

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Virtual Meeting No 74
MINUTES
Thursday 27 October 2022

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington
Alderman R Gibson
Councillor R McMullan
Alderman D Drysdale (*Chair*)
Councillor S Lee
Councillor R Burgess
Councillor K Owen

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

Members' Apologies:

Councillor M Goodman (*Deputy Chair*)
Councillor R Kinnear
Alderman A Carson
Alderman A McDowell
Councillor F Ferguson
Councillor JJ Magee
Councillor M Gregg
Councillor D Reid
Councillor I Friary
Alderman R Cherry
Councillor J Brennan

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

Officers Present:

T Walker
H Campbell
J Green
K Boal
B McKeown
L Daly
D Lindsay
N Martin
C Matthews
B Murray
J McConnell
H Moore
P Thompson
D Carey

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Lisburn & Castlereagh Borough Council
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Officers' Apologies:

G Craig arc21

The Chair welcomed Councillor McMullan, from Belfast City Council to his first meeting.

He also offered his congratulations to Councillor Owen on achieving her PHD.

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 073 held on 29 September 2022

Following discussion, the Joint Committee approved the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting 073 held on 29 September 2022.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs) – Mr Walker advised that he had issued a letter to the Chair of the Strategic Waste Partnership drawing his attention to POPs and highlighting that there was no guidance in NI. He noted that, following recent discussions, it was likely that the Environment Agency in England would delay enforcing the legislation for around a year.

The Chair advised that he had spoken to RiverRidge and ReGen which were both aware that this was an emerging issue and they were considering how to address any new requirements.

Mr Walker commented that, following last month's Committee meeting, he had directly contacted the cement kiln operators which were likewise aware of POPs. At this stage, their response was mixed (for example, handling furniture risks creating dust and DAERA have specifically advised that this must be minimized which is likely to increase costs). He advised that from the Kiln operators perspective, this could require considerable work and Guidance was critical in determining what was expected and how they would respond.

Action: Noted

Item 5 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Service Status

Ms Boal advised that all services had been operational during the month of September and none of the contractors had needed to rely upon any of their contingency measures.

Performance - September 2022

In terms of garden waste, she reported that tonnages start to decrease at this time of the year and subsequently the amount being treated will reduce.

She noted that turnaround times had been reviewed and, in all cases the contractors had provided adequate reasons for these, and therefore service credits were not applied this month.

She advised that there was a number of overweight vehicles in September and arc21 is investigating the differences between the weighbridge in/out-weights to determine if there was any misalignment.

All delivery points were available but issues on reporting in the haulage contract in relation to information transfer were experienced. It is anticipated that this is something that will self-rectify when the sites return to pre-Covid protocols and which will mean that the data is directly handed [in transfer notes] between contractors and arc21, and onward to councils.

In terms of the service contracts for the bottle bank site in LCCC, Ms Boal noted that it did not have the specified 20% capacity available, the contractors were notified and the site was serviced accordingly.

Health & Safety

Ms Boal reported that during September there were four H&S incidences reported to arc21 by contractors; the specific incidents were detailed in the report. Three related to the landfill and one to the organics. Council officers were requested to check with their operational managers that all drivers are trained on how to safely operate their vehicles. Officers were also asked to liaise with their H&S officers and operational managers, including those of external contractors, to check that drivers are appropriately trained and understand their obligations to abide by site rules which includes wearing the required PPE.

Rejected Loads

She noted that three loads delivered to the Organics delivery sites in September 2022 were rejected and two loads delivered to Bryson had been rejected.

Officers were requested to continue to review their protocols to ensure that systems are in place so that vehicles are fully emptied before collecting another material stream as this seemed to be the root cause of the issue.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

Ms Boal presented the contract tonnages for September 2022 and noted that they were generally trending down and that LCCC had experienced industrial action and therefore, their tonnages would have been lower which will have an impact on the overall tonnages.

In terms of the 60,000 capacity secured at Cottonmount landfill site, she reported that 6,683 tonnes were used in September 2022, the total used in February to September 2022 was 48,666 tonnes, meaning a monthly average of 6,083 tonnes.

Supplies

A summary of the supplies contracts orders for September were provided and she noted that, following some recent emails, the orders seemed to be increasing again.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 6 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Ms Boal 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 for information.

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 seven matters discussed.

Item 7	Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 073 held on 29 September 2022 ‘in committee’ - <i>agreed</i>
Item 8	Matters Arising - <i>noted</i>
Item 9	Residual Waste Treatment Project - <i>noted</i>
Item 10	Commercially Sensitive Contract and Procurement Issues - <i>agreed</i>
Item 11	Report the Provision of Services for the Receipt, Storage and Transfer of Municipal Waste - <i>agreed</i>
Item 12	Revenue Estimates - <i>deferred</i>
Item 13	Cost of Living Payments - <i>deferred</i>

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Item 14 - Annual Report for the Year to March 2022

Mr Walker presented the Joint Committee with the arc21 Annual Report for the year to March 2022 reflecting the progress made in delivery of the Corporate Plan 2020-2024.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 15 - Closure Report NI Waste Strategy - Published June 2022

Ms Boal provided the Joint Committee with an overview of the key aspects highlighted in the closure report for the 2013 NI Waste Strategy for information.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 16 - Digital Waste Tracking - Update

Ms Boal advised that arc21 had responded to the consultation in relation to the digital waste tracking from a local authority perspective, highlighting that having full visibility of where the waste ends up through some form of digital platform, would be better than current arrangements.

She noted that the Environment Agency are continuing to work on the prototype of the systems to be used to capture the information and testing in the first instance on the green list items. This will be amalgamated into one data model which will be refined and they plan to share this in due course.

She also noted that the Agency have stated that they expect to publish responses to the consultation in the Autumn.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 17 - Education & Awareness

Ms Boal provided an update on the education service and noted that the vehicle had now been sold and that the Waste Promotions Officer had been successful in returning to provide services to councils. In September, he had visited 33 classes, one ladies group, had covered two council events, and will start gathering customer feedback. The intention will be to bring a report to the Committee in due course.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 18 - Financial Report for the year to March 2022

Mr Walker presented a report with a summary of the financial results for the year to March 2022.

He advised that the accounts had been certified by the Local Government Auditor without qualification and the final certified Statements of Accounts had now been published onto the arc21 website, prior to the statutory deadline of 30 September 2022.

He noted that the draft "*Report for those Charged with Governance*" had been presented to the Audit Committee in September and there were only two minor issues raised by the Auditor regarding the completion of the Declarations of Interest by Members and the low attendance at the Audit Committee meetings.

In terms of the first issue, he advised that this had been previously raised by Mr Craig a number of times, and also by the NIAO in previous years. The the Auditor had stressed the importance that these are completed under the NI Local Government Code of Conduct and those whose submissions remain outstanding will be followed up with the relevant Members.

Action: Mr Walker

In terms of the second issue regarding recent low attendance at the Audit Committee meetings, he advised that there is a risk that the Audit Committee will not be able to perform its duties if an adequate challenge function is not present and an appropriate level of engagement is not achieved. Mr Walker advised that he intended to issue an invitation to Members to join the Audit Committee and then, if necessary, would follow this up with individual Members.

Action: Mr Walker

Councillor Bennington recorded her thanks to Mr McKeown for getting the accounts finalised and on time ready for the Audit Office, and for Mr Walker's support with this.

Alderman Drysdale also noted his thanks to Mr McKeown and across the organisation to all the team for their commitment and work over the past very difficult years.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 19 - Audit Committee Meeting 26 September 2022 Report

Mr Walker provided the Joint Committee with the minutes of the most recent meeting held on 26 September 2022 with an update provided on the various tasks and actions being progressed.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 20 - Meeting Schedule 2023

Ms Campbell presented the proposed schedule of meetings to be held in 2023 as follows:

- Thursday 26 January;
- Thursday 23 February;
- Thursday 30 March;
- Thursday 27 April;
- Thursday 25 May;
- Thursday 29 June;
- Thursday 31 August;
- Thursday 28 September;
- Thursday 26 October; and
- Tuesday 5 December

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to approve the schedule of meetings to be held virtually for the foreseeable future, legislation dependent, and agreed that Members Services of the participant councils be notified to help avoid meetings being scheduled in the constituent councils during these dates and times.

Action: Agreed

Item 16 - Next Meeting Tuesday 6 December 2022

The Chair thanked everyone for attending and advised that the next Joint Committee meeting would be held virtually as scheduled on Tuesday 6 December 2022 commencing at 10.30am.

Action: Noted



Date: 6 December 2022

Chairman: