

## **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, 5 February 2008, at 7.30 p.m.

**COUNCILLORS:** J Norris MBE (Chairman)  
Mrs A Beattie  
J Beattie  
Mrs S Duncan  
D Drysdale (from 7.40 p.m.)  
B Harvey  
T Jeffers (until 9.30 p.m.)  
L Walker  
Mrs V McCoy

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman Mrs G Rice and Councillor Mrs Chambers.

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

### **T&ESC/2008/43: MINUTES**

Tabled:- Minutes of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee held on 8 January 2008 (copy previously circulated).

The Acting Environmental Health Manager referred to Minute no T&ESC/2008/20 regarding the draft legislation in respect of the review of drinking in public places by-laws. He confirmed that he had prepared a response on behalf of the Council, which the Chairman had approved and it had since been forwarded to the DSD.

Noted.

### **REPORT FROM BUILDING CONTROL MANAGER (copy previously circulated)**

### **T&ESC/2008/44: SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS**

The Building Control Manager outlined the schedule of applications approved by the Building Control Service for the period 1 December 2007 to 31 December 2007.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/45: REPORTS ON APPLICATIONS, INSPECTIONS AND SOLICITORS ENQUIRIES**

The Building Control Manager outlined the reports on applications, inspections and solicitors' enquiries for Members' information.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/46: STAFF ISSUES**

The Building Control Manager advised that the vacant post of Administrative Assistant is currently being filled by temporary agency staff.

He reported that the post had been advertised again in the press on the 18 January 2008, and shortlisting had taken place earlier in the day.

He was hopeful that if the selection process was successful, then an appointment would be made by the end of March 2008.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/47: SOUTH EASTERN GROUP BUILDING CONTROL COMMITTEE**

The Building Control Manager drew Members' attention to the minutes of the Meeting of the South Eastern Group Building Control Committee, Annual General Meeting, held in Down District Council Offices, on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> of October 2007.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/48: STREET NAMING AT OLD DUNDONALD ROAD, DUNDONALD.**

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the street name of 'HANWOOD BUSINESS PARK' be allocated to the 25 No. Business Units, under construction by Hanwood Trust Company Ltd. at Old Dundonald Road, Dundonald.

**REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER**

**T&ESC/2008/49: GILNAHIRK – RIGHT OF WAY**

The Operational Services Manager advised that the Public Inquiry had been held on 8 November 2007, at Braniel Community Centre. He reported that at the time of writing, an outcome was still awaited. Once

this was released, the Council would have six weeks to challenge the outcome on legal grounds in the County Court.

Noted.

### **T&ESC/2008/50: KNOCKBREDA CEMETERY – VANDALISM TO HEADSTONES**

The Operational Services Manager referred to correspondence received from Councillor J Spratt, on 22 January 2008, regarding vandalism at Knockbreda Cemetery.

It referred specifically to vandalism of headstones on the weekend of 20 October 2007. The Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) had been informed of the incident on Monday 22 October at 11.00 a.m.

The Operational Services Manager then clearly addressed the points raised in the letter, as follows

- The gates to this Cemetery historically had not been closed. This arrangement was carried over from the church when the Council commenced to manage the Cemetery. Some years ago, the Church sold the parochial hall, which was now a private dwelling that required access via the graveyard.
- Vandalism had not been a significant factor in the Cemetery. There had been two cases of vandalism in the Cemetery in the last five years.
- The staff at the Cemetery were not aware of any holes in the walls

The Officer then made reference to the specific case and advised that staff had no up-to-date contact name or number for this particular grave, therefore it had not been possible to contact the owners.

The Officer suggested writing to the family advising them of the aforementioned situation.

Members discussed the vandalism and whilst they recognised that there was very little that the Council could actually do to prevent incidents such as this, they felt that in light of the sensitive nature of the complaint, that it would be appropriate for the Chairman of the Committee and the Operational Services Manager to offer to meet with the family, at the graveyard, to address the concerns raised in their correspondence.

**RESOLVED:** - That, the Chairman Councillor Norris and the Operational Services Manager offer to meet with the family at the graveyard to address their concerns raised in the correspondence.

### **T&ESC/2008/51: PHOENIX GAS REQUEST – BILLY NEILL CENTRE**

The Operational Services Manager advised that a response had now been received from Phoenix Gas. This response did not, however, include all the details requested; therefore another letter had been forwarded to Phoenix Gas, requesting the outstanding details. He drew Members' attention to copies of the relevant correspondence that he had attached to his report. He also advised that the Mayor had agreed to a donation of £200.00 from Phoenix Gas, to her Mayoral charity.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that, on receipt of the details requested from Phoenix Gas, the Council approve the request for access via the Billy Neill Private Road.

#### **T&ESC/2008/52: DUNDONALD HOMING PIGEON SOCIETY**

The Operational Services Manager advised that further to his report to the October meeting of the T&ESC, correspondence had been received from the President of Dundonald Homing Pigeon Society.

In summary, he reported that Dundonald Homing Pigeon Society accepted that the old pavilion building needed to be removed. They suggested that this could be replaced with a small container type unit for use as a storage facility, the meetings would then be held within the new pavilion.

Following a query from Councillor Drysdale, the Operational Services Manager confirmed that they would meet the cost of this container type unit themselves and pay rental for the site.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Jeffers, seconded by Councillor Mrs Beattie, and

RESOLVED (unanimously) That,

- (a) the Council undertake the removal of the old pavilion building, which currently houses Dundonald Homing Pigeon Society;
- (b) subject to planning, Dundonald Homing Pigeon Society be granted authority to place a small container type unit on the existing site for storage purposes and pay a suitable rental.

#### **T&ESC/2008/53: ANNUAL CHARGES**

The Operational Services Manager referred Members to a comprehensive list of charges that were set annually for chargeable services and facilities.

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that the range of charges, as detailed in the Operational Services Manager's report, be approved for the financial year 2008/2009, with effect from 1 April 2008.

### **T&ESC/2008/54: STATUTORY FLEET OPERATOR LICENSING**

The Operational Services Manager advised that a full review of Fleet Operations within Operational Services Unit had now been undertaken, to comply with the proposed 2009 Operating Licensing requirements. He reminded Members that this would be a statutory requirement for all local authorities under a restricted Operators Licence. Specific reviews were now taking place on Driver Management, the European Working Directive and Fleet Management records and processes, in anticipation of the requirements of the above legislation. He advised that it was envisaged that the review process would take some months to complete and undertook to provide regular updates.

Noted.

### **T&ESC/2008/55: A REVIEW OF BILLY NEILL SOCCER CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE**

The Operational Services Manager advised that Technical & Environmental Services staff had conducted a review of the Billy Neill Soccer Centre of Excellence. The analysis of the business had recently been presented to the Billy Neill Advisory Group for their information and comment. The Officer drew Members' attention to a full copy of this report and welcomed any input that Members might have in respect of the future development of the facility.

Members recognised that there were opportunities for developing usage of the Centre during the week and felt that floodlights may help in this development. They also discussed the fact that its location presented some difficulty, in that it was not particularly accessible to people without cars.

The Client Manager advised that floodlighting would be beneficial on a synthetic pitch but not on the grass pitches. He added that the area around the Billy Neill Centre was scheduled to undergo further residential development, which he felt would undoubtedly help the usage of the centre.

The Director requested that Members carefully review the contents of the analysis. He continued that Officers recognised that the facility had greater potential, particularly during the week, and were very keen to work on developing and increasing its income potential. He welcomed any input or suggestion that Members may have.

The Director then informed Members that an invitation had been recently made for expressions of interest for the development of synthetic pitch options at the Lough Moss and Billy Neill Centres.

Members then suggested that it might be helpful to ascertain if the Council's Grants Officer could obtain any funding to further develop the synthetic pitches at Billy Neill.

Following further discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that Officers progress these matters, including contacting the Council's Grants Officer, and report the details of the questionnaire results on the Billy Neill Centre at a future meeting.

### **REPORT FROM THE ACTING ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER**

#### **T&ESC/2008/56: STATUTORY NOTICES - PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND) ACTS 1878 TO 1907**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager outlined the list of Statutory Notices, which had been served regarding the abatement of Public Health nuisances/conditions prejudicial to health.

Noted.

#### **T&ESC/2008/57: THE POLLUTION CONTROL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT (NI) ORDER 1978**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager drew Members' attention to correspondence received in relation to the Council's adopted Noise Investigation Procedure.

He reminded Members of a previous request from an individual to address the T&ESC to highlight his concerns with the existing procedure and Members' resolution that the existing Investigation Procedure was adequate.

The Officer advised that further correspondence had been forwarded from this Service Unit to the individual offering to install the Noise Monitoring Equipment into his home to determine the existence of a nuisance. He reported that this was a slight deviation from the procedure in that the equipment was normally installed after the completion of the Noise Record Forms.

Noted.

#### **T&ESC/2008/58: CASTLEREAGH HOME ACCIDENT PREVENTION (HAP)**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager drew Members' attention to a copy of the latest minutes of the above Committee.

Councillor Beattie queried Officers attendance at the HAP Castlereagh meetings, in light of a previous resolution not to provide funding for this group.

The Officer advised that HAP Castlereagh was receiving no financial assistance from the Council and that the previous request for funding, which had not been approved by Council, was in relation to the Home Accident Co-ordinator who was based in Eastern Group.

Councillor Mrs Duncan questioned the remit of the HAP Committee, stating that it appeared to be carrying out the same function as that of the Community Safety Partnership.

Councillor Jeffers stated that the HAP Committee primarily dealt with Home Accident Safety issues and was providing an excellent service throughout the Borough. He stated that he would raise its Membership at the next meeting of the HAP Committee.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/59: CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT 1987 - THE CIGARETTE LIGHTER REFILL (SAFETY) REGULATIONS 1999 - UNDERAGE SALE OF CIGARETTE LIGHTER REFILLS (SOLVENTS)**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager advised that Castlereagh Borough Council Environmental Health Service Unit recently carried out a test purchase exercise, this was primarily to raise awareness amongst retailers that the above legislation makes it an offence for the sale of cigarette lighter refills (solvents) to any person under the age of 18 years.

This test purchase exercise was carried out on Monday 14 January 2008, 23 retailers were surveyed and unfortunately four premises sold cigarette refill products to a 17-year-old child.

As a result of this, representatives from the four premises had been asked to attend a formal interview in accordance with Paragraph 10.5, Code C of the Police & Criminal Evidence (NI) Order 1989.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/60: CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR IN DESIGNATED PLACES - DRINKING IN DESIGNATED AREAS**

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/61: CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR IN DESIGNATED PLACES - ADULT FOR PROPOSED LEGAL ACTION**

Members were informed that a person had committed the offence of drinking in a designated area in the Borough of Castlereagh, contrary to the Council's Bye-Laws.

RESOLVED: - that, the Council be recommended to approve the instigation of legal proceedings, in line with Council policy.

**T&ESC/2008/62: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 - ARTICLE 3 – LICENSING OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT – RENEWAL OF A LICENCE**

The Acting Manager referred to the list of applications for the renewal of Entertainment Licences for those premises detailed in his report.

RESOLVED: - That, the Council be recommended to renew the Entertainment Licences for the premises detailed in his report.

**T&ESC/2008/63: THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 - ARTICLE 3– LICENSING OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT – GRANT OF A LICENCE**

The Acting Manager referred to an application for the grant of an Entertainment Licences for premises detailed in his report. He advised that whilst the premises had held an entertainment Licence for many years it had now changed hands and this application was in the name of the new proprietor.

RESOLVED: - That, the Council be recommended to approve the Grant of an Entertainment Licence as detailed in the Acting Environmental Health Manager's report, subject to no objections from the Police or as a result of the Public Notice placed as a requirement of the legislation. If approved the Licence would be issued upon receipt of all necessary safety certification documents.

**T&ESC/2008/64: PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT (NI) 1929 - RENEWAL OF A PETROLEUM LICENCE**

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of applications received for the renewal of licences for the storage of petroleum at premises in the Borough.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the renewal of licences for the storage of petroleum at premises in the Borough as outlined in the Environmental Health Manager's report, subject to receipt of all necessary documentation and compliance with the terms and conditions of the licence.

**T&ESC/2008/65: BETTING, GAMING, LOTTERIES AND AMUSEMENTS (N. IRELAND) ORDER 1985 - REVIEW OF MONETARY LIMITS FOR CERTAIN**

## **GAMING MACHINE STAKES AND PRIZES AND ASSOCIATED SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY ISSUES.**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager advised that a letter had been received from the Department for Social Development seeking the views of the Council on an increase in gaming machine, stake money and prizes and associated social responsibility issues which include the adoption of a more socially responsible approach by the relevant business and club interests to the operation of gaming machines, particularly in relation to their use by those under 18 years of age.

He drew Members' attention to the proposals and advised that a reply had to be forwarded to the Department by the 29 February 2008.

Members noted the proposals and requested that the Acting Environmental Health Manager prepare a response stating that the Council were opposed to gaming machines and would therefore be opposed to any increase in the stake money and prizes.

Members were, however, pleased to see the introduction of the Social Responsibility Aspect, as follows

- All jackpot and higher prize AWP machines would display the GamCare helpline number (GamCare is an independent organisation which provides information, advice and practical help on the social impact of gambling);
- All jackpot and higher AWP machines would have clear signage forbidding play by under 18's;
- These machines would be supervised to ensure there is no under age play;
- Adherence to the code would be a condition of trade association membership;
- Associations would monitor compliance and take action against any members not implementing the codes.

RESOLVED: - The Acting Environmental Health Officer to prepare a response stating that the Council were opposed to gaming machines and would therefore be opposed to any increase in the stake money and prizes and forward to the Department for Social Development by Friday 29 February 2008.

## **T&ESC/2008/66: THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 - THE DANGEROUS DOGS (NI) ORDER 1991 - UPDATE ON DANGEROUS DOG CASE – REFERENCE PIT BULL TERRIER “MAX”**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager advised that the Appeal in the Dangerous Dog Case, involving a Pit Butt Terrier known as Max, which was to have been heard on Monday 14 January 2008, had been adjourned due to the Council's Barrister being ill and unable to attend Court. The new date for the Appeal had been set for Monday 7 April 2008. He provided Members with

an update on the costs up to 14 January 2008, which amounted to £12,756.00.

Following a query from Councillor Mrs Duncan the Officer confirmed that the individual was receiving legal aid. Councillor Duncan queried whether it was appropriate use of public money to provide legal aid to fight a case such as this. The Officer agreed to investigate this further.

The Officer confirmed that the Council had a statutory obligation to fight cases such as these. In light of this Councillor Hanvey queried why therefore the expenses were not recoverable from the Government.

Councillor Walker suggested that as this was an issue that affected all Council's that Castlereagh Borough Council should raise their concerns with NILGA.

Members agreed and following further discussion it was

RESOLVED: - Members, recommended that in light of the mounting costs that the Council were facing in bringing the aforementioned Dangerous Dog Case to Court, that the Chief Executive should

- (a) write to NILGA highlighting Member's concerns regarding the financial burden that the enforcement of such cases was placing on local Councils;
- (b) also write to the Minister for Agriculture & Rural Development raising the Council's concerns.

**T&ESC/2008/67: THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 - THE DANGEROUS DOGS (NI) ORDER 1991 - AN UPDATE ON PENDING DANGEROUS DOGS CASES**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager advised that there were currently two further Dangerous Dogs Cases with the Council's Solicitors, which had been approved for legal action by the Council. These involved dogs called "Rio" and "Tyser". He continued that in both cases the Council, as the enforcing authority, was duty bound under the legislation to remove these dogs from their owners, as possession of a designated dangerous dog is an offence.

RESOLVED: - Members noted the additional cases and recommended that additional provision be made in the legal budget for 2008/2009, to allow for the progression of these and similar cases.

**T&ESC/2008/68: THE DOGS (NI) ORDER 1983 - THE DANGEROUS DOGS (NI) ORDER 1991 - PROPOSED LEGAL PROCEEDINGS – IMPOUNDING OF A DESIGNATED DANGEROUS DOG.**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager advised that on Wednesday 16 January 2008 officers from the Environmental Health Service, supported by the PSNI removed a dog, which appeared to be of the pit bull terrier type from a flat in the Cregagh area.

The dog had subsequently been examined by the USPCA, who confirmed that it was a designated dangerous breed.

He continued that the owner had stated that he believed his dog was not a pit bull terrier type and that he would contest the matter in court in order to have the dog returned to his possession.

RESOLVED: - That, the Council be recommended to instigate legal action under the above legislation against the man from the Cregagh area who is the owner of the dog known as “Joker”.

#### **T&ESC/2008/69: STAFF TRAINING - NEXT GENERATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME**

The Acting Environmental Health Manager outlined that a female Enforcement Officer had expressed an interest in attending a training programme, entitled Next Generation Leadership Programme, should it be held at a later date.

Councillor Mrs Duncan stated that she personally would be very supportive of women developing themselves and would welcome the Officer's attendance at this course. Councillor Hanvey concurred, and stated that if there was adequate budget that the Officer should be able to avail of such training opportunities.

Members considered the request but felt that in light of the fact that it was not directly relevant to the Officer's role, that they could not approve attendance at the training.

RESOLVED: - That, the Council be recommended not to grant approval for the Enforcement Officer to attend the Next Generation Leadership Programme should it be held in the future, in light of the fact that it was not directly relevant to the Officer's job.

#### **T&ESC/2008/70: ISRM – NATIONAL POOL PLANT OPERATORS FOUNDATION CERTIFICATE COURSE**

The Officer highlighted the above one-day level 2 course. He detailed that the aim of the training was to provide staff with the skills and knowledge to:

- Test the pool water;
- Understand the factors that contribute to water quality;
- Explain to bathers what can affect pool water quality;
- The importance of good hygiene and cleanliness in and around the swimming pool.

RESOLVED: - That, the Council be recommended to approve the attendance of one officer at the ISRM National Pool Plant Operators Foundation Certificate Course, on 11 March 2008, at a cost of £175.00, given that it was directly relevant to their job.

## **REPORT FROM THE CLIENT MANAGER**

### **T&ESC/2008/71: TONNAGES DEPOSITED AT LANDFILL**

The Client Manager reported that 1801.44 tonnes of waste were deposited at landfill during the month of December 2007. This was 150.92 tonnes less than the amount deposited at landfill during the month of December 2006. Approximately 2050 tonnes were deposited during January 2008; this was slightly up on the same period the previous year.

Noted.

### **T&ESC/2008/72: USE OF COUNCIL HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRES BY COMMERCIAL LANDSCAPERS**

The Client Manager advised that further to his report at the last meeting, Minute No. T&ESC/2008/27 refers, a telephone survey had been conducted with the other 25 NI councils with regard to whether or not they permitted commercial landscapers to use their Household Recycling Centres/Civic Amenity Sites for depositing of their green garden waste and, if so, what arrangements they had in place. He then drew Members' attention to the results of the survey, and then took them through a number of points which he felt should be considered prior to making a decision.

Members considered the various issues in detail and it was subsequently

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that the Client Manager write to Messrs Loan McGrath Spence advising that that the Council were very sympathetic to the situation that commercial landscapers faced regarding the disposal of garden waste, however, felt that the Council currently provided efficient and adequate services for the collection of garden waste and in considering the various options felt that they could not extend this service to the disposal of commercial waste.

### **T&ESC/2008/73: SCHEDULING OF BROWN BIN COLLECTIONS – 2008/09**

The Client Manager advised that it was proposed that the fortnightly collections of the brown bin should continue throughout 2008/09, including the winter months. He then took Members through the detailed rationale behind this proposal and reminded Members that some residents who now have their residual (grey) bin emptied 3 weeks out of 4 would have an alternate week collection for this service throughout the year.

Following a query the Client Manager confirmed that there was a demand for brown bin collections over the winter months. The Director advised that this was clearly evident by the number of complaints received when the brown bins had not been collected during the recent snow.

Members considered the Officer's recommendation in detail and it was

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that brown bin collections continue on a fortnightly cycle throughout 2008/09, the grey bin alternating with the blue or brown bin as appropriate to the scheme.

#### **T&ESC/2008/74: ANNUAL CHARGES**

The Client Manager referred Members to a comprehensive list of charges that were set annually for chargeable services and facilities.

RESOLVED : That the Council be recommended to agree that the range of charges, as detailed in the Client Manager's report, be approved for the financial year 2008/2009, with effect from 1 April 2008.

#### **T&ESC/2008/75: 'RUBBISH NEWS' NEWSLETTER**

The Client Manager suggested that in order to 'practice what we preach', that the Council should produce an electronic only version of the 'Rubbish News' Newsletter on a 6 monthly basis, rather than delivering printed copies to all householders within the borough.

He advised that the new arrangement would be advertised in the 2008/9 Refuse Collection and Recycling Services Information Leaflet and would be kept under review.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended that an electronic only version of the 'Rubbish News' Newsletter is now produced, which be available on the Council's website.

#### **T&ESC/2008/76: SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF BOTTLE BANK AND OTHER RECYCLING CONTAINERS**

The Client Manager drew Members' attention to a copy of the Arc21 tender report. He reported that this tender was for the delivery of bottle banks and other recycling containers for a one-year period. He advised that Castlereagh Borough Council would require to have little, if any of the containers provided during the next 12 months but it was necessary to join with the Arc21 tender to be able to take advantage of above tender, if necessary.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) that the Arc21 tender report was accepted and that HEYN are appointed as framework bottle banks recycling container supplier to Castlereagh Borough Council, through Arc21, for a period not exceeding one year for bulk - call off 2500L rotationally molded plastic containers;
- (b) that, as indicated in the tender documents, Councils have access to the entire range of tendered products and prices at Appendix 1, in circumstances were as a particular requirement to match existing containers or complement particular street furniture or other individual features. It is to be noted that all prices are on a basis of delivery of full loads and that requirements for small numbers in particular containers would attract additional transportation costs.

### **T&ESC/2008/77: RESIDUAL WASTE TREATMENT PROJECT**

The Client Manager reminded Members that Arc21 were going through the procurement process which will establish residual waste treatment facilities for the Arc21 region. These would include a mechanical biological treatment facility (s), as well as a thermal treatment plant. A public information session was to be held in the function suite on Tuesday 05<sup>th</sup> February, unfortunately this had to be postponed. The Officer advised that Members would be informed of the new date as soon as was known. He suggested that Members might wish to consider issuing a statement of support to Arc21, supporting both the need for these facilities and the procurement process.

Noted.

### **T&ESC/2008/78: EHS WASTE MANAGEMENT GRANT**

The Client Manager updated Members on the current situation regarding the EHS Waste Management Grant. He reminded Members that the Council had intended to spend the outstanding amounts available on the EHS Waste Management Grant (approximately £500,000) on the construction of a new Household Recycling Centre in Dundonald. However, the Council, had decided not to proceed with the construction of the new Household Recycling Centre at this time and therefore a new series of capital projects were identified for the Waste Management Grant, as follows:

- Purchase of 2 new RCVs for the collection of recyclables
- The purchase and distribution of new kerbie boxes
- Further developments of existing Household Recycling Centres.

He reminded Members that the condition of the grant was that it should be spent by March 2008.

The Client Manger advised that one of the RCVs had arrived, and the grant for this had been received. Council had also approved the tender for the

supply and delivery of the kerbie boxes and delivery was anticipated over the next couple of months. Payment would be made when the boxes became operational. The EHS had indicated that they would be prepared to allow the application of the grant to these kerbie boxes provided that they were operational by the end of May. Meetings had been held with Bryson Recycling and it was planned that these boxes would indeed be operational by the end of May 2008.

The Client Manager advised that the above items would spend approximately £300,000 of the £500,000 outstanding. The balance was for the development of the existing Household Recycling Centres. However this was dependant upon the Household Recycling Centres being fully licensed. He reported that they were currently proceeding through the various steps necessary to enable these facilities to be licensed, but that there was no guarantee that the licensing process would be completed in time for the grant to be claimed. The Client Manager advised that he believed it to be important to provide Members with a current update on the confirmed expenditure from the Waste Management Grant so that they were aware of the current position.

Noted.

#### **T&ESC/2008/79: ROLLOUT OF SECOND KERBIE BOXES**

Further to the above minute in relation to the purchase of additional kerbie boxes through the EHS Grant, the Client Manager confirmed that meetings had been held with Bryson Recycling to plan the details of the introduction of the second box.

He continued that previous experience with the introduction of the second kerbie had indicated that it had proven to be beneficial to have a door-to-door canvassing exercise, running prior to and during the delivery and operational phase of the boxes. Bryson Recycling who had the experienced staff available and had proved to be very competitive in the delivery of their services normally carried out this work. It was estimated that the cost of this canvassing exercise would be approximately £1.05 per house (for a total of approximately 16,000 houses). The EHS had indicated that the Waste Management Grant could be used for this canvassing exercise. He stated that it would be necessary to suspend the Council's purchasing policy to allow the contract to be awarded directly to Bryson Recycling.

Councillor Beattie queried whether it was in order to suspend the Council's spending policy under these circumstances.

The Director confirmed that this had been permitted in the past (minute no TSC/2004/15 refers). He stated this needed to be approved promptly or the grant funding for this expenditure would not be available.

Councillor Hanvey advised that following the kerbie box collection in the Carryduff area there was a lot of discarded plastic left lying in the street, he referred specifically to Marlborough Park.

The Client Manager undertook to raise this issue with Bryson House.

RESOLVED: - Members recommended

- (a) that the Council's purchasing policy be temporarily set aside to enable Bryson Recycling to be awarded the contract for the canvassing of households prior to, during the delivery phase and the implementation phase of the second kerbie box at a cost of £1.05 per household and that the contract be awarded to Bryson Recycling;
- (b) that the Client Manager raise the issue of discarded plastic, following the kerbie collection with Bryson House.

### **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **T&ESC/2008/80: AUDIT OF LANDFILL SITE**

The Client Manager reported that the EHS had appointed consultants to undertake an audit of the landfill site at Moss Road. He added that Members would recall that discharge consent limits were breached from time to time and this left the Council vulnerable to prosecution.

Noted.

#### **T&ESC/2008/81: BROWN BIN CONTAMINATION**

The Client Manager advised that following the recent heavy snowfall a number of brown bins collections had not been possible. As a result there had been 17 individual requests from ratepayers to have their bins emptied, which had been arranged. The Officer continued that, of the 17 bins collected, 15 had been contaminated with other waste not suitable for the brown bins.

The Client Manager advised that it was his intention to write to these ratepayers advising of the contamination and enclosing information on the acceptable waste for brown bins.

Noted.

### **REPORT FROM DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES**

#### **T&ESC/2008/82: REPORTS AVAILABLE**

The Director advised that the following reports were available for Members' attention, namely : -

- Belfast Healthy Cities Annual Report 2006-2007.

- Water Demand Management Bulletin. Issue 86. December 2007. Environment Agency.
- Newslink. Issue 12. Winter 2007. NI Bureau.
- Community Engagement, Urban Regeneration, and Sustainability. Sub:im Bulletin. CL:AIRE. SUB8, January 2008.
- Acid Tar Lagoons. Sub:im Bulletin. CL:AIRE. SUB7, January 2008.

Noted.

### **T&ESC/2008/83: DRAFT PLANNING POLICY STATEMENT 18.**

The Director advised that NILGA were in the process of developing a Local Government response to Draft Planning Policy Statement 18: Renewable Energy.

He continued that the Planning Policy Statement, PPS 18 “Renewable Energy” set out the Department’s planning policy for development that generates energy from renewable sources. It embodies the Government’s commitments to: sustainable developing; reducing emissions; and a move from being an overly fossil fuel reliant economy to one which seeks to maximize on the Region’s substantial renewable energy potential.

He drew Members’ attention to the proposed NILGA response, which he had attached to his report.

Noted.

### **T&ESC/2008/84: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 6 DECEMBER 2007**

The Director briefly outlined the business conducted at the above meeting, which included the following matters:

- Contracts
- Organic Tender Evaluation
- Audit of Accounts 06/07
- Local Government (Accounts and Audit) Regulations 2006
- NI Waste Management Strategy 2006-2020. Programme Governance Proposals
- WRAP Study
- Development of a Framework for a Northern Ireland - Wide Waste Communications Campaign
- Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) Process
- Consultation – Commencement of Article 10 of the Waste (Amendment) (NI) Order 2007
- Consultation – Proposals to make the Waste Management Licences (Consultation and Compensation) (NI) Regulations 2008

- Recent Meetings
- Office Relocation

He requested that Members carefully review the contents of the above Minutes and acquaint themselves with the waste management issues that had been considered.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2008/85: ARC 21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 31 JANUARY 2008. MEMBERS BULLETIN**

The Director advised members that the next meeting of the ARC 21 Joint Committee would be held on Thursday 31 January 2008 at Castlereagh Hills Golf Club.

He drew Members' attention to a copy of the Members Bulletin for the meeting.

Noted.

At this stage in proceedings Councillor Jeffers left the meeting.

**T&ESC/2008/86: SINGLE STATUS. STAFF RESOURCES**

The Director stated that as Members were aware, the Council's Single Status Working Group was currently overseeing the progress of the work of the implementation of the Single Status Agreement.

This work was now reaching the stage at which the input from Senior Managers of the Technical & Environmental Services Department would require a step change in the commitment of staff resources. This input of staff resources would be particularly evident within Operational Services.

The work conducted to date was of a largely generic nature. However there would now be a requirement for work of a specific nature for each Service Unit to progress the implementation of the Single Status Agreement. He then highlighted some of the work tasks that were now required to be addressed as follows:

- review of all duties carried out
- review of patterns of working hours
- review of waste collection routes
- review of all working arrangements
- benching marking current working arrangement against comparators
- identifying efficiency opportunities
- costings of potential options and reviews

- on going consultation with staff by way of briefings/updates/meetings
- negotiations with Trades Unions and necessary preparatory work and meetings

He advised that the input of staff resources was being brought to the attention of Members, as Senior Managers would have to be temporarily diverted from current tasks and priorities to facilitate the progression of Single Status Implementation.

Councillor Beattie concurred that there would be a large volume of work associated with Single Status Implementation for officers, particularly from within Operational Services.

Councillor Hanvey suggested that it might be helpful for Members to receive regular interim update reports on the progress. He was advised that updates on this matter were provided by way of the Single Status Working Group.

Noted.

#### **T&ESC/2008/87: DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR 2008/2009**

The Director reported that consideration was being given to the Technical and Environmental Services Department Management Plan for 2008/09.

He advised that the Management Plan would address a number of issues:

- An overview of the Department
- An overview of the services provided to the Department's customers
- The locations from which such services are delivered
- Methods of service delivery
- An overview of the four Service Units (i.e. Building Control, Environmental Health Service, Client Services and Operational Services).
- The purpose, management and reporting arrangements, and responsibilities of each Service Unit
- The objectives and key tasks, outputs and indicators for each of the four Service Units.

The Director continued that the Departmental Management Plan provided a link between the Council's Corporate Plan, with its core values and strategic aims, and the Department's Service Unit Business Plans. It also provides an opportunity to look ahead to the incoming year, in this case 2008/2009, and attempt to identify future opportunities and threats that may impact on the work of the Department. He stated that at this stage, it would be useful to seek Members views as to their perceptions of such opportunities and threats, so that account could be taken of such matters in the preparation of the Departmental Management Plan.

Noted.

**ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

**T&ESC/2008/88: FOOTBALL PITCHES AT HYDEBANK**

RESOLVED: that, at the request of Councillor Drysdale, officers conduct a site review of goal posts at Hydebank Playing Fields.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:45 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHAIRMAN**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

Adopted by the Council this \_\_\_\_\_ day of  
\_\_\_\_\_ 2008 with the exception of  
Minute Nos. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
**MAYOR**