

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

**Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 23 November 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 (Teams)  
Councillor W Clarke (Teams)  
Councillor D Curran (Teams)  
Councillor A Finnegan (Teams)  
Councillor G Malone (Teams)  
Councillor K McKeivitt (Chamber)  
Councillor D Murphy (Chamber)  
Councillor A McMurray (Chamber)  
Councillor K Owen (Teams)  
Councillor M Ruane (Chamber)  
Councillor G Stokes (Teams)  
Councillor D Taylor (Teams)

**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 L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer

### **SE/148/2022: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS**

No apologies were received.

### **SE/149/2022: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"**

No declarations of conflicts of interest were made.

### **SE/150/2022: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 18 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022. ***(Circulated)***.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed the Action Sheet of the**

**Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Tuesday 18 October 2022 be noted and actions removed as marked.**

**Issues raised**

*SE/147/2022 – Clock at St. Mary’s Parish Church, Newry*

In response to a request for an update from Councillor Taylor, Mr Scullion advised officers needed to consult with representatives from St. Mary’s Church, Newry, to ascertain what input the Council previously had in terms of maintenance of this clock and a report would be brought back to Committee once these discussions had been held.

*SE/141/2022 – Christmas Illuminations and Celebrations Group Meeting – request for provision of Christmas tree at Newcastle Harbour and Bessbrook*

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Clarke, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed officers meet with local community representatives at the beginning of week commencing 28 November 2022 to see what type of technical solution could be offered to provide Christmas illuminations at the Harbour area of Newcastle. The options to be considered to include the provision of a small artificial tree at this location.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed officers consider technical solutions which could be offered to provide a better Christmas tree in Bessbrook, as the current sustainable tree had not matured sufficiently to ensure it was a focal point for the Village. Officers to update DEA Councillors on the outcome of their discussions.

Noted: In response to a query from Councillor Casey regarding improved accessibility for the public to the Christmas Crib in Hill Street, Newry, Mr Scullion said officers had contacted Church representatives last year to see what could be done but they had confirmed that, for various reasons, they were reluctant to open the gates for greater access.

**FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE**

**SE/151/2022: ENGAGEMENT OF VOLUNTEERS FOR CASTLEWELLAN FOREST PARK**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, regarding

engagement of volunteers to work within Castlewella Forest Park.  
***(Circulated)***.

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

Noted: Councillor Clarke asked that officers ensure they engaged with Groups who worked in mental health services and also to engage with the South Eastern Regional College re: career development for students.

**SE/152/2022: CONTROL OF GREY SQUIRRELS**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Kevin Scullin Assistant Director, Facilities Management and Maintenance, regarding control of grey squirrels. ***(Circulated)***.

Noted: During discussion on the report Members emphasised the need to ensure diligence in relation to health and safety of users and to ensure minimal impact on other animals and the environment. Members commented that there seemed to be an increase in the red squirrel population in some areas and welcomed this – it was important to create the right habitat to encourage natural predators such as the pine martin.

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

**It was also agreed that when officers were replying to DEARA on this issue, that they ask for confirmation on what actions DEARA themselves would be taking to control grey squirrels on their land and parks.**

**WASTE MANAGEMENT**

**SE/153/2022: FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Sinead Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management regarding Fleet Replacement Programme Update. ***(Circulated)***.

Noted: Ms Murphy advised that since the report issued the supplier of the 26 tonne refuse collection vehicles had indicated that delivery of the first two vehicles would be early January 2023 and not December 2022 as indicated in the report.

In response to queries, Mr Cassells confirmed these were replacement vehicles and not additional vehicles and they were not tied into the street cleansing review.

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

### **EXEMPT INFORMATION ITEMS**

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

**AGREED:**                   **On the proposal of Councillor Murphy, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 13-15 which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government (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.**

**AGREED:**                   **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.**

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:-

**SE/154/2022:     FLEET MANAGEMENT OPERATOR’S LICENCE ACTION PLAN UPDATE**

Read:                   Report dated 23 November 2022 from Ms S Murphy regarding Fleet Operator’s Licence – Fleet Management Action Plan Update.  
*(Circulated).*

**AGREED:**                   **On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to approve the revised Fleet Operator License Action Plan update November 2022.**

**SE/155/2022:     BUSINESS CASE FOR FLEET TELEMATICS**

Read:                   Report dated 23 November 2022 from Ms S Murphy regarding Business Case for the Procurement of a Vehicle Telemetry System.  
*(Circulated).*

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to approve the business case in Appendix 1 for the procurement of a telematics solution for the monitoring of location, movements, status, and behaviour of a vehicle/driver subject to the final award being referred back to the Sustainable and Environment Committee following discussions with the Trade Unions.

**SE/156/2022:** **PROPOSED EXTENSION TO MONKSHILL MUNICIPAL CEMETERY**

**Read:** Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: proposed extension to Monkshill Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Stokes, seconded by Councillor Casey, it was agreed to-

- Note the content of the report.
- Accept the conclusions of the Economic Appraisal that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option. Option 3 would see the Council proceed with a construction project to extend Monkshill Municipal Cemetery by the addition of circa 566 new burial plots.
- Upon completion of the tender pack for this project a tender was to be advertised to seek appointment of a suitably qualified contractor to complete the approved works under Planning Application LA07/2021/1270/F.

**SE/157/2022:** **BUSINESS CASE – UPGRADE WORKS TO WARRENPOINT MUNICIPAL CEMETERY**

**Read:** Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: upgrade works to Warrenpoint Municipal Cemetery. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor McKevitt, it was agreed to-

- Note the content of the report.
- Accept the conclusions of the Business Case that Option 3 be chosen as the preferred option. Under Option 3 the existing paving slabs would be removed and replaced with a new bitmac pathway to match the new pathways within the site. Option 3 addresses vehicular access to the site through the provision of automated timed opening and closing of the site.
- Works to the pathways to be undertaken utilising the Council's Civil Engineering and Minor Works Framework.

**Works to provide automated timed opening and closing of the site to be procured through open tender.**

**SE/158/2022: BUSINESS CASE FOR APPOINTMENT OF COMMERCIAL CLEANING CONTRACTOR**

**Read:** Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr K Scullion re: Business Case for appointment of a contractor to undertake Commercial Cleaning Services (5 x year contract). *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to-**

- **Note the content of the report and associated Business Case.**
- **Accept the conclusion of the Business Case that Option 2 is chosen as the preferred option. Option 2 will see the appointment, through a tender process, of a competent Commercial Cleaning Contractor who will undertake cleaning of Council offices at Downshire Civic Centre, Strangford Road Depot and ad hoc cleaning services at Council Offices, and Council Depot, Newry.**

(Cllr. Stokes left the meeting)

**SE/159/2022: PRESENTATION ON COUNCIL STRATEGIC WASTE MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS UPDATE**

**Read:** Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr A Cassells, re: Council Strategic Waste Management Arrangements Update. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED:** **On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor McKeivitt, it was agreed not to adopt the recommendations in the report but to defer this as a single agenda item at a Special Sustainable and Environment Committee Meeting, to which all Councillors would be invited to attend, to be convened at a later date.**

(Councillor Malone left the meeting)

**SE/160/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – 27 OCTOBER 2022**

**Read:** Arc21 Joint Committee Members' Monthly Bulletin held on 27 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

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

**SE/161/2022: MINUTES OF ARC 21 SPECIAL 'IN COMMITTEE' JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 29 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Minutes of Arc 21 'In Committee' Joint Committee Meeting held on 29 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

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

**FOR NOTING**

**SE/162/2022: SCHEME OF DELEGATION – 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 OCTOBER 2022**

Read: Report dated 23 November 2022 from Mr A Cassells, re: Scheme of Delegation 1 April 2022 to 31 October 2022. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the decisions taken by the Sustainability and Environment Director from 1 April 2022 to 31 October 2022 in accordance with the Scheme of Delegation for Officers.**

**SE/163/2022: NORTHERN IRELAND LOCAL AUTHORITY COLLECTED MUNICIPAL WASTE MANAGEMENT STATISTICS FOR APRIL TO JUNE 2022**

Read: Northern Ireland Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Management Statistics Quarterly Provisional Estimates for April to June 2022. *(Circulated)*.

**AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Murphy, it was agreed to note the above Report.**

**SE/164/2022: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – THURSDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2022**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday 29 September 2022. *(Circulated)*.

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

**SE/165/2022: HISTORIC ACTIONS TRACKING SHEET**

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

**AGREED:** On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed the Historic Actions Tracking Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meetings be noted and actions removed as marked.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 8.05 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 5 December 2022.

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

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