

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Virtual Meeting No 067
MINUTES
Thursday 31 March 2022

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor M Goodman (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor R Kinnear	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman A Carson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman D Drysdale (<i>Chair</i>)	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor S Lee	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor D Reid	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor D Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor K Owen	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Alderman R Gibson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman A McDowell	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor F Ferguson	Belfast City Council
Councillor JJ Magee	Belfast City Council
Councillor P McReynolds	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
Councillor R Burgess	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
K Boal	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
J Green	arc21
M Lavery	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards & North Down Borough Council
N Martin	Ards & North Down Borough Council
C Matthews	Belfast City Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
H Moore	Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
W Muldrew	Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
N O'Malley	Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
S Holgate	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Craig	arc21
G Girvan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
P Thompson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
J McBride	Newry, Mourne & Down District 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 Special Joint Committee Meeting 066 held on 24 February 2022

Following discussion, the Joint Committee approved the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 066 held on 24 February 2022.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Mandatory digital waste tracking consultation - discussed under item 11 of the agenda.

Action: Noted

Item 5 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Ms Boal provided an update on operational matters affecting several contractors, including continued cases of covid-19 impacting operations, however no impact on services was noted.

She noted that the health and safety audits were now coming to completion for all of the contracts with only a few minor issues noted.

The recent strike action was discussed which had impacted the tonnage being received at the sites and she noted that contractors are preparing for expected Christmas levels over the next two-week cycle with extra shifts required and it is likely that they will be looking at recouping any costs incurred. arc21 are working with contractors and councils to minimise any impact.

The performance tables were discussed including the number of loads coming in for each contract and some issues noted with overweight vehicles, in particular organics. Issues also with turnaround tonnages. There were no rejected loads to any of the facilities but it was noted that there were gas cannisters coming into the MRF which was extremely dangerous and councils were asked to be aware of this and to raise awareness of these types of hazardous items in their communication with householders.

It was noted that tonnage levels had decreased across the contracts but will be kept an eye on.

Ms Boal noted that there were no supply orders in February but we are expecting to receive a number of price increases due to transportation and material costs and that we will continue to manage this.

Following this exchange the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move "in committee" which was agreed.

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 was approved, but whilst “*in committee*” during this section of the meeting, there were five matters discussed.

Item 6 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 066 held on 24 February 2022 ‘in committee’	Action: Agreed
Item 7 - Matters Arising	Action: Noted
Item 8 - Residual Waste Treatment Project including Minister Mallon’s decision on the Residual Waste Treatment Plant	Action: Noted
Item 9 - General Communications including Public Relations	Action: Noted
Item 10 - Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues	Action: Agreed

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Item 11 - Consultation Response – Introduction of Mandatory Digital Waste Tracking

Ms Boal presented the proposed arc21 response for consideration.

She reported on the interaction which had taken place with the Councils prior to developing the response and noted several key areas where councils are likely to be impacted. She noted that a special meeting had been held with council officers to consider the implications of the proposals in relation to the introduction of digital waste tracking and the views expressed at the meeting had been captured in the response presented to the Committee for consideration.

In terms of the key aspects that will affect councils’ collections, she reported that those from commercial premises will need a unique identifier to be recorded so systems will need to be put in place to capture the data, but collections from householders at the kerbside wouldn’t. In terms of waste brought to councils’ recycling centres, it appears that all waste is required to be issued with a unique reference. This has significant implications for councils including how this is introduced and managed, and the response as prepared seeks to highlight that the benefits are unclear and that while councils are in a unique position in managing wastes, they should only have to monitor and report on this waste as it proceeds to the next stage of being (re) processed.

Ms Boal noted her concerns at the proposed IT system as local authorities currently use WasteDataFlow to track our information on a quarterly basis and this is how the recycling figures, biodegradable waste to landfill etc are derived. Under the proposals, this system would no longer be used with all data being captured in the new waste tracking IT system. This system is under development so it is unclear what functionality it will have, particularly in terms of the reporting data collectively to measure performance. She noted that councils would need to introduce their own IT systems and ensure that the data collected matched the new systems requirements and could be transferred.

She reported that one of the key considerations in terms of cost within the consultation were the costs which Government anticipated would flow to councils as a result of not having to expend the current levels of resources inputting to WasteDataFlow but, as there is likely to be considerable data input etc, particularly in the short term, this appears to be unlikely to be realised until councils have better sight of the systems and how it would dovetail in with existing arrangements.

Ms Boal noted that from a regulatory point of view of where the waste ends up there will be a better degree of surety to an extent, but how far this can be followed down the waste supply chain is unclear.

Councils were asked to provide any comments by Wednesday 6 April in order for the report to be finalised and submitted by the deadline of 15 April.

Action: Agreed

Item 12 - AOB

Options for the treatment of residual waste - a Member suggested that it would be beneficial if arc21 could provide the Committee with a broader view of what is going on in relation to waste incineration including both the positive and negative options for the treatment of residual waste and what is going on in the industry. A potential arc21 conference on this was also suggested for consideration later in the year.

Action: Noted

Virtual meetings - Mr Walker advised that the legislation for holding virtual committee meetings had been extended to 24 September 2022. Members discussed the potential for holding hybrid meetings in the future and it was agreed that this should be discussed further at the next meeting.

Action: Agreed

Item 13 - Next Meeting

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next Joint Committee meeting would be held as scheduled on Thursday 28 April 2022 commencing at 10.30am.

Action: Noted

Item 14 - In Committee - Restricted Item for the Joint Committee Members only

At this point Alderman Drysdale asked that Members go in committee and requested that Officers leave the meeting.

Date: _____

Chairman: _____