

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Environmental Services Committee meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL, on Wednesday, 6 May 2015, at 5:30 pm

IN THE CHAIR: Councillor Brian Hanvey

PRESENT: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor RT Beckett

Aldermen T Jeffers and SP Porter

Councillors B Bloomfield, P Catney, A Givan, J Gray, A McIntyre, T Mitchell, T Morrow, J Palmer, A Redpath and R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Environmental Services
Acting Assistant Director Environmental Services (Technical Services) (LCC)
Client Services Manager (CBC)
Operational Services Manager (CBC)
Environmental Health Manager (CBC)

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies had been received from Councillors N Anderson and J Baird.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair advised of the need to record instances where any individual Member left the meeting. He further requested that Members endeavour to make this obvious to the Member Services Clerk who would record this in the minutes and in the event of re-entering the meeting, this would also be recorded. The Chair then 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 that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard, which had been provided at the meeting.

No Declaration of Interest forms were received.

3. MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 APRIL 2015

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed that the minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held on 1 April 2015 and adopted by the Shadow Council at its meeting held on 28 April 2015 be confirmed and signed.

3.1 MATTERS ARISING – MINUTE 5.2, PAGE 11

The Director of Environmental Services advised that comments received from Elected Members had been forwarded to the Department for Regional Development.

3.2 MATTERS ARISING – MINUTE 5.5, PAGE 11

The Director of Environmental Services advised that a cross-departmental working group had been established to co-ordinate the provision of Christmas trees in the Council area.

4. REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

Items for Decision

4.1 ESTATES STRATEGY

The Director of Environmental Services outlined details of the terms of reference for the Estates Strategy Working Group set up to consider the overall requirements of an Estates Strategy for the Council. She also provided a time frame summary for the work programme. She also answered questions in respect of the cost of the programme and possible savings that could be achieved.

It was proposed by Councillor Palmer, seconded by Councillor Morrow and

AGREED:

- a) To approve the terms of reference for the Estates Strategy Working;
- b) To approve the initiation of the parallel procurement exercises for the appointment of consultants.

4.2 REVIEW OF ANIMAL WELFARE LEGISLATION

It was proposed by Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Palmer and

AGREED: To approve the proposed response to the consultation regarding the Review of Animal Welfare Legislation.

4.3 THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES FOR OFFICERS

The Environmental Health Manager (CBC) referred to the enforcement guidelines which will form part of the overall enforcement policy..

In response to a query concerning dog control in open areas, the Chair asked that a report be brought back to a future meeting of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Catney, seconded by Alderman Jeffers and

- a) To approve the Enforcement Guidelines for officers authorised under The Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983;

- b) That a report be tabled at a future meeting of the Committee regarding options for the promotion of respect and consideration for all users of shared spaces in the Council area.

4.4 WELFARE OF ANIMALS (NI) ACT 2011 ENFORCEMENT GUIDELINES FOR OFFICERS

It was proposed by Councillor Palmer, seconded by Councillor McIntyre and

AGREED: To approve the Enforcement Guidelines for officers authorised under The Welfare of Animals (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.

4.5 LICENCE / PERMIT ADVERTISEMENT IN LOCAL NEWSPAPERS

It was proposed by Councillor Catney, seconded by Councillor Palmer and

AGREED: To approve the report regarding a licence / permit advertisement in local newspapers.

4.6 CONSULTATION OF AMENDING THE NIEA FINANCIAL PROVISION POLICY ENTITLED FINANCIAL PROVISION FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Councillor Catney made the point that serious contamination caused by abandoned sites with stock-piled waste and Members welcomed the amendments to the NIEA financial provision policy.

It was proposed by Councillor Morrow, seconded by Councillor Catney and

AGREED: To approve the response to the consultation regarding amendments to the NIEA Financial Provision Policy entitled Financial Provision for Waste Management Activities in Northern Ireland, along with the comments as drafted by arc21.

(Alderman Jeffers left at 17:58 and returned at 18:05)

4.7 CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES ON THE WASTE BATTERIES REGULATIONS 2009, THE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY OBLIGATIONS (PACKAGING WASTE) REGULATIONS 2007, THE PRODUCER RESPONSIBILITY REGULATIONS (PACKAGING WASTE) REGULATIONS 2007 AND CALL FOR EVIDENCE ON THE IMPACT OF NEW PLASTIC FLOW FIGURES AND LINKS WITH HOUSEHOLD WASTE RECYCLING TARGETS

It was proposed by Councillor Palmer, seconded by Councillor Givan and

AGREED: To approve the response to the consultation regarding proposed changes to the Waste Batteries Regulations 2009, the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007, the Producer Responsibility Regulations

(Packaging Waste) Regulations 2007 and to call for evidence in respect of the impact on new plastic flow figures and links with household waste recycling targets, along with the comments as drafted by arc21.

4.8 LANDFILL CLOSURE PLANS FOR DRUMLOUGH AND MOSS ROAD

The Assistant Director Environmental Services (Technical Services) outlined details of progress to date in respect of landfill closure plans for the former Drumlough and Moss Road landfill sites. He advised that works carried out at both former sites had been in line with legislation at the time. However, further legislation, which had been introduced retrospectively, required a closure plan be progressed. The Director of Environmental Services added that, until the consultants had completed both closure plan reports, it would not be possible to accurately estimate the overall cost involved. She further confirmed that a presentation would be given at the June meeting of the Committee, which would provide a further update for Members' information in respect of the Drumlough site. The closure plan for the Moss Road site was expected to be completed at the end of 2015.

It was proposed by Councillor Morrow, seconded by Councillor Bloomfield and

AGREED:

- a) That the update in respect of the landfill closure plans relating to the former Drumlough and Moss Road landfill sites be noted;
- b) To receive a presentation from the consultants at the June meeting of the Committee, which would provide a further update on the Drumlough site;
- c) To approve the single tender award to the existing consultants in order to carry out the necessary works as outlined in a for the Drumlough site.

4.9 LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL SIGNAGE

The Assistant Director Environmental Services (Technical Services) (LCC) advised that, following some research carried out regarding the spelling of the names of two villages, it was recommended to consider that the spelling Ravernet and Annahilt be used on signage. He further advised that the change to the new Council signs was progressing and a final version of the design was being devised by MCU, which would be presented to the Committee in due course.

It was proposed by Councillor McIntyre, seconded by Councillor Givan and

AGREED: That the spelling Ravernet and Annahilt be adopted for signage in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area.

4.10 CORRESPONDENCE FROM NIE LTD – PROPOSED ALTERATION TO ELECTRICITY INFRASTRUCTURE AT COMBER ROAD, DUNDONALD

It was proposed by Alderman Jeffers, seconded by Councillor Morrow and

AGREED:

- a) To grant permission for NIE Ltd to enter Council lands at the Comber Road, Dundonald, in order to complete proposed electricity installation works;
- b) To grant authorisation to Council officers to sign the proposed Wayleave Agreement in respect of the proposed works;
- c) That Council officers ensure that appropriate reinstatement works are carried out by NIE Ltd following completion of the works.

Items for Noting

The Committee agreed that all items for noting should be proposed and seconded collectively following consideration.

4.11 ARC21 MEMBERS UPDATE

The Director of Environmental Services provided an update for Members' information in respect of arc21, to include the reformed arc21 Joint Committee, the governance arrangements for arc21 and the business plan for 2016.

4.12 OVERALL CHARGES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

The Director of Environmental Services tabled a summary of the overall Environmental Services charges for 2014/2016 for Members' information.

4.13 ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES BUSINESS PLANS 2015/2016

The Director of Environmental Services advised that work was underway to complete the service unit business plans for 2015/2016 and it was hoped to table the draft documents at the June meeting of the Committee for Members' consideration and approval.

4.14 COUNCIL PLANNING CONSULTATION COMMENTS

The Director of Environmental Services outlined proposed arrangements for access to statutory consultee responses in respect of planning applications for Members' information. In response to a question from Councillor Palmer regarding access to the training on the Planning portal, the Director confirmed that all Members were entitled to avail of the training and she would ask the Planning Manager to reissue the invitation for this training.

AGREED: That the consultation information be retrieved via the Planning Portal and to request the Planning Manager to reissue the training session options for Members' information.

4.15 BEE SAFE EVENT LISBURN CITY 2015

The Environmental Health Manager (CBC) provided an update in respect of the recent Bee Safe event, held in Lisburn City. The Manager advised that feedback on the former Castlereagh area campaign would be brought to a future meeting of the committee.

4.16 LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL AND HEALTH & SAFETY EXECUTIVE FORTHERN IRELAND (HSENI) PARTNERSHIP

The Environmental Health Manager (CBC) outlined details of a joint strategy for better regulation of health and safety in Northern Ireland, which had been implemented since 2011 by district councils and the HSENI for Members' information.

AGREED: That a further report in respect of the partnership between the HSENI and local councils be tabled a future meeting of the Committee.

4.17 CHANGES TO PRESCRIBED CHARGES

The Environmental Health Manager (CBC) advised that notification had been received from the Department of the Environment regarding increases in the prescribed charges for activities that required regulation by the Environmental Health Service Unit.

AGREED: That officers table a report to show the annual variation of increases to prescribed charges for activities that required regulation by the Environmental Health Service Unit as part of the estimates process.

4.18 RED TAPE CHALLENGE – PILOT REVIEW WITH THE HOSPITALITY SECTOR

The Environmental Health Manager (CBC) outlined details of regulatory issues that had been raised by business owners regarding perceived unnecessary red tape and bureaucratic processes as well as the outcome of the review.

(Councillor Morrow left at 18:45 and returned at 18:50)

4.19 OFF-STREET CAR PARKING

The Environmental Health Manager advised that enforcement in the 12 off-street car parks had commenced. The Manager highlighted the accumulative impact of repeated offences and the ultimate sanction of clamping.

Members raised some concerns regarding parking fee arrangements, which were considered to be unfair. The Director of Environmental Services stated that officers would carry out a review later in the year and table a report at a future meeting of the Committee. The Director reinforced that whilst this function had transferred to Local Government on 1st April and was deemed to be cost neutral, it was likely that there would be a cost in sustaining the overall service.

4.20 RESERVOIR REVIEW – LETTER FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT (DARD)

The Director of Environmental Services referred to the correspondence from DARD regarding the progress of the Reservoirs Bill and the request for preparatory work to be carried out by the Council. She confirmed that, whilst the Council currently leased the site where Duncan's Dam Reservoir was situated, there was a query over some elements of the lease and superior landlord responsibility. The Director advised that this work was requested in preparation for the legislation; however in the interim efforts would continue to determine the liability for undertaking this work. .

4.21 KEEP NORTHERN IRELAND BEAUTIFUL – FUNDING REQUEST

The Director of Environmental Services tabled a request for funding from Live Here Love Here 2015/2016 for Members' information. She stated that, once a strategic approach to all partnership opportunities had been considered, a report would be brought to the Committee for consideration.

4.22 INTERNATIONAL COMPOST AWARENESS WEEK – 4-10 MAY 2015

The Director of Environmental Services advised that the International Composting awareness Week event was currently underway and she outlined details of events organised in the Council area.

4.23 CORRESPONDENCE FROM NIEA – BELLEVUE AREA OF SPECIAL SCIENTIFIC INTEREST (ASSI)

The Director of Environmental Services tabled correspondence from the NIEA regarding the declaration of an area of the Antrim Plateau, known as the Bellevue ASSI, which had been designated under Article 28 of the Environment (NI) Order 2002 for its unique clay-with-flints deposits.

4.24 PROVISIONAL NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS – OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2014

The Director of Environmental Services tabled the Provisional Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics report for October to December 2014 for Members' information.

It was proposed by Councillor Palmer, seconded by Councillor Catney and

AGREED: That Minutes 4.11 to 4.24 be noted.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(Councillor Walker left at 18:57 and returned at 19:04)

5.1 PRESENTATION FROM THE RIVERS AGENCY – FLOOD MAPS OF NORTHERN IRELAND

The Director of Environmental Services reiterated the Council's decision that the Environmental Services Committee should host the presentation from the Rivers Agency regarding flood maps of Northern Ireland. She reminded Members of the agreement to hold a presentation in respect of landfill closure plans for the former Drumlough and Moss Road landfill sites at the Committee's June meeting.

AGREED: That the presentation from the Rivers Agency in respect of flood maps of Northern Ireland should take place at the September meeting of the Committee and that the presentation be open to all Members of Council.

5.2 FUNDING APPLICATION FROM THE SAFETY ADVISORY GROUP

The Environmental Health Manager (CBC) outlined details of a proposed pilot scheme in respect of notification applications made by community groups, which was required by the Safety Advisory Group. She advised that the Safety Advisory Group was assessing the process so as to reduce the perceived burden on those smaller groups and was working with Leisure Services to review the process where possible.

5.3 TREE MAINTENANCE

The Director of Environmental Services referred to the previous decision of the shadow committee and advised that a budget of £50,000 had been approved during the estimates process for remedial action on trees, which included a full survey of trees on council land in key areas.

The Operational Services Manager (CBC) gave a detailed overview of the outcome of the survey and outlined details of the required work. Discussion ensued on the options for conducting this work and the associated costs.

Members raised some concerns about the considerable increase in the cost for this work and sought assurance that a replanting programme would also be put in place.

It was proposed by Councillor Palmer, seconded by Councillor Catney and

AGREED: That officers should proceed with the procurement exercise in respect of urgent remedial action to trees and table a report at the June meeting of the Committee.

5.4 NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTNERSHIP ON TRAVELLERS (NILGPT) – NOMINATION TO THE NILGPT

The Director of Environmental Services referred to the previous agreement to refrain from nominating Elected Members to this group but that the fee would be paid which would give the Council Membership rights.

Councillor Porter proposed that this position should remain and if any Member wished to be nominated to the group that a future request could be brought to the committee.

AGREED: To consider nomination of three Elected Members at a later time should the request be raised by any Member of the Committee

5.5 OFFICERS RETIREMENT

The Chair advised that the Client Manager (CBC) was due to retire and, on behalf of the Committee, he thanked him for long service to Castlereagh Borough Council and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and wished him a long and happy retirement.

The Chair also offered best wishes for his retirement to the Assistant Director Environmental Services (Environmental Health), who had retired in April 2015.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.20 pm.

Chair:

Date: