

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 4th December 2024 at 5.00 pm.****PRESENT IN CHAMBER
(COMMITTEE):**

Alderman J Baird (Acting Chair)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Aldermen O Gawith, A McIntyre and J Tinsley

Councillors S Burns, C McCready, M McKeever, R McLernon
and N Parker**PRESENT IN REMOTE
LOCATION
(COMMITTEE):**

Councillor G Hynds (Vice-Chair)

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor G McCleave

**OTHER MEMBERS OF
COUNCIL PRESENT IN
REMOTE LOCATION:**

Aldermen M Gregg and A Grehan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
 Acting Director of Environmental Services (RH)
 Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability) (CD)
 Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational
 Services) (WM)
 Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk &
 Emergency Planning) (SC)
 Business Support Manager (DI)
 Member Services Officer (CA & RN)

At the outset of the meeting, the Acting Director of Environmental Services outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Chair of Meeting

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor P Catney, had presented an apology for non-attendance at the meeting. The Vice-Chair, Councillor G Hynds, was attending the meeting but on a remote basis. However Councillor Hynds had agreed that – given the logistics of chairing the meeting from a remote location – a Chair should be appointed from those Members present in the Chamber.

Chair of Meeting (Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor G Hynds (Vice-Chair), seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that Alderman J Baird be elected Acting Chair for the meeting.

Alderman Baird took the Chair and conducted the business of the meeting.

Housekeeping Announcements

The Acting Chair, Alderman J Baird, welcomed all 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.

The Acting Chair stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Acting Chair 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 Acting Chair asked that those attending via zoom ensure that the meeting could neither be seen nor heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered.

The Chief Executive entered the Chamber. (5.05 pm)

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor P Catney (Chair of Committee); and Councillors A Gowan and P Kennedy.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

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

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE)
Consultation on the Design Plans for Roll-Out of Smart Electricity Meters
(Closing date: 12th December 2024)

The above consultation is available at [Design plan for the roll-out of smart electricity meters | Department for the Economy](#).

Members' comments on the consultation had been invited at the November 2024 meeting of the Committee. A copy of a draft response incorporating any comments received from Members was provided.

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE)
Consultation on the Design Plans for Roll-Out of Smart Electricity Meters
(Closing date: 12th December 2024) (Continued)

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that:-

- the draft response be accepted as the Council's response to the above consultation;
- in line with the authority delegated by the Council on the 26th November 2024, the response be submitted to the Department for the Economy by the stipulated closing date of the 12th December 2024.

Alderman A Grehan joined the meeting on a remote basis during discussion of this item. (5.09 pm)

3.2 Department for the Economy
Consultation on Support for Low-Carbon Heating in the Residential Sector
(Closing date: 31st December 2024)

The above consultation is available at [Support for low carbon heat in the residential sector | Department for the Economy](#).

Members' comments on the consultation had been invited via the November 2024 Information & Correspondence Schedule. A draft response incorporating any comments received from Members was provided.

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor M McKeever and agreed 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 31st December 2024.

3.3 Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Consultation – Establishment of a Just Transition Commission
(Closing date: 13th January 2025)

The above consultation is available at [Consultation on the establishment of a Just Transition Commission | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#).

Members were invited to submit any comments they might wish to make to the Head of Service by the 16th December 2024.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor R McLernon and agreed to recommend that:-

- any comments which Members might wish to have included in the draft response to the above consultation be submitted to the Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability) by the 16th December 2024;

3.3 Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Consultation – Establishment of a Just Transition Commission
(Closing date: 13th January 2025) (Continued)

- at its meeting to be held on the 17th December 2024, the Council be asked to delegate authority to the January 2025 meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Committee to agree the draft response for submission to DAERA by the stipulated closing date of the 13th January 2025.

4. Report by Head of Waste Management & Operations

4.1 Eco Schools Programme – Request for Financial Support 2025/2026

The Eco Schools Programme in Northern Ireland is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB).

Copy of a letter dated the 15th November 2024 from KNIB regarding the funding of the Eco Schools Programme for 2025/2026 had been provided. The Head of Service reported extensively on this request and detailed two options that could be presented to KNIB to address their funding request.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor R McLernon and agreed to recommend that:-

- the funding proposal at a maximum of £10,942.00 be put to “Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful” (KNIB) for the Eco Schools Programme 2025/2026, such a proposal to include the benefits of the Option 1 proposal including the Wheelie Big Challenge, and also that the costs of the Awards Ceremony - £4,000.00 - are covered by this higher level of funding;
- in the event of KNIB being unable to deliver the proposal as referred to above, the Council funding offering automatically default to its Option 2 at a contribution of £2,975.00 (no Wheelie Bin Challenge and the Council meeting the costs of the Awards Ceremony itself).

In addition to the letter referred to above, the following documentation from KNIB had been provided:-

- “Wheelie Big Challenge” proposal for 2025/2026;
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council – Impact Cards for 2023/2024;
- Northern Ireland – Impact Cards for 2023/2024.

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

5.1 Safeguarding Position Report 2023/2024

It was agreed to recommend that the Safeguarding Position Report for 2023/2024 be noted, the focus thereof being incident reporting to the statutory agencies, namely the Health & Social Care Trusts and the PSNI.

The Acting Head of Service pointed out that whilst there was no requirement for a position report for Child Protection, this was reported similarly due to its importance.

Alderman J Tinsley sought a breakdown by location of the number of concerns reported to the Council in 2023/2024. The Acting Head of Service agreed to provide this.

Councillor M McKeever asked to have placed on record his appreciation of the good work that was being done by the Officers in regard to Safeguarding and also for certain information and clarification which he had received recently from the Designated Officers. Councillor McKeever suggested that information on training be included in the report. The Acting Head of Service advised that whilst actual training numbers were changing on an ongoing basis, a general comment on training could be included in the report. The Head of Service would also provide Councillor McKeever with the number of persons being trained and at which level that training was.

6. Any Other Business
(Agenda Item 7 refers)

6.1 Storm Bert - Thanks to staff in relation to water damage/flooding
Councillor S Burns

Councillor S Burns thanked the Acting Director and the Acting Head of Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning and their teams for the assistance provided both at the time and ongoing in relation to the aftermath of flooding in Dundonald caused by Storm Bert over the weekend of the 23rd - 24th November 2024.

6.2 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful - "Live Here, Love Here" initiative
Alderman A McIntyre

Alderman A McIntyre referred to Item 3 of the December 2024 Information & Correspondence Schedule entitled "Live Here, Love Here".

Alderman McIntyre expressed his support for this initiative and sought clarity on the Council's funding contribution. The Acting Director responded accordingly.

6.3 Bracken Hill Park, Belfast – Bin Collection
Councillor M McKeever

Councillor M McKeever referred to bin collections at Bracken Hill Park, Belfast which were being overlooked.

The Head of Waste Management & Operations confirmed that his team, together with the Building Control Unit, were dealing with this issue so as have a satisfactory outcome. Road signage in this vicinity appeared to be confusing the matter of access.

7. Confidential Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services
(Agenda Item 6 refers)

The Acting Chair, Alderman J Baird, advised that the confidential report would be dealt with “in Committee” with all items therein 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 Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor N Parker and agreed that the following items be considered “in Committee” in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The persons seated in the Public Gallery and in the Press area left the Council Chamber. (5.26 pm).

Receipt of Confidential Reports

Before consideration of the confidential reports, Councillor N Parker expressed concern that the three confidential reports (and their appendices) had only become available late the previous day. This – Councillor Parker stated – gave insufficient time for Members to consider the reports in advance of the meeting.

With particular reference to the Estimates’ item, Councillor Parker stated that her political party – the Alliance Party – could not be part of any decision and would request that the information contained therein be presented in a more meaningful way as had been the case in December 2023.

The Acting Director apologised for the lateness of the reports and explained that a contributory factor to this had been in awaiting the tender report from Arc21 (item 3 of confidential report refers). The information in that tender report bore influence on the Estimates’ report.

7.1 Cemeteries Management Information System

(Redacted report and redacted appendices following Council ratification.)

Presented by the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning).

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Outline Business case for Cemeteries Management Information System;
- Single Tender Action Report;
- Equality & Good Relations Screening;
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

The Acting Director and the Acting Head of Service responded to Members' questions.

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy and agreed to recommend that the Outline Business Case for the procurement of a maintenance contract for the Management Information System for Cemeteries Administration be approved and that the procurement thereof be also approved.

Alderman M Gregg joined the meeting on a remote basis during this item of business. (5.31 pm)

7.2 Estimates 2025/2026

(Report will never become available. Final estimates will be released.)

The Acting Director again apologised for the lateness of the confidential reports and again explained that a contributory factor to this had been awaiting the tender report from Arc21 (item 3 of confidential report refers) which would impact on the Estimates' report. The Acting Director also noted the request that the format of the figures being presented in January 2025 should mirror the format as that presented in December 2023 for the 2024/2025 Estimates.

The report on the draft Estimates was presented by the Acting Director of Environmental Services.

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Draft Estimates 2025/2026 for Environment Services
- Year-end budget report 2023/2024 for Environmental Services.

Members' questions were responded to by the Chief Executive and the Acting Director.

7.2 Estimates 2025/2026 (Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that:-

- the progress report on the Environmental Services' draft estimates for 2025/2026 be noted;
- the draft estimates 2025/2026 for the Environmental Services Directorate be noted for formal presentation to the Committee in January 2025 in the revised format which would allow for more meaningful understanding and comparison.

7.3 ARC21 Residual Treatment Tender

(Redacted report post commencement of contract.)

Presented by the Acting Director of Environmental Services.

In addition to the narrative report, a tender report received from ARC21 in regard to the above tender had been provided.

The Acting Director and the Head of Waste Management & Operations responded to Members' questions.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed to recommend that - subject to the approval of (i) the ARC21 Committee; (ii) Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council; and (iii) to the satisfaction of the pre-award conditions - the contract procured under Lot 3 (Contract F of the Dynamic Purchasing System) for the Supply and Services relating to the Treatment and Energy Recovery/Disposal of Residual Waste Arisings be awarded to the firm as set out in the Acting Director's report.

The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, and Councillor N Parker left the Chamber during discussion of this item. (6.05 pm and 6.22 pm respectively)

8. Any Other Business (Confidential)

No items of a confidential nature were raised.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor R McLernon, seconded by Councillor C McCready and agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

After the Acting Chair, Alderman J Baird, had wished all present a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year, the meeting concluded at 6.26 pm.

Chairperson