

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, and remotely, on Wednesday 7th December 2022 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Councillor C McCready (Vice-Chairman)
Alderman J Baird and S P Porter
Councillors A P Ewing, A Givan and S Lee

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman D Drysdale
Councillors F Cole, S Lowry, A McIntyre, R McLernon and S Skillen

OTHER MEMBERS:

In Remote Location:
Councillor A Gowan

IN ATTENDANCE:

In Chamber:
Director of Environmental Services
Head of Service (Building Control)
Head of Service (Environmental Health)
Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)
Business Support Manager (DI)
IT Officer
Member Services Officers (CH CA)

In Remote Location
Environmental Health Managers (SP BT RL SC)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor C McCready, welcomed those present to the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee, including those who were seated in the public gallery. The Vice-Chairman advised that the meeting would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

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

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor C McCreedy, stated that, whilst the meeting was being recorded, 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. The Director of Environmental Services proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies (00:02:21)

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor S Carson, Deputy Mayor Councillor M Guy and Chairman, Councillor M Gregg.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:02:42)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Report by the Director of Environmental Services (00:02:53)

3.1 Environmental Services Performance Report (00:03:03)

The Director outlined the principal aspects of the above-mentioned report, together with the details contained within a table of key performance indicators, which gave an overview of the Department's performance, budget summary and changes in the risk dashboard during quarter two of the financial year 2022/2023.

Officers responded to a number of questions from the Committee arising from the report.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor S Lee, and agreed that the Committee note:

- the Q2 Environmental Services Budget Summary Reports covering the period 1st July 2022 to 30th September 2022;
- the outturn of operational metrics/service KPIs for Q2, 1st July to 30th September 2022;
- the outturn of Performance Improvement KPI for Q2, 1st July to 30th September 2022; and
- the Environmental Services Directorate Risk Dashboard.

4. Report by the Head of Service (Building Control) (00:15:24)

4.1 Street Naming – Off Mealough Road, Carryduff (00:15:31)

The Head of Service (Building Control) reported that Lagan Homes (NI) Ltd. had proposed names (first and second preference), as set out in his report, for a development of 34 dwellings situated off the Mealough Road, Carryduff as part of a phased development of 350 dwellings.

Members were provided with a copy of the development layout.

4.1 Street Naming – Off Mealough Road, Carryduff Cont'd

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor S Lee, and agreed to recommend that the name Mealough Drive be allocated to the proposed development of 34 dwellings off the Mealough Road, Carryduff.

5. Report by the Head of Service (Environmental Health) (00:16:19)

5.1 Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison – Investigation into Work Related Deaths (00:16:28)

The Head of Service's (Environmental Health) report outlined the background and key aspects of the revised Investigation of Work-Related Deaths - Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison. It was reported that the new revision aimed to bring the original document, which was signed in 2007, up-to-date. A copy of the revised agreement had previously been circulated to Members.

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman P Porter, and agreed to recommend that the Investigation of Work-Related Deaths - Northern Ireland Agreement for Liaison be signed.

5.2 Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (NI) 1993 (00:18:27)

The Committee considered a report which provided information in connection with a public consultation launched by The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland which contained proposals on amendments to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 (S.R. 1993 No.20). It was reported that, currently, employers only have a duty to their 'employees' in respect to PPE – changes to the legislation would ensure that this duty also extend to 'limb (b)' workers.

Members were provided with a copy of the draft response to be submitted on behalf of the Council in support of the proposed change to the legislation.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman P Porter, and agreed to recommend that the Council's response in relation to the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 consultation be approved.

5.3 Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Year 1 (2022/23) Business Plan (00:23:15)

The Committee considered a report which provided information in connection with a public consultation undertaken by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) in relation to the NIHE Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Year 1 (2022/23) Business Plan.

Members were provided with a copy of the draft response to be submitted on behalf of the Council.

5.3 Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) Draft Corporate Plan 2022/23 – 2024/25 and Year 1 (2022/23) Business Plan Cont'd

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the Council's response in relation to the NIHE Corporate Plan 2023-2028, to be submitted prior to the deadline of 14th December, be approved.

5.4 Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) Consultation (00:24:24)

The Committee considered a report which provided key information in connection with a public consultation from the Department of Justice in relation to the Minimum Age of Responsibility (MACR). It was reported that the Department for Justice wished to increase the MACR from ten years to fourteen years to bring Northern Ireland into line with international standards.

Members were provided with a copy of the draft response which was proposed to be submitted on behalf of the Council, the main recommendation in respect of which being that the Council support the increase in the MACR from ten years to between twelve and fourteen years.

Following a number of comments by Members of the Committee, it was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman P Porter, and agreed to recommend that;

- a) the report in respect of the MACR consultation be noted;
- b) a corporate response to the consultation would not be submitted on behalf of the Council; and
- c) the MACR consultation be referred to Party Group Leaders and Independent Members to submit individual responses, noting the deadline of 23rd December 2022.

5.5 Toilet Provision in LCCC Area (00:47:35)

The Head of Service (Environmental Health) provided an update and outlined the next steps in relation to public toilet provision in the Council area. The findings of the feasibility study together with maps identifying Council and non-Council toilets available to the public within the Council area were circulated to Members.

The Head of Service responded to a number of comments and questions from the Committee arising from the report.

It was proposed by Alderman P Porter, seconded by Councillor S Lee, and agreed to recommend that the recommendations of the Head of Service be approved, namely;

- a) the report in respect of public toilet provision be noted;
- b) that the Committee agrees that no additional provision be progressed at this time and that appropriate signage be erected to promote public awareness, including walking time to the various locations;

5.5 Toilet Provision in LCCC Area Cont'd

- c) in line with the Council's Digital First preference, the locations and opening times of public toilets to appear not only on the Council's website but also through a general Google search be approved;

In addition, officers undertook to examine the feasibility of the following suggestions which were made during discussion:

- that the Council engage with AccessAble (previously named DisabledGo) with the view to adding the locations and opening times of the public toilets within the Council area to their website;
- that additional/enhanced public toilet provision in a suitable Lisburn City Centre location be referred to the Development Committee for future consideration under the City Centre Master Development Plan;
- that signage to promote public awareness would include the message "Not Every Disability is Visible";
- to carry out an audit of the digital information circulated to ensure it includes where accessible toilets were located;
- that Council area toilet provision information be included in the Council's City Wide publication for non-digital users.

5.6 Lisburn Area Renewals (LAR) – Translink Request to Lease an Area of Benson Street Off-Street Car Park (01:12:00)

The Committee considered a report outlining a previous request from Translink for use of an area of Benson Street Off Street Car Park as a compound for the storage of equipment during the track renewal project works. It was reported that the project, which had commenced in November 2022, would extend into spring 2024, and that whilst the capacity of Benson Street Car Park would be reduced, displacement of existing users was not considered to be of a significant scale. Such use of Council land required a licence to be issued for the term of use.

(At this juncture of the meeting, the Committee agreed to adjourn discussion in the matter and that it would be considered further under confidential business – item 7.2 refers).

5.7 Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (NI) (01:25:45)

The Head of Service's (Environmental Health) report provided information in connection with a public consultation launched by The Food Standards Agency for Northern Ireland, which contained proposals on changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland), to support the implementation of the new Foods Standards delivery model.

5.7 Consultation on Proposed Changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (NI)
Cont'd

Members were provided with a copy of the draft response to be submitted on behalf of the Council, in support of the proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice.

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor S Lee, and agreed to recommend that the Council response in relation to the consultation on proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) be approved.

6. Any Other Business

There were no matters raised at this point in the meeting.

7. Confidential Report from the Director of Environmental Health Services
(01:26:37)

The Vice-Chairman, Councillor C McCreedy, advised that the confidential report item would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Alderman P Porter, seconded by Alderman D Drysdale, and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The member of the press seated in the public gallery left the meeting (7.15 pm).

7.1 Estimates Process Update
(Report will not be made available)

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting remotely at 7.38 pm.

Councillor S Lee left the meeting at 8.10 pm and returned at 8.13 pm.

Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 8.28 pm and returned at 8.31 pm.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor S Lee, and agreed to recommend:

- that the progress on the estimates process for 2023/2024 be noted;
- the Committee agreed to the options as outlined within the report to be applied to the final of the 2023/24 estimates.

7.2 Lisburn Area Renewals (LAR) – Translink Request to Lease an Area of Benson Street Off-Street Car Park

(Further to item 5.6 the Committee resumed discussion in this matter).

In response to a number of comments and questions from the Committee arising from the report the Director undertook to provide clarification in this regard and that the Head of Service (Environmental Health) would report back to committee.

8. Confidential Any Other Business

8.1 Mullaghaglass Odour Complaints

The Head of Service for Environmental Health provided a verbal update and the Committee agreed that further updates in relation to the above matter would no longer be required.

8.2 Waste Collection Proposal

The Head of Service for Waste and Operational Services provided a verbal update in relation to the Full Business case for the Kerbside Model.

The following dates were agreed by the Committee:

- All Members Workshop–Thursday 12th January 2023
- Special Council Meeting to consider Full Business Case–Wednesday 18th January 2023.

8.3 Current Tender Rate Variation: Driver Training

The Committee noted the Directors confirmation in relation to the above mentioned matter.

Resumption of Normal Business (01:26:58)

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

9. Any Other Business (01:27:03)

9.1 Holiday Waste Collection Dates (01:27:03)

In response to a question raised by Councillor S Lee, the Head of Waste Management and Operational Services reported that holiday collection dates were posted in the Item for Noting Schedule for Members information, it was agreed that this information would be re-circulated to Members.

9. Any Other Business Cont'd

9.2 Mallusk Waste Facility Update (01:27:40)

Alderman D Drysdale provided the Committee with an update in relation to the planning application of the Mallusk Waste Facility. He reported that the Minister had turned down the planning application and that the matter was expected to go through a Judicial Review in April 2023.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 9.08 pm.

Mayor/Chairman