

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 April 2016 at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

Members:

Councillor C Casey	Councillor S Ennis
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor H McKee
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor P O Gribin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor

Non Committee Members: Councillor W Clarke (item on the agenda)

Officials in Attendance: Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director of Waste Management
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mr P Rooney, Principal Planning Officer
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/51/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor P Byrne.

RTS/52/2016: DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

RTS/53/2016: CONFIRMATION OF HOME COMPOSTER PRICE

Read: Report dated 20 April 2016 from Mr J Parkes seeking approval to agree to a proposed price for Home Composter units during 2016/2017 at £5 per unit, restricted to one per household and collection only. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to recommend approval of the proposed price for Home Composter units during 2016/2017 at £5 per unit, restricted to one per household and collection only.

Agreed: It was agreed at the request of Councillor Murnin that officials investigate if incorrect information had been included on a letter distributed to businesses in the Down area regarding bin charges, and if the information was incorrect, that a revised letter be issued.

Agreed: It was agreed at the request of Councillor Hanna that Mr L Dinsmore contact him regarding a request for a blue bin to his commercial premises.

RTS/54/2016: **ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING
– WEDNESDAY 23 MARCH 2016**

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 March 2016. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the Action Sheet.

RTS/55/2016: **DUST/RESIDUE NUISANCE AT CARNBANE INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AND SURROUNDING RESIDENTIAL AREAS**

Noted: Councillor Casey and Councillor Taylor advised that residents from the Carnbane Area, Newry, had spoken to them regarding a residue which was dropping onto their properties and cars and leaving a stain. The residents were of the view that the residue was a result of recycling at the Regen Premises. There was also issues relating to smoke emissions and residents felt that these very genuine concerns were not being taken seriously by the Statutory Agencies.

Agreed: It was agreed that Mr C O'Rourke write to the NIEA regarding the issues raised by Councillors on behalf of local residents, including a request that if an issue was raised on a particular day, for example a recent complaint about smoke emissions, that an inspector investigate the incident on the day it was reported.

It was also agreed that Mr O'Rourke raise the issues of concern with the NIEA Client Manager for the Newry, Mourne and Down area.

Finally it was agreed that the Council's Environmental Health Department be made aware of the complaints made by residents and that they be asked to investigate.

PLANNING

RTS/56/2016: PLANNING DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – APRIL 2016

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Planning Department Performance Indicators – April 2016. (Copy circulated).

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the Planning Department Performance Indicators report.**

Noted: Mr O'Rourke and Mr Rooney gave an update on progress on the increased performance rate of the Planning Department.

Mr O'Rourke advised that a further update meeting would be held with agents in May 2016 and this would be followed by quarterly meetings.

Noted: In response to concerns expressed by Councillor Murnin regarding the increased number of refusals to be determined by the Planning Committee, Mr Rooney acknowledged this would be the case and said it would be important to put systems in place to manage these effectively.

In response to queries from Councillor Hanna and Councillor O'Gribin, Mr O'Rourke confirmed that no staff members had been taken off the enforcement team but the staffing of this section was an issue which would have to be looked at once Development Management was under control.

Mr Rooney said there was a period of 5 years in which the Council could take enforcement action against any alleged breach of planning control which was brought to the attention of the Council. Once a planning notice was served there was no time limit within which the Council had to resolve the matter.

Councillor Ennis left the meeting – 6.15 pm.

RTS/57/2016: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES – MARCH 2016

Read: Record of Meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives for March 2016. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the Public Representatives report.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

RTS/58/2016: TOILETS AND CASTLEWELLAN MARKET HOUSE LIBRARY

Agreed: It was agreed that as this issue had been requested by Councillor P Clarke and he was not in attendance at the meeting, that the item be withdrawn.

RTS/59/2016: UPDATE OF INSTALLATION OF BUS SHELTERS

Read: Report dated 20 April 2016 from Mr K Scullion giving an update on the installation of the following bus shelters:-

- Crossgar
- Meigh Village
- Mill Hill, Castlewellan
- Camlough Road, Newry
- Drumaness/Newcastle Road, Drumaness

Noted: Mr Scullion advised that two figures in the report for the bus shelters at Camlough Road and Drumaness were incorrect but the approximate total costs for the agreed bus shelters was £25,000.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the above report.

Agreed: It was also agreed officials investigate requests from Members to provide side panels in the bus shelters at Drumaness and Crossgar, if the location of the shelters allows for this.

Councillor Casey and Councillor Harte left the meeting – 6.25 pm.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/60/2016: OPENING AND CLEANSING OF TOILETS IN NEWCASTLE

Councillor W Clarke said he had asked for this item to be put on the agenda as a result of complaints he had received regarding the closure of Council owned toilets in Newcastle over the Easter weekend. He said two toilet blocks had been closed – one at Islands Park as a result of damage to the floor and the toilet block at Castle Park which had been closed from 1.00 pm.

Councillor Clarke said this was completely unacceptable in a tourist town like Newcastle and if there were any maintenance or repair issues with toilets, particularly during busy tourist periods, that these should be treated as a priority.

Councillor Clarke also said that Council staff were painting the Castle Park toilet block over the Easter holiday period and said this type of maintenance work should be carried out during the winter months.

Councillor Hanna and Councillor O’Gribin supported the concerns raised by Councillor W Clarke.

Mr Parkes outlined the reasons why the toilets had been closed in Newcastle over the Easter holiday period, including major damage to the floors at the toilet block in Islands Park and issues such as vandalism and anti-social behaviour. He also commented on the lack of respect some people had when using the toilet facilities which left them in an unclean condition. He said despite regular cleansing it was difficult at times to keep the toilets in a condition which the public would find acceptable. There were also issues regarding the age of the toilet blocks in Castle Park.

Mr O’Rourke said he accepted the comments made by Councillors. He said maintenance such as painting of toilet blocks had to be carried out in good weather but he agreed that Easter was not a good time for this. He said there was a regular cleansing schedule for the toilets throughout the Council District and noted a request from Members that this cleaning schedule be displayed in the toilets so that members of the public could see it. He further advised that the Council did not have a statutory obligation to provide any toilets and yet there was 7 Council owned facilities in Newcastle.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor O’Gribin, that an audit/review of all Council owned toilets be carried out looking at issues such as usage; consultation with users; possibility of charging a minimal fee for usage with any money raised to be put back into upgrading toilet facilities; details of cleaning schedules; opening/closing times; extended opening hours during busy periods.

It was agreed a report be brought back to a subsequent R&TS Meeting on these issues.

FOR NOTING

**RTS/61/2016: CONSULTATION ON CLOSURE OF THE
NORTHERN IRELAND RENEWABLE OBLIGATION
TO NEW SMALL SCALE ONSHORE WIND**

Noted: The Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has launched a consultation on the above subject with consultation responses by 9 May 2016.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the above information.**

**RTS/62/2016: NOTIFICATION OF CONSULTATION ON
ECCLESIASTICAL EXEMPTION**

Read: Details of the DoE consultation document outlining policy proposals to remove Ecclesiastical Exemption. (*Circulated*).

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the above information.**

**RTS/63/2016: CONFERENCE ON HOUSING POLICY IN NORTHERN IRELAND
– WEDNESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER 2016**

Read: Conference details – Housing in Northern Ireland: Meeting Market Demand and Reforming the Social Housing Sector – Wednesday 14 September 2016 in Central Belfast – fee £210 plus VAT.

Agreed: **It was agreed that if any Member was interested in attending the above Conference, that they advise Democratic Services.**

**RTS/64/2016: PROPOSED PLANNING COMMITTEE OPERATING PROTOCOL
AND SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

Read: Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Draft Planning Committee Operating Protocol and Draft Scheme of Delegation. (*Circulated*).

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the above documents.**

RTS/65/2016: ARC21 MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – APRIL 2016

Read: arc21 Members Monthly Bulletin – April 2016. (*Circulated*).

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the above correspondence.**

RTS/66/2016: ARC21 STEERING GROUP MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 16 FEBRUARY 2016

Read: arc21 Minutes of Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 16 February 2016. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the above correspondence.

RTS/67/2016: ARC 21JOINT STEERING GROUP MEETING MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2016

Read: arc21 Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting held on Thursday 25 February 2016. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the above correspondence.

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2016

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor McKee, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters which related to exempt information under paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014 – information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

RTS/68/2016: REPORT RE: LEASE OF LAND AT GREENBANK INDUSTRIAL ESTATE

Read: Report from Mr K Scullion re: lease of land at Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry. *(Circulated)*.

RTS/69/2016: CAPITAL EXPENDITURE PROJECTS

Read: Report dated 20 April 2016 from Mr K Scullion re: permission to proceed to tender for agreed capital projects 2016/2017. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

Agreed: When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported it had been agreed:-

Lease of land at Greenbank Industrial Estate

It had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to grant approval for the Council to enter into a Lease Agreement with Southern Group Enterprises for use of 37 car parking spaces at their premises located within the Greenbank Industrial Estate, Newry.

Tender for Capital Expenditure Projects

It had been agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Stokes, to grant approval for Council Officials to initiate steps, including issuing of tenders, to complete capital projects agreed for this financial year:-

- Provision of new central heating system to Bunscoil an Iuir
- Provision of new Christmas illuminations/decorations
- Refurbishment works to Castlewellan Community Centre

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Tuesday 3 May 2016.

Signed: Councillor Terry Andrews
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

Signed: Mr C O Rourke
Director Regulatory & Technical Services