

Consultation Schedule – The Council Meeting 1 September 2026

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	SUBMISSION BY	CORPORATE RESPONSE Y/N
1.	Department for the Economy	Consultation to strengthen protections for heat network consumers	1 October 2026	
	The measures would provide stronger consumer protections while creating a regulatory environment to support the sector's future development. Heat networks typically distribute heat from a central source to homes, businesses and public buildings through insulated underground pipes. By reducing the need for individual boilers, heat networks have the potential to be an important part of the transition to cleaner, more efficient and cost-effective heating. Already widely used across Europe and around the world, heat networks can reduce reliance on fossil fuels by using local and renewable heat sources. The introduction of a regulatory framework for heat networks will also provide confidence to investors, support sector growth, and create skilled green jobs across the region. https://url.uk.m.mimecastprotect.com/s/u-1kCkDJkfAAAvs2fnYhGYM1W?domain=economy-ni.gov.uk			
2.	The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland	Combined Polling Place Scheme 2027 Elections	2 October 2026	
	The Electoral Office for Northern Ireland is consulting on proposed Polling Places for the combined Northern Ireland Assembly and Local Government elections scheduled for 6 May 2027. The proposals support electors as all electors have been allocated a single Polling Place for both polls – thus avoiding moving between two places to vote. https://www.eoni.org.uk/fags/combined-polling-place-scheme-2027-elections-fags/			

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3.	Department for Infrastructure	Review of the Classes and Thresholds in the Schedule to the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015	9 October 2026	
	This public consultation is seeking your views on proposed changes to the Classes and Thresholds in the Schedule to the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The 2022 Review Report on the implementation of the Planning Act (NI) 2011 included several actions in relation to the above Regulations, namely a review of categories and thresholds for development contained in the Schedule to the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. These actions now form part of the Planning Improvement Programme (PIP) being brought forward by the Department, working closely with local government and partners, to improve current processes and the performance and delivery of the planning system. This consultation will be of interest to all stakeholders in the planning system, including those affected by or with an interest in development in their area, applicants and their agents, councils, and statutory consultees. The consultation will run for 8 weeks until 5.00pm on the 9 October 2026. • Review of the Classes and Thresholds in the Schedule to the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (NI) 2015 Department for Infrastructure			
4.	Department of Agricultural, Environment and Rural Affairs	Consultations on the draft Irish Sea Pelagic and Demersal Fisheries Management Plans (FMP)	21 October 2026	
	The purpose of these consultations is to seek your views on the proposed joint Fisheries Management Plans (FMPs) for Irish Sea demersal and pelagic fisheries, including their objectives, policies and proposed actions. We are also seeking your views on the accompanying environmental reports and Regulatory Impact Assessments (RIA)			

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	Consultation on draft Irish Sea Pelagic Fisheries Management Plan - NI Direct - Citizen Space			
5.	The Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health	Consultation on proposals to restrict the promotion of products high in fat, sugar or salt in Northern Ireland	21 October 2026	
	The proposals aim to support healthier food environments by reducing exposure to promotions that can encourage the purchase and consumption of HFSS products. Similar measures have already been implemented in England and Wales, with Scotland due to introduce restrictions from October 2026. The consultation seeks views on proposals to: - Restrict volume price promotions on HFSS products, including multibuy and extra free offers. - Restrict the placement of HFSS products in prominent locations such as store entrances, checkouts and aisle ends, including equivalent online locations. - Restrict free refills of sugar sweetened soft drinks. In addition to seeking views on the policy proposals, the consultation invites evidence on the potential impacts for businesses, consumers and public health, as well as views on enforcement arrangements and implementation timescales. https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/doh-1/consultation-on-restricting-promotions-of-hfss/			
6.	Department for Communities	Historic Environment Policy Consultation	23 October 2026	
	Public consultation to inform a proposed Historic Environment Policy for Northern Ireland. The draft policy sets out a strategic framework to protect, access and use Northern Ireland's Historic Environment over the next decade.			

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This is the first ever Historic Environment Policy for Northern Ireland. Recent evidence shows that the condition of our historic environment is declining but this is paired with evidence of the multitude of potential benefits for people and places if that decline can be reversed.

The draft policy presents us with an opportunity to appreciate and maximise the positive contribution that our historic environment makes to each of us, to our communities and to our wellbeing. We have public assets that are found in every corner of Northern Ireland, a product of a rich and complex history that has made our landscape, villages, towns and cities distinctive. Our historic environment belongs to all of us.

“This policy has been developed in partnership with all our stakeholders. Their honest and informed participation emphasised not only what the historic environment means to people, but that there is a real need to improve the way we are managing this resource.

The consultation has been developed as part of the Department for Communities’ Heritage, Culture and Creativity (HCC) Programme, established by Minister Lyons in 2024 to provide renewed focus and direction for the arts, museums, public libraries and the historic environment.

- <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-historic-environment-policy-northern-ireland>

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Available to View

RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
DAERA	Quarterly Screening Exercise for April 2026 - June 2026	DAERA's Equality Scheme Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
DAERA	Rural NI: Our New Approach 2026-2041 – Summary of Consultation Responses	DAERA publishes Summary of Consultation Responses on new long-term rural policy for Northern Ireland Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs
Department of Health	Annual Progress Report	https://www.health-ni.gov.uk/publications/doh-equality-annual-reports

Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs Consultation on Fixed Monetary Penalties (FMPs) in Northern Ireland's Marine Protected Areas – submission by 4 September 2026
- Northern Ireland Assembly Consultation on Tree Protection Bill – submission by 16 September 2026
- Northern Ireland Assembly Consultation on The Display of Flags and Emblems Bill – submission by 17 September 2026
- Northern Ireland Assembly Consultation on Regional Balance Bill – submission by 22 September 2026
- Department of Education Consultation on the Religious Education Core Syllabus – submission by 30 September 2026
- Translink Consultation on range of potential changes to services and fares – submission by 30 September 2026
- Department for Communities Consultation on Every House Matters – a new approach to tackling social housing tenancy fraud and misuse – submission by 6 October 2026
- Northern Ireland Water Consultation on proposed Article 161 Sewer Bond incentivisation and Surety Policy Framework – submission by 20 October 2026