

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held remotely and in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 5:15 pm

PRESENT

Present in the Chamber:

Councillor N Anderson (Chairman)

Councillor R McLernon (Vice Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor the Hon N Trimble

Aldermen J Baird and SP Porter

Councillors AP Ewing, A Givan, S Lowry, C McCready, and T Mitchell

Present in Remote Location:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Councillors S Eastwood, M Gregg, S Lee, A McIntyre and S Skillen

OTHER MEMBERS:

Present in Remote Location:

Alderman J Tinsley

Councillors U Mackin and John Palmer

IN ATTENDANCE

Present in the Chamber:

Head of Service (Environmental Health)

Member Services Officers (2)

Present in Remote Location:

Chief Executive

Head of Service (Building Control)

Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

Mr Tim Walker, Acting Chief Executive, arc21

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, welcomed Members to the October meeting of the Environmental Services Committee which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

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

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chairman then proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were received on behalf of Alderman M Henderson MBE and the Director of Environmental Services.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman 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. Deferral of Item

It was agreed that Item 3 on the agenda, Presentation by the Acting Chief Executive, arc21 – The RWTP – NOARC21 Queries, be deferred to later in the meeting when it would be considered in committee.

(The Vice Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, arrived at 5.23 pm)

4. Report by the Head of Service (Building Control)

4.1 Street Naming – At Linen Green, Lisburn

The Committee was advised that Beechill Development Co. Ltd. had proposed the street name for a development of 3 dwellings off Linen Green, Lisburn.

The Committee had been provided with a copy of the development layout.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy, and agreed that the street name Linen Green Manor be allocated to this proposed development of 3 dwellings off Linen Green, Lisburn.

4.2 Department of Finance Consultation – Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020

The Committee was provided with copy of the Department of Finance consultation document on the Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 together with copy of the Council's response which had been prepared by the Building Control unit in consultation with its professional officer group, Building Control Northern Ireland.

(Councillor S Eastwood joined the meeting remotely at 5.25 pm)

4.2 Department of Finance Consultation – Building (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 (Contd)

Members expressed concerns regarding the threshold height of 18 metres for combustible materials on external walls and expressed the view that this should be lowered. The issue of change of use from office to residential buildings was also raised. The Head of Service (Building Control) explained the reasoning behind the height threshold and the different risk levels for residential and office buildings. He indicated he was happy to take account of Members' comments in the response to the consultation.

(Councillor U Mackin joined the meeting remotely at 5.30 pm)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor AP Ewing, and agreed to recommend that Council approve the consultation response to the Department of Finance, subject to inclusion of the issues raised by Members, and retrospectively approve submission of the response by the deadline of 9 October 2020.

(Alderman J Tinsley left the meeting at 5.32 pm)

5. Report by the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

5.1 Waste Collection Operational Hours

The Committee was provided with copy of the Council's Waste Collection Policy which had been adopted by Council in September 2019 and noted the terms within the policy referring to customers presenting their containers from 6.00 am.

Alderman SP Porter recognised and thanked the staff for their hard work during the Covid emergency and beyond. He expressed concern about an early start time for bin collections and the impact that could have in residential areas and requested further information regarding management of start times. Councillor C McCready and Councillor S Skillen concurred with Alderman Porter's comments and stated that they had received complaints from residents regarding this issue.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, stated that the low number of complaints received across the service and that the policy had been recently agreed in 2019. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor the Hon N Trimble, supported the Deputy Mayor's comments. He acknowledged the concerns expressed by Members but stated that bin lorries operating later in the day could cause obstructions or be affected by obstructions.

The Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) undertook to bring a further report back to Committee providing the additional information requested.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor AP Ewing and agreed to note the officer's report.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor C McCreedy, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the following matters be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public.

6. Confidential Report from the Director of Environmental Services

The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, advised that the matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with “In Committee” for the following reasons:

Item 6.1: Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information)

Item 6.2: Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information)

Item 6.3: Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information)

6.1 Presentation by the Acting Chief Executive, arc21 – The RWTP – NOARC21 Queries

The Chairman welcomed to the meeting Mr Tim Walker, Acting Chief Executive of arc21, who was attending remotely. Mr Walker then provided a power point presentation which included the following:

- The role of arc21
- Its area of operations
- Current arrangements for managing residual waste
- Update on the RWTP
- Addressing issues raised by NOARC21.

Mr Walker then responded to Members comments and queries. The Chairman, Councillor N Anderson, thanked Mr Walker for this presentation and he left the meeting.

6.2 Residual Waste Treatment Project (RWTP)

The Committee was provided with copy correspondence with Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council regarding RWTP and it was proposed by Alderman P Porter, seconded by Councillor AP Ewing and noted that a draft response to the issues raised would be brought to Committee for consideration at its next meeting. Alderman Porter requested that information be provided comparing the levels of waste disposed of in landfill compared to incineration in mainland UK so a better understanding of NI’s lack of provision could be seen.

6.3 Update on Kerbside Recycling Collection Pilot

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that Council note an update report in respect of the kerbside pilot and approve the postponement of any further roll out of the pilot until the required due diligence had been completed.

Any Other Confidential Business

6.4 Cutts HRC – Councillor S Lee

Councillor S Lee indicated that he had been asked by Councillor G McCleave to raise a query regarding the Cutts HRC and access to it by Belfast City Council residents. The Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) advised a formal approach had been made by Belfast City Council Officers and this had been considered and discussed by CMT. Adjusting existing arrangements to facilitate residents from another council would have equality implications for access to the other HRCs which would then involve other councils. It would furthermore bring into question travelling distances for our own residents to our own facilities and could therefore not be considered in isolation. It was CMT's considered opinion that it would not be appropriate or possible to progress and a response had been issued to Belfast City Council. The Committee agreed to retain existing arrangements.

6.5 Christmas Collection Arrangements – Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

The Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) provided information regarding arrangements for Bryson House collections over the Christmas period. Members requested an update report.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Scheduling of Committee Meetings – Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, referred to the scheduling of Environmental Services and Development Committee meetings on the same day and suggested that, in view of the workload of each of these Committees, consideration should be given to rescheduling in order to ease time constraints. The Chairman also referred to additional pressures arising from the need for facilities staff to sanitise and prepare the Chamber for the second meeting. He stated that issue would be considered and both chairs would liaise with one and other.

7.2 Reward4Waste App – Councillor M. Gregg

Councillor M Gregg referred to a pilot recycling scheme being introduced by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council which provided a reward incentive to those

7.2 Reward4Waste App – Councillor M. Gregg (Contd)

downloading the Reward4Waste app to encourage them to recycle. The Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) indicated that he would bring a report back to Committee on the scheme in due course when more information was available.

7.3 Mullaghglass Landfill Site – Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Eastwood referred to a bad odour affecting the Lisburn North area that seemed to be coming from the Mullaghglass landfill site. The Head of Service (Environmental Services) advised that complaints had been received about this issue and the Environmental Health unit was investigating. He undertook to circulate to Members an update on the matter.

7.4 Ongoing Legal Proceedings – Noise Complaint – Alderman SP Porter

At the request of Alderman SP Porter, officers undertook to provide Alderman J Tinsley with an update on this matter and to bring an update report to the next meeting of the Committee.

7.5 Educational Project - Councillor N Anderson

The Head of Service (Environmental Health) advised that planning a programme of educational activities for children was continuing but that opportunities for engaging directly with schools was limited due to the Covid restrictions.

It was agreed that a report would be brought back to committee to investigate what options could be explored for educational opportunities.

7.6 Cemeteries Administration – Head of Service (Environmental Health)

The Head of Service (Environmental Health) referred to discussions at the Committee's meeting in September regarding cemeteries administration and advised that a report on the matter would be progressed through the Leisure and Community Services Committee.

7.7 Covid Infection Rate – Head of Service (Environmental Health)

The Head of Service (Environmental Health) advised that increasing rates of Covid infection was putting pressure on the Environmental Services Department and could impact on service delivery and progressing some projects. He advised that an update report on this issue would be brought back to Committee.

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

Mayor/Chairman