

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee Meeting, held, in committee, in the Committee Room, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB on Tuesday 1 November 2005 at 7.15 p.m.

ALDERMEN: J Norris (In Chair)

COUNCILLORS: A M Beattie
J Beattie
M Chambers
D Drysdale
S Duncan
M Henderson
T Jeffers (until 7.50 p.m.)
A Ramsey
J Spratt

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received from Councillor Hanvey and Alderman Rice.

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Technical & Environmental Services, Building Control Manager, Environmental Health Manager, Client Manager, Assistant Members' Services Officer and Councillor G Robinson (from 7.15 p.m. – until 7.45 p.m.).

MATTERS ARISING

T&ESC/2005/360: MINUTES OF TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 1 NOVEMBER 2005

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/361: BOWLERS (MINUTE REF: T&ESC/2005/308 REFERS)

Councillor Robinson advised that Castlereagh Sports Development Association (CSDA) were currently investigating the development of sports that were not currently represented on the Association.

He advised that football groups throughout the Borough had come together under an umbrella group, in conjunction with the IFA. Interestingly, this had assisted them in getting group insurance. Councillor Robinson queried whether such action could be taken with Bowlers in Castlereagh. He advised that if the Bowlers were interested in exploring this option, the CSDA might also be in a position to access funding available for the development of the sport. He added that such a development could be of mutual benefit to both the Bowlers and the CSDA, and suggested that the Council's Sports Development Officer be invited to a meeting with the Bowlers.

Members welcomed this development and suggested that Officers liaise with representatives from the Bowling fraternity in an attempt to progress this matter.

Councillor Spratt undertook to forward details which he had pertaining to the matter directly to the Director of Technical & Environmental Services.

Alderman Henderson proposed that this matter be progressed.

Councillor Jeffers seconded this proposal and it was subsequently

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) That Officers carry out preliminary discussions with the CSDA and representatives from the Bowling fraternity, to establish if they would be interested in joining together under an umbrella group, which may assist in drawing down of additional external funding and also may help to progress the outstanding insurance issues;
- (b) That the Council's Sports Development Officer be invited to a future meeting with the Bowling representatives.

REPORT FROM BUILDING CONTROL MANAGER

T&ESC/2005/362: SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS

The Building Control Manager outlined the schedule of applications approved by the Building Control Service for the period of 1/9/2005 to 30/09/2005 for Members information.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/363: REPORTS ON APPLICATIONS, INSPECTIONS AND SOLICITORS ENQUIRIES

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/364: STAFF ISSUES

The Building Control Manager advised that Mr David Currie, who had been employed as a Building Control Officer with the Council since the 1 February 1991, was due to retire from the service unit on the 29 December 2005 after almost 15 years service.

He reported that the post would be advertised on Friday 18 November 2005 for his replacement.

Members requested that the Mayor and Chairman of the Committee present Mr Currie with a Council plaque, in recognition of his retirement.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Mayor and Chairman of the Committee present Mr Currie with a Council plaque, in recognition of his retirement from the Council after 15 years service.

T&ESC/2005/365: REVIEW OF THE BUILDING REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1979 (AS AMENDED 1990)

The Building Control Manager advised that the 1979 Order was the primary legislation for Building Regulations in Northern Ireland. It sets out the powers, duties, responsibilities and rights of the Department, district councils and applicants in relation to building regulations matters, including giving the Department of Finance and Personnel responsibility for writing regulations in the form of secondary or subordinate legislation.

He reported that the Council had been invited to respond to the Department's proposals for amending The Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) Order 1979 (as amended 1990).

The Officer referred Members to a copy of the Response Form, which would be forwarded to the Consultation Response Co-ordinator, Building Regulations Unit on the 2 November 2005 for Members approval.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the consultation response form, as discussed at the meeting, be forwarded to the Department by 2 November 2005.

T&ESC/2005/366: NORTHERN IRELAND BUILDING CONTROL GROUP COMMITTEE, ANNUAL CONVENTION

The Building Control Manager advised that the Northern Ireland Building Control, Group Committee Annual Convention was to be held this year on the 24 & 25 November 2005 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. The total cost per person for attending this residential convention would be £199.00; the cost for day delegates would be £60.00 per day.

Councillor J Beattie proposed that Councillor Chambers and Councillor Hanvey attend this convention.

Councillors Mrs A M Beattie seconded this proposal.

Discussion then ensued in respect of the Membership of the South Eastern Group Building Control Committee. Councillor Henderson stated that it was his understanding that Councillor Hall and Councillor Hanvey were the Council's representatives on this Committee.

Members queried whether Councillor Hall could represent the Council on this Committee when he was not actually a member of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) that the Building Control Manager and Councillors Chambers and Hanvey be authorised to attend the Northern Ireland Building Control, Group Committee Annual Convention, on the 24 & 25 November 2005 in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry, at a cost of £199.00 per delegate;
- (b) that the Director of Technical & Environmental Services clarify the membership of the South Eastern Group Building Control Committee.

T&ESC/2005/367: SOUTH EASTERN GROUP BUILDING CONTROL COMMITTEE

The Building Control Manager drew Members' attention to the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the South Eastern Group Building Control Committee, held in North Down Borough Council Offices, Bangor, on Monday 12th of September 2005.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/368: STREET NAMING

As the requests outlined by the Building Control Manager in his report met with the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy, it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) that the street name of 'Finsbury Court' be allocated to the 3 No. Dwellings, under construction by Fraser Homes Ltd, at Finsbury Avenue, Newtownbreda;
- (b) that the street name of 'Black Quarter Lane' be allocated to the 9 No. Dwellings, under construction by Deramore Property Group at 115/117 Ballynahinch Road, Carryduff.

REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER

T&ESC/2005/369: 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.

T&ESC/2005/370: POISONS (NI) ORDER 1976 - REGISTRATION OF PREMISES

The Environmental Health Manager advised that application had been received from the following premises for registration in 2005:

- The Potting Shed, Unit 6 Kings Square, Kings Road, BELFAST, BT5 7EA.
- Mount Merrion Pharmacy, 2 Mount Merrion Avenue, BELFAST, BT6 0FR
- Down Marine Co Ltd, 163 Comber Road, DUNDONALD, BT16 2BU
- Shop-4-U, 78 Old Milltown Road, Shawsbridge, BELFAST, BT8 7SW
- Homebase, Unit3, Drumkeen Complex, Upper Galwally, Saintfield Road, BELFAST, BT8 47Y

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the above premises be registered for the selling of poisons, as required under the Poisons (NI) Order 1976.

T&ESC/2005/371: PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT (NI) 1929 - LICENCE RENEWAL

The Environmental Health Manager advised that as required by the above legislation, applications had been received for the renewal of a licence to store petroleum at premises, as outlined in her report.

She confirmed that inspections were being carried out to ensure that the premises complied with the requirements of the Act and the Council's Petroleum Licence Terms and Conditions.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the licences as outlined in the Environmental Health Manager's report be renewed.

T&ESC/2005/372: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985: ARTICLE 3 – LICENSING OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT - RENEWAL OF LICENCE

The Environmental Health Manager advised that applications had been received for the renewal of Entertainment Licences, as outlined in her report.

She confirmed that inspections were being carried out to ensure that the premises complied with the Council's conditions regarding fire safety and hygiene and consultations were taking place with the Police Service of Northern Ireland and Northern Ireland Fire Brigade.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the licences as outlined in the Environmental Health Manager's report be renewed.

T&ESC/2005/373: THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 - 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. 1132 and 1133 – Lady from Carryduff area.

RESOLVED:- Members recommended that the Council instigate legal proceedings under the above legislation against the aforementioned person.

T&ESC/2005/374: DOGS KEPT WITHOUT A VALID LICENCE

The Environmental Health Manager advised that despite a written warning, the under-mentioned person continued to keep a dog without obtaining a valid licence. A Fixed Penalty Notice was issued for the offence but this was returned unpaid from the Clerk of Petty Sessions Office.

- Fixed Penalty Notice No.1130 – Lady from Cregagh area.
- Fixed Penalty Notice No.1129 – Man from Cregagh area.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Council instigate legal proceedings under the above legislation against the aforementioned persons.

T&ESC/2005/375: PROPOSED INCREASE IN DOG RECLAIM FEES AND THE INTRODUCTION OF A CHARGE FOR THE COLLECTION OF UNWANTED DOGS

The Environmental Health Manager advised that since approximately 1998 the fee for reclaiming a stray dog had remained unchanged, with an administration fee of £15.00 plus £5.00 per day or part day that the dog remains in the kennels. A dog which was reclaimed on the same day on which it was impounded would cost the owner £20.00, rising daily by £5.00 to a maximum of £45.00 should it be reclaimed at the maximum legal holding period of five clear days.

She continued, that it was now proposed that the administration fee be increased by £5.00 to become £20.00 but that the daily charge would remain unchanged at £5 per day or part day. This would mean that the actual cost of

reclaiming a dog would increase by a total of £5.00 over the current rate, irrespective of the period after which the dog was reclaimed.

The Officer advised that it was also being proposed to introduce a new charge for the collection of unwanted dogs, it was suggested that this charge be set at £10.00 per dog.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended to Council that they approve the proposed £5.00 increase in the administration charge for reclaimed dogs and the introduction of a charge of £10.00 per dog for the collection of unwanted dogs, to take effect from 1 December 2005.

T&ESC/2005/376: THE LITTER (NORTHERN IRELAND) - DOG FOULING

The Environmental Health Manager advised that on the 1 August 2005 at approximately 11.30 a.m. a man from the Cregagh area permitted his dog to foul on the open green area opposite South Bank Cregagh and failed to clean up after the dog as the law requires. A Fixed Penalty Notice EH 05/20 was issued for the offence but the offender failed to pay the Fixed Penalty Notice.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that in line with the Council's Policy, that approval be granted to instigate legal proceedings under the above legislation against the aforementioned person.

T&ESC/2005/377: THE BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS (NI) ORDER 1985 - RENEWAL OF AMUSEMENT PERMIT PREMISES – THE GAMES ROOM, 985A UPPER NEWTOWNARDS ROAD, DUNDONALD

The Environmental Health Manager advised that a renewal application had been made for the above premises, under Article 108(1)(ca) of the legislation and the appropriate fee paid to seek renewal of the permit for the use of £25.00 maximum all cash prizes, in addition to £8.00 maximum payment gaming machines.

The Officer confirmed that the premises were suitably adapted to segregate the £25.00 machines from the £8.00 machines and the area of the premises containing the £25.00 gaming machines was restricted to persons aged 18 years or above, as required by the legislation. The maximum number of gaming machines on the premises was to be restricted to 10 machines.

Consultations had taken place with the Police Service of Northern Ireland regarding this renewal application and they had expressed no objections.

Members accepted the recommendation but aired their concern regarding two gaming rooms being located in such a close vicinity within Dundonald Village.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Amusement Permit be renewed for The Games Room, 985A Upper Newtownards Road, Dundonald.

T&ESC/2005/378: THE BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS (NI) ORDER 1985 - RENEWAL OF AMUSEMENT PERMIT PREMISES – DUNDONALD INTERNATIONAL ICE BOWL, OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, DUNDONALD.

The Environmental Health Manager advised that an application had been received from Mr Edward Patterson, Director of Finance and Leisure Services to renew the Amusement Permit for Dundonald International Ice Bowl, Old Dundonald Road, Dundonald.

The renewal application had been made under Article 108(1)(c) of the legislation and the appropriate fee paid to seek renewal of the permit for the use of £8.00 maximum payment gaming machines. These machines would be totally restricted to the area specifically dedicated as an amusement arcade at the rear of the lower bowling lanes. The maximum number of gaming machines would be restricted to 15 machines.

Consultations had taken place with the Police Service of Northern Ireland regarding this renewal application and they had expressed no objections.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Amusement Permit be renewed for Dundonald International Ice Bowl, Old Dundonald Road, Dundonald.

T&ESC/2005/379: STAFF TRAINING – ENFORCEMENT OFFICER SEMINAR

The Environmental Health Manager reported that a one-day Seminar was being held on 22 November 2005 at Lisburn City Council. The Seminar would cover many new and developing issues within dog control and a number of speakers would present topics of common interest.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Environmental Health Manager and Mrs Eileen Logan, Enforcement Officer, attend the Enforcement Officer Seminar, being held on 22 November 2005 at Lisburn City Council, at a cost of £40.00 per delegate.

T&ESC/2005/380: STAFF TRAINING – FUEL POVERTY SEMINAR

The Environmental Health Manager advised that fuel poverty had become an area of increasing concern for the Environmental Health Professionals. She reported that the above Seminar was being held on 26 October, at Lisburn City Council, the cost per delegate was £35.00.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that Mr Richard Harvey and Ms Iris Scott attend the Fuel Poverty Seminar, being held at Lisburn City Council, at a cost of £35.00 per delegate.

T&ESC/2005/381: HOME SAFETY PROMOTION

The Environmental Health Manager stated as elected members may know, the Investing for Health (IfH) Strategy sets out how the Government seeks to

improve the health of people and to reduce health inequalities within the Province up until 2010. One of the key objectives is to reduce the number of deaths and injuries due to accidents in the home, on the road and in the workplace. She advised that much of the work of the Environmental Health Service (EHS), particularly in relation to home safety, consumer protection and workplace health and safety, has considerable relevance to this issue. In the Eastern Health and Social Services Board (EHSSB) area, the EHS of Belfast City Council (BCC) and EGEHC were therefore asked by IfH team to take the lead in accident prevention in their District Council areas.

The Officer advised that the activity of each Council in the promotion of Home Safety, however, was varied and depended to a large extent on available resources. Under Article 27 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1992 district councils have powers to fund and actively promote home safety. At present, in the EHSSB area, only BCC has a dedicated home safety team who operate a home safety check scheme as well as delivering talks, training and promotional events on home accident prevention. She also asked Members to bear in mind that a recent Price Waterhouse Cooper survey of the Environmental Health Service in BCC showed that the Home Safety Check Scheme was rated as one of the top five most important services to the public.

The Officer advised that the report into the Role of Environmental Health recommended that the five District Councils in Eastern Group adopt a more coordinated approach to home safety promotion, which may involve the employment of dedicated home safety officers and ultimately result in the implementation of home safety check schemes throughout the area.

She reported that the Eastern Group Environmental Health Management Team had considered carefully the recommendations of the report. Considering the large number of accidental deaths and injuries that occur in the home in comparison to the workplace, she felt it was clear that more resources needed to be invested into home accident prevention.

She advised that it was the recommendation of all the Environmental Health Managers in Eastern Group that their Council uses its powers under Article 27 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1992 powers to fund and actively promote home safety in an effective and co-ordinated manner across the area. In particular, it was recommended that each of the constituent councils of EGEHC contribute £5,000 towards the appointment of a Home Safety Co-ordinator employed at EGEHC to work on behalf of each council to positively promote home safety in the community, providing training, talks and promotional events.

The Environmental Health Manager advised that the Group Chief Environmental Health Officer would be reporting to the Group Committee to have the post approved. At present the issue had already been discussed by three of the constituent councils, who had indicated their support.

She reported that ultimately, this role should develop into the co-ordination of a home safety referral/check scheme, progress had already been made in securing funding to provide home safety awareness training for front-line staff involved in home visits for other aspects of their job, e.g. health visitors, community workers, environmental health officers, etc.

The Officer asked Members to support this strategy.

Alderman Henderson advised that this matter had been raised at the last meeting of Eastern Group Environmental Health Group Committee; he stated that he would be in full support of the proposal.

Councillor Beattie and Spratt expressed concern that this was not an area for the Council to be getting specifically involved in, stating that they felt it was remit of other agencies such as the Health & Safety Executive, PSNI, Help the Aged, Age Concern, the Fire Service etc. They questioned why the Council were getting involved when this was not mandatory, stating that they also would have concerns that this would set a precedent.

Discussion ensued, following which it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Council should not support the home accident strategy and that no provision be made in the estimates to support the joint home safety officer through the group.

At the Council Meeting held on 24 November 2005, it was agreed the above resolution would be referred to the December meeting of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee, to enable further consideration and discussion.

At this stage in proceedings Councillor Jeffers left the meeting.

T&ESC/2005/382: PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) ACT 1878

The Environmental Health Manager reported that under the above legislation a Public Health Notice had been served on The Company Secretary of a Manufacturing Factory within the Borough. The Notice was served on the 3 March 2005, this required the abatement and non-recurrence of odour being emitted from the extraction system of the factory.

She advised that an authorised officer of the Council witnessed a recurrence, on the following three occasions, 26 April 2005, 8 August 2005, 19 October 2005 respectively. This recurrence was a breach of the Public Health Notice.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that in line with Council Policy legal action be instigated immediately, against the factory for the breach of the notice, in that recurrence of the nuisance occurred and that retrospective approval would be sought at the November Council meeting

REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER

The Client Manager presented this report in the absence of the Operational Services Manager, who was off on annual leave.

T&ESC/2005/383: LAGAN VALLEY REGIONAL PARK MANAGEMENT REVIEW

The Client Manager advised that the Environment and Heritage Service had appointed Bearing Point to carry out the above review, they had presented their interim findings to the Advisory Committee on 26 October 2005. The Consultants felt that having considered the alternatives that the LVRP should establish itself as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). While this interim report recommended a CLG the exact model to be implemented was not set out by the Consultants. They did however suggest that the current Advisory Committee would become the new Board of Directors and that the current Management Group (Officer Group) would become the Advisory Committee. In recommending this model the Consultants accepted that there currently were some legal issues surrounding Councillors taking Directorships. The Advisory Committee had accepted these proposals and requested that the Consultants carry on with the review. He reported that the final recommendations of the Consultants were to be presented to the Advisory Committee in December and would be brought before this committee as soon as possible there after.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/384: BOWLERS

The Client Manager referred Members to the Operational Services Manager's previous report on this matter.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) That the Operations Manager proceed to set up a meeting with the Chairman of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee, Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Chairman of the Central Services Committee, Mayor, Director of the Finance and Leisure Services, Director of Administration & Community Services and Director of Technical & Environmental Services to address issues pertaining to their individual departments, prior to meeting with the bowlers.

- (b) that outstanding matters should be reviewed at this meeting, with consideration being given to all possible options to progress the outstanding issues. Consideration should also be given to the suggestion tabled by Councillor G Robinson earlier in the meeting, regarding the formation of an 'umbrella group' in conjunction with the CSDA.

T&ESC/2005/385: FINANCIAL REPORT ON CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB

The Client Manager reported that the figures for the month of September were not available.

Members asked the Officer to ensure that these were tabled at the December meeting, along with the November figures.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/386: CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF COURSE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Councillor Henderson requested that a meeting of the above Committee be convened.

RESOLVED : Members recommended that a meeting of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Course Advisory Committee be convened.

REPORT FROM THE CLIENT MANAGER

T&ESC/2005/387: TONNAGES

The Client Manager advised that during the month of September, 1977.38 tonnes of waste were deposited at Belfast City Council's Landfill Site at Dargan Road. Unfortunately, at the time of writing the report, the tonnages deposited at landfill during October were not available; he undertook to table these figures at the December meeting of the Committee.

Members requested that the Officer provide an overview of waste tonnages landfilled, to date, during the current financial year as part of his report.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/388: PURCHASE OF FUEL FOR COUNCIL FLEET

The Client Manager outlined the existing arrangements for the purchase of fuel. He advised that eight fuel distributors were contacted to obtain quotations for the delivery of diesel, with fuel being ordered from the cheapest provider.

The Officer reported that a review had recently been carried out with a view to minimising the cost of purchasing fuel.

A letter was sent to nine local suppliers to enquire as to whether they would be prepared to offer additional discounts by entering into a preferred supplier agreement. Four responses were received. These indicated that there was a potential gross saving of approximately £2000.00 available. However, using this mechanism, the Council would have to prepare, advertise, review and then report to Committee and Council for approval. This process would use up the greater part of the £2000.00 gross saving.

Another alternative would be to use the Office of Government Commerce, who go through their own purchasing procedure. A comparison of the price paid by Castlereagh Borough Council with the price which would have been paid had the fuel been purchased through the OGC indicated that there would be a potential saving of approximately £1600.00.

The Officer continued that there may be other operational or practical issues which could have an impact, but these were not yet known. He advised that other Councils do use the OGC contract and had indicated that it worked satisfactorily.

Members considered the above proposal but following detailed discussion it was felt that the Council could realize as good a value for money with the existing arrangement, and that local suppliers could provide a more responsive service.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that Council continue with the existing purchasing arrangements for the purchase of Council fuel.

T&ESC/2005/389: PAYMENT FOR SERVICES BY CREDIT OR DEBIT CARD

The Client Manager advised that the possibility of accepting payment for services by credit or debit card had been examined by the Technical & Environmental Services Department.

The service provided usually incurred transactional charges i.e.

Credit card	2.6% of the value of the transaction
Debit card	20p or 25p per transaction (varies with card type)

The Officer reported that the equipment required to accept payment by credit or debit cards would cost in the region of £16.50 plus VAT per month, the minimum contract period was for three years. An additional authorization was required to accept payment by telephone without a signature or pin number.

The Officer reported that it was not possible to accurately predict the proportion of future payments by credit or debit card and therefore the impact on budgets, however, it might be useful to take this into consideration when service fees were being next reviewed (in the majority of cases February).

Discussions had been held with the Finance Department who had experience of credit and debit card payments in various council departments. Dundonald International Ice Bowl had set a minimum for paying by credit or debit card of £5.00. It is proposed that the Technical & Environmental Services Department set the same minimum payment value of £5.00. For payments exceeding £1000.00 we should add that the transaction fee is 2.6%. The Officer added that the use of credit or debit cards would reduce the amount of cash being handled by staff and subsequently the time spent counting and would also introduce an additional level of control.

Councillor Chambers proposed that payment for services by credit/debit cards be introduced.

Councillor Henderson seconded this proposal

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that Council approve the introduction of a credit/debit card system with the same limits used at Dundonald International Ice Bowl i.e. a minimum value for payment of £5.00. It is also recommended that for payments exceeding £1000.00 an additional transaction fee of 2.6% be introduced.

T&ESC/2005/390: INTER-AGENCY BONFIRE WORKING GROUP

The Client Manager drew Members' attention to the minutes of the Inter-Agency Bonfire Working Group, held on 1 September 2005 for Members information.

At this stage in the meeting Members then viewed a short DVD film, which had been prepared by the Davaar Avenue Bonfire Group. Councillor Drysdale paid particular tribute to the people on the ground particularly, the NIHE, Council Staff, PSNI, Roads Service etc.

Councillor Henderson thanked the Bonfire Working group for all their work and effort. It was also suggested that the DVD should be shown at the November Council meeting.

RESOLVED: - Members requested that the DVD film, prepared by the Davaar Avenue Bonfire Group, be shown at the November Council Meeting for Members information.

T&ESC/2005/391: THE NORTHERN IRELAND STRATEGIC WASTE MANAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP – CONSULTATION EVENT TO CONSIDER THE PROPOSALS FOR THE WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND.

The Client Manager drew Members' attention to the information regarding the above consultation event to be held in Cookstown, on Thursday 29 November 2005.

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services emphasised the importance of the Council being represented at this meeting, he highlighted that it was the single opportunity for the Waste Management Strategy to be jointly considered by elected representatives from all Councils within Northern Ireland.

Councillor Henderson concurred. Members also referred to the Strategy Review Away Day, being held on Thursday 17th November 2005, at the Culloden Hotel. The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that Arc 21 was running this event and he also stressed the importance of the Council being represented.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) That in light of the importance of the programme content, that an invitation be extended to all Members of Council to attend the Towards Resource Management Consultation Event for District Councils, being held on 29 November 2005 at the Burnavon Arts Centre, Cookstown. Members' Services to extend this invitation to all Members of Council, with approval being obtained at the Special Council Meeting, being held on 10 November 2005, for Members attendance at this event.
- (b) That the Members of the Waste Management Working Group attend The Strategy Review Away Day, being held on Thursday 17th November 2005, at the Culloden Hotel.

T&ESC/2005/392: RECOMMENDATIONS TO DARD FOR A RENEWABLE POLICY

The Client Manager advised that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) lead an Inter-Departmental Group which had been examining the potential for renewable energy production. The Department had now published, for comments and views, a report to the Department by this Group, which makes recommendations for a DARD Renewable Policy for the period to 2012.

He outlined the content of the consultation document for Members' information. He advised that there was currently no direct impact of these recommendations on the Council.

The report was available in the Technical & Environmental Services Department, should Members wish to peruse its contents.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/393: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE & PERSONNEL REPORT AND COUNCIL ENERGY REPORTS

The Client Manager advised that each year the Department of Finance & Personnel (DFP) requested all Castlereagh Borough Councils energy consumption data. All available data was sent to them for the 03/04 financial year. They returned a report on this information, which had been placed in Member's Party rooms for information. The Officer continued that the DFP report detailed Castlereagh Borough Councils energy usage in comparison to the rest of the Northern Ireland Councils.

The Client Manager continued that an energy monitoring and targeting regime had been implemented from the start of the 04/05 financial year, therefore, next years DFP report would reflect the total energy consumption of Castlereagh Borough Council. He advised that more detailed and site specific energy data could be found from the Council's own energy monitoring regime, a copy of this had also been placed in the Party Rooms.

He advised that the Annual Energy Reports 2004/05, for the Civic Centre were a good example of how energy could be well managed because of the modern controls installed.

The Officer advised that the energy spend for the 2004/05 financial year was approximately £600,000.00 and this was likely to increase. He reported that every effort must be made to manage energy consumption to keep costs to a minimum. On this basis, he recommended that a new 2-year fixed term full time Energy Officer be recruited (estimated at grade six), this would be funded by the savings it created on the Council's various energy bills.

Members discussed this proposal in detail but felt that existing in house staff could reduce energy consumption, without the additional expense of recruiting an energy officer.

Officers confirmed that the savings it created would fund this post.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Department of Finance & Personnel Report be noted.

CLIENT MANAGER – ANY OTHER BUSINESS

T&ESC/2005/394: CORRESPONDENCE FROM DR A McDONNELL MP, MLA

The Client Manager tabled a letter that had been received from Dr A McDonnell MP, MLA regarding the transfer of land for a football pitch at Belvoir Estate.

The contents of the correspondence were considered in detail. A number of Members highlighted the opposition of Members to such a proposal, it was also pointed out that the Council's existing facilities at Hydebank were adequate to meet the needs of these residents. Members also highlighted that the Council wished to avoid single pitch provision, preferring to group its sports facilities at larger locations.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that Officers respond to Dr A McDonnell MP, MLA advising that the Council would not be proceeding with request as the Council's Hydebank facility already meets the needs of local residents as it is immediately adjacent to the Belvoir Estate.

T&ESC/2005/395: ONE DAY CONFERENCE – YOUR SPACE, TO BE HELD AT BELFAST CITY HALL ON 18 NOVEMBER 2005, AT A COST OF £75.00 PER DELEGATE

Noted.

REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

T&ESC/2005/396: REPORTS AVAILABLE

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

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/397: REVIEW OF THE TRANSFRONTIER SHIPMENT OF WASTE REGULATIONS 1994 AND THE UK MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR EXPORTS AND IMPORTS OF WASTE

The Director drew Members' attention to correspondence from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), regarding the above mentioned matter.

The Director advised that the correspondence set out the broad context and purpose of this legislation, and that both pieces of legislation were secondary legislation linked to the Waste Shipment Regulations (WSR). The WSR was under review currently by the European Parliament and was expected to come into force in early 2007.

The regulatory responsibility for these matters was being transferred from District Councils to the Environment and Heritage Service of the Department of the Environment (NI). The Transfrontier Shipment of Waste (Fees) Regulations (NI) came into force on 6 April 2005, allowing the Department to charge fees associated with this legislation. In view of this, these proposals were of increasing importance to the Department.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/398: PARTIAL REGULATORY IMPACT ASSESSMENT ON A PROPOSAL FOR IMPLEMENTING A NEW NATIONAL WASTE DATA STRATEGY

The Director drew Members' attention to the receipt of correspondence from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) regarding the above mentioned matter.

He advised that this was a consultation on a partial Regulatory Impact Assessment. The closing date for receipt of comments was 6 January 2006.

The Director asked Members to note that there were proposed additional requirements that would impact on District Councils. They would have financial implications for District Councils in terms of data collation and recording, administrative arrangements and staff training. Whilst the need for improved waste data was acknowledged, appropriate financial assistance should be made available to District Councils to mitigate the financial impact of these proposals.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/399: COMPOSTING GUIDANCE

The Director drew Members' attention to a document entitled "Composting Guidance" issued in September 2005 by the Waste Management and Contaminated Land Section of the Environment and Heritage Service (EHS).

He reported that this guidance had been produced for those involved in composting or regulating composting activities. It was designed to inform councils of the EHS's position on how composting would be monitored and of the statutory controls that govern composting. The guidance was based on the EHS's current understanding of the law.

He specifically drew attention to the following areas of the guidance:

- Composting and the Best Practicable Environmental Option (BPEO)
- Composting Standards
- Compost Regulation and Use
- Import/Export of Waste for composting

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/400: "TOWARDS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT" CONSULTATION FOR A NEW WASTE MANAGEMENT STRATEGY.

The Director drew Members' attention to correspondence from the Environment and Heritage Service, regarding the above-mentioned matter.

The Director reiterated that this was a major issue for waste management in Northern Ireland. He advised that a review of the proposals had commenced, and confirmed that this issue would be raised at the next meeting of the Waste Management Working Group.

A further report would be brought to the Committee when completed.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the above-mentioned consultation document be raised at the next meeting of the Waste Management Working Group, and that a further report be brought to the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

T&ESC/2005/401: ARC 21 CHIEF EXECUTIVES' BRIEFING

The Director advised Members of the above event, held on Wednesday 28 September 2005, at Houston's Mill, Broughshane.

He drew Members' attention to a copy of presentations made to the delegates from the Environmental Policy Division of the Department of the Environment (NI) and from Arc 21.

The presentation from Environmental Policy Division provides useful information on a range of waste management issues, including:

- Waste Legislation.
- Waste Management Governance in Northern Ireland
- Waste Management Bodies
- A New Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland

The presentation from Arc 21 can be summarised as follows:

- Context, History and the Waste Management Plan
- Arc 21 Governance
- Procurement to Date – The Risks and the Rewards

He advised that the above details provided a useful background to current waste management developments.

Councillor Chambers requested a list of Council and Central Government responsibilities in respect of waste issues.

Members agreed that this would be helpful and requested that all Members of the Committee be furnished with this information.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Client Manager forward a list of Council and Central Government responsibilities in respect of waste issues to all Members of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee.

T&ESC/2005/402: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING. 29 SEPTEMBER 2005.

The Director referred Members to the minutes of the Joint Committee Meeting held on Thursday 29 September 2005, at the offices of Ballymena Borough Council.

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

- Contracts Update.
- Northern Ireland Waste Management Strategy Review.
- Waste Management Grant.
- Audit Day.
- Northern Ireland Strategic Governmental Waste Partnership.
- Consultation Papers.
- Meeting with European Commission Brussels.
- Study Tour of Austria.

He advised that these minutes had been ratified by the Joint Committee at its meeting held on Thursday 27 October 2005 at Lisburn City Council. Members' attention was drawn to the need to peruse the contents of the above minutes, and acquaint themselves with the waste management issues under consideration.

Councillor Beattie stated that he would like to specifically highlight an item that had been raised at the last meeting. He advised that Member Councils of Arc 21 had been asked to fund a van, this would be used for educational purposes and would cost in the region of £1600.00 per year. Castlereagh Borough Council would get the use of this van for approximately one month per year. Councillor Beattie stated that this had not been included in the Arc 21 estimates and was therefore a request for additional expenditure.

The Director advised that such a facility would be useful to the Council, he continued that it would be used to raise the profile of waste management to the ratepayers of the Borough, and would help achieve one of the objectives of the waste management strategy.

Following discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that Councillor Beattie raise his concerns regarding this request for additional expenditure, for an educational van, at the next Arc 21 Joint Committee meeting.

T&ESC/2005/403: WASTE MANAGEMENT WORKING GROUP MEETING OF 21 OCTOBER 2005

The Director drew Members' attention to the above minutes and specifically to a number of matters raised at the meeting, as follows:

- Tri Cycle Update.
- Presentations.
- Down D.C. Landfill Site at Drumnakelly.
- Belfast C.C. Landfill Site at Dargan Road, Belfast.
- Proposed Household Recycling Centre at Dundonald.
- EHS Waste Management Grant 2005/06.

- Study visit to Austria 5-8 October 2005.

RESOLVED: - Members agreed that the minutes of the Council's Waste Management Working Group Meeting, held on Friday 17 June 2005, be adopted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

T&ESC/2005/404: OFFICIAL OPENING OF NEW HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that an invitation had been received regarding the official opening of the new Bryson House Household Recycling Centre, at Mallusk. This was being officially opened on 8 November 2005, at 10.00 a.m. and the invitation had been extended to the Council's representatives of the Arc 21 Joint Committee.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Council's representatives on the Arc 21 Joint Committee, Alderman Norris and Councillor Beattie attend the official opening of the new Bryson House Household Recycling Centre, at Mallusk on 8 November 2005.

T&ESC/2005/405: DRAFT PRIORITIES & BUDGET FOR 2005 – 2008

The Director drew attention to the Secretary of State's Announcement on the above matter on 22 October 2005.

He referred to correspondence that had been circulated by NILGA on the impact of these proposals, relating to waste and energy planning. The Director highlighted that in so far as the Waste Management Grant was concerned, there were two significant matters affecting Councils:

1. that the proposed waste management grant for 2006/2007 had been significantly reduced by the EHS (reduced by 30%);
2. that 2006/2007 would be the last year of the waste management grant through which the EHS provided support to Councils to help them meet their waste recycling targets.

The Director emphasised the significant financial implications for Councils arising from these actions.

Noted.

T&ESC/2005/406: HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES

Councillor Drysdale stated that he had received a letter from the Client Manager regarding potential sites for the new Household Recycling Centres

on the Dundonald area. He advised that the site proposed on Education & Library Board lands was earmarked for a new school but suggested two further sites, one at commercial units at Ballyoran Lane, the other at the former ECC Components carpark.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Client Manager investigate these further two options, and report back accordingly.

As there was no further business, the meeting concluded at 10.10 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____ 2005 with the exception of
Minute Nos: _____

MAYOR

CHIEF EXECUTIVE