

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Meeting No 046
Hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
MINUTES
Thursday 30 January 2020

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor N Kelly	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman R Gibson (<i>Chair</i>)	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor JJ Magee	Belfast City Council
Councillor M Gregg	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor S Lee	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor M Burnside	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor I Friary	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor H McKee	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
Councillor K Owen	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor T McGrann	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman A Carson	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor G Walker	Ards and North Down Borough Council
Councillor F Ferguson	Belfast City Council
Alderman D Drysdale	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor M Armstrong	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor W Clarke (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
G Craig (<i>Secretary</i>)	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
J Green	arc21
K Boal	arc21
L Daly	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
J McConnell	Belfast City Council
H Moore	Lisburn and Castlereagh Borough Council
P Thompson	Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
R Moore	Newry, Mourne and Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Girvan	Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards and North Down Borough Council
N Grimshaw	Belfast City Council

Mr Craig informed the Committee of the evacuation procedures in the event of the alarm sounding and asked for all mobile phones to be placed on "silent" mode or switched off.

The Chair welcomed all Members and Officers to Ballymena and thanked Mid and East Antrim Borough Council for hosting the meeting.

He reported that Alderman Carson was unable to attend the meeting as he had recently been in hospital and wished him good health and a speedy recovery.

He also advised of Councillor Walker's recent family bereavement and forwarded his condolences to the family.

Mr Craig pointed out that due to the meeting held in December 2019 not having a quorum, items which were presented at that meeting which required approval were now being re-presented at today's meeting for approval.

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

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 045 held on 31 October 2019 were agreed.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

Action: Noted

Item 5 - Minutes

As the meeting held on 5 December 2019 did not have a quorum there were no minutes for that meeting.

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 6 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 045 held on 31 October 2019 'in committee' **Action: Agreed**

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

Item 8 - Residual Waste Treatment Project **Action: Agreed**

Item 9 - Commercially Sensitive Procurement and Contracts Issues **Action: Agreed**

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. This included: Organic Waste; MRF; Landfill; Bring Sites; Street Sweepings; Haulage for Ards and North Down Borough Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council; Receipt, Storage and Transfer of Mixed Dry Recyclables for Newry, Mourne and Down District Council; and Supplies.

There were no major issues noted other than 2 rejected loads into the organic waste contract delivery sites in December due to vehicle misuse.

She also provided an update on the potential issues which may arise from Brexit and advised that these were being closely monitored, along with the implementation of contingency arrangements, should they be required.

She also informed Members that a review had been undertaken in relation to our contracts end destinations of materials and a series of graphical illustrations were provided.

Ms Boal advised Members that it was the intention to arrange a variety of site visits to some of our existing contract facilities as well as some end product facilities and that she would be preparing a timetable for the proposed visits for Members accordingly. She reported that this would be open to all Members and any other Councillors who may be interested in attending.

Action: Ms Boal

Mr Walker provided an update on the Education Service and advised that a review was underway in relation to plans to replace the existing vehicle, which is now at the end of its useful economic life having been purchased in 2006, and enhance the range of facilities and equipment currently being provided within the vehicle. In addition, he reported that the review would also look at better use of the range of marketing and promotional tools available to promote the service.

He also proposed that the Education Officer be office based for 1 day per fortnight to progress with marketing and promoting the service, gathering analyses, and using social media etc. to enhance the service. Members agreed to this approach.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed the contents of the report.

Action: Agreed

Item 11.1 - WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2019 Consultation

Mr Walker presented the Joint Committee with the arc21 response on the consultation document originating from DEFRA on the WEEE Compliance Fee Methodology 2019.

He reported that a report and draft response had been submitted to the December Joint Committee meeting but, due to it being inquorate, it had not been possible to have the response endorsed. Accordingly, the report and response were being presented again for retrospective approval.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to endorse the response.

Action: Agreed

Item 11.2 - Industrial Energy Transformation Fund Consultation

Mr Green presented the Joint Committee with the arc21 response to the consultation originating from the UK Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) on the Industrial Energy Transformation Fund.

Mr Green advised that arc21 had prepared a response on behalf of its six Constituent Councils in the context of the waste management plan (e.g. priority waste streams such as Northern Ireland Water residuals i.e. sewage sludge) and other stakeholders in the Northern Ireland waste sector (e.g. materials handling equipment suppliers selling into the circular economy market), highlighting the potential for decarbonisation initiatives and the need for commercial sustainability. He has also strongly argued for the inclusion of the waste and water, and wastewater sectors in the eligibility criteria.

Mr Green reported that a response had been submitted by the deadline of 21 November and a report and copy of the response had been submitted to the December Joint Committee meeting for approval, but due to it being inquorate, it had not been possible to have the response endorsed. Accordingly, the report and response were being presented again for retrospective approval.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to endorse the response.

Action: Agreed

Item 11.3 - Environment Strategy for Northern Ireland Consultation

Mr Walker presented a report to advise the Joint Committee on the consultation originating from DAERA on the first Environment Strategy for NI which is open for consultation until 5 February, 2020.

He reported that DAERA had issued NI's first Environment Strategy for consultation using a series of questions to gather views from stakeholders on the potential scope, scale and ambition of the document. The initial deadline for responses was in December 2019 but, following review, this had been extended until 5 February 2020.

He further reported that an arc21 response had now been prepared and the Joint Committee was asked to consider the response for submission to DAERA by the deadline.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to endorse the response.

Action: Agreed

Members suggested that it may be beneficial for Mr Walker to present to the DAERA Committee highlighting the many issues that Councils are facing including: climate change, the Circular Economy, the decarbonisation agenda, Brexit, reducing landfill, European targets etc., and it was agreed that he should progress with the relevant DAERA officials in relation to getting an invitation.

Action: Mr Walker

Item 12 - Waste Management Plan for Northern Ireland Consultation

Mr Walker provided a verbal update on the progress and steps being taken to refresh the Councils' Waste Management Plans.

He advised that discussions were ongoing with the Waste Forum, and with the arc21 Council Directors and Chief Executives, on how to progress with a potential collaborative Plan on an 11 Council basis, or otherwise, in order to meet the necessary timeframe.

He advised that he would provide regular updates to the Committee if and when there were suitable developments to present. Mr Walker also took the opportunity to enquire whether Members would appreciate fresh copies of the 2015 Waste Plan Executive Summary to enable them to have the opportunity to be informed of the various elements of that Plan and Members agreed.

Action: Mr Walker

Item 13 - Corporate Plan 2020-2024

Mr Craig presented a report to provide an update to the Joint Committee on the progress of the development of the new Corporate Plan that will set out the strategic objectives of the organisation for the four-year period from April 2020.

He reported that the next stage was to develop an initial draft document for consultation with Staff, Officers from the Steering Group and Members of the Joint Committee and the proposed timeline is replicated below.

- Friday 14 February - First draft of the Plan to be circulated to Staff, Steering Group and Joint Committee Members for a 2 week consultation period seeking feedback / comments etc. directly to Dorothy McKee Consulting;
- Friday 28 February - consultation period closed – Dorothy will update the draft Plan in preparation for a Staff workshop;
- Friday 6 March - Staff workshop - to enable staff to have further input, taking into account the responses from the consultation exercise (it is also the intention to invite the Chairs and Deputy Chairs of the Joint Committee and Steering Group to this workshop);
- Tuesday 10 March - Meeting with Dorothy, Tim and George to review the updated Plan incorporating comments/feedback from the workshop;
- Monday 16 March - Updated draft Corporate Plan to be circulated to Staff, Steering Group and Joint Committee Members for any final comments which are to be sent directly to Dorothy;
- Thursday 19 March - Final comments deadline;
- Friday 20 March - Cover report and Draft Corporate Plan to be issued to the Joint Committee;
- Thursday 26 March - Formal presentation of Draft Corporate Plan to the Joint Committee for consideration and approval;
- Wednesday 1 April - Corporate Plan 2020-2024 becomes effective.

Mr Craig discussed the workshop scheduled for 6 March and an invite was extended to all Members should they wish to attend. He requested that any Members wishing to do so should register their interest with heather.campbell@arc21.org.uk. He noted that the workshop would be held from 10am until 1pm in the Ashley Room, Belfast Castle.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

Action: Noted

Item 14 - AOB

arc21 Terms of Agreement – Mr Walker referred to the amount of consultations that had been responded to by arc21 over the past few months and the particular recent ones, on energy for example, which had been received as a consultee, which were beyond the remit of waste.

As previously discussed he noted that this was potentially an issue for arc21 if the organisation was responding on behalf of the 6 Councils and that if the Councils wanted arc21 to progress with these then it may be prudent to add an addendum to the existing Terms of Agreement accordingly.

He advised that he would however seek legal advice and provide an update to Members on the issue but, in the meantime, arc21 would continue to support Councils in these areas with the endorsement of the Joint Committee.

Following discussion Members also suggested that it may be beneficial for arc21 to be included in discussions with Councils when they are developing their Local Development Plans to include arc21 in order that waste management aspects of the LDP can be taken into account. Mr Walker said that he would write to the Directors of Planning in Councils to see if this was something they would consider.

Action: Mr Walker

Deposit Returns Schemes Meeting Group - Mr Walker advised that he had been approached by DAERA to attend these meetings on behalf of NI plc as the single representative from Local Government, which Mr Burnett had done formerly. He noted that the first meeting was due to be held in London on 4 February and he would update Members on this important Policy proposal at future meetings. Members endorsed this approach.

Action: Mr Walker

Item 15 - Next Meeting

The Chair advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee was due to be held on Thursday 27 February at 10.30am and hosted by Belfast City Council in Malone House, Belfast.

Action: Noted

Date: 27-2-2020

Chairman: Robert Gibson