

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE

Meeting No 042

Hosted by arc21

MINUTES

Thursday 27 June 2019

Members Present:

Alderman R Gibson (*Chair*)
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor M Gregg
Councillor S Lee
Councillor M Armstrong
Councillor H Harvey
Councillor H McKee

Ards and North Down Borough Council
Belfast City Council
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor N Kelly
Councillor A Bennington
Councillor T McGrann
Alderman A Carson
Councillor G Walker
Councillor N Verner
Councillor F Ferguson
Alderman D Drysdale
Councillor I Friary
Councillor M Burnside
Councillor W Clarke (*Deputy Chair*)

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Belfast City Council
Belfast City Council
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Officers Present:

R Burnett
G Craig (*Secretary*)
H Campbell
J Green
K Boal
M Lavery
T Walker
H Moore
P Thompson
R Moore

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Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Belfast City Council
Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council
Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Girvan
D Lindsay
N Grimshaw

Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Ards and North Down Borough Council
Belfast City 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. The Chair thanked Members for noting their apologies in advance of the meeting and the importance of doing so for quorum purposes in the future.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 041 held on 30 May 2019 were agreed.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - 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:

Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 041 held on 30 May 2019 'in committee'

Action: Agreed

Item 6 - Matters Arising

Action: Noted

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project

Action: Agreed

Item 8 - Dry Material Recovery Facility - Contract Update

Action: Agreed

Out of Committee

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

Item 9 - 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:

- *Organic waste tonnages were down in the month of May when compared with the same month last year. Type 1 was down 16% whilst Type 2 was down 11%. Overall tonnages however in both types of material are slightly higher when compared with April and May last year.*
- *In relation to the MRF there has been an increase in tonnage collected by Newry, Mourne and Down District Council through the introduction of glass into the kerbside collection system and the associated communications campaign. Tonnages are up by 11% over April and May when compared with the same period last year.*

Ms Boal advised the Committee that she hoped to arrange site visits to the various facilities going forward which she hoped Members would find useful and informative.

Following discussion Members agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 10 – Audit Committee Update

Mr Craig provided Members with the Executive Summary of the Audit Committee meeting which took place on 25 June outlining the business that was conducted at that meeting.

He explained that the Audit Committee met on a quarterly basis and that, as it reports to the Joint Committee, Members would be updated on an ongoing basis. Mr Craig confirmed that the next meeting of the Audit Committee would be around mid September.

Following discussion Members agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 11 – Financial Report 2018/19

Mr Craig presented the Joint Committee with a summary of the Draft Statement of Accounts for the year to March 2019 and updated Members on the financial highlights of the year which are replicated as follows:

- *Income was up year on year, £29.6m compared to £28.3m, due primarily to increases within the Organics and Mixed Dry Recyclables contracts and a reduction in the landfill contract;*
- *A surplus on the comprehensive income and expenditure of £73,549 was achieved of which £63,000 relates to the pension scheme transactions. NILGOSC administer the accounts of the pension scheme independently of the Joint Committee but the accounting regulations require the Joint Committee to account for its share of the pension scheme accounts;*

The Pension Scheme remains in a deficit position at 31 March 2019 but it should be noted that the deficit has been reducing in recent years. In 2017 it was £598k, in 2018 it was £568k and at March 2019 it was £505k probably reflecting an improvement in the returns on the investments held by NILGOSC;

- *The remaining part of the comprehensive income and expenditure surplus, £10,549, relates to the operational surplus achieved on the activities of the Joint Committee, which is applied to the General Reserves for future use by the Joint Committee;*
- *The cash balances at 31 March 2019 were down year on year (£2.6m compared to £3.9m in the previous year) but remained sufficient to provide the ongoing essential liquidity to enable arc21 to meet its monthly contractual obligations, which average out at around £3m; and*
- *After applying the £10,549 operational surplus for the year the General Reserves at 31 March 2019 increased to £1.25m (£1.24m in 17/18) continuing to place the Joint Committee in a strong financial position to meet the significant challenges ahead, particularly with the Residual Waste Treatment Project where expenditure is expected to increase significantly should the planning application be approved to enable the Project to progress to contract award.*

Mr Craig confirmed that the draft accounts would now be submitted to the Department to enable the statutory audit to be undertaken by the Local Government Auditor.

Following discussion Members agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 12 - 2018/19 Waste Statistics

Mr Burnett presented statistical information in graphical format relative to key waste statistics covering the 2018/19 year.

He reported that the information provided by Councils to the Department through the wastedataflow system for the year 2018/19 has been submitted and is now the subject of an initial validation process by the NIEA. Consequently, the figures may be subject to change.

The key waste statistics are as follows:

1. Annual Waste Arisings (Municipal and Household);
2. Annual Household Waste per Household;
3. Annual Recycling Rates (Municipal and Household);
4. Annual Waste to Landfill (Municipal and Household);
5. NILAS; and
6. Summary.

Following discussion Members agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 13 - AOB

There was no further business discussed.

Item 14 - Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee was due to be held on Thursday 25 July. Discussion took place regarding the summer meetings, currently scheduled to be held on Thursday 25 July and Thursday 29 August. Following review of the business to be discussed, and potential attendance issues, it was agreed to combine these meetings into one, to be held on Thursday 15 August, and cancel the other two dates. It was agreed therefore that the meeting be held on Thursday 15 August at 10.30am and hosted by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

Action: Noted

Date: 15-8-2019 Chairman: Robert Gibson

