

**NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

RTS/M

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**Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 22 November 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor J Trainor

**Members:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor S Burns
Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor L Kimmins
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor D Taylor

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr A Wilkinson, Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services  
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer  
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing  
Ms C Taylor, Democratic Services Officer

**RTS/133/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillors Harte, Macauley and Tinnelly.

The Chairman, Councillor Trainor congratulated officers upon being awarded the Silver Gilt standard for Newcastle in the RHS Britain in Bloom competition for the category of "Small Coastal Town".

**RTS/134/2017: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

There were no declarations of Conflicts of Interest.

**RTS/135/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2017**

**Read:** Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2017. *(Circulated)*.

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

**RTS/136/2017: REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN Q2**

**Read:** Regulatory and Technical Services Business Plan Q2  
*(Circulated)*

**Agreed:** **It was unanimously agreed to note the Regulatory and Technical Services Business Plan Q2.**

*The Chairman advised that Agenda Items 9 and 10 would be taken as the next items of business.*

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**RTS/137/2017: REPORT ON NEWCASTLE BRITAIN IN BLOOM ENTRY 2017**

**Read:** Report dated 22 November 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services re: Newcastle Britain in Bloom Entry 2017. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Scullion informed Members of Newcastle's success in Britain in Bloom, in being awarded the Silver Gilt standard, the second highest standard in the competition.

Mr Scullion said the judges had advised there were areas for development and highlighted the seafront planting which had exposed to south-easterly storms and said consideration would be given to this area in the future. He also said graffiti had been noticed which would have lowered the judges score.

Mr Scullion referred to the community involvement, saying 3 community groups in particular had been involved in the planting and that Britain in Bloom wished to see the competition as a community led activity and the formation of a bloom group which would involve community and business representatives from the Newcastle area developing an all-round programme to show Newcastle off in the best way possible.

Councillor Clarke recognised the amount of work that had been put in by the voluntary sector and council staff in attaining the Silver Gilt standard and proposed setting up a group which included the community and business sectors, to become involved in preparing Newcastle for the next Britain in Bloom. Councillor Clarke also suggested a civic recognition event should be held for anyone who was involved in attaining the award.

Councillor Clarke referred to the graffiti and litter in Newcastle, saying a quick response was required along with provision in the budget. He referred to the cleansing effort in Newcastle, praising the staff for their hard work.

Councillor Burns seconded Councillor Clarke's proposal.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Burns that:**

- A group would be set up from the community and business sectors in the Newcastle area, to become involved in preparing Newcastle for the next Britain in Bloom.
- A civic recognition event would be organised for anyone involved in attaining the Silver Gilt standard in this years' Britain in Bloom.
- Any graffiti and litter would be cleaned up quickly, and if required, provision would be made in the budget for this.

**RTS/138/2017: UPDATE REPORT – COUNCIL REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

**Read:** Report dated 22 November 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services re: Update of Council review of Public Conveniences. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Scullion advised the main focus of the report was the condition of the PC's in Newcastle which were particularly poor and had been subject to many complaints over the summer.

Councillor Clarke said it was important to liaise with user groups of the PCs, including Age Concern, Alzheimer/dementia groups and groups of autistic children and adults, to ensure that their needs were met and this could be done through the community planning process. He suggested the possibility of one high quality PC in the town where the needs of these user groups could be looked after and also asked for feedback on the design for the upgrade of the PCs across the District.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Andrews to engage with user groups of the PCs regarding the design and features required for the District.

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING**

**RTS/139/2017: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES 2017-2018**

**Read:** Report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives. *(Circulated)*.

**Agreed:** The report of meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives was noted.

**RTS/140/2017: OCTOBER 2017 - PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT**

**Read:** Report on Planning Committee Performance for October 2017  
**(Circulated).**

Mr McKay advised Members the number of live applications had now dipped below 900 to 898 and steady progress continued to be made towards a figure of 750 live applications, which would represent a stable situation comparable with most other planning departments in Northern Ireland, despite a shortage of staff.

In response to Councillor Curran's concerns regarding staff shortages, Mr McKay advised a process had been put in place which would deliver on another 150 applications within the period.

**Agreed:** **The Planning Committee Performance Report was noted.**

**RTS/141/2017:** **CURRENT APPEALS – October 2017**

**Read:** Report of current appeals in October 2017 **(Circulated).**

**Agreed:** **The report of current appeals in November 2017 was noted.**

**RTS/142/2017:** **RENEWABLE ENERGY APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AND APPROVED OVER LAST 5 YEARS**

**Read:** Report dated 22 November 2017 from Mr A Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services regarding Renewable Energy Planning Applications (Circulated).

Mr McKay drew Members attention to the report, saying more work was required in terms of establishing how many applications had been built and were contributing in terms of renewable energy.

In response to questions from Councillor Craig, Mr McKay highlighted the following:

- There were only 12 live applications currently outstanding in the planning system.
- The high point in developing the wind turbines had passed due to the incentives that were not now in place to the same extent.
- There had been 160 decisions made on wind turbines by the Planning department.
- Some of the wind turbine applications were highly complex.
- Applications were being actively worked on where the applicant was interested in an outcome.
- The absence of an energy storage policy was not necessarily a bad thing and in such cases application would be determined on its planning merits working within the existing planning framework.

In response to Councillor Fitzpatrick's query regarding a particular application, Mr McKay undertook to provide her with the required information.

**Agreed:** **It was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

**FOR NOTING**

**RTS/143/2017: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 26 OCTOBER 2017**

**Read:** Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 26 October 2017 (*Circulated*)

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 26 October 2017.

**RTS/144/2017: REPORT RE: RECYCLING AT COMMERCIAL PREMISES**

**Read:** Report dated 22 November 2017 from Mr Adam Wilkinson, Interim Director of Regulatory & Technical Services re: recycling at commercial premises. (*Circulated*).

In response to a query from Councillor Burns, Mr Whyte advised Kilkeel and Camlough Household Recycling Centres' site licence allowed for commercial waste, but not all Council's HRC sites allowed for commercial waste.

Councillor Burns proposed that a report be brought back to Committee regarding the viability for commercial waste recycling by existing commercial waste customers to bring waste to the recycling centres.

Councillor Burns' proposal was seconded by Councillor Clarke.

**Agreed:** It agreed on the proposal of Councillor Burns, seconded by Councillor Clarke, that a report would be brought back to Committee regarding viability for commercial waste recycling by existing commercial waste customers to bring waste to the recycling centres.

**RTS/145/2017: HISTORIC ACTION SHEET**

**Read:** Historic Action Sheet (*Circulated*).

**Agreed:** It was agreed to note the Historic Action Sheet and the actions identified in the right hand column as being completed be removed.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.30pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on 4 December 2017.

**Signed:** Councillor John Trainor  
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

**Signed: Mr A Wilkinson**  
**Interim Director Regulatory & Technical Services**