

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 20 September 2022 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)

Members: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)
Councillor C Casey (Chamber)
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Curran (Chamber)
Councillor A Finnegan (Chamber)
Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor A McMurray (Teams)
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor K Owen (Teams)
Councillor M Ruane (Teams)
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)

Non-Committee Members: Councillor G Hanna
Councillor H Reilly

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr K Scullion, Assistant Director Facilities Management and Maintenance
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Ms C McAteer, Democratic Services Officer
Ms P McKeever, Democratic Services Officer

SE/126/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Taylor and Malone.

SE/127/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

SE/128/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17 AUGUST 2022

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 August 2022. ***(Circulated)***.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Curran seconded by Councillor Murphy it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 17 August 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

FOR CONSIDERATION AND DECISION

SE/129/2022: FLEET REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME UPDATE

Read: Report dated 20 September 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Fleet Replacement Programme Update. ***(Circulated)***.

Mr Cassells clarified a further three vehicles had gone through the evaluation process and should be ordered by the end of the month.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor McKevitt it was agreed to note the contents of the report.**

SE/130/2022: HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE USAGE AND ACCESS POLICY

Read: Report dated 20 September 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Household Recycling Centre Usage and Access Policy. ***(Circulated)***.

Councillor Casey referred to bulky collections saying there had been a lot of complaints regarding delays with the booking system and asked if a commitment could be given regarding the timeframe for collections. Ms Murphy acknowledged there had been significant issues during COVID, however she said, there were slots available and she would continue to review and revert back to Councillor Casey outside of the meeting.

Members expressed concern at the potential for extra cost to the public, the issues that may arise from the online booking system and the risk of an increase in fly-tipping as a result of going with the preferred Option 3.

To clarify Ms Murphy highlighted the following points:

- There would be no charge to residents availing of the HRC sites
- There was a statutory obligation to charge for commercial waste
- The height restriction of 1.95m was in the 2019 Guidance Document and had previously been agreed by the Committee in 2019.

- Feedback from staff at HRC sites indicated regular users accessing the sites to dispose of commercial waste.
- There would not be a cost for the online booking system as current software and equipment available to the Council would be used.
- Blue Badge holders did not have to pre-book, on arrival to the HRC site and showing their badge, the barrier would be lifted.
- The online booking system would be kept under review, currently the IT systems would need to be further developed to offer instantaneous bookings and this would take time, currently 24 hours notice would be required.
- The option of an 'online only' booking system would be kept under review.
- Induction and refresher training courses were on-going for staff and staff were clearly identifiable by their council branded uniforms.

Mr Cassells said the current mechanism for charging for commercial waste was on volume rather than weight basis, he considered a fairer method would be to pay per weight and he said the recommendation was to explore options for pay per weight for commercial waste at those sites that currently had weigh bridges.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Casey it was agreed to proceed with Option 3 contained within the Report dated 20 September 2022 as follows:

Option 3:

- **Introduce an online booking system to allow access by residents disposing of household waste in to vehicles greater than 1.95 metres high across the sites.**
- **Develop and introduce an online booking system to allow access by commercial users disposing of commercial waste in any vehicles greater than 1.95 metres high across the sites. Future options for weighing commercial waste at sites to be considered to better manage cost recovery. Review current charging structure for commercial waste to be accepted at designated HRSs in light of significant increase in waste disposal costs to Council.**

EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS

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

Items 6, 7 and 8 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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Mc Kevitt, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on these items.

SE/131/2022: BUSINESS CASE FOR DRIVER CPC TRAINING AND ASSESSMENTS AND LOADER TRAINING

Read: Report dated 20 September 2022 from Ms S Murphy (Acting) Assistant Director Waste Management, regarding Business Case – Procurement of Driver CPC training and assessment. *(Circulated)*

SE/132/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 25 AUGUST 2022

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 25 August 2022. *(Circulated)*.

SE/133/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 30 JUNE 2022

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 26 May 2022. *(Circulated)*.

Councillor McKevitt proposed, and Councillor Curran seconded, to come out of closed session.

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

SE/131/2022 – Business Case – Procurement of Driver CPC training and assessment

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the Business Case as per Appendix 1, for the procurement of driver training including Driver CPC, induction and refresher training and assessment.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note this bulletin.

SE/133/2022 - Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting `in Committee’ Minutes of 30 June 2022

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Casey, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note these Minutes.

FOR NOTING

SE/134/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MINUTES THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2022

Read: Arc21 JC Meeting Minutes held on Thursday 30 June 2022.
(Circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was it was agreed to note the above Minutes.

SE/135/2022: REVIEW OF SUMMER CLEANSING ARRANGEMENTS

Read: Summer Cleansing Arrangements *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the Summer Cleansing Arrangements.

SE/136/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Neighbourhood Services Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 18:54.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 03 October 2022.

**Signed: Councillor O Magennis
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee**

**Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment**