

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Wednesday, 4 January, 2017 at 5:30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor J Baird (Chairman)

Aldermen M Henderson MBE, T Jeffers, S Martin, SP Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors A Givan, H Legge, A McIntyre, B Mallon, T Morrow and N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Environmental Services
Head of Service (Environmental Health)
Head of Service (Technical and Estates)
Head of Service (Operational Services)
Business Manager
Cleansing Services Manager
Member Services Officer

Councillors P Catney and M Tolerton

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the December meeting of the Environmental Services Committee.

1. **Apologies**

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R B Bloomfield MBE and Councillors J Gray MBE and R Walker.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman, Councillor J Baird, 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.

3. Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held on 7 December 2016

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor H Legge and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 7 December, 2016, as adopted at the meeting of Council held on 20 December, 2016, be confirmed and signed.

4. Report from the Director of Environmental Services

It was proposed by Alderman T Jeffers, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Director of Environmental Services be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Noting

4.1 Environmental Services Trading Accounts – Period 8

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, the Environmental Services trading accounts for Period 8.

4.2 Performance Improvement Audit 2015-2016

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, the Northern Ireland Audit Office's Performance Improvement Audit for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

4.3 Designation of Marine Conservation Zones

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, correspondence received from the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) in relation to Designation Orders for Marine Conservation Zones.

4.4 Alpha Programme

Members noted information on the Alpha Programme and were advised that 3 community and environmental regeneration projects in Lisburn were on track for a transformation for the local community and its visitors, thanks to the latest funding package from the successful Alpha Programme

The Director advised that, to date, 110 successful projects had already been awarded through the initiative, with local communities benefitting through a diverse range of programmes and she would continue to update Members on any further projects which successfully achieved funding through the Alpha Programme.

The Chairman, Councillor J Baird, indicated that the original 10-mile radius from Mullaghglass Landfill site, on the outskirts of Lisburn, had now been extended to a 15-mile radius.

In response to a query from Councillor T Morrow regarding an overview of the area covered by the 15-mile radius, it was agreed to recommend that the Director would table this information at the next Committee meeting.

4.5 Drinking Water Quality Report 2015

Members noted that the information provided in the Drinking Water Inspectorate NI's Drinking Water Quality Report 2015, published on 20 December 2016, and was available to view on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs website.

4.6 Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (NI) 2010 – Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Public Roads; Special Events

The Director recalled that at the December Environmental Services Committee meeting, it had been approved that a letter be sent to the Department for Infrastructure requesting deferment of the implementation of the powers relating to restriction of use of public roads: special events to beyond 1 April 2017.

The Director advised that, in the interim period, the Department for Infrastructure had further corresponded indicating that commencement of the powers had been deferred. She indicated that it was likely that the implementation date would come into effect later in the year, but she would notify Members as soon as this information became available.

Members noted the update in relation to the implementation of the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (NI) 2010 – Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Public Roads: Special Events.

4.7 Report from Head of Service (Operational Services)

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor T Morrow, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Operational Services) be adopted, subject to the decisions recorded below:

Items for Decision

4.7.1 Cemetery Rules and Regulations Amendment: Inclusion of Artificial Turf on Graves at Blaris New Cemetery extension

The Head of Service (Operational Services) recalled that, following an update at the December Environmental Services Committee meeting, Members were being asked to consider an amendment to the Council's Cemetery Rules and Regulations with regard to the use of artificial turf.

In response to a request for clarification from the Chairman, the Head of Service (OS) confirmed that the option would not be time bound at this stage, and would be reviewed as necessary.

Councillor M Tolerton wished to thank the Head of Service and Grounds Maintenance Manager for their progression of the matter and, in particular, their assistance to the two families concerned.

In response to a query from Councillor A Givan regarding the installation of the artificial turf, the Head of Service (OS) clarified the fitting arrangements, thereby creating no problems for maintenance.

In response to concerns raised regarding further potential non-compliant memorials, the Head of Service (OS) clarified that this amendment referred only to artificial turf. In respect of the approval and standard of fitting of any artificial turf, the Head of Service (OS) confirmed that the existing procedure for approving memorials/headstones/grave surrounds would be amended to include for the use of such turf.

Members were advised that further engagement, to be rolled out in the New Year, was being undertaken with other key stakeholders and Members would be further appraised. The aim of the engagement was clarified as to address raising awareness on the Cemetery Rules and Regulations and arrangements to ensure compliance with same.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor B Mallon and agreed to recommend to Council that the current Cemetery Rules and Regulations be amended to accommodate the addition of artificial turf on graves at Blaris New Cemetery.

Items for Noting

(The Deputy Mayor, Alderman S Anderson, entered the meeting at 5.40 pm).

4.7.2 Correspondence from the Department of Infrastructure: Adoption of Lands at Longstone Street, Lisburn

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to note the correspondence from the Department of Infrastructure in respect of the proposed adoption of lands at Longstone Street, Lisburn.

4.7.3 Correspondence from the Department of Infrastructure: Adoption of Lands at Green Park Road and Green Park Lane, Lisburn

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to note the correspondence from the Department of Infrastructure in respect of the proposed adoption of lands at Green Park Road and Green Park Lane, Lisburn.

4.8 Report by Head of Service (Technical and Estates)

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Technical and Estates) be adopted, subject to the decisions recorded below:

Items for Decision

4.8.1 Contamination Policy

Members were reminded that the Environmental Services Committee had previously endorsed the adoption of an Enforcement Protocol for all household wheeled bins (mixed dry recycling, organic and landfill) containing incorrect materials. It had been agreed that this protocol would include a graduated and incremental set of sanctions to be applied when contaminated bins were presented.

Members had further agreed an incremental set of sanctions and if householders were found to continue to place unsuitable items in their bin, these would be implemented on a graduated basis.

Members were furnished with the following information outlining how this protocol would be implemented:

- A copy of the Contamination Policy
- An overview of the time bound warning system
- The Contamination Enforcement Protocol

Members were advised that, at present, the timeframes were indicative, as project planning was still underway, however any delay in the issue of the initial information pack would result in a subsequent delay of the implementation of each stage of enforcement under the Contamination Policy. In addition, the policy would be screened to assess whether it was necessary to undergo an equality impact assessment.

In response to a query from Alderman T Jeffers, the Head of Service (T&E) confirmed that the Council's communication literature had been updated but he would further undertake to have new updated labels issued

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed to recommend to Council that the proposed implementation of the Contamination Policy, the time-bound warning implementation and the Contamination Enforcement Protocol, as detailed in the report, be approved.

4.8.2 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful "Cleaner Neighbourhoods" Conference – 7 March 2017 at Riddel Hall, Queens University School of Management, Belfast

Members were provided with information on the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful 'Cleaner Neighbourhoods' one-day conference on 7 March 2017 at Riddel Hall, Queens University School of Management, Belfast.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor H Legge and agreed to recommend that the Chairman and Vice Chairman, or their nominees, attend the above Conference, the estimated cost of a Members' attendance being £85.00 plus normal travel allowance.

Items for Noting

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman S Martin, and agreed that the following items (Items 4.8.3 to 4.8.6) be noted.

4.8.3 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Final NILAS Reconciliation

Members noted correspondence from the Northern Ireland Environment Agency providing details on the final Northern Ireland Landfill Allowances Scheme Reconciliation for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council for 2015/16 and were advised that the Council had landfilled 17,715 tonnes of biodegradable local authority collected municipal waste (BLACMW) equating to 87.79% utilisation of the allocated allowances available for the scheme year.

4.8.4 Little Black Dress Upcycling Textile Workshop

A Little Black Dress Upcycling Textile Workshop had taken place in the Arts Centre, Lagan Valley Island on 22 November 2016 during European Week for Waste Reduction, free of charge to local residents.

Members noted that the event had been featured in the local press and feedback on the Textile Workshop had been very positive, with several requests to have regular sessions in the future.

4.8.5 The Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Report for 2015-16

Members noted that the Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Report for 2015-16 was published on 1 December 2016 and available to view on the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) website.

4.8.6 Water Meters Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016

The Head of Service (T&E) recalled previous discussion regarding the Water Meters Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2016.

Members were reminded that Article 81 of the 2006 Order had imposed a duty on Northern Ireland Water to install water meters at all new domestic water connections and an outline of the 2016 order was detailed for Members.

Members noted that, following approval by the Assembly on 5 December 2016, the draft Regulations came into operation on 7 December 2016.

4.9 Report by Head of Service (Environmental Health)

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Environmental Health) be adopted, subject to the decisions recorded below:

Items for Decision

4.9.1 EC Approval of Food Premises

4.9.1.1 Application for Approval of McCulla Ireland Ltd under Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Members were advised of the requirement under the above Statute for premises who export products within the EU, to have a registered Approval number.

The premises detailed below applies to this legislation and is classified as a 'Standalone Coldstore':

- McCulla Ireland Ltd, Unit 5 and Unit 7 Blaris Industrial Estate, Old Hillsborough Road, Lisburn BT27 5QB

Members were further advised that, following a visit to the above premises on 5 December 2016, it had been found to be fully compliant with the above legislation, therefore, full approval was recommended.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to recommend that McCulla Ireland Ltd is approved by the Council as being fully compliant with Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 and that the unique identification number currently allocated to this establishment by the Food Standards Agency (UK 9037 EC) is retained.

4.9.1.2 Application for Approval of Neil McMullan Ltd under Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004

Members were advised of the requirement under the above Statute for premises who export products within the EU, to have a registered Approval number.

The premises detailed below applies to this legislation and is classified as a 'Standalone Coldstore':

- Neil McMullan Ltd, 3 Meadow Road, Moira, BT67 0HH

Members were further advised that, following a visit to the above premises on 19 October 2016, it had been found to comply sufficiently with the above legislation to enable the Service Unit to recommend Conditional Approval to Council, therefore, Conditional Approval was recommended.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman S P Porter, and agreed to recommend that Neil McMullan Ltd is Conditionally Approved by the Council as being sufficiently compliant with Regulation (EC) No. 853/2004 and that the following unique identification mark be allocated to this establishment - UK JA012 EC.

4.9.2 Department for Infrastructure – Sustainable Water – A long-term Water Strategy for Northern Ireland (2015-2040) Draft Strategy Implementation Action Plan

Members were advised that the above Consultation had been received from the Department for Infrastructure Water and Drainage Policy Division in relation to

the Draft Strategy Implementation Action Plan for Sustainable Water on 9 November 2016, which had a response closing date of 30 November 2016.

It was proposed by Councillor T Morrow, seconded by Councillor N Trimble, and agreed to recommend retrospective approval for the submission of comments to the Department for Infrastructure, Water and Drainage Policy Division, in relation to the Draft Strategy Implementation Action Plan for Sustainable Water.

Items for Noting

4.9.3 Consultation on Houses of Multiple Occupation Act 2016: Hazards in Houses of Multiple Occupation

Members were advised that the above Consultation had been received from the Department for Communities, with a response closing date of 13 January 2017.

The Head of Service (EH) stated that the purpose of this Consultation was to seek views from councils in relation to Hazards in Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMO's).

Members noted the Consultation in relation to hazards in Houses of Multiple Occupation to the Department for Communities and that an additional report would be tabled at the next Committee meeting for retrospective approval of the Consultation response.

4.9.4 Food Hygiene Rating Scheme

Members were reminded that the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 came into force on 7 October 2016 requiring food businesses to display their valid 'Rating' at or near the entrance to their premises.

Members were advised that, as part of the Council's graduated approach to enforcement, 33 food businesses had been visited to assess their Food Hygiene Rating compliance and during these inspections, 17 food businesses had failed to display their valid Rating and had subsequently been furnished with a new valid sticker and a written warning. Follow-up visits were planned in late January 2017 to those premises previously found to be non-compliant, at which time if they continue to be non-compliant, Fixed Penalty Notices would be issued which carry a £200 fine.

The Head of Service (EH) advised that as this was a mandatory scheme, he would continue to keep Members updated accordingly.

Members agreed to note the report in relation to visits to premises to assess compliance with the Food Hygiene Rating Act (Northern Ireland) 2016.

4.9.5 Opson VI – Food Supplements

The Head of Service (EH) outlined details of Operation OPSON, which was a Europol and Interpol led initiative against fake and illicit food worldwide and advised that this year's focus was on the sale of Food Supplements.

An information leaflet setting out the legal obligations of sellers of food supplements and the legal requirements relating to food supplements had been hand-delivered to gyms and retail outlets in early October 2016.

Training of Officers had also been carried out by the Food Standards Agency and the Department of Health (Medicines Branch).

Members were advised that during November, Environmental Health Officers visited premises which sold food supplements and during these visits, 10 products had been examined with a number of offences detected regarding the labelling of these products. Furthermore, one product had been sent for chemical analysis and the results of the analysis were still pending.

Members agreed to note that the Food Standards Agency will compile information from the Councils in Northern Ireland and a report on Operation OPSON VI will be tabled to Committee in due course.

4.9.6 Health and Wellbeing

4.9.6.1 Electric Blanket Testing

Members were reminded that an Electric Blanket testing event which had been held on 2nd December 2016 at Bradford Court and 7th December 2016 at Lagan Valley Island.

Members were advised that, at the Lagan Valley Island event, a total of 46 blankets had been tested with an alarming 72% failure rate.

The Head of Service (EH) stated that Home Accident Prevention Lisburn & Castlereagh and the South Eastern Health & Social Care Trust had supported the initiative by providing vouchers towards the replacement of a faulty blanket, in addition to a local business, who had agreed to offer an additional saving on electric blankets to anyone who replaced their blanket in their store.

Members agreed to note the report in relation to the electric blanket testing initiative held in Lagan Valley Island on 7 December 2016.

4.9.6.2 A Fitter Future for All

Members were provided with, and noted, the contents of a report from the Department of Health outlining the current progress made during the implementation of the Ten Year Obesity Prevention Framework, 'A Fitter Future for All 2012-2022' against the short term outcomes for the year 2015-2019.

Members were advised that the Environmental Health Service Unit would continue to work with these external bodies to deliver programmes and initiatives on health and wellbeing within the area.

Councillor T Morrow expressed his concern at the obesity figures and he referred to the 'Mile a Day' initiative undertaken by some primary schools, which was proving very successful and he asked if this could be given consideration.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to note the report in relation to the current progress made during the implementation of the Ten Year Obesity Prevention Framework, 'A Fitter Future for All 2012-2022'.

5. Confidential Business

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Director of Environmental Services be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

The Chairman, Councillor J Baird, advised that the matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" for the following reasons:

Item 5.1: Confidential due to information relating to financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information);

Item 5.2: Confidential due to information relating to financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information);

Item 5.3: Confidential due to information relating to financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information);

Item 5.4: Confidential due to information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual;

Item 5.5: Confidential due to information relating to financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information);

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor B Mallon, and agreed that the following matter be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

Items for Decision

5.1 Charges for 2017/2018

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman S P Porter, and agreed to recommend that the Council approve the Environmental Services Directorate charges for 2017/2018.

5.2 Pest Control Service Delivery

Alderman M Henderson thanked Officers for the detailed report following the lengthy discussion at last month's Committee meeting.

The Head of Service (EH) took Members through the report and detailed the options available for consideration.

(Councillor P Catney entered the meeting at 6.03 pm).

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed to recommend that the Council approve Option 2 of the Pest Control Service Delivery Options Paper.

Items for Noting

Following a request from the Director, it was agreed to bring forward items 5.4 and 5.5 of the Confidential Report.

5.3 Rolling Year Absence Figures for Environmental Services

The Director reported on the rolling year and the monthly absence figures.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to note the information provided in relation to the absence figures for the Environmental Services Directorate.

5.4 Annual Audit Letter – Landfill Site at Moss Road

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to note the information provided in relation to the Annual Audit Letter – Landfill Site at Moss Road.

5.5 Estimates 2017/2018

Members were furnished with an overview of the proposed budgets for the Environmental Services Directorate's Estimates 2017/2018.

The Director advised that a copy of the narrative report, summary draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018 and a presentation by the Director of Corporate Services had already been tabled at the Special Corporate Services Committee Meeting on 12 December 2016.

Members were provided with a report setting out the Draft Departmental Financial Estimates for the Environmental Services Department for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The Director took Members through the detail of the draft estimates. The Director and Heads of Service/Business Manager then clarified a number of points raised by Members and took note of comments made.

Alderman J Tinsley wished to convey his thanks to the Director and her officers for the amount of work carried out to prepare the draft Departmental Financial Estimates. The Chairman, Councillor J Baird concurred with these comments and Alderman S Martin welcomed the narrative within the report.

Alderman J Tinsley suggested that it would be beneficial for Members if the Director could incorporate an explanatory footnote for the larger expenditure amounts within next year's draft estimates.

Alderman S P Porter also requested some additional information to support the estimates including a projected and anticipated overview for committed spend which would be added to the Period 8 figures to give Members a more accurate view of the estimates, when preparing next year's draft estimates. Alderman S P Porter further requested a breakdown of the workforce profile including details where possible posts had been filled by agency staff.

The Director then took Members through the draft estimates and outlined a number of areas in which she identified where potential reductions could be made.

It was agreed to note the Estimates Report 2017/2018 for the Environmental Services Department and to recommend to agree the reductions, at risk, as identified by the Director.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor B Mallon, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Oil Leak – Killynure, Carryduff

Alderman M Henderson wished to thank the Head of Service (EH) and his team for their swift action during a recent oil leak in the Killynure area, Carryduff.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.56 pm.

Mayor/Chairman