

NEWRY, MOURNE AND DOWN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ref: SE/2024

**Minutes of Sustainability & Environment Committee Meeting held on
Wednesday 18 September 2024 at 6.15pm in Council Chamber, Monaghan Row, Newry**

Chair: Councillor G Kearns

**Committee Members
in Attendance:**

Councillor T Andrews	Councillor J Brennan
Councillor P Campbell	Councillor Enright
Councillor D Finn	Councillor V Harte
Councillor J Jackson	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
Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director Environment
Ms F Branagh, Democratic Services Officer
Mrs N Stranney, Democratic Services Officer

SE/104/2024: APOLOGIES AND CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

Apologies were received from Councillors Feehan, Magennis and Reilly.

SE/105/2024: DECLARATIONS OF "CONFLICTS OF INTEREST"

There were no declarations of interest.

**SE/106/2024: ACTION SHEET: SUSTAINABILITY AND ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 21 AUGUST 2024**

Read: Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 August 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Enright enquired about the status of SE/143/2022 - Notice of Motion - Revenue from EV Charging Infrastructure. Mrs Murphy replied that an update would be provided in due course.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Campbell, it was agreed to note the Action Sheet of the Sustainability and Environment Committee Meeting held on 21 August 2024.

FOR DECISION

SE/107/2024: HOUSES IN MULTIPLE OCCUPANCY

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding Houses in Multiple Occupancy – Review of Licence Scheme Charges and Proposed Increase in Licence Fee From 1 October 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor presented a report to Members to consider increasing the fee for licensing a House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) and varying an HMO licence, in line with the Houses in Multiple Occupation Act (Northern Ireland) 2016. She stated that the Act, effective from 1 April 2019, set the maximum licence fee at £45 per person per year, with Belfast City Council initially setting the fee at £37. On 2 August 2024, (Society of Local Authority Chief Executives) SOLACE agreed to a proposed fee increase.

AGREED: **On the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Campbell, the following was agreed:**

- **Approve the increase of the HMO licence application fee to £45, the maximum permissible under the 2019 Regulations.**
- **Approve the costs of varying an HMO licence as follows; Addition of a new managing agent - £225 and Addition of a new occupant - £225 for each new occupant and £100 inspection fee (per visit).**
- **Note that the Chair of SOLACE will write to the DfC Permanent Secretary regarding the risk being carried by Councils and the need to bring forward legislation on this matter within the current mandate.**

SE/108/2024: NEW PUBLIC HEALTH BILL CONSULTATION

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding New Public Health Bill Consultation **(Copy circulated)**

Mrs Trainor presented a report advising that the Department of Health had issued a consultation that sought views on the new Health Protection Measures being implemented through a Public Health Bill to replace the current Public Health Act (Northern Ireland) 1967. She stated the recommendation was that Council approve the response tabled within Appendix 1 of the report to be submitted to the Department of Health on behalf of the Council.

Councillor Enright advised that his Party was taking legal advice on the consultation and proposed that each Party submit their own response with Council refraining from providing a corporate response. This was seconded by Councillor Young.

Councillor Finn stated that given the significance of the legislation and the consultation deadline approaching, proposed writing to the Department of Health inviting them make a presentation at a Council meeting. This was seconded by Councillor Andrews.

Councillor Ruane stated that Sinn Féin would be responding on Party basis and was unsure whether the Council, as a corporate body, were required to reply.

Mrs Murphy clarified that the officers' consultation response was on behalf of the Council and required approval from both the Committee and the full Council. If the approval was not obtained the consultation response would not be submitted.

Councillor Enright withdrew his proposal and agreed with Councillor Finn's proposal to invite the Department of Health to make a presentation to the Council.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to write to the Department of Health inviting them to make a presentation to brief all Councillors on the subject of the consultation.

SE/109/2024: **FLEET POLICY**

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Fleet Policy. **(Copy circulated)**

Mr Sage presented the paper that recommended approval for the Council's Fleet Policy to provide a framework ensuring that Council's driving activities were organised safely and efficiently while complying with statutory legislation.

Councillor Andrews proposed to accept the officer's recommendation highlighting the need for Council to stay updated with fleet management regulations and policies.

In seconding the proposal, Councillor Enright advised there was an item missing from the report whereby legislation had been issued on 7th May 2024, that required all local authorities to adopt a lifetime cost for replacing fleets, which had been adopted by Council two years ago. He requested that this be included within the related policy and legislation section and added as an aim.

Mr Sage advised the legislation referred to could be included within the Council's overall fleet strategy which would be brought back to a future Committee for approval.

Councillor Enright reiterated that as the legislation had already been enacted, this should be included as well as making it an aim for Council.

Mr Sage stated that he would take the comments on board.

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to note contents of this report and to approve the Council's Fleet Policy as presented at Appendix 1 of this report.

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 Brennan, 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 Harte, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed the Committee come out of closed session.

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

SE110/2024: NFLA MEMBERSHIP FEE 2024/2025

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding NFLA Membership Fee 2024/2025. (Nuclear Free Local Authorities) **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Andrews, seconded by Councillor Enright, it was agreed to approve the renewal of the annual subscription for membership of the Nuclear Free Local Authorities.

SE/111/2024: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACTS – MINOR WORKS CONTRACTS

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Minor Works Contracts **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Andrews it was agreed to approve the Direct Award Contracts for Minor Works as detailed in section 2.1 of the report.

SE/112/2024: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACT – UPGRADE, DIAGNOSTICS & SERVICING OF VICTORIA LOCKS HYDRAULIC CONTROL SYSTEMS

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding Direct Award Contract – Upgrade, Diagnostics & Servicing of Victoria Locks Hydraulic Control Systems. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Finn, seconded by Councillor Taylor, it was agreed to approve the Direct Award Contract for the upgrade, diagnostics & servicing of Victoria Locks Hydraulic Control Systems as detailed in section 2.2 of the officer's report.

Councillor Taylor left the meeting at 18.51.

SE/113/2024: DIRECT AWARD CONTRACT EXTENSIONS – WASTE MANAGEMENT

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director of Environment, regarding Direct Award Contract Extensions – Waste Management. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Andrews, it was agreed to approve Two Direct Award Contracts as detailed in Appendix 1 of the officer's report.

SE/114/2024: BUSINESS CASE – SERVICING AT HILLTOWN HRC

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mrs S Trainor, Assistant Director: Environment, regarding a Business Case – Servicing at Hilltown HRC. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Ruane, seconded by Councillor Harte, it was agreed to approve the business case to procure services for the collection and transfer of residual waste, hard plastics, and cardboard from Hilltown HRC

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

SE/115/2024: REPLACEMENT COMPACTOR BUSINESS CASE

This Item had been deferred to future Committee Meeting

SE/116/2024: REPORT FROM CLEANSING AND REFUSE TASK GROUP ON 21 AUGUST 2024

Read: Report from the Report from Cleansing and Refuse Task Group on 21 August 2024 (Copy circulated)

AGREED: On the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Brennan, it was agreed to note the presentation and action sheet.

SE/117/2024: ARC21 SPECIAL JOINT COMMITTEE IN COMMITTEE MINUTES OF THURSDAY 23 JULY 2024

Read: Arc21 Special Joint Committee "In Committee" Minutes of Thursday 23 July 2024. (Copy circulated)

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Campbell, seconded by Councillor Brennan, to note the arc21 Special Joint Committee "in committee" minutes of meeting held 23 July 2024.

FOR NOTING

SE/118/2024: ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES OF THURSDAY 23 JULY 2024

Read: Arc21 Joint Committee Meeting Committee Minutes of Thursday 23 July 2024. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Finn, to note the minutes of the Arc21 Joint Committee meeting of Thursday 23 July 2024.

SE/119/2024: PUBLIC CONVENIENCE UPDATE

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding an update on Public Convenience project in Newcastle. **(Copy circulated)**

Councillor Finn enquired whether Councillors would have an opportunity to feed into the strategy with regard to how facilities would be prioritised.

Mr Sage advised the strategy would be brought back to the working group and the plan was to develop a matrix for ranking the facilities, at which stage input from Councillors would be welcome.

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Finn to note the contents of the report.

SE/120/2024: UPDATE ON UPGRADE OF TOWN CENTRE CCTV PROJECT

Read: Report dated 18 September 2024 from Mr C Sage, Assistant Director: Sustainability, regarding an update on the current situation in relation to the upgrade of Town Centre CCTV cameras in Newry, Warrenpoint and Kilkeel. **(Copy circulated)**

AGREED: It was agreed the proposal of Councillor Enright, seconded by Councillor Finn to approve the contents of the report.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 18.57.

For adoption at the Council Meeting to be held on Monday 7th October 2024.

**Signed: Councillor Geraldine Kearns
Chairperson**

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