

CASTLEREAGH BOROUGH COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee meeting, held in committee, in the Council Chamber, Civic & Administrative Offices, Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Castlereagh, BT8 6RB, on Tuesday, 7 September 2010, at 6.00 pm

ALDERMEN: J Beattie
J Norris MBE
Mrs G Rice MBE
J White

COUNCILLORS: Mrs AM Beattie
Ms J Bunting (from 6.30 pm)
Mrs M Chambers
M Copeland
Mrs S Duncan
C Hall
B Hanvey
Miss R Hughes MBE
T Jeffers
Mrs V McCoy
G Robinson (in the chair)
S Skillen
J Spratt MLA

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

APOLOGIES: Apologies were received on behalf of Alderman
Henderson and Councillors Cochrane, Drysdale,
Long and Walker

T&ESC/2010/266 : DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chairman invited Members and Officers to declare any pecuniary and non-pecuniary interest (including gifts and hospitality) they had in respect of items on the agenda. There were no declarations of interest.

Noted.

MINUTES (copy previously circulated)

T&ESC/2010/267 : MINUTES OF THE TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2010

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/268 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 10 JUNE 2010

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/269 : MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING OF 22 JUNE 2010

Noted.

THERE WERE NO MATTERS ARISING

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

T&ESC/2010/270 : SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS

The Building Control Manager referred Members to the schedules of applications approved by the Building Control Service for the period 1 May 2010 to 31 May 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/271 : REPORTS ON APPLICATIONS, INSPECTIONS AND SOLICITORS' ENQUIRIES FOR THE PERIOD 1 MAY 2010 TO 31 MAY 2010

The Building Control Manager attached to his report for Members' information details in respect of applications received, plan fees raised, inspections undertaken, inspection fees raised and solicitors' enquiries for May 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/272 : SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS

The Building Control Manager referred Members to the schedules of applications approved by the Building Control Service for the period 1 June 2010 to 30 June 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/273 : REPORTS ON APPLICATIONS, INSPECTIONS AND SOLICITORS' ENQUIRIES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JUNE 2010 TO 30 JUNE 2010

The Building Control Manager attached to his report for Members' information details in respect of applications received, plan fees raised, inspections undertaken, inspection fees raised and solicitors' enquiries for June 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/274 : SCHEDULE OF APPLICATIONS

The Building Control Manager referred Members to the schedules of applications approved by the Building Control Service for the period 1 July 2010 to 31 July 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/275 : REPORTS ON APPLICATIONS, INSPECTIONS AND SOLICITORS' ENQUIRIES FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2010 TO 31 JULY 2010

The Building Control Manager attached to his report for Members' information details in respect of applications received, plan fees raised, inspections undertaken, inspection fees raised and solicitors' enquiries for July 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/276 : PERFORMANCE INDICATORS – FULL PLAN APPLICATIONS FOR APRIL 2010 TO JUNE 2010

The Building Control Manager referred to his report, which outlined the performance indicators for the period April 2010 to June 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/277 : CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR THE BUILDING REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011: PHASE ONE

The Building Control Manager advised that the Council had been asked to respond to Phase 1 proposals to replace the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 with the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 as well as proposals for changing the format and purpose of the accompanying Technical Booklets. Phases 2 and 3 of the consultation would take place later in 2010. Phase 1 content was as follows:

- Technical uplift and new guidance-based Technical Booklets for Part C (Preparation of site and resistance to moisture) and Part G (Sound insulation of dwellings)
- The introduction of new guidance-based Technical Booklets for Part E (Fire safety), Part H (Stairs, ramps, guarding and protection from impact), Part N (Drainage) and Part V (Glazing), with little or no regulatory change.

The Building Control Manager sought approval for the responses to the proposed amendments.

Following discussion and a proposal from Alderman White, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the responses to Phase 1 proposals to replace the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2000 with the Building Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 as outlined in the Building Control Manager's report.
- (b) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for changes to the format and purpose of accompanying Technical Booklets.

T&ESC/2010/278 : YEAR OUT STUDENT (UUJ)

The Building Control Manager advised that a student had been appointed to commence industrial training in the Building Control Service Unit, commencing on 6 September 2010. The student had successfully completed the second year of a BSc (Honours) course in Building Surveying at the University of Ulster Jordanstown and had passed a written test for this student post as well as an interview. The Building Control Manager stated that this appointment would be at no cost to the Council.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/279 : BUILDING CONTROL NORTHERN IRELAND GROUP COMMITTEE, ANNUAL CONVENTION 2010: 'GLOBAL IMPACTS – ADDRESSING THE RISKS'

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services outlined details of the forthcoming Building Control Northern Ireland Group Committee Annual Convention 2010, entitled 'Global Impacts – Addressing the Risks', to be held on 12 and 13 October 2010 in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle. The Convention was being organised by the North Eastern Group in association with the Northern Ireland Building Control Group Committee and speakers included:

- Margaret Ritchie (MP South Down, MLA)
- Alice Owen (Associate Director, Ove Arup)
- Cliff Warman (Environmental Practice Leader, Marsh Insurance)
- Stig Akerman (CEBC, Sweden)
- Joop van Leeuwen (CEBC, Netherlands)
- Mark Jones (General Manager, NHBC, CEBC UK)
- Mike Stannard (Chief Engineer, Department of Building & Housing, Wellington NZ)
- Robert James (Manager, Regulatory Services Underwriter Laboratories Inc, USA)
- Kevin Dawson (Group Manager, Construction & Compliance, Peterborough City Council)

- Joseph Birt (Specialist Support Officer, South Eastern Group)
- Dr Rainer Mikulits (Director, OIB, CEBC Austria)
- John Dumigan (Chief Executive, Down District Council)
- Trevor Martin (Head of Belfast Building Control)

Points of discussion included:

- Global issues of climate change and economics and how extremes in these areas affect the construction industry in Northern Ireland
- Systems of regulatory control in the USA, Europe etc and how shared knowledge and standards could be adapted to meet future challenges

The total cost per person for attending the residential convention was £265. The cost for day delegates was £80 per day. The Building Control Manager sought approval to attend the two-day residential convention at a cost of £265.

Following discussion and a proposal and a proposal from Alderman White, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the Building Control Manager to attend the two-day residential Building Control Northern Ireland Group Committee Annual Convention 2010, entitled 'Global Impacts – Addressing the Risks', to be held on 12 and 13 October 2010 in the Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle, at a cost of £265.

T&ESC/2010/280 : RATING OF EMPTY HOUSES

In light of the Minister's decision to rate empty houses in the Province with effect from 1 October 2011, the Building Control Manager advised that it was anticipated to generate revenue of approximately £10 million per annum. This would include approximately 20,000 potentially rateable empty properties, the majority of which were located in Belfast.

However, a number of exclusions would apply, ie new never-occupied development properties, where the initial exemption period would be 18 months for eligible properties that had already been completed in the next rating year. This would subsequently be reduced to 12 months. Furthermore, exclusions would also apply where occupation of a property was prohibited, government action, a person receiving care, non-occupation of a property due to imprisonment or the owner's death (probate) as well as properties that had a capital value of less than £20,000.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/281 : SOUTH EASTERN GROUP COMMITTEE BUILDING CONTROL – DRAFT RESPONSE TO CONSULTATION PAPER 'FUEL POVERTY STRATEGY FOR NORTHERN IRELAND'

The Building Control Manager provided Members with a copy of the model response from the South Eastern Group Building Control (Policy Teams) to the consultation paper entitled 'Fuel Poverty Strategy for Northern Ireland'.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/282 : EUROPEAN COMPUTER DRIVING LICENCE (ECDL)

The Building Control Manager sought approval for his attendance at the above course, to be held at Belfast Metropolitan College, Castlereagh Campus, for 34 weeks, Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 noon, commencing on 9 September 2010, at a cost of £240. He confirmed that sufficient funds were available in the training budget.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the Building Control Manager to attend the European Computer Driving Licence course held at Belfast Metropolitan College, Castlereagh Campus, for 34 weeks, Thursday 9.00 am to 12.00 noon, at a cost of £240.

T&ESC/2010/283 : NATIONAL VOCATIONAL QUALIFICATION (NVQ) LEVEL 3 IN BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION

The Building Control Manager advised that a member of the Building Control administration staff had successfully completed the above course.

RESOLVED: That the Building Control Manager convey the Committee's congratulations to the member of the Building Control administration staff for successfully completing the National Vocational Qualification Level 3 in Business Administration.

T&ESC/2010/284 : HIGHER NATIONAL CERTIFICATE (HNC) IN ADMINISTRATION AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The Building Control Manager sought approval for a request from a member of the Building Control administration staff for financial support to complete the two-year HNC course in Administration and Information Technology at Belfast Metropolitan College. The fee for the first year was £360 plus £110 course registration fee. The Building Control Manager confirmed that there would be no indirect costs in relation to this training and the Officer would attend the course in his own time. He further confirmed that sufficient funds were available in the training budget.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for financial support to a member of the Building Control administration staff to attend the two-year HNC course in Administration and Information Technology at Belfast College at a cost of £360 for the first year plus £110 course registration fee.

**REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER
(copy previously circulated)**

T&ESC/2010/285 : UPDATE ON CROSS-TOWN WATER MAIN AT HYDEBANK

The Operational Services Manager advised that the main pipeline installation works on the cross-town water main through Hydebank playing fields had been completed, with only a small element of reinstatement works to be finalised at the Newtownbreda Road section of the site. The area in question was subject to inspection and approval by Council staff prior to acceptance of the works.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/286 : UPDATE ON CROSS-TOWN WATER MAIN AT CLULOW PARK

The Operational Services Manager advised that work to re-route the cross-town water main at Clulow Park was still ongoing, with the contractors working in conjunction with staff from the Council's Parks section in respect of the reinstatement works. It was expected that work would continue for a further four weeks, and reinstatement works could then commence.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/287 : DRAINAGE AND PATHWAYS WITHIN TULLYCARNET PARK

The Operational Services Manager advised that upgrading works in Tullycarnet Park were due to commence on 13 September 2010 and completion was anticipated in approximately six weeks.

Councillor Robinson suggested that a press release should be issued for residents' information.

RESOLVED: That Officers prepare a press release to inform residents that upgrading works in Tullycarnet Park were due to commence on 13 September 2010 for a duration of approximately six weeks.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS – OPERATIONAL SERVICES

T&ESC/2010/288 : NURSERY SITE AT OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KNOCK

Alderman White stated that he had been approached by the Principal of Our Lady and St Patrick's College in respect of the purchase of the former nursery site. The Client Manager replied that an offer had been received and Officers were currently awaiting the land valuation results.

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE OPERATIONAL SERVICES MANAGER
(continued)**

T&ESC/2010/289 : COUNCIL FLORAL DISPLAYS

The Operational Services Manager advised that compliments had been received from a resident in respect of the Council's floral displays along the Upper Knockbreda Road and at the Cregagh Road junction.

Councillors Chambers, Spratt, Duncan and Hanvey also complimented Council staff on the floral displays around the Borough and asked the Operational Services Manager to pass on their congratulations and thanks for all the work carried out.

The Operational Services Manager further stated that the Council had been successful in the 'Ulster in Bloom' competition 2010 for Carryduff as the most improved area in this year's competition, and the Council had received much praise. The Mayor had been informed and the awards ceremony would be held in January 2011. The Operational Services Manager also thanked Members for their continued support.

RESOLVED: That the Operational Services Manager pass on Members' congratulations and thanks to all staff involved in the Council's floral displays.

T&ESC/2010/290 : UPGRADING OF COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW PIPELINE AT DOWNSHIRE PARK SOUTH AND CREGAGH PARK

The Operational Services Manager advised that a request had been received from Jacobs Engineering, acting on behalf of the Rivers Agency, regarding the upgrading of a combined sewer overflow which was running through the Council's ground at Cregagh Park. The existing sewer pipeline was being upgraded from 150mm to 300mm and the junction on the Council land was being removed to improve the flow of the sewer as the previous pipeline had been inadequate to cope with the heavy volume of water during times of peak demand, resulting in flooding to the rear of houses in Downshire Park South.

The works had taken place at short notice during July 2010 and the Chairman of the Technical & Environmental Services Committee had been consulted with regard to this request. The Operational Services Manager now sought retrospective approval for the request from the Rivers Agency regarding access to Council ground at Cregagh Park in order to carry out work on the combined sewer overflow pipeline.

Alderman White recalled that a sewer had been laid across land at Moat Park, but he was unsure whether the Council had received compensation and he asked Officers to investigate. The Client Manager replied that he would prepare a report in this respect for the next Committee meeting.

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council be recommended to grant retrospective approval for the request from the Rivers Agency to access Council ground at Cregagh Park in order to carry out work on the combined sewer overflow pipeline.
- (b) That Officers investigate whether the Council had received compensation for granting permission to the Rivers Agency to access Council land at Moat Park in order to lay a sewer and prepare a report for the next Committee meeting.

**REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH MANAGER
(copy previously circulated)**

**T&ESC/2010/291 : STATUTORY NOTICES – PUBLIC HEALTH (IRELAND)
ACTS 1878 AND 1907**

The Environmental Health Manager referred to his report, which outlined details of Statutory Notices served in respect of the abatement of public health nuisances/conditions prejudicial to health.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2010/292 : FOOD SAFETY – FOOD HYGIENE PUBLIC RATING
SCHEME**

The Environmental Health Manager advised that the 'Scores on the Doors' scheme had proved to be very successful and beneficial for food business operators who were seeking to improve the standard of their food businesses.

The Food Standards Agency had now developed a 'National Hygiene Rating Scheme' to ensure that the public can make direct comparisons between food businesses within the Province and vote with their custom. The Environmental Health Manager stated that the basic principles of this scheme were the same as the existing Castlereagh Borough Council scheme, with ratings of premises between 0 and 5, depending on the compliance with the Food Law Code of Practice. The score/rating would also be displayed on a central website and in the premises. To assist councils in implementing a national scheme, the Food Standards Agency had confirmed that funding for early adopters would be available. In order to be eligible for this funding, there was a requirement to meet a number of criteria and the deadline for applications of interest had been 27 August 2010. The Environmental Health Manager further advised that he had completed an application of interest in relation to the funding.

Noted.

**T&ESC/2010/293 : FOOD STANDARDS AGENCY (NORTHERN IRELAND)
AUDIT TO ASSESS COMPLIANCE WITH TRACEABILITY BY FOOD
BUSINESS OPERATORS IN CONJUNCTION WITH FSA (1)**

The Environmental Health Manager advised that an investigation in relation to the above had been conducted by the Food Standards Agency (Northern Ireland) on 26 March 2010 and a report had been received on 11 August 2010. The report confirmed that the Council had evaluated the food business operators' traceability systems in accordance with the requirements of the Food Law Code of Practice (Northern Ireland) 2008 and that the file records maintained by the Council indicated satisfactory official controls.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/294 : PLANNING CONSULTATIONS

The Environmental Health Manager provided Members with an update in respect of the Planning Service's intention to move from hard copy application consultations to an electronic system called ePIC. He stated that, from June 2010 onwards, the Council and the prescribed specific Service Unit Consultees, Environmental Health, Building Control and the Planning Officer had not received any hard copy applications as applications had been delayed and were currently being uploaded, using the electronic format.

The Environmental Health Manager continued to say that the implications of this change, including increased times for consultations, could not yet be determined. He confirmed that he would table an additional report in October 2010 to ensure that Members were fully briefed about the implications of working with ePIC.

The Environmental Health Manager further advised that he had written to the Planning Service in respect of the lack of applications received. Councillor Hanvey suggested that the Council should highlight the shortcomings of the system, ie the current backlog, and ask for an explanation. Councillor Robinson replied that it would be more beneficial to wait until a reply had been received from the Planning Service.

Noted.

(Councillor Bunting arrived at the meeting at this point, 6.30 pm)

T&ESC/2010/295 : LOCAL AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT (Minute T&ESC/2009/366 refers)

The Environmental Health Manager advised that he had met with the Air & Environmental Quality Unit of the Department of the Environment to discuss the progression of the declaration of an Air Quality Management Area and the development of an action plan to reduce the levels of pollution to the relevant standard.

Officers from the Council had also met with representatives from Belfast City Council who had declared an Air Quality Management Area on the Upper Newtownards Road, running from Knock to Stoney Road, Dundonald, and they had subsequently prepared an action plan.

The Environmental Health Manager stated that he intended to bring a report to Committee, indicating the size of the Air Quality Management Area to be declared and confirming the declaration procedure and associated costs.

During the ensuing discussion, Members agreed that more information would be required and asked that Officers prepare a further report for the October Committee meeting.

RESOLVED: That Officers prepare a report containing further information in respect of Local Air Quality Management for the October Committee meeting.

T&ESC/2010/296 : CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT BILL

The Environmental Health Manager advised that NILGA, in conjunction with CEHOG and other specialist groups, had prepared a response to the Assembly Environment Committee. The Environmental Health Manager highlighted the repeated concerns contained in the response regarding resources and lack of funding, even though the revenue generated through the issue of Fixed Penalties included in the Bill were intended to come to the Council.

Alderman White commented that, in light of the forecast cutbacks in public spending, these additional costs would be an imposition on ratepayers. He suggested that the Council should write to the Minister to highlight these concerns and to ask for a postponement of the implementation of the measures outlined in the report. Alternatively, he felt that the Council could proceed with the implementation of the measures outlined in the report if there would be no cost.

Councillor Robinson felt that discussion in respect of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Bill and its implications on the Council should be referred to a special meeting of Council.

Following further discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the Minister for the Environment, outlining the Council's concerns in respect of available funding for the implementation of the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Bill and requesting either postponement of implementation of the Bill or measures for implementation that would not result in additional cost to the Council.

T&ESC/2010/297 : POISONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1976 – REGISTRATION OF PREMISES

The Environmental Health Manager tabled an application for registration in 2010 for the following premises: Homebase Ltd, Unit 3, Drumkeen Complex, Upper Galwally, Belfast.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the application for registration in 2010 for the abovementioned premises.

T&ESC/2010/298 : THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 – REGISTRATION OF PREMISES FOR EAR PIERCING

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of an application for registration to carry out ear piercing at the following premises: The Pamper Zone, The Robinson Centre, Montgomery Road, Belfast. He advised that the premises had been inspected and found to comply with the bye-laws under the above Order.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for registration to carry out ear piercing at the abovementioned premises.

T&ESC/2010/299 : THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 – REGISTRATION OF PREMISES FOR EAR PIERCING AND ELECTROLYSIS

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of an application for registration to carry out ear piercing and electrolysis at the following premises: Origin Skin, 22A Kings Square, Kings Road, Belfast. He advised that the premises had been inspected and found to comply with the bye-laws under the above Order.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for registration to carry out ear piercing and electrolysis at the abovementioned premises.

T&ESC/2010/300 ; THE SMOKING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006 – INCIDENT 1 – FAILURE TO PAY FIXED PENALTY NOTICE

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of an incident where the driver of a van had been observed smoking in the vehicle. The registered keeper of the vehicle had been traced and contacted to request information regarding the incident. The driver of the vehicle had been identified and a Fixed Penalty Notice had been issued. The Fixed Penalty Notice had not been paid and the Environmental Health Manager sought approval to instigate legal proceedings against the driver of the van under Article 8 of the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the instigation of legal proceedings against the driver of a van who had been observed smoking in the vehicle for non-payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice.

T&ESC/2010/301 : THE SMOKING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006 – INCIDENT 2 – FAILURE TO PAY FIXED PENALTY NOTICE

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of an incident where the driver of a taxi had been observed smoking in the vehicle. The registered keeper of the vehicle had been traced and contacted to request information regarding the incident. The driver of the vehicle had been identified and a Fixed Penalty Notice had been issued. The Fixed Penalty Notice had not been paid and the Environmental Health Manager sought approval to instigate legal proceedings against the driver of the taxi under Article 8 of the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the instigation of legal proceedings against the driver of a taxi who had been observed smoking in the vehicle for non-payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice.

T&ESC/2010/302 : THE SMOKING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006 – INCIDENT 3 – FAILURE TO PAY FIXED PENALTY NOTICE

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of an incident where the driver of a van had been observed smoking in the vehicle. The registered keeper of the vehicle had been traced and contacted to request information regarding the incident. The driver of the vehicle had been identified and a Fixed Penalty Notice had been issued. The Fixed Penalty Notice had not been paid and the Environmental Health Manager sought approval to instigate legal proceedings against the driver of the van under Article 8 of the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the instigation of legal proceedings against the driver of a van who had been observed smoking in the vehicle for non-payment of the Fixed Penalty Notice.

T&ESC/2010/303 : THE SMOKING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006 – INCIDENT 4 – FAILURE TO PROVIDE INFORMATION UNDER ARTICLE 12 OF THE SMOKING (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 2006

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of an incident where the driver of a taxi had been observed smoking in the vehicle. The registered keeper of the vehicle had been traced and had been sent a Notice to Obtain Information. He had failed to respond to the Notice to Obtain Information, a reminder and a final warning. The Environmental Health Manager sought approval to instigate legal proceedings against the registered keeper of the taxi for failing to provide information regarding the incident under Article 12 of the Smoking (Northern Ireland) Order 2006.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the instigation of legal proceedings against the registered keeper of a taxi whose driver had been observed smoking in the vehicle for failure to provide information regarding the incident.

T&ESC/2010/304 : THE HEALTH AND PERSONAL SOCIAL SERVICES (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1978 – THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PERSONS (SALE OF TOBACCO ETC) REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2008 (Minutes T&ESC/2006/238 and T&ESC/2008/398 refer)

The Environmental Health Manager advised that the Environmental Health Services Unit had carried out a further tobacco underage sales test purchase exercise in accordance with the Council's procedures. He confirmed that out of the 11 premises surveyed one retailer had failed the survey and sold cigarettes to a child of 15 years of age. Representatives from the premises had been invited to attend a formal interview in accordance with Paragraph 10.5 Code C of the Police and Criminal Evidence (Northern Ireland) Order 1989.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/305 : CONSUMPTION OF INTOXICATING LIQUOR IN DESIGNATED PLACES

The Environmental Health Manager advised that PSNI Officers had detected eight juveniles drinking intoxicating liquor in the period May to July 2010 and the incidents were being processed through the PSNI's Youth Diversion Scheme.

(Councillor Spratt left the meeting at this point, 6.45 pm)

Councillor Robinson felt that the Council should write to the PSNI regarding the lack of information supplied to the Council about incidents of the consumption of intoxicating liquor in designated places in the Borough.

RESOLVED: That the Council write further correspondence to the PSNI, expressing disappointment about the lack of information supplied to the Council about incidents of the consumption of intoxicating liquor in designated places in the Borough.

T&ESC/2010/306 : DOGS (AMENDMENT) BILL

(Councillor Spratt returned to the meeting at 6.50 pm)

The Environmental Health Manager advised that the Minister for Agriculture & Rural Development had initiated a consultation process for the amendment of the existing Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983 and the Dogs (Amendment) Bill was now in its final draft. The Council had forwarded comments to the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development for consideration.

The Environmental Health Manager provided Members with information in respect of the implications of the Bill on the delivery of dog control and the need for additional resources.

During the ensuing discussion, Alderman White raised concerns in respect of the implications, ie additional cost to ratepayers, the Bill would present to the Council. He suggested that the Council should write to the Minister, asking for a postponement of amendments to the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983, with the exception of an increase in the cost of a dog licence.

Members further felt that, in the current economic climate, it might not be possible to employ additional staff to carry out the procedures laid out in the Dogs (Amendment) Bill.

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the Minister, asking for a postponement of amendments to the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983, with the exception of an increase in the cost of a dog licence.

T&ESC/2010/307 : WELFARE OF ANIMALS BILL

The Environmental Health Manager referred to the proposed Welfare of Animals Bill that would supersede the Welfare of Animals Act (Northern Ireland) 1972 when it was adopted. He stated that, in Northern Ireland, local councils did not have any involvement in the area of animal health or welfare. The role of Council staff was in the enforcement of legislation designed to deal with dog control matters such as administration of dog licensing, dealing with stray and unwanted dogs and investigation of complaints about the behaviour of dogs, ie dog attacks.

The Welfare of Animals Bill aimed to provide councils with powers to enforce the provisions for companion or domestic animals, including inspections, control orders and, where necessary, seizure of animals with a view to prosecuting the owner for cruelty or neglect. However, there was no indication that funding would be made available to local authorities to assist with the burden of the enforcement of this new piece of statute, which was disappointing in the current economic climate with so many other competing demands on resources.

Under the Bill there would be an additional requirement to inspect certain establishments, for example, dog breeding establishments, pet shops, riding schools, animal boarding kennels, zoos etc. The current role of Council staff only involved dogs. However, the Bill would add significantly to the diversity of expertise and resource required in respect of existing local authority inspection and enforcement roles. It was hoped that councils would be able to recoup most of the costs of inspection, licensing and enforcement if they would be permitted to set licence fees locally to allow for full cost recovery.

RESOLVED: That the Council write to the Department of Agriculture & Rural Development, outlining the Council's concerns regarding the implications of

the proposed Welfare of Animals Bill in respect of cost and additional resources.

T&ESC/2010/308 : DISCRETIONARY PROPOSALS

The Environmental Health Manager sought approval for the Chief Superintendent to attend a special meeting of Council on 21 October 2010 in order to discuss the proposal of discretionary powers.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the attendance of the Chief Superintendent at a special meeting of Council on 21 October 2010 to discuss the proposal of discretionary powers.

T&ESC/2010/309 : THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 – ARTICLE 3 – LICENSING OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT – RENEWAL OF LICENCES

The Environmental Health Manager referred to his report, which contained details of applications received for the renewal of Entertainment Licences.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the renewal of Entertainment Licences as outlined in the Environmental Health Manager's report, subject to receipt of all required documentation.

T&ESC/2010/310 : THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) (NI) ORDER 1985 – ARTICLE 3 – LICENSING OF PLACES OF ENTERTAINMENT – RENEWAL OF LICENCES – RAMADA HOTEL

The Environmental Health Manager referred to his report, which contained details of an application received from the Ramada Hotel for the renewal of an Entertainment Licence, to include sporting activities such as wrestling, judo, karate and similar sports and martial arts events. These additions were intended to facilitate two provisions bookings received by the Ramada Hotel.

Council staff had consulted with the PSNI and there had been no objections. Enforcement Officers and the Council's Health & Safety Officer would also carry out a joint inspection before and during each event.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the renewal of an Entertainment Licence for the Ramada Hotel, to include sporting activities and martial arts events, subject to receipt of all required documentation.

T&ESC/2010/311 : PETROLEUM CONSOLIDATION ACT (NI) 1929 – RENEWAL OF PETROLEUM LICENCES

The Environmental Health Manager referred to his report, which contained details of applications received for the renewal of Petroleum Licences.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the renewal of Petroleum Licences as outlined in the Environmental Health Manager's report, subject to receipt of all required documentation.

T&ESC/2010/312 : PETROLEUM (TRANSFER OF LICENCE) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 1937 – APPLICATION FOR THE TRANSFER OF A LICENCE TO STORE PETROLEUM SPIRIT

The Environmental Health Manager referred to his report, which contained details of an application received for the transfer of a Licence to store Petroleum Spirit.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the transfer of a Licence to store Petroleum Spirit as outlined in the Environmental Health Manager's report, subject to receipt of all required documentation.

T&ESC/2010/313 : THE DOGS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1983 – PURCHASE OF DOG LICENCE TAGS FOR THE YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 2011

The Environmental Health Manager advised that, in order to comply with the Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1983, the Environmental Health Services Unit had ordered new orange-coloured dog licence tags for the year commencing January 2011, at a cost £1,050.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the purchase of dog licence tags for the year commencing January 2011, at a cost of £1,050.

T&ESC/2010/314 : THE DOGS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1983 – DOGS KEPT WITHOUT VALID LICENCES

The Environmental Health Manager outlined details of two incidents where dogs had been kept without valid licences. Fixed Penalty Notices had been issued, which subsequently had been returned unpaid by the Clerk of Petty Sessions Office. The Environmental Health Manager sought approval to instigate legal proceedings.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the instigation of legal proceedings against two persons for keeping dogs without valid licences and non-payment of Fixed Penalty Notices.

T&ESC/2010/315 : THE LITTER (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1994 – STAFF AUTHORISATIONS

The Environmental Health Manager provided Members with a list of Council Officers to be approved for authorisation to progress contraventions of the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the list of Council Officers, as outlined in the Environmental Health Manager's report, to progress contraventions of the Litter (Northern Ireland) Order 1994.

T&ESC/2010/316 : STAFFING MATTERS – IMPLICATIONS OF THE PENDING NEW STATUTE (Minute T&ESC/2010/142 refers)

The Environmental Health Manager referred to the Environmental Health Business Plan for 2010-2011, which measured the Environmental Health Services Unit's performance highlighted the required statutory tasks and the availability of resources to deliver these statutory functions.

The Environmental Health Manager raised concerns regarding the pending introduction of new statute and the need for further consideration of resource implications. For Members' information he had provided further details on the pending Bills, the implications on existing resources and the need to obtain independent expertise on welfare issues, as existing Council staff only had expertise of dog control. Given that the Environmental Health Service Unit already operated with a significant negative balance of resources, ie a deficit of 2,269.5 hours per year, the Environmental Health Manager felt that the implications of the new statute would require additional resources. It was anticipated that an additional 1.5 Officers would be required to deliver compliance with the pending statute of the following:

- Dogs (Amendment) Bill
- Welfare of Animals Bill
- Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Bill
- High Hedges Bill

It was anticipated that revenue generated from the Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Bill and the Dogs (Amendment) Bill through the issue of Fixed Penalty Fines would be retained by the Council. The increased dog licence fee and the increase in the Fixed Penalty Fines under the Dogs (Amendment) Bill would also result in an increase in revenue, which could be offset towards the cost of the additional resources and reduce the cost for the Council.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That further consideration of the implications of the pending new statute be deferred to a future Committee meeting.

T&ESC/2010/317 : THE DOGS (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1983 – STATUTORY TRAINING

The Environmental Health Manager advised that the Environmental Health Services Unit had been heavily involved in the detection of prescribed breeds under The Dangerous Dogs (Northern Ireland) Order 1991. He continued to say that all Enforcement Officers had now completed the required training. Provision for this training had been secured in the Estimates.

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE CLIENT MANAGER
(copy previously circulated)**

T&ESC/2010/318 : LANDFILL TONNAGES

The Client Manager provided information in respect of tonnages deposited for landfill for the period April to June 2010, together with details of tonnage variances and indicative impacts on the 2010-2011 budgets. At the time of writing his report, the reconciliation for the July 2010 tonnage had not been completed.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/319 : EDUCATIONAL TALKS / VISITS

The Client Manager provided details of environmental educational talks/visits carried out since 1 June 2010.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/320 : ROLLOUT OF KITCHEN CADDIES AND LINERS FOR THE COLLECTION OF FOOD WASTE IN THE BROWN BIN (2010) (Minute T&ESC/2010/160 refers)

The Client Manager advised that the rollout of kitchen caddies and liners had commenced at the end of June and continued in July and August, with a two-week suspension during the 12th fortnight holiday period. Households that already had a brown bin automatically received a caddy and liners, with the remaining households being able to request a bin, caddy and liners.

The rollout had received media coverage through a press release and article which was due to appear in the September edition of the Southeast Belfast Advertiser. The Community Telegraph had also run an article in its July edition. Furthermore, there had been a positive response from householders who welcomed the addition of food waste to the brown-bin service.

The Client Manager stated that the level of diversion through the brown bin would be monitored during the coming weeks and months, at which time further reports will be brought to Committee.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/321 : DIVERSION OF FOOD WASTE AT THE CIVIC CENTRE

The Client Manager advised that, since the re-launch of recycling within the Civic Centre and the addition of the separation, collection and recycling of food waste, 268 kgs (0.27 tonnes) of food waste had been diverted from

landfill between May and July 2010. It was estimated that approximately 900 kgs (0.9 tonnes) of food waste would be diverted by the end of the current financial year. The re-launch had also resulted in the reduction of residual bulk bins at the Civic Centre by one. Rolling out a food waste collection service to other Council sites was still ongoing.

During the ensuing discussion, Alderman White enquired whether Bryson House would be able to collect tetra cartons as part of their services. He further enquired whether there was information available in respect of the service provided by Bryson House compared with the blue-bin collection. The Client Manager replied that the Bryson House contract was due to be retendered at the end of this year or early next year. The inclusion of tetra packs could be included at this stage but, if so, would be at an additional cost, as current costs were met by manufacturers. The Client Manager went on to say that materials collected through the kerbie box were of a much higher quality than those collected in the blue bin.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/322 : SALE OF KITCHEN CADDIES

The Client Manager advised that, since the rollout of the kitchen caddies and liners, a number of requests had been received for additional kitchen caddies. He recommended that, in line with the issue of additional liners, to offer additional caddies for sale to householders at cost price.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the sale of additional kitchen caddies to householders at cost price.

T&ESC/2010/323 : BLUE BIN CONTAMINATION CHECKS

The Client Manager advised that Officers had carried out random checks of blue bins during the week commencing 16 August 2010, in line with the Council's policy of 'zero tolerance' to contamination.

On Monday, 16 August 2010, approximately 100 bins had been checked, of which 38 (38%) had been found to be contaminated. On Tuesday, 17 August 2010, approximately 190 bins had been checked, of which 70 (37%) had been found to be contaminated. The most common contaminants had been wax-coated drinks cartons and plastic packaging, although other materials such as glass, aluminium foil, tissues, wet paper, polystyrene, crisp packets and, in one case, a saucepan had also been found. Householders had been appreciative when Officers explained why bins had been rejected.

The Client Manager stated that this exercise had demonstrated that contamination remained a pressing issue and further education was required with regard to acceptable content in the blue bin.

Noted.

(Councillor Hughes left the meeting at this point, 7.00 pm)

T&ESC/2010/324 : THE LANDFILL ALLOWANCE SCHEME (NI) REGULATIONS 2004 SCHEME YEAR 2009-2010 – DRAFT RECONCILIATION

The Client Manager advised that, under Regulation 13 of the above Regulations, the NIEA as Monitoring Authority was required to prepare a draft reconciliation in relation to each District Council no later than five months after the end of the scheme year. Under Regulation 14, and as soon as was reasonably practicable after the end of the reconciliation period, the NIEA was required to reconcile the available allowances with the amount of BMW sent to landfill as calculated under Regulation 13.

From the Council's WasteDataFlow submissions for the year 2009-2010, the NIEA had calculated that the Council had sent a total of **10,782 tonnes** of BMW to landfill, equating to **59.94%** utilisation of the allocated allowance available to the Council for the scheme year.

As part of the monitoring process of the Regulations, NIEA would continue its auditing schedule relating to the scheme year 2009-2010 and, therefore, the draft reconciliation figure might be subject to change.

Since the commencement of the landfill allowance scheme in 2005-2006, the Council has had an average utilisation of 59.10%.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/325 : NILAS 2009-2010 – ARC21 TRANSFER PROTOCOL

The Client Manager referred to the arc21 Transfer Protocol regarding the transfer of allowances within the group, which had been agreed by all councils and endorsed by the Joint Committee. The protocol comprised the following:

- Excess annual allowances to be collated and totalled at Group level (known as GEA - Group Excess Allowance).
- GEA distributed amongst those constituent councils requiring additional allowances to meet their annual NILAS allocation.
- Each council's allocation from GEA to be calculated in proportion to the council's population or utilising an alternative method duly agreed. Where applicable, the total amount to be transferred shall not exceed the total required to meet that Council's annual NILAS allocation. This step shall be repeated until either all constituent councils meet their annual NILAS allocation or the GEA has been exhausted.
- Thereafter, the formal transfer procedure outlined in Regulation 7 of the Landfill Allowance Scheme (NI) regulations 2004 shall be complied with.

NILAS Draft Reconciliation – Scheme Year 2009-2010

Following the draft reconciliation for the scheme year 2009-1010, Belfast City Council had exceeded its NILAS allocation for the scheme year by 1,334 tonnes. In view of this information, and taking account of the relative prevailing position, the initiation and application of the transfer protocol had been endorsed at the arc21 Joint Committee meeting of Thursday, 29 July 2010. This would entail each of the ten councils which had not exceeded their allowance to contribute a proportion of the excess allowance for the scheme year 2009-2010 - the amounts of allowances to be transferred to Belfast City Council would be calculated based upon the agreed protocol. Castlereagh Borough Council's contribution towards this excess was 130 tonnes (the final amount required might vary slightly following final confirmation of the figures in the draft reconciliation).

To enable the transfer, the formal transfer procedure required that a transfer request must be made to the NIEA before 30 September 2010 using the official NILAS 003 form. To this end, the NIEA have agreed to advise arc21 of the definitive reconciliation position as soon as possible following completion of the 2009-2010 audit process to facilitate submission of the transfer request.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the initiation of the arc21 Transfer Protocol, authorising the transfer of excess allowances to Belfast City Council, these being calculated in accordance with the protocol and based on the outcome of the NIEA's final reconciliation process for the scheme year 2009-2010.

(Councillor Hughes returned to the meeting at 7.10 pm)

T&ESC/2010/326 : 'REFRESH YOUR STYLE' – WASTE PREVENTION EVENT (OCTOBER – NOVEMBER 2010)

The Client Manager outlined details of a 'Refresh Your Style' waste prevention event to promote waste prevention. It was planned to run the event with the support and assistance of the Council's Community Services as well as Alyson McElroy Jones, who has previously worked with Belfast City Council and North Down Borough Council on similar events. Community Services had agreed to assist with the costs of the event. The event would include ten workshops, held in five community centres in the Borough during October and November, culminating in a 'showcase' event in the Civic Centre on 9 December 2010. The five community centres involved were Ballybeen, Braniel, Cregagh, Moneyreagh and Tullycarnet.

Householders in each area would be asked to sign up to two workshops over a two-week period and would be invited to attend and participate in the

showcase event. Each workshop was designed to facilitate a maximum of 12 persons and would last for approximately three hours.

The rationale behind the workshops was to reinforce the message of waste prevention/minimisation and the concept of reuse. Participants would be encouraged to move away from 'throw away fashion', where cheap articles of clothing were worn just a few times and then thrown out. They would be shown how to work with old, used items of clothing to create something new and wearable and therefore reduce the amount of textiles they might previously have thrown away. It was hoped that local businesses would become involved to provide a sponsored make-over as a prize. There would also be media coverage, ie radio and newspaper, and photo opportunities for the Council.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/327 : SUMMER SCHEME 2010

The Client Manager advised that, as part of the Council's Summer Scheme events and activities, the Recycling & Education Officer had used the arc21 education vehicle to promote the message of the three Rs (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) to Summer Schemes running throughout the Borough from 2 to 6 August 2010. The following centres had been visited during the week:

- Ballyoran Community Centre
- Emler Community Centre
- St Bernard's Parish Centre
- Cregagh Community Centre
- Newtownbreda High School
- Clonduff Community Centre
- Tullycarnet Community Centre
- Gilnahirk Primary School
- Moneyreagh Community Centre
- Braniel Methodist Church

Two sessions had been held at each location, with approximately 20 children taking part in each session (a total of 400 children during the week). The sessions had involved a short talk on the three Rs and the use of arts and crafts from reused materials, such as paper, cardboard boxes, cardboard cones, material and other items obtained from the Play Resource Centre (local businesses donate reusable materials to the Play Resource Centre).

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/328 : CONSULTATION PAPER RE: THE INTRODUCTION OF RESTRICTIONS ON THE LANDFILLING OF CERTAIN WASTES

The Client Manager advised that a copy of the above consultation paper had been received, with responses invited by 8 October 2010. A copy of the

consultation paper was available in the Technical & Environmental Services Department for Members' perusal.

The proposals outlined in the consultation included further restrictions on the landfilling of biodegradable and recyclable wastes, considering whether such restrictions would make an effective contribution to meeting the key objectives of increasing resource efficiency and reducing greenhouse gases (GHGs). The consultation paper listed a number of waste types for which the evidence suggested the benefits of diversion from landfill in terms of GHG, and resource efficiency gains could outweigh the costs of diversion. It further stressed that affordability in respect of public finances, ie the introduction of restrictions, would need to be carefully considered before a decision to proceed with any form of restriction was taken. The candidate waste types taken forward into a costs benefit analysis stage were:

- Metals*
- Glass*
- Food*
- Wood*
- Textiles*
- Paper & Card*
- Plastics
- Green garden waste*
- WEEE

Waste types marked with an (*) had been shown to offer the greatest opportunities to reduce GHGs and increase resource efficiency whilst delivering net benefits to society. The options for introducing new policy measures to restrict biodegradable and recyclable wastes from landfill in Northern Ireland were as follows:

- Do nothing.
- Introduce landfill bans either a) on their own, b) accompanied by a requirement to sort.
- Introduce a sorting or tougher pre-treatment requirement but without a landfill ban.
- Introduce producer responsibility systems linked to recycling targets.

Responses to the consultation paper would inform the Department's consideration as to whether it was desirable, practical and affordable to bring forward restrictions. If the Department chose to bring forward restrictions, the specific proposals would be the subject of a separate second-stage consultation on the chosen options, including draft Regulations for implementing them and a full regulatory impact assessment.

Given the nature of this consultation paper and the potential issue of affordability in public finance terms of imposing restrictions, the Client Manager recommended that, consistent with the inclusive approach previously adopted to develop a response to the NI Waste Strategy, Council

Officers should join with arc21 in developing a response to the consultation. A draft response from arc21 was included in the Client Manager's report for Members' consideration.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for acceptance of the draft response prepared by arc21 to the consultation paper in respect of the introduction of restrictions on the landfilling of certain wastes as the basis of the Council's submission to the Department, along with Members' comments.

T&ESC/2010/329 : CONSULTATION PAPER RE: MEETING EU LANDFILL DIVERSION TARGETS

The Client Manager advised that a copy of the above consultation paper had been received, with responses invited by 8 October 2010. A copy of the consultation paper was available in the Technical & Environmental Services Department for Members' perusal.

The Client Manager stated that, following discussions with the European Commission, the UK's approach to meeting landfill diversion targets was to be changed, therefore the consultation paper addressed the implications of changing the UK's approach to meeting these targets in relation to Northern Ireland. This was intended to be the first of two consultations, with specific proposals being presented in the second one. At this stage, the Department was seeking views of stakeholders regarding the proposed approach in a number of areas so as to inform the further development of policy and legislation.

The consultation paper addressed the necessary changes to enable the UK to report to the European Commission on a revised approach to the landfill diversion targets, including:

- Setting out a new interpretation of the definition of municipal waste.
- Revisions to the 1995 baseline and targets.
- The reporting and monitoring obligations necessary to enable robust reporting against the targets to the European Commission.

The consultation paper also sought views in respect of the future of NILAS in addressing both the District Council and private sector elements of municipal waste and providing the necessary confidence that Northern Ireland met its targets. The proposed change in definition would include waste from treatment facilities and packaging waste and broadening the definition would bring the UK into line with other EU Member States. It meant that a much larger proportion of commercial and industrial wastes would be included in the definition. There would be no additional waste sent to landfill, as it would be simply a change to the way municipal waste was classified. It was also not envisaged that the revised approach would, in itself, alter the current responsibilities and arrangements for managing this waste. Whereas

previously municipal waste had only applied to waste managed by a District Council, it would now extend to cover waste managed by private sector waste management companies. District Council obligations to manage waste would not be amended to include the 'new' waste in the scope of municipal waste for the first time. Councils would continue to manage household wastes and commercial and industrial when requested. It was not the intention to change the existing management arrangements significantly through the reclassification of municipal waste.

However, by changing the way municipal waste was counted would mean that the baseline upon which landfill diversion targets were set would need to be revised. The requirements set in the Landfill Directive were at UK level and as such the revised definition and targets would affect all four administrations in the UK. To compliment any revision of targets, there would need to be a review of reporting and monitoring obligations currently in place and, if necessary, additional measures would need to be considered.

The revision of the UK's approach provided an opportunity to review the range of policies in place to ensure that Northern Ireland's set targets were met. NILAS had been introduced in 2005 in order to meet the previous approach to the targets. It was not proposed to extend the coverage of NILAS to include the revised totality of municipal waste; but it would continue to apply to waste collected by District Councils.

Given the nature of this consultation, the Client Manager recommended that, consistent with the inclusive approaches adopted for other consultations, Council Officers should engage with arc21 in developing a response. A draft response prepared by arc21 was included in the Client Manager's report for Members' consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for acceptance of the draft response prepared by arc21 to the consultation paper in respect of meeting EU landfill diversion targets as the basis of the Council's submission to the Department, along with Members' comments.

T&ESC/2010/330 : WRAP RECYCLING MANAGERS COURSE (SEPTEMBER 2010) (Minute T&ESC/2010/234 refers)

The Client Manager referred to previous approval granted for the Recycling & Education Officer to attend the above two-day course in Bristol. He advised that the venue of the course had now been changed to Birmingham and as the course was due to commence at 9.00 am on Tuesday, 28 September 2010, the Officer would have to travel to Birmingham on the Monday evening, which will necessitate an additional one-night stay at the hotel. Initially WRAP had indicated that they might be able to cover the additional night's stay but have since advised that, due to severe budget constraints, this would not be possible. The Client Manager sought approval for the additional cost of approximately £80. He stated that this cost could be met within existing budgets.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the cost of approximately £80 for one night's additional hotel accommodation, which had arisen from the change of venue of the WRAP Recycling Managers Course to be held in Birmingham.

T&ESC/2010/331 : ARC21 TENDER REPORTS – HAULAGE SERVICE CONTRACT AND SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF 240-LITRE WHEELED REFUSE CONTAINERS

The Client Manager outlined details of the above tender reports and sought approval for the following:

Haulage Service Contract

The tendering process for the above contract was initiated in accordance with the EU Open Procedure on 21 April 2010 by the placing of a Tender Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union, followed by local press advertisements and an advertisement on the arc21 website.

Three tender submissions were returned by the closing date of 19 July 2010, with one tender not being accepted, as it was delivered after the deadline. Following the evaluation process, Lisburn Envirocare Limited achieved the highest overall score and lowest cost option in terms of affordability. The tender was therefore considered the most economically advantageous.

Supply and Delivery of 240 litre Wheeled Refuse Containers

The Client Manager recalled that the contract for the supply and delivery of 240-litre wheeled refuse containers had to be terminated due to the supplier being unable to supply arc21 Councils with 240-litre bins. A further tender exercise was subsequently undertaken in accordance with the EU Open Procedure on 28 May 2010 by placing of a Tender Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union, followed by local press advertisements and an advertisement on the arc21 website.

A total of nine tender submissions were received by the closing date of 19 July 2010. Following the evaluation process, Tank Engineering Ltd achieved the highest overall score and lowest cost option in terms of affordability. The tender was therefore considered the most economically advantageous.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED:

- (a) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for arc21's award of contract for haulage services to Lisburn Envirocare Ltd for a period of 17 months, with the possibility of extension up to 12 months or extensions totalling 12 months.
- (b) That the Council be recommended to grant approval for arc21's award of contract for the supply and delivery of 240-litre wheeled

refuse containers to Tank Engineering Ltd for a period of seven months, with the possibility of extension up to six months.

(Councillor Chambers left the meeting at this point, 7.14 pm)

T&ESC/2010/332 : FORMER LANDFILL SITE AT MOSS ROAD, BALLYGOWAN – CONSULTATION PAPER RE: THE DRAFT AMENDMENT TO THE LANDFILL REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2003

The Client Manager advised that the above Consultation Paper had been received July 2010 and responses regarding proposals were invited by 15 September 2010.

The Client Manager stated that the current EU Landfill Directive had been adopted in 1999 and had come into force on 16 July 2001. Due, in part, to the need to revise the regulatory regime first, the Department had not transposed the Directive into Northern Ireland law through the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 until January 2004. These Regulations, as currently drafted, applied only to landfill sites which had been closed after 6 January 2004.

In the intervening period, a number of landfill sites across Northern Ireland had been closed under existing arrangements, ie through rescinding the resolution in Council or by handing back the licence. Although compliance with the EU Landfill Directive was obligatory from 16 July 2001, the legislation which existed at the time did not specifically require landfill operators, including councils, to put in place appropriate aftercare arrangements.

The Department now proposed to amend the Landfill Regulations (NI) 2003 to ensure that they could be applied to all landfill sites in Northern Ireland which closed after 16 July 2001. The Department stated that the amendment was not deemed to be retrospective, as the obligations on landfill operators would only take effect from commencement of the amending regulations. It was intended that the regulations would provide clarity in respect of the obligations falling to landfill operators for the sites in question.

Given the work required to comply with the technical closure standards of the EU Landfill Directive and the potential significant costs to affected councils, Officers from five of the affected councils had met with legal representatives to discuss and agree a unified approach and response. A further meeting between the councils and their legal advisors had been held on Tuesday, 10 August 2010. The Consultation Paper had been discussed, together with the Framework Agreement in respect of certain closed landfill sites in Northern Ireland. It had been decided that the legal representative would prepare a response on each of the two documents for the attention of Members from each Council. The Client Manager advised that a further meeting had taken place and he tabled a draft response for Members' consideration.

Issues that had been discussed by the councils included the Department's role in failing to properly implement the Landfill Directive and the consequences of this on innocent third parties (especially in relation to potential costs), the retrospective nature of amending the Regulations and whether such action would be deemed *ultra vires* and reservations regarding the Regulatory Impact Assessment and whether this accurately identified the compliance costs and as such would not be a sound basis for proceeding with the proposed changes.

The Client Manager advised that Officers had agreed that this was a matter for the Department of the Environment rather than Council and that the Department should be asked to provide the required funding. The Department had stated that it hoped to reach an agreement with the EU Compliance Team in respect of the framework and timescale.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the draft response to the Consultation Paper regarding the Draft Amendment to the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003 be forwarded to the Department of the Environment.

T&ESC/2010/333 : CORRESPONDENCE FROM NORTHERN IRELAND WATER

The Client Manager referred to a previous indication from Northern Ireland Water that the ammonia level of leachate being received at Northern Ireland Water Treatment Works from Moss Road, Ballygowan, was too high and must be reduced to 100 mgs per litre.

He continued to say that, following investigations, it had been decided to replace the air diffuser pipes in the leachate treatment lagoon at the landfill site to ascertain whether the improved aeration would reduce ammonia levels but, to date, no information was available. Should the improved aeration not reduce ammonia levels satisfactorily, it was planned to try and source a floating aerator.

The Client Manager stated that Northern Ireland Water had been kept abreast of developments.

The Client Manager then reiterated that the Council's insurers had withdrawn cover from pre-existing conditions, which had been an ongoing concern in relation to pollution of the adjacent stream from the former landfill site. A letter of comfort had been received from the NIEA and this, together with some additional information had been passed on to the insurance brokers and it was hoped that this had been sufficient reassurance and that cover would be reinstated.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/334 : PLAYGROUND UNDER CONSTRUCTION AT THE OPEN SPACE AT BRED A TERRACE AND REFURBISHMENT OF EXISTING PLAYGROUND AT COLBY PARK

The Client Manager confirmed that these playgrounds had been completed. He also sought Members' views in respect of holding an official opening ceremony.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval to hold an official opening ceremony of the newly constructed playground at Breda Terrace.

T&ESC/2010/335 : PROPOSED PLAYGROUND IN CLONDUFF TO THE REAR OF THE ROBINSON CENTRE

The Client Manager advised that an economic appraisal was currently being prepared to consider future proposals for the Robinson Centre and its site. The possible inclusion for the redevelopment of the Community Centre at Clonduff was also being reconsidered with the development of the Robinson Centre site.

The Client Manager sought Members' views whether to delay construction of the playground adjacent to the nursery school near the Clonduff Community Centre (which was currently at the planning stage) until the completion of the economic appraisal for the Robinson Centre site. There was a possibility that the construction of a playground could be incorporated in the Robinson Centre proposals and, therefore, provide an enhanced facility. However, this would result in the delay of the playground construction in Clonduff for a number of years.

Following discussion and a proposal from Councillor Robinson to begin the construction of the playground straightaway, it was

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended proceed with the construction of a playground in Clonduff as soon as possible and not wait until the completion of the economic appraisal of the Robinson Centre site.

(Councillor Hanvey left the meeting at this point, 7.20 pm)

T&ESC/2010/336 : PLAYGROUND AT MONEYREAGH

The Client Manager advised that correspondence had been received from several MLAs regarding the condition of the playground in Moneyreagh and it had been requested to hold a site meeting.

RESOLVED: That a site meeting be arranged at the playground in Moneyreagh.

(Councillor Harvey returned to the meeting at 7.23 pm)

T&ESC/2010/337 : REQUEST FOR TRAINING

The Client Manager outlined details of a request from the Council's Technical Officer responsible to carry out maintenance at playgrounds to attend a two-day training course at a cost of £450, planned for Lisburn. The course content included playground inspections and was accredited by EDXL and OFCOM.

Formal inspections of playgrounds were carried out quarterly and recorded. The information was used (and could be referred to in court) if there was an accident leading to an insurance claim. The course was aimed to train the Technical Officer and give weight to his reports and evidence (if he was called to give evidence), but the intention of this course was to make this unlikely. Furthermore, the Technical Officer would also disseminate the information to staff who were responsible for cleaning the playground and carry out weekly inspections.

The Council had built several new playgrounds recently and plans were in place to construct several others. The last playground course attended by the Technical Officer was in 2004. As legislation and equipment was constantly evolving, it was important that staff were kept up to date in order to minimise the risk to Council.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to grant approval for the Technical Officer responsible to carry out maintenance at the Council's playgrounds to attend a two-day Playground Inspection Course at a cost of £450.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

T&ESC/2010/338 : 'TIDY NORTHERN IRELAND' CAMPAIGN - ADVERTISING

The Client Manager outlined details of the forthcoming Tidy Northern Ireland campaign and sought Members' view in respect of a contribution from Council towards the cost.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED: That consideration of a contribution from Council towards the cost of the forthcoming Tidy Northern Ireland campaign be referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

(Councillor Chambers returned to the meeting at 7.25 pm)

T&ESC/2010/339 : CONSULTATION DOCUMENT RE: DISCHARGE CONSENT – FIRESTATION AT CARRYDUFF

The Client Manager outlined details of the above consultation document. He added that he would be available should Members require further information.

Noted.

**REPORT FROM THE DIRECTOR OF TECHNICAL & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
(copy previously circulated)**

T&ESC/2010/340 : REPORTS AVAILABLE

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that the following information was available for Members' attention:

- Entec Bulletin, Creating the environment for business, issue 33
- Enterprising, publication of the Prince's Trust, summer 2010
- News Link, NI Bureau, summer 2010

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/341 : DOE NEWS RELEASE

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services tabled the following news releases for Members' perusal:

(a) New Guidelines will stimulate economic growth – Poots

This News Release of 1 July 2010 highlights the launch of new guidelines for business to help tackle waste by recovering value from waste materials. Three Waste Quality Protocols have been launched, outlining the steps that industry must take in order to fully recover specific waste materials and turn them into marketable products. These include production and use of:

- Quality compost from source – segregated biodegradable waste
- Outputs from anaerobic digestion of source-segregated biodegradable waste
- Processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oils

(b) Publication of provisional Northern Ireland municipal waste management statistics

This News Release notes that the latest edition of the Northern Ireland Municipal Waste Management Statistics, containing statistics for January to March 2010, and summary information of nine key measurements on municipal waste collection in Northern Ireland, is now available.

(c) Poots welcomes publication of provisional municipal waste management statistics

This News Release of 15 July 2010 relates to Item 2(b) above, and in it, the Minister notes how far Northern Ireland has come in recycling waste over recent years, and that currently Northern Ireland is above the required standard in landfilling only approximately 21% of its permitted allocation of biodegradable municipal waste.

(d) Minister fires warning as waste repatriation gets underway

The above News Release of 3 August 2010 highlights the challenging and costly work associated with repatriating illegally dumped waste.

(e) Minister visits 'one-stop-shop' recycling business

This News Release of 20 August 2010 highlights the significant impact of failing to meet landfill targets. The Minister has commented that failure to meet landfill targets will result in fines that could run into millions of pounds per annum – fines that would be borne by the ratepayer.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/342 : ARC21 CORPORATE PLAN 2009-2012 – BUSINESS PLAN 2009-2010

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services tabled the arc21 Corporate Plan 2009-2012 and Business Plan 2009–2010. Key elements of the Corporate Plan included the following:

- Vision
- Mission
- Values
- Strategic objectives
- Details of the above strategic objectives
- The organisation

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services advised that the document provided useful information on the arc21 strategic vision, the implementation measures to achieve strategic objectives and progress to date. The document had previously been considered at arc21 Joint Committee meetings, and the Council's arc21 representatives were aware of the document, its setting and contents. At the arc21 Joint Committee meeting of 25 May 2010 consideration had been given to the Corporate Plan.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/343 : ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 APRIL 2010

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services tabled the Minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on Thursday, 29 April 2010, hosted by Antrim Borough Council. The minutes had been ratified at the meeting of the Joint Committee held on Tuesday, 25 May 2010, hosted by Belfast City Council at Malone House, Belfast. The business addressed at the above meeting included:

- Calls for Conflict of Interest
- Contracts and Performance Update
- Contamination Levels at the MRF
- Residual Waste Treatment Project
- arc21 Procurement Policy
- Education Vehicle Update
- Cycle to Work Scheme
- Provision of Procurement and Contract Legal Services
- AOB
- Next Meeting

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services drew Members' attention to the need to peruse the contents of the above Minutes and acquaint themselves with the current waste management issues under consideration.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/344 : ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE – MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 25 MAY 2010

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services tabled the Minutes of the Joint Committee meeting held on Tuesday, 25 May 2010, hosted by Belfast City Council. The Minutes had been ratified at the meeting of the Joint Committee held on Thursday, 24 June 2010, hosted by Carrickfergus Borough Council in the Council Offices, Antrim Street, Carrickfergus. The business addressed at the above meeting included:

- Calls for Conflict of Interest
- Contracts and Performance Update
- Residual Waste Treatment Project
- Supply and Delivery Of Wheeled Refuse Containers, 55L Kerbside Boxes, Bottle Banks, Home Compost Units, Kitchen Caddies and Compostable Kitchen Caddy Liners
- arc21 Tender Receipt and Opening Procedure
- Waste and Contaminated Land (Amendment) Bill
- Youthspeak 2010
- Corporate Plan – Associated Business - Objectives 2010-2011

- NILGA Report from Meeting with Minister Poots – 11 May 2010
- AOB
- Next Meeting

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services drew Members' attention to the need to peruse the contents of the above Minutes and acquaint themselves with the current waste management issues under consideration.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/345 : ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE – MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN – MEETING OF 24 JUNE 2010

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services tabled the Members' Monthly Bulletin for the above-mentioned Joint Committee meeting. The Bulletin set out, in summary form, the main business conducted at the above-mentioned meeting.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/346 : ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING OF 29 JULY 2010

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services tabled correspondence dated 29 July 2010 from the Chief Executive of arc21, which expressed thanks to the Council for hosting the above meeting at the Council's Billy Neill MBE Soccer Centre of Excellence.

Noted.

T&ESC/2010/347 : SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES / SIGNIFICANT ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2010

The Director of Technical & Environmental Services drew Members' attention to a number of significant achievements and successful outcomes in 2010 and the financial year 2010-2011. He stated that, as the Committee oversaw the work of the Technical & Environmental Services' Department, it was important that Members were aware of these achievements, which were recognised not only in the Borough but also throughout the province. The significant achievements had been set out under the relevant Service Unit that had progressed matters to a successful outcome.

(a) Building Control Service

- The Senior Building Control Officer post had been filled on 1 February 2010. The new Officer was Colin Duff, who joined from Lisburn City Council Building Control.
- Castlereagh Borough Council Building Control Service had nominated members to sit on and play a full role within the Building Control

Northern Ireland structure. Three working panels focussed on the key issues of Fire Safety, Standards and Performance and Training and Communication under the direction of the Executive Committee. These working panels had the aim of benefiting our customers through improved service delivery and a higher level of consistency of interpretation of the regulations.

- Colin Duff was a member of the Standards and Performance Panel's aim was to promote best practice in building regulation interpretation. Claire Brown was part of the Training and Communication Panel, which aimed to enhance the effectiveness of the service and promote building regulations and information to customers. Both panels reported directly to the Building Control Executive Committee and, on a local level, this helped to keep the Council Officers and customers better informed of developments within Building Control across Northern Ireland.
- In the past six months (1 January 2010 to 30 June 2010), the Service had received 439 applications, generating a plan fee, building notice and regularisation income of over £50,000, with a notional development value of £24 million.
- The Building Control Service continued to receive a wide range of applications from small domestic applications to large scale works such as a new church building on the Killynure Road, Carryduff and ongoing works at the Ulster Hospital in Dundonald.
- These projects continued to promote the profile of Castlereagh Borough Council as a desirable place to visit, work and live.

(b) Client Services

Landfill

The amount of waste the Council sent to landfill continued to fall year on year. For 2009-2010, the amount of waste sent to landfill fell by 1.74% (from 19,548 tonnes to 19,208 tonnes) compared to 2008-2009. By way of example only, if the Council had adopted a 'Do Nothing' scenario and continued landfilling, in 2009-2010 alone the Council would have incurred additional landfilling costs in excess of £1.3 million, with NILAS fines in excess of £1 million. However, such an approach would be opposed to both EU and national law.

NILAS

The Council's utilisation of its landfill allowance for 2009-2010 had been 59.94% and since the commencement of NILAS in 2005-2006, the Council's average utilisation had been 59.10%. The Council remained one of the top performing councils within Northern Ireland. However, with annual allowances reducing every year, the Council needed to ensure that its waste infrastructure, kerbside diversion schemes and associated activities were adequately resourced to meet the challenges ahead.

Recycling and Composting Rate

The Council's Household Waste Recycling & Composting Rate remained steady at 37.61%. Whilst further gains would be made with the introduction of the collection of food waste, there was an imperative to increase participation and capture rates for both mixed-dry and organic wastes so as to maximise scheme performance and diversion rates.

KERBSIDE RECYCLING AND COMPOSTING

Kerbie Box (Source-Separation)

In 2003 a kerbie box pilot scheme had been introduced to 1,400 households. The service was currently provided to approximately 16,500 households, with nine types of material being collected in black and red kerbie boxes. Cardboard had been introduced in 2008, with household batteries being added in 2009. Kerbie boxes were collected weekly, with residual waste being collected fortnightly.

During 2009-2010, 2,632 tonnes of mixed-dry recyclables had been collected kerbie boxes. Due to the global economic downturn, the tonnage was less than in 2008-2009.

Householder satisfaction and participation rates remained high.

Blue Bin (Co-mingled)

Blue bin collections had been rolled out to households during 2005-2006, with approximately 11,500 households currently receiving the service. The service collected five types of material, excluding glass, aluminium foil, textiles and hand tools. Blue bins were collected on a fortnightly basis, as was residual waste.

During 2009-2010, 1,463 tonnes of mixed-dry recyclables had been collected in blue bins. Due to the global economic downturn, the tonnage was less than in 2008/9.

Householder satisfaction and participation rates remained high.

Brown Bin (Co-mingled)

There are currently approximately 23,000 households using a brown bin for composting of garden wastes. Brown bins were collected on a fortnightly basis in the same week as recycling containers.

Since December 2009, food waste had been collected loose in the brown bin and in June 2010, the Council commenced the rollout of kitchen caddies and liners to households to enhance the brown bin service and make the recycling of food waste easier and more convenient for the householder.

The issuing of caddies and liners had been welcomed by householders, with one householder commenting, "*....it has really inspired me to recycle*".

everything possible, it's strange how such a little change can make such a big difference...." These comments highlighted how providing a householder with a service that met their needs and expectations, was convenient and user-friendly, could have a direct and positive impact on their attitude to recycling.

During 2009-2010, 4,250 tonnes of brown bin waste had been collected and with the introduction of food waste, this figure was expected to rise significantly during 2010-2011.

Householder satisfaction and participation rates remained high.

Weekly Collection of Food Waste Trial

In June 2009 the Council, in partnership with Bryson Recycling, commenced a trial for the weekly collection of food waste to 1,200 households within the Carryduff and Dundonald areas of the Borough.

During 2009-2010, 54 tonnes of food waste had been collected. Satisfaction with the service remained high as did levels of participation.

Over the next year it was intended to compare the performance of both the weekly source-separated collection of food waste and the fortnightly co-mingled collection of food waste with garden waste.

Household Recycling Centres

The Council operated two Household Recycling Centres (HRCs), both of which played a key role in the Council's waste diversion strategy, providing an additional service to householders for the recycling and/or disposal of household wastes not collected through the kerbside service

The combined segregation efficiency (recycling rate) for 2009-2010 averaged 48.9%, an increase of 3.5% on 2008-2009. However, further work still remained to improve this performance indicator further.

Householder satisfaction with both HRCs remained high.

Bring Banks

There were currently seven bring bank sites within the Borough, supporting kerbside schemes and both HRCs. Materials collected ranged from glass bottles, jars and cans, to paper, textiles and wax-coated drinks cartons. The monthly average yield per site in 2009-2010 had been 4.30 tonnes. Sites continued to perform well.

Civic Centre Recycling

During the year recycling at the Civic Centre had been re-launched following endorsement of the revamped scheme by Council and the Senior Management Team. The new scheme targeted not only mixed-dry recyclables

but also food waste. New and improved recycling containers and food caddies had been placed in three kitchens within the Civic Centre, along with instructional signage.

Since May 2010 more than 260 kgs (0.26 tonnes) of food waste had been collected for composting and it was estimated that approximately 900 kgs (0.9 tonnes) of food waste would be collected by the end of the current financial year. As a result of the new scheme, it had been possible to remove one of the bulk residual bins.

Environmental Educational Talks & Visits

The Council continued to support its waste management services and activities with environmental talks and visits to schools, community groups, associations, churches, clubs and other organisations. During 2009-2010, educational talks had been given to 86 groups (3,860 people), an increase of 72% and 25% respectively on 2008-2009.

Education and awareness supported the Council's efforts in diverting waste from landfill and moving householders to a position of sustainable waste management practices. If the Council were to maximise performance of recycling schemes and avoid the on-set of *recycling decay*, which would have a negative impact on levels of recycling, there would need to be sustained and continued efforts to educate and support the householder in changing their behaviour and managing their waste.

Other Good News Stories

Other good news stories included the setting up of an Eco-Club within Tullycarnet Primary School. Outcomes included a litter pick of the Comber Greenway, the setting up of a mini recycling scheme within the school and the creation of an eco-garden.

400 children attended talks on the three Rs during this year's Summer Scheme, which included the use of arts and crafts from reused materials, such as paper, cardboard boxes and cardboard cones.

(c) Environmental Health Service

Successes

- The delivery of the Environmental Health Service Unit has continued to meet the expected high standard receiving "A" grades in all six measured activities for both Food Safety and Health & Safety.
- We are renowned for being a lead Council in the protection of juveniles from tobacco and solvent products, educating local businesses, carrying out test procedures and prosecuting where necessary.
- The Service Unit requires a very favourable report following a slice audit by the Food Standards Agency (Northern Ireland) on traceability.

The audit confirmed that the food business records inspected by Castlereagh Borough Council Environmental Health Service Unit and records maintained by the Environmental Health Service Unit ensured that food products could be maintained and checked throughout the European Union.

- Identified a number of target groups within the Borough and developed and delivered bespoke Food Safety Training. This includes ethnic minority food business operators and church groups.
- Two officers have successfully completed a Nutrition Diploma allowing them to develop a nutrition workshop in conjunction with Castlereagh College promoting wellbeing. Officers secured funding to promote the “5-A-Day, Eat Less Salt and Reduce Fat” messages to the student population within the campus.
- An Officer from the Service Unit has volunteered to be trained as a Designated Officer under Child Protection, contributing to ensuring that Castlereagh Borough Council as a body, is not vulnerable under this statute.
- In June 2010, the Environmental Health Service Unit sourced and secured new kennelling facilities for housing stray and unwanted dogs as required under the statute. This new kennelling contract has already seen significant savings compared to the historic contract.
- The Environmental Health Service Unit has also developed a Service Level Agreement with the Driver and Vehicle Agency to ensure that the Council can rapidly and securely obtain the details of offenders under both the Litter and Smoking statutes. This has reduced the possibility of offences being statute barred due to excessive time delays.
- We are continuing the development of the GIS System which was successfully presented to Elected Members.

Opportunities

- To apply for and secure funding from the Food Standards Agency to establish the “National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme.” This funding will allow the Environmental Health Service Unit to modify its successful Scores on the Doors Public Rating Scheme to the proposed National Scheme within financial burden.
- Promote Health and Safety to Chinese Food Business Operators within the Borough of bespoke Risk Assessment Seminars and interactive forums.
- To continue to work with Eastern Group Councils to promote and deliver service in an effective and efficient manner.

(d) Operational Services

- Departmental GIS System rollout continues with OSU through the creation of an electronic asset register within the Parks Section. Initial vehicle tracking in conjunction with route planning within Cleansing Services and the spatial aspects of the system continue to be populated. Training of key personnel is ongoing, and the service unit

has received a very favourable audit report in respect of asset management.

- During the past 12 months, Operational Services has been engaged in an Bio-diversity programme within the Parks service and has recently completed works within Gilnahirk Park which includes the establishment of bird and bat boxes, wildflower planting area, mini-beast log piles and revised planting programme. The programme has benefited from input from local schools and the community.
- Works to complete three new tee boxes (3rd, 8th and 12th) and one new green (12th) at the Council's Castlereagh Hills Golf Club have just been completed. It is envisaged that the course improvements will increase the challenge of the course as well as increasing the yardage.
- Funding has recently been secured for works within Tullycarnet Park from the Heritage Lottery Funding (HLF) application in conjunction with the Council's Development unit. It is envisaged that the initial stage 1 funding success will lead to a successful stage 2 bid which will allow the park to be returned to its original layout and would include a new playground. The Park will also benefit from some additional upgrading to the pathways, surface water drainage and disabled parking, and is due for completion in September 2010.
- A recent review of the Council's Special Collection Service within the Cleansing section has yielded efficiency improvements of 20% in conjunction with substantial revenue savings.
- Two of the Council's household Recycling Centre (HRC) Supervisors have recently successfully completed NVQ Level 3 in Amenity Site Management. This is significant in respect of the Council's Waste Management Licence and for the fact that both members of staff have not engaged in formal education for a significant period of time.
- Members will be aware of the Council's commitment to the food waste in brown bins initiative and as a result, 28,000 food waste caddies are currently in the process of being delivered to participating households across the Borough. The task is being undertaken by Cleansing staff resulting in a £21k saving to the Council.

Councillor Robinson asked that Officers pass on the Committee's thanks to staff for their good work and continued support.

RESOLVED: That Officers pass on the Committee's thanks to staff for their good work and continued support.

The meeting ended at 7.28 p.m.

CHAIRMAN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Adopted by the Council this _____ day of
_____ 2010 with the exception of
Minute Nos. _____

MAYOR