

At the Council Meeting held on 6th February 2017, the RTS Minutes were discussed and the following was agreed:

RTS/10/2017 – Moving to a Single Standard of No Glass in Blue Recycle Bins

Councillor Mulgrew referred to the lengthy discussion on the issue of no glass in the blue recycle bins, saying there was further work to do regarding placement of collection bins for glass bottles and education, and requested a more in-depth study to be carried out.

Councillor Stokes said the public were not prepared to pay rates as well as take their glass to be recycled and the elderly, disabled and those without access to transport would be at a disadvantage.

Mr O'Rourke responded to Members' questions as follows:

- The Arc21 contract would run until April 2018 during which blue bin content from the Newry area was recycled including glass.
- The Strategic Waste Working Group had agreed in principle to a project to roll out a blue bin service to commercial customers in the Down area.
- The cost of blue bin content being recycled including glass was £73/tonne, without glass it was £42/tonne.

Councillor Carr said it made sense to roll out the glass collection in the blue bins across the whole District and requested officers investigate this as opposed to stopping the service.

Councillor Murnin suggested information detailing what revenue raised from the rates was spent on, saying this should be broken down and displayed in chart format and sent out in the Council's Citizen's News.

The Chief Executive said information for citizens relating to the 2017/2018 rates was already at an advance stage of preparation, but this would be considered for inclusion in the forthcoming citizens news publication.

AGREED: It was agreed on the proposal of Councillor Mulgrew, seconded by Councillor Stokes, that further options be investigated regarding glass in blue recycle bins, including rolling the service out across the whole District, and that information be brought back to Committee.

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2017 at 5.00 pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor R Mulgrew

Members:

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor S Burns
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor V Harte	Councillor P Ó'Gribin
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor J Trainor	

Officials in Attendance: Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services

Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr A McKay, Chief Planning Officer
Miss S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/1/2017: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Casey and Fitzpatrick and from Joe Parkes.

Councillor Mulgrew advised a Cleaner Neighbourhoods Conference, organised by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful was being held on 7th March in Queen's University, Belfast and that if any member of the Committee wished to attend, they should inform officers as soon as possible.

RTS/2/2017: DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflicts of interest.

RTS/3/2017: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2016

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

RTS/185/2016 – Review of Transport NI land maintained by Council's Grounds Maintenance Department

Councillor Curran queried whether a response had been received from the Minister.

Mr O'Rourke advised it had been agreed to bring the matter to the Partnership Panel and NILGA.

Councillor Curran advised the Partnership Panel would be meeting on 31st January 2017 and the information should be sent prior to this meeting.

RTS/187/2016 – Conference on the Future of Energy Policy in NI – including issue relating to Councils – Tuesday 6 December 2016

Councillor Craig asked whether the transcript from the Conference would be available electronically or in hard copy.

Mr O'Rourke advised when the transcript was available it would be forwarded onto Members in whichever format they would like to receive.

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

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION – BUILDING CONTROL

RTS/4/2017: ROADS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT – ROAD CLOSURES FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Read: Report from Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, dated 25 January 2017 regarding Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act – Road Closure for Special Events ***(Copy circulated)***.

Mr Jackson advised the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010 was due to come into effect in 2013 however this had been deferred and would now be enacted in September 2017 which would provide Councils with the power to prohibit or restrict traffic using roads to facilitate special events taking place on the roads.

Mr Jackson advised the report recommended that the Committee note the previous decisions taken by Council in 2013 to:

1. Charge a fee of £400 for administration costs and an advertising cost of £200 for a large event and a fee of £200 for administration cost and an advertising fee of £200 for a small event.
2. Review fees after 6 months to determine if fees were appropriate. The legacy Newry and Mourne District Council had approved the above fees, however the new Newry, Mourne and Down District Council would have to approve the policies, procedures and fees at a later meeting.

Members discussed the issue and raised the following questions:

- During events, would stewards all be first aid trained and would the steward in charge have some identifying clothing?
- Small community festivals may not be able to afford to pay the fees, would community parades fall into this category?
- If villages apply for the order and subsequently it was decided the order was not required, would the fees be refundable?
- If villages that have events within their village square, would this be considered a road closure?
- Would community groups be fined if an event that was being held in a village square spilled out onto the road?

Mr Jackson responded to the queries as follows:

- All road closure applications would need to have event safety plans in place and nominated officials should be identified as the person in charge.

- Even small community events and celebrations would need to apply for an order as if emergency services required access, they would be forewarned that an event was taking place in the area. It would be up to Council to set the fees. Community Parades would still be dealt with through the parades commission.
- Guidance documents had been drafted and would be circulated to all community associations to provide advice on whether they would need to make an application or not.
- It would be a matter for Council to decide if they wanted to fine the community groups. It may be more appropriate to look at their applications for next year and decide whether to grant the order if rules had not been adhered to.

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

RTS/5/2017: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LICENSING OF PAVEMENT CAFES ACT (NI) 2014 POLICY

Read: Report from Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, dated 25 January 2017 regarding Implementation of the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 Policy ***(Copy circulated)***.

Councillor Curran asked what staffing would be required to implement this policy.

Mr Jackson advised the licensing and enforcement team within the Building Control section would be responsible for the implementation which would obviously have some resource implications.

Councillor Craig welcomed the implementation of the Act however asked that enforcement be proportionate while the policy was being implemented.

Mr Jackson advised a softly/softly approach would be taken throughout the first year of implementation.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to accept the officer’s recommendation regarding Implementation of the Licensing of Pavement Cafes Act (NI) 2014 Policy.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - PLANNING

RTS/6/2017: 2016 PLANNING COMMITTEE PERFORMANCE REPORT

Read: Report on Planning Committee Performance ***(Copy circulated)***.

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

RTS/7/2017: RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES

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

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

RTS/8/2017: MEETINGS WITH PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES Q3 OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2016

Read: Report of meetings with public representatives Q3 October-December 2016 *(Copy circulated)*.

Noted: **The report of meetings with public representatives Q3 October-December 2016 was noted.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION - WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/9/2017: REPORT – POTENTIAL VISIT TO RE-GEN PROCESSING PLANT

Read: Report from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Regulatory & Technical Services dated 25 January 2017 regarding Potential Visit to Re-Gen processing plant *(Copy circulated)*.

Mr O'Rourke advised that many Members had received personal invitations to visit the Re-Gen processing plant, however, in order that the potential for the perception of bias to be reduced, Council should formally organise their own education visit.

Councillor Taylor queried whether Members on the Planning Committee could be compromised in any way if they were accept the invitation to attend the Re-Gen Processing Plant visit.

Mr McKay advised that Re-Gen had a couple of planning applications currently under investigation.

Mr O'Rourke recommended that Planning Committee Members don't attend any visit to Re-Gen processing plant.

Councillor Burns asked that any visit be organised prior to the Committee Meeting.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed that Council officials organise an education visit to the Re-Gen waste processing site, open to all elected members prior to a Committee Meeting.

RTS/10/2017: MOVING TO A SINGLE STANDARD OF NO GLASS IN BLUE RECYCLE BINS

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management regarding moving to a single standard of no glass in blue recycle bins (*Copy circulated*).

Mr O'Rourke advised the purpose of the paper was to inform Committee on the implementation plan to remove glass from the blue bin collections in the legacy Newry area and to ensure awareness of the issues and potential costs associated with doing so. He advised the recommendations were:

1. That as of 1st April 2017, no glass was accepted in blue recycling bins;
2. Council implement the required environmental education and communication programme, which will require two students for six months;
3. Additional glass bottle banks were procured and placed across the Newry Legacy area.

Members discussed the issue at length with some expressing their concerns with regard to disabled people or those without access to transport. Members also stated they felt this was a backward step, especially for those residents in the Ballyward area whose blue bin collection had been quite progressive.

Some Members felt that education was the key issue stating that schoolchildren and young people should be targeted as they will in turn educate their parents.

Mr O'Rourke responded to some of the above concerns as follows:

- It may be an option to make arrangements for back door collections as was currently in place.
- Bottle banks could be placed in car parks as Council now control most of these and they usually are not too close to residential properties.
- The method for collection would be standard across the whole District, Ballyward would not be treated any differently.
- Glass collection was incredibly expensive and may be something that Council wished to proceed with in the future but currently would not have plans to do so.
- Council would not meet its recycling targets without implementing a change such as this.
- The planned education programme would be District-wide as there were still low blue bin percentages across the whole of the District.

Agreed: The proposal to remove glass from the blue bins was agreed in principle, but this should be via a phased approach. While it was agreed that an environmental education and a communication programme should be implemented, and additional bottle banks should be procured and placed across the legacy Newry area, it was further agreed that officers would bring back more options to Committee at a future date taking regard of the concerns raised and indicating a timetable for implementation.

FOR NOTING

RTS/11/2017: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN 1 DECEMBER 2016**

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin 1 December 2016 (*Copy circulated*)

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Members' Bulletin dated 1 December 2016.

RTS/12/2017: **ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 27 OCTOBER 2016.**

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 27 October 2016. (*Copy circulated*)

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the Arc 21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes dated Thursday 27 October 2016.

RTS/13/2017: **REPORT RE. CHANGES TO BUILDING REGULATIONS – PART M**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017, from Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director, Regulatory and Technical Services regarding Changes to Building Regulations – Part M (*Copy circulated*)

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the report presented on changes to Building Regulations – Part M.

RTS/14/2017: **PROPOSED CHANGES TO PLANNING COMMITTEE OPERATIONS**

Read: Planning Committee Operating Protocol and Scheme of Delegation – Proposed Changes to Planning Committee (*Copy circulated*)

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the proposed changes to Planning Committee Operations.

RTS/15/2017: **REPORT RE. NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN LOCAL DEVELOPMENT PLAN PREPARATORY STUDIES, PAPER 9: PUBLIC UTILITIES**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr A Hay, Principal Planning Officer regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities (*Copy circulated*)

Councillor Craig asked whether the Committee would be kept abreast of any developments of this scheme and whether the Members could have an input into same.

Mr O'Rourke advised the local development plan had been presented and approved at SP&R Committee however relevant studies were to be circulated at relevant Committees for comment and feedback.

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to note the report regarding Newry, Mourne and Down Local Development Plan Preparatory Studies, Paper 9: Public Utilities

RTS/16/2017: **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING UPDATE**

Read: Report re: Regulatory & Technical Services Committee Action Tracking Update. (*Copy circulated*).

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

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

RTS/17/2017: **REPORT RE. PREFERRED BORROWING METHOD FOR ARC21 INFRASTRUCTURE**

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Regulatory and Technical Services regarding Preferred Borrowing Method for Arc21 Infrastructure (copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of 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).

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed to agree the preferred method of funding this land acquisition, (assuming Council agree to the purchase) is for Arc21 to borrow the money and for Council to pay off the debt over a period of 20 years.

RTS/18/2017: REPORT RE. CONSIDERATION FOR REVISION OF CEMETERY/BURIAL CHARGES FROM APRIL 2017

Read: Report dated 25 January 2017 from Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance, regarding revision of cemetery/burial charges from April 2017 (copy circulated)

Agreed: It was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this matter which related to exempt information by virtue of 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).

Agreed: It was unanimously agreed that a report containing revised figures of the Cemetery/Burial Charges for Council's Municipal Cemeteries from April 2017 be brought to a future Committee Meeting.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 6.25pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 6 February 2017.

Signed: **Councillor Roisin Mulgrew**
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

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

