

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE
Meeting No 101
MINUTES
Tuesday 2nd December 2025
Hosted by Mid and East Antrim Borough Council
In The Council Chamber, The Braid, Ballymena

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington (<i>Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor E Thompson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman O Gawith	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor A Givan	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor G McKeen (<i>Deputy Chair</i>)	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor D Lee-Surginor	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor M Goodman	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor H Cushinan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor M Collins	Belfast City Council
Councillor A Groogan	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Alderman S Skillen	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Alderman M Morrow	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor R Quigley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor K Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
T McArdle	arc21
J Green	arc21
B McKeown	arc21
M Laverty	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
K Patterson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
S Leonard	Belfast City Council
A McCann	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
W Muldrew	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
G Richardson	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
S Morely	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
C Hunter	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
S Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

H Campbell (<i>Secretary</i>)	arc21
K Boal	arc21
G Bannister	Ards & North Down Borough Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council

Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement, and none were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 2 - Apologies

Apologies were noted.

Action: Noted

Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 100 held on 30 October 2025

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Ald Gawith, seconded by Cllr Andrews, and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Any matters arising were dealt with under the main agenda.

Action: Noted

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move “*In Committee*” which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Gawith.

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 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 100 held on 30 October 2025 ‘in committee’ - approved

Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - noted

Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - approved

Item 9 - Revenue Estimates 2026/27 - approved

Item 10 - Audit Committee Meeting Report – 19 November 2025 - noted

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Item 11 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Mr McArdle presented a report to provide the Joint Committee with an update in relation to contracts and operations.

Service Status

He reported that all services were operational and running well during the month of October 2025.

Performance

Mr McArdle provided an update on contractor performance across all the contracts in October and highlighted where service credits had been applied for turnaround times, the number of overweight vehicles, reporting issues by contractors, and the bring contracts rectification requests issued and serviced.

Health & Safety

There were two health and safety incidents or near misses reported to arc21 in October including a vehicle hitting a barrier and a smoking battery whilst being ejected from a delivery vehicle.

He reported that an external health and safety audit had been carried out at Enva at their site and included observing the collection of glass banks at a selected bring site.

Rejected Loads

He reported that there had been three rejected loads delivered to the organics delivery sites in October which were due to vehicles not being fully emptied before going out to collect other materials and that arc21 continues to highlight this with council officers at the monthly Steering Group meetings.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

Details of the tonnages delivered in October for the main contracts were provided, along with a comparison against the same period last year.

Supplies

A summary of the orders and deliveries of supplies for October 2025 was included in Mr McArdle's report and he noted that there had been no non-compliances.

He advised that arc21 continues to remind officers to ensure they check their stock orders so that sufficient time is permitted for them to be fulfilled – given the increase in demand arising from the introduction of *Simpler Recycling* in England.

Following the report, a question was posed regarding the officer within the NIEA who is responsible for authorising the movement of wastes into and out of Northern Ireland. Mr McArdle said that he would find out and update the Committee at the next meeting. The Joint Committee noted the remainder of the report. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Action: Mr McArdle

Item 12 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Mr McArdle presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material received through the arc21 contracts over the last four years, and he discussed the increases and decreases in the tonnage trends.

Following a brief discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Cllr Thompson and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Action: Noted

Item 13 - AOB

None.

Item 14 - Next Meeting Monday 29 January 2026 using MS Teams

The Chair advised that the next meeting was scheduled to be held on Thursday 29 January 2026 using MS teams and all were encouraged to confirm their attendance with Ms Campbell in advance of the meeting. She also took the opportunity to wish a Happy Christmas to all those in attendance.

Action: ALL

All officers were asked to leave the meeting for this matter, with the exception of Mr McKeown who remained to take minutes.

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move “*In Committee*” which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Following general discussion, the Chair recommended that the meeting would now return to “*In Committee*” in order to consider one item.

Item 15 - Future Arrangements for the post of Chief Executive - approved

OUT OF COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move out of “*In Committee*” which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Action: Agreed

Date: 29 January 2026

Chair:

A Bennington