

CONSULTATION SCHEDULE – Council Meeting 9 January 2024

	RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	SUBMISSION BY
1.	Department for the Economy	Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland – 10 Year Plan (tabled at Leisure and Development Committee 19 December 2023)	12 January 2024
	<p>Summary The draft Tourism Strategy for Northern Ireland: 10 Year Plan sets out our vision and mission for the growth of the tourism sector in Northern Ireland over the next decade. It will help position the region internationally as an attractive place to visit, making our visitors feel welcome whilst at the same time helping to make the lives better of all our citizens. It will seek to deliver on the objectives of 10x by generating economic growth that is sustainable, inclusive and innovative.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/news/consultation-launched-draft-tourism-strategy 		
2.	Choice Housing	Consultation on Revised Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan	26 January 2024
	<p>Summary Comments and suggestions are invited for possible areas for improvement on these important documents which outline how Choice will fulfil its statutory equality and disability duties.</p> <p>Further information and the links to the revised Equality Scheme and Disability Action Plan is available on our website where you can also find links to Easy Read versions of the documents.</p> <p>Choice will consider all the responses to this consultation and, if appropriate, revise the scheme prior to issuing it to the Equality Commission for consideration and publishing it on the Choice's website.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.choice-housing.org/news/2023/november/consultation-on-choice-s-draft-equality-scheme-and-disability-action-plan 		

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3.	Department for Communities	Consultation on Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support	9 February 2024
	<p>Summary The Department for Communities has put forward draft proposals to support a thriving Voluntary and Community Sector in Northern Ireland through a commitment to continued government investment in sector infrastructure and to improving the way that government works with and for the sector.</p> <p>The proposals are geared towards the achievement of a clear ambition for what joined up government support can help achieve in the sector, underpinned by shared values and practices which aim to support the relationship between government and the sector.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultation on Voluntary and Community Sector Infrastructure Support Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk) 		
4.	Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC)	Consultation on Pharmacy Supervision	29 February 2024
	<p>Summary This consultation sets out proposals to amend the Medicines Act 1968 and The Human Medicines Regulations 2012. The proposals are to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enable pharmacists to authorise pharmacy technicians to carry out, or supervise others carrying out, the preparation, assembly, dispensing, sale and supply of medicines • enable pharmacists to authorise any member of the pharmacy team to hand out checked and bagged prescriptions in the absence of a pharmacist • allow pharmacy technicians to take primary responsibility for the preparation, assembly and dispensing of medicinal products in hospital aseptic facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/pharmacy-supervision 		

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5.	Department for Infrastructure	Public Consultation on the Review of the Planning (Development Management) Regulations (NI) 2015 (the Development Management Regulations)	3 March 2024
	<p>Summary</p> <p>These proposals are part of the Planning Improvement Plan (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.</p> <p>The Consultation proposes changes in three areas:-</p> <p>A review of the classes of development to ensure they reflect current and future development trends and that the associated thresholds take a balanced approach to community consultation in planning applications for major development.</p> <p>Proposals to make pre-determination hearings discretionary for councils which will help focus resources and reduce delays in issuing planning decisions for some planning applications</p> <p>Proposals to introduce online/digital methods into the pre-applications community consultation (PACC) process, to enhance accessibility and encourage participation in the planning process by broader range of people.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://consultations2.nidirect.gov.uk/dfi-1/review-of-the-planning-development-management-regu 		
6.	Department for Infrastructure	Consultation on Improvements to the Planning Application Process	3 March 2024
	<p>Summary</p> <p>The Department for Infrastructure is inviting views from the public and stakeholders to identify and inform potential changes to The Planning (Development Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2015. The consultation focuses on a review of the existing classes of development and the corresponding thresholds for local, major and regionally</p>		

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		significant development; proposals to make pre-determination hearings discretionary for councils; and proposals to provide for in-person and online/electronic engagement as part of pre-application community consultation process.	
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-review-planning-development-management-regulations-northern-ireland-2015 	
7.	Department of Health	The Department of Health is seeking views on the recommendations arising from the Children's Oral Health Improvement Plan and Older Person's Oral Health Improvement Plan	4 March 2024
	<p>Summary The Department of Health is seeking views on the recommendations arising from the Children's Oral Health Improvement Plan and Older Person's Oral Health Improvement Plan.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Children's and Older Person's Oral Health Improvement Plans Consultation Department of Health (health-ni.gov.uk) 		
8.	Department of Agriculture Environmental and Rural Affairs	Launch of public consultation for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)	7 March 2024
	<p>Summary We are pleased to announce the publication of a consultation and a call for evidence on reforming the current Producer Responsibility system for WEEE.</p> <p>These documents have been developed jointly between officials across each of the four UK nations, and will be of particular interest to retailers, manufacturers and distributors, waste management and recycling companies, and local councils. DAERA welcomes your views on both the consultation and call for evidence. Your views will help shape and inform the development of future WEEE Regulations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consultation and Call for Evidence on reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (daera-ni.gov.uk) 		

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9.	Department for Infrastructure	Consultation on options for introducing water and sewerage charges	13 March 2024
	<p>Summary Following a direction from the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland Rt Hon Chris Heaton-Harris MP, on 20 September 2023, the Department for Infrastructure has launched a consultation today on options for introducing water and sewerage charges.</p> <p>The Secretary of State has directed Northern Ireland Departments to launch public consultations on measures to support budget sustainability and raise additional revenue.</p> <p>The consultation, which has had its content approved by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland provides an overview of potential water and sewerage charging revenue raising options which could be introduced in Northern Ireland, with a focus on those areas which would offer greatest value in helping to address the un-sustainability of public finances.</p> <p>It sets out and seeks views on the main pathways through which water and sewerage charging could be introduced, how a relief scheme to protect vulnerable people might be developed, and how charging might be billed and collected.</p> <p>It also asks about three other revenue raising options: the removal of the domestic allowance for non-domestic customers; charging customers for domestic septic tank desludging; and recovering the cost of roads drainage from all customers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/consultations/water-and-sewerage-charges-options-revenue-raising 		
10.	The Executive Office	Launch of public consultation on the new Strategy for Victims and Survivors	13 March 2024
	<p>Summary The new strategy will ensure the right trauma informed and victim centred services are in place to empower and support victims and survivors, and contribute to building a shared and peaceful future. It also sets out the specific areas relating to victims and survivors which will require particular focus during the period of the strategy.</p>		

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	<p>Launching the consultation, Gareth Johnston, Deputy Secretary, Good Relations and Inclusion, said: “The Executive Office is committed to ensuring that the needs of victims and survivors continue to be met in the most effective and appropriate way.</p> <p>“This new strategy aims to build upon the progress we have already made. It marks the latest milestone in improving support for victims and survivors and we would encourage everyone to take part in the consultation to help shape it.”</p> <p>Mary Moreland, a UDR veteran and widow of a serving soldier says “The last Strategy was published in 2009. With so much happening right now that affects victims and survivors, it’s time to really take stock of where we have come in the last 14 years and what the needs and issues are in the modern context for Northern Ireland. It’s so important that people take this opportunity to feed into what needs to be done moving forward.”</p> <p>Also encouraging responses was Paul McCormac, whose father was a civil servant killed during his public service: “This Strategy spans the next number of years and will really shape the future landscape for victims and survivors. It is so important that they, in particular, use their voice to shape what that future looks like for service delivery, how we address the past and the broader piece of what victims and survivors can do to further reconciliation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/consultations/public-consultation-new-strategy-victims-and-survivors 	

Available to View

RECEIVED FROM	TITLE	PUBLISHED
Department for Communities	Section 75 Screening Report - 01 October - 31 December 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DfC Equality Department for Communities (communities-ni.gov.uk)

Open Consultations (previously Listed)

- The Local Government Staff Commission for Northern Ireland Trans Equality Policy – submission by 19 January 2024, **deadline extended to Tuesday 13th February 2024;**
- Department of Agriculture Environment and Rural Affairs new EU Batteries Regulations impact on Northern Ireland traders - submission by 19 January 2024
- Ulster University Equality screening of Ulster University's new and revised policies – submission by 5 February 2024;
- Department of Finance Consultation on Non-domestic and Domestic rating measures to support budget; sustainability by raising additional revenue – submission by 13 February 2024;
- Department of Health Consultation on Strategic Framework to Prevent the Harm caused by Obesity, and Improve Diets and Levels of Physical Activity – submission by 16 February 2023;
- Department of Health Consultation on proposed Regional Obesity Management Service for Northern Ireland – submission by 16 February 2023;
- Department of Justice Consultation on Anti-social behaviour – submission by 4 March 2024.