

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, and remotely, on Wednesday 7 February 2024 at 6pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor C McCready (Chairperson)

Councillor R Carlin (Vice-Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird, M Gregg, O Gawith and J Tinsley

Councillors S Burns, G Hynds, P Kennedy, M McKeever and N Parker

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave

Councillors J Lavery BEM and A McIntyre

IN ATTENDANCE:**In Chamber:**

Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability) (CD)

Acting Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) (JK)

Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) (SC)

Member Services Officers

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, welcomed those present to the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee. The Chairperson 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 Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, 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.

In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chairperson asked that 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.

The Acting Head of Service for Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies (00:02:58)

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, Alderman S Skillen, Councillor P Catney, Councillor R McLernon and the Acting Director of Environmental Services, Mr Richard Harvey.

The Chairperson, Councillor C McCreedy gave condolences to Alderman S Skillen, with thoughts and prayers of the Committee being with her and her family on the sad passing of her mother Aileen.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:03:30)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Report by the Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability) (00:03:40)3.1 Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies – Publication of ‘Summary of Responses’ to the Consultation and ‘Next Steps’ (00:03:49)

The Head of Service for Building Control and Sustainability set out in his report information in connection with the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Summary of Responses to the consultation on ‘Climate Change Reporting by Specified Public Bodies – Developing New Regulations’.

It was reported that the Councils response to the original consultation was approved through the Committee in June 2023. Members were provided with a link to the Department website to view the ‘Summary of Responses’ and ‘Next Steps’ Report and a link to view the Climate Change Act (NI) 2022.

The Committee agreed that the DAERA Publication of ‘Summary of Responses’ to the Consultation and ‘Next Steps’ be noted.

4. Report by the Acting Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) (00:05:38)4.1 Consultation on Reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (00:05:48)

Councillor R Carlin entered the meeting (6.06 pm).

The Committee considered a report which provided information in connection with a consultation and Call for Evidence on reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), which had been issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on 28 December 2023.

4.1 Consultation on Reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Cont'd

The Committee were provided with a link to access the full consultation document for Members consideration. Members noted that as the consultation closing date was 7 March 2024, there would not be time for any agreed response to be ratified at Full Council on 26 March 2024.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that:

- Members forward any comments for inclusion in the draft response to the Acting Head of Waste Management and Operational Services no later than Friday 16 February 2024; and
- delegated authority be approved for the March 2024 Environment and Sustainability Committee to agree the draft response for submission.

The Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

5. Any Other Business (Agenda item 6.0 refers) (00:10:42)

5.1 Street Cleansing Team Appreciation and Litter Issue
Councillor N Parker (00:10:48)

Councillor N Parker put on record her appreciation on the excellent service provided by Mr J Knox and the Street Cleansing Team for their recent work in an area which was heavily littered. The Chairperson, Councillor C McCready also reiterated his thanks on behalf of the Committee to Mr J Knox and the Street Cleansing Team.

Responding to a concern raised by Councillor N Parker on the increase of litter in the area, the Acting Head of Service for Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency planning advised that the service unit takes part in campaigns such as 'live here love here' and uses CCTV to identify offenders. Consideration would be given to additional posters in hot spot areas and promoted on social media.

5.2 Animal Welfare
Councillor G Hynds (00:13:20)

Responding to a query raised by Councillor G Hynds, in relation to Animal Welfare Funding in light of the Executive being operational; the Acting Head of Service for Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning advised that a date in May had been confirmed for the JR to be heard and if communication was not received by DAERA before May then the Council would proceed with the case.

6. Confidential Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services (Agenda item 5.0 refers) (00:15:26)

The Chairperson, Councillor C McCreedy advised that the confidential report items 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 Councillor M McKeever, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, 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 (6.17 pm).

6.1 arc21 Procurement of Waste Transfer, Bulking & Haulage (Agenda item 5.1 refers) (Report will never be made available)

The Acting Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services presented this item of business.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor P Kennedy, and agreed to recommend that delegated authority for the March 2024 Environment and Sustainability Committee be approved, to consider and agree recommendations relating to procurement of waste transfer, bulking & haulage, by arc21 on behalf of the Council.

6.2 Strategic Waste Collaboration (Agenda item 5.2 refers) (Report will never be made available)

The Acting Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services presented this item of business. During lengthy discussion Officers responded to a number of comments and questions from the Committee arising from the report.

Councillor G Hynds put on record that he would not be in a position to support the recommendation, as he felt that the post should be funded by Central Government. He further commented on the lateness of the report with it being received by Members only the day prior to the Committee meeting and felt that further information was required before the Committee could make a decision on the matter.

Further to discussion, it was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Vice-Chairperson, Councillor R Carlin, and agreed to recommend that:

- the annual payment as outlined in the report, towards the shared Waste Specialist Officer post, to be employed by the Strategic Investment Board (SIB) be approved; and
- an update report be tabled to a future Environment and Sustainability Committee in respect of the number of Councils committed to the project.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.49 pm.

Chairperson