

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Minutes of Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 21 June 2023 at 6.00pm in the Boardroom, District Council Offices, Monaghan Row, Newry and via MS Teams.

Chair: Councillor T Andrews (Chamber)

Members: Councillor W Clarke (Teams)
Councillor D Finn (Chamber)
Councillor J Jackson (Chamber)
Councillor G Kearns (Chamber)
Councillor T Kelly (Teams)
Councillor M Larkin (Chamber)
Councillor O Magennis (Chamber)
Councillor L McEvoy (Chamber)
Councillor K Murphy (Chamber)
Councillor H Reilly (Chamber)
Councillor M Savage (Chamber)
Councillor J Truesdale (Teams)

Officials in Attendance: Mr A Cassells, Director Sustainability and Environment
Ms S Murphy, Acting Assistant Director Waste Management
Mr A Mallon, Head of Maintenance
Ms G Kane, Head of Facilities
Ms L Dillon, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs L Cummins, Democratic Services Officer

SE/046/2023: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillor Rice and Taylor.

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to his first meeting as Chair and thanked Councillor Magennis as the outgoing Chairperson for the excellent way in which she had conducted previous meetings. He also congratulated Councillor Clarke on his appointment as Deputy Chairperson and looked forward to working alongside him.

The Chairperson extended his condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Elaine Coffey who worked in the Corporate Services Department in Downshire Civic Centre, who sadly passed away suddenly on Tuesday 13 June 2023.

The Chairperson also extended condolences to the family and friends of former colleague James Hamilton who was based in Newry who sadly passed away recently.

The Chairperson stated he was privileged to have recently attended the LGC Awards in London to represent Council who had won a prestigious award for retaining the site at Aughnagun, a former landfill site to improve biodiversity and helping to boost the Irish Black Bee's.

SE/047/2023: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/048/2023: ACTION SHEET OF THE SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 MARCH 2023

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2023. ***(Circulated)***.

SE/032/2023 – Review of bus shelter requests being actioned by Council

Mrs Kane agreed to revert to Councillor McEvoy regarding an update on the bus shelter at Slievenaman Road.

In response to a query raised by Councillor Savage regarding an update on Lisdrumgullion bus shelter, Mrs Kane advised that officers had contacted Translink with a number issues and would update Councillor Savage outside of the meeting.

SE/036/2023 – Use of Herbicides across Council Estate

Councillor Larkin asked if an alternative product had been sourced and if evasive species were still being contained and eradicated. Mr Mallon responded stating that officers had investigated numerous alternatives and methods and had not found a product which had the same capacity and effect as what was currently being used. Hogweed was one of the most prevalent of the evasive species and was continued to be managed with stem injection processes in Council owned areas within the 30% of glyphosate allocation, however this was to the detriment of other amenity areas where there was no capacity to use it.

In response to query from Councillor Finn, Mr Mallon advised a substantial risk assessment had been carried out and the herbicides used were contact neutral posing no risk to pets or wildlife. It was not used in playparks which were manually weeded instead.

In response to query from Councillor Truesdale, Mrs Kane advised that the Changing Places Facilities which Newcastle toilets as part off, was included in the Public Convenience Strategy and the outline business case had been completed and would be tabled at a future meeting for approval.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McEvoy it was agreed the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 March 2023 be noted and actions removed as marked.

SE/049/2023: BRIEFING FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Read: Presentation and Briefing by Mr Cassells. *(Circulated)*.

Mr Cassells provided a detailed overview of the Sustainability and Environment Directorate followed by an introduction of the roles of officer's within the department.

AGREED: **It was agreed to note the presentation and circulate same to Members.**

SE/050/2023: REPORT RE: NOTICE OF MOTION
-REDEEMABLE SURCHARGE ON BOTTLES, TINS, PLASTICS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Mr Andrew Cassells, Director of Sustainability & Environment regarding a Notice of Motion on redeemable surcharge on bottles, tins, plastics. *(Circulated)*.

The following Notice of Motion came forward for consideration in the name of Councillor H Reilly:

"That this Council requests that DEARA investigates the possibility of applying a redeemable surcharge on bottles, tins and plastic containers in order to reduce the amount of littering and to assist with recycling targets as set by central Government."

The Motion was seconded by Councillor Jackson.

Councillor Reilly thanked Mr Cassells for a very informative and comprehensive report which addressed a lot concerns, asking what the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policy was in the South of Ireland and was multipacks and cardboard containers included within the redeemable surcharge.

Mr Cassells advised that he was not up to speed with the policy in the South of Ireland but would research further and revert back to Committee on the matter. The Deposit Return Scheme would not cover things like coffee cups, it was containers that you buy fluids in. There would be an additional charge on each container whether it be a multipack or a single cell.

Councillor Truesdale supported the motion and queried if Council had any plans to introduce more water drinking fountains throughout the district. Mr Mallon confirmed Council had recently introduced 6 water refill fountains in the district and was working to further this project in the coming year.

Councillor Clarke, Savage and Larkin spoke in support of the motion. Mr Cassells acknowledged the points raised and advised members that Council would not be responsible for the collection of deposits, there would be reverse vending machines in supermarkets to collect the deposits. An indicative date from the department to roll out the scheme was 2025.

Councillor Reilly thanked Members for their comments and support, stating that perhaps Council could set an example by banning single use plastics going forward.

AGREED: It was unanimously agreed to adopt the Notice of Motion.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed:

- 1. Acknowledge the work that DAERA is undertaking to introduce a Deposit Return Scheme.**
- 2. Seek further update reports from Officers in due course as the DAERA proposals unfold.**

SE/051/2023: **SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE 2023- 2027**

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Mr Andrew Cassells, Director Sustainability & Environment regarding the Sustainability & Environment Committee Terms of Reference 2023 – 2027. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor, Savage it was agreed to approve the revised Terms of Reference for the Sustainable & Environment Committee as set out in Appendix 1 of the Report.

SE/052/2023: **TO AGREE START TIMES FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING 023 - 24**

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Mr Andrew Cassells, Director Sustainability & Environment regarding start times for the Sustainability & Environment Committee 2023-2024.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve a start time of 6pm for the Sustainability & Environment Committee for 2023-2024.

SE/053/2023: **SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLANS**

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Mr Andrew Cassells, Director regarding Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plans.

In response to queries raised by Members, officers advised there was an ongoing

bin review being carried out throughout the district to help address any issues regarding the solar bins and improve recycling, however Council were not as far ahead as they would like to be in terms of street recycling and was an area where there was room for improvement. Members could contact officer's directly with any areas where additional bins were required.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve:

- **The Assessment of the NS Directorate Business Plan 2022-23.**
- **Sustainability and Environment Directorate Business Plan 2023-24.**

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 Andrews, seconded by Councillor Curran, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on items 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16 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 McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

FACILITIES MANAGEMENT AND MAINTENANCE

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

SE/054/2023: **PROPOSED CHARGES FOR USE OF NEWRY MARKET AS EVENT SPACE**

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms G Kane, Acting Assistant Director, Facilities Management & Maintenance, re: proposed charges for use of Newry Market as Event Space. (*Circulated*)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Kearns, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to defer this item for further consideration and an update be brought back to a future Sustainability and Environment Committee.

SE/055/2023: **UPGRADE TO PUBLIC SPACE CCTV CAMERAS – NEWRY; WARRENPOINT; KILKEEL**

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms G Kane, Acting Assistant Director, Facilities Management & Maintenance, re: upgrade to public space – CCTV cameras – Newry; Warrenpoint; Kilkeel. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to defer until August 2023 meeting and PSNI be invited to present their case to committee.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

SE/056/2023: **FLEET OPERATORS LICENSE COMPLIANCE UPDATE**

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director Waste Management (Acting) re: Fleet Operators Licence – Fleet Management Action Plan. *(Circulated)*

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Kearns, it was agreed to approve the revised Fleet Operator Licence Action Plan update June 2023.

SE/057/2023: **BUSINESS CASE FOR PROCUREMENT OF TYRES**

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director Waste Management (Acting) re: Business Case for Procurement of Tyres. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Savage, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to approve the business case for the use of a supply, fit, servicing, call-out, delivery and disposal of tyres, tubes and ancillary products for all Council vehicles and plant.

SE/058/2023: BUSINESS CASE FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF MECHANICS TOOLS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director re: Business Case for the Procurement of Mechanics Tools. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Finn, it was agreed to approve the business case for the use of a supply, fit, servicing, call-out, delivery and disposal of tyres, tubes and ancillary products for all Council vehicles and plant.

SE/059/2023: ECONOMIC APPRAISAL FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF FUEL

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director re: Economic Appraisal for the Procurement of Fuel. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor McEvoy, seconded by Councillor Magennis, it was agreed to approve the business case for the use of a sustainable supply framework to support the provision of liquid fuels corporate wide.

SE/060/2023: EXTENSION OF CONTRACT FOR THE RECEIPT, STORAGE, TRANSFER AND HAULAGE OF MIXED DRY RECYCLABLES CONTRACT

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director re: Extension of contract for the receipt, storage, transfer and Haulage of mixed dry recyclables contract. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed to approve the contract for the receipt, storage, transfer and haulage of the Council's Mixed Dry Recyclables (MDR) waste be extended with the Council's current contractor from the 10 September 2023 until 31 March 2024.

SE/061/2023: SINGLE TENDER ACTIONS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Mr A Cassells, Director, Sustainability and Environment re: Single Tender Actions. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Jackson, it was agreed to:

1. Note the contents of the report.
2. Approve the Single Tender Actions that are in excess of £30,000 as set out in Appendix 1 and 2 and for the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee to approve the individual STA proformas that relate directly to Appendices 1 and 2.
3. Continue to receive regular update reports on the Procurement Action Plan.

FOR NOTING

SE/062/2023: FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director re: Fleet Replacement Update. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SE/063/2023: UPDATE ON PUBLIC HOLIDAYS AND REFUSE COLLECTION CALENDARS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director re: Update on Public Holidays and Refuse Collection Calendars *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to note the contents of the report.

SE/064/2023: DISTRICT CLEANSING – SUMMER SEASON PREPARATIONS

Read: Report dated 21 June 2023 from Ms S Murphy, Assistant Director re: District Cleansing – Summer Season. *(Circulated)*.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, it was agreed to note the planned 2023 Summer Season Preparation plans outlined in 2.4 – 2.6.

SE/065/2023: HISTORICAL ACTION SHEET

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

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Savage, seconded by Councillor McEvoy, 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 8.16 pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 3 July 2023.

Signed: Councillor T Andrews
Chairperson of Sustainability & Environment Committee

Signed: Mr A Cassells
Director of Sustainability & Environment