

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

**Minutes of Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 22 September 2020 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and 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 D Murphy	Councillor G Stokes
Councillor K McKeivitt	Councillor K Owen
Councillor H Reilly	Councillor D Taylor

**Non-Committee Members:** Councillor Tinnelly

**Officials in Attendance:** Mr R Moore, Director of Neighbourhood Services  
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance  
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director, Waste Management  
Ms S Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)  
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

### **NS/198/2020: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

An apology was received from Councillor McKee.

The Chairperson extended condolences to Councillor Trainor on the death of his father, John.

She also advised that this was recycling week and encouraged Members to share recycling information to raise awareness.

### **NS/199/2020: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

No declarations of Conflicts of Interest were made.

### **NS/200/2020: ACTION SHEET OF THE NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 19 AUGUST 2020**

Read: Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2020. ***(Circulated)***.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 August 2020 be noted and actions removed as marked.

**FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION**

**NS/201/2020: PRESENTATION ON THE "FUTURE RECYCLING AND SEPARATE COLLECTION OF WASTE OF A HOUSEHOLD NATURE IN NORTHERN IRELAND AND REPORT ON DRAFT RESPONSE TO DAERA"**

Mr R Moore, Director, gave a presentation on the Future Recycling and Separate Collection of Waste of a Household Nature in Northern Ireland Public Discussion Document.

At the end of the presentation Mr Moore said if members had any feedback or comments they should email them to him by 30<sup>th</sup> September.

Issues raised

- Central Government should be putting financial support in place to support the proposals in the Discussion Document.
- The current MRF contract clearly separates dry recyclables and the residents of the area have bought into the food collection and dry recyclable services that are currently available in the Council area.
- Could not see the need to have a weekly food waste collection.
- Important that there is a collective message sent out from all 11 Councils particularly around education.
- The carbon footprint if there was any increase in bin lorry collection services – this would not benefit the environment.

Noted: The closing date for responses was 4 October 2020 and Mr Moore advised he would take on board any comments made by Members and would submit the response under the Scheme of Delegation.

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr J Parkes, re: DAERA – Draft response on future recycling and separation of waste of a household nature in Northern Ireland. (*Circulated*).

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed that the Council approve the submission of the response to DAERA's discussion document as circulated at the meeting and also that authority be given to submit the response by 4<sup>th</sup> October

**under delegated authority and to include comments submitted by Members.**

**NS/202/2020: NEIGHBOURHOOD SERVICES DIRECTORATE MID TERM ASSESSMENT EMERGENCY BUSINESS PLAN APRIL – SEPTEMBER 2020**

**Read:** Neighbourhood Services Directorate Mid Term Assessment Emergency Business Plan April-September 2020. *(Circulated)*.

**Agreed:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to note the Neighbourhood Services Directorate Mid Term Assessment Emergency Business Plan April-September 2020.**

## **FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**NS/203/2020: MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING OF PARTNERING ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN DFI ROAD AND NMDDC FOR CLEANING BUSY TOWN CENTRE, FOOTWAYS AND PEDESTRIAN AREAS OF SNOW AND ICE**

**Read:** Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion seeking agreement from the Council to a review of the current Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Council and the Department for Infrastructure regarding the clearance of snow and ice from town centre footways and pedestrian areas. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the proposal and extend for a further three years, in accordance with the "Scope of the Agreement" Clause 3 and Appendix 1 as amended, and to sign the updated MoU with additional locations.**

**It was also agreed Council Officials discuss the following issues with DFI Roads which were raised by Members during the discussion:-**

- **A request that the areas of coverage be extended to also include Annalong, Saintfield, Crossgar, Killough, Mayobridge and Rostrevor.**
- **As the lead Partner Agency, DfI be asked to consider the involvement of community/voluntary organisations to assist within their communities during prolonged periods of snow and ice.**

Noted: Mr Scullion said he would find out why there was two designations for Ballynahinch i.e. Priority One and Priority Two and update Councillor Owen who had requested this information.

**NS/204/2020: REPORT ON REQUEST TO EXTEND COUNCIL CHRISTMAS DISPLAYS**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: requests to extend the Council Christmas display for 2020. *(Circulated)*.

Issues raised

- Were there any proposals for Newtownhamilton Christmas displays – Mr Scullion advised there was currently an EI scheme ongoing in Newtownhamilton and it was unlikely to be finished until the New Year. Officers had been in contact with Newtownhamilton Community Association to advise of this and to say that proposals for future Christmas displays would be brought to Committee in the new year.
- A special effort be made this year to mark the season in terms of Christmas illuminations given the recent announcements on restrictions on families meeting up due to the COVID situation.
- Consideration be given to a small cut tree with lights being provided at North Promenade Newcastle given that it was not cost effective to provide lights to the oak tree.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Owen, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve Officers recommendation to proceed with the request for Ross Monument, Rostrevor, and with request at Newcastle Harbour (subject to agreement with the Commissioner of Lights) and not to proceed with request to provide lights to oak tree at North Promenade Newcastle.**

**It was agreed officers consider a request that a small cut tree, with lights, be provided at North Promenade, Newcastle, and report back to the next Committee meeting with options/costs.**

**NS/205/2020: SHIMNA RIVER WALL REPAIRS**

Mr Scullion said it had been hoped to bring a report on this issue to Committee but negotiations were still on-going with Rivers Agency to agree an acceptable solution to the repairs needed to the river wall at Shimna. He outlined the solutions being proposed and advised once agreement had been reached, a report would be brought back hopefully to the October Committee Meeting.

**AGREED:** It was agreed to note the verbal update provided.

**NS/206/2020:** **PHASE 3 REOPENING OF PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

**Read:** Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Phase 3 of reopening of public conveniences. (*Circulated*).

Issues raised

- Local businesses, especially those in popular tourist areas, were finding it difficult to facilitate the increasing number of requests from walkers/tourists to use their toilet facilities, when Council owned conveniences were closed. Such requests were difficult as it was hard to keep track and trace records and there were higher costs involved with having to thoroughly clean the facilities after use. Consideration should be given to Council extending the opening hours of their public conveniences in such areas (e.g. Warrenpoint and Newcastle).
- In response to a query Mr Scullion confirmed Council PCs were cleaned in cognisance with Public Health advice – thoroughly cleaned 3 times daily (or twice daily depending on usage). Sanitisation stations were also placed outside the facilities for users.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to note the content of the report and approve the 6 No. additional public conveniences as part of the phased recovery plan be reopened from 1 October 2020.**

**NS/207/2020:** **PUBLIC CONVENIENCE STRATEGY – 12 WEEK PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

**Read:** Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: Public Convenience Strategy – 12-week public consultation. (*Circulated*).

Issues raised

- Mr Moore confirmed the Council could take a decision to provide literature on domestic violence in their PCs without this having to be part of the public consultation.
- Members put on record the appreciation for work that had gone into this Strategy.
- Mr Scullion confirmed officers were working on a business case for a PC at Castle Park Newcastle and this would be brought to a future Committee Meeting.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the content of the report and the update from Mr Scullion that the findings from the consultation would be brought back to Committee for review.

## **WASTE MANAGMENT**

### **NS/208/2020: ANNUAL COST OF DISTRICT CLEANSING AND ENFORCEMENT**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr J Parkes, providing an update on financial information on annual cost of District cleansing and enforcement services, following a request made by the Committee at the August meeting. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Parkes advised that a report on benchmarking information from all 11 Councils would be available for the Committee meeting in October.

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

### **NS/209/2020: UPDATE ON HRCs REOPENING PLAN**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr J Parkes providing an update to the Committee on the re-opening of the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), in accordance with the relaxation of social distancing measures by the NI Executive and resource availability. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Parkes advised the 10 sites would open 6 days a week from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm from Monday 28 September 2020 (except Hilltown which normally closed on a Tuesday) and Saturday opening would commence on 3 October 2020 (subject to operational issues/resources). He said if there were any changes in operating procedures Elected Members would be informed.

Members welcomed the update on Saturday opening and in response to a query, Mr Moore said even in the event of further announcements around COVID 19, he did not foresee there would be a need to close the HRCs.

**AGREED:** It was unanimously agreed to note the update in relation to the next phase of the re-opening of the Council's Household Recycling Centres (HRCs).

## **FOR NOTING**

**NS/210/2020: NIEA – LANDFILL ALLOWANCE SCHEME (NI) REGULATIONS 2004 (AS AMENDED) 15<sup>TH</sup> SCHEME YEAR 2019/2020 – DRAFT RECONCILIATIONS**

Read: Letter dated 13 August 2020 from NIEA re: The Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) Regulations 2004 (As amended) 15<sup>th</sup> Scheme Year 2019/20 – Draft Reconciliation. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/211/2020: DAERA – CIRCULAR ECONOMY PACKAGE POLICY STATEMENT**

Read: Correspondence from DAERA dated 17 August 2020 re: Circular Economy Package Policy Statement. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/212/2020: Arc21 JC MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN – AUGUST 2020**

Read: Arc21 JC Members Monthly Bulletin – August 2020. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/213/2020: Arc21 JC MINUTES – JULY 2020**

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 30 July 2020. *(Circulated)*.

**NS/214/2020: Arc21 CONSULTATION RESPONSE PLASTIC PACKAGING TAX**

Read: Arc21 Consultation Response on Plastic Packaging Tax. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was unanimously agreed to note the above items.**

**NS/215/2020: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, 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**

Item 19 is 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Owen, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on this item.**

#### **NS/216/2020: BUSINESS CASE FOR REPLACEMENT DIGGER AND DUMPER**

Read: Report dated 22 September 2020 from Mr K Scullion re: business case for replacement digger and dumper. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor Owen proposed and Councillor Murphy seconded to come out of closed session.

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

#### **Item 19 – Business Case for replacement digger and dumper**

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed to note the content of the report and associated Business Case and to accept the conclusion of the business case to proceed to tender to procure a replacement digger, dumper and associated plant.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.35pm.

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

**Signed: Mr R Moore  
Director of Neighbourhood Services**