

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, and in remote locations on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025 at 6.00 pm.****PRESENT IN CHAMBER  
(COMMITTEE):**

Councillor P Catney (Chair)

Councillor G Hynds (Vice-Chair)

Aldermen J Baird, O Gawith, A McIntyre and  
J TinsleyCouncillors S Burns, G McCleave, C McCready,  
M McKeever, R McLernon and N Parker**PRESENT IN REMOTE  
LOCATION (COMMITTEE):**

Alderman S Skillen

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Acting Director of Environmental Services (RH)

Head of Service (Building Control &amp; Sustainability) (CD)

Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational  
Services) (WM)Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk &  
Emergency Planning) (SC)

Member Services Officer (RN &amp; EW)

The Chairperson, Councillor P Catney, welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business. He stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders, and asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting.

In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chairperson asked those attending via zoom to ensure that the meeting could not be seen or heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered. He also asked that they keep their camera on so that the attendees in the Chamber could see those persons attending on a remote basis. Finally, the Chairperson proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Apologies**

An apology for non-attendance at the meeting was accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor J Bamford.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

The following Declaration of Interest was made:-

- Alderman J Baird. Item 4.1 of report of Acting Head of Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning – “Contracts in connection with Landlord Registration Scheme NI”. One property let out. Pecuniary Interest. Left meeting for duration of item.

## 3. Report by Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability)

### 3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE) Consultation on the Increased Socialisation of Connection Costs in the Electricity Distribution Network (Closing date: 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025)

The above consultation is available at Increased Socialisation of Connection Costs in the Electricity Distribution Network | Department for the Economy.

A copy of a draft response had been provided and the Head of Service responded to Members' questions.

It was proposed by Councillor G Hynds, seconded by Councillor C McCready and agreed to recommend that:-

- the draft response be accepted as the Council's response to the above consultation and be submitted to the Department for the Economy by the stipulated closing date of the 24<sup>th</sup> April 2025;
- the Department for the Economy be advised that - as the response would be subject to Council ratification at its meeting to be held on the 29<sup>th</sup> April 2025, any further comments made by the Council at that meeting would be submitted to the DfE as part of the Council's response.

## 4. Report by Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning)

### 4.1 Appointment of a Public Analyst

It was agreed to recommend that the appointment of Eurofins Food Testing Ireland as Public Analysts to the Council under Article 27 (1) of the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991 be noted.

The above procurement had been carried out by Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council on behalf of the 11 Northern Ireland Councils. Officers from Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council had reviewed the documentation for their own satisfaction and were content with the tender process and the contract awarded.

Alderman J Baird left the Chamber during the presentation of this item. (6.10 pm)

#### 4.2 Contracts in connection with Landlord Registration Scheme NI

The Acting Head of Service provided an update on the Landlord Registration Scheme which had transferred from the Department for Communities to the Council on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025. The Acting Head of Service also responded to Members' questions.

The Committee noted that the undernoted contracts would be managed by the Landlord Registration Team within the Council, with all costs being covered from the associated fees:-

- Landlord Advice Helpline;
- Housing Mediation Service;
- Call Centre.

#### 4.3 Food Standard Agency Consultation on the Proposed Amendments to the Food Law Code of Practice and Practice Guidance (NI) (Closing date: 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025)

The Acting Head of Service outlined the key proposals contained within the above consultation.

A draft response would be circulated to Members in advance of the May 2025 meeting of Committee, with the final draft response being presented to that meeting for consideration and agreement. The text for the "Finance and Resource Implications" of the report had been omitted. The Acting Head of Service confirmed that there were no such implications.

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor R McLernon and agreed to recommend that the Council delegate authority to the May 2025 meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Committee to consider and approve a response to the above consultation, thereby allowing the response to be submitted to the Food Standards Agency by the stipulated closing date of the 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

### 5. Any Other Business

#### 5.1 Safeguarding Working Group – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2024 Councillor M McKeever

Councillor M McKeever referred to the item related to the Safeguarding Working Group which had been contained in the April 2025 Information & Correspondence Schedule.

The Acting Director of Environmental Services confirmed that Policy No 17 referred to therein and entitled "Draft Safeguarding Requirements for Council Funding Procedure" was in fact a new policy and was under consideration.

Alderman J Baird returned to the Chamber during this item. (6.20 pm)

5.2 Drinking Water Refill Stations at Council facilities  
Councillor N Parker

In response to comments from Councillor N Parker, the Acting Director of Environmental Services advised that two further water refill stations had been installed and that other locations were being investigated. Report to committee in due course.

5.3 Dromore Road/Dromara Road, Hillsborough – Accumulation of Litter  
Councillor C McCready

Councillor C McCready drew attention to an accumulation of litter at the junction of the Dromore Road/Dromara Road, Hillsborough. The Officers noted this for appropriate action.

5.4 Cemetery Provision  
Councillor C McCready

Councillor C McCready thanked the Acting Head of Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning for the information on cemetery provision which he had received further to a request at the previous meeting.

The Acting Head of Service explained how a number of additional plots could be provided at Blaris Cemetery, ie space at the end of rows or space resulting from the removal of vegetation.

A report on burial plots would be presented to the May 2025 meeting of Committee.

5.5 Report about Refuse Collection Vehicles  
Councillor C McCready

In response to comments from Councillor C McCready, the Acting Director of Environmental Services advised that a report on the above matter would be presented to the May 2025 meeting of Committee.

5.6 Bag Disposal Points  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds thanked the Acting Head of Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning for additional and upgraded bin provision in Milltown, Low Road and Hilden.

Councillor Hynds also referred to bag disposal points and to the fact that these were welcomed by residents. Councillor Hynds sought an assurance that the provision of such bag disposal points would continue to be progressed. The Acting Head of Service confirmed this to be the case if the need arose.

5.7 Recycling Provision in Dundonald  
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen enquired about the “Bring Bank” facility which had previously been in place at Dundonald International Ice Bowl. The removal of the “Bring Bank” had resulted in an alleged increase in dumping. Alderman Skillen asked that an alternative location be investigated as a matter of urgency.

Alderman Skillen understood that the Director of Regeneration & Growth was organising a meeting regarding the identification of a site for the location of a Household Recycling Centre in Dundonald. Alderman Skillen asked that the Elected Members for the area be kept informed and that a report be made to Committee as a matter of urgency. The Acting Director of Environmental Services advised of the intention to hold an on-line briefing the following week with the Elected Members for the area so as to progress the relocation of the “Bring Bank” site.

5.8 Outstanding Advice  
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen referred to two outstanding items of advice which she was outstanding from a recent Council briefing regarding a stray dog and asked that these be expedited. The Acting Director of Environmental Services was aware of this request.

5.9 Stoneyford Reservoir – Provision of Litter Bins  
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley referred to the need for litter bin provision at Stoneyford Reservoir as this was a location used by walkers. This matter had been raised at the NI Water consultative meeting on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

The Acting Director of Environmental Services confirmed that he was happy for officers to investigate this matter with NI Water.

5.10 The Cutts Household Recycling Centre  
Councillor G McCleave

Councillor G McCleave referred to the back-up of traffic into The Cutts Household Recycling Centre which was causing traffic management problems in that area and asked that the front gates to that location and also the internal barrier be opened as early as possible in the morning.

The Head of Waste Management & Operational Services advised that the gates and barrier could not be opened until the external contractors had completed their tasks in the Centre. The back-up of traffic outside the Centre had had been passed to the PSNI but the Head of Service would ask that it be looked at again.

5.11 Outstanding Advice  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds concurred with Alderman S Skillen in that he too was awaiting the sight of two items of advice both from a recent Council briefing and also from two months' previous. It was the sight of such items that Councillor Hynds had requested and not just clarification on their content. Councillor Hynds considered that it was not acceptable that he should have to wait on the sight of these documents for such a length of time when the documents in question were in fact available. The non-provision of the correspondence had prevented Councillor Hynds from making a proposal on this matter.

These comments were noted and responded to by the Acting Director of Environmental Services.

6. Any Other Business (Confidential)

No items of a confidential nature were raised.

The Chair, Councillor P Catney, thanked those present for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 6.35 pm.

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Chairperson