

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the special meeting of Castlereagh Borough Council, held in the Council Chamber, Castlereagh Borough Council, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Thursday, 20 April 2006, at 7.00pm.

PRESENT: Councillor T Jeffers
(in the chair)

ALDERMEN: M Copeland (until 8.00 pm)
J Norris MBE

COUNCILLORS: Mrs A M Beattie
J Beattie
Mrs M Chambers (from 7.50 pm)
D Drysdale (until 8.30 pm)
Mrs S Duncan
C Hall
M Henderson
M Long
G Robinson
J Spratt
Ms V Stevenson
C Tosh
J White

IN ATTENDANCE Director of Technical & Environmental Services,
Client Manager, Waste Management & Environment
Officer and Assistant Members' Services Officer

APOLOGIES Apologies were received on behalf of Aldermen Mrs G Rice, P Robinson and Mrs I Robinson and Councillors B Hanvey, Mrs J Cochrane, Miss R Hughes MBE, Ms J Bunting

2006/188 : PRESENTATION ON WASTE MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services reported that there had been several developments since the last meeting, at which a presentation had been made to a special Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting on 17 January 2006. He informed Members that Lord Rooker had launched a revised Waste Management Strategy for Northern Ireland on 30 March 2006, and the statutory waste management plan which each Council was required to prepare was currently being reviewed by the 11 Councils who are members of Arc21.

The purpose of the presentation was to raise awareness regarding waste management issues, to review progress that had been made and to look at current and future issues.

The Director outlined that the cost of waste management currently amounted to approximately 30% of the Council's net expenditure, and measures had been taken to enable these costs to be kept at reasonable levels.

Following the introduction by the Director of Technical & Environmental Services, the Client Manager took Members through the slide presentation. He stated that regulations were being issued from within Northern Ireland, the national government and the EU. Targets had been set in the EU Landfill Directive to reduce biodegradable municipal waste as a percentage of the 1995 baseline to:

- 75% by 2010
- 50% by 2013
- 35% by 2020

The Manager was confident that, because of the measures already put in place by the Council, the target for 2010 was likely to be achievable, although he added that more serious steps were necessary in order to achieve the set targets after 2012. For this reason, there had been intense discussions among the 11 Councils of Arc21 Eastern Region Waste Management Group.

Membership of Arc21 had resulted in many benefits, namely:

- 11 councils working as a collective partnership
- Agreed and consistent approach
- Harmonisation of services
- Economies of Scale
- Collective purchasing power (Goods and Services)
- Sharing of resources and knowledge

Membership of Arc21 had also resulted in competitive prices for waste treatment and disposal.

Contracts with Arc21 included:

- Material recovery facility (awarded)
- Wheeled bins (awarded)
- Bring centres (awarded)
- Landfill (awarded)
- Organics (out to tender)
- Transfer station (tender being prepared)

It was estimated that a new contract would be established within the next year for organics (kitchen waste) collection in brown bins.

The Client Manager outlined that some individual councils were finding it difficult to reach the set targets. However, through membership of Arc21, it was possible that all members combined could fulfill this aim, and an added benefit was a reduction in cost.

The Client Manager went on to list the fines which could be imposed on councils by the UK government and the EU for failing to meet targets. He went on to note that the average NILAS fine per bin lorry of waste that exceeded the allocated NILAS tonnage amounted to approximately £1,300. He continued to say that significant capital investment was still needed for waste management facilities.

The Manager then took Members through measures that the Council had put in place so far, which included:

- Formation of a Waste Management Working Group
- Tri-Cycle Scheme (kerbside recycling service)
- Re-branding and upgrading of Civic Amenity Sites to Household Recycling Centres
- Special collection service – Recycling and Disposal
- Education and Awareness programme
- Roll-out of additional bring sites
- On-street recycling bins
- Improved communications with the householders
- Signing up to all-Province contracts for end-of-life vehicles and fridges/freezers

He added that there was still contamination of bin contents, which, if it rose above 5%, would present additional costs to the Council. In order to shift the focus to recycling, the Council's Education and Awareness programme had been started as part of the Council's strategy to raise awareness.

The Client Manager also informed Members that he had received many enquiries regarding the tri-cycle scheme, but also in respect of cardboard collection, which is not currently available in the kerbie box scheme, and the lack of glass collection in the blue bins. He added that there were no plans to commence a special scheme for glass collection, but this was being investigated. Cardboard collection would possibly commence at some point in the future, following further development of the scheme. The Manager continued to say that plans included the development of bring centres to make it easier for residents to dispose of recyclable waste.

Overall, the Client Manager reported that the steps taken by the Council had been worthwhile, as to date no fines had been incurred.

Members congratulated the Department of Technical & Environmental Services for providing an excellent and efficient service to the Borough. Councillor Long raised a query regarding the frequency of grey bin collection, especially during the Christmas period.

Members were of the view that collection of kitchen waste and cardboard should be looked into, as it presented a considerable percentage of the overall waste collected.

Councillor Robinson enquired about the completion of the kerbie box scheme throughout the Borough as well as separation of grey bin content. The Client Manager replied that only high-rise buildings and trade were presently not included in the scheme. In the case of high-rise buildings, there was currently an investigation into alternative methods.

Councillor Tosh raised concerns in respect of the elderly, many of whom were unable to lift the kerbie boxes to the roadside for collection, and many seemed to be unaware that Bryson House offered doorstep collection of boxes if required.

Councillor Spratt enquired in respect of composting facilities for kitchen waste, which were in use in other parts of the EU. He was concerned that there might be issues regarding smell etc. The Client Manager replied that smell would not be an issue. One such facility was currently operational in Magherafelt.

Councillor Drysdale was of the view that more education regarding waste management was needed. Councillor Duncan agreed, and she suggested that regular surveys could also be carried out in order to raise awareness as well as providing information in respect of the level of recycling in the Borough.

Councillor White suggested that awareness could be raised by showing short television programmes, which could be shown at peak times. He was also of the view that architects and the Planning Service should take waste management into consideration when designing and approving developments.

Councillor Jeffers suggested that a message could be put on the TV screen in the A & E waiting room at Dundonald Hospital. Councillor Henderson suggested that milk cartons or tetra packs could be filled with water and used instead of a brick to weigh down the lids of the kerbie boxes.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

2006/189 : MINISTERIAL ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING EDUCATION CUTS

Councillor Spratt informed Members that a ministerial announcement was expected for the following week in respect of the above.

Noted.

2006/190 : CASTLEREAGH HILLS GOLF CLUB BOARD

Councillor Robinson informed Members that a special meeting of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board would be held on Friday, 28 April 2006. He then proposed to change the frequency of Board meetings from bi-monthly to monthly, as he felt that monthly meetings of the Board would be more beneficial. Councillor Henderson seconded the proposal, and it was

RESOLVED: That the frequency of meetings of the Castlereagh Hills Golf Club Board be changed from bi-monthly to monthly.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9.00 p.m.

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

MAYOR