreement undertaken by construction companies to adopt good practices in waste reduction, recycling and the use of recycled and recovered materials. It was organised by WRAP and concluded in 2015. The target for halving waste to landfill was met and exceeded by 2014. 30 businesses in Northern Ireland participated in this commitment. Upon its conclusion, the construction sector had accepted the need for being more resource efficient and preventing waste through design and delivery of contracts. The halving waste approach addressed the practicalities of building design (designing out waste) – architects and civil engineers, site waste management operations, procurement specs for waste management contractors, site staff training, WRAP training of professionals, a reporting portal, numerous professional sector services and member bodies taking the lead.</p>

Action 11 – Reuse and Repair Network	
<p>The Department of the Environment will work with partners to develop a reuse and repair network throughout Northern Ireland, supporting reuse and preparing for reuse infrastructure.</p>	<p>In Northern Ireland WRAP administered DAERA revenue grants alongside introducing best practice guidance to stimulate capacity. Grants were made to the following programmes: New2You at Pennyburn, Tools for Solidarity, Habitat for Humanity, Voluntary Service Lisburn, East Belfast Mission. DAERA also participated in reuse and repair forums convened by Belfast City Council including discussions on the use of the Waste Action Reuse Portal (WARP-IT) software solution.</p>
Action 12 – Support to the Third Sector	
<p>The Department of the Environment will review the Rethink Waste Fund to provide appropriate support to the Third Sector to enable business growth and capacity to be expanded.</p>	<p>Up to £240K was made available in 2014/15, with a maximum grant of up to £50K per application for capital funding for the Third Sector for waste infrastructure. WRAP administered and managed the Fund.</p> <p>One example of the capital funding was the purchase of mattress recycling equipment which became the foundation for a very successful mattress recycling social enterprise. (see action 13 below)</p> <p>DAERA has also funded Business in the Community NI (BITCNI) and in doing so has contributed to engaging businesses in knowledge transfer activities which promote and enable waste reduction, resource efficiency and wider environmentally sustainable approaches. As well as this, this funding has allowed for the provision of access to resources which support the adoption of waste reduction and resource efficiency. BITCNI helped many social enterprises and community groups with environmental tasks and has established an environmental benchmarking survey across a number of circular economy aspects in order to help businesses identify actions for improvement.</p>

Action 13 – Reuse Quality Assurance

<p>The Department of the Environment will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with partners to influence supply chains • Develop new business models to assist reuse businesses. • Promote reuse assurance standards 	<p>WRAP provided a letter of support to the Community Reuse Network Ireland (CRNI) to undertake an Irish EPA-funded study for quality assurance for reused products. This project concluded in 2018 with pilots to provide evidence and to improve development. This is planned to continue for CRNI members and associates across the island via a new EPA funded development project. NI reuse enterprises were consulted and engaged in the CRNI project. A specific example of reuse supported by DAERA is the capital funding for the purchase of mattress recycling equipment. That has subsequently transferred to a social enterprise (USEL) for what has become a very successful mattress recycling operation across NI, both preventing waste of valuable resources in used mattresses and also providing jobs to employees that struggle to find employment in the mainstream job market.</p>
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Annex B – Meeting Legal Requirements

The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 include a number of review and participation requirements at regulation 13 to regulation 16. These regulations are reproduced below along with an explanation of how DAERA is following the regulations;

Review and modification of waste prevention programmes

13.—(1) The Department shall—

(a) shall review each waste prevention programme at least every sixth year;

and

(b) may from time to time modify the waste prevention programmes in accordance with Article 30 of the Waste Framework Directive.

The EU has agreed targets for recycling and requirements for the separate collection of specific materials as well as targets for reduction in waste to landfill and Northern Ireland has made positive progress in meeting or exceeding these targets. As yet, no EU-wide specific targets for waste prevention have been established, although as part of the Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme the “Measuring Progress” section of the Road to Zero Waste programme, two indicators were identified to be monitored: the amount of household waste arisings and the amount of household waste arisings per unit household expenditure both of which were to be augmented with data on Commercial & Industrial Waste and Construction and Demolition Waste arisings as and when reliable data was available. DAERA was particularly interested in monitoring the decoupling of waste arisings from economic growth as an indicator of waste prevention. Included within this review of the Road to Zero Waste is a chart that shows an encouraging trend that for every unit of GVA produced, waste arisings per capita have decreased. DAERA proposes to continue to monitor this relationship within a future programme.

The Waste Prevention Programme for Northern Ireland – The Road to Zero Waste – was published in September 2014 and is now in its sixth year. In accordance with the requirement at Regulation 13(1)(a) (above) the Programme was reviewed between

April 2019 and July 2019 and a modified interim programme with 22 proposed actions has been drafted in accordance with Regulation 13(1)(b);

Public participation in waste prevention programmes

14.—(1) *Regulations 15 and 16 apply to the modification of a waste prevention programme as they apply to the preparation of such a programme.*

(2) *Regulations 15 and 16 do not apply to a waste prevention programme—*

(a) *designed for the sole purpose of serving national defence or taken in case of civil emergencies;*

(b) *for which a public participation procedure is carried out under the Environmental Assessment of Plans and Programmes Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2004(5);*

(c) *containing only provision relating to separation collection of waste, bio-waste, reuse, preparing for reuse, recovery and recycling targets;*

(3) *Steps taken before the coming into operation of these Regulations in relation to a waste prevention programme may be steps for the purposes of regulations 15 and 16.*

Public participation procedures

15.—(1) *As soon as reasonably practicable after preparing proposals for a waste prevention programme or for the modification of such a waste prevention programme, the Department shall—*

(a) *send a copy of the proposals to the consultation bodies;*

(b) *take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the proposals to the attention of the persons who in the Department's opinion—*

(i) *are, or are likely to be affected by the waste prevention programme; or*

(ii) *have an interest in the waste prevention programme;*

(c) *inform the public consultees of the address (which may include a website)—*

(i) *at which a copy of the proposals may be viewed; and*

(ii) *from which a copy of the proposals may be obtained;*

(d) *invite the consultation bodies and public consultees to express their opinion on the proposals, specifying the address to which, and the period within which opinions must be sent.*

(2) The period referred to in paragraph (1)(d) must be of such length as will ensure that the consultation bodies and the public consultees are given an early and effective opportunity to express their opinion on the proposals.

(3) The Department shall keep a copy of the proposals for inspection by the public at all reasonable times free of charge.

(4) Nothing in paragraph (1)(c) requires the Department to provide copies of the proposals free of charge, but where a charge is made, it shall be a reasonable amount.

In accordance with Regulations 14 & 15 (above) DAERA will issue this draft Waste Prevention Programme for public consultation, including Northern Ireland local councils, Northern Ireland environmental groups, and the Northern Ireland waste management and waste recycling industry. The draft of the programme will be published on DAERA's website and the consultation will be promoted through DAERA's social media channels to encourage widespread participation. The consultation seeking replies and comments on the draft programme will be open for response for a period of 8 weeks.

Procedures following public participation

16.—(1) Before decisions on a waste management programme are made, the Department shall take account of any opinions expressed by a consultation body or public consultees.

(2) As soon as reasonably practicable after making decisions on a waste prevention programme the Department shall—

(a) inform the consultation bodies and the public consultees of the matters in paragraph (3);

(b) take such steps as it considers appropriate to bring the matters in paragraph (3) to the attention of the public; and

(c) if it has adopted the waste prevention programme, place a copy of the programme on the Department's website and make a copy of the programme available for inspection by the public at all reasonable times and free of charge.

(3) The matters are—

- (a) the decisions made by the Department on the waste prevention programme;*
- (b) the reasons and considerations on which those decisions are based; and*
- (c) information about the public participation procedure.*
- (4) Nothing in paragraph (2)(c) requires the Department to provide copies free of charge, but where a charge is made, it shall be a reasonable amount.*

Following the end of the consultation period DAERA will publish on its website a summary of the responses received. The Department will analyse the consultation responses and comments to consider what changes are required to the draft programme taking account of the views expressed during the consultation.

In accordance with Regulation 16(3), DAERA will, as soon as reasonably practicable, publish on DAERA website its views and decisions on the consultation responses and send a copy to stakeholders and consultees. If appropriate a final modified interim programme will be published on the Departmental website and copied to stakeholders and consultees.



Department of the
Environment
www.doeni.gov.uk

ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY DIVISION

THE WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME FOR NORTHERN IRELAND –

THE ROAD TO ZERO WASTE

30 September 2014

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NORTHERN IRELAND WASTE PREVENTION PROGRAMME

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Environment in Northern Ireland (DOE) is responsible for the drafting of legislation on waste, the implementation of waste management policy and the promotion of a more sustainable approach to dealing with waste in Northern Ireland.

The Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme – “The Road to Zero Waste” builds on the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy – “Delivering Resource Efficiency”.¹ The Programme is designed to have a favourable impact on the Northern Ireland economy, helping to promote and support ‘green jobs’, and for the protection of the environment and conservation of resources.

Summary of Actions

Action1 – Stakeholder Forum

The Department of the Environment will organise a stakeholder forum on waste prevention by December 2014.

Action 2 - Rethink Waste Communications Campaign

The Department of the Environment will develop a follow-up communications campaign to build on the success of the initial Rethink Waste campaign. The campaign will continue to include waste prevention messaging.

Food waste is considered a priority waste stream to tackle. The communications campaign will have a particular focus on preventing food waste and continue to support the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

Action 3 – European Week of Waste Reduction

The Department of the Environment will continue to support an annual waste prevention week and promote waste prevention across local government, the public sector, the Third Sector, businesses, schools and the public throughout Northern Ireland.

Action 4 – Eco-Home Programme

The Department of the Environment will assess the feasibility of expanding the Eco-Home Programme across Northern Ireland.

¹ Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy – “Delivering Resource Efficiency”, http://www.doeni.gov.uk/waste_management_strategy

Action 5 – Eco-Schools Programme

The Department of the Environment will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme, including the waste topic relating to waste prevention and recycling.

Action 6 – Carrier Bag Levy

The Department of the Environment will extend the carrier bag levy to low-cost reusable bags from January 2015.

Action 7 – Support for Voluntary Agreements with Business

The Department of the Environment will work with partners to ensure that voluntary agreements with business on waste and resource efficiency work well in Northern Ireland and include a focus on preventing waste.

Action 8 – Zero Waste Projects

The Department of the Environment will support “zero waste” projects through the Rethink Waste Fund.

Action 9 – Voluntary Construction Sector Schemes

The Department of the Environment will periodically review the effectiveness of voluntary environmental schemes within the construction sector in determining whether to consider statutory instruments in the future.

Action 10 – Voluntary Agreement for the Construction Sector

The Department of the Environment will work with partners and stakeholders to develop a follow-up voluntary agreement to Halving Waste to Landfill appropriate for Northern Ireland.

Action 11 – Reuse and Repair Network

The Department of the Environment will work with partners to develop a re-use and repair network throughout Northern Ireland, supporting re-use and preparing for re-use infrastructure.

Action 12 – Support to the Third Sector

The Department of the Environment will review the Rethink Waste Fund to provide appropriate support to the Third Sector to enable business growth and capacity to be expanded.

Action 13 – Re-use Quality Assurance

The Department of the Environment will:

- Engage with partners to influence supply chains
- Develop new business models to assist re-use businesses.
- Promote re-use assurance standards

Measuring Progress

There is no proposal to have a headline target for waste prevention at this time. To ensure that activities within the Waste Prevention Programme are on course to comply with the aims and objectives of the plan the following indicators will be monitored:

- Initially, the **amount of household waste arisings**. When more reliable data becomes available through other initiatives in the revised Waste Management Strategy, the amount of Commercial & Industrial Waste and Construction & Demolition Waste arisings will also be monitored.
- Initially, the **amount of household waste arisings per unit household expenditure** to assess trends relating to decoupling economic growth and waste arisings. Commercial & Industrial Waste and Construction & Demolition Waste arisings per unit GVA² will be monitored once reliable data becomes available.

² GVA, Gross Value Added, measures the contribution to the economy of each individual producer, industry or sector in the United Kingdom.

PART 1 - OVERVIEW

1 Introduction

1.1 Waste is a key environmental, social and economic issue. In 2012/13 local authorities collected over 900,000 tonnes of municipal waste from businesses and households in Northern Ireland, just one part of the total waste arisings.³ The treatment or disposal not only incurs a considerable cost to businesses and householders, but places increasing stress on the use of raw materials, energy, water and food. Although in recent years Northern Ireland has seen a decline in the amount of waste generated, we cannot afford to become complacent.

1.2 Northern Ireland has focused heavily on reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill. Figures for 2012/13, show that we are recycling and composting 38.7% of our Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW). However, we are still producing almost 914,000 tonnes of LACMW per year, which equates to 1.12 tonnes of household waste per household.

1.3 In 2010 the population of Northern Ireland was estimated to be 1.8 million, (approximately 3% of the population of the UK) and is expected to grow by 10% in the next twenty years.⁴ The estimated number of households in Northern Ireland is 715,200 and is expected to grow by 26% in the next twenty years. If we are to preserve our resources for future generations we have to move to a more sustainable lifestyle.

1.4 The intent of the Waste Prevention Programme is to assist Northern Ireland in moving along the “Road to Zero Waste”, i.e. to drive waste up the waste hierarchy; to deliver resource efficiency.⁵

1.5 Developing a Waste Prevention Programme in Northern Ireland encompasses a number of actions, which will result in a broad range of benefits. Targeting at-source waste production reduces the amount and toxicity of waste before recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfilling become options. Waste prevention also includes measures to reduce the adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health. Waste prevention can be achieved by reducing the quantity of material used in the creation of products and increasing the efficiency with which products, once created, are used. Preventing waste by limiting unnecessary consumption and by designing and consuming products that generate less waste are forms of ‘strict avoidance’ of waste. Waste prevention also encompasses actions that can be undertaken when a product reaches its end-of-life: rather than discarding the product, the final user should consider re-use, repair or

³ Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Annual Report 2012/13 - <http://www.doeni.gov.uk/lac-municipal-waste-2012-13.pdf>

⁴ Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2012, NISRA

⁵ The term “Zero Waste” means different things to different people, but in effect is an “aspirational end point” where materials are not sent to landfill or other disposal.

refurbishment as options. Extending a product's lifetime or considering options like reuse are forms of prevention through 'diversion of waste flows'.

2 Context

2.1 The EU Waste Framework Directive⁶ (WFD) was established in 1975 and provided a legal framework for all EU waste legislation. It has been updated repeatedly in response to changes in the waste burden and waste management tools. The revised Waste Framework Directive of November 2008 seeks to position the EU as a 'recycling society', with broad aims "to avoid waste generation and to use waste".

2.2 Decoupling economic growth from the environmental impacts associated with waste generation is a key objective of the revised Waste Framework Directive (WFD). Stabilising waste generation is no longer enough, waste growth in Northern Ireland must now reverse⁷.

2.3 The Roadmap to a Resource Efficient Europe, which was published by the European Commission in September 2011 defines medium and long term objectives and the means for achieving them. The vision is of a European economy that, by 2050, has grown and developed in such a way that respects resource constraints and planetary boundaries, and thus contributes to a global economic transformation. A key milestone is not just to manage waste but to recognise it as a resource and thereby create a 'circular economy' with residual waste reduced as far as possible. This will require a greater focus on waste prevention followed by increased recycling.

2.4 The revised WFD requires that Member States create national waste prevention programmes by 12 December 2013. The objective of these programmes is to present a co-ordinated national approach to waste prevention, delineating targets and policies with the aim of decoupling economic growth from the environmental impacts of waste generation. England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland will all therefore be creating their own Waste Prevention Programmes to take account of local issues and needs.

2.5 With this goal in mind, Article 29 of the WFD asks that we:

- Establish waste prevention programmes by December 2013,
- Assess existing national waste prevention measures,
- Define national waste prevention objectives,
- Evaluate the suitability of the strategies for inclusion in national waste prevention programmes,
- Take appropriate measures to promote product re-use,
- Support the establishment and development of re-use and repair networks, as well as public procurement criteria and quantitative objectives for re-use,

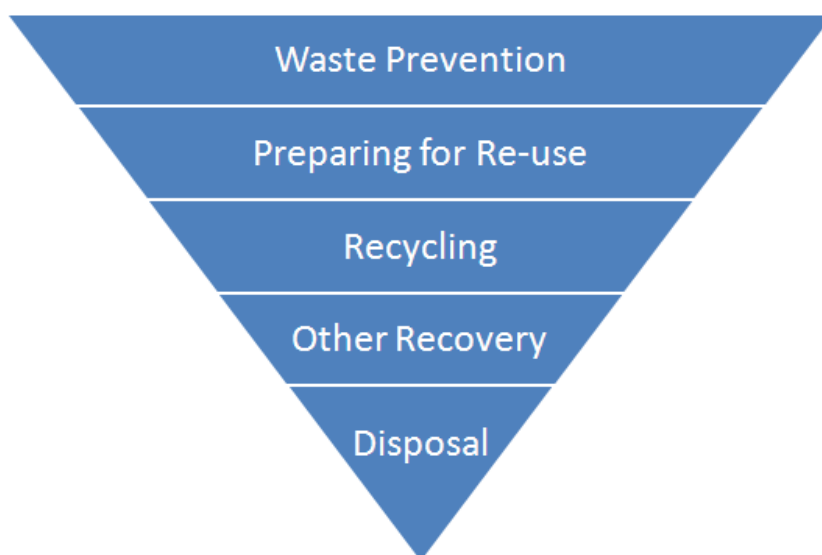
⁶ Waste Framework Directive (Directive 2008/98/EC)

⁷ Preparing a Waste Prevention Programme, Guidance Document, European Commission (2012).

- Determine qualitative or quantitative benchmarks for waste prevention measures,
- Adopt targets and indicators, if appropriate, to monitor and evaluate the success of waste prevention measures and progress towards objectives, and
- Review and revise waste prevention programmes at least every six years.

2.6 Article 4 of the revised WFD sets out five steps for dealing with waste, ranked according to environmental impact - the "waste hierarchy" see Figure 1. The waste hierarchy is the cornerstone of EU waste policy and legislation and its primary purpose is to minimise adverse environmental effects from waste and to increase resource efficiency in waste management and policy.

Figure 1. European Union Waste Hierarchy



2.7 Waste Prevention is key to optimising resource efficiency across all waste streams and is at the top of the Waste Hierarchy. It is followed by preparing for re-use, recycling, other recovery and disposal, in descending order of environmental preference.

2.8 The WFD defines prevention as measures taken before a substance, material or product has become waste - that will reduce:

- The quantity of waste, including through the re-use of products or the extension of the life span of products;
- The adverse impacts of the generated waste on the environment and human health; or
- The content of harmful substances in materials and products.

2.9 This reflects the need to promote sustainable consumption and production through improved product design and consumer behavioural change. Waste prevention also has an important role in supporting measures to reduce the impact of climate change and in providing cost savings to householders and businesses.

2.10 There is also a complex relationship between waste and litter. Improved waste management and prevention policies may help address the issue of litter, in particular the problem of litter in the marine environment, and help in delivery of the requirements of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)⁸. The Department of the Environment published the Northern Ireland Marine Litter Strategy in 2013. The objective of the Strategy is aligned with the UK MSFD target of “an overall reduction in the number of visible litter items within specific categories/types on coastlines.”

2.11 While it is accepted that ‘Prevention’ is not technically a waste management measure, as it occurs before a material or object becomes waste, the reduction of waste per capita, through re-use or other policy initiatives is key to achieving the Resource Efficient Roadmap milestone of turning potential waste into a resource.

2.12 “Preparing for re-use” has been introduced as a new concept and the WFD ranks it above recycling in line with the aim of improving resource efficiency.

2.13 The WFD hierarchy was introduced into Northern Ireland legislation through the Waste Regulations (NI) 2011. The Department has published a package of guidance on the Waste Hierarchy, under regulation 17(5), to assist businesses and other organisations in Northern Ireland to make better decisions on waste and resource management⁹.

3 Policy Framework

3.1 The Waste Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 came into operation on 8 April 2012 and transposed the revised WFD for Northern Ireland.

3.2 The stabilisation of waste generation was one of the key aims of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020, published in March 2006. Entitled “Towards Resource Management”, it reflected the move away from simply managing the waste we produce in a more environmentally friendly manner to preventing waste and managing resources.

3.3 It was set out in three parts, with the key policies and actions presented as six policy strands. The strands are as follows:

- Waste Prevention
- Recycling and Recovery
- Waste Planning
- Data & Research
- Legislation & Enforcement
- Learning & Communication

⁸ <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/ALL/?jsessionid=MplvTy5bjDIWQ281J2Fdn8QhjmDnG9WgJyBpwcKKXq4KNMqXQGnLl-1292256679?uri=CELEX:32008L0056>

⁹ http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/waste-home/authorisation/waste_hierarchy.htm

3.4 The Waste Programme Board was established in 2010 as a non-statutory Advisory Committee, under the chairmanship of the Minister of the Environment, to oversee and monitor implementation of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy. It comprises representatives from the Department, NILGA, the three district council Waste Management Groups, Environmental NGOs, and business groups.

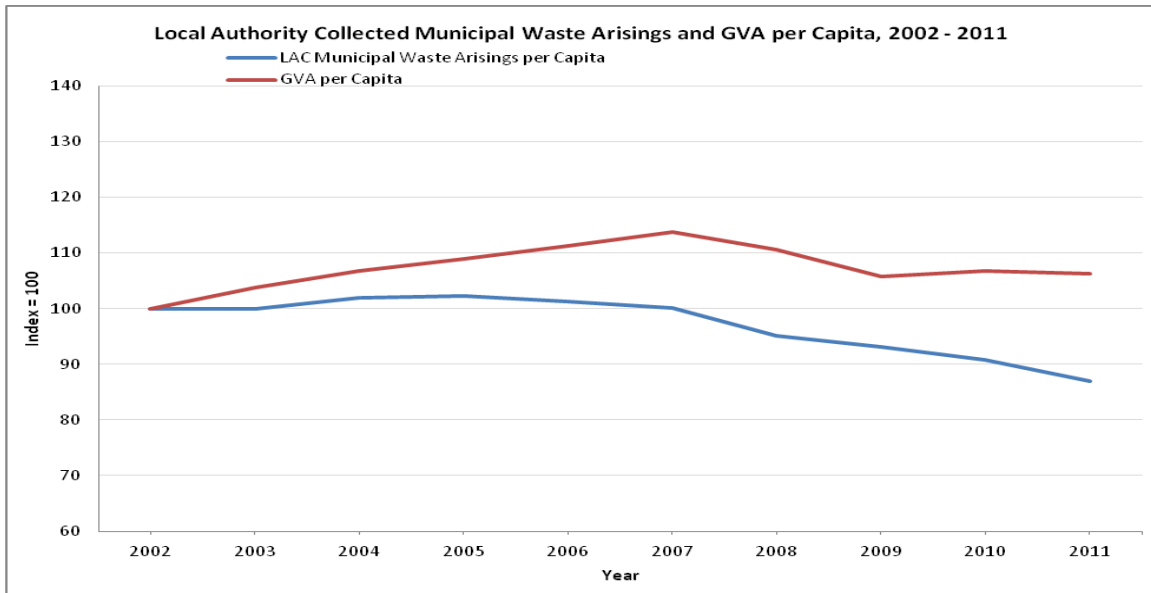
3.5 In July 2011, the Board set up a Task Group to re-assess the 2006 Strategy's targets and develop a prioritised programme of objectives and key performance indicators to ensure that the Strategy could deliver the overarching aims of the revised WFD. The resulting Addendum to the 2006 Strategy identified a number of statutory targets, key performance indicators and legislative or policy requirements that will need to be met to maintain delivery and comply with the revised WFD. Targets and indicators were organised into four categories, and a prioritised programme of interventions was recommended as the basis for a revised delivery programme.

3.6 In October 2013 a revised Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy – “Delivering Resource Efficiency” was published. This Strategy has moved the emphasis of waste management in Northern Ireland from resource management (with landfill diversion as the key driver) to resource efficiency i.e. using resources in the most effective way while minimising the impact of their use on the environment. Therefore, this Strategy has a renewed focus on waste prevention (including re-use), preparing for re-use and recycling in accordance with the waste hierarchy. Making more efficient use of natural resources and facilitating increased re-use and recycling is expected to have a favourable impact on the Northern Ireland economy and help to promote and support ‘green jobs’.

4 Progress to date

4.1 The stabilisation of waste generation was one of the key aims of the 2006 Strategy. The Figure 2 shows the trend for Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) arisings per capita from 2002 to 2010 and compares this with the Gross Value Added (GVA) per capita in the Northern Ireland economy over the same period. In 2010/11 almost 1 million tonnes of LACMW was collected in Northern Ireland. Overall, LACMW arisings per capita have decreased by just over 9% since 2002. There was an annual increase in arisings per capita of 2% until a peak in 2005/06, since when arisings have fallen by more than 11%. Over the same period GVA per capita, corrected for inflation, has increased marginally. Although the graph in Figure 2 suggests potential decoupling of the relationship between economic growth and waste generation at certain points during the period, a longer more consistent time series is required before definitive conclusions could be drawn.

Figure 2. Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings and GVA per Capita 2002-11



Source: Graph supplied by NIEA and Analytical Services Branch, DoE

5 The Waste Prevention Programme Framework

5.1 Aim

The aim of the Waste Prevention Programme is to maintain the downward trend in waste arisings in Northern Ireland.

5.2 Objectives

- Decoupling economic growth from the environmental impacts associated with waste generation.
- To encourage people to use resources efficiently and generate less waste.
- To establish improved resource efficiency and waste prevention as an integral part of business management and project planning.

5.3 Although there are currently no EU targets for Waste Prevention, any reduction in waste generated will have a significant impact on meeting EU landfill diversion targets.

5.4 The European Commission is proposing to present a report on waste prevention by the end of 2014. It will propose measures, if appropriate, including waste prevention and decoupling objectives, to be achieved by 2020. Revisions of this Waste Prevention Programme will take account of any future developments at a European level.

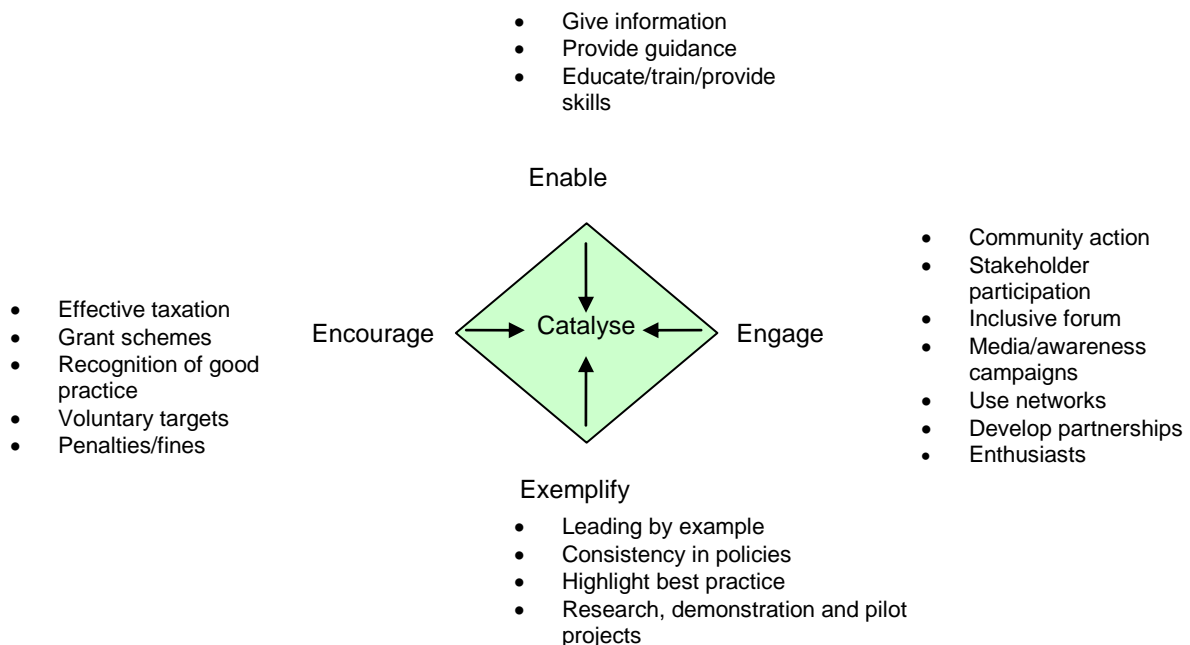
6 Policies and Actions

6.1 In March 2010 the Department of the Environment launched the Rethink Waste Campaign. The Department has since joined up its policies, communications, funding and delivery of other initiatives relating to resource efficiency under the Rethink Waste Programme. This also includes the WRAP (Waste and Resources Action Programme) Northern Ireland Delivery Programme. A major element of the Programme relates to waste prevention. The Department will continue to use the Rethink Waste brand to deliver resource efficiency.

6.2 The 2006 Strategy incorporated the behaviour change model designed for the UK Sustainable Development Strategy into waste management. This conceptual framework will continue to be used to ensure an integrated approach to waste prevention. Figure 3 shows how waste prevention initiatives are represented in the model.

6.3 Within this Waste Prevention Programme, policies and actions are presented under the three activities associated with the main waste streams: household activity, commercial & industrial activity and construction & demolition activity. There will be a number of actions where overlap will occur. Each area will include details on current activities and proposed activities for the future. In addition, there is a separate section on Reuse (including Preparing for Reuse) as activities relating to re-use are cross-cutting.

Figure 3. Waste Prevention Initiatives and the Behaviour Change Model.



6.4 Engagement is a key aspect of the model. Stakeholders have a desire to be involved in shaping future messaging, on discussions on future initiatives, and to engage communities from the “bottom up”. The Department of the Environment will arrange a stakeholder forum for waste prevention as a first step to ensure more open and accessible engagement. It is envisaged that from this forum a number of working groups focusing on different areas will be formed that will inform future reviews of the WPP.

Action1 – Stakeholder Forum

- The Department of the Environment will organise a stakeholder forum on waste prevention by December 2014.

PART 2 - AREAS FOR ACTION

7 Household Activity

7.1 Rethink Waste Communications Campaign

7.1.1 In January 2009, Morrow Communications was appointed to provide communications advice for the Department of the Environment in support of the Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020 (NIWMS). Morrow Communications was specifically tasked:

- to carry out an audit of communication activity in relation to the NIWMS
- to revise the Wake Up To Waste website
- to provide a detailed and comprehensive Communication Action Plan covering a two year period

7.1.2 An assessment of the need for a communications action plan was conducted by Morrow Communications. The report concluded that “There is a critical demand for a new, creative and innovative integrated communications strategy that can generate momentum and public awareness around the aims of the Waste Management Strategy”.

7.1.3 The previous communications campaign, “Wake Up to Waste”, had been run by (the former) Environment and Heritage Service and was concluded in 2006. This campaign raised awareness of the need to divert waste from landfill with a particular focus on recycling. It was recognised that there had been a considerable time-lag since this campaign with the momentum perceived to have been dissipated.

7.1.4 The resultant Communications Action Plan has been developed to project the aims of the NIWMS to a wide range of audiences with a focus on waste prevention. The Rethink Waste brand, Figure 4, was developed for the new campaign.

Figure 4. Rethink Waste logo



7.1.5 Prior to the campaign commencing, a benchmark research survey¹⁰ was conducted in March 2010 to determine current attitudes amongst the Northern Ireland public on waste and particularly waste prevention. The resulting segmentation cluster analysis identified three groups, which were used to inform the focus for advertising campaigns and other activities:

- Cluster 1 - Unmotivated & uninformed (20% respondents)
- Cluster 2 - Responsible & Informed (41% respondents)
- Cluster 3 - Somewhat Active but time pressured (39% respondents)

7.1.6 In March 2010, the Rethink Waste Campaign was formally launched seeking to assist in a cultural shift towards waste prevention and resource management and improved environmental quality in Northern Ireland. It also aimed to raise awareness of the simple steps that people could take to reduce the amount of waste sent to landfill and improve our environment for future generations. In October 2010, the Love Food Hate Waste NI campaign commenced, targeting food waste prevention. A communications action plan included public relations activity, use of social media, advertising and opportunities for key stakeholder involvement. The current campaign formally concluded in November 2013.

7.1.7 Two websites have been established, the Rethink Waste site focusing on waste prevention and recycling – www.rethinkwasteni.org, and the food waste prevention site – <http://ni.lovefoodhatewaste.com/>. These websites are administered by WRAP.

Action 2 - Rethink Waste Communications Campaign

- The Department of the Environment will develop a follow-up communications campaign to build on the success of the initial Rethink Waste campaign. The campaign will continue to include waste prevention messaging.
- Food waste is considered a priority waste stream to tackle. The communications campaign will have a particular focus on preventing food waste and continue to support the Love Food Hate Waste campaign.

¹⁰ Millward Brown Ulster benchmark survey, March 2010.

7.2 European Week of Waste Reduction

7.2.1 The European Week for Waste Reduction was launched as a 3-year project supported by the LIFE+ Programme of the European Commission to run until July 2012 but has continued to take place in the following years. The EWWR aims at organising multiple actions during a single week, across Europe. The objectives of EWWR are:

- To raise awareness about waste reduction strategies and about the policies of the European Union and its Member States on this subject
- To promote sustainable waste reduction actions across Europe
- To highlight the work accomplished by various participants, through concrete examples of waste reduction
- To encourage changes in the behaviour of Europeans (consumption, production) in everyday life

7.2.2 In 2013, Northern Ireland increased the number of activity registrations by 400%, from 543 in 2012 to 2,335 registrations. Northern Ireland was only second to Italy in the number of activities registered.

7.2.3 In recognition of the innovative ideas and activities generated by EWWR, the Department of the Environment presents awards and certificates generally in the following categories:

- Local Authority / Public Authority Category
- Association / Non-Governmental Organisation Category
- Business / Industry Category
- Educational Establishment Category
- Youth Organisation Category
- Creative Industry
- Judges' Favourite

7.2.4 The Department intends to continue with its support for EWWR (or a similar waste prevention themed week).

Action 3 – European Week of Waste Reduction

The Department of the Environment will continue to support an annual waste prevention week and promote waste prevention across local government, the public sector, the Third Sector, businesses, schools and the public throughout Northern Ireland.

7.3 Eco-Home Programme

7.3.1 Eco-Home is based on the Green Home Programme in Ireland. Since 2007, the Environmental Education Unit of An Taisce and the Environmental Protection Agency has worked in partnership to develop and implement the Green Home Programme under the National Waste Prevention Programme (NWPP). Through the Green-Schools Programme (as Eco-Schools is known in

Ireland) young people were bringing the environment message from schools into their homes but in an informal manner. This prompted the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in Ireland to work in partnership with the An Taisce Environmental Education Unit to develop a more formal 'Framework'/ 'Tool'/ 'Vehicle' to deliver this very important message in a more formal, structured and measurable manner; hence the birth of the Green Home programme to be piloted through schools and then all interested hubs, to include business, community groups, etc. As a result, the Green Home Programme was identified as a means to advance EPA objectives in relation to household waste reduction.

7.3.2 Research from Ireland's Green Home Programme shows that individuals who fully integrate Green Home actions into their living can save several hundred euros on their household bills. Research in 2011 indicated this saving to be averaging around €325 per household. There are now in excess of 20,000 households associated with the Green Home programme in Ireland. Based on the data findings in 2012, an estimated potential saving of around €320 per annum is possible for households that fully engage with the Green Home programme. An estimated overall combined household savings from 25% of all Green Home participant households involved is around €1,600,000 per year. These estimations from the Green Home Programme give a sense of scale of the potential savings.

7.3.3 In Northern Ireland a pilot for Eco-Home was launched in February 2013, operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) and supported by Belfast City Council and the Rethink Waste Programme. The scheme sought to support and advise householders on ways to save money on their household bills whilst at the same time protecting the environment. The programme focused on four key household themes; waste prevention, water conservation, energy conservation and sustainable transportation and extends the Eco-Schools message beyond the school gates and into the wider community.

7.3.4 Eco-Home provides householders with the most up-to-date tips, advice and relevant links on ways to reduce waste, conserve water and energy around the home and to use more sustainable travel options. It also includes different action plans for each of the four themes which suggest various ways in which households can incorporate the tips and advice into day-to-day life, thus helping them to save money. The programme is tailored to the needs of households in Northern Ireland with all information and advice tailored to a local context. This is an important part of the programme in order to directly link local households to information to help them to become more sustainable, and to help homes reduce, reuse and recycle.

7.3.5 The Department of the Environment intends to work with partners to look at the feasibility of expanding the scheme across Northern Ireland.

Action 4 – Eco-Home Programme

The Department of the Environment will assess the feasibility of expanding the Eco-Home Programme across Northern Ireland.

7.4 Eco-Schools Programme

7.4.1 The Eco-Schools programme was developed in 1994 on the basis of the need for involving young people in finding solutions to environmental and sustainable development challenges at the local level, as identified at the UN Conference on Environment and Development of 1992. The programme was initiated by Member organisations of the Foundation for Environmental Education with the support of the European Commission.

7.4.3 The Eco-Schools Green Flag, awarded to schools with high achievement in their programme, is a recognised and respected eco-label for environmental education and performance.

7.4.4 In Northern Ireland, the Eco-Schools Programme is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Belfast, an environmental charity, and is supported by commercial sponsorship, the Department of the Environment and other organisations. The majority of local councils also offer invaluable practical support for the programme.

7.4.5 Northern Ireland was the first country in the world to award a Green Flag to one of its schools. This was Downpatrick Nursery on 15 June 1994. There are currently 1,151 schools¹¹ registered in Northern Ireland; approximately 96% of the total number of schools.

7.4.6 The programme aims to make environmental awareness and action an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of a school. This includes the students, teachers, non-teaching staff and parents, as well as the local authority, the media and local businesses in the activities. Eco-Schools endeavours to extend learning beyond the classroom and develop responsible attitudes and commitment, both at home and in the wider community. The participatory approach and combination of learning and action make it an ideal way for schools to embark on a meaningful path to improving the environments of schools and their local communities, and of influencing the lives of young people, school staff, families, local authorities, NGOs, and all other bodies involved in this vitally important area of work. The programme covers 10 topics: waste; litter; energy; water; transport; healthy living; biodiversity; climate change; school grounds; and global perspective.

7.4.7 As well as providing core funding to Eco-Schools, the Department of the Environment has also provided additional funding for the waste topic through the Rethink Waste Programme. This has included developing teachers' resources and a series of reading books, "Rubbish Monster"¹² series for different levels of key stages. Other EU nations have requested permission to translate and use the "Rubbish Monster" books. In addition, the Eco-Schools Programme has been pro-active in promoting EWWR within the educational sector.

¹¹ As at 31 March 2014

¹² <http://www.eco-schoolsni.org/Partner-Resources.aspx>

7.4.8 The Department of the Environment intends to continue to support the Eco-Schools Programme as the central plank to its education programme for waste prevention and recycling.

Action 5 – Eco-Schools Programme

The Department of the Environment will continue support for the Eco-Schools Programme, including the waste topic relating to waste prevention and recycling.

7.5 Carrier Bag Levy

7.5.1 It has been estimated that until recently we used around 300 million single use carrier bags per year in Northern Ireland, many of which ended up being landfilled or discarded prematurely. Many discarded carrier bags contributed to Northern Ireland's litter problem.

7.5.2 Carrier bag charging was introduced on 8 April 2013 through The Single Use Carrier Bags Charge Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2013. Since that date a 5 pence levy has been imposed on new single use carrier bags. Retailers are required to pass the levy on to their customers and to forward the proceeds to the Department of the Environment. So far, £3.4 million of receipts have been allocated to local community based environmental projects – including 251 projects which successfully bid for financial support from the environmental Challenge Fund.

7.5.3 However the primary focus of the levy is on waste prevention and resource efficiency. The aim is to reduce consumption of single use carrier bags and therefore to benefit the environment by cutting carbon emissions and air and water pollution associated with unnecessary carrier bag production, transportation and disposal. Trends from the first quarter of charging, if sustained, point towards an annual reduction in single use bag numbers of over 70% - which would equate to at least 200 million fewer bags every year. The Department intends to publish validated data from the first year of the levy in August 2014.

7.5.4 From 19 January 2015 the 5 pence levy will be extended to *all* new carrier bags with a retail price of less than 20 pence - to encourage shoppers to reuse all types of bags and protect the environment.

7.5.5 The carrier bag levy should not be viewed in isolation – but rather as an integral part of a wider resource efficiency initiative. As well as achieving efficiency gains associated with reduced consumption, bags are also iconic. The carrier bag initiative will therefore be effective in communicating the wider “reduce and reuse waste” message, encouraging the behavioural change which we need to build a more resource efficient society.

Action 6 – Carrier Bag Levy

The Department of the Environment will extend the carrier bag levy to low-cost reusable bags from January 2015.

7.6 Rethink Waste Capital Fund

7.6.1 In May 2010, the Rethink Waste Capital Fund was launched by the Department of the Environment, providing funding to Councils and Waste Management Groups for initiatives which boost waste prevention and recycling in order to meet EU targets. The Fund is administered by WRAP, on behalf of the Department of the Environment.

7.6.2 The Rethink Waste Capital Fund assists councils to increase levels of recycling by providing funding to cover the capital costs of improving or extending their existing waste collection, re-use and recycling infrastructure. Over the past four years, capital grants totalling in excess of £8.8 million have been made available to Councils under the grant scheme.

- 2010/11 - 44 grants were allocated funding totaling £4.38 million
- 2011/12 - 11 grants were allocated funding totaling £1.012 million
- 2012/13 - 11 grants were allocated funding totaling £2.09 million
- 2013/14 – 10 grants were allocated funding totaling £1.37 million

7.6.3 Although the funding provides grants predominantly for recycling projects, grants have been awarded to improve reuse infrastructure at civic amenity sites and to develop reuse/preparing for re-use centres. The grants have also stimulated partnerships between the Third Sector and local government.

7.6.4 The current fund is due to run until 31 March 2015, and is likely to be extended to at least 31 March 2016.

8 Commercial and Industrial Activity

8.1 Overview

8.1.1 It has been estimated that UK businesses could save up to £23bn a year at little or no extra cost through more efficient use of energy and materials. £18bn could be saved alone by just using raw materials more cost-effectively and reducing waste, with better use of energy and water accounting for savings worth £4bn, and just under £1bn, respectively. Of course many businesses already review their efficiency as it makes good business sense. However, we must ensure that resource efficiency becomes the default choice across the whole economy and not just be considered as the realm of the developing green sector. Improving resource efficiency will not only contribute to a resource efficient and low carbon economy but will deliver economic opportunities and

growth, improved productivity and profitability, and ensure local businesses remain competitive in the global market.

8.1.2 A WRAP report in 2011, Northern Ireland Commercial & Industrial (C&I) Waste Estimates 2009¹³, estimated Commercial and Industrial waste arisings in 2009 at 1,288,996 tonnes and as outlined in Table 1.

Table 1. Total arisings divided between business sectors.

	Business Sector	Waste (tonnes)	% of total
Industrial	Food, drink & tobacco	243,856	19%
	Textiles / wood / paper / publishing	103,848	8.1%
	Power & Utilities	125,645	9.7%
	Chemical / non-metallic minerals manufacture	141,820	11%
	Metal Manufacturing	146,746	11%
	Machinery & equipment (other manufacture)	53,725	4.2%
Commercial	Retail & Wholesale	207,326	16%
	Hotels & Catering	78,402	6.1%
	Public administration & social work	53,783	4.2%
	Education	9,514	0.7%
	Transport & Storage	40,271	3.1%
	Other services	84,060	6.5%
	Total	1,288,996	100%

Source: WRAP

8.2 Business Resource Efficiency

8.2.1 Invest Northern Ireland (Invest NI) is Northern Ireland's regional economic development agency. It is a non-departmental public body (NDPB) of the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment (DETI). Invest NI provides a wide portfolio of support for Northern Ireland businesses which have a total annual expenditure of more than £30k on water, energy, waste and raw materials. The aim of this support is to improve the competitiveness, productivity and sustainability of local businesses through identification and achievement of cost savings in the consumption of water, energy and raw materials.

8.2.2 In 2012, Invest Northern Ireland launched a three year Sustainable Productivity Programme which includes a range of activities designed to help the business community achieve operational savings in water, energy and materials use and also identify new opportunities within the high growth renewable energy market. The four strands of the Sustainable Productivity Programme include an Energy Efficiency Loan Fund; Industrial Symbiosis Services; a Capital Grant scheme and Project Management support.

¹³ http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/northern_ireland_ci_waste_estimates_2009_v4_2.pdf

8.2.3 Invest NI provides practical resource efficiency advice and waste guidance delivered through its website, www.investni.com, and the Northern Ireland business information portal www.nibusinessinfo.co.uk. As another useful resource Invest NI has also published the following practical guides: Water Efficiency Guide - <http://secure.investni.com/static/library/invest-ni/documents/water-efficiency-guide-a-practical-guide.pdf> , Hotel Sector Resource Efficiency Guide - <http://secure.investni.com/static/library/invest-ni/documents/hotel-efficiency-guide.pdf> , Waste Minimisation Guide - <http://secure.investni.com/static/library/invest-ni/documents/waste-minimisation-efficient-management-for-cost-savings.pdf>

Invest NI also provides tailored support to qualifying businesses to assess and reduce energy, water and materials costs:

8.2.4 A free audit can identify and prioritise projects to reduce the cost of water, energy or materials in qualifying companies. These companies can also access up to 5 days of further free technical consultancy to help them take forward projects that will realise cost savings in a timely and cost effective way.

8.2.5 This technical support can address a wide range of questions to help firms progress suitable projects to the point of implementation and can include, for example: identification of cleaner processing technologies; opportunities for using renewable energy or improving energy efficiency; accessing more sustainable water sources; minimising product losses; reviewing packaging requirements or use; environmental or energy management systems; equipment specification and identification of suppliers of more efficient equipment.

8.2.6 Finance from Invest NI to help companies install new energy saving equipment is also available: Interest-free energy efficiency loans of between £3k and £400k are available through Carbon Trust. The size of loan available will depend on the energy saving potential of any particular project – please see: <http://www.carbontrust.com/client-services/northern-ireland>

8.2.7 A Resource Efficiency Capital Grant Scheme. This scheme operates under competitive periodic calls (based on available approved budget) with the aim of encouraging Northern Ireland SME businesses to install equipment that will result in water or material efficiencies, beyond regulatory requirements, through the provision of a capital grant of up to £40,000. Examples of eligible projects include: Equipment to recover value from waste and effluent streams; Equipment to recover materials that would otherwise be vented to the atmosphere or discharged to land or waterways; Equipment that improves the efficiency of raw material consumption through improved processing or equipment that enables re-use of waste materials in-house; Equipment that makes use of sustainable resources such as rainwater, groundwater or borehole water.

The scheme has been so successful that the approved budget level was met during the third call in September 2013. Subsequently, the Scheme is currently closed for 2014/15.

8.2.8 With the inclusion of re-use, as part of waste prevention, in the revised waste hierarchy, industrial symbiosis will play an increasingly relevant role in delivering resource efficiency. Industrial symbiosis brings together businesses and industries from all sectors to identify “synergies”, taking the form of the transfer and exchange of physical materials, energy and by-products. Invest NI also provides “industrial symbiosis” services which generates opportunities to identify and match excess resource in one business - like waste, transport, storage, skills, production capacity or energy with another where it could be profitably used. Industrial symbiosis activities include business workshops to identify potential matches between business participants along with follow-up visits and engagements with individual businesses to progress matches.

8.2.9 Invest NI will continue to promote resource efficiency for Northern Ireland businesses through its Sustainable Productivity Programme, the approval period of which will expire in March 2015. During 2014/15 the programme will undergo an independent Evaluation and a subsequent Economic Appraisal will dictate Invest NI's resource efficiency support to Northern Ireland businesses beyond March 2015.

8.3 Environmental Management Systems

8.3.1 The promotion and development of environmental management systems (EMS) across the business sector, particularly among Small and Medium sized businesses (SME), is essential to maximising resource efficiency and supporting economic growth. Research has shown that the largest cost savings to be obtained through adopting EMS are in the areas of waste and energy. In particular EMS can play a valuable role in identifying opportunities for waste reduction.

8.3.2 In addition to Invest NI, businesses in Northern Ireland are also supported through schemes such as the STEM Project and the Belfast City Council BITES Programme that promote resource efficiency and waste prevention.

8.3.3 The STEM Project (Sustainable Together through Environmental Management) is a two year project, part financed by the European Union's INTERREG IVA Cross Border Programme managed by the Special EU Programmes Body. It is designed to work with 220 businesses across 11 cross-border Council areas to help identify cost savings in energy, waste and water. The scheme is open to small and medium sized businesses (SME). The STEM Project to date has successfully worked with over 300 businesses collectively saving them over £500k per annum, 80% of these businesses stated that they are now more competitive as a result of participating on the STEM Project and 35% are now able to access new markets.

8.3.4 Belfast City Council's Economic Development Unit, the BITES programme (Business Improvements Through Environmental Solutions) seeks to assist companies by showing them how to save money, increase competitiveness, operate more efficiently and reduce risk exposure by adopting a more environmentally friendly approach to their business. By encouraging

business operators to meet their social responsibility aims and promoting conscientious behaviour from staff, the overall environmental performance of a business can be significantly improved. The one year programme consists of five modules: Environmental Management Systems; Resource Efficiency; Energy; Water; and Purchasing and Transport. The programme is now supported by Invest NI and ERDF funding.

8.3.5 ARENA Network, the environmental arm of Business in the Community was established in 1995 to coordinate all business environmental initiatives in Northern Ireland. The Network is directed by a steering group comprising representatives of all the leading business organisations in Northern Ireland, including the Institute of Directors, Confederation of British Industry Northern Ireland, Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chartered Management Institute, Federation of Small Businesses and Society of Local Authority Chief Executives.

8.3.6 NIEA has entered into a strategic partnership with Business in the Community (BITC). As part of this contract, 270 SMEs will be subject to an environmental audit with the aim of achieving a financial saving of up to 0.45% as a percentage of turn-over. This will take place over a 3 year period to 31 Aug 2014 with funding of £450k. In addition, ARENA will help to develop environmental management systems for 50 businesses. The partnership includes key performance indicators for reduction in CO₂ emissions and diversion of waste from landfill.

8.3.7 WRAP also provides a practical guide to developing an EMS¹⁴. Organisations can work through the guide, section by section, using it to support them during the development of systems and processes necessary for their own EMS.

8.4 Voluntary Agreements with Business

8.4.1 Voluntary agreements (or responsibility deals) have provided a constructive mechanism for different industries to tackle resource efficiency and waste prevention in particular. In conjunction with WRAP, the Department of the Environment has provided support to a number of voluntary agreements with business in Northern Ireland and the UK. Businesses operating in Northern Ireland are currently signed up to several agreements.

8.4.2 Hospitality and Food Service Agreement

8.4.2.1 WRAP, working with all four UK Governments, has identified that the Hospitality & Food Service sector is in a strong position to make a considerable contribution to reducing food and associated packaging waste. This will save money and reduce environmental impacts. In June 2012, a UK-wide voluntary agreement was launched by WRAP on behalf of the UK, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland governments.

¹⁴ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/your-guide-environmental-management-systems-ems>

8.4.2.2 The Hospitality and Food Service Agreement is a voluntary agreement to support the sector in reducing waste and recycling more. Research by WRAP¹⁵ indicates that if avoidable food waste was prevented and unavoidable food waste diverted to anaerobic digestion (AD), the potential savings to industry would be more than £720 million a year.

8.4.2.3 The Agreement is flexible to allow any size of organisation to sign up, from multi-national companies to smaller businesses, from sector wholesalers/distributors to trade bodies. There are different ways of signing up depending on the size of business.

8.4.2.4 WRAP has worked closely with interested and relevant organisations and individuals to determine the targets for the Agreement. The targets will be owned by WRAP and collectively delivered by signatories. WRAP will deliver this Agreement across the UK through its national programmes.

8.4.2.5 The Agreement aims to cut food and associated packaging waste by 5% (a CO₂e reduction of 234,000 tonnes), the equivalent of approximately 100 million meals, by the end of 2015. This will be against a 2012 baseline and be measured by CO₂e emissions. It also aims to increase the overall rate of food and packaging waste that is being recycled, sent to anaerobic digestion or composted to 70% (a CO₂e reduction of 336,000 tonnes) by the end of 2015.

8.4.2.6 Across the UK there are now 185 signatories and supporters of the Agreement, covering approximately 24% of the sector. 26 of these are either based in or have operations in Northern Ireland. There are 4 local signatories and 8 supporters operating wholly within Northern Ireland.

8.4.2.7 WRAP NI will be holding a number of focused workshops and training activities with signatories in relation to best practice, data capture and reporting as well as seeking to attract further signatories and supporters.

8.4.3 Courtauld Commitment

8.4.3.1 The Courtauld Commitment was launched in 2005 as a voluntary agreement aimed at improving resource efficiency and reducing the carbon and wider environmental impact of the UK grocery retail sector. The Courtauld Commitment supports the UK government's policy goal of a 'zero waste economy' and the objectives of the Climate Change Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 34% by 2020 and 80% by 2050. WRAP is responsible for the agreement and works in partnership with leading retailers, brand owners, manufacturers and suppliers who sign up and support the delivery of the targets.

8.4.3.2 There have been three phases to the Commitment:

- **Courtauld 1** (2005-2010) looked at new solutions and technologies so that less food and primary packaging ended up as household waste.

¹⁵ The Composition of Waste Disposed of by the UK Hospitality Industry, July 2011, WRAP

Across the UK during the course of Courtauld 1, 1.2 million tonnes of food and packaging waste was prevented, with a monetary value of £1.8 billion.

- **Courtauld 2** (2010-12) not only aimed to reduce primary packaging and household food and drink waste, but also focused on reducing secondary and tertiary packaging, and supply chain waste. It encouraged the sustainable use of resources throughout the whole supply chain. The results for Courtauld 2 will be reported in Autumn 2013. Three Northern Ireland businesses were signatories of Courtauld 2.
- **Phase 3 of the Courtauld Commitment**¹⁶ was launched in May 2013 and aims to reduce the weight and carbon impact of household food waste, grocery product and packaging waste, both in the home and the UK grocery sector, by 5% overall by 2015, from a 2012 baseline. This translates into a cumulative reduction of 1.1 million tonnes of waste, 2.9 million tonnes of CO₂e and a cost benefit of £1.6 billion to industry and consumers. There are now 52 signatories to Courtauld 3, including three Northern Ireland businesses. WRAP NI continues working to attract further signatories. At the conclusion of the three phases of the Courtauld Commitment, a 20% reduction in household food waste could be achieved.

Action 7 – Support for Voluntary Agreements with Business

The Department of the Environment will work with partners to ensure that voluntary agreements with business on waste and resource efficiency work well in Northern Ireland and include a focus on preventing waste.

8.5 Rethink Waste Revenue Fund

8.5.1 In September 2010, the Rethink Waste Revenue Fund was launched by the Department of the Environment, providing funding to Councils, Waste Management Groups, the private sector and the third sector for waste prevention, re-use and recycling projects. The purpose of the fund is to target a range of interventions which will promote resource efficiency and generate clear environmental benefits, including interventions to encourage the prevention of waste, the re-use of materials and higher rates of recycling, thereby achieving diversion from landfill and assisting society to move towards “zero waste”. The Fund will support “zero waste” projects. The fund is administered by WRAP, on behalf of the Department of the Environment.

8.5.2 Councils, Waste Management Groups, the private sector and the Third sector are able to apply for funding under the Rethink Waste Revenue Fund. Over the past three years, Revenue grants totalling in excess of £1.43 million have been made available under the grant scheme.

- 2010/11 - 7 grants were allocated totalling £240K.
- 2011/12 - 11 grants were allocated totalling £566K.

¹⁶ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/node/14621>

- 2012/13 - 9 grants were allocated totalling £367K.
- 2013/14 - 9 grants were allocated totalling £262K.

8.5.3 The current fund is due to run until 31 March 2015, and is likely to be extended to at least 31 March 2016.

8.5.4 The Department of the Environment continues to seek opportunities to support the recovery of materials from waste. Currently the Department is a partner in the ReNEW project (Resource Innovation Network for European Waste), a €5 million project funded by Interreg IV:B North West Europe programme. The programme aims to increase cooperation between research and business to create value from waste. The project commenced in January 2013 and will run until June 2015. It will stimulate collaboration between researchers, SMEs and public bodies in North West Europe working to develop recovery processes and meet future market needs. In addition, it will accelerate innovation through a series of targeted support measures in an “innovation pipeline” which will select the most promising processes and support their development, exploitation and commercialisation.

Action 8 – Zero Waste Projects

The Department of the Environment will support “zero waste” projects through the Rethink Waste Fund.

9 Construction and Demolition Activity

9.1 Overview

9.1.1 In economic terms, construction is one of the largest sectors in Northern Ireland but it has been significantly impacted by the economic recession with the value of construction output falling 13% between 2007 and 2009. Evidence suggests that waste arisings have also fallen significantly as a result. There is even more importance in ensuring that the sector is provided with support to improve sustainability and resource efficiency in order to be competitive.

9.1.2 A WRAP report in 2011, “Construction, demolition and excavation waste arisings, use and disposal in Northern Ireland 2009/10”¹⁷, estimated Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste (CDEW) arising from construction, demolition and excavation activities in 2009/10 at 3,550,202 tonnes as outlined in Table 2.

¹⁷ http://www.doeni.gov.uk/niea/cdew_arisings_use_and_disposal_in_ni_2009-10.pdf

Table 2. Estimated arisings of CDEW in 2009/10 by waste type

	Waste Type	Estimated Arisings 2009/10 (tonnes)	Proportion of Total Arisings (%)
Non-hazardous waste	Mixed hard inert	1,035,069	29.2
	Wood	15,022	0.4
	Glass	1,130	0
	Plastic	1,339	0
	Bituminous mixtures	71,691	2.0
	Metals	7,907	0.2
	Soil	2,318,275	65.3
	Insulation	917	0
	Gypsum	1,719	0
	Other non-hazardous waste	77,581	2.2
Total non-hazardous waste		3,530,650	99.3
Hazardous	Wood, glass & plastic	7	0
	Metals	102	0
	Soil	9,124	0.3
	Insulation	999	0
	Gypsum	146	0
	Other hazardous waste	9,174	0.3
Total hazardous waste		19,552	0.6
Total waste arisings		3,550,202	100

Source: RPS Planning & Development

9.1.3 The same report made a mass balance assessment to determine the fate of CDEW as outlined in Table 3.

9.1.4 This data shows scope to increase the recycling and recovery rates further through increased landfill diversion and improved sorting and segregation of mixed CDEW streams. The greatest environmental and financial savings could be made by minimising waste generation. However it should be acknowledged that huge strides have been made by the industry over the last decade to become more resource efficient.

Table 3. Summary of the fate of CDEW generated in Northern Ireland 2009/10

Fate	Parameters included	Tonnes	Proportion (%)
Re-use	Re-used on site	560,465	15.8
Recycling	Recycling	538,169	15.2
Recovery	Recovery, exemptions, beneficial use to landfill	1,356,491	38.2
Disposal	Landfill	632,148	17.8
Unknown	'Unknown' and 'unaccounted for' waste	462,929	13.0
Total		3,550,202	100.0

Source: RPS Planning & Development

9.1.5 Waste prevention, reuse and recycling of construction wastes is encouraged through a number of initiatives including the promotion of voluntary Site Waste Management Plans, EMS and the Halving Waste to Landfill commitment. Working with the industry to develop these into more

comprehensive tools will unlock greater benefits through efficient use of construction materials.

9.2 Designing out Waste

9.2.1 The best opportunities for improving materials resource efficiency in construction projects occur during the design stage. Implementing these opportunities can provide significant reductions in cost, waste and carbon.

9.2.2 Designers have a key role in improving the materials resource efficiency (optimising materials use and/or reducing waste) from construction projects as their design decisions directly influence what gets constructed, and how. Doing this is “Designing out Waste”.

9.2.3 There are five key principles that design teams can use during the design process to reduce waste:

- Design for Reuse and Recovery;
- Design for Off-Site Construction;
- Design for Materials’ Optimisation;
- Design for Waste Efficient Procurement; and
- Design for Deconstruction and Flexibility

9.2.4 WRAP NI routinely runs workshops for the industry, with a focus on designing out waste, to promote best practice. Support for WRAP NI from the Department of the Environment to run these workshops will continue.

9.2.5 There are other partnerships in Northern Ireland that are encouraging the Northern Ireland construction industry to ensure a more sustainable built environment. CEni, Constructing Excellence Northern Ireland, is part of a UK-wide network of regional centres, embedded within the School of the Built Environment at the University of Ulster at Jordanstown. CEni works with private sector organisations and public sector construction clients to improve performance in the construction industry. CEni provides independent advice, information, mentoring and support on procurement and performance measurement.

9.2.6 CEni was established in 2007 with the support of key stakeholders in the construction industry and funding from the NI Executive administered through Central Procurement Directorate on behalf of the Department of Finance and Personnel. Constructing Excellence is the successor to Rethinking Construction and the Construction Best Practice Programme. Constructing Excellence in Northern Ireland (CEni) is a partnership between key stakeholders in the construction industry, Government Departments and the University of Ulster. CEni has a vision for a sustainable construction industry in NI that demonstrates world class standards and can compete in the global market.

9.3 Environmental Management Systems in the Construction Sector

9.3.1 The 2006 Strategy made a commitment to consult on Site Waste Management Plans (SWMP) legislation. A consultation was published in

November 2010. Concurrently DEFRA was reviewing their SWMP Regulations as part of their “Red Tape Challenge” to reduce burdens on business. As a result of the “Red Tape Challenge”, DEFRA made the decision to revoke their SWMP Regulations. In addition the Construction Employers Federation (CEF), with the support of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) and the Institute of Environmental Management and Assessment (IEMA), introduced a new environmental management system, called NVIR-O-CERT¹⁸, in 2012, which requires participating construction businesses to commit to continual environmental improvement.

9.3.2 As a result of the Defra review, and the introduction of the bespoke environmental management system by CEF, the Department of the Environment felt that the introduction of SWMP Regulations at this time is not required and would add additional bureaucracy to the construction and demolition industry at a time of low economic activity. The Department of the Environment therefore made the decision not to proceed with making SWMP Regulations but will periodically review the uptake and effectiveness of voluntary SWMP and other voluntary schemes.

9.3.3 It is also likely that some industry operators will continue to use SWMP on a voluntary basis because of the economic advantages delivered by better resource efficiency and management. The Department of the Environment will continue to support WRAP work on the voluntary use of site waste management plans and the development of associated online tools. These are of assistance for businesses in general but especially for the construction and demolition sector and those businesses signed up to NVIR-O-CERT.

9.3.4 NVIR-O-CERT has been designed to be of benefit to businesses of all sizes but with a particular awareness of the need to cater for smaller businesses. It has been kept practical, focused on performance, with straightforward paperwork and costs kept down. A standardised range of environmental key performance indicators will be introduced for the local construction industry. This will help monitor and reduce waste going to landfill, energy use and water use, improving resource efficiency within the sector. The robustness of the scheme is underpinned by IEMAs well recognised professional qualifications. The auditors approved via NVIR-O-CERT will be certified as having superior knowledge and experience of business-environment issues, giving clients of accredited organisations confidence that when they see the NVIR-O-CERT logo that the company’s environmental performance has passed a rigorous assessment.

Action 9 – Voluntary Construction Sector Schemes

The Department of the Environment will periodically review the effectiveness of voluntary environmental schemes within the construction sector in determining whether to consider statutory instruments in the future.

¹⁸ <http://www.cefni.co.uk/CMS/ShowPageContent.aspx?CODE=ffff>

9.4 Voluntary Agreements within the Construction Sector

9.4.1 Halving Waste to Landfill was a voluntary agreement set up in 2008 for the UK construction sector. Signatories were asked to commit to playing their part in halving the amount of construction, demolition and excavation waste going to landfill by 2012. This required them to adopt and implement standards for good practice in reducing waste, recycling more, and increasing the use of recycled and recovered materials. The Agreement attracted over 800 Signatories (including 32 from Northern Ireland) from all parts of the construction supply chain and was successful in influencing over £42bn value of projects. Final data is still being collated but the trajectory figures have indicated that the target has been broadly achieved. WRAP is currently finalising details for a follow on voluntary agreement for the sector which will focus action on the broader issues of resource efficiency.

Action 10 – Voluntary Agreement for the Construction Sector

The Department of the Environment will work with partners and stakeholders to develop a follow-up voluntary agreement to Halving waste to Landfill appropriate for Northern Ireland.

9.5 Sustainable Construction in Procurement

9.5.1 Sustainable construction should be considered as an investment in the future. Through conservation of energy, water and natural resources by re-use, recycling, innovative design and the minimisation of waste and pollution we can meet our needs without compromising the needs of future generations. The promotion of sustainable construction is a major part of the Government's policy on Sustainable Development, which recognises that our economy, environment and social well-being are interdependent. Sustainable construction is the set of processes by which a profitable and competitive industry delivers built assets (buildings, structures, supporting infrastructure and their immediate surroundings).

9.5.2 The Sustainable Construction Group was set up in December 2004 to issue guidance to Project Sponsors and Project Managers in relation to sustainable construction. Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), of the Department of Finance and Personnel, chairs the group and membership includes representation from Centres of Procurement Expertise and Government Construction Clients in Northern Ireland.

9.5.3 The work of the group is guided by the Policy Framework for Construction Procurement and in particular the Government Construction Clients Sustainability Action Plan 2012-2015^[1], which sets targets and objectives.

^[1] <http://www.dfpni.gov.uk/sap-2012-15>

9.5.4 The following Sustainable Construction Guidance Notes are available for downloading from CPD. CPD is also assessing further guidance to improvement sustainability within construction procurement:

- Guidance Notes Introduction
- Guidance Note 1: General Roles and Responsibilities
This outlines the General Roles and Responsibilities of Central Procurement Directorate (CPD), Contracting Authorities, Centres of Procurement Expertise (CoPE) and Project Managers in relation to sustainable construction.
- Guidance Note 2: Targets for Recycling
The aim of this note is to focus on one of the most important targets for sustainable construction. A minimum of “10% of the material value of the project should derive from recycled or reused content” (Ref. Achieving Excellence Guide 11: Sustainability, Page 22)
- Guidance Note 3: Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste Materials
This note deals with the minimisation and proper disposal of construction, demolition and excavation waste in public procurement contracts. It aims to ensure legal compliance with waste related legislation and also to promote best practice construction. An important part of this guidance concerns the use of Site Waste Management Plans.
- Guidance Note 4: Bulk Inert Materials/Aggregates – Re-use and Recycling
This guide aims to promote the re-use and recycling of bulk inert materials in construction in order to reduce consumption of natural resources, energy, transport costs and waste going to landfill.
- Guidance Note 5: Considerate Constructors' Scheme
The Considerate Constructors' Scheme embodies the respect for people and their local environment in its code of practice. The use of the Considerate Constructors' Scheme or similar is a mandatory requirement of the Sustainability Action Plan.
- Guidance Note 6: Demolition, Dismantling, Recovery and Reuse
This note sets out radical new procedures and practices (compared with the previously accepted ways) for Employers, Project Managers and Contractors to follow. It aims to minimise the quantity of waste being sent to landfill sites.
- Guidance Note 7 Sustainable Design in the Built Environment
This note provides the construction design practitioner with an introduction to sustainable design in the built environment. The requirements contained within this Guidance Note are to be implemented for new projects commenced after 1st June 2011.
- Guidance Note 8: Durable and Sustainable Concrete
The purpose of this guidance note is to assist Government Construction Clients, Project Managers, and Client Advisors in the specification and use of concrete in Government construction projects.

9.5.5 The Sustainable Construction Group is currently finalising draft guidance relating to resource efficiency and waste prevention on:

- Re-Use of Existing Built Assets-
- Construction Site Impacts-

- Design for minimum waste

9.5.6 The Department, through WRAP NI, as part of the WRAP Construction Programme delivery in Northern Ireland, has co-funded, with CPD, a number of training sessions on sustainable construction, site waste management plans and designing out waste.”

9.5.7 In response to the commitment in the UK construction strategy and associated developments in Northern Ireland public sector construction policy, CPD is setting up a Building Information Modelling (BIM) task group, with members drawn from the NI Centres of Procurement Expertise, to develop and issue procurement guidance related to the integration of BIM into the design, procurement and construction of public sector infrastructure and buildings. The group will explore the potential for BIM to address resource efficiency issues more effectively than is currently possible.

10 RE-USE ACTIVITY

10.1 Overview

10.1.1 Re-use has an important role in the prevention of waste. Re-use extends the life of materials providing tangible benefits for the economy as well as the environment. Re-use can be conducted by a wide range of organisations, from businesses exchanging surplus materials through to individuals making donations to charitable organisations.

10.1.2 Even within our homes there is a great wealth of materials that could be re-used that would reduce the pressure on raw materials and contribute to the broader economy. The WRAP ‘Valuing our Clothes’ report¹⁹ in 2012 estimated that the average UK household owns around £4,000 worth of clothes and around 30% of clothing in wardrobes has not been worn for at least a year. The cost of this unused clothing is around £30 billion and by extending the average life of clothes by just three months of active use would lead to a 5-10% reduction in each of the carbon, water and waste footprints. However, even with the increase in clothes’ banks and publicity by charities for clothes’ donations, an estimated £140 million worth (around 350,000 tonnes) of used clothing goes to landfill in the UK every year.

10.1.3 The revised WFD defines ”re-use” as “any operation by which products or components that are not waste are used again for the same purpose for which they were conceived.” The Directive defines “preparing for re-use” as meaning checking, cleaning or repairing recovery operations, by which products or components of products that have become waste are prepared so that they can be re-used without any other pre-processing. “Preparing for re-use” is a waste operation.

10.1.4 The WFD requires member states to take measures to promote the re-use of products. By reusing items we extend their lifespan and reduce the

¹⁹ <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/valuing-our-clothes>

demand for new materials. In Northern Ireland we are working towards increasing the supply and demand for quality reusable items through improving collection, promotion and public procurement.

10.1.5 In line with this increasing emphasis on re-use, the European Commission will, by 2016, examine the case for a mandatory 5% reuse target to be shown separately from the recycling target level in respect of Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment.

10.1.6 NIEA has already produced a number of regulatory position statements relating to reuse. These cover topics such as the sustainable re-use of greenfield soil in construction and on the reuse of asphalt road planings helping to prevent these valuable materials from becoming waste in the first place.

10.1.7 Examples of re-use are not limited to government or to bulky items. The “Pass It On” project shows how organisations can run re-use projects that support other organisational aims. “Pass It On” began initially as a project from Belfast City Council to emphasise the importance of re-using unwanted books and re-thinking the impact of waste. Crescent Arts Centre Outreach established a working partnership with the Council to develop and manage a number of venues hosting “Pass it On” as part of the Belfast Book Festival to bring reading to the masses. Since then, Crescent Arts Centre Outreach has taken the project in order to increase the number of participating venues as part of the Crescent Arts Centre Outreach annual programme.

10.2 Reuse and Repair

10.2.1 The Department recognises the need to support and encourage the establishment and continuation of re-use and repair networks throughout Northern Ireland and the potential for co-operation through these networks on an island of Ireland basis. The expansion of re-use and repair networks will promote the development of social enterprises at a community level and stimulate opportunities for green jobs. The waste prevention forum planned in 2014 will have a particular focus on establishing a repair and reuse network across Northern Ireland.

10.2.2 A WRAP report, Reuse of Bulky Waste in Northern Ireland: Opportunities for Growth, in 2010 into bulky waste re-use showed that there were significant opportunities to increase re-use activities. The report estimated the amount of bulky household waste arising in Northern Ireland at approximately 80,000 tonnes per year. Further estimations suggested that about 23,000 tonnes of this would realistically be reusable. In 2007/08 Furniture Reuse Organisations (FROs) diverted just over 1,000 tonnes of bulky items to reuse. Based on likely market demand for material, and increased local authority activity in cooperation with FROs, it was suggested that a further 3,100 tonnes could be diverted for re-use.

10.2.3 In Northern Ireland, the Third Sector has led the way in the promotion and delivery of re-use and preparing for re-use projects. Northern Ireland has a vibrant community reuse sector that not only contributes to the diversion of

waste from landfill but provides employment and skills training for the unemployed and boosts the local economy, often in socially deprived areas. They also provide quality re-used goods at affordable prices to less affluent sections of the community.

10.2.4 Through the Rethink Waste Fund a number of projects have benefited from grants, such as re-use and refurbishment projects for Voluntary Service Lisburn and the East Belfast Mission “Restore” network. However the main re-use and preparing for re-use activities are still largely confined to the east of Northern Ireland. Currently the Third Sector can only apply for grants for revenue funding from the Rethink Waste Funds. This has limited organisations’ capacity to expand. It is essential that successful organisations with proven and sustainable business models are provided with the investment to grow and diversify into other materials for re-use. Additionally, grants are currently limited to in-year expenditure. The Department of the Environment will review the current Rethink Waste Fund and seek to provide access to capital funding and to offer grants over 1-3 years to the Third Sector.

Action 11 – Reuse and Repair Network

The Department of the Environment will work with partners to develop a re-use and repair network throughout Northern Ireland, supporting re-use and preparing for re-use infrastructure.

Action 12 – Support to the Third Sector

The Department of the Environment will review the Rethink Waste Fund to provide appropriate support to the Third Sector to enable business growth and capacity to be expanded.

10.3 Re-use Market Development

10.3.1 Between now and 2020, WRAP²⁰ estimates that electronic waste in the UK will total more than 12 million tonnes. A quarter of this will comprise IT equipment, consumer electronics and display screens. This 12 million tonnes will include precious metals, which at the time of writing, have a total estimated market value of £7bn. Nearly 25% of waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) that’s taken to household waste recycling centres could be re-used, worth around £200m gross per year.

10.3.2 Re-use not only diverts waste from landfill but also contributes to significant carbon savings when compared with recycling. For the re-use market to grow there has to be social acceptance and confidence in the quality of the goods being sold. Assuring quality of goods will assist in providing this confidence to the public, particularly for electrical and electronic goods.

²⁰ WRAP Switched onto Value report - <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/switched-value>

Additionally, the marketing of re-use goods would be assisted if the assurance schemes had a wider use, acceptability and profile.

10.3.3 The Department of the Environment will work with partners across the UK and beyond to influence supply chains, and promote the extension of product lifetime for electronics and reduce wastage of electronic products that are still in working order. Locally the Department of the Environment will seek to work with and support stakeholders to increase the re-use of electronic and electrical equipment, and will assist the development of new business models with partners for re-use schemes and promote standards such as PAS141²¹.

Action 13 – Re-use Quality Assurance

The Department of the Environment will:

- Engage with partners to influence supply chains
- Develop new business models to assist re-use businesses.
- Promote re-use assurance standards

11 MEASURING PROGRESS

11.1 There are currently no EU targets for waste prevention and no targets have been proposed by the revised Waste Management Strategy. However, the European Commission is proposing to present a report on waste prevention by the end of 2014. It will propose measures, if appropriate, including waste prevention and decoupling objectives, to be achieved by 2020.

11.2 As previously stated, the aim of the Waste Prevention Programme is to maintain the downward trend in waste arisings in Northern Ireland, and in particular to decouple economic growth from the environmental impacts associated with waste generation.

11.3 To ensure that activities within the Waste Prevention Programme are on course to comply with the aims and objectives the following indicators will be monitored²² by the Department of the Environment:

- Initially, the **amount of household waste arisings**. When more reliable data becomes available through other initiatives in the revised Waste Management Strategy, the amount of Commercial & Industrial Waste and Construction & Demolition Waste arisings will also be monitored.
- Initially, the **amount of household waste arisings per unit household expenditure** to assess trends relating to decoupling economic growth and waste arisings. Commercial & Industrial Waste and Construction & Demolition Waste arisings per unit GVA will be monitored once reliable data becomes available.

²¹ PAS 141 is a process management specification for the re-use of used and waste electrical and electronic equipment (UEEE and WEEE) - <http://www.wrap.org.uk/content/pas-141-re-use-standard>

²² WasteDataFlow data will be used for monitoring of the indicators relating to household waste.

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Subject:	Playground Improvement Programme 2020 – 2021
Date:	12 th May 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director of City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Ryan Black, Director of Neighbourhood Services

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the successful 2019/20 Playground Improvement Programme and to agree sites for refurbishments in 2020/21. Members are asked to note that works are funded under the Capital Programme and that an allocation of £580,000 has been agreed this financial year.
1.2	Members should note that, due to COVID 19, work under last year’s programme at Blackmountain playground shut down mid-March 2020 at 80% complete. When feasible works will be completed this financial year, an estimated final account of circa £50k will be included as part of this year’s £580k capital budget.

1.3	Members should also note that;
1.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A new build at the Vere Foster site is to be included as a replacement for the old Moyard playground, closed in recent years; the Moyard site has since been developed for social housing
1.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members should note that, in parallel to this year's programme, council has agreed to deliver £145k of playground improvement works at Grosvenor Recreation Centre. This work is being fully funded by the Department for Communities (DfC) and will be undertaken by our measured term contractor (MTC) within this financial year. This scheme will not impact on the capital budget, however MTC and CNS Landscape Team resources will be required to complete the works in addition to this year's Programme
1.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Plans for the Lisnasharragh (Clonduff) playground refurbishment will be funded under the current Leisure Transformation Programme. The planned refurbishment will further enhance and compliment the recently completed leisure centre and external pitches
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to;</p> <p>Agree that the sites below are included as part of the annual Playground Improvement Programme for 2020- 2021.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ohio Street playground • Falls Park • Blackmountain (completion of works due to Covid 19) • Vere Foster playground
3.0	Main report
	Playground Refurbishment Programme
3.1	Since its inception in 2012, the Playground Refurbishment Programme continues to make a positive impact on the overall quality and play value of the city's playgrounds; this has greatly improved accessibility, provided more equipment that is inclusive, safety surfacing, boundary fencing, site furniture and landscaping works.
3.2	With continued investment over the last eight years, the Council is achieving the desired improvements at each of its sites. Last year's Playground Improvement Programme

	<p>delivered new facilities at the sites listed below. These playgrounds are now more inviting, inclusive and exciting places for children and parents to visit (see Appendix 1).</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Ormeau Park lower 2. Geeragh (Finaghy Community Centre) 3. McClure Street 4. Blackmountain (80% complete due to Covid 19 shutdown)
3.3	<p>Members should note that Play Services Ireland Ltd undertook independent inspections on behalf of the Council. The 'quality score' allocated for each playground is based on compliance with the BSEN European safety standards - BS EN 1176 & BS EN 1177.</p>
3.4	<p>Independent playground inspection reports also highlight the age range for each piece of playground equipment and identifies and prioritises repairs. The Council's Facilities Management and Playground Inspectors continue to undertake these repairs in the order they have been prioritised. (See Appendix 2 – copy of the 2020 Independent Playground Inspection report for the Ohio Street playground).</p>
3.5	<p>Each playground is individually categorised, giving a combined 'quality score'. Ohio Street playground was allocated a score of 4.8 and Falls Park playground was allocated 5.5 putting both just above the classification of Insufficient/Fair.</p>
3.6	<p>Following independent inspections at 101 playgrounds across the city, it is proposed that Ohio Street and Falls Park playground be included as part of this year's Playground Improvement Programme in addition to the sites listed above.</p>
3.7	<p>Members are asked to note that Marrowbone playground will be refurbished as part of the Urban Villages Initiative proposals for the park.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p>
3.8	<p>Works will be funded through the Capital Programme, a budget of £580k has been allocated to this year's improvement programme.</p>
3.9	<p>CNS Senior Landscape, Planning and Development officers will continue to re-design play facilities and project manage all works associated with the 2020-2021 Playground</p>

3.10	<p>Improvement Programme. As in previous years, CNS OSS Managers will continue to assist with sharing information relating to playground improvements to elected members, local communities and user groups.</p> <p>Members should note that McClure Street and Blackmountain playgrounds appear in the table of the 'Quality Score Rating' Appendix 3, however McClure Street playground was completely refurbished in March 2020, Blackmountain playground's refurbishment was 80% complete when put into COVID 19 shutdown.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.11	None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	<p>Appendix 1 – Images of recently refurbished playgrounds</p> <p>Appendix 2 – 2020 Independent Playground Inspection report for Ohio Street and Falls Park playground</p> <p>Appendix 3 – 2020 Playground Quality Score ratings</p>

Appendix 1 – Recently refurbished playgrounds

Ormeau Park Lower playground – (before refurbishment)



Ormeau Park Lower playground – (after refurbishment)



Geeragh Playground



McClure Street playground – (before refurbishment)



McClure Street playground – (after refurbishment)









RPII ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT



OHIO STREET
PLAY AREA
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
16th January 2020

This inspection was carried out by James Busby RPII Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Busby', is written over the line following the text 'Signed

Item No.	Item Description	Inclusive for all Abilities Y/N	DDA/ Age Label	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 1176 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Actions	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 1177	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
1		N	Y	4	Y	L		5	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Slide Manufacturer: Wicksteed Label: No Age Range: Junior Capacity: 1 Surfacing: Red Wet Pour											
	4+											
2		N	Y	4	Y	L		3	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Horse Rocker Manufacturer: Proludic Label: No Age Range: Toddler Capacity: 1 Surfacing: Red Wet Pour											
	2 – 6											
Overall Mean Score =				-								

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***Quality Score**

Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1** Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2** Action within 10 days
- 3** Action within 28 days
- 4** Action within 3 months
- 5** Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Item No.	Item Description	Inclusive for all Abilities Y/N	DDA/ Age Label	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 1176 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Actions	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 1177	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
3		Y	Y	4	Y	L		3	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Dog Rocker Manufacturer: Proludic Label: No Age Range: Toddler Capacity: 1 Surfacing: Red Wet Pour											
	<div style="background-color: #4a4a8a; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">2 – 6</div> <div style="background-color: #ffa500; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">  </div>											
4		Y	Y	4	Y	L	  	3	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Cradle Swings Manufacturer: Wicksteed Label: Yes 2007 Age Range: Toddler Capacity: 2 Surfacing: Red Wet Pour											
	<div style="background-color: #ffff00; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">1 – 3</div> <div style="background-color: #ffa500; padding: 5px; display: inline-block; text-align: center;">  </div>											
Overall Mean Score =				-								

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***Quality Score**

Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1** Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2** Action within 10 days
- 3** Action within 28 days
- 4** Action within 3 months
- 5** Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Item No.	Item Description	Inclusive for all Abilities Y/N	DDA/ Age Label	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 1176 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Actions	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 1177	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
5		N	Y	8	Y	L	 Monitor rot on seats.	5	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Seesaw Rocker Manufacturer: Proludic Label: No Age Range: Junior Capacity: 4 Surfacing: Red Wet Pour											
				4+								
Overall Mean Score =				4.8								

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***Quality Score**








Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1 Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 10 days
- 3 Action within 28 days
- 4 Action within 3 months
- 5 Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

ANCILLARY STRUCTURES

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>GENERAL QUALITY CONDITION</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>	<u>PRIORITY</u>
	8	 Remove cable ties.	3
Boundary Fencing			
	10	N/A	5
Gates			
	10	N/A	5
Signs			
	10	N/A	5
Seats/Benches			
	4	 Repair damaged wet pour at entrance.	2
Paths			
OVERALL MEAN SCORE:		8.4	

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***Quality Score**

Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1** Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2** Action within 10 days
- 3** Action within 28 days
- 4** Action within 3 months
- 5** Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.





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RPII ANNUAL PLAYGROUND INSPECTION REPORT



FALLS
PLAY AREA
BELFAST CITY COUNCIL
15th January 2020

Item No.	Item Description	Inclusive for all Abilities Y/N	DDA/ Age Label	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 1176 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Actions	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 1177	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
1		Y	Y	4	Y	L		2	Y	L	N/A	5
	Replace end cap. Replace worn bushes.											
	Item: Basket Swing Manufacturer: Hags/SMP Label: Yes, 2014 Age Range: All Capacity: 4 Surfacing: Wet Pour											
	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; gap: 10px;"> 3+  </div>											
2		N	N	8	Y	L	Replace age label.	4	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Seesaw Rocker Manufacturer: Kompan Label: Yes, 2014 Age Range: Junior Capacity: 4 Surfacing: Wet Pour											
	<div style="background-color: blue; color: white; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">4+</div>											
Overall Mean Score =				-								





***Quality Score**

Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1 Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 10 days
- 3 Action within 28 days
- 4 Action within 3 months
- 5 Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Item No.	Item Description	Inclusive for all Abilities Y/N	DDA/ Age Label	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 1176 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Actions	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 1177	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
3		N	Y	8	Y	L	N/A	5	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: 4 Seat Rocker Manufacturer: Kompan Label: Yes 2008 Age Range: Toddler Capacity: 4 Surfacing: Wet Pour											
2 – 6												
4		Y	Y	5	Y	L		3	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Toddler Multi Unit Manufacturer: Sutcliffe Label: Yes Age Range: Toddler Capacity: 10 Surfacing: Wet Pour											
2 – 6 												
Overall Mean Score =				-								






***Quality Score**

Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1 Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 10 days
- 3 Action within 28 days
- 4 Action within 3 months
- 5 Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

Item No.	Item Description	Inclusive for all Abilities Y/N	DDA/ Age Label	Quality Score	Compliance with BSEN 1176 Y/N	User Risk Assessment	Actions	Item Priority	Safety Surface Compliance to BSEN 1177	Surfacing Risk Assessment	Actions	Surface Priority Works
5		N	Y	4	Y	L	 Tighten central rotating section and replace nut caps.  Replace damaged seats.	2	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Giro Spiral Manufacturer: Proludic Label: Yes Age Range: Senior Capacity: 2 Surfacing: Wet Pour											
	6+											
6		Y	Y	4	Y	L	 Monitor slight movement in frame legs.	5	Y	L	N/A	5
	Item: Swings Manufacturer: Hags Label: Yes Age Range: All Capacity: 4 Surfacing: Wet Pour											
	All											
Overall Mean Score =				5.5								

***Quality Score**













Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1 Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2 Action within 10 days
- 3 Action within 28 days
- 4 Action within 3 months
- 5 Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

ANCILLARY ITEMS

<u>TYPE</u>	<u>GENERAL QUALITY CONDITION</u>	<u>ACTIONS</u>			<u>PRIORITY</u>
 Boundary Fencing	5	 Remove cable ties.	 Replace post caps.	 Replace missing fixing.	2
 Gates	2	Remove crush point.			2
 Signage	10	N/A			5
 Bins	8	N/A			5
 Seating	8	N/A			5
 Paths	2	 Repair burnt areas of wetpour.	 Clean surface.	 Surface uneven at removed unit – repair.	3

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OVERALL MEAN SCORE: 5.8

***Quality Score**

Excellent	= 10	Fair	= 5
Very Good	= 9	Insufficient	= 4
Good	= 8	Poor	= 3
Fairly Good	= 7	Very Poor	= 2
Sufficient	= 6	Extremely Poor	= 1

*** Item Priority Action**

- 1** Action within 1 hour (Contact Client)
- 2** Action within 10 days
- 3** Action within 28 days
- 4** Action within 3 months
- 5** Monitor

N.B. Mean Score = total quality score divided by the number of items.

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Appendix 3 – 2020 playground Quality Score ratings



BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL INSPECTIONS 2020

Playground Priority List

	Playground	Mean Score
1.	Ardoyne Play Area	10
2.	Barnetts Demesne Play Area	10
3.	Brook Leisure Centre	10
4.	Colin Park (Blacks Road)	10
5.	Duncairn Play Area	10
6.	Fullerton Park	10
7.	Glenbank Play Area	10
8.	Hannahstown Play Area	10
9.	Hammer Play Area	10
10.	Jubilee Park	10
11.	Lower Ormeau Play Area	10
12.	Navarra Play Area	10
13.	Poleglass Play Area	10
14.	Tullycarnet Resource Centre	10
15.	Rev Robert Bradford Park	10
16.	Roddens Crescent Play Area	10

17.	Daddy Winkers Playground	9.9
18.	Geeragh Play Area	9.9
19.	Mount Eagles Play Area	9.9
20.	Sandy Row Community Gardens Play Area	9.9
21.	Skippers Play Area	9.9
22.	Tommy Patton Play Area	9.9
23.	Ardoyne Community Centre Play Area	9.8
24.	Belmont Play Area	9.8
25.	Blacks Road Sensory Garden Play Area	9.8
26.	Castleton Play Area	9.8
27.	Erin Thompson Play Area	9.8
28.	North Queen Street Play Area	9.8
29.	Old Golf Course Road Play Area	9.8
30.	Olympia Leisure Centre Play Area	9.8
31.	Suffolk Community Centre	9.8
32.	Taughmonagh Park	9.8
33.	Victoria Play Area	9.8
34.	Areema Play Area	9.7
35.	Botanic Play Area	9.7
36.	Clonduff Drive Play Area	9.7
37.	Finlay Play Area	9.7
38.	Knocknagoney Play Area	9.7
39.	Lemberg Street Play Area	9.7
40.	New Lodge Play Area	9.7
41.	Orangefield Play Area	9.7

42.	Ballymacarrett Playground	9.6
43.	Carnanmore Play Area	9.6
44.	Clara Street Play Area	9.6
45.	Drumglass Park	9.6
46.	Walkway Playground	9.6
47.	Blythefield Play Area	9.5
48.	Browns Square Play Area	9.5
49.	Carema Allen Memorial Park	9.5
50.	Dr Pitt Park	9.5
51.	Eversleigh Street Play Area	9.5
52.	Northlink Play Area	9.5
53.	Tullycarnet Park	9.5
54.	White Rise Play Area	9.5
55.	Belvoir Drive Play Area	9.4
56.	Cregagh Play Area	9.4
57.	Glassmullan Playground	9.4
58.	Musgrave Park	9.4
59.	The Grove Play Area	9.4
60.	Belfast Zoo	9.3
61.	Cherryvale Play Area	9.3
62.	Highfield Play Area	9.3
63.	Tir Na Nog Ligoniel Play Area	9.3
64.	Wedderburn Play Area	9.3
65.	McCrary Park	9.2
66.	Ballysillan Play Area	9.1

67.	Glencairn Play Area	9.1
68.	Bridge End Play Area	9
69.	Grampian Avenue Play Area	9
70.	Michelle Baird Play Area	9
71.	Springhill Play Area	9
72.	Horn Drive Lenadoon Play Area	8.9
73.	Whiterock Leisure Centre Play Area	8.9
74.	Alexandra Upper Play Area	8.8
75.	Balfour Avenue Play Area	8.8
76.	Flora Park	8.8
77.	Queen Mary's Waterworks Play Area	8.8
78.	Sir Thomas and Lady Dixons Park	8.8
79.	Stewart Street	8.8
80.	Cavehill Adventurous Playground	8.7
81.	Nubia Street Play Area	8.7
82.	Alexandra Lower Play Area	8.6
83.	Springfield Site A Play Area	8.6
84.	Edenderry Play Area	8.5
85.	Tyndale Play Area	8.5
86.	Woodvale Play Area	8.5
87.	Alloa Street Play Area	8.3
88.	Dunville Play Area	7.8
89.	Mountforde Play Area	7.8
90.	Willowbank Play Area	7.7
91.	Dover Street	7.2

92.	Sally Gardens	7.1
93.	Clarawood Play Area	6.8
94.	Westlands Play Area	6.8
95.	Loughshore Play Area	6.7
96.	Ormeau 2000	6.4
97.	Blackmountain Play Area	6.1
98.	Falls Park	5.5
99.	Ohio Street Play Area	4.8
100.	Marrowbone Junior Play Area	4.7
101.	McClure Street Play Area	3.1

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Subject:	Proposal for naming a new street and the continuation of an existing street
Date:	Tuesday 12 th May 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager
Contact Officer:	Roisin Adams, Business Coordinator

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider applications for the naming of a new street and the continuation of an existing street in the City.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	<p>Based on the information presented, the Committee is required to make a recommendation in respect of an application for naming one new street in the City and the continuation of an existing street in the City. The Committee may either:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grant the applications, or • Refuse the applications and request that the applicants submit other names for consideration.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u>

The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.

3.5

Members are asked to consider the following applications for naming a new street and the continuation of an existing street in the City. The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed names. The proposed new names are not contained in the Council's Streets Register and do not duplicate existing approved street names in the City.

Proposed Name	Location	Applicant
Upper Dunmurry Close	Off Upper Dunmurry Lane, B17	Choice Housing Association

Proposed Continuation of Existing Street	Location	Applicant
Thornberry Hill	Off Thornberry Road, BT14	Beechview Developments, Ltd

3.6

Choice Housing Association have proposed Upper Dunmurry Close, as their first choice and Upper Dunmurry Place and Upper Dunmurry Gardens as the second and third choice as the new street is in the immediate surrounding area of the existing Upper Dunmurry Lane.

3.7

Beechview Developments have proposed Thornberry Hill for the continuation of an existing street that has been extended by the developer with the construction of 39 additional units to include a mix of detached and semi-detached dwellings. The additional dwellings will continue on the existing Thornberry Hill.

3.8

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no Financial, Human Resources, Assets or other implications in this report.

3.9

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no direct Equality implications.

4.0

Appendices – Documents Attached

None



Subject:	Proposal for dual language street signs
Date:	Tuesday 12 th May 2020
Reporting Officer:	Ian Harper, Building Control Manager
Contact Officer:	Roisin Adams, Business Coordinator,

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	To consider an application for the erection of dual language street signs for two existing streets within the City.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	As at least two thirds 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 Slieveban Avenue and Rockville Street, the Committee is recommended to approve the applications.
3.0	Main report
3.1	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>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.</p>

3.2 Members are asked to consider the following applications to erect second street nameplates showing the name of the street expressed in a language other than English. The second language is Irish.

3.3	English Name	Non- English Name	Location	Applicant	Persons surveyed
	Benraw Gardens	Garraithe Bheann Rátha	Off Benraw Road, BT11	Councillor Séanna Walsh	3
	Creeve Walk	Siúlán na Craoibhe	Off Commedagh Drive, BT11	Councillor Séanna Walsh	60

3.4 The translations were authenticated by Queens University, the approved translator for Belfast City Council and Belfast City Council’s Irish Language Officer.

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 for the above streets were carried out and the following responses were received.

3.6 **Benraw Gardens, BT11**

2 people (67%) are in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
 1 person (33%) did not respond to the survey

3.7 **Creeve Walk, BT11**

41 people (76%) are in favour of the erection of a second street nameplate
 4 people (7%) have no preference either way
 15 people (25%) did not respond to the survey

3.8 The Council’s policy on the erection of a second street nameplate requires that at least two thirds (66.6%) of the people surveyed must be in favour of the proposal to erect a second street sign in a language other than English.

3.9	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There is a cost of approximately £250 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.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.10	<p>There are no direct equality/rural needs implications.</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices – Documents Attached</p>
	<p>None</p>

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