

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on Wednesday, 7 September, 2022 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Councillor M Gregg (Chairman)
Councillor C McCready (Vice- Chairman)
Aldermen J Baird and S P Porter
Councillors A P Ewing and T Mitchell

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor S Carson

Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Guy

Alderman M Henderson MBE

Councillors A Givan, S Lee, S Lowry, A McIntyre and S Skillen

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Councillors A Gowan and U Mackin

IN ATTENDANCE:

In Chamber:

Director of Environmental Services
Head of Service (Building Control)
Head of Service (Environmental Health)
Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)
Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager
IT Officer
Technician
Member Services Officer

In Remote Location

Environmental Health Manager (Emergency Planning and Cemeteries Administration)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, welcomed those present to the remote meeting of the Environmental Services Committee, which, in line with Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020, was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

At this point, the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency, during which The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, joined the meeting (6.02 pm).

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman D Drysdale and Councillors F Cole and R McLernon.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point. During the course of the meeting, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, declared an interest in item 7.1 'Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues: NWP – Request for Uplift – Fuel Duty and Fuel & Energy Prices Update', given that her husband acted for NWP as a legal representative.

3. Report from Director of Environmental Services

3.1 Environmental Services Performance Report

Councillor U Mackin joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.04 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of (a) budget summary reports covering the period 1 April – 30 June, 2022; (b) the outturn of operational metrics/service KPIs for Quarter 1 (April – June 2022); and (c) the outturn of Performance Improvement KPIs for Quarter 1 (April – June 2022).

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to recommend that the information contained in (a) to (c) above be scrutinised and noted.

4. Report from Head of Service (Building Control)

4.1 Street Naming – Off Old Kilmore Road, Moira

The Head of Service (Building Control) reported that Gilmore Developments Ltd had proposed names (first and second preference), as set out in his report, for a development of 36 dwellings situated off Old Kilmore Road, Moira.

4.1 Street Naming – Off Old Kilmore Road, Moira (Contd)

Members were provided with a copy of the development layout and were advised that the request met the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy in that the name proposal reflected a historic reference to the named property, Fortwilliam House, to the rear of the development site.

Building Control Service having received no objections to the proposed names from Elected Members of the relevant District Electoral Area, nor the Royal Mail Address Management Team in respect of the first preference name, it was proposed by Councillor C McCready seconded by Councillor S Lowry and agreed to recommend that the name Fortwilliam Lodge be allocated to the proposed development of 36 dwellings off Old Kilmore Road, Moira.

4.2 Street Naming – Off Derriaghy Road, Lisburn

The Head of Service (Building Control) reported that Loral Developments Ltd had proposed names (first and second preference), as set out in his report, for a development of 9 dwellings situated off Derriaghy Road, Lisburn.

Members were provided with a copy of the development layout and were advised that the request met the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy in that the name proposal reflected the already-approved street name 'Boomers' and site locality with Boomers Reservoir.

Building Control Service having received no objections to the proposed names from Elected Members of the relevant District Electoral Area, nor the Royal Mail Address Management Team in respect of the first preference name, it was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell and agreed to recommend that the name Boomers Hall be allocated to the proposed development of 9 dwellings off Derriaghy Road, Lisburn.

5. Report from Head of Service (Environmental Health)

5.1 Service Level Agreement with NI Drinking Water Inspectorate

Members were provided with a copy of an updated Service Level Agreement (SLA) with Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI) which took account of a number of changes requested by councils and detailed the agreed responsibilities of both Council and DWI in relation to Council carrying out the Risk Assessment and Sampling of Private Water Supplies (eg. boreholes and wells used by industrial premises) on behalf of DWI at prescribed costs. The Head of Service having set out in his report, the main changes since the previous SLA was signed on 30 June, 2020, it was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to recommend that the updated SLA be signed by the Head of Service (Environmental Health).

5.2 The Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy – Prevention and Protection in Partnership

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.09 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of an updated Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy, as well as an Equality Screening document. It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to recommend that the updated Child and Adult Safeguarding Policy be approved.

5.3 Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor S Lee and agreed to recommend that Councillor R McLernon remain as the Council representative on the Northern Ireland Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues.

5.4 Environmental Health Service Unit Food Control Service Plan 2022/23

Members having been provided with a copy of the Environmental Health Service Unit Food Control Service Plan 2022/23, it was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to recommend that it be noted.

5.5 Consultation on the Food Standards Agency's Food Hygiene Rating (Online Display) Regulations (NI) 2023

Councillor S Lee left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.19 pm), as did Alderman M Henderson (6.20 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of the Council's response to the above consultation and it was noted that the Council, at its meeting held on 22 August, 2022, had delegated authority to this meeting of Committee to consider the consultation response. It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed that the response be approved and submitted to the Food Standards Agency by the closing date of 9 September, 2022, subject to reference being made to the importance of having 'Scores on the Doors' recognition included on either businesses' home page or menu page for the benefit of online customers. The Head of Service also took note of comments regarding the benefit of providing businesses with information prior to inspection visits taking place.

5.6 Regulation of Cosmetic Treatments

The Head of Service set out in his report, information regarding legislation introduced in England in October 2021, as well as the intention to introduce a licensing regime for non-surgical cosmetic procedures to better regulate the cosmetic industry in England through an amendment to the Health and Care Bill. The existing legislation available to Environmental Health Officers to regulate this

5.6 Regulation of Cosmetic Treatments (Contd)

sector in Northern Ireland was considered no longer fit for purpose and no licensing scheme (similar to that being introduced in England) existed in Northern Ireland.

Members were provided with a copy of a letter dated 11 July, 2022 from the Chair of the Local Authority Health and Safety Liaison Group seeking the support of councils in writing to the Health Minister to request better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland, along with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures. It was proposed by Councillor S Skillen, seconded by Councillor S Lowry and agreed to recommend that approval be given to a letter being sent to the Health Minister, as outlined.

5.7 Consultation on the Draft National Air Pollution Control Programme

The Head of Service reminded Committee Members that an email had been sent on 29 July, 2022 inviting their comments to be included in the response to the above consultation. The closing date for submission of consultation responses having been 4 September, 2022, the Council, at its meeting held on 22 August, had granted delegated authority to this meeting of the Committee to retrospectively consider the response. Members having been provided with a copy of the consultation response, it was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed that it be given retrospective approval.

The Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Provision of Toilet Facilities and Signage in City Centre
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter stated that, at the last full Council meeting, he had raised the issue of the provision of toilet facilities and signage in the city centre and sought an assurance that a report would be provided in this regard. The Head of Service (Environmental Health) advised that a Community Toilet Scheme had been piloted prior to the Covic-19 pandemic, working with businesses in an attempt to increase toilet provision in the city centre. During the pandemic, the scheme had not been evaluated; however, there had been an evaluation post-pandemic and a feasibility study carried out in relation to toilet facilities available within the Council area, particularly in the city centre. The assessment had been made that there was suitable toilet provision but improved signage would be recommended. The Head of Service advised that he would be liaising with (a) Google to ensure information was accurately portrayed; and (b) other relevant Heads of Service regarding the provision of signage to direct people to the nearest toilet facilities.

6.1 Provision of Toilet Facilities and Signage in City Centre (Contd)
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter welcomed the verbal update by the Head of Service and requested that a report on the feasibility study be provided to the appropriate Committee at a future date, to include information on all areas throughout the Council area, not only the city centre. He stated that he would wish to see an enhanced provision of facilities in the city centre, as well as accessibility for disabled people, and requested that enhanced signage be erected as soon as possible. The Head of Service stated that, as this was a corporate issue, the Corporate Management Team would consider the most appropriate Committee to which the report would be provided.

6.2 Provision of Bicycle Racks in Car Parks
Councillor A Givan

Councillor A Givan referred to the lack of facilities in car parks for cyclists to secure their bicycles and asked the Director if consideration could be given to the provision of bicycle racks. The Director stated that the Council owned a number of off-street car parks and agreed that consideration could be given to providing bicycle racks where possible. Baseline information would be required in order to assess need and the Director pointed out that there was no planned budget for such provision in the current financial year; however, she would liaise with Officers in the Assets Unit. At the request of the Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, the Director agreed that a request would be forwarded to the Department for Infrastructure for 'Park and Ride' car parks to be included in considerations.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, asked that consideration also be given to provision for motorcycles within car parks. He stated that, if parking in a car parking space, motorcyclists were required to pay for the space and display a ticket; however, it was difficult to display a ticket on a motorcycle as it could easily be removed. The Director pointed out that the JustPark app could be used for both cars and motorcycles; payment was made via the app and a ticket was not required to be generated.

6.3 Electric Vehicle Charging Points
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, stated that it had been brought to his attention that a number of Electric Vehicle (EV) Charging Points across Northern Ireland, and in particular two located in Royal Hillsborough, were currently out of service. He asked that pressure be applied to the Electricity Supply Board (ESB) to have this issue resolved. The Director advised that regional work was ongoing, led by Derry City and Strabane District Council, in relation to the roll-out of EV Charging Points. The Head of Service (Environmental Health) stated that maintenance of existing charging points was an area that the Council was keen to explore with the ESB and this matter was being looked at. He agreed to liaise with Officers in the Service Transformation Department to ensure that charging points within the Council area had been assessed and, where found to be faulty, representation would be made to ESB to have that addressed.

6.4 Stencil to Highlight Dog Fouling Issue
Chairman, Councillor M Gregg

The Head of Service (Environmental Health) agreed to advise the Chairman, Councillor M Gregg, directly in respect of the current status of stencils being created to highlight the issue of dog fouling.

7. Confidential Business

This matter would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information (a) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information); (b) which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual; and (c) in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The live-stream was paused at this point (6.39 pm).

7.1 Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues: NWP – Request for Uplift – Fuel Duty and Fuel & Energy Prices Update
(Report will not be made available)

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, left the meeting when this item was being considered.

The Director set out in her report information regarding authority delegated to the Acting Chief Executive of arc21 in respect of the change in fuel duty for the Organic Waste Treatment contract. The Director and the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) addressed several queries raised by Members. It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to recommend that the Director's report be noted.

7.2 Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues: Extension of Contract for the Treatment and Disposal of Street Sweepings
(Report will not be made available)

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.58 pm).

Further to information set out in the Director's report, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed to recommend that the Director's report be noted.

7.3 Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues: Extension of Contract for the Provision of a Dry Material Recovery Facility – Lot 1
(Report will not be made available)

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy and agreed to recommend that the contract for Lot 1 of the Dry Material Recovery Facility be extended as outlined in the Director's report.

Officers responded to Members' comments regarding the service provided by an external contractor.

7.4 Update on Residual Waste Treatment & Disposal and Landfill Capacity
(Report will not be made available)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed to recommend that:

- (a) the update set out in the report in relation to contractual matters associated with residual waste treatment and disposal and waste transfer capacity be noted;
- (b) following a verbal update by the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services), retrospective approval be given to the amendment to the recommendation previously agreed in October 2021 in respect of the disposal of residual waste now being based on securing tonnage capacity rather being time-bound; and
- (c) in the absence of a report being available for consideration by full Council, delegated authority be granted to the Committee in October to consider and approve recommendations relating to contract and procurement matters, as outlined.

Verbal Matters

7.5 Incident at Carryduff Household Recycling Centre

The Director provided a verbal update in respect of an incident that had taken place at Carryduff Household Recycling Centre, which had been dealt with in accordance with the Environmental Services Behavioural Policy.

7.6 Mullaghglass Odour Complaints

The Head of Service (Environmental Health) gave a verbal update in respect of Mullaghglass odour complaints and advised that a written update would be provided to Members.

7.7 Industrial Action

Discussion took place in relation to the impact of current industrial action on waste services. The Director and the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) responded to Members' queries and took note of comments made.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 8.03 pm.

Mayor/Chairman