

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

RTS/M

Minutes of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 February 2016 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chairperson: Councillor T Andrews

Members:

Councillor P Brown	Councillor P Byrne
Councillor C Casey	Councillor S Doran
Councillor G Fitzpatrick	Councillor G Hanna
Councillor V Harte	Councillor P O'Gribin
Councillor G Stokes	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor D Taylor	

Officials in Attendance

Mr L Hannaway, Chief Executive
Mr C O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services
Mr A McKay, Head of Planning
Mr C Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations
Mr J Parkes, Assistant Director of Waste Management
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Mrs C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer

RTS/13/2016: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

It was noted apologies were received from Councillor M Murnin, Councillor H McKee and Councillor S Ennis.

RTS/14/2016: DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

It was noted there were no declarations of interest.

RTS/15/2016: ACTION SHEET OF THE REGULATORY AND TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING – WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2016

Read: Action Sheet of the Regulatory and Technical Services Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2016. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: The Action Sheet was noted.

FOR CONSIDERATION AND/OR DECISION

RTS/16/2016: LETTER FROM EPILEPSY NI RE: TURNING LOCAL BUILDINGS PURPLE FOR 24 HOURS

Read: Letter from Epilepsy NI re: request to support Purple Day – the international day of epilepsy awareness to be held from Friday evening 25 March 2016 to Saturday 26 March 2016. They sought support from the Council by turning key buildings with the District Council area purple for 24 hours. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Fitzpatrick, it was agreed the Council light up Newry Town Hall and St. Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick purple to support the International Day of Epilepsy Awareness.**

BUILDING CONTROL

RTS/17/2016 REPORT RE: TENDER FOR COUNCIL'S STREET NAMEPLATE SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016

Read: Report from Mr Colum Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory and Technical Services held on Wednesday 17 February 2016 re: Tender for Council's Street Nameplate Service. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed not to adopt the report at this stage but that Officials bring back a report to the March RTS Committee Meeting giving details of various design templates for street nameplates together with relevant costs.**

RTS/18/2016 REPORT RE: TENDER FOR COUNCIL'S DOG KENNELING SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016

Read: Report from Mr Colum Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory and Technical Services held on Wednesday 17 February 2016 re: Tender for Council's Dog Kennelling Service. **(Circulated).**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to authorise the commencement of the tendering process for the provision of a Kennelling Contract for stray and unwanted dogs with effect from 1 April 2016 until 31 March 2019, with the option to extend by a further period of up to one year.**

Agreed: It was also agreed to seek authorisation to go out to tender to extend the provision of a holding centre within 20 miles of one of the main Council offices after the Kennelling contract has been awarded.

Agreed: It was further agreed that a monthly report be tabled at the RTS Committee Meeting giving details of the number of stray dogs lifted, what happened to them and the cost to the Council of managing stray dogs.

PLANNING

RTS/19/2016 PLANNING DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

Read: Planning Performance Indicators. **(Circulated)**

Noted: The Planning Department Performance Indicators report was noted.

RTS/20/2016 RECORD OF MEETINGS BETWEEN PLANNING OFFICERS AND PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVES – JANUARY 2016

Read: Record of Meetings between Planning Officers and Public Representatives for January 2016. **(Circulated)**

Agreed: The above report was noted.

Noted: In response to a query from Councillor Hanna on the perceived value of public representatives meeting with Planning Service, Mr A McKay, Head of Planning, said that politicians had a role to play in planning matters and had a mandate to speak on behalf of their constituents. He said there was useful work carried out as part of this process.

Noted: Mr McKay advised that the meeting with Mournes Councillors regarding a planning application for a fish farm would be held within the next two weeks.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

RTS/21/2016 REPORT RE: REVIEW OF BIN CHARGES WITH OPTIONS ON PRICES – WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016

Read: Report from Mr Canice O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services re: review of bin charges with options on prices held on Wednesday 17 February 2016. **(Circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Hanna, it was agreed that in relation to proposed bin charges for the financial year 2016/2017 that the cost of the blue and brown bins be reduced by 50%. This proposal was unanimously agreed.**

Noted: Mr O'Rourke advised that from 1 April 2017 the Council would be legally obliged to collect food waste from every household in the District and this would have a cost implication for the Council.

RTS/22/2016 REPORT RE: STRATEGIC WASTE ISSUES WORKING GROUP PROPOSAL - WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016

Read: Report from Mr Canice O'Rourke, Director of Regulatory and Technical Services seeking approval to set up a cross party Working Group to actively consider and advise upon a series of strategic issues in relation to waste management. **(Circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to establish a cross party Strategic Waste Issues Working Group and that this be referred to the Party Representatives to make nominations on behalf of each Party.**

Agreed: **It was proposed that Councillor Andrews, as Chairman of the RTS Committee, would represent the SDLP on this Working Group.**

Agreed: **It was agreed at the request of Councillor Reilly that officials table a report at a future RTS Committee Meeting on the savings to the Council if glass collection was removed from the blue bin collection in the former Newry and Mourne District Council area.**

**RTS/23/2016: DELAYS IN BIN COLLECTIONS DUE TO THE
BREAKDOWN OF VEHICLES**

Mr Parkes advised that there had been a period just after Christmas and early in the New Year when there had been a number of breakdowns. He updated Members on the various causes of vehicle breakdowns and said that even a simple repair could lead to a down time of 2-3 hours as a vehicle would have to be taken to the garage. He also gave details of the problems associated with overweight axles and said officials were actively looking at ways of resolving this issue e.g. getting additional help on routes where this was a recurring problem.

Mr Parkes said that if a collection was missed at least 95% of the bins would be lifted the following day. He advised that if a street was missed it was very clear that no refuse collection had taken place but on occasion it could be that bins were not left out early enough and if the collection was earlier than usual some bins could be missed. The advice to householders was that all bins should be left out by 7.30 am.

In the former Down District Council area there was a tracking system on refuse vehicles which would show if a vehicle was in a particular area and on the whole it was only a small percentage of time that the Council was at fault for a missed collection.

Mr Parkes also added that there was a higher rate of breakdowns in vehicles which were over 7 years old.

Mr O'Rourke said that 91,000 bins were lifted on a weekly basis throughout the District and only a very small percentage were not lifted.

Councillor Doran left the meeting at this point – 6.50 pm.

RTS/24/2016: INTEGRATION OF BALLYWARD BIN COLLECTION

Mr Parkes advised that Street Cleansing; Commercial Waste Service; Bulky Waste Service and Bottle Banks were integrated April 2015 into Newry, Mourne and Down District Council. From 1 April 2015 to 1 April 2016 waste had been dealt with by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon District Council through a service level agreement but ABC Council had indicated they did not wish to continue with this arrangement beyond April 2016. This service will be provided in-house from Monday, 4 April 2016.

He said there were 923 households in Ballyward which had a fortnightly black bin service and also a fortnightly blue bin (green bin) and brown bin service.

Mr Parkes confirmed that a meeting would be held on Monday 29 February 2016 to agree new collection schedules for households and a mail shot would be sent to residents in the middle of March 2016 advising them of new collection arrangements.

In response to a query from Councillor O'Gribin as to the possibility of the Ballyward collection remaining on a Friday, as it always had been, Mr O'Rourke said that next year there would be a complete review of all refuse collection services throughout the District and it was likely that most households would have a change in collection arrangements.

FOR NOTING

RTS/25/2016 REPORT RE: STREET TRADING AT THE SQUARE, WARRENPOINT- WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016

Read: Report from Mr Colum Jackson, Assistant Director of Regulatory and Technical Services, regarding Street Trading at The Square, Warrenpoint held on Wednesday 17 February 2016. **(Circulated)**

Noted: Mr Jackson, Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations advised he was withdrawing this report from the agenda as the contractors working on the Public Realm Scheme in Warrenpoint had confirmed that street traders would only be displaced for one week and this could be accommodated in The Square.

RTS/26/2016 REPORT RE: PLANNING REVIEW TASKFORCE MEETING - WEDNESDAY 20 JANUARY 2016

Read: Report re: Planning Review Taskforce Meeting held on Wednesday 20 January 2016.**(Circulated)**.

Agreed: **It was unanimously agreed to note the above report.**

RTS/27/2016 CONSULTATION ON NIEA REGULATORY CHARGING POLICY PROPOSALS 2016 - 2021

Read: E-mail from Jennifer Long, Department of the Environment re: Consultation on NIEA Regulatory Charging Policy Proposals 2016 – 2012. **(Circulated)**

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

RTS/28/2016 LETTER FROM TRANSPORT NI RE: BUS SHELTER CONTRACT

Read: Letter dated 15 December 2015 from Transport NI re: Bus Shelter Contract. **(Circulated)**

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

**RTS/29/2016 ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
MEMBERS MONTHLY BULLETIN
(28 JANUARY 2016)**

Read: Arc 21 Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin – 28 January 2016. **(Circulated)**

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

**RTS/30/2016 ARC 21 STEERING GROUP MEETING
- TUESDAY 23 NOVEMBER 2015**

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 Steering Group Meeting held on Tuesday 23 November 2015. **(Circulated)**

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

**RTS/31/2016 ARC 21 STEERING GROUP MEETING
- THURSDAY 3 DECEMBER 2015**

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 Steering Group Meeting held on Thursday 3 December 2015. **(Circulated)**

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

Councillor Fitzpatrick left the meeting at this point – 7.20 pm.

**ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2015**

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor O’Gribin, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these matters which related to exempt information 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).

**RTS/32/2016 REPORT RE: AUGHNAGUN CELL 5 STEEP WALL LINING
FINAL ACCOUNT – WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016**

Read: Report from Mr Canice O'Rourke dated Wednesday 17 February 2016 regarding Aughnagun Cell 5 Steep Wall Lining Final Account. **(Circulated).**

**RTS/33/2016 REPORT RE: AGREED MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES
PROCESSING CONTRACT FOR NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN
DISTRICT – WEDNESDAY 17 FEBRUARY 2016**

Read: Report from Mr Canice O'Rourke dated Wednesday 17 February 2016 regarding Agreed Mixed Dry recyclables Processing Contract for Newry, Mourne and Down District. **(Circulated)**

Agreed: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Stokes, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

Agreed: **When the Committee came out of closed session, the Chairman reported that it had been agreed:-**

- **On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Hanna, to approve the final account payment relating to Aughnagun's Cell 5 Steep Wall Lining in the sum of £270,000.00 as detailed in the report circulated at the meeting.**
- **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Stokes, to approve the proposed award of the contract for the processing of the Mixed Dry Recyclables collected across the Newry, Mourne and Down District, with the processing being carried out under two different "lots", dependent on the source of the materials. It was agreed the contract be awarded for one year, with the option to extend for a further year.**

RTS/34/2016: DELAYS IN THE PAYMENT OF GRANTS

Agreed: **It was agreed at the request of Councillor Reilly that the Assistant Director of Building Control and Regulations be asked to clarify if there were any delays in Building Control processing applications for grants such as replacement central heating boilers as other agencies were telling**

customers that the delays in paying out grants lay with Building Control.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.30 pm.

For consideration at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7 March 2016.

Signed: Councillor Terry Andrews
Chairperson of Regulatory & Technical Services Committee

Signed: Mr C O Rourke
Director Regulatory & Technical Services