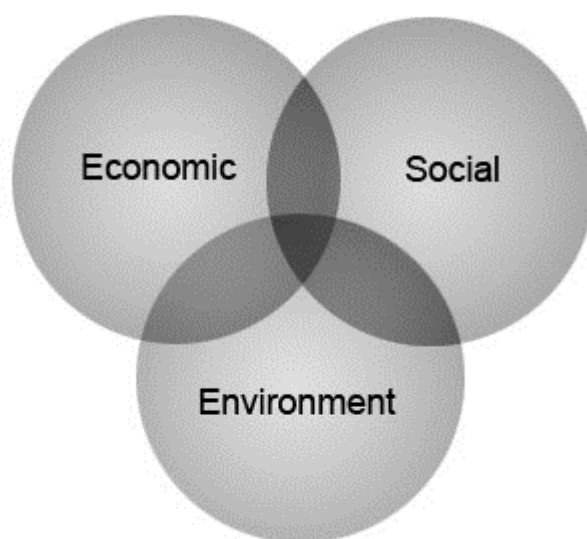




Fermanagh & Omagh
District Council
Comhairle Ceantair
Fhear Manach agus na hÓmaí

Sustainable Development Action Plan 2019/20



June 2019

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Section 1: Introduction

1.1 What is Sustainable Development?

Sustainable development is about meeting the needs of people today and providing them with a good quality of life without compromising the quality of life of future generations. It is characterised typically as achieving an optimum balance between social, environmental, and economic considerations. In achieving this balance, sustainable development aims to maximise the benefits of social, environmental and economic initiatives by mitigating negative and increasing positive impacts.

1.2 Duties of District Councils

Under the Northern Ireland (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 2006, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council is required in the exercise of its functions, to act in the manner it considers best to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development in Northern Ireland, except to the extent that it considers that such action is not reasonably practicable.

The Council must be aware of, and have regard for, any strategy or guidance relating to sustainable development issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) or any other Northern Ireland Department.

The Council's statutory duty to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development was further reinforced in the Community Planning element of the 2014 Local Government Act and in the new Strategic Planning Policy Statement.

1.3 FODC's commitment to Sustainable Development

Fermanagh and Omagh District Council's Corporate Plan 2017-19 sets out the Council's strategic aims, priorities and values. Within the Corporate Plan, the Council has identified a commitment to sustainable development and will ensure that this is embedded in all plans, policies and actions.

In addition by working in accordance with our Sustainable Development Policy, Fermanagh and Omagh District Council will:

- Consider sustainability in all its actions and decisions
- Progressively integrate sustainability principles into its daily activities
- Seek to increase the awareness of sustainable development generally
- Ensure that where possible, council activities support the achievement of sustainable development
- Strive to act as an exemplar for sustainable development, ensuring policies and actions provide a lead to the local and wider community

Section 2: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council Plans

2.1 Fermanagh and Omagh Community Plan

The Community Plan provides a shared vision for getting the public, private and community/voluntary sectors working together better towards FODC's eight long-term outcomes aimed at improving the social, economic and environmental wellbeing of our district and the people who live in it. The eight outcomes sit within three themes: People and Communities, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills.

People and Communities (Theme 1)

1. Our people are healthy and well – physically, mentally and emotionally
2. Older people lead more independent, engaged and socially connected lives
3. Our communities are inclusive, safe, resilient and empowered
4. Our people have the best start in life with lifelong opportunities to fulfil their potential

Economy, Infrastructure and Skills (Theme 2)

5. Our economy is thriving, expanding and outward looking
6. Our district is a connected place

Environment (Theme 3)

7. Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhanced
8. Our district is an attractive and accessible place

The Council's Corporate Plan 2015-19 was updated for the period 2017-19. It follows the community planning vision and outcomes and has adopted an additional ninth outcome relating to the Council itself:

9. We are a proactive, effective and well governed organisation providing strong civic and community leadership

2.2 Performance Improvement Plan

The Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 requires a council, for each financial year, to set itself improvement objectives for improving the exercise of its functions.

A Performance Improvement Plan has been produced for 2019/20, which was subject to a full public consultation process. Contained within the Performance Improvement Plan are five improvement objectives for 2019/20 which are grouped under the Community Plan and Corporate Plan themes.

Each improvement objective must aim to bring about improvement in one of seven specified aspects of improvement, of which sustainability, is one of the aspects of improvement.

All of the five improvement objectives (projects) identified for 2019/20 reference sustainability as an aspect of improvement. For this reason, we will include them within our Sustainable Development Action Plan 2019/20.

In addition, we will also include other Council projects and initiatives which positively contribute towards the achievement of sustainable development within our district.

All of the projects within the Action Plan contribute to either the social, economic or environmental pillars of sustainability, with some projects contributing to all three pillars.

The Community Plan, Corporate Plan and Performance Improvement Plan all strongly promote the theme of sustainability, further demonstrating the Council's commitment to contributing towards the achievement of sustainable development.

Section 3: Sustainable Development Action Plan Projects

6.1: Project 1 We will increase uptake of Council provided leisure and recreation opportunities and improve provision of information to support citizens in making healthier choices (Performance Improvement Plan)

Project Contact: Director of Community, Health and Leisure (supported by Head of Leisure, Recreation and Sport; Head of Arts and Heritage; Head of Environmental Health)

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: People and Communities

Outcome 1: Our people are healthy and well – physically, mentally and emotionally

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Consult upon, agree and commence delivery of a long-term Leisure Strategy for Fermanagh and Omagh 'Active Together'
- (ii) Continue to deliver, expand upon and promote sports and recreation activities/programmes (including inclusive programmes) with the aim of increasing numbers attending leisure centre activities and taking up wider activity programmes offered through sports coaching activities
- (iii) Progress opportunities for partnership working in relation to activity programmes eg, Macmillan Cancer
- (iv) Continue to deliver, expand upon and promote arts/culture/heritage (including Geopark) activities/programmes/events (including inclusive programmes) with the aim of increasing uptake of opportunities
- (v) Continue to work with food businesses through the Environmental Health Service to make information available/accessible re food hygiene standards (Food Hygiene Rating Scheme); continue to roll out the Calorie Wise Scheme which will provide calorie information on menus to inform decision making
- (vi) Use a range of opportunities to promote and distribute health improvement information

How will we measure success?

- Number of customers using leisure facilities (both indoor and outdoor) – 4 centres
- Level of customer satisfaction with leisure service (average across 4 centres)
- Number of participants in EveryBody Active Programme
- Percentage of sustained participants from EveryBody Active Programme
- Number of service users across arts/heritage (including Geopark) venues and events/festivals
- Level of customer satisfaction with arts/culture/heritage service

- Number of businesses who have achieved broad compliance within the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme
- Achievement of target number of business participants in CalorieWise.

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- A focus on building awareness of the benefits of physical and social activity both in terms of physical and mental health
- Opportunities to take part in a range of activities across the district
- Opportunities which allow citizens to build and maintain social networks, thereby combating loneliness and isolation which can be a factor contributing to poor mental and emotional health and wellbeing. This is particularly relevant in rural areas where communities and individuals can become isolated.
- Accessible customer information available through food businesses so that citizens can make informed choices in relation to food safety and calorie content.

6.2: Project 2 We will encourage a growth in entrepreneurship and new business starts, including amongst underrepresented groups (Performance Improvement Plan)

Project Contact: Director of Regeneration and Planning (supported by Head of Tourism and Economic Development)

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Economy, Infrastructure and Skills

Outcome 5: Our economy is thriving, expanding and outward looking

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Continue to deliver entrepreneurship programmes/Business start-up programme
- (ii) Undertake activities aimed at encouraging increased involvement of women and young people in entrepreneurship/Business start-up programmes
- (iii) Undertake activities aimed at promoting opportunities for social entrepreneurship

How will we measure success?

- Number of jobs promoted through Business Start-Up activity
- Numbers of (i) social entrepreneurs; (ii) young entrepreneurs; (iii) female entrepreneurs, supported through Business Start-Up activity
- Numbers of participants in Social Economy project
- Numbers of participants in Female Entrepreneur activities
- Numbers of participants in Young Entrepreneur activities

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- Ongoing availability of support for those interested in starting or growing a business with more identifiable and inclusive support available to social entrepreneurs, young entrepreneurs and female entrepreneurs
- Potential for new jobs to be created providing additional employment opportunities within the district
- Sustaining local communities through growing indigenous businesses and reducing numbers of young people leaving the area.

6.3: Project 3 We will support our local town centre economy by making it easier for residents and visitors to access car parking when visiting our key towns and service centres (Performance Improvement Plan)

Project Contact: Director of Environment and Place (supported by Head of Building Control and Licensing)

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Themes: Economy, Infrastructure and Skills/Environment

Outcome 5: Our economy is thriving, expanding and outward looking

Outcome 8: Our district is an attractive and accessible place

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Keep tariffs in Omagh and Enniskillen under review; promote season/quarterly tickets and review the effectiveness of these
- (ii) Continue to work through options with partners to increase coach parking and drop-off provision in Omagh and Enniskillen, particularly on-street provision
- (iii) Review and, where possible, increase the number of accessible parking bays in car parks in Omagh and Enniskillen in line with the roll out of the refurbishment programme
- (iv) Monitor occupancy to ascertain turnover rates.

How will we measure success?

- Number of additional accessible car parking spaces
- Number of additional coach parking spaces
- Turnover rates in car parks

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- An appropriate level of parking to support the economic vitality of Omagh and Enniskillen
- Availability of inclusive parking for all types of users
- Assurance that parking will take place in appropriate locations
- Efforts to ensure that parking supports tourism.

6.4: Project 4 We will continue to invest in environmental programmes which will reduce waste going to landfill and improve recycling efforts (Performance Improvement Plan)

Project Contact: Director of Environment and Place (supported by Head of Waste and Recycling)

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Environment

Outcome 7: Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhanced

Outcome 8: Our district is an attractive and accessible place

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Continued embedding and promotion of food waste collection service, including hard to reach properties
- (ii) Analyse data in relation to specific routes to identify areas where recycling rates could be improved
- (iii) Programme of reuse/recycling/composting promotional activities, including identification of recycling champions
- (iv) Promotion and improvement of household recycling centres to target separation of waste for recycling and reuse
- (v) Decrease the use of single use plastics in Council buildings
- (vi) Support and promote initiatives aimed to reduce single use plastics
- (vii) Improve the quality of plastics collected for recycling in the kerbside blue bin system

How will we measure success?

- W1: % of household waste collected by district councils that is sent for recycling (including waste prepared for reuse)
- W2: the amount (tonnage) of biodegradable Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste that is landfilled
- W3: the amount (tonnage) of Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings
- Number of additional food caddies delivered/homes serviced
- Increases in food waste tonnages collected
- Number of recycling champions identified
- Number of communication/ engagement activities undertaken
- Reduction of single use items in Council buildings – survey results
- Number of initiatives supported and delivered
- Analysis of blue recycling bin material

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Access to a food waste collection service across the district
- Confidence that ongoing efforts are being made to ensure environmental sustainability through reductions in amount of waste being landfilled and reductions in the generation of associated greenhouse gases
- Identification of and access to recycling champions
- Communications providing clear information re recycling and reuse

6.5: Project 5 We will make it easier to communicate and do business with the Council (Performance Improvement Plan)

Project Contact: Director of Corporate Services and Governance (supported by Head of Democratic and Customer Services, Head of Policy and Strategic Services, Head of Funding and Investment, ICT Manager)

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Supporting Service Delivery

Outcome 9: We are a proactive, effective and well governed organisation providing strong civic and community leadership

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Ongoing roll out of customer service improvements through Project Citizen and establishment of Connect Centres
- (ii) Progress delivery of Customer Services Action Plan
- (iii) Progress delivery of Marketing and Communications Strategy/Action Plan, including raising awareness of Council services
- (iv) Progress actions arising from complaints system review
- (v) Continue to progress and embed project re online booking system for leisure and arts

How will we measure success?

- Customer satisfaction levels at Connect Centres
- Improvement in complaint resolution times
- Increasing numbers of social media followers
- Online booking system progressing in line with project plan; (ultimately) increase in no of online bookings and online communication of leisure and arts activities and improved customer satisfaction
- Progress in opening Connect Centres progressing in line with project plan

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Establishment/availability of a dedicated customer support team
- Availability and accessibility of Connect Centres in Omagh and Enniskillen
- Clear communication of how and where to access Council services
- Clear and accessible information about Council services, including through social media
- Quicker resolution of complaints
- Availability and uptake of online booking for leisure and arts services

6.6: Project 6 Development of an Energy Management Policy and Action Plan

Project Contact: Director of Corporate Services & Governance, Emergency Planning & Sustainable Development Officer

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Outcome 9: We are a proactive, effective and well governed organisation providing strong civic and community leadership

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Introduction of an FODC Energy Management Policy
- (ii) Agreement of an Energy Management Action Plan
- (iii) Development of procedures to improve energy/utility data capture, management analysis and reporting.
- (iv) Establishment of an Energy Management Forum
- (v) Refurbishment of agreed annual area of heated floor-area of Council Estate/Buildings to improve energy efficiency
- (vi) Carry out an audit of the carbon footprint of FODC buildings to establish a baseline
- (vii) Increase contribution of renewable energy on site

How will we measure success?

- Reduction in annual: CO2 emissions, electricity consumption, purchased heat consumption, mains water consumption. To be documented in the Annual Energy Management Report.
- Achievement of annual 3% target of refurbishment of heated floor-area.
- Reduction in utility bills (electricity, heat, water).
- Increased renewable energy investment.

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Improved Energy Management across Council Estate.
- Reduced emissions from Council operations.
- A commitment to sustainable building practices.
- Increased contribution of renewable energy generated on site.
- Confidence that ongoing efforts are being made to achieve environmental sustainability through improved energy management practices.
- By establishing a baseline in relation to the carbon footprint of council buildings this should assist in achieving a longer term goal of becoming a zero carbon Council.

6.7: Project 7 Extension of video conferencing facilities at six FODC buildings

Project Contact: Director of Corporate Services & Governance, Emergency Planning & Sustainable Development Officer

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Fermanagh and Omagh District Council

Outcome 9: We are a proactive, effective and well governed organisation providing strong civic and community leadership

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Promotion of the additional video conferencing facilities to all staff to raise awareness and encourage use.
- (ii) Senior management will act as 'champions' for the system by using it themselves and also by encouraging their staff to use the system where possible.
- (iii) The IT department will offer on hand support to staff to use the system.

How will we measure success?

- Numbers of employees using the facility.
- Numbers of return journeys saved.
- Reduction in the amount of staff time spent travelling between office bases for meetings.
- Reduction in the amount spent on staff mileage payments.

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Reduced carbon footprint as less car journeys will be required, therefore video conferencing will enable the Council to run meetings in a more environmentally friendly and sustainable way. This further strengthens FODC's commitment to sustainable development by supporting the environmental and economic pillars.
- Better use of Council funds through savings achieved on staff time and mileage payments.

6.8: Project 8 FODC's bid to attain Dementia Friendly accreditation

Project Contact: Head of Policy & Strategic Services, Policy Officer (Equality)

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: People and Communities

Outcome 2: Older people lead more independent, engaged and socially connected lives

Outcome 3: Our communities are inclusive, safe, resilient and empowered

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

To date there has been some work undertaken in relation to making the Council more dementia friendly in relation to its services.

Actions to be undertaken within the 2019/2020 reporting period include:

- (i) Further training particularly with front line staff in areas including (but not limited to): Leisure Centres, Arts and Heritage venues, Community Services, etc.
- (ii) Establishing key individuals within the Council to act as information points for concerns, queries and issues.
- (iii) Working with Venue Managers to implement Dementia Check Lists to create more Dementia Friendly venues i.e. set times recognised as 'Dementia Friendly' consisting of no background noises, relaxed atmospheres, reduced lighting [if appropriate], quiet spaces being made available, etc.
- (iv) Develop new Video Guides of Council venues and place these on the Council website (specifically the Connect Centre, County Buildings [when completed], Castle Park Leisure Centre and the Bawnacre Centre).
- (v) Organise and promote relaxed performances to take place in Council venues such as the Ardhowen and Strule Arts Centre.
- (vi) Offer JAM Card training for frontline employees in identified services.

How will we measure success?

- Participant numbers in training sessions within each venue/service area.
- Establishment of two 'points of contact' for any issues and concerns.
- Dementia Check Lists are distributed to Venue Managers for consideration and have been adapted to work within each venue.
- New video guides to be developed for the Connect Centre, County Buildings (when completed), Castle Park Leisure Centre and the Bawnacre Centre. All Video Guides to be placed on the Council website and promoted via its social media channels and traditional media.
- Number of relaxed performances organised, and the number of attendees at each.
- Number of online JAM Card training sessions completed, in comparison to the number of employees identified.

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Venues/services will become more accessible for everyone, particularly those with dementia.
- Employees will be more understanding as to the needs of those with dementia, improving their experience of the Council, its venues and services.
- People with Dementia will be able to 'pre plan' their visits to Council venues, with the Video Guides taking it a stage further than the printed access guides.
- More individuals will be able to enjoy Council venues and services, by offering relaxed performances, relaxed atmospheres, quiet times, etc.

6.9: Project 9 Invasive Alien Species Project

Project Contact: Biodiversity Officer

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Environment

Outcome 7: Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhanced

Outcome 8: Our district is an attractive and accessible place

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Train relevant staff in the recognition of the most common Invasive Alien Species (IAS) species found in our district and best practice control measures
- (ii) Locate and map IAS on FODC estate to create a comprehensive and dynamic database and GIS layer
- (iii) Create IAS site management plans for key sites
- (iv) Working in partnership with Lough Erne Landscape Partnership to deliver the Aliens on the Lough project
- (v) Providing information and guidance to the public, landowners and other stakeholders on minimising the negative impacts of invasive, non-native species
- (vi) Proactively raise awareness on the negative impacts of IAS
- (vii) Create new IAS guidance documents and circulate widely to a wide range of stakeholders

How will we measure success?

- Number of staff trained in IAS ID and control
- Completion and use of the IAS GIS layer
- Site management plans complete and being delivered
- Aliens on the Lough project Year 2 actions in progress
- Number of people, community groups and other organisations helped in relation to IAS matters
- Number of training sessions, guided walks and information guides provided to the public

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- A reduction in IAS growing on Council Estate and on other public land across the District
- Long term, an increase in native biodiversity on Council estate.
- An increase in general knowledge on IAS amongst citizens enabling better management of IAS.

6.10: Project 10 Enniskillen Workhouse Project

Project Contact: Director of Regeneration and Planning (supported by Head of Funding and Investment).

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Economy, Infrastructure and Skills.

Outcome 5: Our economy is thriving, expanding and outward looking.

Theme: Environment.

Outcome 8: Our district is an attractive and accessible place.

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Roll out of the pilot for the employers' qualifications for heritage skills.
- (ii) Maintenance work to be undertaken on the Enniskillen Workhouse for restoration to the listed building.

How will we measure success?

- Target of 60 businesses participating in the employers' qualifications for heritage skills. Pilot commencing in 2019/20.
- Long term costs regarding maintenance will reduce with remedial work taking place in 2019/20.

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- Enhancing the skills and quality of the services offered by those heritage businesses in the district.
- Potential for new jobs to be created providing additional employment opportunities within the district

6.11: Project 11 Devenish Paths Project

Project Contact: Director of Regeneration and Planning (supported by Head of Funding and Investment).

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: Environment

Outcome 7: Our outstanding natural environment and built and cultural heritage is sustainably managed and, where possible, enhanced.

Outcome 8: Our district is an attractive and accessible place.

Action to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Upgrading of the infrastructure at the Devenish Paths in Enniskillen.
- (ii) Various biodiversity actions along the Devenish Paths in Enniskillen.
- (iii) Accessible infrastructure developed for disability access.
- (iv) Implementation of an Activity Action Plan to encourage people to participate in outdoor recreation contributing to improved physical and mental health.

How will we measure success?

- Improved biodiversity in the area around Devenish Paths.
- Target of 3% increase in participation in physical activity. 6% increase in women participating in physical activity. 6% increase in participation in physical activity by those from an economically disadvantaged background. 6% increase in participation in physical activity by those with a disability.

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

Citizens will benefit from:

- Enhanced availability of accessible infrastructure for all.
- Enhanced availability of opportunities for physical activity for all in the community.
- Improved environmental biodiversity in the Council area.

6.12: Project 12 Age Friendly Project

Project Contact: Head of Community Services

Related Community Plan/Corporate Plan Theme and Outcome:

Theme: People and Communities

Outcome: 2 Older people lead more independent, engaged and socially connected lives.

Actions to be taken during 2019/20:

- (i) Registration of the District with the World Health Organisation, to achieve Age Friendly Status.
- (ii) Delivery of Positive Ageing Month in October 2019 in partnership with SWAP, PHA and WHSCT.
- (iii) Delivery of PLACE EE intergenerational workshops November 2019 – March 2020.

How will we measure success?

- Confirmation of registration of the District with the World Health Organisation.
- Attendance at Positive Ageing Launches and Closing events.
- Measure numbers of submissions to Positive Ageing booklet (available in hard copy and online)
- % attendees at Positive Ageing events not affiliated to a group
- Attendance at PLACE EE intergenerational workshops

What is the visible improvement that citizens can expect?

- Increase in number of people affiliated with a group
- Increase in people attending Positive Ageing events
- Increase in submissions from groups to the Positive Ageing booklet
- Delivery of workshops to roll out PLACE EE intergenerational IT training.
- Raising the profile of the Age Friendly work across the District, as a result of WHO Age Friendly registration.

Section 4: Monitoring and Reporting of Action Plan

This Sustainable Development Action Plan is a working document and as such, a procedure to regularly monitor progress in implementation is necessary. This will ensure achievements are noted, delays or issues are addressed and that actions are updated to enable consistent improvement in integrating sustainability across all Council functions.

A Sustainable Development Implementation Group has been formed comprising representatives from relevant departments. This group will meet 4 times per year to review progress against the Plan. The group will be coordinated by the Emergency Planning and Sustainable Development Officer, who will chair meetings.

Following the fourth Implementation Group meeting per annum, in addition to reviewing annual progress, an annual report should be written to summarise the achievements, highlight difficulties and present an updated Action Plan for the following year.

Implementation of the Plan will be monitored and scrutinised by the Policy & Resources Committee on an annual basis. The annual sustainability report summarising achievements will be presented by the Head of Policy & Strategic Services. The Council Committee will also sign off on the new Action Plan. The annual sustainability report should then be made available on the Council website.