

## **NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

### **Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2021 at 6.00pm via MS Teams.**

**Chair:** Councillor O Magennis

**Deputy Chair:** Councillor T Andrews

**Members:**

Councillor C Casey	Councillor W Clarke
Councillor D Curran	Councillor A Finnegan
Councillor G Malone	Councillor C Mason
Councillor H McKee	Councillor K McKeivitt
Councillor D Murphy	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor D Taylor	

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr J McBride, Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Mr P Whyte, Head of Refuse and Cleansing  
Mr J Ellis, Grounds Maintenance Manager  
Ms L O'Hare, Democratic Services Officer  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

#### **NS/001/2021: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

Apologies were received from Councillor Owen and Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management.

#### **NS/002/2021: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

#### **NS/003/2021: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 15 DECEMBER 2020**

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020. ***(Circulated)***.

#### **Action Sheet – NS/271/2020 – Pest Control Service for the Public**

In response to a request for an update from Councillor Casey, Mr McBride advised he had spoken to the Director of AHC about the potential for the re-introduction of a pest control service for the public who had confirmed he would raise the issue with the Assistant Director of Health and Well Being.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 15 December 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

### **NS/004/2021: USE OF FLORAL HANGING BASKETS FOR COUNCIL SUMMER DISPLAY IN 2021**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: proposed summer floral display across the district for 2021. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Andrews said he was concerned about the proposal to discontinue the provision of hanging baskets which he believed enhanced the towns and villages throughout the District and he would propose that the current provision remain.

Councillor Curran asked if there was any way that the Council could provide hanging baskets which could then be maintained by community groups.

In response Mr Scullion advised that consideration could be given to entering a service level agreement with interested groups who would be willing to maintain and water hanging baskets during the growing season, with expressions of interest being sought from various Groups, if the Committee agreed this course of action. He said this would be a more environmental sustainable approach for the Council.

In response to a query from Councillor McKee, Mr Ellis confirmed that planters, such as those provided in Killeel, would continue to be planted out by Council.

Following discussion Councillor Andrews advised he would withdraw his proposal.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Clarke, it was agreed to recommend approval of the roll out of the key themes as outlined in Section 2 of the above report but with the addition that community input be explored with the aim of community groups maintaining hanging baskets if they were provided by Council.

## **WASTE MANAGEMENT**

### **NS/005/2021: REFUSE COLLECTION UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr J Parkes providing an update on the recovery of the refuse collection service. *(Circulated)*.

In presenting the report, Mr McBride outlined the issues which had significantly disrupted the collection of waste from week commencing 28 December 2020. He advised that the recovery plan to deal with the backlog of collections had concluded on Monday, 18 January 2021.

Mr McBride further advised the Waste Management Department had worked extremely hard to continue to provide a service in very difficult circumstances and outlined the various measures that had been put in place to help during the disruption.

Mr McBride added that the Department would also be undertaking a "lessons learned" process to identify any improvements that could be implemented in the future.

Mr McBride confirmed if any Member had individual issues with bin collections, they should raise these with him after the Meeting.

#### Issues raised by Members

- Thanked all staff for their work during this very challenging period.
- Members condemned incidences of abuse which had been directed at refuse collection staff during the disruption.
- Concerns that some areas did not receive a catch-up service and were now at their normal collection stage, which had led some households to having to store excess rubbish.
- Complaints had been received by Members from customers who were unable to get through to customer services.
- Members to be provided with the additional costs incurred arising from the implementation of the recovery plan when these were available.
- Officers to look at the format of the daily update reports provided to Elected Members with a view to simplifying the format and making them easier to understand.

**AGREED:**                    **It was unanimously agreed note the refuse collection update and that future daily update reports to Members should be provided in a simpler and clearer format.**

#### **FOR NOTING**

**NS/006/2021:**        **DAERA MINISTER'S RESPONSE TO COUNCIL CORRESPONDENCE ON CLIMATE CHANGE**

Read:                    Letter dated 11 January 2021 from the Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs, in response to Council correspondence on climate change. ***(Circulated)***.

Mr McBride said the Minister had referred to the Climate Change Bill and that the Council would be responding to this consultation through the AHC Directorate.

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

**NS/007/2021:** **HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

Read: Historic Actions Tracking Sheet *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

Items 8-9 are deemed to be exempt under 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) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

**On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.**

**NS/008/2021:** **BUSINESS CASE FOR THE REFURBISHMENT OF STRUELL CEMETARY AMENITY BUILDING**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr K Scullion re: business case – refurbishment of Struell Cemetery Amenity Building. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/009/2021:** **NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE PROCUREMENT ACTION PLAN UPDATE – RESOURCES UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 20 January 2021 from Mr J McBride providing an update on the resourcing of the the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Procurement Action Plan, specifically in relation to Waste Management. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Andrews proposed and Councillor Mason, seconded to come out of closed session.

When the Committee was out of closed session the Chairperson reported the following had been agreed:-

Item 8 – Business case for the refurbishment of Struell Cemetery Amenity Building

**AGREED:**                **On the proposal of Councillor Curran, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the content of the report and to accept the conclusion of the business case that option 2 be approved. Option 2 would see the appointment, through tender, of a competent contractor to undertake refurbishment works to Struell Cemetery amenity building which was extensively fire damaged in 2020.**

Item 9 – Neighbourhood Services Procurement Resources Update

**AGREED:**                **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKee, it was agreed to note the Neighbourhood Services Procurement Action Plan resources update**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.05 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1 February 2021.

**Signed:**                **Councillor O Magennis  
Chairperson of Neighbourhood Services Committee**

**Signed:**                **Mr J McBride  
Director of Neighbourhood Services (Acting)**