

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, on Wednesday, 6 January 2016, at 5:30 pm

PRESENT: Councillor Brian Hanvey (Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett

Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath

Aldermen T Jeffers and S P Porter

Councillors J Baird, P Catney, A Givan, J Gray MBE, A McIntyre, T Mitchell, T Morrow, Jenny Palmer, L Poots and R Walker

OTHER MEMBERS: Alderman J Tinsley

IN ATTENDANCE: Councillor J McCarthy
Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Development and Planning
Head of Service (Technical and Estates)
Head of Service (Operational Services)
Head of Service (Environmental Health)
Business Support Manager

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor B Bloomfield MBE.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited Members to declare any declarations of interest they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement to complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard, which had been provided at the meeting. The following declarations of interest were made:

- Councillor L Poots in respect of Item 5.1 'arc21 – Residual Waste Treatment Project (RWTP) – Consideration of Next Steps' on the basis that he was a member of arc21.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor J Baird and agreed that the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 2 December 2015, as adopted at the meeting of Council held on 15 December 2015, be confirmed and signed.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to consider the Confidential Report from the Director of Environmental Services In Committee at this stage in the meeting.

5. Confidential Report from the Director of Environmental Services

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to consider the confidential report from the Director of Environmental Services 'In Committee', in accordance with the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, Schedule 6, Part 1:

Item 5.1 'arc21 – Residual Waste Treatment Project RWYP) – Consideration of Next Steps', Clause 3

Item 5.2 'Environmental Services Draft Estimates 2016-17', Clause 3

Item 5.3 'RWTP Infrastructure Needs Analysis', Clause 3

Item 5.4 'Insurance Reports', Clause 2

Items for Decision

5.1 arc21 – Residual Waste Treatment Project (RWTP) – Consideration of Next Steps

Members were provided with a copy of a report prepared by arc21 for the meeting of the Chief Executives on 15 December 2015 following the issue of a Notice of Opinion from the Minister for the Environment, which had recommended refusal of the application. The report set out two options for Members' consideration:

- Option 1 - Pursue the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) inquiry
- Option 2 - Discontinue the PAC process and notify the Department and PAC accordingly

Members were advised that the timeframe for reaching a conclusion on the preferred option, Option 1, was until the end of February 2016 and a unanimous decision was required from all six member councils. The Chief Executive commented that Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council did not support Option 1 and was currently seeking legal advice.

Members raised concerns in respect of the cost of the project and the Planning Appeal process. The Director of Development and Planning advised of the independent financial review of the project which set out the affordability envelope for the project. The Director of Environmental Services further referred to the additional report within the meeting papers entitled 'Update of the (April 2012) Analysis of the 2020 Residual Waste Infrastructure Requirements in Northern Ireland to meet EU Obligations', which set out a range of background information relevant to the project and pointed out that the RWTP was an integral and essential

element of the waste management plan which had been agreed so as to ensure compliance with the relevant European Legislation .

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor T Morrow and agreed to continue to support Option 1 in the report from arc21 to pursue the PAC inquiry.

5.2 Environmental Services Draft Estimates 2016-17

The Director of Development and Planning left the meeting at 5.56 pm.

Members were provided with a copy of the Draft Estimates for 2016-17 for consideration.

Members raised concerns in respect of the apparent variance compared to the previous year, particularly in relation to payroll costs. The Director of Environmental Services advised that the payroll costs had been consolidated from the extant Councils. Furthermore there were a number of additional reasons for the variance including the absorption of the former Group staff and staff transfers from other directorates.

Councillor A Redpath joined the meeting at 6.18 pm.

Councillor Jenny Palmer raised a query in respect of sickness levels in the Council as well as seeking confirmation of the budget in respect of Marketing and Communications Promotion. She stated that there had been some negative comments from residents regarding a lack of information in respect of refuse collection during the recent holiday period.

The Director of Environmental Services advised of the work that has been progressed through Human Resources in managing attendance and referred to the report detailing performance in this area from April to September, The Director advised of further work in this area which was showing an improvement in attendance. In respect of Marketing and Communications she stated that a communications strategy was being developed as part of the waste harmonisation programme and this would address overall communications such as those pertaining to holiday arrangements. The Director clarified the communications that had been put in place in the run-up to the holiday period. The Head of Service (Operational Services) advised that some areas had received additional information, which had generated some confusion with regard to holiday arrangements and any missed collections had been responded to.

Alderman S P Porter expressed concern at the lack of information to support the payroll costs and asked to be furnished with a structural breakdown of both extant councils' structures and posts and also the new organisational design, including the details of posts. Councillor Jenny Palmer further requested that this information be provided in respect of the whole Council.

The Director advised of the further amendments that had been applied to the Draft Estimates since consideration of draft 1 on 15 December 2015. In response to a

query from Councillor Baird, the Director detailed where further reductions had been applied which resulted in a further reduction in the region of £450,000. It was proposed by Councillor J Baird, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed to accept the Environmental Services Draft Estimates 2016/17.

Items for Noting

5.3 RWTP Infrastructure Needs Analysis

Members were provided with an overview summary report, which had been compiled by arc21, providing information on three distinct areas relating to the RWTP:

- Information extracted from Section 26 of a report entitled 'Development Management Report', which had been produced as part of the consideration by the Department of the Environment Strategic Planning Division of the planning application to develop Hightown Quarry for the waste treatment facilities
- A copy of the report 'Update of the (April 2012) Analysis of the 2020 Residual Waste Infrastructure Requirements in Northern Ireland to Meet EU Obligations', dated July 2015
- Relevant answers to written questions tabled in the Northern Ireland Assembly for the Minister for the Environment

The Director of Environmental Services suggested to invite representatives from arc21 to give a presentation in respect of the RWTP and infrastructure requirements. Alderman S P Porter suggested to invite all Members to the presentation. It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to note the summary report compiled by arc21, providing information on three distinct areas relating to the RWTP and to invite representatives from arc21 to give a presentation in respect of the RWTP and infrastructure requirements, with an invitation to attend extended the presentation to all Members.

5.4 Insurance Reports

Members were provided with a copy of insurance reports entitled 'Public, Employers and Motor Liability' pertaining to Environmental Services.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to note the insurance reports entitled 'Public, Employers and Motor Liability'.

It was proposed by Councillor L Poots, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed that normal business be resumed.

4. Report from the Director of Environmental Services

Items for Decision

4.1 Charges for Services 2016/17

Members were provided with details of the proposed charges for services for the 2016-17 financial year. These recommended charges were also reflected in the proposed estimates of expenditure for 2016-17.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor J Baird and agreed to approve the charges set for services provided by the Environmental Services Department for 2016-17.

Items for Noting

4.2 Environmental Services Trading Accounts Period 8 Position

Members were provided with a copy of Period 8 trading accounts for information.

4.3 Environmental Services' Rolling Year Absence Figures 1 April – 30 September 2015

Members were provided with a copy of absence figures in the period 1 April to 30 September 2015 in the Environmental Services Department for information. The Director of Environmental Services advised that an action plan had been developed to address and improve attendance and key policies had been reviewed and harmonised.

4.4 Application for Provisional Grant of Restaurant Licence – Beef and Bird Ltd, Unit 14, Lisburn Leisure Park, BT28 1LP

Members were provided with a copy of an application for Provisional Grant of Restaurant Licence from Beef and Bird Ltd for information.

4.5 arc21 Joint Committee – Annual Audit Letter

Members were provided with a copy of an extract from arc21 Joint Committee minutes relating to receipt of a letter from the NI Audit Office, certifying the annual accounts.

4.6 Review of Civil Contingencies Arrangements in Northern Ireland

Members were provided with a copy of the full report summarising the review of the Civil Contingency arrangements in Northern Ireland and recommendations made therein, some of these specific to Local Government.

4.7 arc21 – Consultation on Changes to Plastic Packaging Recycling Business Targets for 2016-17 and New Targets for Plastic and Glass 2018-20

Members were provided with a copy of the proposed response from arc21 Joint Committee regarding a consultation paper entitled 'Changes to Plastic Packaging

Recycling Business Targets for 2016-17 and New Targets for Plastic and Glass 2018-20'.

4.8 arc21 – Scrap Metal Dealers Bill

Members were provided with a copy of the proposed response from arc21 Joint Committee regarding a consultation paper on the Scrap Metal Dealers Bill. In order to meet the 15 December 2015 deadline, the Joint Committee had endorsed the draft response at its meeting on 3 December 2015 for submission.

4.9 Bryson Charitable Group Annual Review 2014-15

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence from Bryson Charitable Group regarding the Annual Review 2014-15 for information.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor J Baird and agreed to note items 4.2 to 4.9 in the report from the Director of Environmental Services.

4.10 Report from Head of Service (Technical and Estates)

Items for Decision

4.10.1 The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee (LARAC) – Membership 2015/16

The Head of Service provided Members with an overview of the background of LARAC and sought approval for payment of the 2015-16 membership fee of £395.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor T Morrow and agreed to approve payment of the 2015-16 LARAC membership fee of £395.

4.10.2 Drumlough Landownership Issues

The Head of Service referred to a previously submitted site closure plan to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIRA) for the former landfill site at Drumlough and advised that currently NIEA required that financial provision for the aftercare phase of closed landfill sites would be considered over a 60-year period, unless it could be argued that this period could be reduced. Lisburn City Council surrendered its Waste Management Licence for Drumlough landfill site in 2003 and therefore a 48-year period for financial provision of aftercare had been proposed in the closure plan. He further stated that there would be an ongoing environmental liability for these filled areas currently leased, therefore he sought approval to get the land valued and further investigate the possibility of purchase, as this might be more cost-effective. a 48-year period for financial provision of aftercare had been proposed in the closure plan. He further stated that there would be an ongoing environmental liability for these filled areas currently leased, therefore he sought approval to get the land valued and further investigate the possibility of purchase, as this might be more cost-effective.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor T Morrow and agreed to explore purchase options for the land currently leased at Drumlough.

4.10.3 Binovention App – Proposed Pilot Project

Members were provided with an overview of new downloads for the new Binovention app since its relaunch in July 2015 as a pilot project in the current financial year at a cost of £1,500 plus VAT. Approval was sought to extend the Binovention app for a further year to enable more co-ordinated marketing of the facility and to assess user numbers at the end of this period to establish whether the app should be retained in the longer term.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor T Morrow and agreed to extend the Binovention app for a further year at a cost of £1,500 plus VAT in order to enable more co-ordinated marketing of the facility and to assess continuation of the app in the longer term.

Items for Noting

4.10.4 Environmental Youth Speak

Members were advised that the annual Environmental Youth Speak competition was due to begin in January 2016 and the Council heat was scheduled for 25 February 2016. The winners would take represent the Council in the finals on 8 March 2016 at Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor J Baird and agreed to note commencement of the annual Environmental Youth Speak competition in January 2016, the Council heat on 25 February 2016 and the finals on 8 March 2016.

4.11 Report from Head of Service (Environmental Health)

Items for Decision

4.11.1 Commission and the European Parliament Review on Official Controls

Members were advised of the progression of a new EU official controls regulation to revise a number of existing regulations and advise of the requirements for competent authorities to carry out official controls in relation to food control and competence to carry out specific regulatory activities. Proposed amendments included:

- Processing plants under the control of an official veterinarian – Amendment 97, Article 15(1)(b), to include EC approved premises currently under the Council's control
- Mandatory supervision by an official veterinarian for import checks on products of animal origin – Amendments 157 and 166, Articles 47 and 53

However, the proposed amendments, if agreed, would result in the need for cost restructuring by UK authorities.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor J Gray and agreed to approve sending a letter to James Nicholson MEP as a member of the Committee of Environment, Public Health and Food Safety, seeking support for the preservation of the existing UK controls.

4.11.2 Internal Health and Safety - CHaSPS

Members were provided with a summary of internal CHaSPS that had been developed and the Head of Service sought approval of the 31 CHaSPS.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor J Gray and agreed to approve the adoption of the 31 CHaSPS.

Items for Noting

4.11.3 Noise Complaint Statistics 2014-2015

The Head of Service advised that the Department of the Environment had published its report in respect of the number and nature of noise complaints received each year.

4.11.4 Health Promotion – Hygiene Training

The Head of Service advised that Food Hygiene Instruction Training for Community Groups, in collaboration with the Leisure and Community Services Department, had been delivered in the Enler Community Centre on 25 November 2015 and in Bridge Community Centre on 2 December 2015 as a continuation and extension of the training seminars for places of worship.

4.11.5 The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 – Failure to Pay Fixed Penalty Notices

Members were advised that, during September to December 2015, eight persons had failed to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice for not having dog licences and legal proceedings would be instigated under Article 17(1) of the above legislation.

In that same period, one person had failed to pay a Fixed Penalty Notice for allowing their dog to stray and legal proceedings would be instigated under Article 22(1) of the above legislation.

4.11.6 The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 - Prosecutions

Members were advised of the outcome of some recent prosecutions progressed by the Environmental Health Service Unit in relation to dog fouling and not having valid dog licences.

4.11.7 The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 – Contingent Destruction Order

Members were advised that a Contingent Destruction Order had been granted on 17 November 2015 in respect of a Pitbull terrier-type dog.

4.11.8 Welfare of Animals – Improvement Notices

Members were advised that three Improvement Notices had been serviced in the period September 2015 to December 2015.

4.11.9 Welfare of Animals – Prosecutions

Members were advised of two prosecutions against a person for causing unnecessary suffering and abandoning two dogs.

4.11.10 The Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994 – Fixed Penalty Notices

Members were advised that in the period September to December 2015, five persons had been issued with Fixed Penalty Notices for depositing litter in the Council area. One Fixed Penalty Notice had been paid and the other four remained unpaid. They would be progressed in accordance with the Council's Enforcement Policy.

4.11.11 Home Accident Prevention – Blind Cord Safety

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence from the Chief Medical Officers to the Chief Executive, thanking councils for their support to date in raising awareness of the dangers posed by blind cords.

4.11.12 The Safety Advisory Group Minutes

Members were provided with a copy of the Safety Advisory Group minutes of the meeting held on 18 November 2015 for information.

4.11.13 Emergency Co-Ordination Centre

The Head of Service outlined details of the Council's Emergency Centre Co-Ordination arrangements.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor J Gray and agreed to note items 4.11.3 to 4.11.13 in the report from the Head of Service (Environmental Health).

4.12 Report from Head of Service (Operational Services)

Items for Decision

4.12.1 Ulster in Bloom 2015

Members were provided with a breakdown of the costs associated with competing in the Britain in Bloom Awards 2016. The costs were based on previous experience and had not been included in the Draft Estimates 2016-17.

Following some discussion, it was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to defer consideration of the costs of participation in the Britain in Bloom Awards 2016 to the February meeting of the Committee.

Items for Noting

4.12.2 Addendum to the Council's Terms and Conditions for Cemeteries – Operational Procedure Relating to Memorials

Members were provided with a copy of the addendum to the Council's Terms and Conditions for Cemeteries: Operational Procedure Relating to Memorials for information.

4.12.3 Ulster in Bloom 2015 – Judging Feedback

Members were provided with a copy of NILGA correspondence regarding the judging comments for the 2015 Ulster in Bloom Awards. The judges had been impressed with the quality of the planting displays and had greatly appreciated the maps and information packs supplied.

4.12.4 The Private Streets (NI) Order 1980 – Adoption of Streets at Church Square, Lisburn

Members were advised of correspondence from TransportNI regarding the proposed adoption of Church Square, Lisburn.

4.12.5 Blaris Cemetery – Prevailing Ground Conditions

Members were advised that, during recent grave excavations at Blaris Cemetery, staff had discovered that the prevailing ground conditions were unstable and subject to collapse. Officers were assessing the safety implications and options in respect of ground stabilisation measures. A further report would be tabled once enquiries were complete.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to note items 4.12.2 to 4.12.5 in the report from the Head of Service (Operational Services).

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Ulster in Bloom 2015

Councillor L Poots referred to previous discussion which focused on a particular area and stated that he would be in favour of funding for additional planting schemes and flower displays across the whole of the Council area.

The Chairman reminded Members of concerns relating to the level of expenditure outlined in the Draft Estimates 2016-17 and the need for more detailed consideration of any additional expenditure.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.19 pm.

Mayor/Chairman