

**ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**Virtual Meeting No 068**  
**MINUTES**  
**Thursday 28 April 2022**

**Members Present:**

Councillor A Bennington	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor R Kinnear	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman R Gibson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman A McDowell	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman D Drysdale ( <i>Chair</i> )	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor S Lee	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor M Gregg	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor K Owen	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor R Burgess	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Members' Apologies:**

Alderman A Carson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor M Goodman ( <i>Deputy Chair</i> )	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor F Ferguson	Belfast City Council
Councillor JJ Magee	Belfast City Council
Councillor P McReynolds	Belfast City Council
Alderman R Cherry	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor I Friary	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor D Reid	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor D Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Officers Present:**

T Walker	arc21
K Boal	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
J Green	arc21
M Laverty	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay	Ards & North Down Borough Council
N Martin	Ards & North Down Borough Council
J McConnell	Belfast City Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
H Moore	Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
J McBride	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

**Officers' Apologies:**

G Craig	arc21
G Girvan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
C Matthews	Belfast City Council
P Thompson	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

**Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement**

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement. Councillor McDowell noted a conflict of interest in relation to Item 10 section 7.

**Action: Noted**

## **Item 2 - Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**Action: Noted**

## **Item 3 - Minutes of Special Joint Committee Meeting 067 held on 31 March 2022**

Following discussion, the Joint Committee approved the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 067 held on 31 March 2022.

**Action: Agreed**

## **Item 4 - Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

**Action: Noted**

## **Item 5 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report**

### **(1) SERVICE STATUS**

Ms Boal reported that a number of contractors were still working within their COVID protocols with a number reporting spikes, but to date there had been no impact on their treatment of the waste. She noted that some of those restrictions are expected to be relaxed over the next few months and contractors are consequently exploring a move back to paper based systems, which will be expected to speed up some of the processes in managing documentation.

She reported that the recent strike action in March had had an impact particularly at the MRF operated by Bryson, which resulted in the facility having to manage similar tonnages to that of Christmas and accordingly extra shifts were required. She advised that arc21 officers were still working through the claim for the extra shifts and associated costs with the contractor and were keeping the relevant councils informed.

Ms Boal reported that there was further industrial action over the next few weeks and that we are working with the contractor to put arrangements in place. She noted that we have advised our contractors and made arrangements for inductions should the need arise, and will monitor the impact of the industrial action on operations and overall tonnage deliveries but there may be further cost claims arising from this.

She noted that the final audit of this financial year for Lot 2 of the Bring Bank Contract for Textiles operated by CTR had been completed.

### **(2) PERFORMANCE – March 2022**

The contractor performance for March was discussed and Ms Boal noted the number of loads being delivered with no contingency arrangements having to be used and the turnaround times being good.

She noted that levels generally were fairly static, however, it was expected that the organics tonnage will start to rise.

She reported that both Bryson and Heatricks had issues in providing accurate data to arc21 but after review by arc21, these issues had now been resolved.

In terms of the service contracts, Ms Boal noted that four banks were reported as not having the 20% capacity available, 2 in Belfast City Council and 2 in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. She advised that the contractors had been notified of these incidences and sites were serviced accordingly. She further advised that where arc21 officers see a trend at a site, they ask the contractor to increase the number of collections.

### **(3) HEALTH AND SAFETY**

For Members' information, a matrix was presented to give a synopsis of all the Health & Safety audits which had been undertaken during the course of the year with the findings from those audits against each contractor and the actions arising. Ms Boal reported that these had been brought to the attention of the contractors in question, and reported that all of the areas for concern had been addressed.

### **(4) REJECTED LOADS**

#### **(i) Rejected Loads**

Ms Boal reported that 2 loads to the organics' delivery sites had been rejected in March and 1 load at Bryson had similarly been rejected during the month of March – this was residual waste.

She noted that council officers had again been requested to continue to review their protocols to ensure that systems are in place to ensure that vehicles are fully emptied before collecting another material stream.

### **(5) arc21 CONTRACT TONNAGES**

Ms Boal reported that all tonnages were down compared to March 2021, however the impact of strike action in some councils had reduced the overall tonnages delivered in March but noted that the knock-on impact of more material coming in the early April deliveries.

### **(6) COMPOST WEEK**

She reported that the council orders of compost to promote compost week, 1 – 7 May 2022 were being delivered, and discount codes had been provided for any members of the public who may wish to order.

### **(7) SUPPLIES**

Ms Boal noted that there had been a downturn in the number of supplies orders and that arc21 is seeing continued claims for price increases which mirrors the general market. Councils have been reminded to ensure that stock levels are monitored and order requests made well in advance of requirements to ensure that there is a continuity of supply.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

## **Item 6 - Waste Tonnage Trends**

Ms Boal presented the tonnage trends by contract over the last 4 years. She reported that the industrial action in March 2022 will have affected tonnages delivered in some contracts and explains some of the differentials, most noticeably in the mixed dry recyclable deliveries.

She noted that the landfill tonnage is more akin to that in 2018/19 and 2019/20 compared to the last few months of the year and we need to see this rolling forward as some tonnage may have been displaced arriving in April, which subsequently may show a hike.

In terms of the organics, she noted that 21 officers are not seeing the trends in garden waste as per last year and they are similar to those last observed in 2018/19 and 2019/20.

In terms of the MRF, the Bryson material is lower in March than in any of the previous 4 years but the recent strike will have had an effect with over 500 tonnes less delivered in March.

The overall combined tonnages are similar to the 2018/19 and 2019/20 years.. There are still issues with the amount of residual material, particularly from the HRCs, and some councils will be looking at actions to reduce tonnage delivered to sites and to increase re use and recycling.

Following discussion 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.

<b>Item 7 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 067 held on 31 March 2022 ‘in committee’</b>	<b>Action: Agreed</b>
<b>Item 8 - Matters Arising</b>	<b>Action: Noted</b>
<b>Item 9 - Residual Waste Treatment Project</b>	<b>Action: Noted</b>
<b>Item 10 - Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues</b>	<b>Action: Agreed</b>
<b>Item 11 - Tender Report for the Supply of Services Relating to the Loading, Haulage and Transfer of Residual Municipal, Co-Mingled Dry Recyclable, Organic, Street Sweepings and Bulky Wastes</b>	<b>Action: Agreed</b>

## **OUT OF COMMITTEE**

### **Item 12 - Audit Committee Meeting 28 March 2022 Report**

Mr Walker presented a summary of the issues discussed by the Audit Committee at its meeting on 28 March 2022 which included the SLA with AGRS, and some of the performances and updates in terms of audit profile and risk management.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 13 - Infrastructure 2050 - Draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Consultation**

Mr Green reported that the Northern Ireland Executive had launched a new draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI) which sets out a framework for an innovative approach to multi-billion-pound investment for infrastructure projects including new roads, schools, hospitals, social housing, and public transport.

He noted that unlike previous ISNIs, the new strategy will set key objectives for infrastructure investment in the region for the next thirty years.

The draft strategy describes the outcomes the Executive intends to achieve. It will be implemented through a rolling 10-year investment plan that will define and prioritise the individual programmes and projects we need to deliver and will be matched to a financial plan that will show how these will be funded.

He reported that one of the things which will be highlighted in our response will be to point to arc21 as a successful collaborative body and put forward as a model on how public bodies can work collaboratively. Collaboration is critical as the Circular Economy gathers pace and there is the expectation across multiple supply chains around better understanding and appreciation of materials and collaboration across the sectors to manage these materials, and to act more as custodians to make sure they go back into re-manufacture and curated properly across the cycle.

He noted that submissions were due by 20 April however an extension had been given to specific responders for a couple more weeks and it is therefore proposed to circulate a proposed arc21 response to the Joint Committee for feedback prior to submission.

**Action: Mr Green**

### **Item 14 - AOB**

There was no further business discussed.

### **Item 15 - Next Virtual Meeting Thursday 26 May 2022**

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next Joint Committee meeting would be held as scheduled on Thursday 26 May 2022 commencing at 10.30am.

Alderman Drysdale asked that Members and the Acting Chief Executive stay back after the meeting for further discussions.

**Action: Noted**



**Date: 26 May 2022**

**Chairman:**