

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, and remotely, on Wednesday 6 March 2024 at 6pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor C McCreedy (Chairperson)

Alderman J Tinsley

Councillors S Burns, G Hynds, P Kennedy, J Lavery BEM, A McIntyre, M McKeever, R McLernon and N Parker

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Councillor R Carlin (Vice-Chairperson)

Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave

Aldermen J Baird, M Gregg and S Skillen

Councillor P Catney

OTHER MEMBERS:

Alderman O Gawith

IN ATTENDANCE:**In Chamber:**

Acting Director of Environmental Services (RH)

Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability) (CD)

Acting Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) (JK)

Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) (SC)

Member Services Officers (CH, RN)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairperson, Councillor C McCreedy, welcomed those present to the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee. The Chairperson advised that the meeting would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

At this point, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting. The Chairperson, Councillor C McCreedy, stated that, whilst the meeting was being recorded, 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.

In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chairperson asked that those attending via zoom to ensure that the meeting could not be seen or heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered.

The Acting Director of Environmental Services proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Report by the Acting Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services)

3.1 Consultation on Call for Evidence on Reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE)

The Committee considered a report which provided information in connection with a consultation and Call for Evidence on reforming the Producer Responsibility System for Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE), which had been issued by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on 28 December 2023.

Copies of the proposed Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council draft responses for both the Consultation and the Call for Evidence were circulated to Members for Consideration. The Committee noted that the March Environment and Sustainability Committee had been granted delegated authority to approve the draft responses for submission by the consultation closing date of 7 March 2024.

Officers responded to a number of questions in relation to the draft response to the reforming the producer responsibility system for waste electrical and electronic equipment consultation. Following discussion in relation to the responses provided at question twenty-five and twenty-six, Councillor G Hynds requested that an expanded explanation be given in the question twenty-six response, to include Council support for small business. The Acting Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services agreed to include additional detail at question twenty-six of the consultation response.

It was proposed by Councillor G Hynds, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that:

- the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council draft response to the ‘Consultation on reforming the producer responsibility system for waste electrical and electronic equipment’ be approved for submission, subject to the inclusion of additional information at Question 26; and
- the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council draft response to the ‘Call for evidence on reforming the producer responsibility system for waste electrical and electronic equipment’ be approved for submission.

4. Report by the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning)

4.1 LCCC – Updated Air Quality Action Plan

The Acting Head of Service for Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning, set out in her report, the background and key information in relation to the updated Air Quality Action Plan (2024).

Members were reminded that an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) was declared in January 2011 for Normandy Count in Dundonald, which then required the preparation and submission of an Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) to the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs. The Committee were informed that following annual reviews, air quality had demonstrated a decrease of NO₂ below the Air Quality Standard objective. The next steps toward revoking the AQMA in Dundonald were outlined to the Committee.

A copy of the updated Air Quality Action Plan had been circulated to Members for information. The Committee agreed that the updated Air Quality Action Plan (2024) be noted.

The Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

5. Any Other Business (Agenda item 6.0 refers)

5.1 Litter Issue
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds put on record his appreciation on the excellent service provided by Mr J Knox and the Street Cleansing Team for their recent work in an area of the Belsize Road which was heavily littered. It was reported that the Council are currently investigating long term solutions to the litter issues in the area.

5.2 Toy Recycling Scheme
Councillor G Hynds

Responding to a request by Councillor G Hynds in relation to expanding the successful Christmas Toy Recycling Scheme; the Acting Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services confirmed that plans were being developed to increase the ability for recycling at Council owned HRC sites and would include an element of reuse facilities. It was reported that the plans would be tabled at a future Environment and Sustainability Committee for Members consideration.

5.3 Condolences – Colin Craig
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley expressed his condolences on behalf of the Environment and Sustainability Committee to family, friends, and colleagues, on the sad passing of Colin Craig who was a LGV driver based at Altona Depot. Alderman J Tinsley requested that colleagues be advised of any available support for those who worked alongside Colin over the last twenty- six years and who were deeply impacted by his passing.

The Acting Head of Services for Waste Management and Operational Services thanked Alderman Tinsley for his kind words and agreed to pass on the Committees condolences, he further reported that arrangements had been put in place to ensure colleagues could attend the funeral to pay their respects.

5.4 Hybrid Meetings
Councillor A McIntyre

Councillor A McIntyre noted that section 78 of the Coronavirus Act 2020 which allowed Council to hold remote/hybrid meetings under the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020 expired at midnight, and that Councils had been informed that the Minister for Communities would not be extending this provision further. Councillor A McIntyre proposed that a letter be written from the Chief Executives Office to the Department for Communities Minister requesting he reconsider this decision.

Councillor A McIntyre highlighted the short notice received by Council and outlined a number of benefits that hybrid meetings had created which included: flexibility for those with caring responsibilities and those commuting from rural areas, reduction of carbon footprint, reduction of mileage claims and flexibility during adverse weather conditions. He also stated that public funds had been spent installing the necessary equipment for hybrid meetings which would now not be utilised for statutory purposes.

The proposal was seconded by Alderman J Baird and a number of Members spoke in support and one in opposition to the proposal. Responding to a query raised by a Member, the Acting Director clarified that a report on the matter was tabled at the upcoming Corporate Services Committee on Wednesday 13 March 2024. In light of this information Councillor A McIntyre agreed to withdraw his proposal.

5.5 DEARA Consultation – Rethinking Our Resources, Measures for Climate Action and Circular Economy Northern Ireland
Acting Head of Service (Waste and Operational Services)

Alderman S Skillen left the meeting remotely (6.36 pm).

The Acting Head of Service advised Members of an upcoming twelve-week consultation due to be launched by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DEARA) at 1 pm on the 7 March 2024. He further advised that information on workshops for Members would be issued in due course.

5.6 Welcome Back - Wilfie Muldrew
Chairman, Councillor C McCready

The Chairman, Councillor C McCready welcomed Mr Wilfie Muldrew (Head of Waste Management and Operational Services) back to work on behalf of the Committee after an extended period of absence.

5.7 Environmental Youth Speak Event
Chairman, Councillor C McCready

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave left the meeting remotely (6.37 pm).

The Chairman, Councillor C McCready passed on his appreciation on behalf of the Committee to Mr John Kelly for all his work in ensuring a very successful event. He congratulated both Dundonald Primary School and Laurelhill Community College on winning the event.

6. Confidential Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services (Agenda item 5.0 refers)

The Chairperson, Councillor C McCready advised that the confidential report items would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor M McKeever, and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The member of the press seated in the public gallery left the meeting (6.38 pm).

6.1 Arc21 Provision of Services for the Receipt, Storage and Transfer of
Municipal Waste Tender (Agenda item 5.1 refers)
(Redacted Report will be made available following Contract Commencement)

Alderman S Skillen rejoined the meeting at 6.40 pm and left remotely (6.46 pm).

The Acting Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services presented this item of business. Members noted that the March Environment and Sustainability Committee had been granted delegated authority to consider and approve recommendations relating to this procurement. Officers responded to a number of questions in relation to the report.

6.1 Arc21 Provision of Services for the Receipt, Storage and Transfer of Municipal Waste Tender Cont'd

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that:

- the award of the contract for the provision of services for the receipt, storage, and transfer of municipal waste for use by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council as detailed in the report be approved, for an initial period of 3 months, subject to the completion of arc21 governance and NWP satisfying the pre award conditions; and
- following the award of the contract and subject to the services being performed satisfactorily the contract may be extended for a period of up to 12 months after the initial term as per operational need.

The Committee noted that in agreeing with the recommendation, that the indexation mechanism included within the contract would be managed as detailed within the contract.

6.2 Tender for the Provision of a Haulage Service for Residual and Green Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref STA23/24-040) (Agenda item 5.2 refers) (Redacted Report will be made available following ratification at 26 March Council Meeting)

The Acting Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services presented this item of business. In response to a Member who sought clarification on tenders received, the Acting Head of Service agreed to forward information directly to the Member.

It was proposed by Councillor P Kennedy, seconded by Councillor G Hynds, and agreed to recommend that the award of the tender, as detailed in the report be approved, for the period 1st April 2024 to 30th September 2024.

7. Confidential Any Other Business

7.1 Department for Infrastructure – Flooding Support Schemes

The Acting Director of Environmental Services provided a verbal update to Members in relation to two support schemes by the Department for Infrastructure to assist businesses that were affected by the flooding caused by significant rainfall in late 2023.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor R McLernon, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 6.57 pm.

Chairperson