

NEWRY, MOURNE & DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

NMD/SC/

**Minutes of Special Council Meeting held on Monday 26 March 2018 at 6.10pm
in the Mourne Room, Downshire Civic Centre, Downpatrick**

In the Chair: Councillor R Mulgrew

In attendance:

(Councillors)

Councillor R Burgess	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor M Carr	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor G Craig	Councillor D Curran
Councillor C Enright	Councillor G Fitzpatrick
Councillor H Harvey	Councillor T Hearty
Councillor R Howell	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor J Macauley	Councillor D McAteer
Councillor O McMahon	Councillor A McMurray
Councillor M Murnin	Councillor B Ó Muirí
Councillor B Quinn	Councillor J Rice
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor M Savage
Councillor G Sharvin	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	Councillor JJ Tinnelly
Councillor B Walker	

(Officials)

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Officer

Also in attendance: Mr F McKillion, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks
Ms C Kelly, Northern Ireland Electricity Networks

SC/010/2018 APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Andrews, Bailie, Brown, Devlin, Doran, Loughran and Trainor.

SC/011/2018 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of Interest

SC/012/2018 PRESENTATION FROM NORTHERN IRELAND ELECTRICITY NETWORKS

The Chairperson welcomed the delegation to the meeting and invited them to make their presentation.

Mr McKillion thanked the Chairperson for the invitation and advised that Northern Ireland Networks were responsible for power cuts, network maintenance and development, meter reading, connecting renewables and connections. He stated they had 860,000 customers and over 1200 employees with 300 major substations and 49,200km of network. (copy of the presentation attached to these minutes).

Members asked the following questions:

- It was disappointing that wind turbines in the Cullaville area were deemed as unsuitable for the network to take power from them.
- Why were connection fees for new properties so huge and sometimes doubled following receipt of quotes from the network?
- Were other measures in place for the security of supply at Kilroot and Ballylumford Power Stations?
- How long should it take for alterations when electricity supply had been cut off due to health and safety issues?
- When a quote was sent out for new properties, would it be for other competitors or just for the network?
- Was there to be additional works carried out in the Warrenpoint area in Newry Street?
- With the plan to shed up to 90 jobs, would this impact upon service delivery?
- How can NIE Network ensure that the Independent Connection Providers (ICPs) were maintaining the quality standards?
- What providers were the Network working with to provide energy storage in the future?
- What plans were in place for an increase in windfarms and renewable energy?
- With the introduction of ICPs, would remote areas now be able to establish connections?

COUNCILLORS CLARKE, RUANE, CURRAN, BURGESS, ENRIGHT, MACAULEY, TAYLOR, MCMURRAY AND TRAINOR LEFT DURING THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS – 6.51PM, 6.56PM, 6.59PM AND 7.01PM

Mr McKillion responded to the queries as follows:

- On a windy day, 67% of Northern Ireland's electricity is generated, that electricity then had nowhere to go at night, this was a huge problem in rural areas as the networks were built in the 60s to bring electricity supplies to rural farms. Lots of substations were back-fed through power stations to customers and there was nowhere for the additional electricity to go to, this was why the North-South and Moyle Interconnectors were so important. There needed to be more work done on how to get more renewables connected.
- Cost of electricity hook-up had surprised a lot of customers as in the past every time there was a new supply or increased load, this was spread across Northern Ireland with a 40% discount from NIE, however the regulator stopped that discount and encouraged competition with the introduction of Independent Connection Providers (ICPs).
- Kilroot power station cannot close as there still would need to be gas, coal and oil in place. Northern Ireland was not at risk at present, however it was important to investigate more renewable opportunities, the most recent being battery storage.

- NIE would only cut-off a supply if it was dangerous or unsafe. He encouraged the Member to speak to himself and Ms Kelly following the meeting.
- Quotes would be for any new supplies or increased loads on existing supplies.
- Unsure whether additional works were planned in Warrepoint, there were issues with intermittent blackouts in the Annalong area, however these were minimised to 25 minutes at a time.
- There should be no impact upon service delivery with the reduction of 90 posts. This was ongoing with a review of what roles could be amalgamated and what roles were not required any longer. He stated that 174 people requested exit under the voluntary scheme.
- ICPs must be Lloyds registered and accredited companies. All those currently in NI were registered correctly.
- The target for renewables was 2020 and NIE had almost achieved the target at this stage. Need additional conductors in order to get electricity supply back to substations.
- ICPs give customers an option to get a supply that may have been too expensive in the past. If customers in an area apply together there may be potential for shared schemes. NIE had a scheme in place whereby if you establish a connection that someone connects to within 5 years, you receive a refund.

COUNCILLORS HEARTY, MURNIN, Ó MUIRÍ AND WALKER LEFT DURING THE ABOVE DISCUSSIONS

The Chairperson thanked the delegation for their presentation.


There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.31pm.

For adoption at Meeting of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council to be held on Monday 9 April 2018.

Signed:


Chairperson

Chief Executive




WORKING IN YOUR AREA

Presentation to Newry, Moore & Down District Council



NIE Networks is the electricity network business in Northern Ireland



- Power cuts
- Network Maintenance and Development
- Meter reading
- Connecting Renewables
- Connect2Go

What we do

- 860,000 CUSTOMERS
- OVER 1,200 EMPLOYEES
- 300 MAJOR SUBSTATIONS
- 49,200KM OF NETWORK
- NETWORK CHARGES ARE LESS THAN A QUARTER OF THE ELECTRICITY BILL
- £100 MILLION INVESTED IN THE NETWORK ANNUALLY

Working in your area

£15.5 million investment since 2012 (RPI)

- Major asset replacement schemes
- Timers & Demand-side solutions
- Water main related schemes completed
- Agreement between Electricity and Belfast City Council
- Agreement between Electricity and Moyrings
- Underground cable in damaged exposed underground
- New overhead line between Rathfriland and Rathfriland
- Around 100m overhead line refurbishment
- Major replacement programme

Currently training around 40 people to carry out our dedicated services. Recruiting 10 in 2014



Recent power cuts

Intermittent fault affecting customers in Kiteel, Ballymartin & Annalong areas:

- Some customers experienced a number of outages in February & March
- Technology used but pinpointing exact location of the fault difficult on a long section of rural overhead line
- Broken insulator found following a pole top inspection and repaired on 14 March
- Further pole and insulator refurbishment carried out on the line on 16 March
- Full line refurbishment scheduled early 2014
 - Line replacement
 - Tree cutting
 - Use of banking to increase in advance of the work to keep them as close to what is necessary

Storm response





- Emergency jobs completed rapidly to get power
- Ability to call on external resources
- 24 emergency teams in place
- 2000 critical spare parts in stock
- 22 Local Storm Centre Areas

Preparation & Resources

- Storm simulations completed each year
- Arrangements in place for additional ATVs and helicopters
- Refresher training across all roles completed each year
- Lessons learned from previous storming incorporated in preparations

Our resources

Labour Levels	Fuels	Call Handling	Total
€300	€750	€200	€1250

Other resources

- €500 loan from E-mergency Response Agreement
- €8.000 resources available by Agreement (NIE/SAC)
- €100,000 from external contractors
- €100,000 National Infrastructure Provider (NIP) Mutual Aid Protocol

Restoring power to your community

When it is safe to do so, emergency teams locate fault, survey damage and start repairs

Process of restoration

1. High voltage transmission lines
2. Major power lines that serve a large number of customers
3. Distribute power lines that serve a smaller number of customers
4. Individual homes and businesses get without power



Major events

Storm Dora – February 17

- Over 3,600 customers in the Newry area

St. Eilís Hurricane Ophelia – October 17

- Over 15,000 customers in the Newry area

Storm Eleanor – January 18

- Over 9,000 customers in the Newry area



RP6: Our investment plans for 2017-2024

Plans agreed with Utility Regulator
Work started on 1 October 2017

INVESTING FOR THE FUTURE

RP6 Outputs – Customer Focus

~145,000 OUTPUTS	2014-15-2017-18 30 CUSTOMER HOURS 16 HOURS	April 2018 COMPETITION IN CONNECTIONS
£55 MILLION EFFICIENCY SAVINGS	250,000 METERS REPLACED	£60m ESQR

Open market for connections

OPEN MARKET FOR CONNECTIONS

CONNECTIONS

EMPOWERING

EMUSE 2

Conclusion

NIE Networks is working for today's customer and planning for tomorrow's
We are a 24/7 customer focused business
Our employees are working in your area everyday

Follow us @NIElectricity
Visit nienetworks.co.uk
Call 0947 843 843

Remember your Councilor Mobile Number: 0918 180 2969