

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held remotely and in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Wednesday 6 January 2021 at 5:15 pm**

**PRESENT**

Present in the Chamber:

Councillor N Anderson (Chairman)

Councillor R McLernon (Vice-Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor the Hon N Trimble

Alderman J Baird

Councillors A Givan, S Lee and C McCreedy

Present in Remote Location:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen M Henderson MBE and SP Porter

Councillors S Eastwood, AP Ewing, M Gregg, S Lowry, A McIntyre, T Mitchell and S Skillen

**OTHER MEMBERS:**

Present in Remote Location:

Aldermen A Grehan and J Tinsley

Councillors G McCleave, John Palmer and A Swan

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Present in the Chamber:

Director of Environmental Services

Member Services Manager

Member Services Officer

Present in Remote Location:

Chief Executive

Head of Service (Building Control)

Head of Service (Environmental Health)

Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, advised that the Chairman would be arriving late to the meeting. The Vice-Chairman welcomed Members to the January meeting of the Environmental Services Committee which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

At this point, the Member Services Manager read out the names of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He then proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies for non-attendance.

(Councillor S Skillen joined the meeting at 5.18 pm)

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited Members to declare any Conflicts 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. There were no Declarations of Interest.

(During discussion of the following item, Councillors AP Ewing and A Givan joined the meeting at 5.22 pm; the Chairman, Councillor N Anderson arrived at 5.23 pm; Councillor T Mitchell joined at 5.24 pm; Alderman M Henderson joined and Councillor C McCready arrived at 5.25 pm; Alderman SP Porter joined at 5.31 pm)

3. Report by the Director of Environmental Services

3.1 Performance Reports 2020/2021 – Quarter 1 (April, May and June 2020) and Quarter 2 (July, August and September 2020)

The Committee was provided with copy of the Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 Performance Reports for the Environmental Services Directorate covering the following areas:

- Affordable Warmth Scheme
- Building Control applications – full plan applications and regularisation certificates
- Department of Finance (DoF) – Completion Notice Ready report to Land & Property Services
- Dog Control Statistics
- Illegal Dumping Outcomes
- ES KPI Performance Summary – covers the Quarter 1 & Quarter 2 period
- Licensing Statistics
- Planning Enforcement Statistics
- Refuse Collection & Illegal Dumping Data

The Director of Environmental Services and Heads of Services then responded to Members comments and queries on a number of issues including:

- Dog fouling at Blaris Greenway and Dundonald
- Pigeon guano at Blaris Greenway – officers were asked to write to the Department to request that clean up measures be put in place.

- Street cleansing and litter in Dundonald and in rural areas.
- Increase in landfill waste tonnages during 2020 arising during the lockdown period.
- Eco School project as a possible means of communicating environmental information and guidance.

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that Council approve the Performance Reports.

At this stage, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor R McLernon stood down and the Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, assumed the Chair.

### 3.2 Service Level Agreement (SLA) for Recycling Centres – Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G McCleave referred by Council on 24 November 2020

The Committee was advised regarding a Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G McCleave that had been referred to the Committee from the meeting of Council held on 24 November 2020 and it was noted that the Committee had been granted delegated authority to consider and progress this matter.

Councillor G McCleave proposed the Notice of Motion as follows:

“That Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council aims to work with other Councils to promote and encourage recycling. Furthermore, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council agrees to write to adjoining Councils requesting a Service Level Agreement for recycling centres.”

Councillor McCleave advised that the aim of the motion was to enable residents to access the nearest recycling facility to their homes and, in so doing, this would encourage recycling and reduce fly-tipping and the carbon footprint. He pointed out that residents in Dundrod and Glenavy had to undertake a 20 mile round trip in order to access the nearest Council owned HRC. Councillor S Lee seconded the motion stating that this was not a blank cheque but that arrangements put in place would have to meet the Council’s requirements. He emphasised that the aim of the motion was to reduce the need for ratepayers to travel substantial distances to access recycling facilities.

(Alderman A Grehan joined the meeting at 5.45 pm)

During the discussion that followed, some Members expressed concern about the cost to the Council. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, enquired about the availability of statistics relating to usage of the Cutts HRC by residents from outside the Council area. Councillor AP Ewing referred to the Council’s responsibility to provide value for money for its ratepayers. Alderman SP Porter referred to the Council’s targets regarding landfill waste and the impact the proposal could have on those targets. Councillor M Gregg stated that a reassessment of the Council’s HRCs was planned and this could change the HRC footprint within the Council area. He also stated that any agreement would have to be with all neighbouring Councils rather than with just one. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, suggested that officers could commence a conversation with other Councils on this issue before agreeing any definitive action.

After discussion, Councillor G McCleave indicated that he would be happy to withdraw the motion on the basis that officers be asked to bring back a further report to Committee providing additional information on those issues raised by Members.

4. Deferral of Agenda Item

The Chairman indicated that he proposed to defer consideration of the next item of business, Confidential Report by the Director of Environmental Services, to later in the meeting and would proceed to consider Any Other Business at this stage.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill – Director of Environmental Services

The Committee was advised that DAERA had issued a consultation document in respect of the Northern Ireland Climate Change Bill with a closing date for response of 1<sup>st</sup> February 2021. It was agreed that any Member wishing to respond to the consultation should forward their comments to the Head of Service (Building Control) by 22 January 2021 for these to be included in the Council's response. It was also noted that the response submitted by the Council would be brought back to Committee for retrospective approval.

5.2 Consultation re Speed Limits at the Cutts HRC – the Chairman, Councillor N Anderson

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, advised that a consultation exercise was being organised regarding speed limits around the location at the Cutts HRC area and Members might wish to comment on the matter.

5.3 Removal of Graffiti – The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, referred to the Council's measures to remove or cover up offensive graffiti. He stated however that general graffiti was having a detrimental impact on businesses and charities in the Council area and asked that a report be brought back to Committee covering what measures, if any, could be put in place to assist in this regard.

5.4 Provision of Kerbie Boxes – Alderman M Henderson

In response to a query by Alderman M Henderson, the Director of Environmental Services advised that, apart from the roll out of kerbie boxes within the Kerbside Pilot Scheme, no further kerbie box provision was planned.

(Councillor A Swan joined the meeting at 6.10 pm)

5.5 Attendance of Members in the Chamber – Councillor M Gregg

Councillor M Gregg expressed disappointment at the number of Members who were attending in the Chamber rather than joining the meeting remotely. The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, ruled that the Committee was fully in accord with the guidance issued by the NI Executive in its attendance at and management of meetings.

5.6 Bryson House Collections – Councillor M Gregg

Councillor M Gregg referred to issues arising in respect of Bryson House collections and asked if these could be addressed with Bryson House. Other Members advised that similar issues had been raised with them by residents. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, thanked officers for dealing promptly with an issue he had raised on New Year's Eve regarding a Bryson House collection. The Director of Environmental Services advised that routine client contract meetings were held with Bryson House and she would ensure these matters were addressed at the next such meeting.

#### 5.7 Mullaghglass Landfill Site – Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Eastwood referred to the continuing bad odour emanating from the Mullaghglass landfill site and stated that it had been particularly bad over the Christmas period. She enquired as to what action had been taken by NIEA and whether a closure date was in sight. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, agreed with the comments made by Councillor Eastwood and also referred to bad odour arising in Seymour Hill and at the Montupet site. The Head of Service (Environmental Health) undertake to provide an update report on both these matters directly to Members.

#### 5.8 Biodiversity and Engagement with Children – Councillor S Eastwood

In response to a query by Councillor S Eastwood as to how the Council could engage with biodiversity and environmental issues with children, the Director of Environmental Services advised that the biodiversity action plan was dealt with primarily by the Parks and Amenities unit. She undertook to liaise with the Head of Service (Parks and Amenities) to investigate any further initiatives that could be introduced or added to this plan. The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, also suggested that we could look at some opportunities for online learning/competition regarding environmental issues.

#### 5.9 Dog Control Issues at Hillsborough Forest Park – The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, referred to dog control issues arising at Hillsborough Forest Park. She stated that the park was particularly busy during lockdown and issues were arising at peak periods including dog fouling and dogs being allowed to run about off leash and knocking down children. The Director of Environmental Services advised that she would ask the Head of Service (Environmental Health) to contact the Deputy Mayor directly to discuss these issues.

#### 5.10 Thanks to Officers

Councillor AP Ewing thanks the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) for dealing with an issue arising regarding a missing bin during the Christmas holiday period. The Vice-Chairman, Councillor R McLarnon, also thanked officers for dealing promptly with an issue of offensive graffiti. The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, wished to record his thanks to all the officers for their continuing delivery of services particularly over Christmas.

5.11 Retirement of Member Services Officer

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, advised the Committee of the retirement of the Member Services Officer who was attending this, her last meeting. He thanked the officer for her support and wished her well in the future.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the following matters be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public.

6. Confidential Report by the Director of Environmental Services

The Chairman advised that the reasons for confidentiality were as set out in the agenda, i.e.:-

6.1 Draft Estimates 2021/2022

[Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)]

6.2 arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project Update

[Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)]

6.3 Staff Parking for NHS staff in Laganbank Off-Street Car Park

[Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)]

It was agreed that the confidential reports and recommendations of the Acting Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:

6.1 Draft Estimates 2021/2022

The Committee was provided with copy of the 2021/22 estimates in respect of the Environmental Services Directorate which included the following:

- Estimates summary report including payroll, non-payroll and income for each service unit with the ES Directorate; estimates report by location code for the ES Directorate; and estimates overall detail report for the Environmental Services Directorate
- Detailed narrative report by way of background for the overall proposed budget for the ES Directorate.
- R&R listing and draft capital programme listing for ES Directorate

The Director of Environmental Services and the Heads of Service provided clarification regarding a number of issues raised by Members arising from the estimates.

It was proposed by Alderman SP Porter, seconded by Councillor S Lowry, and agreed to recommend that Council approve the draft estimates as presented for the Environmental Services Directorate

6.2 arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project Update

The Committee was provided with copy and noted an update report providing an overview of the need for the arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project and the planning process to date.

6.3 Staff Parking for NHS staff in Laganbank Off-Street Car Park

The Committee was provided with copy of a report outlining options for car parking for NHS staff in Laganbank off-street car park together with copy of the equality screening document. A further update report had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by, Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that Council agree to progress option 4 as outlined in the report in partnership with the Health Service. It was also agreed to record thanks to officers for their efforts in progressing this matter.

Additional Confidential Item

6.4 Affordable Warmth Scheme

The Head of Service (Building Control) advised that the Department for Communities had issued a SLA agreement for the Affordable Warmth Scheme covering the last 3 months of 2020/2021. He advised that the Department had requested a signed Council copy by 15 January 2021. He also advised that the agreement was in line with that which had previously been in place.

It was agreed to recommend that Council approve the agreement and authorise the Chief Executive to sign it on behalf of the Council.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by the Vice-Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 7.05 pm.

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Mayor/Chairman