

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE

Virtual Meeting No 72

MINUTES

Thursday 25 August 2022

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington
Councillor R Kinnear
Alderman R Gibson
Alderman A Carson
Alderman D Drysdale (*Chair*)
Councillor M Gregg
Councillor S Lee
Councillor I Friary
Councillor R Burgess

Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Ards & North Down Borough Council
Ards & North Down Borough 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 M Goodman (*Deputy Chair*)
Alderman A McDowell
Councillor R McMullan
Councillor F Ferguson
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor D Reid
Alderman R Cherry
Councillor K Owen
Councillor J Brennan

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

Officers Present:

T Walker
H Campbell
J Green
T McArdle
L Daly
N Martin
C Matthews
J McConnell
H Moore
M Smith
S Holgate
A Cassells

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Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Craig
K Boal
M Lavery
D Lindsay

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Ards & North Down Borough Council

The Chair welcomed Andrew Cassells, the Director of Sustainability & Environment from Newry, Mourne & Down District Council, to the meeting.

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement.

Action: Noted

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 071 held on 30 June 2022

Following discussion, the Joint Committee approved the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 071 held on 30 June 2022.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

All matters arising were discussed under the main agenda.

Action: Noted

Item 5 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Mr McArdle presented the contracts report and highlighted the following.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

He noted that in terms of the 60,000-capacity secured at Cottonmount landfill site, 6,043.30 tonnes was used in June, while 5,845.32 tonnes was used in July 2022. The total used in February to July 2022 was 35,553.84 tonnes, meaning a monthly average of 5,925.64 tonnes – this meant a monthly average of circa 6,000 tonnes was used up.

Gas Cannisters

He reported that at the end of June 2022, Bryson received a damaged 10.9 kg Flo Gas Propane gas cannister which could have had catastrophic consequences if it were to have exploded. He noted that Bryson continue to receive helium cannisters weekly.

Council officers were asked to ensure that as much vigilance as is possible is applied during the collection process and, where applicable, at transfer stations to avoid these and other items such as batteries being mixed into the recycling waste streams.

He reported that the gas cannisters are separated ready for removal from the site, but they are a major fire risk and a problem across the sector.

Supplies

Mr McArdle noted that due to current market conditions which include extended delivery timeframes and price increases, councils are reminded to ensure that stock levels are monitored and order requests made well in advance of requirements.

Health and Safety

He presented the Health & Safety incidents during June and July.

Councillor Bennington enquired about the incidents relating to Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council and he advised that there had been a driver with no high-vis vest and a driver with no hard hat, and that they had been reported to Council officers who were taking this seriously.

He noted that a lot of drivers were driving off with hoppers raised and arc21 had notified the officers and spoken to NWP accordingly. NWP stated they were looking at installing appropriate signage.

He reported that there had been an incident with Bryson helpers playing football on the road in front of the weighbridge which was also being taken seriously. This had been discussed with Biffa and they have talked to councils re vehicles and drivers.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 6 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Mr McArdle presented an overview of the tonnages processed through the arc21 contracts over the last three years and an analysis of the current performance, using information from Waste Data Flow (unvalidated), against future landfill and recycling targets.

He reported on the various graphs as follows:

- Landfill - the July tonnage is lower than the previous three years and on a slightly decreasing trajectory.
- Organics - Type 1 tonnages, garden waste - between June and July similar to the 2021/22 year, but increasing rather than decreasing.
- Organics - Type 2 Tonnages, mixed garden and food kerbside plus source segregated food - the tonnages are the same as the 2021/22 year and on a decreasing trajectory.
- MRF Lot 1 - arc21 councils - excluding Newry Mourne & Down District Council - the tonnages are way down from the 2021/22 year and on a steep trajectory from June.
- MRF Lot 2 - Newry Mourne & Down District Council - the tonnages are fairly steady and similar to the 2019/20 year.
- Combined annual tonnage for Lot 1 and Lot 2 - the tonnages are on a downward trajectory and at the lowest in July compared to the previous 3 years.
- Street Sweepings - the tonnages are also on a steep downward trajectory and at the lowest in July in comparison to the previous 3 years.
- Bring Bank Contract:
 - Lot 1 - glass is on a slight downward trajectory and at the lowest compared to previous years;
 - Lot 2 - Textiles - tonnages are on an upward trajectory and similar to the 2020/21 year;

Lot 3 - Paper - tonnages are on a downward trajectory and lower than previous years; and

Lot 4 - Cans - tonnages are on an upward trajectory and at the highest in July than compared to previous years.

Mr Walker noted that we may now be seeing the beginning of the impact of the financial situation as people begin to curb their consumption and shifting their spend patterns. This will become apparent in the waste figures generated over the coming months which is likely to reflect changes in eating and consumption habits.

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 six matters discussed.

Item 7 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 071 held on 30 June 2022 ‘in committee’ - Agreed

Item 8 - Matters Arising - Noted

Item 9 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - Noted

Item 10 - Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues - Noted

Item 11 - Update on Sub-Group & HR Support Issues - Agreed

Item 12 - Draft Governance Review - Noted

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Item 13 - AOB

Members’ Declaration of Interests Forms - Mr Walker discussed the Members Declaration of Interests Form and advised that some were still outstanding from Members and encouraged those to complete and return as soon as possible.

Return to Physical/Hybrid Meetings from September - Mr Walker advised that discussions had been held with legal at Belfast City Council and it was likely that the legislation, which is due to fall on 24 September, is probably going to be extended for a further 6 months to allow for virtual / hybrid meetings to continue. He noted that the virtual meetings had been successful and that we may experiment with a hybrid meeting in

September but should the legislation not be continued and arc21 return to a physical meeting, it would be important to have a quorum present.

Ms Campbell advised that Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council had kindly offered to host the meeting in Mossley Mill should we decide to go ahead.

Members advised that hybrid type meetings had been working well in councils and other forums and it was agreed to progress with this approach.

Item 14 - AGM and Next Meeting Thursday 29 September 2022

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next Joint Committee meeting would be the AGM and would be held as scheduled on Thursday 29 September 2022 commencing at 10.30am. Further details would be advised in due course.

Action: Noted



Date: 29 September 2022

Chairman: