

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 18 October 2017 at 6.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor J Trainor

Vice Chairperson: Councillor V Harte

Members:

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| 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 J Macauley | Councillor M Ruane |
| Councillor D Taylor | Councillor J Tinnelly |

Officials in Attendance: Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
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 L Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support
Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/117/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Stokes.

RTS/118/2017: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of Conflicts of Interest.

Councillor Trainor congratulated staff, particularly those in the refuse collection section, for their hard work in providing a continuous service during a period of great change and also during the recent storm. He also praised the Emergency Services who had provided such a great service across the District during ex-hurricane Ophelia.

RTS/119/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20 SEPTEMBER 2017

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 September 2017. *(Circulated)*.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – BUILDING CONTROL

RTS/120/2017: STREET TRADING DESIGNATION AT STRANGFORD VILLAGE

Read: Report dated 18 October 2017 from Fintan Quinn, Head of Services for Licensing and Enforcement, re: street trading designation at Strangford Village. *(Circulated)*.

In response to queries from Members, Mr Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations, confirmed that the trader who made the initial enquiry about the street trading designation at Strangford Village had confirmed that he wished to trade in a tea, coffee, vending business.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Craig, it was agreed to approve the report and recommend:-**

- 1. To approve the designation of Quay Road, Strangford Lower, Strangford for Street Trading in the Trading Area Option 3 as circulated at the meeting.**
- 2. Council to proceed to advertise for potential traders with a licensing condition that the successful trader would trade in a tea, coffee, vending business only and also to physically mark out the trading bay.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING

RTS/121/2017: SEPTEMBER 2017 - PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

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

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

RTS/122/2017: 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/123/2017: CURRENT APPEALS – OCTOBER 2017

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

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

RTS/124/2017: CONTACT FROM PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES 3 JULY TO 29 SEPTEMBER 2017

Read: Contact from Public Representatives 3 July to 29 September 2017. *(Circulated)*

Agreed: **The report on contact from Public Representatives from 3 July to 29 September 2017 was noted.**

RTS/125/2017: NI PLANNING STATISTICS 2017/2018 FIRST QUARTER STATISTICAL BULLETIN

Read: Report from the NI Statistics and Research Agency on Northern Ireland Planning Statistics 2017/2018 First Quarter Statistical Bulletin (April-June 2017: Provisional Figures). *(Circulated)*.

Mr McKay, Chief Planning Officer, went through the report with Members and explained it contained comparisons between all Planning Departments across Northern Ireland. The "applications received" section showed that Belfast City Council received the most (448) followed by Newry, Mourne and Down (402). This gave an idea how busy the Council's Planning Department was.

In percentage terms Newry, Mourne and Down District Council was one of three who had recorded an increase in planning applications received in Q1 with the other 7 Councils recording a decrease.

The "applications decided by Council" section showed that Newry, Mourne and Down Council had the highest number of decisions issued across Councils when compared to the same period last year (459) Belfast (451) with some Councils issuing in the region of 200 applications. This was an indication of the significant amount of work being done by the Council's Planning Department.

In relation to approval rates per Council, Newry, Mourne and Down had dropped but this was largely as a result of the applications inherited from the legacy Council. Newry, Mourne and Down also had the greatest reduction in the proportion of live cases that were in the system for over one year.

Mr McKay referred to Enforcement performance and said the Council was not at the level they would like to be but there were a number of reasons for this, including staff not being available for work. However significant progress was being made and the level of enforcement activity had increased.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated Mr McKay and the Planning staff for all their hard work.

Agreed: It was agreed to note the above report.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed a report on the number of planning applications received and approved over the past 5 years for renewable energy proposals in the Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and how any approvals contributed to the renewable energy targets within our District, be presented to the next Committee Meeting for consideration.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/126/2017: PERFORMANCE OF SOLAR POWERED LITTER BINS IN NEWCASTLE

Read: Report dated 18 October 2017 from Mr Peter Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing, re: performance of Solar Powered Litter Bins in Newcastle. *(Circulated)*.

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Craig, it was agreed a report be presented to the R&TS Committee detailing options and costs for future replacement of litter bins across the District, including the provision of recycling bins and solar powered bins to be located in identified remote areas where there would be potential collection efficiencies.**

(6.40 pm – Councillor Taylor left the meeting).

RTS/127/2017: REPORT RE: FOOD WASTE EXPANSION PROJECT

Read: Report dated 18 October 2017 from Mr Peter Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing (presented by Mr L Dinsmore) re: food waste expansion project. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Dinsmore, Head of Waste Processing, Enforcement and Business Support, went through the report with Members and outlined the key issues namely reduction in disposal costs with opportunity for further cost reduction; meeting 50% recycling target by 2020; the significant challenges faced by the project for the supply of bin, caddy and liners to properties that currently did not have this facility and the provision of compostable liners to residents.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Kimmins, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the report and recommend: -

- 1. Council to provide additional compostable liners as required by residents at a cost of £94,000 in the current year based on the provision of two further rolls of liners for each property in the district. This cost can be met from savings in disposal costs for the current year. In anticipation that scheme will be continued next year, and to provide for future purchase of compostable liners, the Council anticipate a reduction in disposal costs and set aside a portion of the anticipated savings, estimated at £133,000, for purchase of compostable liners in 2018/19. Scheme to be reviewed in March 2018.**
- 2. Option 1 in the appraisal paper on the mechanism used to supply compostable liners be implemented and that liners be made available from an increased number of Council facilities including the main civic buildings, household recycling centres, leisure centres and community buildings.**
- 3. Residents currently in receipt of an assisted lift collection service will have liners delivered to them on a regular basis.**
- 4. The cut off period to request a bin free of charge be the end of December 2017.**
- 5. Scheme to be reviewed in March 2018.**
- 6. Officials to investigate the cost of providing a small kitchen caddy to those households that do not have them and report back to Committee in due course.**
- 7. Councillors were in agreement as to the need for recycling aspects to be regularly revisited and it was agreed that a Strategy to include education, further recycling initiatives and enforcement be drawn up and considered by Council in due course.**

Members commented that it was very positive to hear about the improvements in recycling rates and thanked the staff in the refuse section who had worked hard to

roll out the new bins. They said the recycling of food waste had proven to be a successful initiative and people had really bought into it.

FOR NOTING

RTS/128/2017: SPECIAL REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 27 SEPTEMBER 2017 TO DISCUSS AN APPLICATION FOR AN AMUSEMENT PERMIT AT 4 MARGARET STREET, NEWRY

Read: Report of Special Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting dated Wednesday 27 September 2017 to discuss an application for an Amusement Permit at 4 Margaret Street, Newry. *(Circulated)*

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to adopt the Minutes of the Special Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 27 September 2017 as a true and accurate record.**

(7.00 pm – Councillor S Burns left the meeting)
Councillor J Tinnelly left the meeting)

RTS/129/2017: REVIEW OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Read: Report dated 18 October 2017 from Mr K Scullion and Ms G Kane, re: review of Public Conveniences. *(Circulated)*.

Members welcomed the report and congratulated the officers on the work they put into it.

Noted: In response to Councillor Casey, Mr Scullion agreed to change the location of the Newry Public Conveniences to John Mitchel Place and not John Mitchel Street.

Agreed: **It was agreed to note the contents of the above Report with a view to the matters being considered further during the forthcoming setting of rates, including comments from Members that due to the impact on tourism, the initial focus should be on the PC's in Newcastle but that all PC'S across the District should be included, with a view to spreading the cost over a period of time.**

It was also noted that a request had been made to consider the needs of those with autism when considering replacement PCs.

RTS/130/2017: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 31 AUGUST 2017

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 31 August 2017 (*Circulated*)

Agreed: It was agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 31 August 2017.

RTS/131/2017: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 28 SEPTEMBER 2017

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 28 September 2017 (*Circulated*)

Noted: It was agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 28 September 2017.

RTS/132/2017: 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 7.20 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 November 2017.

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

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