

**ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting No 044**  
**Hosted by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday 26 September 2019**

**Members Present:**

Alderman R Gibson ( <i>Chair</i> )	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Alderman A Carson	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor G Walker	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor M Gregg	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman D Drysdale	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor S Lee	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor M Burnside	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor W Clarke ( <i>Deputy Chair</i> )	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Councillor H McKee	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Members' Apologies:**

Councillor A Bennington	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor N Kelly	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor T McGrann	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor F Ferguson	Belfast City Council
Councillor JJ Magee	Belfast City Council
Councillor I Friary	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor M Armstrong	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

**Officers Present:**

G Craig ( <i>Secretary</i> )	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
J Green	arc21
K Boal	arc21
D Lindsay	Ards and North Down Borough Council
T Walker	Belfast City Council
H Moore	Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council
S Holgate	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
R Moore	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

**Officers' Apologies:**

G Girvan	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
M Laverty	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
N Grimshaw	Belfast City Council
P Thompson	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council

The Chair welcomed Mr Owen Lyttle, Head of Waste Policy, Environmental Policy Division, DAERA, to the meeting who was there to deliver a presentation to the Committee.

### **Item 1 - Presentation on Waste Policy Presentation**

Mr Lyttle provided a PowerPoint presentation on Waste Policy from the DAERA perspective including an update on key challenges including financial costs of waste management, climate change, Brexit, policy changes, EU targets, circular economy, packaging consultations, economic opportunities and the need for change.

Following a Q&A session the Chair thanked Mr Lyttle for such an informative presentation and taking the time to present to the Committee.

Members requested that a copy of the presentation be circulated for their information which was agreed.

**Action: arc21**

Mr Lyttle left the meeting.

### **Item 2 - Conflicts of Interest Statement**

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

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 3 - Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**Action: Noted**

The Chair advised that Councillors Nicola Verner and Harry Harvey had resigned from the Committee due to other commitments and replacements would be advised in due course.

The Chair noted that Councillor Harvey had taken up a position as an MLA which required him to resign his post as a Councillor and wished him every success in his new political role.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 4 - Minutes**

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 043 held on 15 August 2019 were agreed.

**Action: Agreed**

### **Item 5 - Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

**Action: Noted**

The Chair advised Members that the meeting would now go In Committee, which was proposed and seconded accordingly.

## **In Committee**

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

Following discussion on the commercially sensitive matters, the Chair advised Members that the briefing would now return to the main agenda but whilst 'in committee' there were four matters discussed as follows:

<b>Item 6 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 043 held on 15 August 2019 'in committee'</b>	<b>Action: Agreed</b>
<b>Item 7 - Matters Arising</b>	<b>Action: Noted</b>
<b>Item 8 - Residual Waste Treatment Project</b>	<b>Action: Agreed</b>
<b>Item 9 - Commercially Sensitive Procurement and Contracts Issues</b>	<b>Action: Agreed</b>

## **Out of Committee**

The Chair advised Members that the meeting would now return to the main agenda, which was agreed.

### **Item 10 - Contracts and Performance Update**

Ms Boal presented a report to advise Members on the prevailing monthly situation pertinent to the operational performance of the service and supply contracts.

A summary of the key discussions is replicated as follows:

*The organic waste tonnages for July 2019 were the second highest since the start of the contract and reflected a significant increase in Type 1 tonnages delivered.*

*In respect of the MRF contract the tonnages delivered to Bryson Recycling are broadly similar to the same period last year however there has been an increase in tonnage delivered into the ReGen facility largely due to the inclusion of glass into the dry material kerbside collection system across the whole of the Newry Mourne and Down District Council administrative area.*

*The contract for the receipt, storage and transfer of Mixed Dry Recyclables for material collected by Newry Mourne and Down District Council commenced on 10 September 2019.*

Following discussion Members agreed to note the report.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 11 – Revenue Estimates 2020/21 to 2022/23**

Mr Craig presented the Joint Committee with the proposed Revenue Estimates of arc21 setting out the costs of the Joint Committee in terms of its Establishment, Procurement and Operational activities and Waste Contract Services, Waste Contract Supplies and the Education Vehicle Services.

Mr Craig outlined the process which involved estimating the costs of operating the various activities arc21 plan to undertake for the next three years (2020/21 to 2022/23) so that each Constituent Council could take into account their share of the arc21 costs within their own budgeting processes.

Mr Craig stated that the current cost projections represented an increase below the current inflation level with 2.29% proposed for the 2020/21 year compared to inflation of 2.8%. He also stated that discussions with Councils indicated that any increase in costs would preferably be within the current levels of inflation.

In terms of significant operational activities Mr Craig pointed out that there were a number of major waste policy changes coming from DAERA and Central Government that would have a substantial impact on the resources and operations within arc21 over the coming years, particularly in the 2020/21 year. Mr Craig confirmed that financial provision had been made within the estimates for additional resources to be obtained to deal with the impact on the organisation in terms of both waste management policy and any associated impact on operational services.

In addition, Mr Craig informed Members that the Education Vehicle was coming to the end of its useful economic life and plans to replace it in 2020/21 were provided for within the Revenue Estimates.

Following discussion Members agreed to approve the Revenue Estimates for the three-year period commencing in April 2020.

**Action: Agreed**

### **Item 12 - The Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2019**

Mr Craig presented the Joint Committee with the draft response to the Department for Communities consultation on the Local Government Pension Scheme (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2019, for consideration and approval.

Mr Craig reported that the update in the pension regulations arose out of a decision by the Supreme Court in relation to the Pension Scheme not awarding a survivors pension to a cohabiting partner from a pension scheme member who himself was entitled to benefits following his death. The court concluded that the decision not to award a survivors pension had given rise to an unjustified difference in treatment and that she was entitled to receive a survivor's pension under the Local Government Pensions Scheme (Northern Ireland).

Accordingly, the Department for Communities had taken the opportunity to amend the Regulations in accordance with the Supreme Court Judgment and also introduce a number of other amendments.

As a consultee, arc21 had received information regarding the proposed changes to the Regulations and have provided a draft response to the consultation for the Joint Committee to consider.

Members were asked to consider and approve the draft consultation response in order that it can be issued to the Department by the deadline of 30 September 2019.

Following discussion Members agreed to approve the Consultation response.

**Action: Agreed**

### **Item 13 – Audit Committee Update**

Mr Craig presented a report to provide the Joint Committee with a copy of the Executive Summary of the Audit Committee showing the business that was conducted at the meeting on Thursday the 19<sup>th</sup> September 2019.

Mr Craig highlighted the main topic under discussion at the Audit Committee, the approval by the Local Government Auditor of the accounts of arc21 for the year to March 2019, unqualified.

Mr Craig took the opportunity to praise the efforts and support of all the arc21 staff in achieving this successful outcome and in particular thanked Brian McKeown, the Principal Financial Accountant, for the excellent running of the day-to-day financial operations of the organisation which enabled an unqualified certification of the accounts to be achieved, once again.

Following discussion Members agreed to note the report.

**Action: Noted**

Mr Craig reported that Councillor Harry Harvey had resigned from the Audit Committee due to becoming an MLA and sought nominations for his replacement. Councillor Clarke proposed Councillor McKee, which was seconded by Alderman Carson, and unanimously agreed.

**Action: Agreed**

Alderman Drysdale thanked the Audit Committee for their work and support.

The Chair also thanked the members of the Audit Committee for the seamless operation of the processes as well as the staff from arc21 in providing the strong level of support needed to enable the Committee to function effectively.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 14 - AOB**

The Chair advised the Committee that Mr Tim Walker would be taking up the position of Acting Chief Executive on 1 October and wished him every success.

He thanked Mr Craig for providing cover to the Joint Committee pending the arrival of Mr Walker and also took the opportunity to thank all the other arc21 staff for their efforts including carrying out extra duties over the past year due to resource issues.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 15 - Next Meeting**

The Chair advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee was due to be held on Thursday 31 October at 10.30am and hosted by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council.

**Action: Noted**

Date: 31-10-2019 Chairman: Robert Gibson