

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2024

Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 19 June 2024 at 6.15pm in Council Chamber, Monaghan Row, Newry

Chair: Councillor G Kearns

**Committee Members
in Attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor P Campbell
Councillor C Enright	Councillor V Harte
Councillor J Jackson	Councillor M Larkin
Councillor O Magennis	Councillor H Reilly
Councillor M Ruane	Councillor D Taylor
Councillor H Young	

Officials in Attendance: Mrs S Murphy, Director Sustainability and Environment
Mr C Sage, Assistant Director Sustainability
Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director Environment
Miss Sarah Taggart, Democratic Services Manager (Acting)
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

SE/066/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Brennan, Campbell, Feehan and Finn.

The Chairperson noted that item 16 – Business Case for Consultancy Services for Waste Contracts had been deferred to a future meeting.

SE/067/2024: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of interest.

SE/068/2024: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 22 MAY 2024

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 22 May 2024.

SE/069/2024: TO AGREE START TIMES OF SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETINGS, WORKING GROUP, AND CLEANSING & REFUSE TASK GROUP 2024-2025 SCHEDULE.

Read: Copy of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meetings, Working Group, and Cleansing & Refuse Task Group dates and times. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, the dates and start times for the Sustainability & Environment Committee Meetings, Working Group and Cleansing & Refuse Task Group were agreed.

FOR DECISION

SE/070/2024: **SUSTAINABILITY & ENVIRONMENT DIRECTORATE BUSINESS PLAN 2024-2025**

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright proposed an amendment to the Business Plan with the addition of the following on page 11 in Appendix 2 under Sustainability Supporting Actions: **“realise savings and additional revenues”**

Councillor Reilly expressed his opposition to the proposal, stating that Council should not be burdened with the goal of achieving net zero.

Following a request for clarification from Councillor Ruane, Ms Murphy advised the impact of any changes, along with savings through any of the sustainable strategies would be reported back to the Committee.

Councillors Reilly and Taylor sought confirmation that by adding the proposed wording, it would not constitute a commitment to implement but rather something to work towards. Ms Murphy confirmed this was correct.

Following the clarification, Councillor Reilly withdrew his opposition.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to approve the following:

- **The Assessment of the Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan 2023 – 2024.**
- **The Sustainability & Environment Directorate Business Plan 2024-2025.**
- **Add the wording “realise savings and additional revenue” to the objective under Sustainability Supporting Actions**

SE/071/2024: **IRISH OPEN CAR PARKING PROVISION**

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Parking Request for Amgen Irish Open 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Ruane addressed concerns raised by Councillor Clarke about using the entire Downs Road car park for the golf event as it was a primary parking area, therefore would displace

shoppers from parking to access local businesses. Councillor Ruane advised that Councillor Clarke proposed offering half of the Downs Road Car Park, along with the Donard Park green area and possibly the Islands Car Park, with a designated small area for dog walkers. Councillor Ruane requested a review of this car parking proposal and if alternatives could be looked at. Ms Trainor said it would be reviewed and brought to the Working Group to discuss and reconsider.

Councillor Enright relayed concerns raised by Councillor Truesdale, regarding local churchgoers who use Downs Road Car Park and the exit onto Shanslieve Road with a potential for gridlock if not managed properly. Councillor Enright requested an active meeting with church officials to discuss regular services and the accommodation of funerals.

Councillor Reilly confirmed his attendance at the working group meeting for the Irish Open and praised the efforts of Council officials. He welcomed the use of Donard Park, emphasising its potential to increase footfall throughout the town. Councillor Reilly also addressed concerns raised by Councillor Truesdale regarding churchgoers, noting that Mr Mallon provided assurances during the meeting that arrangements for churchgoers would be addressed.

Ms Trainor confirmed that engagement with the Church community had occurred and would continue, and that a designated parking area for their use had been identified. Ms Trainor advised that the report needed to be agreed to allow Amgen to put in place their transport plan which would inform the engagement with residents and businesses in the area to alleviate the points raised by Councillor Enright around Shanslieve Road.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Hanna, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the parking arrangements for the Amgen Irish Open (AIO) in September 2024, as outlined within the Officer's Report.**

SE/072/2024: PROVISION OF PORTABLE TOILETS FOR EVENTS

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding the Provision of Portable Toilets at events.
(Copy circulated)

Councillor Jackson proposed to accept the officer's recommendation that portable toilets for events over 10,000 people should be considered as part of the review, agreed by Council of Financial Assistance. He emphasised that providing toilets at these events was essential for health and safety and hygiene reasons and acknowledged the difficulty in estimating attendance numbers for some events.

Councillor Larkin inquired whether the Council owned portable toilets or rented them. Ms Murphy confirmed that the Council hired them.

Councillor Taylor asked whether the financial assistance scheme covered portable toilet hire and asked whether setting a 10,000 person threshold would be taking opportunities away from smaller attended events.

Ms Murphy advised the Financial Assistance Programme would consider applications and whatever a community group would require for their community event. She stated the threshold would be discussed at the Committee that would be reviewing the Financial Assistance, however, agreed to seek clarity on the threshold and revert to the Member.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Jackson, seconded by Councillor Larkin, it was agreed that the proposal for portable**

toilets for events over 10,000 people should be considered as part of the review, agreed by Council of Financial Assistance.

SE/073/2024: REPORT ON SUSTAINABLE NI MEMBERSHIP ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Request for support for Sustainable Northern Ireland (SNI). **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright proposed this report stating there would be a substantial challenge meeting the new reporting requirements and staff should be supported.

Councillor Reilly discussed the river running through Kilkeel, emphasising its urgent need for cleaning and requested an investigation into this matter, believing it to be a public health concern.

Mr. Sage said the paper emphasised a higher level of membership to help Council staff develop the Sustainability and Climate Change strategy. He stated this enhanced membership would ensure compliance with new climate change legislation from May 2024 as Council were required to report on its carbon baseline from April 2024 to March 2025.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Ruane it was agreed to provide the financial support at Accelerator Membership Level and sign an SLA with Sustainable NI for 2024-2025.

SE/074/2024: REPORT ON KEEP NI BEAUTIFUL ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Live Here Love Here Initiative and Eco Schools programme from Keep NI Beautiful 2024-2025 **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Reilly, it was agreed to approve the financial support and signing of an SLA for the period 2024-2025 as outlined in Section 2.3 of the report, and to support the Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB) Live Here Love Here campaign and Eco Schools Programme across the District.

SE/075/2024: FOOD SERVICE PLAN 2024-2025

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Food Service Plan 2024/2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to adopt the Food Service Plan 2024/2025 as outlined at Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.

SE/076/2024: UPDATE ON NEW SAFEGUARDING MEASURES FOR XL BULLY BREED TYPE DOGS.

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Update on New Safeguarding Measures for XL Bully Breed Type Dogs introduced by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Young, it was agreed to support the introduction of new safeguarding measures for XL Bully breed type dogs in NI.

SE/077/2024: DAERA CONSULTATION –“RETHINKING OUR RESOURCES”

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding DAERA Consultation – Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Reilly raised concerns about the decrease in kerbside collections, particularly since the service was funded through rates and expressed his disappointment in the implementation of laws that were mandated by the EU before Northern Ireland's departure.

Councillor Andrews also voiced concerns about the reduction in collections and worried about the expenses being shifted onto rate payers.

Councillor Enright highlighted the 'producer pays principle', suggesting that large multinational companies should compensate Councils for excessive packaging waste, while agreeing. He that these costs should not be passed on to ratepayers.

Ms. Murphy clarified that the Council's consultation response did not endorse DEARA's proposals and noted the effectiveness of operating a single-stream collection system which the Council supported. Council also back the recycling target of 70% and believed each Council should decide how best to achieve this.

Regarding Councillor Enright's remark on the 'producer pays principle', Ms. Murphy highlighted there is ongoing work with Central Government led by DEFRA to collaborate with producers on the costs of packaging disposal, aiming to alleviate the burden from the rate payer through the implementation of new legislation.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve the consultation response entitled “Rethinking Our Resources: Measures for Climate Action and a Circular Economy in NI”, published by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA).

Councillor Young left the meeting at this stage - 7.11pm
Councillor Jackson left the meeting at this stage - 7.16pm

ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to exclude the public and press from the meeting during discussion on the following matters, which related to exempt information by virtue of para. 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local /Government

(Northern Ireland) 2014 – Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and the public may, by resolution, be excluded during this item of business.

Agreed: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

The Chairperson advised the following had been agreed whilst in closed session:

SE/078/2024: FLEET REPLACEMENT UPDATE

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Fleet Replacement Programme Update 2022 - 2025. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Ruane, the following was agreed:

- To approve the amended capital spend for Fleet replacement 2024-2025 as outlined within the Officer's Report.
- To approve the amendments to the 2023-2025 business case for vehicle replacement as outlined within the Officer's Report.

SE/079/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR EV CHARGING INFRASTRUCTURE

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding Installation of EV Charging Infrastructure at Council Facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Magennis it was agreed to approve the business case recommendation for the installation of two double electric vehicle chargers at each site as detailed within the Officer's Report.

SE/080/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR SERVICING, MAINTENANCE AND MONITORING OF COUNCIL'S FIRE AND INTRUDER ALARM SYSTEMS

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director of Sustainability, regarding a Business Case for servicing, maintenance and monitoring of Council's Fire & Intruder Alarm Systems, together with provision of call-out arrangements for required facilities. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to note the report and to approve the business case recommendation that Option 2 is chosen as the preferred option.

Councillor Taylor left the meeting at this stage - 7.25pm

SE/081/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICES FOR WASTE CONTRACTS

This item was deferred to a later date.

SE/082/2024: BUSINESS CASE FOR HRC WASTE STREAMS

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 Ms S Murphy, Director: Sustainability and Environment, regarding a Business Case for Various Waste Streams from Household Recycling Centres. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Larkin, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to approve the Business Case to procure contracts for the collection/receipt, transport and processing (recycling/recovery/treatment) of various waste streams from Household Recycling Centres (HRCs)

SE/083/2024: SINGLE TENDER ACTION

Read: Report dated 19 June 2024 Ms S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding a Single Tender Action. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Reilly, seconded by Councillor Ruane, it was agreed to approve the STA as detailed in Appendix 1 of the Officer's Report.

FOR NOTING - ITEMS RESTRICTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH PART 1 OF SCHEDULE 6 OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT (NI) 2014

SE/084/2024: ACTION SHEET AND PRESENTATION FROM THE CLEANSING AND REFUSE TASK GROUP HELD 22 MAY 2024

Read: Action Sheet and Presentation from Cleansing and Refuse Task Group meeting held 22 May 2024. **(copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright it was agreed to note the action sheet and presentation from the Cleansing & Refuse task group held 22 May 2024.

SE/085/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEMBERS' MONTHLY BULLETIN OF 30 MAY 2024 AND IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Members Monthly Bulletin of 30 May 2024 and In Committee Minutes of Thursday 25 April 2024 **(copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to note the documents.

FOR NOTING

SE/086/2024: **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY 25 APRIL 2024**

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Minutes of Thursday 25 April 2024 (**copy circulated**)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the minutes.**

SE/087/2024: **DISTRICT CLEANSING – SUMMER SEASON 2024 PREPARATIONS**

Read: Report from Ms S Murphy, Director of Sustainability & Environment, regarding District Cleansing Summer Season 2024 Preparations. (**copy circulated**)

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Magennis, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to note the planned summer season preparations as outlined within the Officer's Report.**

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7:35pm.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 1st July 2024.

Signed: **Councillor Geraldine Kearns**
Chairperson

Signed: **Ms Sinead Murphy**
Director of Sustainability & Environment