

**NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

RTS/M

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**Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 September 2015 at 3.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry**

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**Chairperson:** Councillor T Andrews

**In Attendance:**

Councillor P Brown	Councillor C Casey
Councillor S Doran	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor V Harte
Councillor G Hanna	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor H McKee	Councillor M Murnin
Councillor Ó Gribin	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor G Sharvin	

**Non Committee Members**

Councillor B Walker

**Officials in Attendance**

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive  
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services  
Mr A McKay, Area Planning Manager  
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 C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

**RTS/88/2015: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Ennis.

Councillor Andrews expressed his deepest sympathy to the families of Eoin Farrell and James Miskelly who had been tragically killed in a car accident in Rostrevor. He said his thoughts and prayers were with their families and also with Che Kane who had been injured in the accident.

It was agreed to send letters of sympathy to the Farrell and Miskelly families and a letter of best wishes to Che Kane.

Councillor Andrews also expressed his sympathy to Katrina Hynds on the death of her father Pat.

Councillor Andrews also extended his thanks to all Council staff who kept the District clean and tidy.

**RTS/89/2015:                    DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

It was noted there were no declarations of interest.

**RTS/90/2015:                    ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2015**

**Read:**                            Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2015. ***(Circulated)***

**Agreed:**                        **The Action Sheet was noted.**

The following issues were raised:-

Anti-Litter Working Group

- In response to an update request from Councillor McKee on the request that officers investigate if stickers and a number could be put on all Council owned bins giving phone numbers for members of the public to contact if the bins were full, Mr O'Rourke said this would be a lengthy piece of work as there were thousands of bins across the District. However it would be referred to the proposed Anti-Litter Working Group to progress.
- It was noted that Councillor appointments to the Anti-Litter Working Group would be discussed at the Party Representatives' Forum Meeting on Monday 28 September 2015 – Councillor Stokes advised he would represent the SDLP Grouping on this Working Group.

Picnic Tables at Lindsey's Hill, Hilltown

- Councillor Fitzpatrick expressed her disappointment that 7 picnic tables had been stolen from the Lindsey's Hill Picnic area at Hilltown and said she would like to see them replaced in the future, if it was shown that the 2 existing tables remained in place.

**Agreed:**                        **It was agreed officials re-investigate the possibility of replacing the missing picnic tables at this location in the Spring, if the two remaining tables were to stay in place in the intervening period.**

**Agreed:**                        **It was also agreed that the Council's Maintenance Inspection Officers investigate the closing off of a road/access route with boulders on the**

**Leode Road, Hilltown and report back to Councillor Fitzpatrick as to who would be responsible for removing these boulders.**

Pedestrian access gate between the Council car park and St. Mary's Cemetery, Newry

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Doran, that Council Officials be granted authority to proceed to liaise with Newry Parish to seek agreement to open a pedestrian gateway between the Council car park and St. Mary's Cemetery, Newry and report back to the Committee.

Bus Shelters

- Councillor Murnin enquired about progress in relation to the bus shelter at Drumaness. Mr Scullion advised that a report had been brought to a meeting of the former Down District Council in 2014 giving details of a number of bus shelter requests. These had been given approval to proceed on a phased basis but to date had not yet started.

**Agreed:** It was agreed that a further report be brought back to the next appropriate RTS Committee Meeting giving details of the bus shelters already agreed for installation by both former legacy Councils and by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and seeking agreement on the phased installation of these shelters.

**Agreed:** At the request of Councillor Sharvin it was agreed that officials ensure the damaged roof of Kilclief bus shelter be repaired as soon as possible.

**RTS/91/2015: REPORT ON COUNCIL'S SCHEME OF DELEGATION**

It was noted there were no items for inclusion on the report on the Council's Scheme of Delegation.

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**RTS/92/2015: NMDDC TEEP ASSESSMENT:**

**Read:** Report dated 23 September 2015 from Mr J Parkes informing Members on the assessment of the Council's Recycling collection system against the requirements of the Waste Regulations (NI) 2011 and in accordance with the revised Waste Framework Directive (rWFD). The report recommended that Members note the contents of the TEEP assessment and the additional work that needs to take place as the Council develops its waste and recycling collection services. **(Circulated)**.

The Newry, Mourne and Down District Council (NM&DDC) TEEP assessment was also made available to Members to view via Minute Pad.

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

NOTED:                   Mr O'Rourke responded to queries from Members in relation to the cost of obtaining the NM&DDC TEEP Assessment Report; any potential future fines; the impact on glass collection in blue bins in the former Down District Council area and the standardisation of this collection across the District and how the Council deals with litter which is collected from roadside litter bins.

**Agreed:**                   **It was agreed that if any Councillor had concerns about overfull dog fouling bins that they should contact relevant staff in the RTS Department.**

**RTS/93/2015:**           **COUNCIL'S COMMERCIAL RATE CHARGE ON SCHOOL BLUE BIN RECYCLING:**

Councillor Sharvin said he had asked that this item be put on the agenda for discussion as he had been approached by a number of School Principals expressing concern about the cost of emptying school blue bins. He said in the former Down District Council area there was no charge for this service and schools, especially smaller schools in rural areas, were feeling an adverse effect on their budgets. He outlined the charges as follows:-

- 240 l - £3.25
- 360 l - £4.35
- 660 l - £8.50
- 1100 l - £13.00

Councillor Sharvin said this generated a total income across the Council District of £31,000. However in his view the imposition of these charges went against the ethos of the Council's Corporate Plan to protect our natural and built environment; the Council's partnership in educating our youth and the Council's own Waste Management Strategy.

Councillor Sharvin proposed and Councillor Fitzpatrick seconded that the Council introduce a 50% reduction in the price of a blue bin lift in the 4 categories outlined above.

As an amendment Councillor Casey proposed and Councillor Taylor seconded that officials investigate this issue further and bring back a report to the next RTS Committee Meeting, which would include the costs of the proposal to reduce the cost of each blue bin lift to schools by 50%.

The amendment was put to a vote and voting was as follows:-

**FOR:** 9  
**AGAINST:** 5  
**ABSTENTIONS:** Nil

**Agreed:** The amendment was declared carried and it was agreed that officials investigate this issue further and bring back a report to the next RTS Committee Meeting, which would include the costs of the proposal to reduce the cost of each blue bin lift to schools by 50%.

**NOTED:** In response to Councillor Murnin, Mr O'Rourke advised that it was the intention of the Council to introduce a blue bin collection for all businesses across the District and he would report further on this matter to a future meeting.

**RTS/94/2015:** **PROPOSED ARC21 CHARGES FOR 2015/2016:**

**Read:** Report dated 23 September 2015 from Mr C O'Rourke seeking approval to increase the payment made to arc21 by £41,000. Based on population statistics, this amount equates to one third of the population of the old Newry and Mourne District. The Committee were further asked to approve the plan to increase this payment year on year, up to 2018/2019, when the additional payment will equate to 100% of the old Newry and Mourne district, and the total payment will equate to the total population of the Newry Mourne and Down District. **(Circulated)**.

**Agreed:** It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Murnin, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the above report and the proposal to increase Newry, Mourne and Down District Council's contribution payment to Arc21 by an amount equivalent to one third of the pro-rata population of the old Newry and Mourne District, for each of the next three years.

## **PLANNING**

**RTS/95/2015:** **PERFORMANCE STATISTICS**

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

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

A detailed discussion followed during which Mr McKay advised Members of the actions being taken to improve the Planning Department's performance including the recruitment of additional Planners and administration support staff. He said he was confident that significant progress would be made in the coming months and confirmed that Planning Officers were continuing to work on older applications which would benefit economic regeneration, as had been agreed at the August RTS Meeting.

Mr McKay said Planning staff were working very hard and since the last meeting 110 applications had been progressed with a recommendation for approval, some of which were quite significant applications.

Mr McKay and Mr Hannaway responded to concerns raised by Members in relation to the planning function and Mr Hannaway advised that the Council had previously written to the Minister expressing dissatisfaction at the resources that had been allocated to Council with the transfer of planning functions. However the Council had been told that the budget for the transfer of this function had been allocated and there would be no further resources made available. He said Planning remained a high priority and it was important that the Department would now get the additional staff it needed and that better ways of working be implemented.

NOTED: It was noted that Mr O'Rourke updated Members on the previously agreed criteria for prioritising planning applications.

Councillor Reilly left the meeting at 4.20 pm.

**Agreed: It was agreed at the request of Councillor Andrews that the next Planning Department Performance Indicators Report should include comparisons with the other 10 Councils.**

**It was also agreed that the Planning Department produce a short plain English booklet on the main Planning Policies including CTY Policies to assist Councillors in dealing with planning applications.**

#### FOR NOTING

**RTS/96/2015: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 3 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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

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

**RTS/97/2015: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 2 JULY 2015**

**Read:** Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting – Minutes of Meeting held on 2 July 2015. *(Circulated)*.

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

**RTS/98/2015:        ARC21 STEERING GROUP MEETING – FRIDAY 19 JUNE 2015**

**Read:**                Arc21 Steering Group Meeting held on Friday 19 June 2015.  
**(Circulated).**

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

**RTS/99/2015:        NOTICE OF INTENTION – PROHIBITION OF WAITING EXCEPT FOR BUSES AT A7 BELFAST ROAD, DOWNPATRICK**

**Read:**                Letter dated 6 August 2015 from Transport NI giving information on proposals to prohibit the waiting of vehicles except buses on a 37m length of road at A7 Belfast Road, Downpatrick. **(Circulated).**

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

**RTS/100/2015:       TEMPORARY CLOSURE TO PART OF DAISY HILL ROAD, NEWRY ROUTE U6281**

**Read:**                Notification from Transport NI dated 15 September 2015 giving details of the temporary closure to part of Daisy Hill Road, Newry from Thursday 24 September 2015 to Tuesday 6 October 2015. **(Circulated).**

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

**RTS/101/2015:       TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE TO PART OF FORT HILL ROAD, NEWRY – ROUTE NO. U6292**

**Read:**                Notification from Transport NI dated 16 September 2015 giving details of the temporary closure to part of Fort Hill Road, Newry from Monday 28 September 2015 to Saturday 17 October 2015. **(Circulated).**

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

There being no further business the Meeting ended at 4.35 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 October 2015.

**Signed:                Councillor Terry Andrews  
(Chairperson)**

**Signed:                Mr Canice O'Rourke  
(Director of Regulatory and Technical Services)**