

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE

Meeting No 058

MINUTES

Thursday 24 June 2021

Members Present:

Councillor M Goodman	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor A Bennington	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor R Kinnear	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman R Gibson (<i>Chair</i>)	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor A McDowell	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor F Ferguson	Belfast City Council
Alderman D Drysdale	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor S Lee	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor D Reid	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor W Clarke (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor H McKee	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Alderman A Carson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor P McReynolds	Belfast City Council
Councillor JJ Magee	Belfast City Council
Councillor M Gregg	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman R Cherry	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor I Friary	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
G Craig (<i>Secretary</i>)	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
J Green	arc21
K Boal	arc21
M Lavery	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
S Toland	Belfast City Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
H Moore	Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
P Thompson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
J McBride	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Girvan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards & North Down Borough Council

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement. There were no conflicts noted.

Action: Noted

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 057 held on 27 May 2021

Following discussion, the Joint Committee recommended the approval of the minutes of Joint Committee meeting 057 held on 27 May 2021 and Mr Walker approved the recommendation.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Mr Craig discussed the Declaration of Members Interests forms to be completed by Members and advised that he would reissue forms to those who had not returned their form. He encouraged all to complete the form and return it as quickly as possible to either george.craig@arc21.org.uk or heather.campbell@arc21.org.uk

Action: Mr Craig & Members

Item 5 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Ms Boal provided an overview of issues pertaining to contracts and operations.

She reported that contractors continue to provide services across the arc21 contracts with COVID-19 preventative measures in place.

She highlighted issues relating to contamination in organic waste deliveries to NWP and in relation to separately delivered food waste. In addition, recent incidences of fire risk from material delivered to the Bryson Recycling site was also discussed and photographs were included in the report.

A review of contract tonnages was provided for information and an indicative calculation on NILAS.

An overview of supplies orders and deliveries was also supplied for information.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee recommended that the report be noted and Mr Walker approved the recommendation.

Action: Noted

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would be held "in committee" for items 6 to 9 of the Agenda and Mr Walker approved the recommendation.

Matters of a confidential and commercially sensitive nature were discussed under these agenda items.

Following discussion on the commercially sensitive matters, the Chair recommended that the meeting would now return to the main agenda, which Mr Walker approved, but whilst "*in committee*" there were four matters discussed as follows:

Item 6 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 057 held on 27 May 2021 'in committee'
Action: Agreed

Item 7 - Matters Arising **Action: Noted**

Item 8 - Commerciality Sensitive Contact & Procurement Issues **Action: Agreed**

OUT OF COMMITTEE**Item 10 - SONI Industry Consultation on 'Shaping the Electricity Future'**

Mr Green presented a report along with the arc21 response to SONI's consultation on 'Shaping our Electricity Future' which closed on 14 June 2021.

He reported that the consultation was seeking views on the four draft approaches:

- Generation-Led,
- Developer-Led,
- Technology-Led, and
- Demand-Led,

to ensure at least 70% of Northern Ireland's electricity comes from renewable sources by 2030.

He reported that the move to "clean" electricity will affect everyone in Northern Ireland and the aim was to work with the public to help shape the final strategy.

An arc21 response was submitted by the deadline of 14 June.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee recommended that the Acting Chief Executive retrospectively approves the consultation response, which was submitted by the deadline and Mr Walker approved the recommendation.

Action: Agreed**Item 11 - Audit Committee Meeting 18 June 2021**

Mr Craig presented a report to update the Joint Committee on the issues presented to the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 18 June 2021. This included the Executive Summary of the items being discussed and a review of its activities during the 2020/21 year.

Mr Craig reported that the main focus of the Audit Committee at this meeting was to consider the Draft Statement of Accounts for the year to March 2021 in preparation for them being submitted to the Local Government Auditor for the statutory audit of the Joint Committees accounts to take place.

The Chair of the Audit Committee, Alderman Drysdale, paid tribute to the Members and Officers for giving their time in attending these meetings and noted that attendance had improved due to holding the meetings remotely. He also gave his thanks to Mr Craig and his team for their input to the meetings and achieving such excellent results.

Mr Craig paid thanks to the Chair of the Committee, along with Mr McKeown, arc21's Principal Financial Accountant, and Ms Coles from AGRS for their preparation of all the documentation and excellent input.

This was also echoed by the Chair of the Joint Committee and the Acting Chief Executive who also paid a special thanks to Mr Craig and his team.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee recommended that the report be noted, along with the Audit Committee Executive Summary for the meeting held on 18 June 2021 and the Audit Committee annual report to the Joint Committee.

Mr Walker approved the recommendation.

Action: Noted

Item 12 - Draft Statement of Accounts 2020/21

Mr Craig presented Members with a summary of the financial results of the Joint Committee for the year to March 2021, pending the outcome of the annual statutory audit to be carried out by the Local Government Auditor.

Members were presented with the main financial highlights for the year as follows:

- Total Income is up overall on the previous year by over 10% - £32.6m compared to £29.5m.
- Contract Income - £31.5m compared to £28.3m – is up by over 11% largely due to the increase in household waste arisings from home working during Covid-19.
- A modest overall surplus of £71k was achieved in the year and added to the General Reserves to increase the level to £1.6m.
- The cash balances at 31 March 2021 were down year on year (£3.3m compared to £3.7m in the previous year) but remained sufficient to meet the monthly contractual obligations of arc21, which average out at around £3m.
- The deficit on the Pension Scheme continues to increase and, at 31 March 2021, was £1.2m (up from £1.1m at March 2020).

Mr Craig reported that the final accounts, following certification by the Local Government Auditor, will be presented to the Joint Committee and this is expected to be around September / October 2021.

An extract from the Draft Statement of Accounts was presented for information.

The Chair of the Joint Committee congratulated Mr Craig and his team for achieving such excellent results and having such strong financial systems in place.

Mr Craig again thanked his team and all the staff at arc21 for their input in achieving these results as he noted that the financial systems flow across the organisation with everyone's input, and this was reiterated by the Acting Chief Executive.

The Chair commended the arc21 team, and Members, for their hard work throughout the COVID year and commitment to ensuring that councils were supported as comprehensively as possible within the resources available. Several Members added their support to the Chair's comments which were welcomed by Mr Walker.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee recommended that the report be noted and Mr Walker approved the recommendation and thanked the Chair for his kind words.

Action: Noted

Item 13 - Next Meeting

The Chair advised that as the Joint Committee traditionally do not meet in July, and therefore the next meeting would be held as scheduled on Thursday 26th August.

If any decision is required to be made before the next meeting it was proposed that in the interim the Acting Chief Executive is delegated with the authority to make those decisions and then these would be presented at the meeting in August.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee recommended that the Acting Chief Executive approve this recommendation and Mr Walker approved the recommendation.

Action: Agreed

Members discussed the current legislative issues with holding virtual meetings and therefore the potential to hold physical meetings with video conferencing facilities. Mr Craig advised that councils had been approached in relation to providing suitable facilities and an update would be provided at the next meeting.

Action: Mr Craig

Date: _____

Chairman: _____