

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 9 December 2015 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

In Attendance:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor C Casey
Councillor S Ennis	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor Ó Gribin	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor D Taylor

Non Committee Members:

Councillor B Walker
Councillor B Quinn

Officials in Attendance

Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr A McKay, Head of Planning
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director of Facilities, Management and Maintenance
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director of Waste Management
Mrs E McParland, Democratic Services Manager
Mrs L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/135/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors G Fitzpatrick; H McKee; G Sharvin and S Doran.

Councillor Andrews said he would like to extend his thanks to the Committee Members; fellow colleagues and staff who had helped and supported him over the past year and particularly since the new Council went live on 1 April 2015.

RTS/136/2015: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Quinn said he was not a member of the RTS Committee but would like to express a professional interest in an item on the agenda relating to the re-use of old furniture from the Council's recycling centres.

It was noted there were no other declarations of interest.

RTS/137/2015: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 November 2015. **(Circulated).**

Mr O'Rourke said that there was a slight change to the Action Sheet this month as the actions had not been approved by the Council when the Sheet was issued with the agenda. They had been approved at the Council meeting on Monday 7 December 2015 and he could provide a verbal update to any Member who had any queries.

Agreed: The Action Sheet was noted.

RTS/138/2015: THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES BUSINESS PLAN

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

Mr O'Rourke took Members through the Business Plan and advised that quarterly updates on progress would be presented to the Committee so that Members could ensure the targets of the Business Plan were being met.

Mr O'Rourke responded to a number of queries from Councillors including an update on the request that the Council's pest control service be re-instated; the planning system in the Republic of Ireland and the desire to make Newry, Mourne and Down a premier tourist destination, not just in Ireland but in the UK and beyond.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the Regulatory and Technical Services Directorate Business Plan 2015-2016.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

RTS/139/2015: PROVISION OF BUS SHELTERS – BUS SHELTER AT DRUMANESS/NEWCASTLE ROAD, DRUMANESS

Read: Report from Kevin Scullion dated 10 December 2015 regarding the provision of a bus shelter at Drumaness/Newcastle Road, Drumaness – Belfast direction. The report recommended that a bus shelter be provided at this location subject to the availability of funding. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna to approve the provision of a bus shelter at Drumaness/Newcastle Road, Drumaness, subject to the availability of funding.

RTS/140/2015: APPLICATION FOR FUNDING TO PROVIDE PATHWAY TO DECHOMET GRAVEYARD

Read: Report dated 10 December 2015 from Mr K Scullion advising that an application for funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund to create a pathway into Dechomet Graveyard, which was in ownership of the Council, had been unsuccessful. Proposed capital spend of £25,000 had been submitted for consideration by the Council in the 2016/2017 Capital Projects. The report also noted the potential need for an archaeological dig at the site with an initial estimated cost of £850,000. **(Circulated).**

In response to queries from Members Mr O'Rourke said that under the Disability Discrimination Act access to facilities had to be available to everyone, including wheelchair users.

Agreed: **It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor O'Grbin that Council Officials investigate if there were other Council owned graveyards that had access issues and report back to Committee.**

Councillor Casey, Councillor Harte, Councillor Brown and Councillor O'Grbin left the meeting – 6.30 pm.

PLANNING

RTS/141 /2015 – PLANNING DEPARTMENT - PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Read: Report on Planning Department Performance Indicators. **(Circulated).**

Mr McKay presented the figures for Planning Department performance and said applications received were up 10-15% for the same period last year. He said the number of applications decided had dipped slightly but added that following a recruitment process 1 No. full time Planner had been appointed and 2 No. temporary planners. It was hoped they would be in post in early January 2016 and this would make a positive impact on the planning performance indicators.

Mr McKay said there were 3 more temporary posts to fill and hopefully interviews for these would take place before Christmas.

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

Noted: **It was noted the Mournes Area Councillors had requested that Mr McKay update them on 2 No. applications in the Mournes area.**

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/142/2015: OLD FURNITURE AT COUNCIL RECYCLING SITES

Councillor Andrews said he had been asked by Councillor Walker and Councillor Quinn to put an item on the agenda regarding old furniture that ends up in Council amenity sites and what happens to it.

Councillor Walker said he, and a number of other Councillors, had attended an exhibition by Pop Up Art in Stormont about 3 weeks ago. He said this Group operated out of a hub in Downpatrick and worked with people who had mental health problems. They got old furniture which their members restored and sold on and this proved to be very therapeutic for them, as well as raising much needed funds for their Organisation.

Councillor Walker said a lot of old furniture was left at the Council amenity sites and he believed it should be offered to groups such as this one.

Councillor Quinn supported Councillor Walker's comments and spoke of a group called SPACE who worked with people with mental health issues, learning difficulties etc. and who did similar work in upgrading old furniture

Councillor Hanna, Taylor, Reilly, Andrews and Ennis also spoke in support of the Council adopting such an initiative.

Mr Joe Parkes outlined the arrangements for donating old furniture to charities which were in place in two recycling centres in the Downpatrick area. He said a similar initiative had been tried in the Newry site but had not been successful.

Agreed: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Taylor, that the Council adopt a policy that people leaving old furniture at Council amenity sites be given the opportunity to donate it to charity and that expressions of interest be sought from charitable organisations to collect this furniture for upgrading and re-use.

FOR NOTING

RTS/143/2015: U6076 CLOGANRAMER ROAD, NEWRY (ABANDONMENT) ORDER (NI) 2015 NO. 374

Read: Letter dated 25 November 2015 from DRD advising of the above road abandonment. **(Circulated).**

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

RTS/144/2015: CONSULTATION ON CHANGES TO THE PLASTIC PACKAGING RECYCLING BUSINESS TARGETS FOR 2016-2017 AND NEW TARGETS FOR PLASTIC AND GLASS FOR 2018-20

Read: Letter dated 26 November 2015 from DoE advising they had published the above named consultation paper as part of a UK-wide consultation with any comments to be made by 23 December 2015. . **(Circulated).**

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

RTS/145/2015: ANTI LITTER WORKING GROUP MEETING – 20 NOVEMBER 2015

Read: Report of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council Anti-Litter Working Group Meeting held on 20 November 2015. **(Circulated).**

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

RTS/146 /2015 – ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN (3 DECEMBER 2015)

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin – 3 December 2015. **(Circulated).**

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

RTS/147/2015 – ARC 21 STEERING GROUP MEETING - TUESDAY 27 OCTOBER 2015

Read: Minutes of ARC 21 Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 27 October 2015. **(Circulated).**

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

RTS/148/2015 – ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING - THURSDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2015

Read: Minutes of ARC 21 Joint Committee Meeting held on Thursday 5 November 2015. **(Circulated).**

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

**RTS/149/2015: REPAIRS TO STEPS AT MANSE ROAD, KILKEEL
 (BEACH ACCESS)**

**Agreed: It was agreed at the request of Councillor Reilly that urgent action
 be taken to repair the steps at Manse Road, Kilkeel (beach access)
 which had been undermined due to recent bad weather.**

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.00 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 4 January 2016.

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

**Signed: Mr C O Rourke
 Director Regulatory & Technical Services**