

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, and remotely, on Wednesday 6 December 2023 at 5.30 pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor C McCreedy (Chairman)

Aldermen J Baird and J Tinsley

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

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor N Parker

IN ATTENDANCE:**In Chamber:**

Acting Director of Environmental Services (RH)

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

Head of Service (Economic Development) (PMcC)

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

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

Member Services Officers (CR, RN)

Remote

Chief Executive

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor C McCreedy, welcomed those present to the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee. The Chairman 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 Chairman, 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 Chairman 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 (00:23:23)

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, the Vice-Chairman, Councillor R Carlin, and Alderman M Gregg.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:02:43)

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Alderman S Skillen joined the meeting at 5.35 pm.

3. Report by the Acting Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) (00:02:57)

3.1 Consultation on the Introduction of Mandatory Digital Waste Tracking (00:03:12)

Members noted from the report, information relating to key outcomes of the consultation on the introduction of mandatory digital waste tracking. In response to Members' comments regarding the financial implications for the Council, the Acting Head of Service stated that a further report on this matter would be brought back to Committee as soon as information was received from the Department. Members urged that, in forthcoming meetings with the Department, it be stressed that a financial contribution should be provided to councils to assist in delivering this service that the Department was making mandatory.

3.2 Kerbside Waste Collection Equality Consultation Report (00:10:15)

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

- (a) information in respect of the findings of the recent kerbside waste collection equality consultation be noted;
- (b) in light of the indication that DAERA intended to consult on waste collection in the near future, roll-out of the kerbside collection model be postponed pending such consultation; and
- (c) an additional report would be tabled at a future meeting of the Committee to reflect on any market and environmental changes over the past 12 months which would impact on implementation and delivery of a harmonised kerbside service.

3.3 Consultation on the Proposed Ban of the Manufacture, Supply and Sale of Wet Wipes Containing Plastic (00:26:04)

Members having been provided with a copy of a response that had been submitted on 25 November, 2023 in respect of the above consultation, it was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to recommend that retrospective approval be given to this response.

3.4 Eco Schools Request for Financial Support 2024/25 (00:28:48)

Members having been provided with information in respect of the above matter, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to recommend that support for the Eco Schools Programme be approved for the 2024/25 year, at a cost of £10,942 (option 1).

4. Report by the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) (00:32:59)

4.1 Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022 (00:33:11)

Further to information provided in the Officer's report, it was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed to recommend that approval be given to:

- (a) the response prepared by Officers in respect of the technical matters of the consultation of Section 8 and Section 10 of the Private Tenancies Act (NI) 2022; and
- (b) the fixed penalty level offence amount at £500 for the Smoke, Heat and Carbon Monoxide Alarm Regulations (NI).

5. Confidential Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services

The Chairman, Councillor C McCreedy, 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 Laverty, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre, and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

5.1 Christmas Car Parking (Report, minus appendix 1, will be made available after ratification)

It was proposed by Councillor G Hynds, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to recommend that:

- (a) confirmation be given to the previous agreement of free of charge off-street car parking each Saturday in December, each year, in Lisburn City Centre and Royal Hillsborough; and
- (b) approval be given to free of charge off-street car parking on Saturdays in January 2024 in Lisburn City Centre and Royal Hillsborough with Officers reporting back to a future meeting of the Committee regarding baseline evidence that local businesses benefited from this additional offering.

5.1 Christmas Car Parking (Contd)

During discussion of this matter, the Acting Director of Environmental Services took note of Members' concerns regarding potential misuse of the free of charge off-street car parking and agreed to liaise with the Head of Service (Economic Development) in relation to how the use of off-street car parks could best be monitored.

The Head of Service (Economic Development) left the meeting (6.28 pm).

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

The Chief Executive left, and rejoined, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.47 pm and 6.52 pm respectively).

During lengthy discussion in relation to the estimates, Members' queries were addressed by Officers and:

- the Acting Director of Environmental Services agreed to provide information to Councillor M McKeever in respect of the 'Capital Allocation' and 'Transfer to/from Other Funds' sections;
- Councillor A McIntyre agreed to email the Acting Director of Environmental Services a number of questions for response;
- the Acting Director of Environmental Services agreed to respond at a later stage to queries raised by Councillor P Kennedy regarding arc21 landfill tax and gate fee; and
- Members requested that, in future estimates reports, a column be provided showing the previous year's actual expenditure and also a narrative for each of the cost codes. The Acting Director of Environmental Services stated that it was important to have consistency across all committees and agreed to raise this matter with the Corporate Management Team.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed to recommend that progress on the estimates for 2024/25 be noted and any further assumptions to be applied to the final draft of the estimates be approved.

5.3 Tender for the Provision of a Haulage Service for Residual and Green Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres (Redacted report will be made available following Council approval)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that retrospective approval be given to the award of the above tender, as outlined in the Acting Director's report.

5.4 Tender for the Collection, Transportation, Recycling and/or Recovery of Mattresses from Council Household Recycling Centres
(Redacted report will be made available following Council approval)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that retrospective approval be given to the award of the above tender, as outlined in the Acting Director's report.

5.5 Flooding – Support for Businesses
(Report will be made available following ratification by Council)

Councillor P Catney left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.18 pm).

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor G Hynds and agreed to recommend that approval be given to the payment outlined in the Acting Director's report to the two businesses deemed to be eligible and for the Council to recoup these support payments from the Department for the Economy.

Councillor J Lavery placed on record his appreciation to all involved in carrying out property inspections and the processing of claims and asked that his sentiments be conveyed to relevant staff. A number of other Members concurred with Councillor Lavery's comments.

At this stage, the Chairman, Councillor C McCready, asked if there was any other business of a confidential nature and the following matter was raised:

5.6 Multiple Dog Walking
Councillor J Lavery

Councillor P Catney returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.21 pm).

The Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) took note of concerns raised by Councillor J Lavery regarding people walking multiple dogs at one time and his request to ascertain what approach the other 10 councils took to this matter.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

6. Any Other Business (00:35:14)6.1 Person Taking Wood from Blaris Cemetery (00:35:18)
Chairman, Councillor C McCready

The Chairman, Councillor C McCready, stated that it had been brought to his attention that someone had been cutting down trees in Blaris Cemetery and taking the wood for their own use. The Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) advised that this was within the remit of the Parks and Amenities Unit. However, she was aware of the matter and confirmed that the person had been identified and spoken to.

6.2 Free Car Parking (00:36:08)
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds proposed that Officers investigate the costs associated with providing free of charge 1 or 2 hour off-street parking in Lisburn City Centre and Royal Hillsborough all year round, as well as consulting with businesses and residents on this matter. This would encourage residents to shop in the area and support local businesses. Alderman J Tinsley stated that he would support Officers investigating costings in the first instance. He stated that it had already been agreed to gather evidence that local businesses benefited from the free parking on Saturdays in December and January (item 5.1 refers). Councillor Hynds having stated that he was content with Alderman Tinsley's suggestion that a report on costs be prepared in the first instance before any consultation, this was agreed. The Acting Director of Environmental Services pointed out that the Council needed to ensure it was not using its resources in a way that may inhibit the services provided by third parties who charged for parking.

There being no further business, the Chairman wished everyone a Happy Christmas and New Year. He thanked them for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.35 pm.

Chairman