Armagh Banbridge and Craigavon Community Planning Partnership

Review of Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough

Background Paper

THEME: PLACE

May 2024

Contents

Connected: A Community Plan for Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough 2017-2030

Connected is the first community plan for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough for the period 2017-2030. Its purpose is to improve the **wellbeing** of the Borough. Wellbeing is about everyone having what they need to live well now and, in the future[1]. Looking after the wellbeing of all citizens - our collective wellbeing - is a powerful way of creating a society where everyone can live well together. Carnegie UK Trust believes that collective wellbeing happens when social, economic, environmental, and democratic wellbeing outcomes are seen as being equally important and are given equal weight[2]. If wellbeing is the goal, then we need to move away from measuring inputs to outcomes. An outcomes-based approach starts with the aspiration we want to achieve and works back to what needs to be done to realise it. A wellbeing approach means that we measure the effect a policy or programme has on people's lives, rather than simply how much we spent on a policy or a programme.

Community planning takes an outcomes-based approach. Connected is made up of nine long-term outcomes that we want to realise together by 2030 and the population statistics that we will use to measure progress over the long-term. We will also measure and report on the impact of what we do, answering the question, is anyone better off as a result?

Cross Cutting Themes
Throughout the development of the community plan, there were three things that were so important that they could not sit on their own and these are the cross-cutting themes of the plan:

Connectivity
We believe connectivity is integral to improving quality of life. Through our plan we will work to transform and connect all areas of our borough physically, digitally and socially through shared collaborative approaches

Equality
We are committed to promoting equality, good relations, and inclusion and believe them to be central to improving quality of life for everyone. A peaceful and inclusive society is vital to ensuring that we have a welcoming, confident and safe community.

Sustainability
We will work to improve everyone's quality of life economically, environmentally and socially, without compromising our future generations' ability to develop, grow and flourish. We will screen our plan to ensure our outcomes and actions are sustainable.

[1] Wellbeing - what's in a word? - Carnegie UK Trust
[2] Carnegie-UK-strategy-for-change-2021-1.pdf (d1ssu070pg2v9i.cloudfront.net)

Statement of Progress

Community Planning Partnerships are required to produce a Statement of Progress every two years on outcomes achieved and actions taken through the implementation of the community plan. To date, the partnership has produced 3 Statements of Progress in 2019, 2021 and the most recent which was published in November 2023.

As noted above, the Community Plan adopted an outcomes-based approach which encourages a focus on the end goals and what we want our area to be like in 2030. We have three strategic themes – Community, Economy and Place – and each theme has three long-term outcomes. These outcomes are aspirational statements which set out what we want for our residents. To help measure progress towards these outcomes, Connected identified 19 population indicators. These indicators are relevant and useful and by monitoring them we can demonstrate progress towards the outcomes[3] which will help make our 2030 vision for our community a reality.

However, as the Partnership continues to advance its Data Development Agenda, the Community Planning Strategic Partnership decided to include an additional three population indicators in the more recently published Statement of Progress, two of which are related to poverty and one to mental health and emotional wellbeing which are two of the Partnerships four priorities for action in the Covid19 Response and Recovery Plan.

This mid-way review of Connected looks at each of the outcomes and the indicators we have used to measure progress towards achieving the outcome. We look at the relevance of the outcomes and consider additional outcomes which have become increasingly important in recent years and we look at the indicators to ask the question, are they the best way to measure the outcome we want to achieve.

We will have three separate reports, one for each theme – Community, Economy and Place. Each report will have three parts; Part 1 will present an update on the outcomes and indicators as they currently sit in the Connected Community Plan while Part 2 will present any proposed changes including information on new indicators which could potentially be used as a measure for our outcomes. Any proposed changes should relate to or incorporate the cross-cutting themes of connectivity, equality and sustainability which should be at the heart of all we do. Part 3 will present the partnership actions with a breakdown of the sub-committees and the actions that align to each outcome under the Place Theme and the proposed new outcome along with any regional strategies that the actions deliver upon.

[3] This approach is known as 'Outcomes Based Accountability'.

PART 1

CONNECTED: Summary of Outcomes and Population Indicators

OUTCOME	POPULATION INDICATORS
COMMUNITY	
Confident Community: Everyone has opportunities to engage in community life and shape decisions – we have a strong sense of community belonging and take pride in our area.	• % of people who feel that they have an influence when it comes to any of the local decisions made in their neighbourhood. • % of people who feel a sense of belonging to their neighbourhood.
Healthy Community: People are making positive lifestyle choices. They are more resilient and better equipped to cope with life's challenges.	• No. of preventable deaths per 100,000 population. • Gap in life expectancy between the most deprived areas and the borough overall. • % of people who participate in sport or physical activity on at least one day a week.
Welcoming Community: Our borough is a safe, respectful and peaceful environment.	• % of people reporting that fear of crime has a minimal impact on their quality of life. • % of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life. • No. of accidental dwelling fires
ECONOMY	
Skilled Economy: Our borough is a centre for entrepreneurship, innovation and investment.	• No. of VAT and/or PAYE registered businesses. • Business birth rates. • Survival rates of newly born businesses.
Enterprising Economy: People are better equipped to take full advantage of the opportunities provided by the dynamic economy.	• % of the workforce in employment qualified to level 1 and above, level 2 and above, level 3 and above, and level 4 and above. • Employment rate (age 16-64).
Tourism Economy: Our borough is the destination of choice for international visitors.	• No. of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland.
PLACE	
Creative Place: Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.	• % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year.
Enhanced Place: Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.	• No. of buildings at risk saved. • No. of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award Status®)
Revitalised Place: Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.	• City and town centre vacancy rates. • Level of social housing need

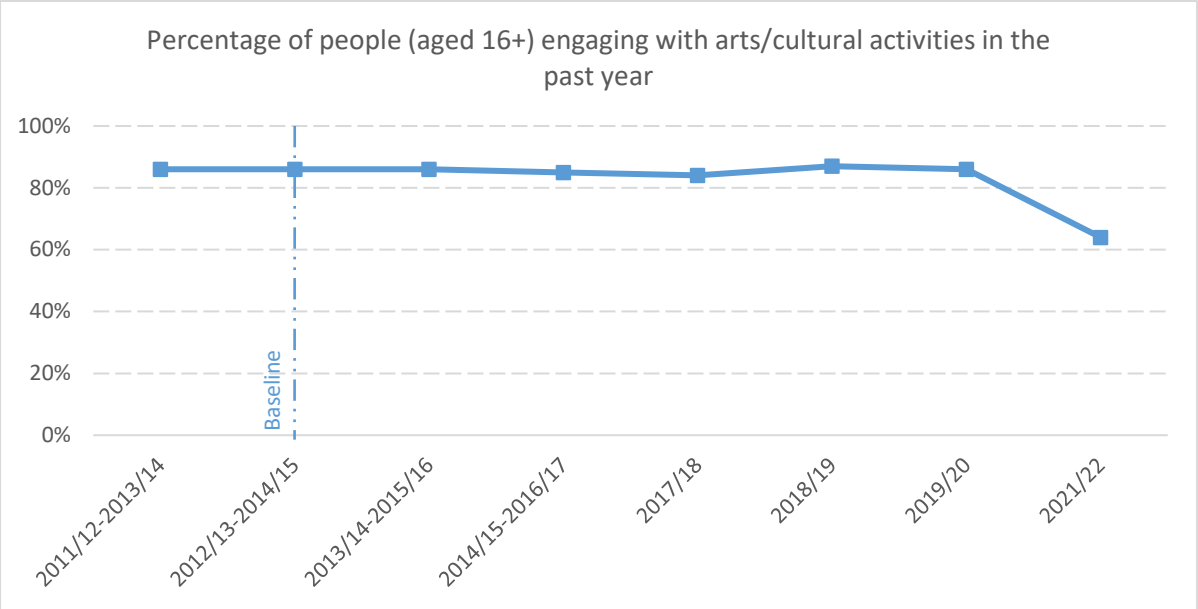
CREATIVE PLACE

LONG TERM OUTCOME:

Our Borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural experiences.

What we currently report on:

- **Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year**



In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough, the percentage of people aged 16+ engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year had been relatively stable since 2011/12-2013/14. However, results from the 2021/22 survey show there has been a large drop in the percentage of people aged 16+ engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past couple of years from 86% in 2019/20 to 64% in 2021/22. The percentage of people engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year in Northern Ireland overall has also fallen and is now 2 percentage points below the borough average at 62%.

ENHANCED PLACE

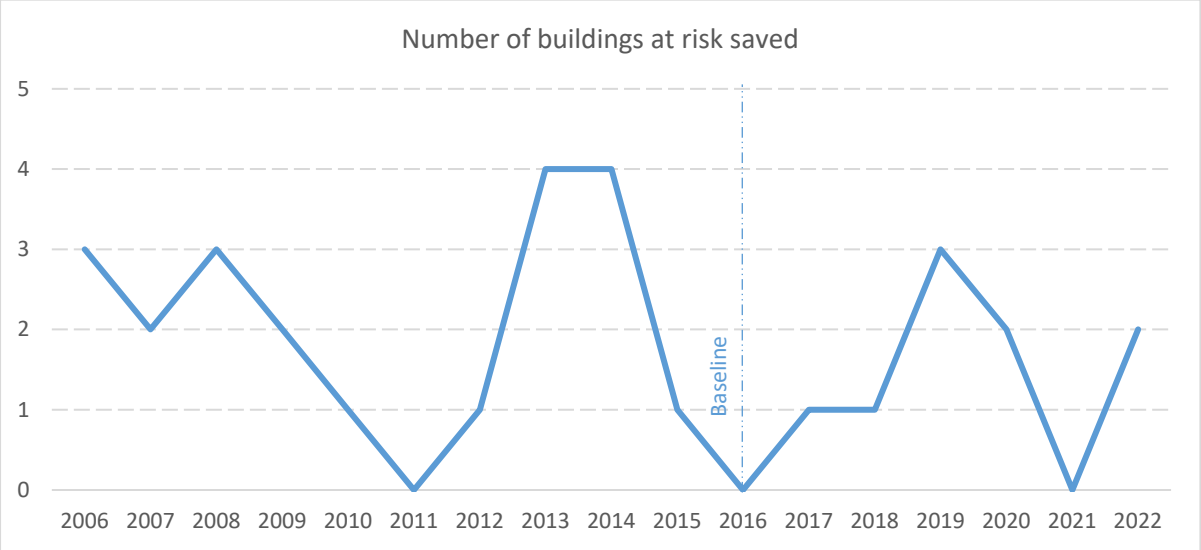
LONG TERM OUTCOME:

Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.

What we currently report on:

- **Number of buildings at risk saved**
- **Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)**

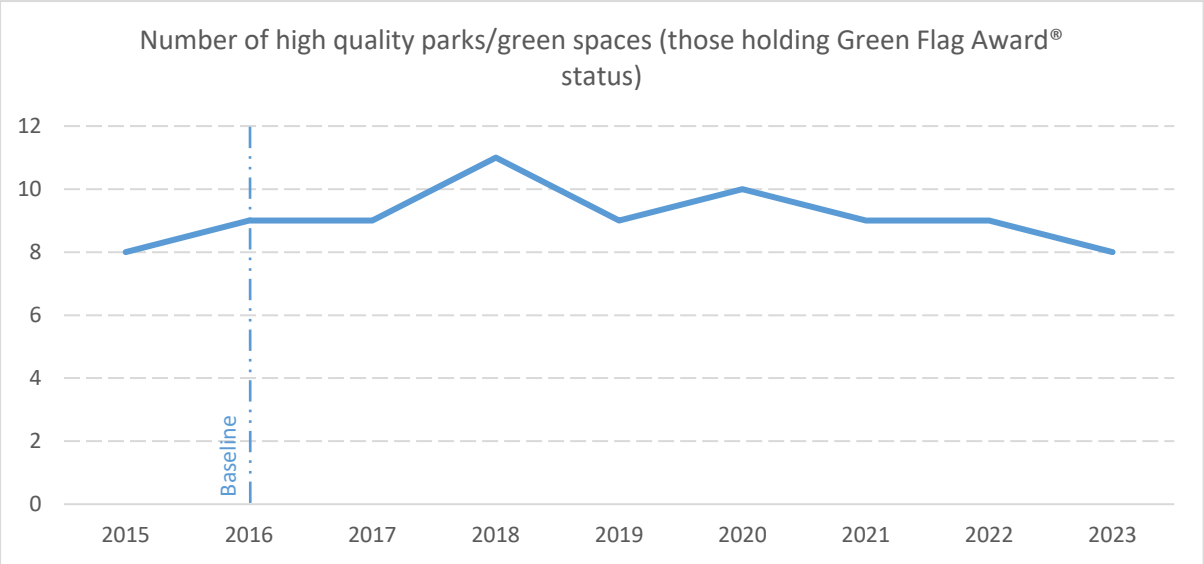
Number of buildings at risk saved



The Heritage at Risk Register for Northern Ireland highlights properties of architectural or historic merit throughout the region that are considered to be at risk or under threat. Between 2006 and 2016 (our base year), there were a total of 21 buildings at risk saved in the borough. In the six year period since then, a further 9 buildings have been saved and removed from the buildings at risk register.

Between 2006 and 2022, there has been a total 297 buildings at risk saved in Northern Ireland overall of which 30 are located in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough (approximately 10%).

Number of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award® status)



In the base year, 2016, there were 9 parks/green spaces in the borough flying the Green Flag with a total of 51 parks having achieved this standard in Northern Ireland overall. In 2023 there was a total of 8 parks in the borough flying the Green Flag accounting for 10.5% of the Northern Ireland total. This consistency shows our commitment to the borough to maintain the parks to a high standard to ensure a clean and safe space for everyone to enjoy.

REVITALISED PLACE

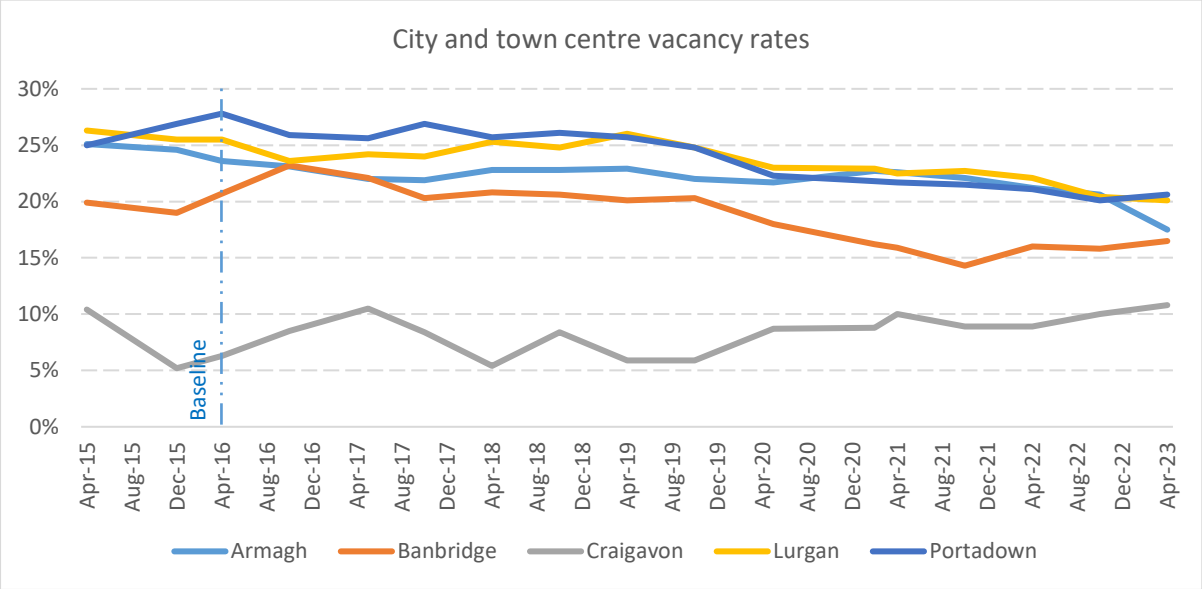
LONG TERM OUTCOME:

Our distinctive and vibrant urban and rural areas are at the heart of community and economic life.

What we currently report on:

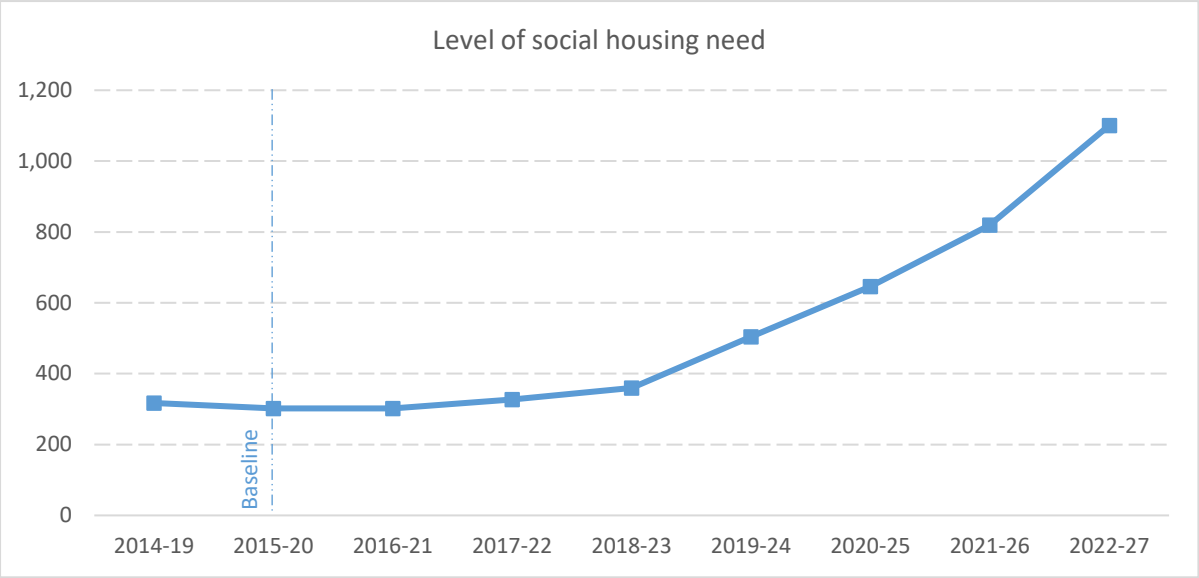
- **City and town centre vacancy rates**
- **Level of social housing need**

City and town centre vacancy rates



When we first reported on city and town centre vacancy rates, both Lurgan and Portadown had a vacancy rate above the Northern Ireland average. Since then, the vacancy rates in all our city and town centres, except Craigavon, have fallen and all are now below the Northern Ireland average which was 22% at 30th April 2023. Craigavon has consistently had the lowest vacancy rates and remains well below the other city and town centre vacancy rates although no doubt the pandemic years and enforced lockdowns have contributed to the increased vacancy rates in Craigavon and had a negative effect in each of the areas.

Level of social housing need



Social housing is intended for those on low incomes in need of a house who cannot afford to rent or buy a suitable home. The Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Housing Investment Plan Annual update for 2022-2023 notes that 'despite sustained levels of investment in new social housing in Northern Ireland…the gap between housing demand and supply continues to widen'. This is evident in the borough where the five year assessment for the period 2022-2027 shows a need for an additional 1,101 units. While this accounts for just 4.7% of the current five year (2022-2027) projected need in Northern Ireland (23,557), this is more than treble forecast need for the period 2015-20 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough. As can be seen in the chart, the need for additional social housing units has been increasing steadily in recent years.

PART 2

Proposed revisions to Outcomes and Population Indicators

The table below presents a summary of the proposed changes to the outcomes and indicators within the Place Theme. We are still researching potential indicators which could be used as a measure of biodiversity and welcome any input.

PLACE	
Creative Place: Our borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts cultural, and heritage experiences.	• % of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year. • No. of buildings at risk saved.
~~**Enhanced Place:** Our rich and varied built heritage and natural assets are protected, enhanced and expanded for current and future generations to enjoy.~~ **Sustainable Place:** People understand the need to mitigate and adapt to climate change. We value and protect our biodiversity and natural assets. Our borough is on track to become net zero by 2050.	~~• No. of high quality parks/green spaces (those holding Green Flag Award Status®)~~ • Household concern for the environment • Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions • Biodiversity?
Revitalised / Thriving / Vibrant Place: Our distinctive, inclusive and vibrant urban and rural places are at the heart of community and economic life.	• Level of social housing need • City and town centre vacancy rates. • % of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life. • No. of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland.

CREATIVE PLACE

LONG TERM OUTCOME:

Our Borough is an inspirational and creative place offering quality, inclusive arts and cultural and heritage experiences.

- **Percentage of people (aged 16+) engaging with arts/cultural activities in the past year**
- **Number of buildings at risk saved (moved from Enhanced Place)**

~~ENHANCED~~ PLACE

Proposed Options:

Sustainable Place

Responsible Place

Climate Focused Place

LONG TERM OUTCOME:

People understand the need to adapt to climate change. We value and protect our biodiversity and natural assets. Our Borough is on track to become net zero by 2050.

Recommendations:

- Household concern for the environment
- Biodiversity / natural assets
- Per Capita Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Climate change is the long-term shift in the Earth's average temperatures and weather conditions. In the past ten years, the global average temperature has increased by 1.2C and as a result we have seen:

- more frequent and intense extreme weather, such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall
- rapid melting of glaciers and ice sheets, contributing to sea-level rise
- huge declines in arctic sea-ice
- ocean warming[4]

This extreme weather is affecting life at the local scale, for example, the recent flooding, and these extreme weather events will become more intense and frequent if we don't take action. Scientists have said that it is human activities that are causing world temperatures to rise, mainly the use of fossil fuels such as coal, oil and gas in homes, factories and for transport.

'Net Zero' means no longer adding to the total amount of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. So, the greenhouse gases we emit would be the same as, or less, than those removed from the atmosphere. This can only be achieved through a combination of reduction and removal of emissions[5]. The 2015 Paris Climate Agreement is a commitment by almost 200 countries to achieve 'net zero' CO2 emissions by 2050 and try to keep global warming to 1.5C. While most countries have or are at least considering net zero targets, greenhouse gas levels are still rising quickly. However, scientists argue that urgent action can limit the worst effects of climate change.

[4] What is climate change? A really simple guide - BBC News

[5] Net zero and the different official measures of the UK's greenhouse gas emissions - Office for National Statistics

Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council, as well as many others throughout the UK, have declared a climate emergency. This is an acknowledgement and commitment to act on the causes and impacts of climate change[6]. In line with this, Council are working on a 'Roadmap' which will detail how the borough could attain net-zero by the target date of 2050 and a range of actions that could be undertaken to help achieve that goal. The roadmap will be supplemented with an action plan detailing the measures that it is already taking and proposes to take to reduce carbon emissions in its service delivery.

So, while there are major changes required from governments and businesses, individuals can also play a huge part by reducing their own carbon pollution, for example, improving home insulation and energy efficiency; switching to electric vehicles or using more public transport; replacing oil or gas central heating with electric systems like heat pumps.

When the Connected Community Plan was first published, there wasn't the same emphasis on climate as there is now and given that Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council declared a climate emergency in 2020, we believe that as we undertake a review of the community plan, it is important to consider what options we have to include some indicators on the theme of the environment. This summary report will consider official data sources only and detail the indicators that are available at a local government district level which we might want to consider for inclusion in the community plan going forward. The environmental indicators considered cover public attitudes, Co2 emissions, greenhouse gas emissions, air quality, river quality and waste and are listed below by sub-section. We are recommending we include an indicator on attitudes – household concern for the environment and per capita greenhouse gas emissions given that the target is to be net zero by 2050. It is also hoped that we will be able to include an indicator to measure progress on protection on biodiversity and natural assets.

[6] ARUP-Climate-Emergency-What-Next.pdf (local.gov.uk)

Environmental Indicators

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Indicator 1: **Household concern for the environment**

Indicator 2: Environmental problems considered most important.

Indicator 3: What is considered to be the greatest threat to biodiversity?

Indicator 4: Action taken for a positive impact on the environment.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Indicator 5: Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Emissions

Indicator 6: **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

AIR

Indicator 7: Air Quality

WASTE

Indicator 8: Waste Statistics - Recycling Rate & Landfill Rate

WATER AND MARINE

Indicator 9: River Quality – Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in rivers, 2004-2022

BIODIVERSITY AND LAND

HEALTH & ACTIVE TRAVEL

Indicator 10: Clinical Register Counts and Prevalence per 1,000 Patients (by Local Commissioning Group and GP Federation Area)

Indicator 11: Active Travel Statistics

PUBLIC ATTITUDES

Indicator 1:	**Household concern for the environment**
Source:	Continuous Household Survey[7], NISRA
Released:	Annually
Current availability:	2021/22 & 2022/23[8]

The Continuous Household Survey is designed to provide a regular source of information on a wide range of topics including internet access, the environment, tourism, libraries, health, sport and education. Statistical survey results for the Environment modules of the Continuous Household Survey are available by Local Government District (LGD).

Respondents were asked "how concerned or not are you personally about the environmental issues that impact on you?"

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2022/23, an estimated 75% of households were concerned for the environment. This represents a fall of two percentage points since 2021/22. In Lisburn and Castlereagh, 90% of households were concerned about the environment compared to just 68% in Fermanagh and Omagh. Mid Ulster has seen the greatest increase in the percentage of households who were concerned about the environment having increased from 68% in 2021/22 to 82% in 2022/23.

[7] The Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is the longest-running continuous social survey carried out in Northern Ireland and is designed and conducted by the Central Survey Unit of the Northern Ireland Statistics and Research Agency (NISRA). The annual Continuous Household Survey (CHS) is based on a sample of the general population resident in private households in Northern Ireland. The CHS is usually based on a probability sample of 9,000 addresses, for which a new sample is selected annually. This type of sample design is used so that estimates about the entire population can be made. The size of the sample is also sufficiently large so that the levels of precision around these estimates meet the standards required by customers.
Due to changes in the data collection methodology in response to the Covid-19 pandemic and a significant change in the sample and number of responses, a revised set of environmental module questions suitable for telephone interviewing were introduced to the CHS from November 2020.

[8] DAERA have confirmed that these are core questions and are included every year with no plans to change them at present.

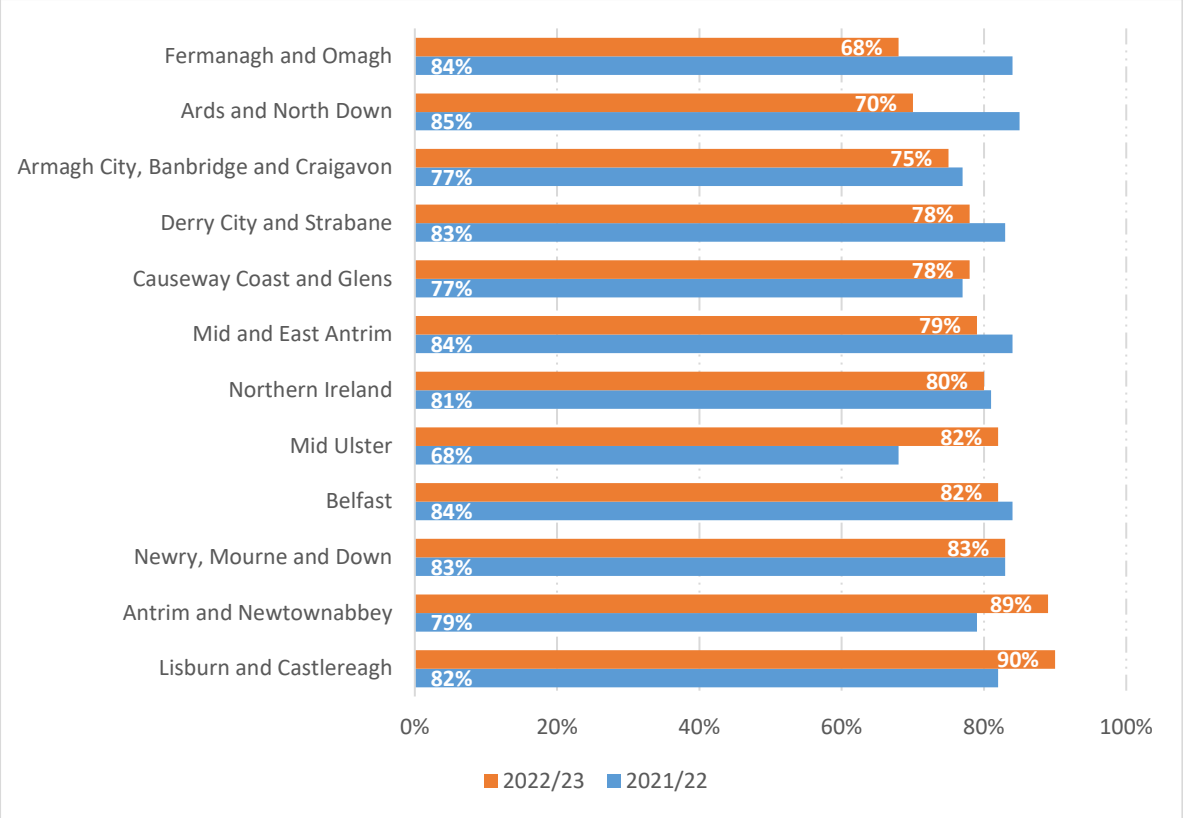


Figure 1: Households concerned for the environment by LGD 2021/22 & 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA.

One of the main points to take from this is that there are still 25% of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough who are not concerned about the environment. This is the third highest percentage of the local government districts in Northern Ireland and more than the average for Northern Ireland overall.

Indicator 2:	**Environmental problems considered most important.**
Source:	Continuous Household Survey, NISRA
Released:	Annually
Current availability:	2021/22 & 2022/23

Respondents were asked "which, if any, of the following environmental problems is most important to you?"

In 2022/23 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, more than one third of households (36%) considered the illegal dumping of waste as the most important environmental problem while climate change and ozone layer depletion was the most important environmental problem for 24% of households. Just 11% of households considered loss of plant and wildlife biodiversity as the most important environmental problem. A similar ranking was observed for Northern Ireland overall.

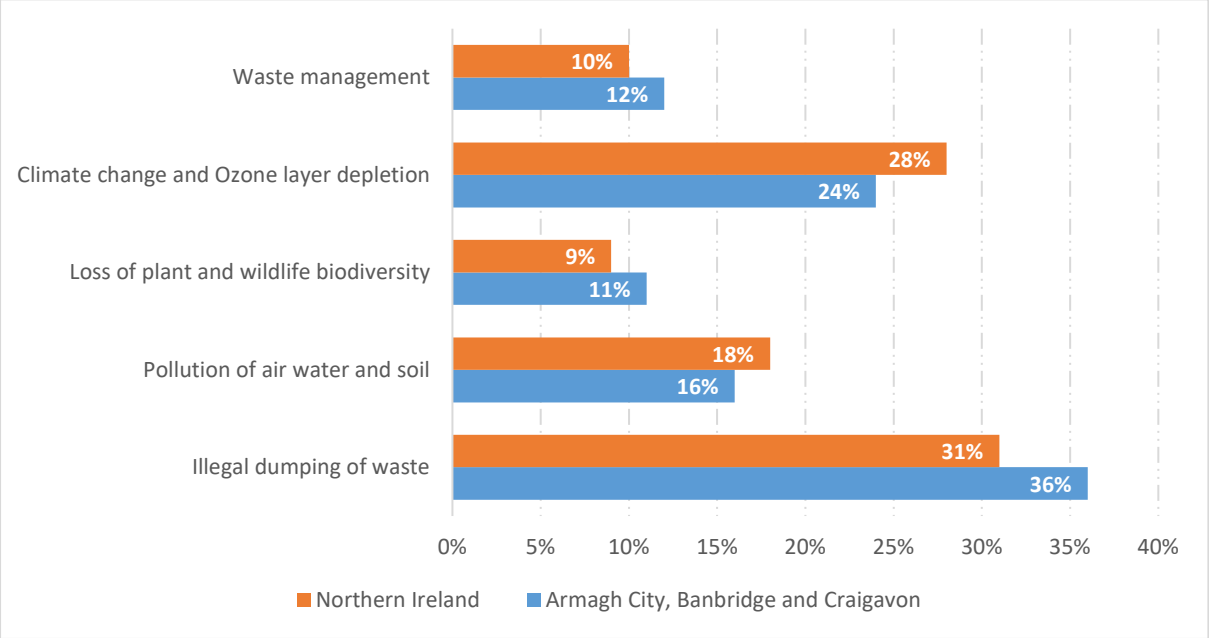


Figure 1: Environmental problems considered most important in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon and Northern Ireland, 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA.

Environmental problems considered most important by LGD in 2022/23 is presented in Figure 2. The illegal dumping of waste was considered the most important environmental problem by households in 6 of the 11 LGD's from 46% of households in Fermanagh and Omagh to 33% of households in Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid and East Antrim. Climate change and ozone layer depletion was considered the most important environmental problem for households in four of the 11 LGD's including Mid Ulster (38%) and Belfast (35%). For the majority of households in Lisburn and Castlereagh, pollution of air, water and soil was considered the most important environmental problem in 2022/23.

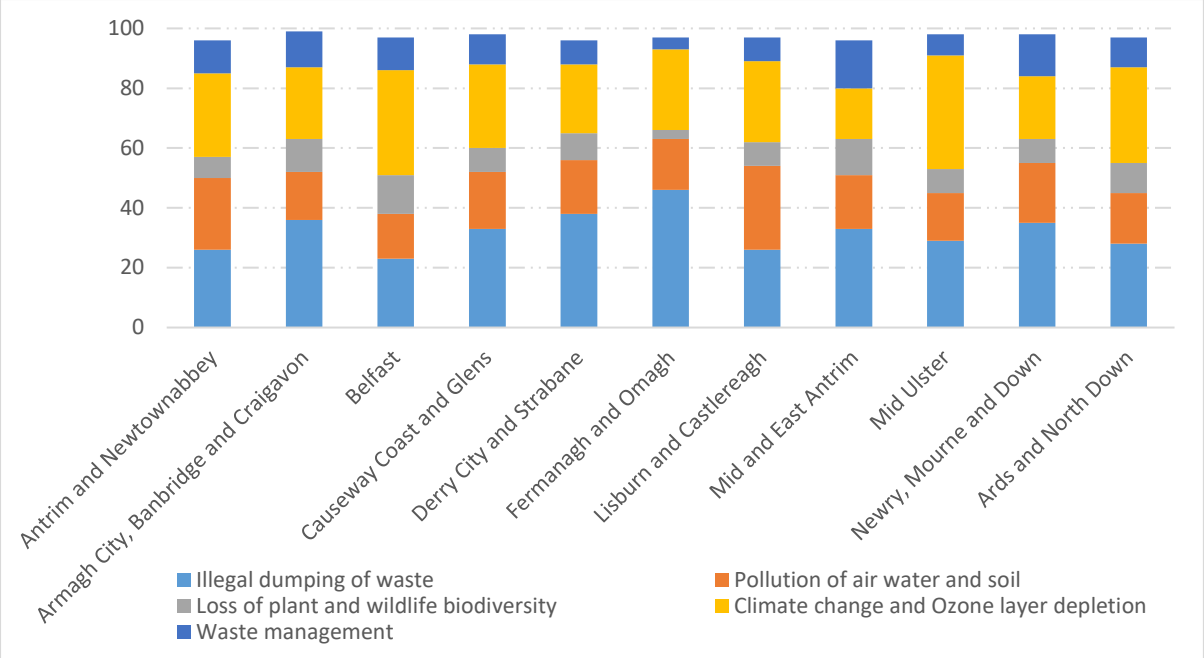


Figure 2: Environmental problems considered most important by LGD, 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA.

Indicator 3:	**What is considered to be the greatest threat to biodiversity?**
Source:	Continuous Household Survey, NISRA
Released:	Annually
Current availability:	2021/22 & 2022/23

Respondents were asked "which of the following do you consider to be the greatest threat to biodiversity?"

In 2022/23 in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, approximately 42% of households considered pollution (air, land and water) to be the greatest threat to biodiversity which was an increase from 39% in 2021/22. Just 29% of people in the borough believe climate change is the biggest threat to biodiversity which has fallen from 33% in 2021/22.

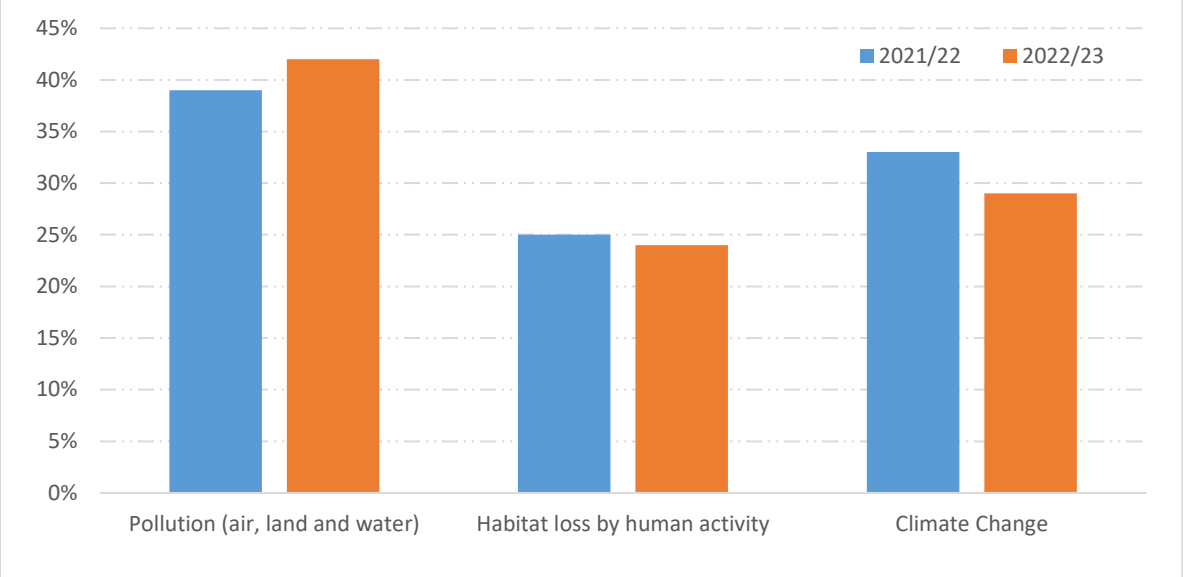


Figure 1: Problems considered to be the greatest threat to biodiversity in Armagh City, Banbridge Craigavon Borough, 2021/22 & 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA.

Environmental problems considered to be the greatest threat to biodiversity by LGD in 2022/23 is presented in Figure 2. Pollution (air, land and water) is considered to be the greatest threat to biodiversity by households in 9 of the 11 LGD's and the joint greatest threat in the other two LGD's. Concern ranges from 51% of households in Newry, Mourne and Down to 36% of households in Belfast, Lisburn and Castlereagh and Mid and East Antrim. In all but two LGD's (Mid and East Antrim and Ards and North Down), Climate change was considered the second greatest threat to biodiversity.

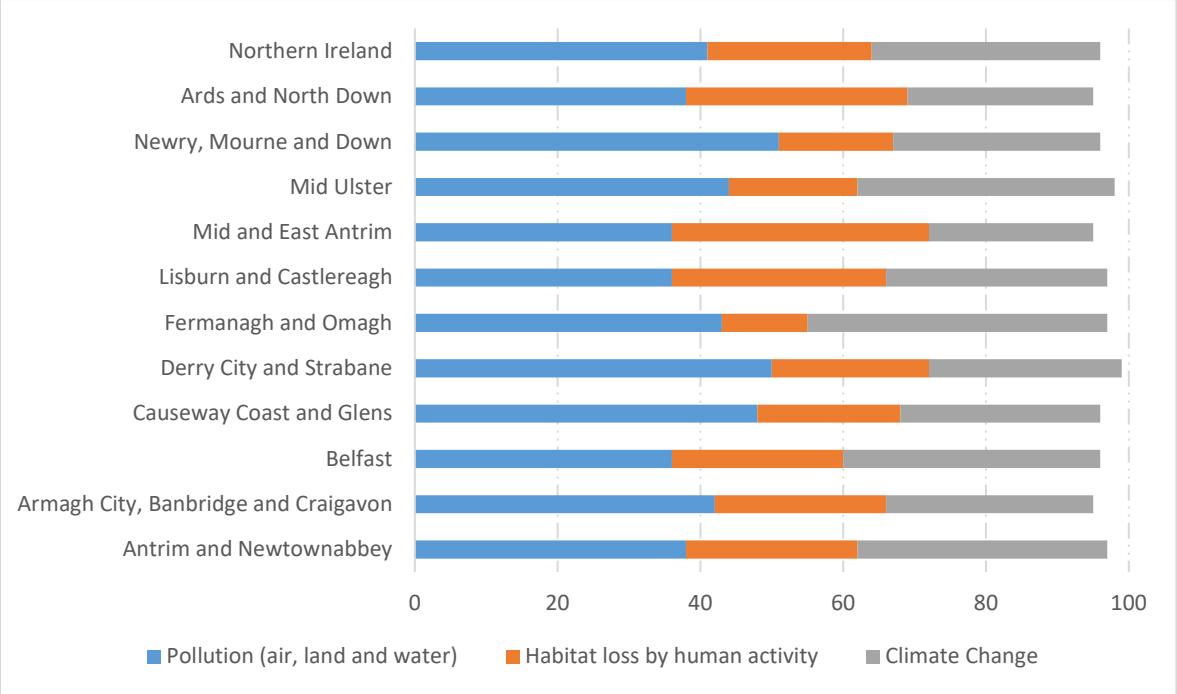


Figure 2: Problems considered to be the greatest threat to biodiversity by LGD, 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA.

Indicator 4: **Action taken for a positive impact on the environment.**

Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2021/22 & 2022/23

Respondents were asked "Which, if any, of the following actions have you taken in the last 12 months?"

In 2022/23, 97% of residents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough stated that they reused, recycled and disposed of waste products appropriately in the last twelve months. This is an increase of two percentage points on the previous year. Just over three-quarters of residents (77%) also reduced food waste which is an increase of four percentage points on 2021/22. The greatest increase has been seen in the percentage of households who have reduced consumption of household utilities. This has increased from 53% in 2021/22 to 74% in 2022/23 which represents an increase of 21 percentage points. The percentage of residents who have bought organic or sustainable products has fallen from 40% to 31% while the percentage who have reduced the number of car journeys has increased from 33% to 39%.

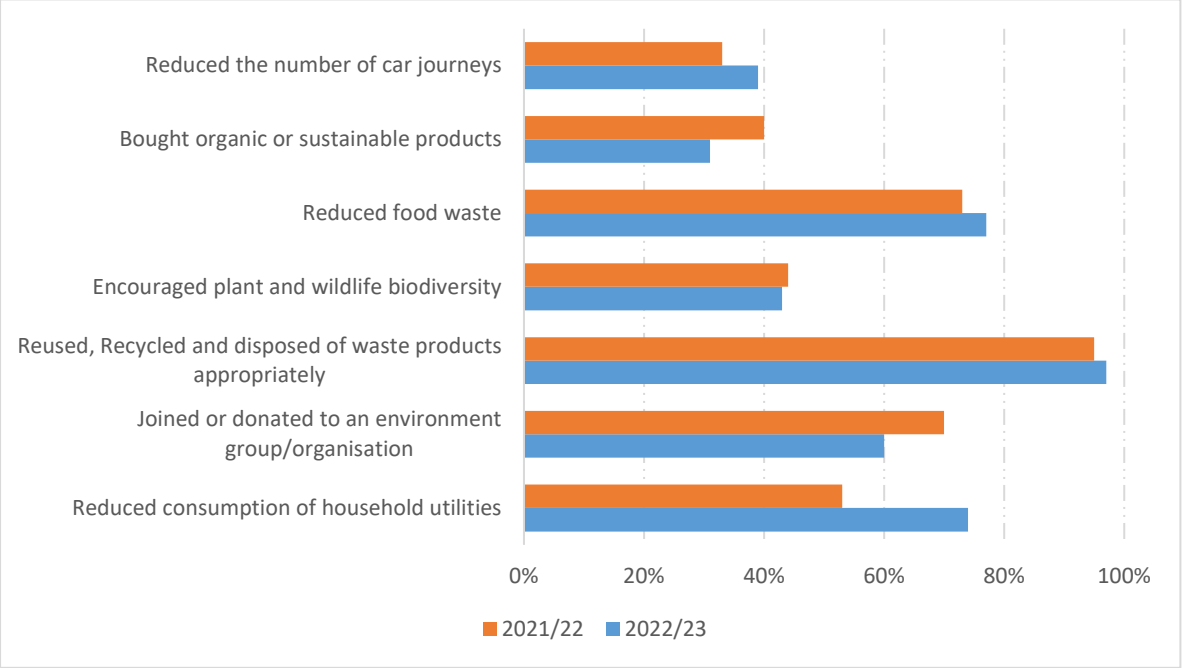


Figure 3: Action taken for a positive impact on the environment in Armagh City, Banbridge Craigavon Borough, 2021/22 & 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA.

Table 1 below presents the actions taken for a positive impact on the environment by LGD and Northern Ireland overall in 2022/23. When compared with the other LGD's, residents from the Borough do appear to be taking more action for a positive impact on the environment. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 74% of residents have reduced consumption of household utilities, this is just below Belfast at 77% and 27 percentage points above Newry, Mourne and Down which is the lowest. Residents also appear to be making additional efforts to reduce food waste.

In terms of buying organic or sustainable products, just 31% of the borough claim to do this compared to 48% in Lisburn and Castlereagh. Only in Causeway Coast and Glens was the percentage lower at 30%.

	Reduced consumption of household utilities (%)	Joined or donated to an environment group/organisation (%)	Reused, Recycled and disposed of waste products appropriately (%)	Encouraged plant and wildlife biodiversity (%)	Reduced food waste (%)	Bought organic or sustainable products (%)	Reduced the number of car journeys (%)
Antrim and Newtownabbey	66	11	87	38	65	32	33
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	74	6	97	43	77	31	39
Belfast	77	8	94	35	79	44	41
Causeway Coast and Glens	76	7	93	33	76	30	39
Derry City and Strabane	73	6	96	39	80	31	30
Fermanagh and Omagh	50	6	90	25	70	28	17
Lisburn and Castlereagh	70	10	96	50	66	48	46
Mid and East Antrim	73	10	91	50	77	32	49
Mid Ulster	54	4	97	34	76	43	30
Newry, Mourne and Down	47	14	90	33	60	32	18
Ards and North Down	74	13	94	40	79	40	41
Northern Ireland	68	8	93	38	74	36	36

Table 1: Action taken for a positive impact on the environment by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2022/23. Source: Continuous Household Survey, NISRA.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Indicator 5: **Carbon Dioxide (CO_2) Emissions**

Source: UK Local Authority and regional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics)

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2005 – 2021

Carbon dioxide emissions are the primary driver of global climate change. It's widely recognized that to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the world needs to urgently reduce emissions[9]. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero publish estimates of end-user greenhouse gas emissions including CO_2 emissions for local authority areas in the UK. The data help to identify the key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in each area; allow changes in greenhouse gas emissions over time to be monitored and can help mitigation actions to be targeted[10].

	CO_2 Emission Estimates (*Kilotonnes (kt CO_2e)*	
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	**Northern Ireland**
2005	1,953.2	17,797.8
2006	1,995.1	18,147.3
2007	2,001.2	18,242.4
2008	2,012.2	17,950.9
2009	1,916.2	16,734.3
2010	1,968.7	17,328.9
2011	1,819.9	15,973.7
2012	1,829.1	16,285.5
2013	1,821.7	16,064.9
2014	1,717.2	15,285.8
2015	1,678.9	14,898.9
2016	1,600.8	14,257.8
2017	1,563.1	13,820.1
2018	1,563.2	13,818.3
2019	1,516.4	13,383.1
2020	1,405.0	12,351.8
2021	1,489.3	12,992.4

Table 1: CO_2 emission estimates for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2005 to 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Note: In these statistics, the entire time series going back to 2005 is revised each year to take account of methodological improvements, so the estimates presented here supersede previous ones.

[9] CO_2 emissions - Our World in Data

[10] UK local and regional greenhouse gas emissions estimates for 2005-2021: Technical Report

It is estimated that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2021 there were 1,489.3 kilotonnes of CO_2 equivalent emissions[11]. This is an increase of 6% on 2020 estimates but a 23.7% decrease since 2005. In Northern Ireland overall, CO_2 equivalent emissions increased by 5.2% between 2020 and 2021 but have decreased by 27% between 2005 and 2021.

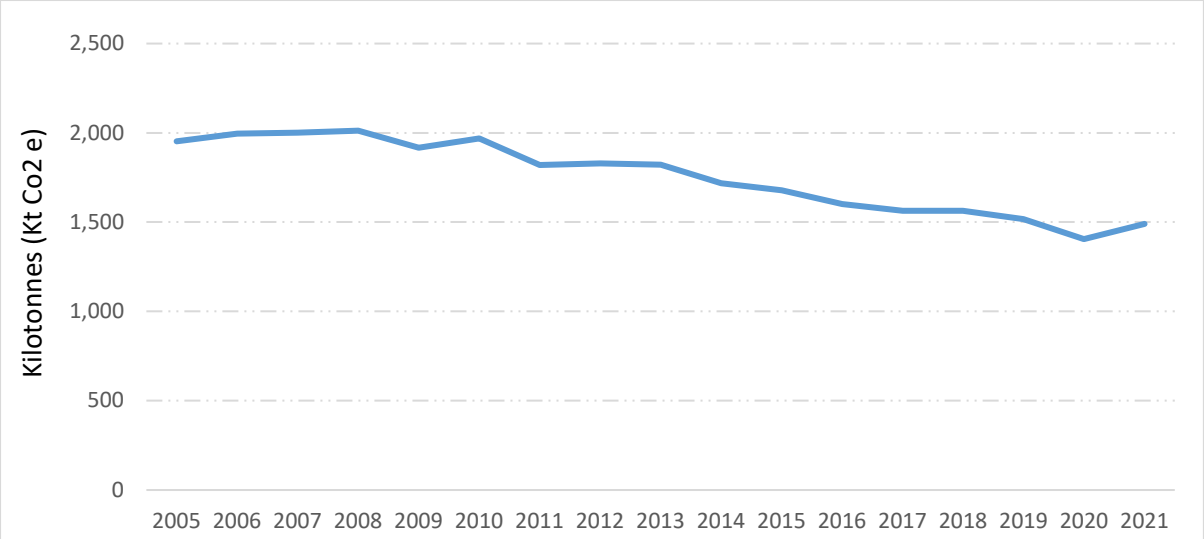


Figure 1: CO_2 emission estimates in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2005 and 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

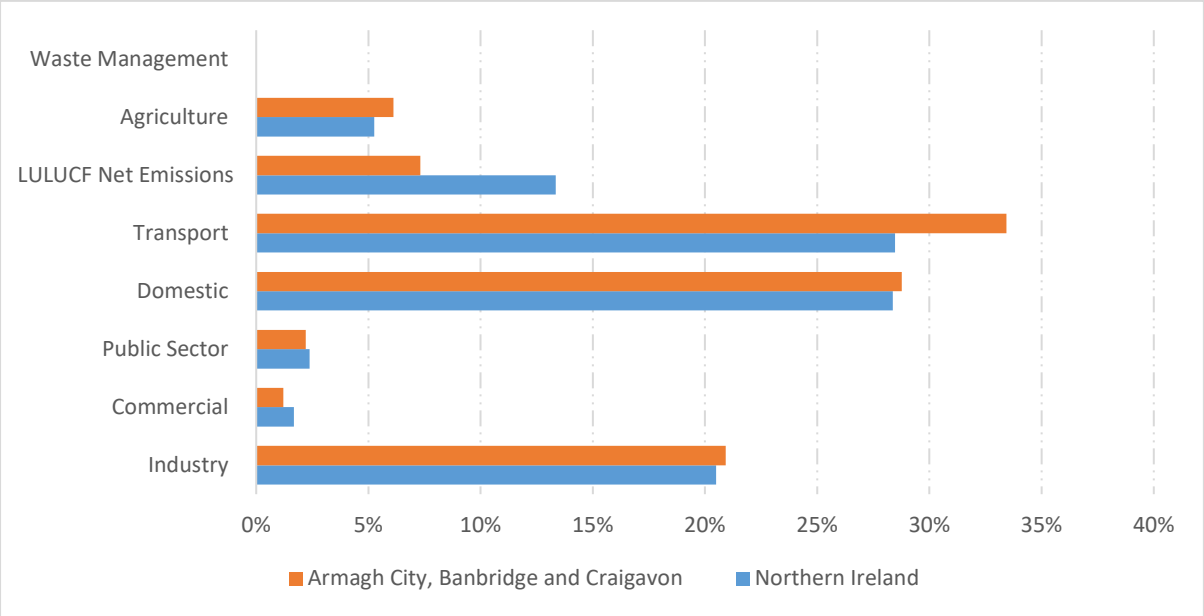


Figure 2: Percentage of carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions by sector in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

[11] The greenhouse gases covered by these statistics are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. In accordance with international reporting and carbon trading protocols, each of these gases is weighted by its global warming potential (GWP), so that total greenhouse gas emissions can be reported on a consistent basis (in carbon dioxide equivalent units (CO2e)). The GWP for each gas is defined as its warming influence relative to that of carbon dioxide. The GWPs used in these statistics are from Working Group 1 of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2013. (UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2021, the transport sector had the highest share of carbon dioxide (CO_2) emissions estimates, accounting for 33.4% of the total emissions. The domestic sector had the next highest share at 28.8%. The transport and domestic sector had the highest share of emissions in Northern Ireland also with transport accounting for 28.5% and domestic for 28.4%.

The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)[12] sector which consists of emissions and removals from forest land, cropland, grassland, settlements and harvested wood products is a large source of emissions for four of the eleven LGD's in Northern Ireland, accounting for more than 20% of their total emissions. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough LULUCF accounts for 7.3% of total emissions.

Emissions per capita allow comparison between areas of different population size. Per capita emissions have decreased in all local government districts in Northern Ireland between 2005 and 2021 with Belfast still having the lowest per capita emissions at 4.1 in 2021 and Fermanagh and Omagh still having the highest per capita emissions at 11.1 in 2021. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Mid and East Antrim had the joint fifth highest per capita emissions at 6.8 tCO2e in 2021 which was also equal to the Northern Ireland average.

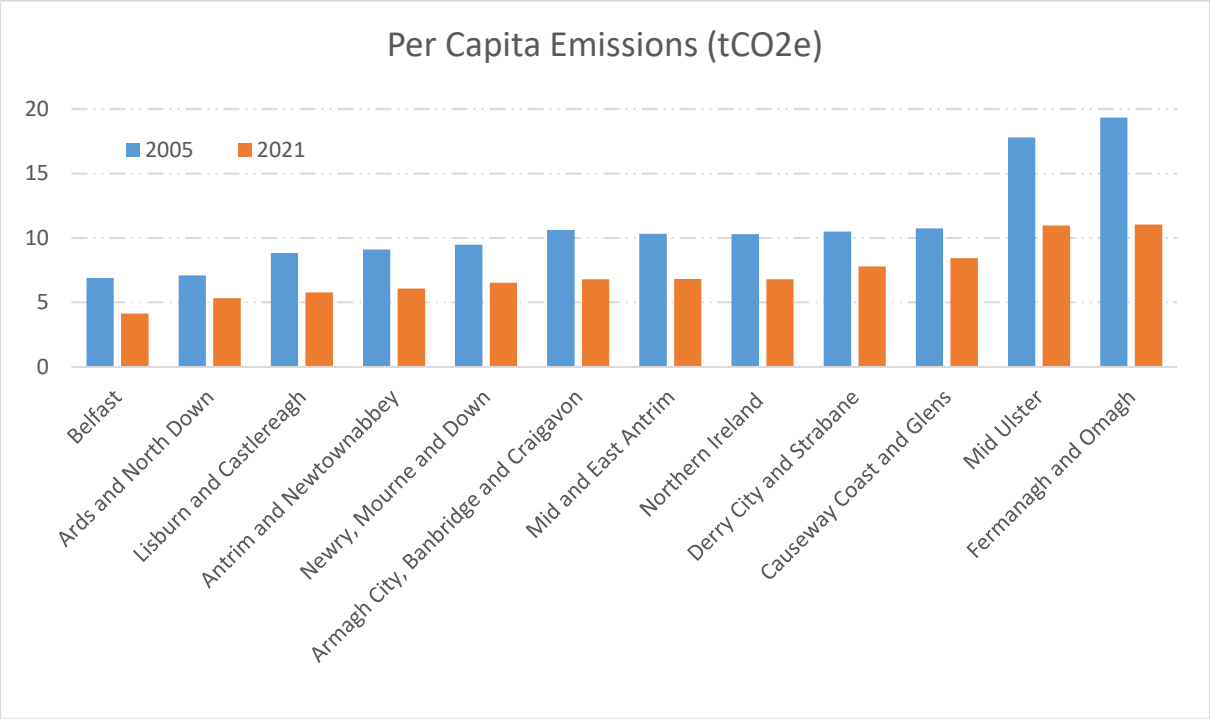


Figure 3: CO_2 emission estimates by local government district and Northern Ireland overall in 2005 and 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

As presented in Figure 4, per capita emissions in both Northern Ireland overall and the Borough have been gradually falling over time although there was a small increase between 2020 and 2021.

[12] It is the only sector that includes emission removals, although it is estimated that the sector as a whole is a net source of greenhouse gas emissions each year from the start of the data series. In general, cropland is the largest sources of carbon dioxide emissions, while forest land is the dominant sink.

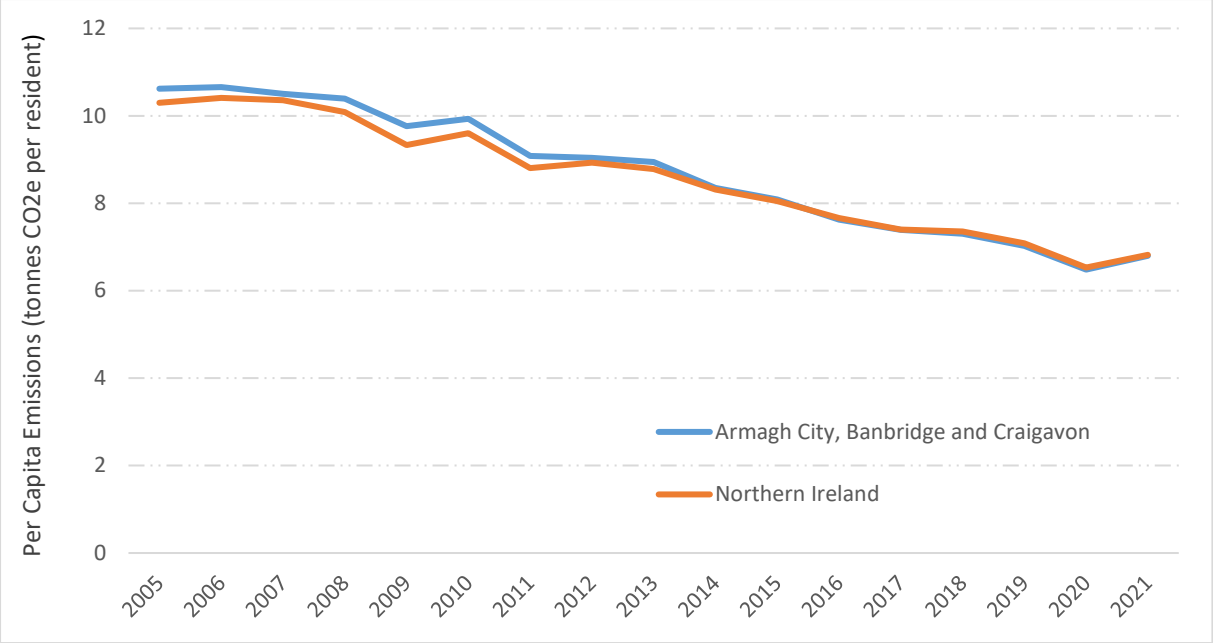


Figure 4: Per Capita CO_2 emission estimates in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2005 and 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Indicator 6: **Greenhouse Gas Emissions**

Source: UK Local Authority and regional estimates of greenhouse gas emissions, Department for Energy Security and Net Zero. (UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics)

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2005 – 2021

Greenhouse gases are gases like carbon dioxide (CO_2), methane and nitrous oxide that keep the earth warmer than it would be without them. While CO_2 is the most dominant greenhouse gas produced by the burning of fossil fuels, industrial production and land use change, it is not the only greenhouse gas that is driving global climate change[13]. The Department for Energy Security and Net Zero publish estimates of end-user greenhouse gas emissions for local authority areas in the UK. The data help to identify the key sources of greenhouse gas emissions in each area; allow changes in greenhouse gas emissions over time to be monitored and can help mitigation actions to be targeted[14]. Greenhouse gases are measured in 'carbon dioxide-equivalents' (CO_2e)

	Greenhouse Gas Emission Estimates (*Kilotonnes (kt CO_2e)*	
	Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	**Northern Ireland**
2005	2,925.90	26,179.2
2006	2,958.60	26,387.7
2007	2,965.20	26,390.9
2008	2,959.40	25,782.1
2009	2,830.10	24,348.4
2010	2,848.00	24,682.6
2011	2,676.30	23,288.3
2012	2,714.30	23,597.6
2013	2,690.20	23,198.9
2014	2,567.10	22,113.0
2015	2,557.40	21,927.8
2016	2,494.00	21,306.2
2017	2,480.90	20,858.2
2018	2,470.90	20,882.8
2019	2,420.40	20,408.2
2020	2,287.90	19,423.2
2021	2,418.40	20,233.1

Table 1: Greenhouse Gas emission estimates for Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland 2005 to 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy. Note: In these statistics, the entire time series

[13] Greenhouse gas emissions - Our World in Data

[14] UK local and regional greenhouse gas emissions estimates for 2005-2021: Technical Report

going back to 2005 is revised each year to take account of methodological improvements, so the estimates presented here supersede previous ones.

It is estimated that in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2021 there were a total of 2,418.4 kilotonnes of CO_2 equivalent emissions[15]. This is an increase of 5.7% on 2020 estimates but a 17.3% decrease since 2005. In Northern Ireland overall, greenhouse gas emissions increased by 4.2% between 2020 and 2021 but have decreased by 22.7% between 2005 and 2021.

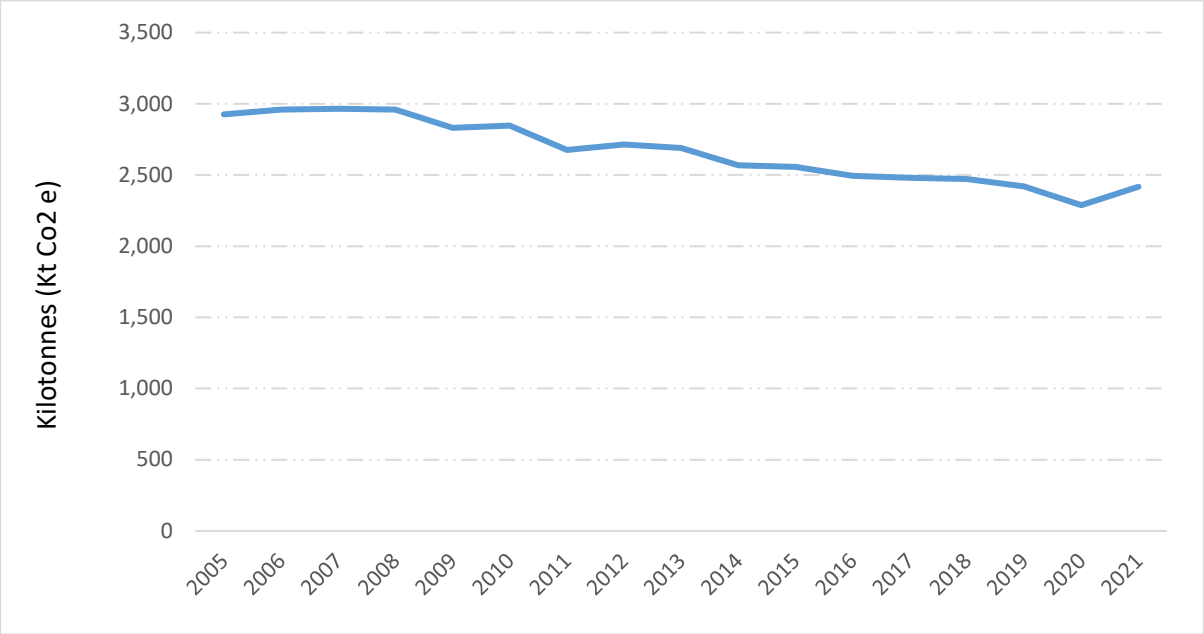


Figure 1: Greenhouse gas emission estimates in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 2005 and 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough in 2021, the agriculture sector had the highest share of greenhouse gas emissions, accounting for 35.7% of the total emissions. The transport sector had the next highest share at 20.8% closely followed by the domestic sector accounting for 18.4% of total emissions. The agriculture (29.9%) and domestic sector (18.9%) had the highest share of emissions in Northern Ireland with transport having the third highest accounting for 18.5%.

The Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) sector which consists of emissions and removals from forest land, cropland, grassland, settlements and harvested wood products is a large source of emissions for Derry City and Strabane and Fermanagh and Omagh, accounting for more than 20% of their total greenhouse gas emissions. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough LULUCF accounts for 5.9% of total greenhouse gas emissions.

[15] The greenhouse gases covered by these statistics are carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. In accordance with international reporting and carbon trading protocols, each of these gases is weighted by its global warming potential (GWP), so that total greenhouse gas emissions can be reported on a consistent basis (in carbon dioxide equivalent units (CO2e)). The GWP for each gas is defined as its warming influence relative to that of carbon dioxide. The GWPs used in these statistics are from Working Group 1 of the IPCC Fifth Assessment Report: Climate Change 2013. (UK local authority and regional greenhouse gas emissions national statistics, 2005 to 2021 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk))

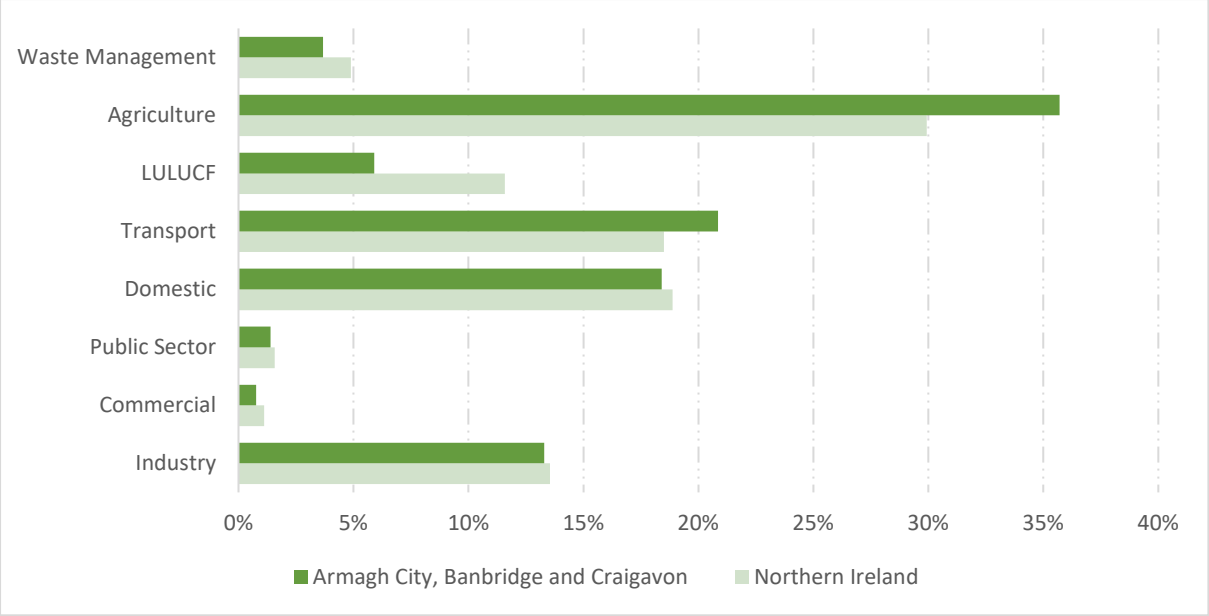


Figure 2: Percentage of greenhouse gas emissions by sector in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Emissions per capita allow comparison between areas of different population size. Per capita emissions have decreased in all local government districts in Northern Ireland between 2005 and 2021 with Belfast still having the lowest per capita emissions at 5.1 in 2021 and Fermanagh and Omagh still having the highest per capita emissions at 21.1 in 2021. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough had the fifth highest per capita emissions of all LGDs in Northern Ireland in 2021 which at 11 tCO_2 was above the Northern Ireland average of 10.6 tCO_2e. When compared with the UK, Northern Ireland, Wales, and Scotland have the highest annual emissions per capita. This is mainly due to higher emissions per capita from the industrial and agriculture sectors, while in Northern Ireland the per capita emissions from the domestic and LULUCF sectors are also higher than the UK average.

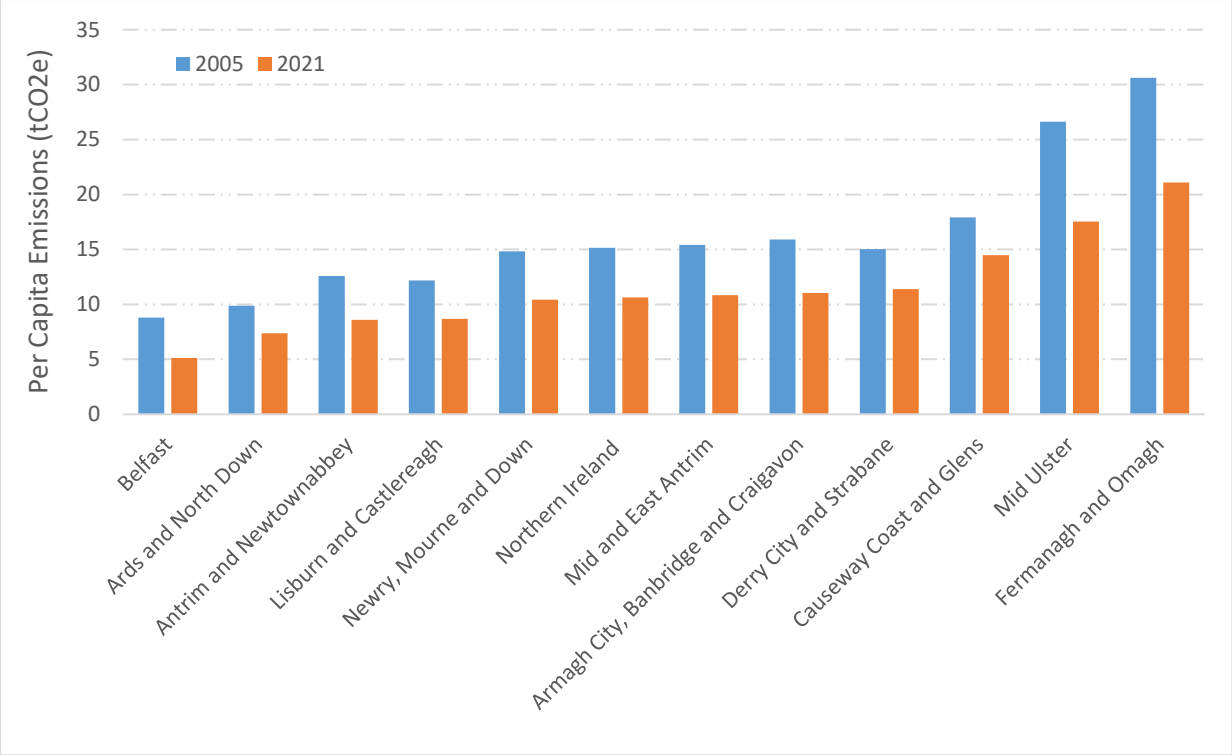


Figure 3: Greenhouse gas emission estimates by local government district and Northern Ireland overall in 2005 and 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

Per capita greenhouse gas emissions in the Borough have consistently been higher than the Northern Ireland average over the period 2005-2021. Despite a small increase between 2020 and 2021, per capita greenhouse gas emissions have been gradually declining over time.

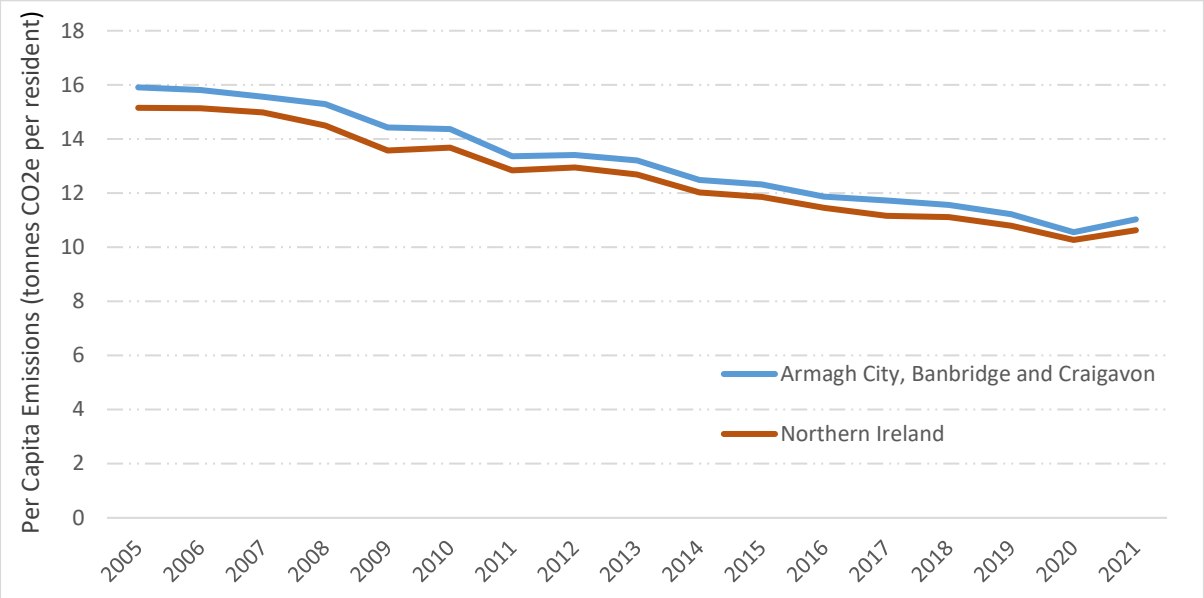


Figure 4: Per Capita Greenhouse gas emissions in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2005 and 2021. Source: Local Authority territorial greenhouse gas emissions estimates 2005-2021 (kt CO2e), Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

AIR

Indicator 7: **Air Quality Statistics**

Source: DEFRA, UK Air Information Resources

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2010 – 2023

Air pollution is the release of pollutants into the air. It is a complex mixture of solid particles, liquid droplets, as well as gases and can come from many sources such as household fuel burning, industrial chimneys, traffic exhausts, power generation, open burning of waste, agricultural practices, desert dust and many other sources[16].

Air quality monitoring is carried out by both the Department and by district councils with most sites measuring one or two pollutants, typically:

- **particulate matter PM_{10} and $PM_{2.5}$** – the main sources of which are road transport and solid fuel burning.
- **nitrogen oxides NO and NO_2**, the main source of which is road transport.

The World Health Organization (WHO) state that air pollution continues to pose a significant threat to people worldwide – it is the greatest environmental threat to health and a leading cause of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) such as heart attacks or stroke. PM_{10} particles can travel into our airways where they can cause inflammation, and a worsening of the condition of people with heart and lung diseases. $PM_{2.5}$ particles are smaller still and can be carried deep into the lungs: these ultrafine particles may carry surface-absorbed toxic, or carcinogenic, compounds into the body causing diseases both to our cardiovascular and respiratory system, such as stroke, lung cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). NO_2 is a respiratory irritant that can worsen the symptoms of people who already have lung problems[17].

The WHO Air quality guidelines are a set of evidence-based recommendations of limit values for specific air pollutants developed to help countries achieve air quality that protects public health. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, there is one automatic monitoring site located at Lonsdale Road in Armagh which forms part of the AURN network which is administered on behalf of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) by Bureau Veritas. In addition, NO_2 is monitored by diffusion tubes at a further 28 sites within the borough. These NO_2 diffusion tubes are prepared and analysed by Gradko and the Council obtains the appropriate bias factor from the DEFRA Website.

Clean air is a basic requirement of a healthy environment. Air pollution can have a negative impact on human health and the environment and so it is important to measure air quality to help with developing effective strategies to reduce air pollution.

Councils have a statutory responsibility to monitor and report NO_2 emissions and the EU annual mean health-based limit value for nitrogen dioxide is 40 μgm^{-3} which is also the objective for NO_2 set out in the UK Air Quality Strategy. The data presented below shows the annual mean NO_2 at the

[16] What are the WHO Air quality guidelines?
[17] Air Pollution in Northern Ireland 2022 report (Screen Version).pdf (daera-ni.gov.uk)

Armagh monitoring station from 2010-2023. As we can see, there has been a decline over time and the mean NO_2 concentrations are well below and have never exceeded the 40 μgm^{-3} limit at this location.

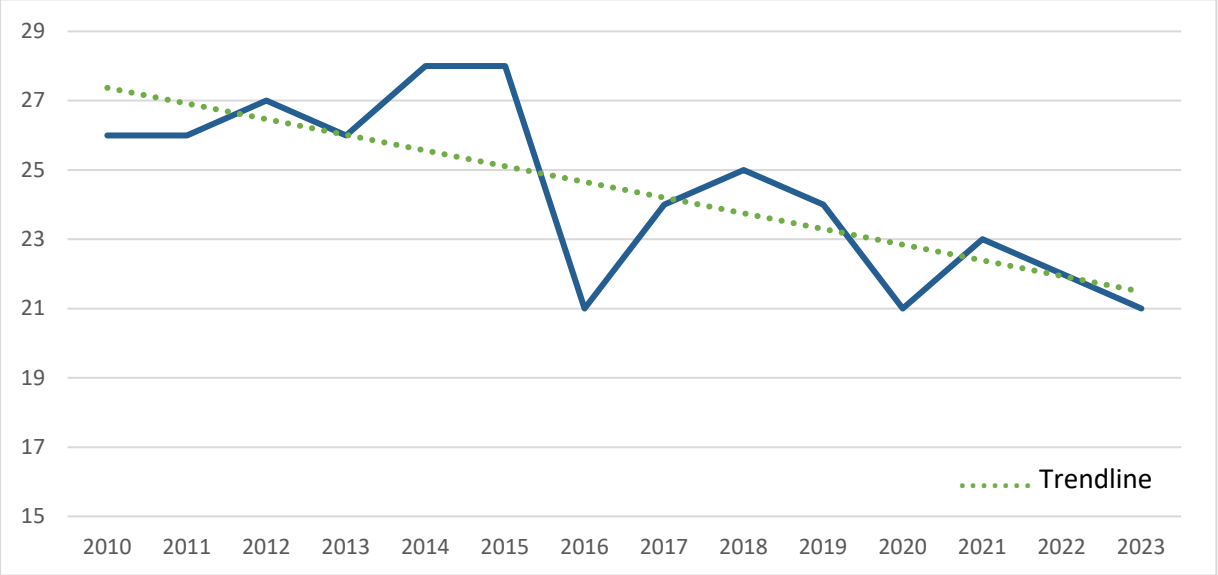


Figure 1: Annual mean NO2 concentrations at Armagh Lonsdale Road monitoring site, 2010-2023. Source: UK Air Information Resource, DEFRA.

The figure below presents the daily mean nitrogen dioxide emissions from 1 January – 31 December 2023 at the Armagh Lonsdale Road monitoring site and as we can see, there have been days when the mean nitrogen dioxide emissions exceeded the 40 μgm^{-3} limit at this location.

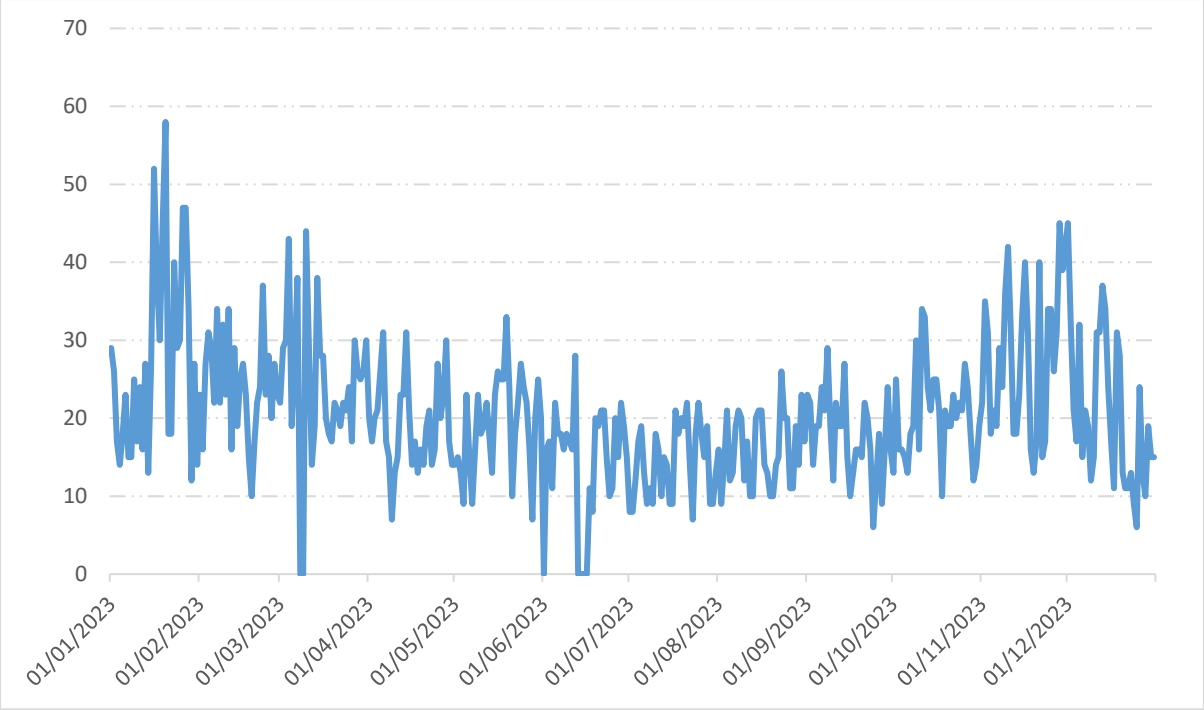


Figure 2: Daily Mean Nitrogen Dioxide pollutants at Armagh Lonsdale Road monitoring site, 1 January – 31 December 2023. Source: Air Quality NI[18].

[18] Download air quality data - Northern Ireland Air (airqualityni.co.uk)

WASTE

Indicator 8: **Waste Statistics - Recycling Rate & Landfill Rate**

Source: DAERA, Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Statistics

Released: Annually

Current availability: 2014/15 – 2022/23

Climate change and waste are becoming increasingly important issues worldwide. Waste can affect the environment through its visual impact or by emissions to the air, groundwater and surface water as well as the contamination of land[19]. Recycling can help combat the climate crisis by limiting the use of raw materials and reducing waste going into landfills.

All local authorities in the UK submit returns to 'WasteDataFlow', which is a web-based system, used to report Local Authority Collected (LAC) municipal waste. Data is provided on the tonnage of waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfill by district council and waste management group[20] in Northern Ireland.

In 2022/23, the largest proportion of municipal waste in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough was reused, dry recycled or composted (the Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report refers to this as the recycling rate), a total of 55,442 tonnes (53.6%). This represented a fall of 5,956 tonnes since 2021/22. Energy recovery accounted for 36.3% of municipal waste in 2022/23 in the borough which was a slight increase from 2021/22.

	Reuse, dry recycling and composting (Tonnes)	Energy recovery (Tonnes)	Landfilled (Tonnes)	Unclassified (Tonnes)	Total (Tonnes)
2014/15	49,091	32,877	18,945	263	101,176
2015/16	50,101	33,366	19,158	332	102,957
2016/17	51,098	31,699	21,365	181	104,342
2017/18	54,183	30,907	18,582	2,107	105,778
2018/19	55,737	29,828	16,678	3,585	105,828
2019/20	58,268	31,191	11,805	5,478	106,742
2020/21	61,181	38,716	7,831	5,983	113,712
2021/22	61,398	36,573	12,784	4,573	115,327
2022/23	55,442	37,568	7,228	3,141	103,379

Table 1: Municipal waste sent for preparing for reuse, dry recycling, composting, energy recovery and landfill in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough 2014/15 to 2022/23. Source: Northern Ireland Local Authority

[19] Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics Report 2023 (daera-ni.gov.uk)

[20] With the reform of local government in Northern Ireland 8 of the 11 district councils were split into two Waste Management Groups with 3 unaffiliated to any group as follows: arc21: Antrim & Newtownabbey; Ards & North Down, Belfast, Lisburn & Castlereagh; Mid & East Antrim; Newry, Mourne & Down. Northwest Regional Waste Management Group: Causeway Coast & Glens; Derry City & Strabane (Northern Ireland local authority collected municipal waste management statistics released | Northern Ireland Executive).

Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

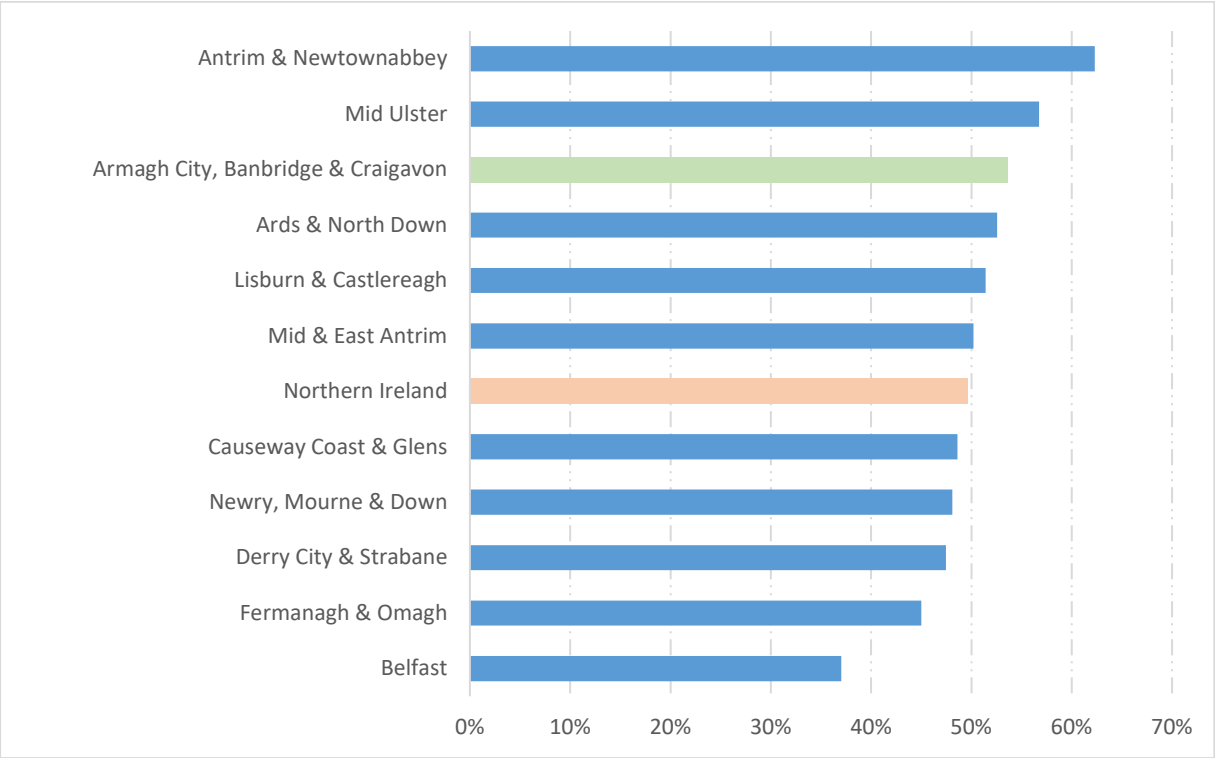


*Figure 1: Percentage of LAC municipal waste **preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting** by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2022/23. Source: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).*

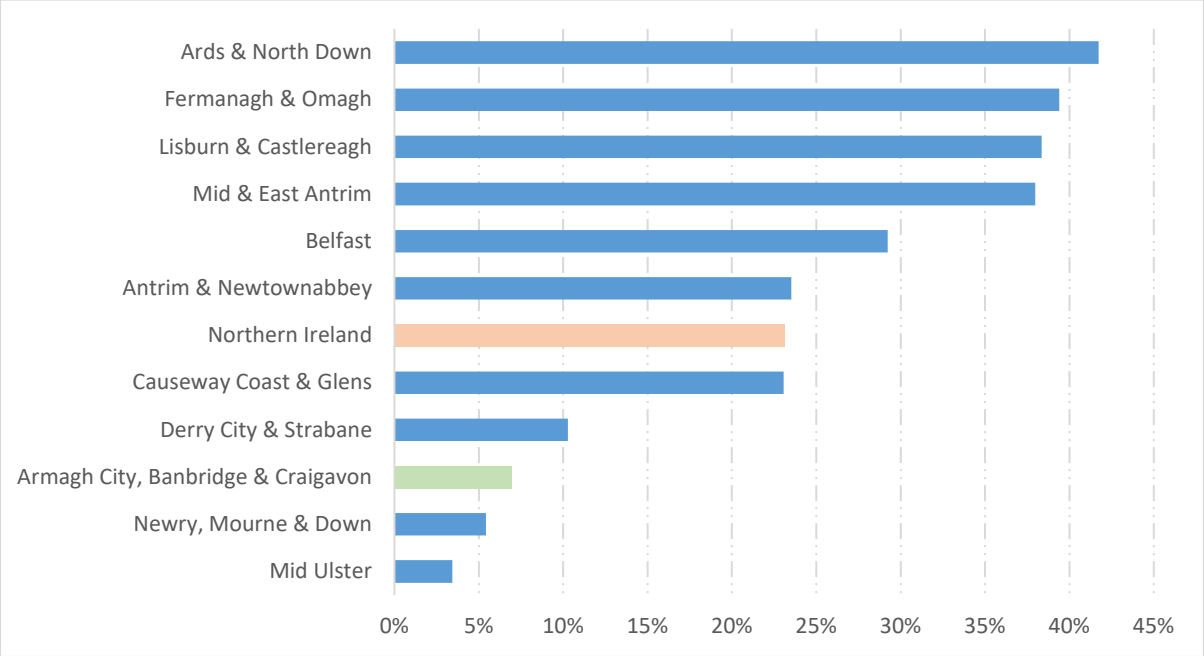


*Figure 2: Percentage of LAC municipal waste **landfilled** by LGD and Northern Ireland, 2022/23. Source: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).*

As presented in figure 2, Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough has the third highest recycling rate of all LGD's in 2022/23. In terms of the total waste being landfilled, a total of 7,228 tonnes were landfilled in 2022/23 which produced a landfill rate of 7%, 4.1 percentage points lower than the 11.1% landfill rate for 2021/22. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough has the third lowest landfill rate of the eleven LGD's and is well below the Northern Ireland average of 23.1%.

Figure 3 presents the recycling rate and landfill rate over time in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough[21] and Northern Ireland from 2006/07 to 2022/23 and as we can see, recycling is becoming much more common in the Borough and Northern Ireland overall with the recycling rate gradually increasing over time. The recycling rate in the Borough has been consistently above the Northern Ireland average and above the target rate of 50% since 2017/18. With regards the percentage of waste being sent to landfill, this has been falling gradually in both the Borough and Northern Ireland overall with the landfill rate consistently lower than the Northern Ireland average over the period presented. The landfill rate was at its lowest in both the Borough and Northern Ireland overall in 2020/21.

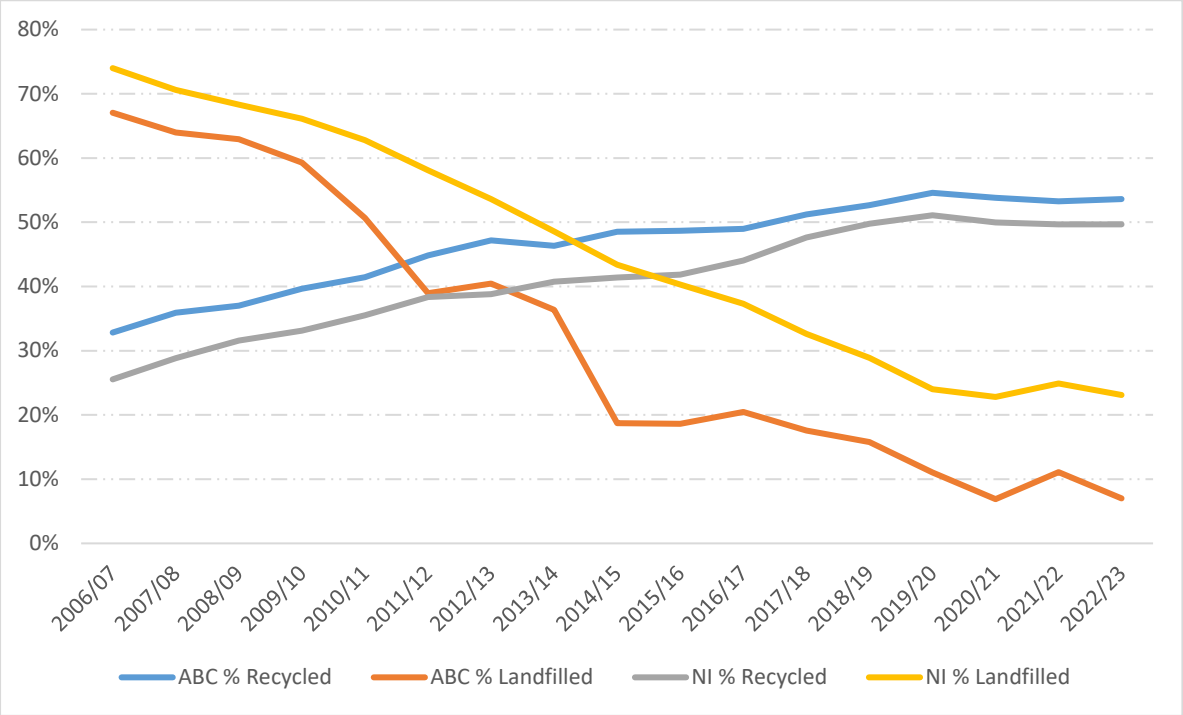


Figure 3: Percentage of LAC municipal waste preparing for reuse, dry recycling and composting and percentage landfilled in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2006/07 – 2022/23. Source: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics, Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). Note: reuse was included with recycling and composting from 2012/13 onwards however the impact was small, adding approximately 0.1 percentage points to the ABC rate.

[21] Figures for 2006/07 to 2014/15 are derived from adding the estimates for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon.

WATER AND MARINE

Indicator 9:	**River Quality – Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in rivers, 2004-2022**
Source:	Northern Ireland Environmental Statistics 2023 Annual Report
Released:	Annually
Current availability:	2004 -2022

Northern Ireland Environment Agency's (NIEA) water-related activities are managed through a catchment-based approach. There are three catchments in NI – North Eastern, Neagh Bann and North Western River Basin Districts (RBDs).

Neagh Bann and North Western RBD both extend into RoI and are International RBDs. Each catchment is sub-divided into Local Management Areas (LMAs), with activities targeted to improve water quality overseen by Catchment Officers.

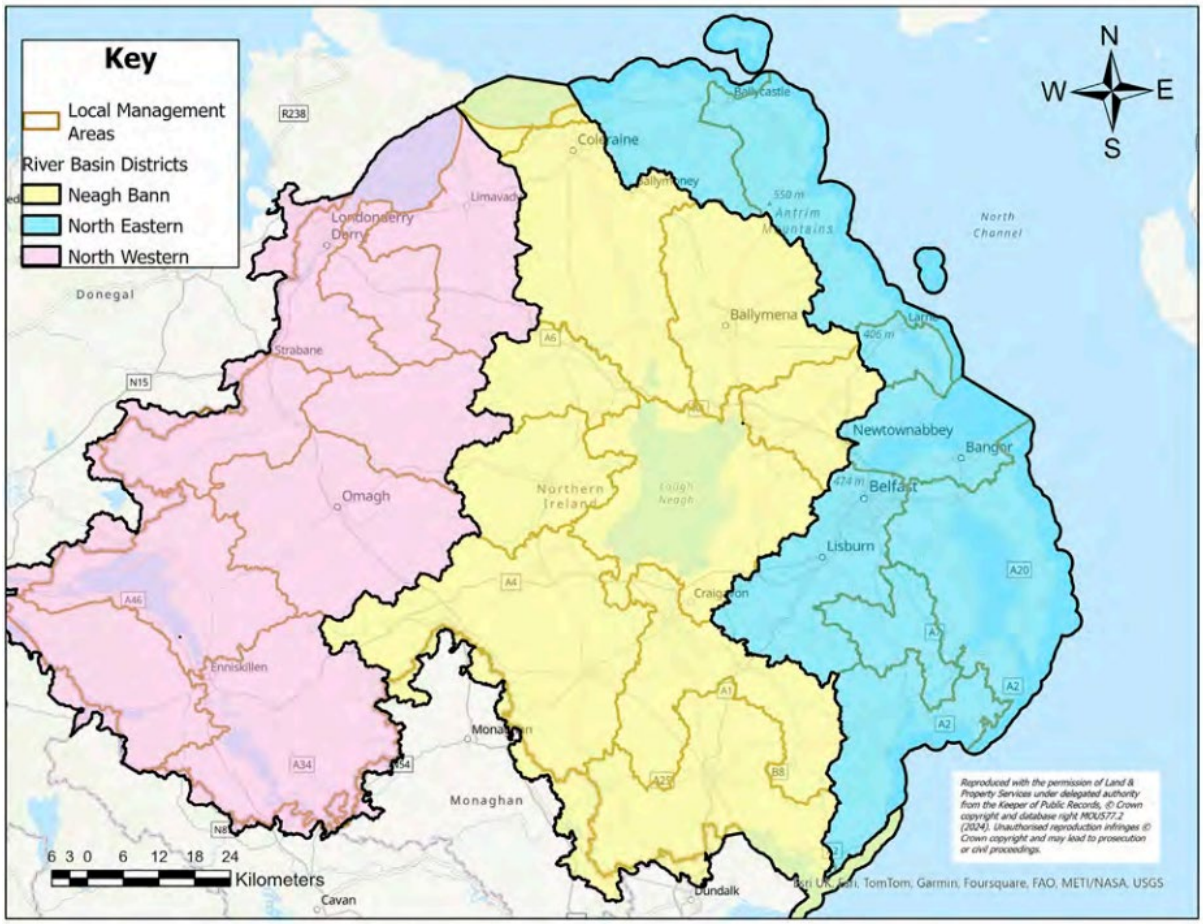


Figure 1: Northern Ireland's River Basis Districts and Local Management Areas. Source: Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) via NIAO Water Quality Report

Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) is a plant nutrient, which, when present in rivers in elevated concentrations, can lead to accelerated growth of algae and other plants. The environment can benefit from the presence of nutrient-rich substances such as phosphorus and nitrate, whether these

occur naturally or are introduced as part of land management techniques. However, where excess quantities of these accumulate and enter rivers and lakes, they cause ecological changes. Where this persists, it has a detrimental effect on the long-term health of the water environment, due to increased algae growth and reduced oxygen levels. The reported outcomes of phosphorus and nitrate monitoring activity show that deterioration in water quality from excessive phosphorus continues to be a particular issue in NI[22].

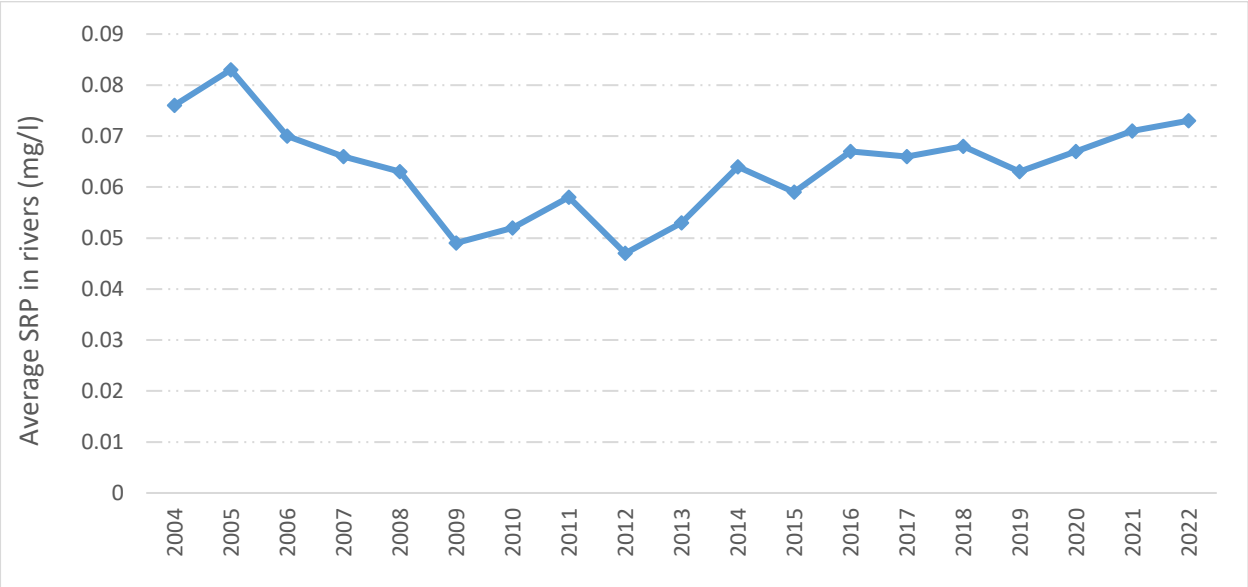


Figure 2: Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in Rivers, 2004-2022. Source: NI Environmental Statistics Report, May 2023, DAERA

The level of phosphorus present in a river is a key component in the assessment of its ecological status. The draft 2016-2021 PfG included an Indicator based on the levels of average Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) in rivers which were detected at 93 surveillance sites across NI. Figure 2 presents the average concentration of soluble reactive phosphorus between 2004 and 2022. In Northern Ireland, across the 93 surveillance sites in 2012, there was an average of 0.047 milligrams of phosphorus per litre of water however, in the decade since it has increased to 0.073 mg/l.

The map below presents the SRP status of rivers in Northern Ireland in 2019 and as we can see, many of the rivers in the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough area were classified as moderate or poor for phosphorus in 2019.

[22] Water Quality Report - NI Audit Office

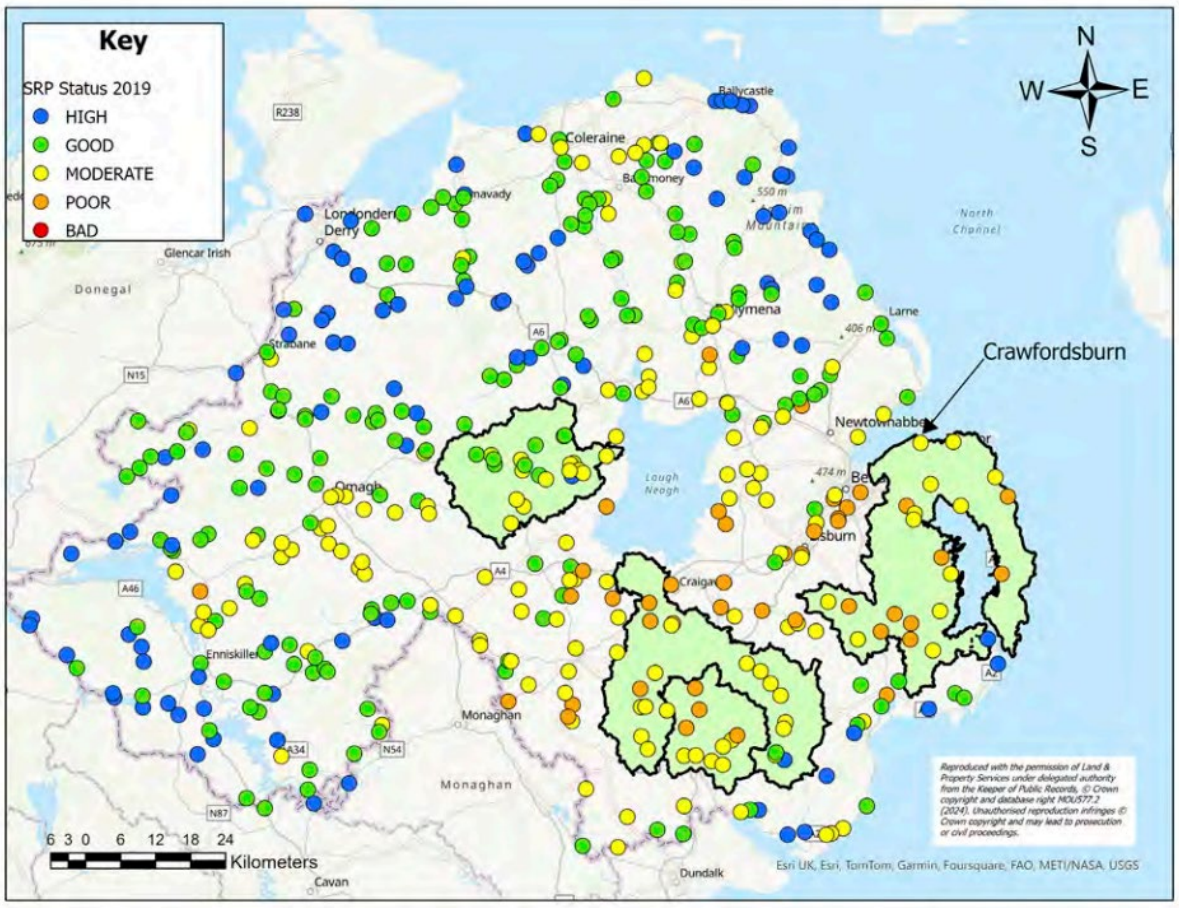


Figure 3: SRP Status of rivers in Northern Ireland in 2019. Source Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) via NIAO Water Quality Report.

Phosphorus usually clings to soil particles and the main way in which phosphorus gets into water is when soil is washed in and becomes sediment. Excess phosphorus causes excessive growth of plants in waterways, lakes and estuaries leading to eutrophication[23][24].

In May 2023, high levels of a type of bacteria called blue-green algae were identified in a number of rivers, lakes and coastlines in Northern Ireland with Lough Neagh being particularly impacted. When this bacteria gets plenty of sunlight, CO2 and nutrients – such as nitrogen and phosphorus – they can grow in big numbers and begin to form visible algae "blooms" which negatively impact the appearance, quality and use of the water[25]. The algae blooms can produce toxins and remove oxygen from the water as they decompose. The algae are bacteria, which can cause skin irritation and sickness in people who come into contact with it, but the biggest risk is to pets, livestock and wildlife as for them, it is extremely toxic.

[23] How is phosphorus getting into lakes and rivers? - Our Planet Today)

[24] **Eutrophication is** the gradual increase in the concentration of phosphorus, nitrogen, and other plant nutrients in an aging aquatic ecosystem such as a lake. Water blooms, or great concentrations of algae and microscopic organisms, often develop on the surface, preventing the light penetration and oxygen absorption necessary for underwater life. (Eutrophication | Definition, Types, Causes, & Effects | Britannica)

[25] Lough Neagh: How climate change intensified toxic algae on the UK's largest lake - Carbon Brief

It is reported that there are a number of drivers behind the recent issue of blue-green algae on Lough Neagh which includes "excess nutrient runoff from agricultural and wastewater systems, "combined with climate change and the associated weather patterns, such as the exceptionally warm June, followed by the wet July and August (2023)"[26].

A recent report published by the NI Audit Office found that water quality in rivers and lakes has not improved since 2015 and that a 2027 target for standards will be missed.

In 2022, more than half (53%) of all water pollution incidents linked to agriculture happened in the Neagh Bann River Basin District which covers all of County Armagh, large part of counties Antrim, Derry, Down and Tyrone and a small area of County Fermanagh. Most of those incidents were in the River Blackwater area. The River Blackwater runs along the Armagh-Tyrone border and is one of six major rivers that feed into Lough Neagh and it is one of Northern Ireland's most polluted rivers with farm effluent mixture, silage and cattle waste most frequently detected.

Lough Neagh is the largest freshwater lake in the UK and supplies 40% of Northern Ireland's drinking water. It is also home to the largest commercial wild eel fishery in Europe[27]. However, the blooms of blue-green algae in 2023 were at levels which hadn't been seen for half a century. The information below has been extracted from the NIAO Water Quality report:

- Analysis of NIEA data on the severity and causes of agricultural pollution incidents (2017-2021), across NI's three River Basin Districts (RBDs), showed that pollution was most prevalent (53 per cent of total incidents) within the Neagh Bann RBD, with 27 per cent assessed as High or Medium in severity. Within the Neagh Bann RBD, incident frequency was three times worse in the River Blackwater Local Management Area (LMA) than in any of its other LMAs.
- Within the Neagh Bann RBD, more than 72 per cent (666) of incidents occurred in four of its nine LMAs (River Blackwater, Carlingford & Newry, Upper Bann and Lower Bann). Of these, the frequency of substantiated pollution incidents (310) was three times worse in the River Blackwater LMA, with 23 per cent assessed as High or Medium in severity. Given the fact that there are 'priority water bodies' in need of particular attention here, and that an EU funded project linked to water quality improvement is ongoing, this is particularly concerning.
- Overall, it was found that the three pollutants most frequently detected, 'farm effluent mixture', 'silage' and 'cattle waste', accounted for 86 per cent (266) of all incidents. When cross-referenced against the principal contributory cause recorded in the Pollution Incident Management System (PIMS), the seven causes shown could be linked to 91 per cent of these 262 incidents, with the most frequent being 'poor working practices'[28].

Enhanced monitoring requirements mean that no river or lake in Northern Ireland now has good chemical status. And when combined with ecological assessment, none have good overall status either[29].
The map below from the NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer shows the ecological status of river waterbodies in 2021 and as we can see, all of the rivers in and around the borough are rated as moderate or poor. Those surrounding Lough Neagh have also been classified as having bad ecological potential.

[26] Lough Neagh: How climate change intensified toxic algae on the UK's largest lake - Carbon Brief
[27] What does future hold for Lough Neagh, UK's largest freshwater lake? - BBC News
[28] NIAO Water Quality Report
[29] NI water quality could miss standards target, says Audit Office report - BBC News

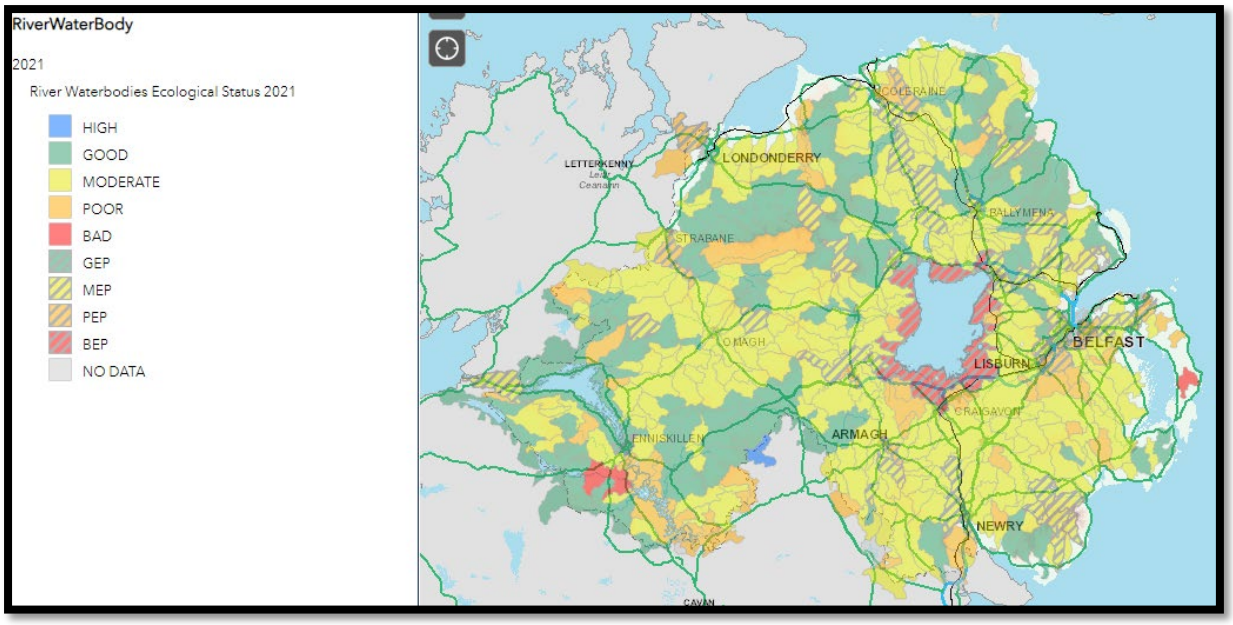


Figure 4: Ecological Status of river waterbodies in Northern Ireland in 2021. Source Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) Catchment Data Map Viewer[30], DAERA.

[30] NIEA Catchment Data Map Viewer (daera-ni.gov.uk)

BIODIVERSITY AND LAND

Biodiversity encompasses the whole variety of life on Earth. It includes all species of plants and animals, their genetic variation and the complex ecosystems of which they are part. It is not restricted to rare or threatened species but includes the whole of the natural world from the commonplace to the critically endangered[31].

Safeguarding biodiversity is a huge task and recognised as everyone's responsibility, as the threats to biodiversity and its importance to human life, prosperity, mental and physical wellbeing are recognised globally and have come to increasing prominence in recent years. The Wildlife and Natural Environment Act (NI) (WANE Act) 2011 places a statutory duty on every public body to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions. The Local Biodiversity Action Plan (LBAP) for the Borough was published in 2014 and recognised that throughout much of Northern Ireland many species and valued habitats are declining within the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. When damaged or destroyed many of our habitats are impossible to restore or re-create. Adverse impact is often caused by human activity. Fortunately, this means that we can change our behaviour to stop the damage this is causing to biodiversity. Some of the main threats are discussed below.

Infrastructure Development

Development of houses and commercial property with the associated infrastructure is replacing our countryside. The demand for rural dwellings can lead to the infilling of inter-drumlin hollows for houses and the destruction of their habitats and species. As the habitats become more fragmented, the movement of species becomes more restricted leaving them vulnerable to extinction in the area. Many species need a considerable territory to find food. This includes large animals like the hare and insects such as the bumblebee.

The table below presents the number of new dwellings starts in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough as a percentage of the total in Northern Ireland between 2016 and 2023. In terms of population size, the borough accounts for 11.5% of the total Northern Ireland population. The number of new dwellings starts in the borough has accounted for as much as 17% of the Northern Ireland total.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	1,002	1,109	1,086	1,126	756	1,274	890	818
Northern Ireland	7,457	7,444	8,624	7,276	6,046	7,513	6,596	5,779
ABC as % of NI	**13.4%**	**14.9%**	**12.6%**	**15.5%**	**12.5%**	**17.0%**	**13.5%**	**14.2%**

Table 1: New dwelling starts by District Council 2016 - 2023

Land Management

Major changes to agriculture, starting in the 1950's and 1960's had a profound effect on our wildlife. The move from arable and mixed farming to one of intensive grass production has had a negative effect on wildlife. Recent changes to the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) and in particular the agri-environmental support now provided to farmers has helped to reduce the rate of loss. Many of the wildflowers, insects and birds, however, have suffered major declines.

[31] What is biodiversity | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk)

The table below presents the crop and grass areas in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough in 2015 and 2022 so we can get an idea of any changes even in the last few years. Between 2015 and 2022, the total area of cereals grown in the borough has fallen by approximately 186 hectares (-3.1%) while the area for horticulture crops has also fallen by almost 220 hectares (-12.4%). In the same period, grass farmland has increased by 4,824 hectares (5%) while farmland for rough grazing has more than doubled increasing from 1,862 hectares in 2015 to 4,252 hectares in 2022 (+2,390, 128%).

	2015			2022		
	Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon	**% of ABC farmland**	**% of Northern Ireland**	**Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon**	**% of ABC farmland**	**% of Northern Ireland**
Cereals	5,968	5.8%	18.1%	5,782	5.2%	17.7%
Potatoes	293	0.3%	8.2%	334	0.3%	9.6%
Other farm crops	1,672	1.6%	21.6%	2,149	1.9%	22.5%
Horticulture	1,769	1.7%	57.8%	1,550	1.4%	64.1%
Total crops	**9,703**	9.4%	20.5%	**9,816**	8.9%	**20.4%**
Grass	90,057	87.4%	11.3%	94,881	86.0%	11.5%
Rough grazing	1,862	1.8%	1.4%	4,252	3.9%	3.0%
Other land	1,412	1.4%	7.5%	1,397	1.3%	4.5%
Total area farmed	**103,033**	100.0%	**10.3%**	**110,346**	100.0%	**10.6%**

Table 2: Crop and grass areas in Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough, June 2015 & 2022. Source: The Agricultural Census in Northern Ireland, June 2015 & 2022, DAERA & NISRA.

Nutrient Enrichment

The application of phosphates and nitrates to land and their discharge from industrial and sewage works has caused algal populations in lakes to bloom to the detriment of flowering plants. It causes devastating changes to the vegetation structure of our fens and grasslands, eliminating many rare and important species.

The best example of this is the issue of blue-green algae in Lough Neagh. In May 2023, high levels of a type of bacteria called blue-green algae were identified in a number of rivers, lakes and coastlines in Northern Ireland with Lough Neagh being particularly impacted. When this bacteria gets plenty of sunlight, CO2 and nutrients – such as nitrogen and phosphorus – they can grow in big numbers and begin to form visible algae "blooms" which negatively impact the appearance, quality and use of the water[32]. The algae blooms can produce toxins and remove oxygen from the water as they decompose. The algae are bacteria, which can cause skin irritation and sickness in people who come into contact with it, but the biggest risk is to pets, livestock and wildlife as for them, it is extremely toxic. It is reported that there are a number of drivers behind the recent issue of blue-green algae on Lough Neagh which includes "excess nutrient runoff from agricultural and wastewater systems, "combined with climate change and the associated weather patterns, such as the exceptionally warm June, followed by the wet July and August (2023)"[33].

[32] Lough Neagh: How climate change intensified toxic algae on the UK's largest lake - Carbon Brief

[33] Lough Neagh: How climate change intensified toxic algae on the UK's largest lake - Carbon Brief

Climate Change

Changes to the climate caused by the human population are reflected in changes to our wildlife. Many of the moth and butterfly species are being found further north each year and many of our cold adapted species are facing a decrease in their habitat. Wetter summers are proving challenging for some of our species with barn owls and bats being unable to forage in rain. Warmer conditions also make it possible for non-native species to gain a foothold and expand their range pushing out native species.

Non-Native Species

Non-native species compete directly with our native species or can result in damage and degradation of natural habitats. Giant hogweed is an example that is commonplace along the River Bann and other rivers and has adversely affected the biodiversity of the habitat. Japanese knotweed is found notably on disused land and also along some of the rivers. Its root system can penetrate foundations and walls causing structural damage. Another non-native species in the area is the grey squirrel which has replaced the native red squirrel except in the Carrigatuke Hills.

Sites Which are Designated for Wildlife

Statutory designated sites are wildlife rich sites that have been selected for their nature conservation value. They vary in shape and size and contain important distinctive and threatened habitats and species. Designating sites helps to ensure that the species present are properly protected. When the ABC Local Biodiversity Action Plan was developed in 2014, there were 20 sites within the borough which were designated areas of special scientific interest.

DESIGNATED SITES	Special Protection Area (SPA)	Special Area of Conservation (SAC)	Area of Special Scientific interest (ASSI)	National Nature Reserve (NNR)	Local Nature Reserve (LNR)
Lough Neagh and Lough Beg	X		X		
Montiaghs Moss		X	X		
Lackan Bog			X		
Caledon and Tynan			X		
Annacramph Meadows			X		
Moyrourkan Lough			X		
Tullybrick Lough			X		
Kiltubbrid Loughs			X		
Straghans Lough			X		
Crossbane Lough			X		
Drumcarn			X		
Derryvore			X		
Selshion			X		
Lough Gullion			X		
Brackagh Bog			X	X	
Oxford Island (Lough Neagh)	X		X	X	
Lough Neagh (Islands)	X		X	X	
Tolan's Point	X		X	X	
Montiaghs Moss			X		
Craigavon Lakes					X
Slantry Wood					X
Portmore Lough	X		X		X

Table 3: Sites which are designated for wildlife. Source: ABC Local Biodiversity Action Plan, 2014.

Lough Neagh is also designated a RAMSAR site. Lough Neagh designations also include some land along the shoreline and the islands in the Lough.

Priority Species Identified for Conservation Action

Priority habitats and species require conservation action because of their decline, rarity and importance in an all-Ireland and UK context. The following species are those that have been prioritised for conservation action in the Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon area. They reflect a range of animals and plants and include national, Northern Ireland and local priority species.

GROUP	SPECIES	NORTHERN IRELAND PRIORITY	LOCAL PRIORITY
Moth	Centre-barred Sallow	✔	
Moth	Narrow- bordered Five- spot Burnet Moth		✔
Damselfly	Irish Damselfly	✔	
Butterfly	Cryptic Wood White	✔	
Bird	Great Crested Grebe		✔
Bird	Owls: Long-eared Owl, Barn Owl	✔	
Bird	House Martin		✔
Bird	Yellowhammer	✔	
Agriculture	Rare Farm Breeds, Old Apple Varieties		✔
Mammal	Hedgehog	✔	
Mammal	Bats	✔	✔
Amphibian	Smooth Newt		✔
Plant	Orchids (various)	✔	✔
Plant	Primrose		✔

Table 4: Priority species identified for conservation action. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Local Biodiversity Action Plan, 2014

The table below presents the six broad habitats along with specific habitats which were also identified to be prioritised for conservation action in the Borough.

Habitats for Which Action Plans will be Prepared

Woodland • Parkland • Mixed Ashwoods • Wet woodland • Species-rich hedgerows	**Rivers and Canals** • Rivers • Canals	**Wetlands** • Lowland fens • Reedbeds • Ponds
Peatlands • Lowland raised bog	**Grassland and Arable** • Lowland meadows • Floodplain grazing marsh	**Open Mosaic Habitats on Previously Developed Land** • Quarries • Landfill sites • Road verges • Waste ground • Parks and Gardens

Table 5: Priority habitats identified for conservation action. Source: Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Local Biodiversity Action Plan, 2014

HEALTH AND ACTIVE TRAVEL

Indicator 10:	**Clinical Register Counts and Prevalence per 1,000 Patients (by Local Commissioning Group and GP Federation Area)**
Source:	Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland 2004/05 to 2022/23, Information Analysis Directorate, Department of Health
Released:	Annually
Current availability:	2004/05 – 2022/23
	Note: This is only available by Local Commissioning Group (aligned to the geographical boundaries of the five Health and Social Care Trusts) and GP Federation Area. It is not available at LGD level.

The Southern Health and Social Care Trust covers all of Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough as well as Dungannon which is part of Mid Ulster LGD and Newry and Mourne which is part of Newry, Mourne and Down LGD.

Prevalence is a measure of the burden of a disease in a population at a particular point in time. The Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) prevalence rate is simply the total number of patients on the register, expressed as a proportion or percentage of the total number of patients registered with the practice at one point in time. This could mean for example that one practice with an older population might appear to have higher prevalence rates for age-related conditions than another practice with a younger population[34].

The Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland Report 2022/23 defines asthma as "a common lung condition that causes occasional breathing difficulties". The prevalence data is measured as "the number of patients with asthma, excluding those who have had no prescription for asthma-related drugs in the last 12 months". As at 31st March 2023, there were a total of 131,949 GP patients in Northern Ireland recorded on the asthma register of which 25,294 were in the Southern LCG area. This equates to a raw prevalence rate of 58.51 per 1,000 patients in the Southern LCG area, the lowest of all LCG's.

	Asthma		COPD	
	No. of patients on register	**Prevalence per 1,000 patients**	**No. of patients on register**	**Prevalence per 1,000 patients**
Belfast	28,606	64.47	10,598	23.88
South Eastern	24,437	71.98	6,172	18.18
Northern	30,720	63.75	10,191	21.15
Southern	25,294	58.51	8,002	18.51
Western	22,892	68.17	7,794	23.21
Northern Ireland	**131,949**	**64.9**	**42,757**	**21.03**

Table 1: Clinical Register Counts and Prevalence per 1,000 patients, by Local Commissioning Group, 2023. Source: Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland, Department of Health.

[34] 2021/22 Raw Disease Prevalence Data for Northern Ireland (health-ni.gov.uk)

Prevalence of asthma per 1,000 patients over time is presented in Figure 1 below. As we can see, the raw prevalence of asthma has been increasing in each LCG between 2010 and 2023 but has remained lowest in Southern LCG throughout the period presented.

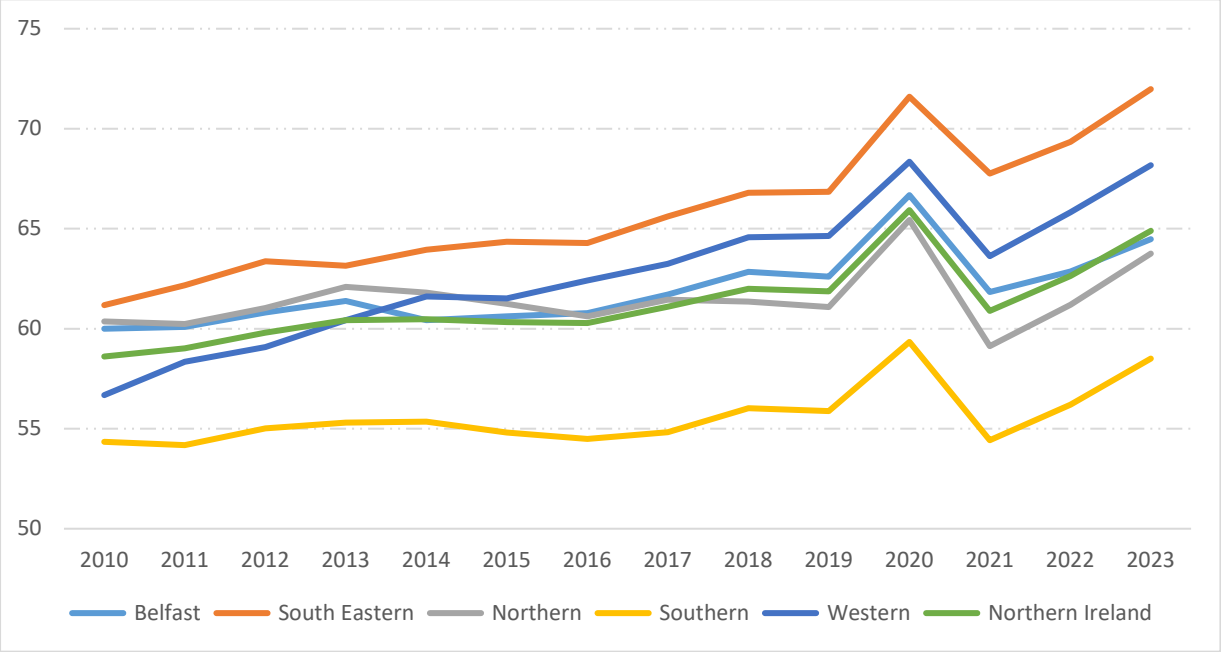


Figure 1: Prevalence of Asthma per 1,000 patients, by Local Commissioning Group, 2010-2023. Source: Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland, Department of Health.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is the name for a group of lung conditions that cause breathing difficulties (including emphysema and chronic bronchitis). The prevalence data is measured as the number of patients with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease[35]. In Northern Ireland, there were 42,757 patients recorded on the COPD register at 31st March 2023 which equates to a raw prevalence rate of 21.03 per 1,000 patients (Table 1). The Southern LCG has a raw prevalence rate of 18.51 which is the second lowest after South Eastern LCG at 18.18 per 1,000 patients.

Prevalence of COPD per 1,000 patients over time is presented in Figure 2. As we can see, the raw prevalence of COPD has been increasing steadily in each LCG between 2010 and 2020. Between 2020 and 2022, the raw prevalence rate fell in all LCG's before increasing again in 2023. South Eastern LCG has had the lowest COPD prevalence rate since 2018 and Southern LCG the second lowest.

[35] 2022/23 Raw Disease Prevalence Data for Northern Ireland (health-ni.gov.uk)

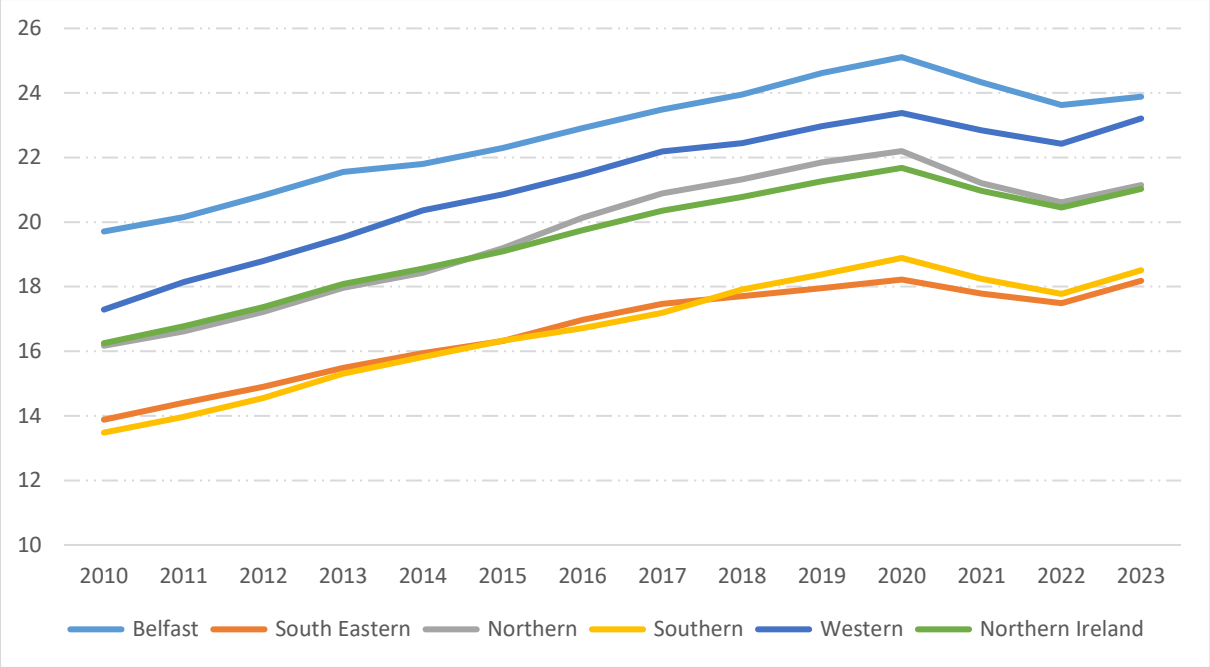


Figure 2: Prevalence of COPD per 1,000 patients, by Local Commissioning Group, 2010-2023. Source: Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland, Department of Health.

Information is also presented by GP Federation Area and as we can see from the map below, Armagh & Dungannon and Craigavon cover the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon borough[36].

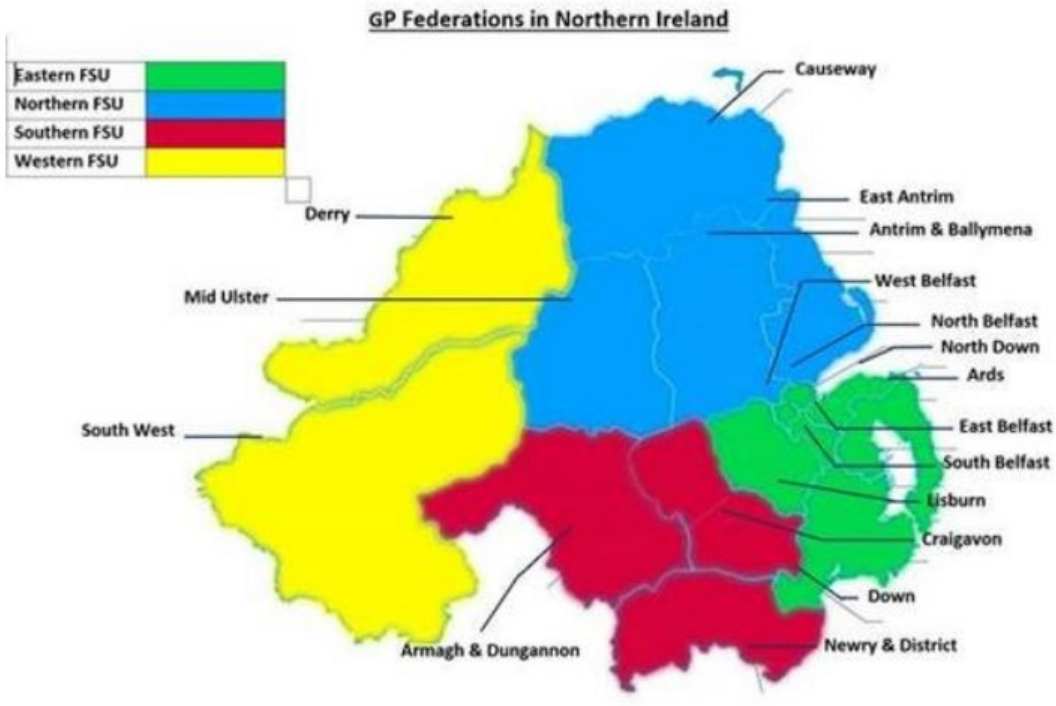


Figure 3: GP Federations in Northern Ireland. Source: www.gpnicareers.co.uk/acount-gp-federations-in-ni

There was a total 16,164 patients on the asthma register between the two GP Federation Areas at March 2023. This accounts for approximately 12.3% of the total patients in Northern Ireland and

[36] About GP Federations in NI — GPNI Careers

gives prevalence rates of 54.05 and 62.34 in Armagh & Dungannon and Craigavon respectively. Both of which are below the Northern Ireland prevalence rate of 64.9.

The COPD register had a total of 5,057 patients on the register between Armagh & Dungannon and Craigavon GP Federation Areas at 31st March 2023, this equates to prevalence rates of roughly 17.66 and 18.75 per 1,000 patients which, again, are below the Northern Ireland prevalence rate of 21.03.

	Asthma		COPD	
	No. of patients on register	**Prevalence per 1,000 patients**	**No. of patients on register**	**Prevalence per 1,000 patients**
Armagh & Dungannon	7,469	54.05	2,441	17.66
Craigavon	8,695	62.34	2,616	18.75
Northern Ireland	**131,949**	**64.9**	**42,757**	**21.03**

Table 2: Clinical Register Counts and Prevalence per 1,000 patients, by GP Federation, 2023. Source: Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland, Department of Health.

Figure 4 below presents the raw prevalence of asthma per 1,000 patients in Armagh & Dungannon and Craigavon GP Federation areas and Northern Ireland overall between 2017 and 2023. As we can see, the raw prevalence of asthma has been increasing in both Armagh & Dungannon and Craigavon but the raw prevalence rates have both remained below the Northern Ireland average.

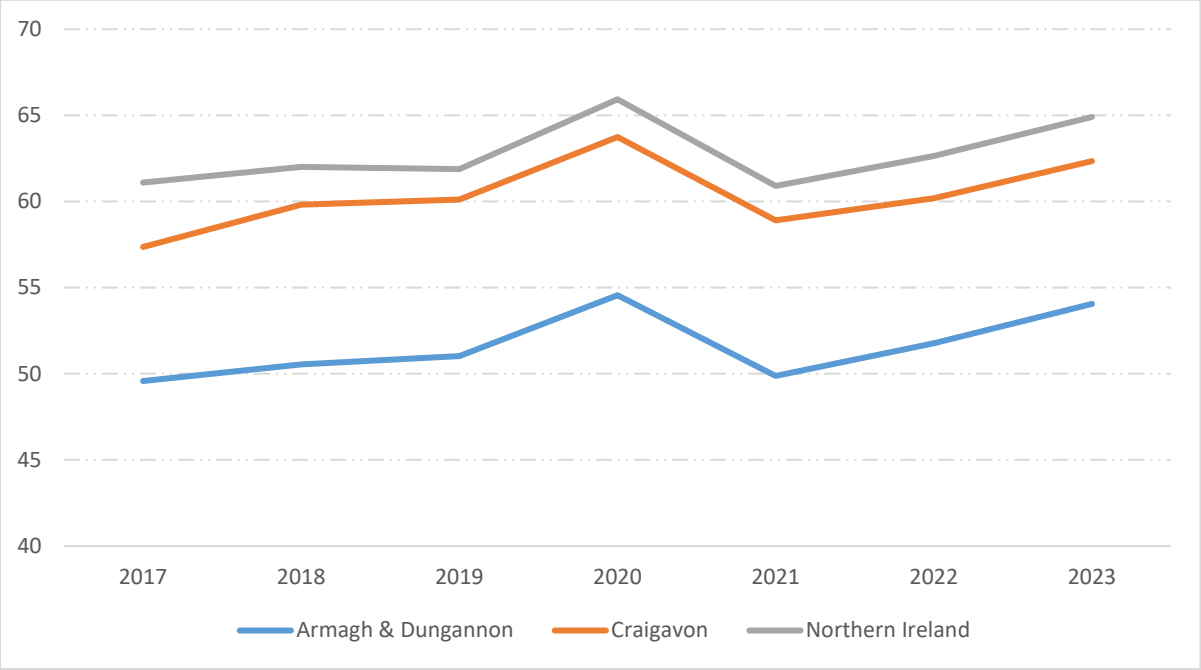


Figure 4: Prevalence of asthma per 1,000 patients, by GP Federation, 2017-2023. Source: Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland, Department of Health.

Prevalence of COPD per 1,000 patients between 2017 and 2023 is presented in Figure 5. As we can see, the raw prevalence of COPD has increased in Armagh & Dungannon and Craigavon GP Federation areas between 2017 and 2023. As with the LCG areas, we can see that between 2020 and 2022, the raw prevalence rate fell before increasing again in 2023.

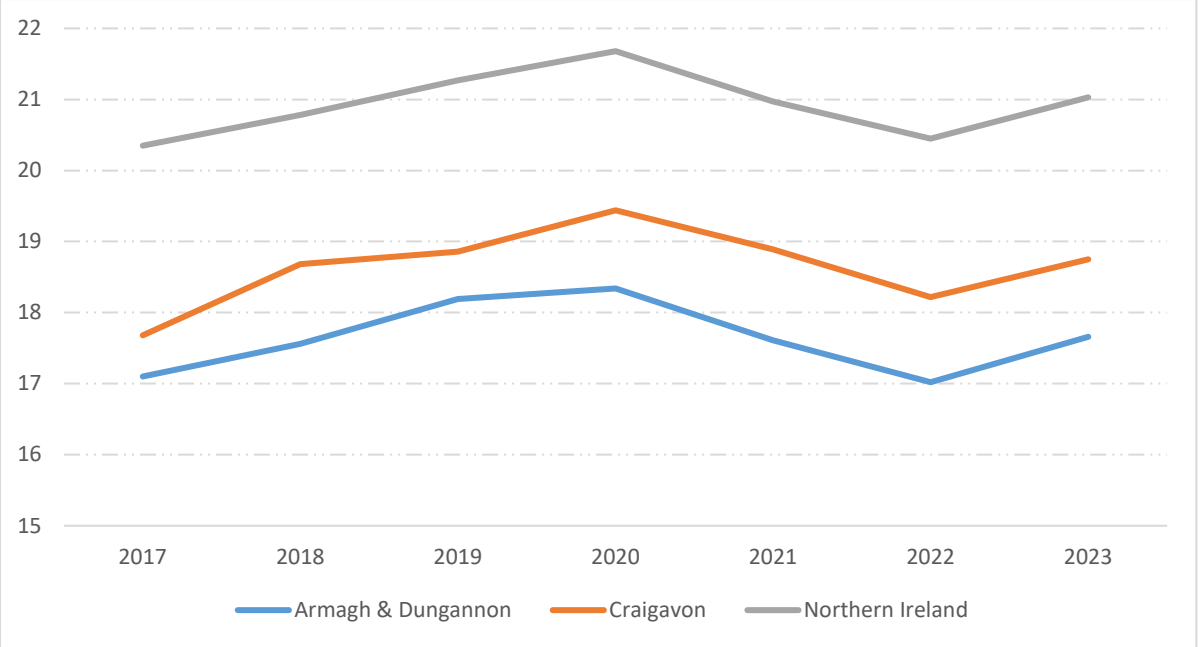


Figure 5: Prevalence of COPD per 1,000 patients, by GP Federation, 2017-2023. Source: Raw Disease Prevalence in Northern Ireland, Department of Health.

Indicator 11:	**Active Travel Statistics**
Source:	Continuous Household Survey, Walking, Cycling and Public Transport in Northern Ireland
Released:	Annually
Current availability:	2017/18 – 2022/23[37]

Enabling and encouraging more sustainable and efficient ways of travelling has the potential to contribute to reduced traffic congestion and improved air quality among other things. The Department for Infrastructure is committed to developing better walking and cycling infrastructure; improving public transport services; and encouraging increased uptake of Ultra Low Emission Vehicles (ULEV).

The continuous household survey[38] includes questions on attitudes to walking, cycling and public transport as well as the likelihood to purchase an e-vehicle which are available at LGD level.

	% Satisfied Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	% Satisfied Northern Ireland
Are you satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in your local area at present?	64%	65%
Would you be likely to walk any journeys you have to make that are up to 2 miles/3 kms? (YES)	**60%**	**64%**
Are you satisfied with the current situation for cycling and cyclists in your local area at present?	51%	52%
Would you be likely to cycle any journeys you have to make that are up to 3 miles? (YES)	**15%**	**19%**

Table 1: Active and Sustainable Travel results from Continuous Household Survey for Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough. 2022/23

Respondents were asked to indicate whether or not they are satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in their local area taking consideration of things such as the condition of footpaths, pedestrian crossings and street lighting. In Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough, 64% (67% in 2021/22) of respondents indicated that they were satisfied with the current situation for walking and walkers in the area with 60% (65% in 2021/22) stating they would be likely to walk any journey they have to make up to 2 miles. Just 51% (50% in 2021/22) of respondents were satisfied with the current situation for cycling and cyclists in the local area and just 15% (29% in 2021/22) stated they would be likely to cycle any journey they have to make up to 3 miles.

With regards to public transport, 73% of respondents (down from 76% in 2021/22) in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough were satisfied with public transport in the local area compared to 77% for Northen Ireland overall (down from 79% in 2021/22). As we might expect, respondents in Belfast and North Down & Ards were most satisfied with 83% of respondents satisfied with public

[37] Due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, data collection for the 2020/21 survey moved from face-to-face interviewing to telephone mode with a reduction in the number of questions. The results from the CHS 2020/21 are not directly comparable to previous years due to the significant changes to the survey in terms of methodology and content.

[38] NISRA have confirmed that these questions remain in the CHS for 2023/24 and 2024/25 survey periods.

transport in their area. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Causeway Coast & Glens were ranked third lowest for the percentage who were satisfied with public transport in their area.

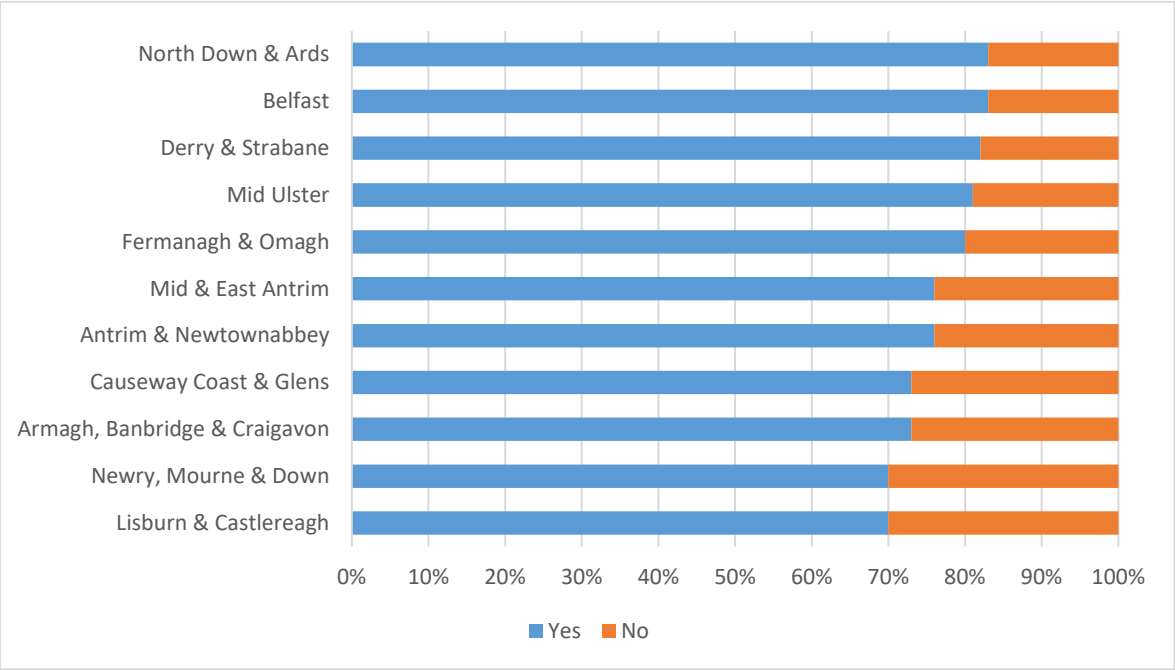


Figure 1: Percentage of responses to the question "In general, are you satisfied with public transport in your local area at present?" in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2022/23. Source: Active and Sustainable Travel in Northern Ireland from the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey.

Respondents were also asked about their frequency of public transport use. Just 2% of respondents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough travelled on public transport every day while 34% never did. The comparable figures for Northern Ireland overall were 4% and 35% respectively. All estimates were unchanged from 2021/22.

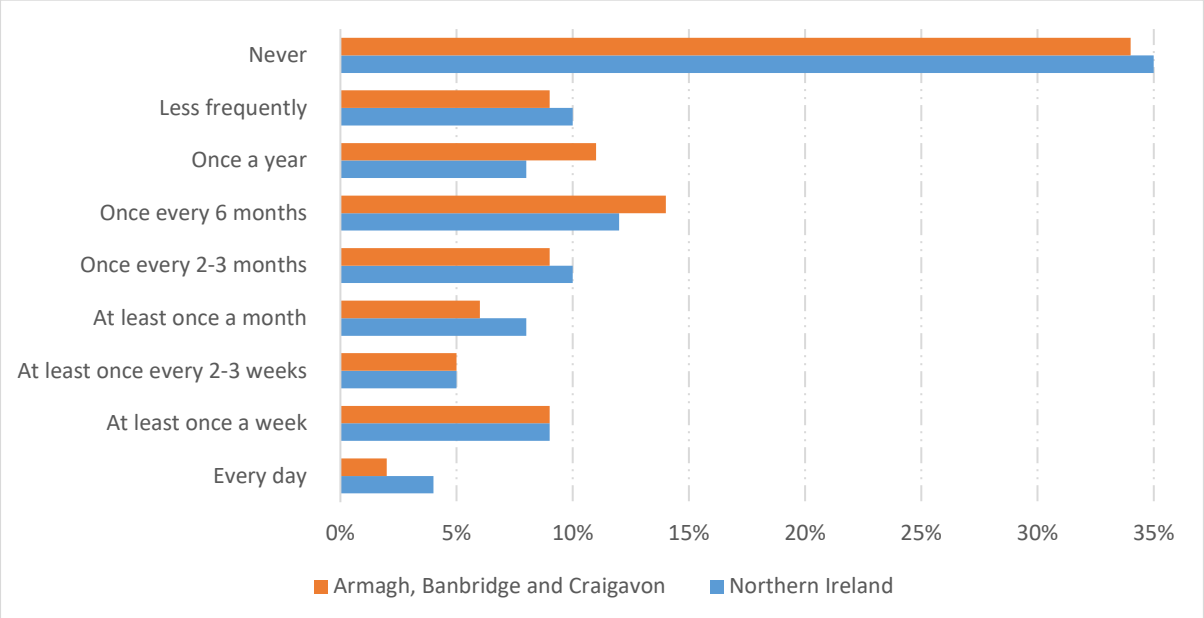


Figure 2: Percentage of responses to the question "How often do you travel on public transport?" in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2022/23. Source: Active and Sustainable Travel in Northern Ireland from the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey.

In September 2023, the UK Government unveiled the zero emission vehicle (ZEV) mandate which means the UK will have the most ambitious regulatory framework for the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) in the world[39]. It is therefore necessary to encourage and support families to make the switch to electric vehicles.

When asked how likely they were to buy an electric vehicle as their next vehicle, just 7% of respondents in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough said their next purchase would definitely be an electric vehicle which is an increase from 4% in 2021/22. Just 26% of respondents in the Borough stated that they would strongly consider an electric vehicle as their next vehicle which is down from 34% in 2021/22. In Northern Ireland overall the comparable figures are 5% and 28% respectively for 2022/23 and 5% and 32% for 2021/22. Just over two-thirds of respondents in the Borough stated that they that they would be unlikely (21%) to consider an electric vehicle as their next purchase or that they would not consider it (46%). This is much the same as the Northern Ireland figures where 30% said they would be unlikely and 38% said they wouldn't consider it.

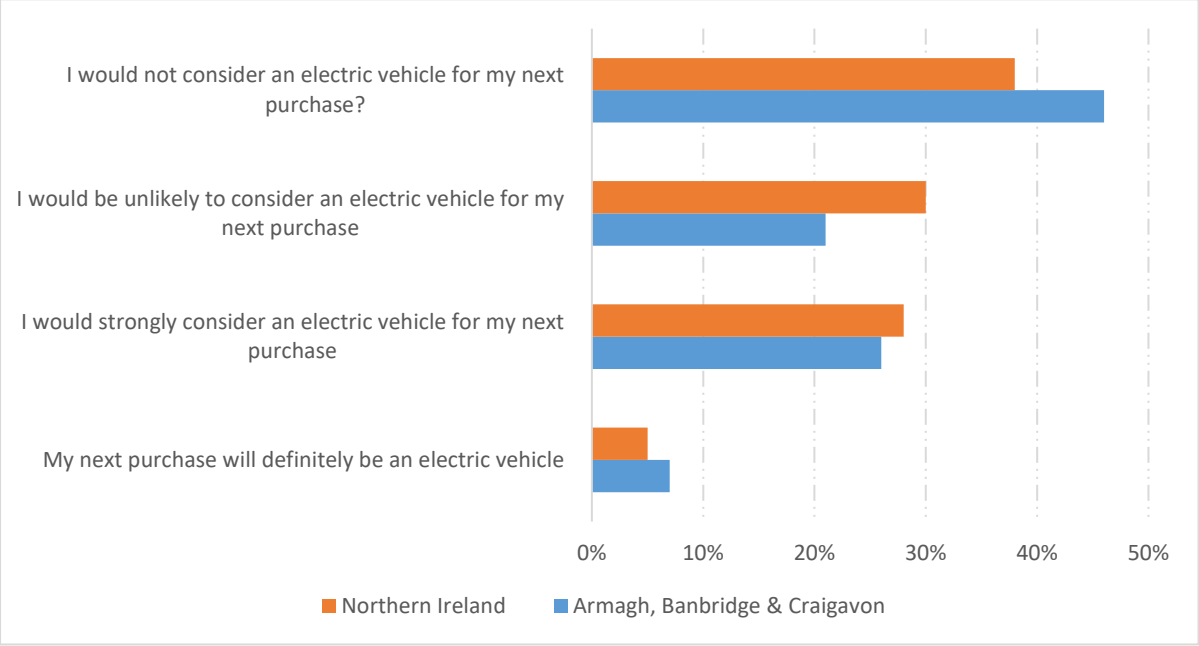


Figure 3: Percentage of responses to the question "How likely are you to buy an electric vehicle as your next vehicle?" in Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough and Northern Ireland, 2022/23. Source: Active and Sustainable Travel in Northern Ireland from the Northern Ireland Continuous Household Survey.

[39] Government sets out path to zero emission vehicles by 2035 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

~~REVITALISED~~ PLACE

Proposed options:

Thriving Place

Vibrant Place

LONG TERM OUTCOME:

Our distinctive, inclusive and vibrant urban and rural ~~areas~~ places are at the heart of community and economic life.

- **Level of social housing need**
- **City and town centre vacancy rates**
- **% of people who see town centres as safe welcoming places for people of all walks of life (previously included with Welcoming Community).**
- **Number of overnight trips made by visitors from outside Northern Ireland (previously included with Tourism Economy)**

PART 3

Partnership Actions

Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action Plan 2022-2023

The Community Planning Partnership for the Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough have a statutory duty to take forward actions that contribute to the outcomes in their community plans. Our community plan is called Connected and all community planning partners share an equal responsibility for the implementation and delivery of the plan. A refresh of the Community Planning Partnerships actions was undertaken as a result of the research and engagement undertaken as part of the Partnership's Statement of Progress 2019-2021. This Covid-19 Response and Recovery action plan is a multi-agency and cross sectoral response which builds on the extensive community action and partnership working that we saw during the pandemic and has continued into the current cost of living crisis. The four priority themes for action in the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action Plan are-

The Community Planning Partnership has established four sub-committees to deliver the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action Plan. There are 21 actions in the Covid-19 Response and Recovery Action plan and these are delivered through the four sub-committee's- Promoting Good Mental Health and Wellbeing, Tackling Poverty and Social Exclusion, Place and Shared Leadership and Community Engagement.

Sub-Committees and Actions

Each of the four sub-committee has broad membership from across the Community Planning partnership including action leads from the CPSP and the CVSP and during the past two years there has been further development with partners being supported to step into chair and vice-chair roles in the sub-committees. The Community & Voluntary Sector Panel are integral to the leadership of the partnership and this sector is crucial to the wellbeing of the Borough as their work is critically important in terms of responding quickly to any local crisis and for early intervention and prevention.

The actions in the Community Plan, which all align with the Draft Programme for Government 2021, are delivered by 27 action leads from 4 statutory organisations and 4 from community & voluntary sector organisations. Fourteen of the 21 actions are led or joint led by Council. In the last Statement of Progress 2021-2023, 90% of these actions were on track which is testament to the hard work of the sub-committee's in their delivery of these actions. The partnership heath check undertaken as part of the Statement of Progress highlighted that 11 partners are in Chair and Vice-Chair roles across these sub-committee's and 7 of these roles are held by 5 statutory partners and 4 are held by Community & Voluntary sector partners. In light of the review of Connected the partnerships actions will be revisited in the Autumn time to ensure that our collective efforts are targeted to where we can make the most difference.

This summary table below looks at the actions that align to each outcome under Place and the proposed new outcome along with any regional strategies that the actions deliver upon.

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
PLACE		
Place Plans **Implement, develop and roll out Place plans across the Borough**	Creative Place ~~Enhanced Place~~ Sustainable, Responsible or Climate Focused Place Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place	• Strategic Planning Policy Statement for Northern Ireland 2015 • Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (PfG) 2021 • Rural Policy Framework 2021, Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs • Regional Development Strategy for Northern Ireland 2035 • Sustainability for the Future - DAERA's plan to 2050 • 10X Economy: An economic vision for a decade of innovation – DfE 2021 • Economic Recovery and Action Plan, Dept for Economy • Housing Supply Strategy 2022 – 2037, NI Housing Executive • Green Growth Strategy for Northern Ireland. Dept of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs • The Mental Health Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic in Northern Ireland- Dept of Health
City of Culture- **Advance Bid for UK City of Culture 2025**	Creative Place ~~Enhanced Place~~ Sustainable, Responsible or Climate Focused Place Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place	• Arts Council Strategy 2024-2034 • Northern Ireland Executive's Programme for Government (PfG) 2021

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
TACKLING POVERTY AND SOCIAL EXCLUSION		
Housing **Enhance mix of tenure, and improve accessibility and affordability across the Borough's Housing**	~~Enhanced Place~~. Sustainable, Responsible or Climate Focused Place Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place	• New Decade New Approach and the draft Programme for Government Outcomes Framework • Ending Homelessness Together 2022- 2027 strategy -NI Housing Executive • Older People's Housing Strategy 2021/22- 2026/27-NI Housing Executive • Irish Travellers Accommodation Strategy-NI Housing Executive • Supporting People Programme, NIHE
People and Place Strategy **Create a Borough that is welcoming, accessible and friendly for people of all ages**	Creative Place ~~Enhanced Place~~ Sustainable, Responsible or Climate Focused Place Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place	• People and Place – A Strategy for Neighbourhood Renewal- Local Co-Design process for review of People & Place Strategy -Dept for Communities • 10X Economy: An economic vision for a decade of innovation – Dept for Economy 2021 • Supporting People, Work and Health – Dept for Communities Operational Strategy 2020-2025
PEACEPLUS **Delivery of the ABC Community PEACE action plan**	Creative Place ~~Enhanced Place~~ Sustainable, Responsible or Climate Focused Place Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place	• New Decade New Approach2 and the draft Programme for Government Outcomes Framework • Together: Building a United Community Strategy

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
Age Friendly Borough **Create a Borough that is welcoming, accessible and friendly borough for people of all ages**	Creative Place ~~Enhanced Place~~ Sustainable, Responsible or Climate Focused Place Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place	• Active Ageing Strategy 2016-22, Depart for Communities • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031,Dept of Health • Making Life Better 2012-2023,Dept of Health
SHARED LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT		
Shared Leadership support	Way of working that contributes to all outcomes.	
Further Embed the Partnership's Community Engagement Strategy	Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place Way of working that contributes to all outcomes.	• New Decade New Approach • Children and Young People's Strategy 2020-2030, Dept for Education.
Tak£500+ PB **Further develop participatory budgeting across the Borough**	Creative Place ~~Enhanced Place~~ Sustainable, Responsible or Climate Focused Place	• Community Places-PB Charter • Mental Health Strategy 2021-2031, Dept of Health

PARTNERSHIP ACTION	CONNECTED OUTCOME	REGIONAL STRATEGIES
	Revitalised, Thriving or Vibrant Place	
Use of data and evidence	Way of working that contributes to all outcomes.	

The types of actions being taken forward through the Place Plans are listed below:

Change Champions: Sustainable Behaviours	**Green & Blue Infrastructure**	**Heritage Projects**
Active Travel	**Digital & Smart Infrastructure**	**Housing**
Green Jobs	**Transport Infrastructure**	**Signage, Trials & Wayfaring**
Stewardship	**Meanwhile Use**	**People-Centred Streets**
Participatory Public Realm & Gateway Projects	**Sport, Physical Activity & Play**	**Arts & Cultural Projects**
Events & Animation of Spaces	**Urban ABC Website (online branding for urban centres)**	**Biodiversity**
Net Zero	**Car Parking**	**Community Gardens & Allotments**
Community Projects	**Investment**	**High Street**

ABC Community Planning Partnership Approach

Community planning requires ways of working that include shared leadership, close collaboration and integration; evidence informed policies and programmes; and involving local people in decision-making and action. These ways of working overlap with each other and our partnership has adopted them as an approach to our work.