

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, on Thursday 9 January 2025 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor P Catney (Chairperson)

Councillor G Hynds (Vice-Chairperson)

Aldermen O Gawith, A McIntyre and J Tinsley

Councillors S Burns, G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever and N Parker

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson

Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor R McLernon

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN CHAMBER**

Alderman M Gregg

**OTHER MEMBERS IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Alderman A Grehan

Councillor U Mackin

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Acting Director of Environmental Services (RH)  
 Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services) (WM)  
 Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning) (SC)  
 Sustainability Manager (GR)  
 Member Services Officers (CH, EW)

**Commencement of the Meeting**

The Chairperson, Councillor P Catney, welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business. The Chair stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chair asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting.

Councillor R McLernon entered the meeting (6.02 pm).

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 Chairperson 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 Alderman J Baird together with Councillors A Gowan and P Kennedy.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Report by Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability)  
Presented by the Sustainability Manager

3.1 Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Consultation on  
the Establishment of a Just Transition Commission

The Committee considered a report which provided information in connection with a consultation on the Establishment of a Just Transition Commission, which had been issued by the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) on 12 November 2024.

The Committee were provided with links to access the Ministers Oral Statement and consultation documents. A copy of the proposed Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council response, which included comments received by Elected Members, was circulated for consideration.

The Committee noted that the January 2025 Environment and Sustainability Committee had been granted delegated authority to approve the response for submission by the consultation closing date of 13 January 2025.

It was proposed by Vice-Chairperson, Councillor G Hynds, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the response to the Consultation on the Establishment of a Just Transition Commission be approved for submission to DEARA, by the closing date of 13 January 2025.

3.2 Draft LCCC Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan

Further to the update report on the progress of sustainability at the September 2024 Meeting of the Environmental and Sustainability Committee, the report set out the background, key vision, and goals in relation to the Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan that was being developed for Council.

### 3.2 Draft LCCC Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan Cont'd

It was reported that the Sustainability Strategy would be a 3-year strategy (2025-2028) that matched the Public Body Reporting Regulations cycle set by central government. The Committee noted that once approved by Members, the draft strategy would be subject to a 12-week public consultation process.

The Committee had been provided with links in respect of the following:

- the Ministers announcement made on 12 December 2024, on the setting of the emissions target for 2040 and the first 3 carbon budgets for Northern Ireland; and
- the 'walkthrough' digital presentation of the draft LCCC Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan.

Copies of the draft LCCC Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan, alongside the draft Equality Screening and Rural Needs Impact assessment were circulated for Members consideration.

A question was raised by a member of the Committee in respect of action fifteen of the Waste and Resource Management section of the draft LCCC Climate Action Plan, which had been assigned a longer-term action. The Sustainability Officer advised that this action would be reviewed with the relevant officer.

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor G McCleave, and agreed to recommend that the draft LCCC Sustainability Strategy and Climate Action Plan be approved to progress to public consultation stage.

The Chair, Councillor P Catney, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

## 4. Any Other Business (Agenda Item 5.0 refers)

### 4.1 Stray Dog

Alderman S Skillen passed on her appreciation to the Officers within the Animal Welfare team, the USPCA and the public, stating that she hoped a positive resolution could be achieved on the matter.

Responding to questions and concerns raised by the Committee, the Acting Director of Environmental Services provided an update on the stray dog. The Director confirmed that the legislation stated that dog could not be fostered and was required to remain in the custody of the Council, within DAERA approved kennels.

Members noted that a third-party assessment would take place to confirm the breed of the dog as soon as practical; and that whilst the Council were in engagement with the USPCA in relation to the matter, within the legislation the Council had sole responsibility to carry out the functions of the statute, meaning any actions and requirements of the statute would be carried out by the Council.

#### 4.1 Stray Dog Cont'd

It was proposed by Vice-Chairperson, Councillor G Hynds that the Council appoint a third-party assessor in joint partnership with the USPCA. There was no seconder for this proposal.

#### 5. Confidential Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services (Agenda Item 4.0 refers)

The Chairperson, Councillor P Catney, 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 Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor 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 and public seated in the public gallery left the Council Chamber (6.27 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, left the meeting remotely (6.28 pm).

#### 5.1 Carryduff HRC PIRSOC (Report will be made available following completion of project, estimated August 2027)

Presented by the Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services. It was proposed by Councillor M McKeever, seconded by Alderman O Gawith, and agreed to recommend that the progression of the Carryduff PIRSOC, through engagement of appropriate consultancy services be approved.

#### 5.2 Garage Inspection Pit PIRSOC (Redacted report and appendix 3 will be made available following Council ratification, appendix 2 will never be made available)

Councillor M McKeever left the meeting (6.33 pm).

Presented by the Head of Service for Waste Management and Operational Services. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman O Gawith, and agreed to recommend that the progression of the Garage Inspection pit be approved.

5.3 Packaging Extended Producer Responsibility (pEPR) Update  
(Report will be made available following agreement of the 2025/26 rates estimates)

The Acting Director of Environmental Services responded to a number of comments and question by Members arising from the report.

Following lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Alderman O Gawith and seconded by Alderman A McIntyre to recommend that:

- the contribution from the pEPR payment to 2025/2026 revenue estimates to support the uplift in waste management be approved as discussed, subject to ratification of the recommendation made during item 8.7.1 at the previous evenings Corporate Services Committee; and
- the remaining balance from the pEPR payment be approved to be allocated to the waste fund.

On a show of hands the proposal was agreed, there being 6 votes in favour and 5 against, with the Chairperson having used his casting vote.

5.4 Estimates Process – Directorate Update  
(Report will never be made available, final estimates will be released)

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed to recommend that the draft estimates for Environmental Services Directorate be approved to be submitted into the overall estimates of the Council, for the year commencing 1 April 2025, subject to the required amendment as a result of the recommendation made at item 5.3.

6. Confidential Any Other Business

6.1 Communication to Elected Members – Stray Dog

Responding to comments made by Members in respect of communications during the stray dog matter; the Acting Director of Environmental Services informed the Committee that the Councils' communications had remained constant, however comments on social media channels had been challenging.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.22 pm.

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Chairperson