

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Technical and Environmental Services Committee meeting held, in committee, in the Function Suite, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Tuesday 4 January 2005 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT:- Councillor Norris (in the chair)

COUNCILLORS: J Beattie
Mrs Duncan
R Hughes
M Long (until 9.25 p.m.)
M Robinson (MLA)
J White

APOLOGIES:- Apologies were recorded on behalf of Aldermen Hall and Henderson and Councillors Ms Bunting, Miss Stevenson and Drysdale.

IN ATTENDANCE:- Director of Technical and Environmental Services, Building Control Manager, Client Manager, Environmental Health Manager, Operational Services Manager and Assistant Members' Services Officer.

MATTERS ARISING

T&ESC/2005/01: MINUTES OF TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 2 NOVEMBER 2004

Noted.

REPORT FROM BUILDING CONTROL MANAGER

T&ESC/2005/02: SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS

The Building Control Manager outlined the schedule of applications approved by the Building Control Service for the period of 1/11/2004 to 30/11/2004 for Members' information.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/03: REPORTS ON APPLICATIONS, INSPECTIONS AND SOLICITORS' ENQUIRIES

The Building Control Manager advised Members of the applications, inspections and solicitors' enquiries received.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/04: BUILDING REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2000 – CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF PART L: COMBUSTION APPLIANCES AND FUEL STORAGE SYSTEMS AND TECHNICAL BOOKLET L

The Building Control Manager advised that the Council had been invited to respond to the Department's proposals for amending Part L (Combustion Appliances and Fuel Storage Systems) of the Building Regulations (NI) 2000 and Technical Booklet L, which supports the regulations.

He advised that the proposed amendments would come into operation in September 2005 and would incorporate the new requirements for Part L and the associated new provisions in the new Part L Technical Booklet.

By way of information he referred Members to the copy of the Response Form, which was forwarded to the Consultation Response Co-ordinator Building Regulations unit on the 24th December 2004 (Appendix 4).

Members agreed to note the response to the proposed amendment to Part L (Combustion Appliances and Fuel Storage Systems).

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/05: STREET NAMING AT 6 MILLTOWN HILL, BELVOIR

The Building Control Manager referred Members to previous minutes in respect of the above matter. He reminded Members that it had previously been resolved to defer this request to enable further consideration before a decision could be made.

He advised that further correspondence had recently been received from Sonoma Developments Ltd, dated the 9th December 2004, outlining the reason for the proposed name of this development.

Members stated that, although there were farms in the vicinity of this development, the site itself had never actually been a farm holding, therefore the name 'Ash Grove Farm' was not appropriate.

Following some discussion, Members suggested that appropriate names for the development could be 'Ash Grove' or 'Ash Grove Mews/Close', and recommended that the Building Control Manager ascertain whether these were already in use.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members of the Committee recommended that the Building Control Manager clarify whether the names "Ash Grove" or "Ash Grove Mews/Close" were already in use within the Borough and, if not, suggest these to the developer as alternatives.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER

T&ESC/2005/06: PRESENTATION FROM SUSTRANS NATIONAL CYCLE NETWORK IN COUNTY DOWN - CASTLEREAGH

Members welcomed Mr Steven Patterson, National Manager, Sustrans, to the meeting.

Mr Patterson provided Members with an overview of the work of Sustrans, which included a breakdown of the National Cycle Network and the cycling policy throughout Northern Ireland.

He advised that Sustrans were proposing a new cycle network in Co Down, which included Castlereagh. An application had been made under Peace Funding through DARD for £750,000.00, but a response was still awaited. Should this funding application be granted, additional funding was also required, and Mr Patterson confirmed that assistance of £9640.00 (over a three-year period) was being requested from Castlereagh Borough Council.

Members welcomed the developments being taken by Sustrans throughout Northern Ireland and supported the development of a National Cycle Network within Castlereagh in principle, but added that the request for funding would have to be referred to the Estimates Working Group.

Members thanked Mr Patterson for his information presentation, following which he left the meeting.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: -Members recommended that the Council support the development of a National Cycle Network within Castlereagh in principle, forwarding the details of Sustrans' request for £9640.00 funding (over a three-year period) to the Estimates Working Group for consideration in the 2005/06 estimates.

REPORT FROM OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER

T&ESC/2005/07: NEW CLUB HOUSE AT GILNAHIRK GOLF COURSE (Financial update report circulated at the meeting)

The Operational Services Manager advised that representatives from Ferguson McIlveen were available to attend the meeting, should Members have any queries regarding the new club house.

Members perused the financial update report on the Club House, which was circulated, and Mr Keith Lockhart and Mr Erin Gibson were invited to join the meeting.

Mr Lockhart advised that since the last financial update costs had increased by approximately £25,000.00. Two factors had caused this increase: firstly, additional works had been required to the access road, and secondly, nineteen additional CCTV cameras had been installed.

Councillor White asked Officers to investigate whether it would be possible to have the CCTV cameras relayed to the security hut at the Civic Offices.

The Operational Services Manager advised that the consultants' fees had also increased due to these and previous increases in their remit, and he would be preparing a detailed financial breakdown for the February meeting of the Committee.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members accepted that the additional costs be included in the capital expenditure for the new Club House, and that the Operational Services Manager investigate whether the CCTV cameras at the Golf Course could be relayed to the Civic Offices, and report back on the increased consultants' fees to a future meeting of the Committee.

At this stage in proceedings the representative from Ferguson McIlveen left the meeting.

T&ESC/2005/08: FINANCIAL REPORT ON GILNAHIRK GOLF COURSE

The Operational Services Manager drew Members' attention to figures detailing the financial performance of the Golf Course for the 2004/05 financial year compared with the same period for the previous year.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2005/09: NEGOTIATIONS WITH GILNAHIRK GOLF CLUB
(copy of correspondence from Gilnahirk Golf Club and proposed rules of
Castlereagh Golf Club circulated at the meeting)**

Members referred to correspondence from Gilnahirk Golf Club, which detailed that at the Club's extraordinary general meeting the draft proposals and rules as proposed by the Council had been agreed by members of the Club.

The Operational Services Manager advised that the membership of Gilnahirk Golf Club had still not been confirmed, but as the Club's Treasurer had returned from his holiday, it was hoped that this would be finalised prior to the next meeting.

The Officer advised that unfortunately the most recent set of rules had not been forwarded to Members, although he stated that there were only a few minor changes.

Members requested that a copy of the most recent rules for Castlereagh Hills Golf Club be posted to all members of the Committee for perusal.

Following consideration, it was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) That the draft rules for Castlereagh Hills Golf Club be adopted in principle, subject to them being posted to members of the Committee for perusal and adoption at the February meeting of the Committee;
- (b) That Castlereagh Borough Council take over the running of Castlereagh Hills Golf Club, as agreed with the members of Gilnahirk Golf Club.

T&ESC/2005/10: FLORAL CARPET BED AT CIVIC OFFICES

The Operational Services Manager reminded Members that in previous years the logo of a charity or organisation had been incorporated within the Council's carpet bedding display, located at the Civic Centre. He advised that to date no applications had been received by the Council from charities requesting their logo to be incorporated.

In the absence of a formal request, he suggested that Members may wish to consider using the logo of one of the Mayor's chosen charities, Assisi and Childline, for this year's display.

Members agreed that this would be appropriate and suggested that the Mayor should be approached and asked to select which one of her chosen charities' logos she would like to be displayed.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended that the Mayor be approached and asked to select which of her charities' logos she would like displayed in the form of carpet bedding at the Civic Offices. This should be installed after all likelihood of frost had passed in the middle of May.

REPORT FROM ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER

TSC/2005/11: PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) ACTS 1878 TO 1907 - STATUTORY NOTICES

The Environmental Health Manager detailed that Statutory Notices had been served regarding the abatement of Public Health nuisances/conditions prejudicial to health.

Noted.

TSC/2005/12: REPORTS AVAILABLE

The Environmental Health Manager advised Members that the following reports were available in the Environmental Health Service, should members wish to peruse their content:

- Regulation of Water Service Discharges Report 2002/2003
- Northern Ireland Drinking Water Report
- Noise Complaints Statistics Report for Northern Ireland for 2003/2004.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/13: REPORT ON THE PROHIBITION/PROSECUTION OF NORTH DOWN TURKEYS

The Environmental Health Manager updated Members in respect of a food business in the Castlereagh area, which, upon inspection, was found to be in a condition posing an imminent risk to public health. She reminded Members that that court proceedings had resulted in an Emergency Prohibition Order being issued against the company, and this prevented the premises, plant or processes (including vehicles) from being used until such times as the Council were satisfied that there was no longer an imminent risk to public health associated with that business.

Further proceedings were instigated against the owner under the relevant food legislation, namely the Food Safety (General Food Hygiene) Regulations 1995, the Food Safety (Temperature Control) Regulations 1995 and the Meat (Enhanced Enforcement Powers) Regulations (NI) 2000. On the 10th December 2004 at Ards Magistrates Court, the owner entered a plea of guilty in respect of the offences under the above-mentioned legislation and was subsequently fined £1,500.00, and costs of £2,022.00 were awarded to the Council. Furthermore, the Magistrate exercised powers uniquely available to him and personally prohibited him from being involved in the management of the business.

The Environmental Health Manager advised that further to this conviction she then received an application from other parties to lift the Prohibition Order on the premises, to allow them to sell approximately 200 pre-packed turkeys for the purpose of “farm gate sales”. She stated that under the Food Safety Order 1991 a Council shall remove a Prohibition Order where it is satisfied that the imminent risk to health is no longer fulfilled. The Environmental Health Manager advised that the personal prohibition in respect of the owner still remained, but added that the prohibition in respect of the premises was lifted, as she was satisfied that, given the new nature of the business (which was confirmed by the applicant’s solicitor) meant that the health risk could no longer be fulfilled.

She confirmed that close monitoring of the premises continued and would continue to take place to try and ensure compliance with direction from this Council. Any variance from the agreed farm gate sales would warrant further structural repairs and also improve management of the premises by the new managers. The sole reason that the prohibition was lifted was to facilitate the farm gate sale of pre-packed, boxed turkeys. It still remained a fact that these premises in their current state were not suitable for an “open food”/processing type of business.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/14: CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR IN DESIGNATED PLACES - DRINKING IN DESIGNATED AREAS

The Environmental Health Manager stated that the Environmental Health Service had received a witness statement from the Police Service of Northern Ireland in respect of a person who was caught drinking in a public place, contrary to the Council Bye-Laws made under the above legislation. The incident occurred on:

- Saturday 16 October 2004 at Castlereagh Road, Belfast.

RESOLVED: - Members of the Committee recommended that the Council instigate legal proceedings against the offender as detailed in the Officer's report.

T&ESC/2005/15: THE BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS (NI) ORDER 1985 - RENEWAL OF AN AMUSEMENT PERMIT

The Environmental Health Manager advised that an application had been received to renew the amusement permit for “The VideoTec Arcade”, 24 Ballymaconaghy Road, Knockbracken.

The application had been made under Article 108(1)(ca) of the legislation, and the appropriate fee had been paid to seek permission for the use of machines with a £25.00 maximum all-cash prize paid directly from the machine. She stated that the premises would be restricted to persons over 18 years of age as required by the legislation, and appropriate warning signs and supervision would be required by the Council in line with the requirements of the legislation.

As all gaming machines in use would to be restricted to persons over 18 years of age, no structural alterations were required, and the Officer confirmed that the premises already held a fire certificate.

Consultations were taking place with the Police Service of Northern Ireland regarding the application.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that, subject to no objections from the PSNI and compliance with the Council’s conditions regarding signage and supervision required within the premises, the amusement permit be renewed with permission to operate the higher category machines, as outlined by the Environmental Health Manager in her report.

T&ESC/2005/16: PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT (NI) 1929 - LICENCE RENEWALS

The Environmental Health Manager advised that applications for the renewal of a licence to store petroleum had been received at premises detailed in her report. These had subsequently been inspected and complied with the requirements of the Act.

RESOLVED:- That, the application requesting a licence to store petroleum at the premises, as detailed in the Environmental Health Manager’s report, be renewed in compliance with the requirements of the Petroleum Consolidation Act (NI) 1929.

T&ESC/2005/17: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 - APPLICATION FOR THE GRANT OF A LICENCE

The Environmental Health Manager advised that an application had been received from Miss A H Gowdy, c/o Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church, 161 Gilnahirk

Road, Belfast, BT5 7QP, for the grant of an entertainment licence for the Gilnahirk Presbyterian Church Styé Brae Centre, 161 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast.

The application was for the provision of entertainment in the ground-floor main room and a first-floor hall within the Styé Brae Centre.

Consultations were taking place with the Police Service for Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade and the Council to ensure the relevant safety standards required would be achieved.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that an entertainment licence be granted for the above premises, subject to satisfactory consultation with the Northern Ireland Fire Brigade and the PSNI, and the completion of any additional work which may be required as a result of these consultations.

T&ESC/2005/18: ARTICLE 3 – LICENSING OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT – RENEWAL OF LICENCE

The Environmental Health Manager outlined applications for the renewal of entertainment licences, which had been received for premises detailed in the report, and explained that the necessary inspections were being carried out.

RESOLVED: - That the Council authorise that the licences, detailed in the Environmental Health Manager's report, be renewed, subject to receipt of all necessary documentation and compliance with the Council's Terms and Conditions of Licence.

T&ESC/2005/19: THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 - DOGS KEPT WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE

The Environmental Health Manager advised Members that a lady from the Saintfield Road area and man from the Dundonald area had continued to keep a dog without obtaining a valid licence.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:- That, in line with Council's policy, the Technical & Environmental Services Committee recommend that legal proceedings be instigated under the Dogs (NI) Order 1983 against the persons mentioned in the Officer's report.

T&ESC/2005/20: DOGS STRAYING

The Environmental Health Manager advised that the under-mentioned person permitted their dogs to stray in contravention of the above legislation. Fixed

Penalty Notices were issued for the offences and these were subsequently returned unpaid by the Clerk of Petty Sessions Office.

- Fixed Penalty Notice No. 1090 and 1091 – Lady from Dundonald area.

RESOLVED:- That, the Council instigate legal proceedings under the above legislation against the aforementioned person.

T&ESC/2005/21: STAFF ISSUES - STAFF AUTHORISATIONS - FOOD SAFETY (NI) ORDER 1991

The Environmental Health Manager advised Members that, in an attempt to update staff authorisations with particular regard to the provisions of the Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991, she had listed officers who were currently carrying out associated duties of this legislation.

Heather Moore	-	Castlereagh Borough Council
Richard Harvey	-	Castlereagh Borough Council
Gerard Delargy	-	Castlereagh Borough Council
Kellie Harris	-	Castlereagh Borough Council
Iris Scott	-	Castlereagh Borough Council
Sharon Gilmore	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
John McKee	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
Julie McKinstry-Harvey	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
Joy Stevenson	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
Anne McCartan	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
Bill Doyle	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
Jim McNeill	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee
Kathryn Baker	-	Eastern Group Environmental Health Committee

RESOLVED: -Members recommended that the above-listed officers be specifically authorised for the purpose of discharging the specific provisions of the Food Safety (NI) Order 1991.

T&ESC/2005/22: ATTENDANCE OF AN OFFICER AT “UNDERAGE SALES” SEMINAR – TUESDAY 8 FEBRUARY 2005

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that Mr Gerard Delargy be authorised to attend the Underage Sales Seminar, at a cost of £25.00, to be held at The Island Civic Centre on 8 February 2005.

T&ESC/2005/23: STAFF TRAINING – LEGIONNAIRES DISEASE CONFERENCE – 21-22 FEBRUARY 2005

The Environmental Health Manager advised that the Health Promotion Agency had organised a conference to deal with outbreak detection, outbreak management, investigation of single cases and steps in outbreak investigations.

She detailed that the conference was primarily aimed at environmental health officers, sampling officers, health board technical staff, etc, who may be involved in the environmental investigation of outbreaks of Legionnaires Disease. The second day of the course was aimed at a core group of professionals who would be involved in the sampling and investigation of an outbreak.

The conference was being funded by the Health Promotion Agency and would be based at the Manor House Hotel in Enniskillen. The Environmental Health Manager requested that permission be given to pay for overnight accommodation on the night of 21 February 2004 to facilitate the officer being at the hotel for the early start on Tuesday 22 February 2004.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that an Environmental Health Officer be authorised to attend the Legionnaires Disease Conference, which was free of charge, being held at the Manor House Hotel, Enniskillen, on Monday 21 and Tuesday 22 February, with overnight accommodation of £95.00 being paid.

T&ESC/2004/24: EXPENDITURE TO PAY FOR ADVERTISEMENT IN CBC VIEWS

The Environmental Health Manager sought guidance as to how she should proceed in respect of this matter. She reminded Members that this request had been raised at the last meeting. However, a decision had been deferred in light of the fact that there had been confusion as to who had actually authorised the publication of CBC Views (Minute ref: T&ESC/2004/425 refers).

Councillor Beattie advised that an internal investigation was ongoing in respect of this matter.

Following discussion, the transfer of budget was agreed, as requested by the Environmental Health Manager at the December meeting.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that retrospective approval for the transfer of budgets was granted as detailed. It was further recommended that, subject to the conclusion of the investigation with regard to the issue of the CBC Views, that this money, as detailed, be ring-fenced for this purpose as follows:

Transferred from budget:

12/44/068/00	Consumer Protection Samples	£ 200.00
12/50/064/00	General Environmental Health Furniture and Fittings	£ 100.00
12/50/102/00	Printing and Stationery	£1,000.00
12/50/103/00	Advertising and Promotions	£ 400.00
12/50/104/00	Office Equipment	£1,300.0
	TOTAL	<hr/> £3,000.00

REPORT FROM THE CLIENT MANAGER

T&ESC/2005/25: TONNAGES

The Client Manager advised that the figures for December were not currently available. He would update Members at the February meeting of the Committee.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/26: BOILER REPLACEMENT AT HENRY JONES PLAYING FIELDS

The Client Manager reminded Members that Officers had been instructed to prepare a report providing the details of the cost of replacing only one boiler at the Henry Jones Playing Fields.

He stated that the original boiler replacement proposals included changes from fuel oil to natural gas and a change from the use of calorifiers to instantaneous heaters. Both of these changes would provide a more efficient and economic hot water supply. Officers had also investigated the practicality of combining one of the existing boilers with an instantaneous natural gas boiler.

In summary he advised that the cost of replacing one boiler would be in the region of £5,000.00-£6,000.00, and the cost of two boilers would be approximately £7,000.00. He added that there would be additional fuel savings when switching from fuel oil to natural gas and from the use of calorifiers to instantaneous heaters.

Members agreed that it would be more economically advantageous to the Council to proceed with the replacement of two boilers, and it was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the boilers and the controls for Henry Jones be replaced at a budget cost of approximately £7,500.00, using the remaining monies set aside for the removal of the asbestos at Henry Jones.

T&ESC/2005/27: WELFARE BURIALS

The Client Manager advised that Castlereagh Borough Council had a statutory duty to provide welfare burials within the Borough.

He reported that some years ago a plot had been set-aside in the new section of the cemetery for this purpose, but this had now been used. In light of this, he suggested that Members may feel it would be appropriate to retain the last grave at Knockbreda Cemetery for welfare burials, thereby reducing future costs which would be incurred by the Council

Councillor White stated that it was his understanding that the Council owned a plot at Roselawn Crematorium, and he asked Officers to check this before a decision was taken.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members requested that Officers investigate whether Castlereagh Borough Council owned a plot at Roselawn Crematorium.

T&ESC/2005/28: TRANSFER OF UNDERSPENDS ACROSS BUDGET HEADINGS WITHIN THE TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

The Client Manager advised that the Tri-cycle Scheme had resulted in large amounts of waste being diverted from landfill. This had resulted in a significant underspend within the Client Services Budget in the Technical and Environmental Department.

The Council's Management Accountant had suggested that the Committee approve a budget transfer to enable additional work to be carried out. With this in mind, he requested that sufficient funds be transferred from the Waste Disposal budget to other budget headings, which he detailed to Members.

Members agreed that this was appropriate, and it was therefore

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that sufficient funds be transferred from the Waste Disposal budget to other budget headings to enable the following:

- a. Approximately £2250.00 to enable further tests to be carried out at the site of the proposed cemetery at Greengraves Road, Dundonald;
- b. Approximately £9600.00 for the purchase of 2 No. bin lifters for the sides of the compactors at the Household Recycling Centres.

T&ESC/2005/29: PARK AT RODDENS CRESCENT

The Client Manager advised that there had been an increase in the number of reports of youths causing annoyance at the park at Roddens Crescent. As a result, it was proposed to lock this park, to see if this had any impact on reducing this annoyance.

He concurred with Members that locking the park would not provide a serious impediment to those wishing to access it, as the fence was very low. However, it was worth taking this action on a temporary basis.

The Client Manager advised that he would be meeting with representatives from the DPP next week to discuss this matter.

Councillors Long and White stated that they too would like to be in attendance at this meeting and asked for the Officer to arrange this.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/30: CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL – DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION ACTION PLAN

The Client Manager referred Members to a copy of the final draft of Castlereagh Borough Council's Implementation Action Plan. He detailed that the objective of the Action Plan was to identify the actions and costs for Castlereagh Borough Council to meet the recovery targets identified in the Eastern Region Waste Management Plan up until 2020.

The report was structured in four sections. The first section identified the current waste management situation and practice (ie prior to 2003). Section 2 detailed the assumptions specific to Castlereagh that had been used in the waste management tonnage model. A summary was provided to identify what actions Castlereagh Borough Council proposed to undertake from April 2003 to March 2020 to meet the waste plan targets. Finally, the estimated recovery of BMW was predicted, based on these proposals.

He added that on perusing this document, Members would note that it was a snap shot in time of a constantly evolving and changing process. Although the Implementation Action Plan gave a very specific guidance on the steps to be followed, it was more than likely that these steps would change. Some of the time scales for procurement of facilities had already slipped, whereas some of

the waste-arising projections would now appear to have been overly pessimistic, thus highlighting the difficulty in preparing detailed plans.

The Client Manager asked Members to consider the detailed Action Plan and welcomed any comments.

Councillor White proposed that this matter be deferred until the February meeting of the Committee, to enable Members to consider the content of the Plan in more detail.

Members agreed, it was therefore

RESOLVED:- Members agreed to defer consideration of the final draft of Castlereagh Borough Council's Implementation Action Plan until the February meeting of the Committee.

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

T&ESC/2005/31: REPORTS AVAILABLE

The Director advised Members of the reports that were available for Members' information and perusal.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/32: A CONSULTATION DOCUMENT ON THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF A THREE YEAR STRATEGY TO IMPROVE DATA ACROSS ALL WASTE STREAMS IN THE UK. (UK WASTE DATA STRATEGY CONSULTATION)

The Director advised that the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was currently consulting on a new three-year waste data strategy, covering all waste streams in the UK.

He stated that the consultation paper noted that it was the Government's aim to support progress in achieving sustainable waste management, and that there was an urgent need for DEFRA to develop an improved evidence-base, including better waste data, to support this aim.

This consultation was extensive, amounting to over 100 pages of script and tables. The papers had been circulated by the Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment (NI) on 24 November 2004. Responses were to be forwarded to DEFRA by 7 January 2005.

The Director referred Members to a report prepared by the Council's Waste Management and Environment Officer, Tim Smith. He stated that this report highlighted the Council's concerns in respect of the financial and resource implications, and also the restricted timescale for such an extensive consultation paper.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended that the report prepared by the Council's Waste Management and Environment Officer form the basis of any Council response on this consultation paper.

T&ESC/2005/33: SHAPING THE STRATEGY. THE NORTHERN IRELAND WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY: 2005/2020. GALGORM MANOR. FRIDAY 21 JANUARY 2005

The Director referred to correspondence dated 10 December 2004 from the Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment (NI), regarding the above matter.

He reminded Members that he had previously drawn their attention to this event at the Technical and Environmental Services Committee Meeting of 7 December 2004, and at the Waste Management Working Group Meeting of the 17 December 2004.

He reiterated that this meeting was significant for progressing waste management across Northern Ireland and stressed the importance of the Council being represented at this event.

It was therefore

RESOLVED: -Members recommended

- (a) That all members of the Waste Management Working Group be authorised to attend to the Shaping The Strategy Seminar being held at the Galgorm Hotel, Ballymena, on 21 January 2005, in addition to relevant Council Officers;
- (b) That, in light of the fact that 21 January 2005 was the original date for the Council's monthly Waste Management Working Group meeting, Members' Services liaise with the Chairman of the Working Group to arrange another date on which to hold the meeting.

T&ESC/2005/34: THE NORTHERN IRELAND LANDFILL ALLOWANCES SCHEME (NILAS): A CONSULTATION ON THE METHODOLOGY FOR ALLOCATING LANDFILL ALLOWANCES AND THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT'S POLICY ON PARTNERSHIP AND CIVIL FINANCIAL PENALTIES

The Director advised that this consultation paper had been brought to Members' attention at the previous meeting of the Technical and Environmental Services Committee, held on 7 December 2004.

He reminded Members that the consultation paper sought the views of district councils on three specific issues, namely:

1. The methodology for allocation of NILAS allowances for the second year of the scheme (2006/2007) and beyond;
2. The use of weightings applied to simple population projections;
3. The policy guidance note that sets out DOE (the Department) policy on partnership and civil financial penalties that can be applied under NILAS.

The Director stated that, as Members might be aware, the NILAS had been established in response to the EC Directive on the landfill of waste (1999/31/EC) (the Landfill Directive).

The Landfill Directive set out targets for the reduction of the quantity of biodegradable municipal waste (BMW) sent to landfill. These targets meant that:

- By 16 July 2010, Northern Ireland must have reduced the landfill of BMW to 75% of the level produced in 1995;
- By 16 July 2013, BMW landfilled must be reduced to 50% of the level produced in 1995;
- By 2020, BMW landfilled must be reduced to 35% of the level produced in 1995.

The Director reiterated the fact that these targets were challenging, and the implications for the Council were considerable, and requested that Members acquaint themselves with the contents of this consultation paper.

He also referred Members to a copy of a report prepared by the Council's Waste Management and Environment Officer, which provided a response to the three specific areas on which comments were sought.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended that the Waste Management and Environment Officer's report form the basis of the Council's response to this consultation paper.

T&ESC/2005/35: ARC 21 ANNUAL REPORT 2003/2004

The Director referred Members to a copy of the above annual report. He stated that this annual report provided Members with a useful overview of the work undertaken by the participant Councils of ARC 21 over the period 2003/04.

He stated that it was important that Members perused the contents of this Report and were aware of the commitment of officer resources to progressing the work of ARC 21 on behalf of the eleven participant councils, and of the progress that had been made through co-operative working.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/36: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING – 25 NOVEMBER 2004

The Director referred Members to the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on Thursday 25 November 2004 at Downpatrick.

He highlighted some of the business addressed at that meeting as follows;

- In-Vessel Contract Tender Evaluation Report
- Materials Recovery Facility Tender Evaluations Report

The above minutes were ratified by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on Thursday 16 December 2004 at Lisburn. Members' attention was drawn to the need to peruse the contents of the above meeting and acquaint themselves with the waste management issues under consideration.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/37: WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING OF 17 DECEMBER 2004

The Director referred Members to the above minutes for adoption by the Committee.

Members' attention was drawn to a number of matters raised by the Client Manager in his report to the above meeting. These included the following:

- Consideration of the recommendations of the ARC 21 Joint Committee arising from the first tranche of the ARC 21 tenders.
- ARC 21 Waste Management Plan Equality Impact Assessment.
- Minute WMG/2004/93
- ARC 21 Waste Management Costs for the year 2005/2006.
- Implementation Action Plan (2002/2020).
- Waste Data Return (July-September 2004)

Attention was also drawn in the Director's verbal report to the discussions at the ARC 21 Joint Committee meeting of 16 December 2004 and the BPEO presentation by Dr E. Kelly.

The Director stressed the importance of Members perusing the contents of these minutes and being aware of the range of waste management issues being addressed, and their implications for the Council. The Client Manager also reiterated the recommendations of the Arc 21 Joint Committee arising from the first tranche of the Arc21 tenders and reminded Members that the Council was committed to providing 825 tonnes minimum of mixed dry recylates to the MRF Contractor. This amount would be invoiced to the Council whether the material was delivered or not.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended that the minutes of the Council's Waste Management Working Group meeting held on Friday 17 December 2004 be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

T&ESC/2005/38: DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT ARRANGEMENTS

The Director stated that the existing administration structure within the Technical and Environmental Services Department had largely emerged from the bringing together of the various service units which formerly operated on a separate and individual basis. The administrative staff dedicated to each of the four service units of Building Control, Client Services, Environmental Health and Operational Services had remained with their respective service unit.

He continued that, where opportunities had arisen, new measures had been introduced to further rationalise the provision of administrative services. He reported that any new replacement administrative staff were recruited on the basis of a generic job description, which allowed their engagement across all four service units of the Department.

The Director stated that his previous comments related to existing administrative workloads. However, it was important for Members to be aware of a range of new responsibilities arising from new legislative requirements and Council initiatives that had come on stream over recent years. He then detailed some of the new responsibilities that had arisen.

He continued that the Departmental Management Team had considered all of these administrative support and related matters in some detail. In seeking to progress these matters, consideration had been given to options to rationalise and improve existing arrangements, and take into account the identified outcomes previously outlined. It is worth noting that in assessing possible options, consideration had been given as to how other councils with Departments of a similar scale and span structured their administrative arrangements.

At this stage in proceedings he referred Members to:

- The current administrative support structure;
- The proposed business support structure and the reporting arrangements for a new post of Business Support Manager.
- A job description for the proposed post of Business Support Manager

He advised that there was a one-off redundancy payment arising from the proposed restructuring proposals, which related exclusively to Operational Services. He stated that it was proposed that this payment be made from the former DSO Reserve, the purpose of which had been to provide financial contingency for circumstances such as those outlined.

The Director stated that Members should be aware that these proposals had been developed following extensive consideration by the Departmental Management Team, the Chief Executive and the Council's Management Team.

These proposals provided for an enhancement of current service delivery and allowed for a more effective management of a range of activities across the Technical and Environmental Services Department.

Members welcomed the Director's detailed report, but requested that this matter be deferred to the February meeting for further consideration.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended that the Director's report in respect of departmental administrative support arrangements be deferred until the February meeting of the Committee, to enable further detailed consideration by Members prior to the meeting.

T&ESC/2005/39: BLUEPRINT FOR WASTE MANAGEMENT, CITY HOTEL, ARMAGH 6-7 APRIL 2005

The Director referred to correspondence from the Chartered Institution of Waste Management – Northern Ireland Centre regarding a forthcoming conference to be held on 6-7 April 2005 in Armagh. He advised that a delegate discount was available for registration before 28 February 2005.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended

- (a) That an Officer from the Technical and Environmental Services Department attend the Blueprint for Waste Management Conference at the City Hotel, Armagh, on 6-7 April 2005 at a discounted rate of £198.00 + VAT;
- (b) That an update report on the conference be prepared by the attending Officer and tabled at a future meeting of the Committee for Members' information.

T&ESC/2005/40: SINGLE STATUS – IMPLEMENTATION

The Director stated that, as Members would be aware, the above matter was a complex human resource and legal matter that had widespread implications across the Council and, indeed, across the public sector in Northern Ireland.

He understood from the Human Resource Manager that work was continuing in order to seek to address the matter of bonus and single status issues within the context of the NJC Framework document agreed by all twenty-six councils. Furthermore, he understood that discussions with the trade unions were likely in 2005. As part of those discussions and negotiations, he had been advised that the negotiating package needed to include a financial provision. It would be desirable to include this financial provision as part of the 2005/06 estimates process.

He advised that he was drawing this matter to the attention of Members at this stage in advance of the finalisation of the 2005/06 estimates.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/41: SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF 20 JANUARY 2005

The Director advised that, as requested, it had been arranged that Dr E Kelly (Department of the Environment NI) would be making a presentation at the Special Council meeting, being held on 20 January 2005.

Noted.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

T&ESC/2005/42: NURSES HOME AT FOSTER GREEN

Councillor Duncan referred to the vacant Nurses Home at Forster Green, which was currently owned by the Green Park Trust but was being sold to the South East Belfast Trust and scheduled for demolition. She highlighted the dangers the building posed in its present state, from an environmental and anti-social perspective, and suggested that the Council write to the Trust requesting its urgent securement. She asked Officers to ascertain if a letter had previously been sent by the Council in relation to the proposed Tesco development, and to apply the same arguments to this situation, if appropriate, to safeguard the welfare of those elderly residents living nearby the vacant property.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended that Officers ascertain if a letter had previously been sent by the Council in relation to the proposed Tesco development, and to apply the same arguments to this situation to safeguard the

welfare of those elderly residents living nearby the vacant property owned by the Green Park Trust.

T&ESC/2005/43: WOODBREDA AREA

Councillor Robinson requested that the Operations Manager provide an update report on this matter at the February meeting.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Operational Services Manager provide Members with an update report on the problems in the Woodbreda area at the February meeting of the Technical and Environmental Services Committee.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 10.05 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of

_____ 2005 with the exception of

Minute Nos: _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE