

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on Wednesday, 5 October, 2022 at 6:04 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Councillor M Gregg (Chairman)

Councillor C McCready (Vice- Chairman)

Alderman J Baird

Councillors A P Ewing

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Deputy Mayor

Councillor M Guy

Alderman S P Porter

Councillors F Cole, A Givan, S Lee, S Lowry, R McLernon, T Mitchell and S Skillen

OTHER MEMBERS:

In Chamber:

Alderman A Grehan

In Remote Location:

Alderman J Tinsley

Councillors A Gowan and U Mackin

IN ATTENDANCE:

In Chamber:

Director of Environmental Services

Head of Service (Building Control)

Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

Environmental Health Manager (Emergency Planning and Cemeteries Administration)

Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager

IT Officer

Technician

Member Services Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, welcomed those present to the remote meeting of the Environmental Services Committee, which, in line with Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020, was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

At this point, the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman M Henderson MBE, Councillor A McIntyre and the Head of Service (Environmental Health).

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Report from Head of Service (Environmental Health)

In the absence of the Head of Service (Environmental Health), his report was presented by Environmental Health Manager (Emergency Planning and Cemeteries Administration).

3.1 Health & Safety Executive NI (HSENI) Consultation on 2023-2028 Corporate Plan

Members were reminded of notification they had been provided with on 12 September in respect of a consultation on the HSENI Corporate Plan for 2023-2028, their comments on which had been requested in order that a response could be submitted by the deadline of 10 October.

Members having been provided with a copy of a Council response, it was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Councillor C McCready and agreed to recommend that this response be approved and submitted to the HSENI.

3.2 Approval to Temporarily Close Queens Road Car Park to Facilitate Parking at the Council's 'Christmas at the Castle' Event

Alderman A Grehan arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.09 pm). Alderman J Tinsley joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.10 pm).

The Head of Service having set out in his report, information regarding the above matter, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCready and agreed to recommend that approval be given to the closure of Queen's Road car park for 3 days from 23-25 November, 2022 to facilitate car parking for the 'Christmas at the Castle' event.

3.2 Approval to Temporarily Close Queens Road Car Park to Facilitate Parking at the Council's 'Christmas at the Castle' Event (Contd)

Alderman S P Porter suggested that notices be put on cars in the car park the week previous to the event to make regular users aware of the closure. The Environmental Health Manager confirmed that communications would be carried out prior to the event taking place.

The Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 Christmas Toy Reuse Proposal
Director of Environmental Services

The Director of Environmental Services made Members aware of an appeal being proposed to work on in partnership with Habitat Restore to gather pre-owned toys in the run-up to Christmas. Whilst this was an operational decision, Members were happy to endorse this matter being progressed.

4.2 Launch of Repair Café in Carryduff
Councillor S Lee

Councillor S Lee drew attention to the launch of a repair café today in Carryduff. In terms of the Council's agenda, initiatives like this one were beneficial in terms of recycling and reducing waste. Councillor Lee proposed that Officers investigate ways in which the Council could support the operation of repair cafés in the area, particularly in relation to funding opportunities. The Director of Environmental Services stated that Officers were familiar with such initiatives and working with some local schemes. The Covid-19 pandemic had impacted on the operation of these schemes; however, these would be reengaged and promoted where possible. The Director also advised that a number of Churches in the area had also hosted repair cafés.

Alderman J Baird enquired if there were any figures in relation to the amount of items fixed at repair cafés and, therefore, diverted away from landfill. The Director agreed to engage with repair cafés to request performance information around the number of sessions held, number of items repaired, etc.

Alderman S P Porter stated that he had discussed previously with the Director, the benefits of working in partnership with Habitat Restore and making use of items brought to the Council's Household Recycling Centres.

5. Confidential Business

These matters would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information (a) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information); (b) which is likely to reveal the identity of an

5. Confidential Business (Contd)

individual; and (c) in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy, and agreed that the following matters be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The live-stream was paused at this point (6.17 pm).

5.1 Digital Display Boards
(Report will not be made available)

Members having been provided with a copy of a Financial Appraisal in respect of the procurement of digital display boards, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor S Lee and agreed to recommend that the Financial Appraisal be approved and that procurement be progressed to the next stage.

5.2 Update on Residual Waste Treatment & Disposal and Landfill Capacity
(Report will not be made available)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to recommend that the recommendations set out in the Director’s report be approved and that delegated authority be granted to the Committee, at its November meeting, for the purpose outlined in the report.

Members commended Officers for their efforts in regard to this matter.

5.3 Kerbside Collection – Consistency
(Report will not be made available)

Further to the information set out in the Director’s report, it was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor S Lee and agreed to recommend that approval be given to blue as the only colour for recycling bins across the Council area, subject to the outcome of the kerbside collections full business case.

During discussion of this matter, Alderman S P Porter requested that his concerns be noted in relation to potential confusion over bin colour and the importance of communications in this regard. The Director of Environmental Services confirmed that communications around this would be significant and would be sustained on a continuous basis throughout any service change.

Verbal Matters

5.4 Mullaghglass Odour Complaints

The Environmental Health Manager gave a verbal update in respect of Mullaghglass odour complaints and advised that a written update would be provided to Members, as well as some local MLAs.

5.5 Haulage and Transfer Arrangements

Members noted a verbal update by the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) in respect of haulage and transfer arrangements.

5.6 Update on Industrial Action
Alderman S P Porter

In response to a query by Alderman S P Porter, the Director of Environmental Services advised that Officers continued to consider options to alleviate the impact of the continuing industrial action.

At the request of Alderman Porter, the Director agreed that the Council's thanks would be conveyed to all staff who were continuing to work at various Council premises at this time.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.52 pm.

Mayor/Chairman