

## **ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting No 051**

### **Virtual Meeting**

### **MINUTES**

**Thursday 29 October 2020**

#### **Members Present:**

Councillor M Goodman  
Councillor N Kelly  
Alderman R Gibson (*Chair*)  
Councillor G Walker  
Councillor P McReynolds  
Councillor M Gregg  
Alderman D Drysdale  
Councillor S Lee  
Councillor I Friary  
Councillor H McKee

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

#### **Members' Apologies:**

Councillor T McGrann  
Alderman A Carson  
Councillor F Ferguson  
Councillor JJ Magee  
Alderman R Cherry  
Councillor K Owen  
Councillor W Clarke (*Deputy Chair*)

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

#### **Officers Present:**

T Walker  
G Craig (*Secretary*)  
J Green  
K Boal  
M Lavery  
N Martin  
J McConnell  
T Smith  
P Thompson  
J McBride

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Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

#### **Officers' Apologies:**

G Girvan  
D Lindsay  
S Toland  
H Moore  
R Moore  
H Campbell

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#### **Legal Advisor in attendance for Item 5**

Mr Colin Campbell, Belfast City Council

#### **NILGA Presentation Item 10**

**Karen Smith from NILGA in attendance for this item**

The Chair welcomed all to the meeting.

He also took the opportunity to inform Members that Councillor Muriel Burnside has had to leave Mid and East Antrim Borough Council due to health reasons and, on behalf of the Joint Committee, thanked her for her support whilst a Member of the Joint Committee and offered her best wishes for the future. The Chair asked that a letter also be sent out to Councillor Burnside on behalf of the Joint Committee.

**Action: arc21**

Councillor Burnside is to be replaced by Councillor Reid and Mr Thompson confirmed that Councillor Reid is to be formally nominated at the next Council meeting to be held shortly.

### **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 050 held on 24 September 2020**

The minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 050 held on 24 September 2020 were agreed.

**Action: Agreed**

### **Item 4 - Matters Arising**

Page 6 – This issue is being dealt with under Item 10 of the meeting with a presentation from Karen Smith from NILGA.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 5 - Residual Waste Marketing & Communications Plan**

Mr Walker presented the report in detail to Members seeking their approval to implement a Marketing & Communications Plan supporting the residual waste treatment project.

Following providing an outline of the proposed actions, Mr Walker informed Members that he had received notification from the Chief Executive of Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council that this Council did not support incurring any expenditure associated with marketing activities at this time due to the prevailing financial circumstances.

This item generated a discussion from Members following which the Chair asked for a decision to be taken as to the recommendation set out in the report. At this stage there were nine Members present, seven supported the recommendation to approve the Marketing & Communications Plan for the residual waste project and the associated costs of implementing the plan, £60,000, with two Members voting against the recommendation.

Accordingly, on the basis of the simple majority requirement the recommendation was approved.

**Action: Agreed**

The Chair advised Members that the meeting would now go "*in committee*", which was agreed.

**Action: Agreed**

## 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 meeting 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 050 held on 24 September 20 ‘in committee’**

**Action: Agreed**

**Item 7 - Matters Arising**

**Action: Noted**

**Item 8 - Residual Waste Treatment Project**

**Action: Noted**

**Item 9 - Commercially Sensitive Procurement and Contracts Issues**

**Action: Agreed**

The Chair advised members that the meeting would now come out of the “in committee” process and return to the main agenda, which was agreed.

**Action: Agreed**

## OUT OF COMMITTEE

**Item 10 - NILGA presentation on the current Circular Economy issues**

The Chair welcomed Ms K Smyth from NILGA who delivered a presentation on the issues related to waste and resources management, the processes for the development of Waste Management Plans and the emergent opportunities presented by the Circular Economy.

The Chair thanked Ms Smyth for her comprehensive presentation and Ms Smyth agreed that a copy of the presentation could be circulated to Members by arc21.

**Action: arc21**

**Item 11 - Contracts and Operations Briefing Report**

Ms Boal presented a report to advise the Joint Committee on the prevailing monthly situation pertinent to the operational performance of the service and supply contracts as well as providing an update on the contract tonnages.

She noted that all contractors continued to operate their contingency plans during the ongoing Covid-19 emergency.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 12 - Education Vehicle**

Ms Boal presented a report to the Joint Committee outlining details of how the Education Vehicle service was delivered in the year to March 2020. She also informed Members that currently the service was under review, including the replacement of the Education Vehicle itself, and a further report would be presented in due course for Members consideration.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 13 - Customer Survey**

Ms Boal informed the Joint Committee that the annual Customer Survey process was underway and encouraged Members to take the opportunity to respond to the questions in the survey. She explained that it was important for arc21 to get as much feedback as possible on the services provided in order that any potential ways for improvement can be taken into account.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 14 - Council Covid-19 Waste Management Financial Losses**

Mr Craig presented a report to update the Joint Committee on the waste management financial support sought from Government in regards to the losses being incurred by councils arising from the Covid-19 emergency.

He reported that the position had improved since last month and that payments have now started to be made to councils for the losses incurred in the initial period up to June 2020, with £2.7m out of the £3.8m having been paid out so far and the balance was to be dealt with upon submission by councils of their actual losses rather than the estimated losses.

Mr Craig confirmed that DAERA has been awarded the sum of £15.2m in total to support councils with their Covid-19 related additional waste management costs for the year, compared to the estimated £20m needed. He confirmed that SOLACE would be raising funding formally with the DAERA Permanent Secretary.

In terms of the arc21 Bring Bank Collection service contract for Textiles, Mr Craig was able to confirm that the final payment on account from the Contractor (CTR) for the revenue share due for the January to March 2020 period had just been received and that the total amount received for that period, circa £130k, would now be paid to councils.

In terms of the lost revenue share from April 2020, Mr Craig confirmed that these were included in the DAERA Covid – 19 claims and may be recouped, subject to the approval of the Minister and funds being made available to the Department.

Following discussion the Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 15 - AOB**

A Member asked a question in relation to what happens to the Textiles materials which have been sent to Africa by the Contractor for the Textiles Bring Bank Collection Service contract.

Ms Boal explained that Africa was one of the market outlets the contractor used for the sale of Textiles and that there were established commercial arrangements in place to sell the materials in that marketplace and, in turn, the materials were being sold on for re-use.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 16 - Next Meeting**

The Chair advised that the next scheduled meeting of the Joint Committee is due to be held on Tuesday 1 December 2020 at 10 30am. Mr Craig explained that due to no Joint Committee meeting being held at the end of December each year, the November and December meetings were normally combined and an MS Teams invite would be issued in due course.

**Action: arc21**

*Robert Gibson*

**Date: 1 December 2020**

**Chairman:**