



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD
AT MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor N Kelly)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – T Campbell, L Clarke,
J McGrath, M Magill, P Michael, S Ross and J Smyth
- : Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington,
M Brady, J Burbank, M Cooper, S Cosgrove,
H Cushinan, P Dunlop, S Flanagan, R Foster, J Gilmour,
R Kinnear, H Magill, A McAuley E McLaughlin,
V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone, L Smyth,
M Stewart, S Ward, B Webb and S Wilson
- Members Present
(Remotely)** : Aldermen – P Bradley, M Cosgrove
- : Councillors - R Lynch, B Mallon, T McGrann and
L O'Hagan,
- In Attendance
(In person)** : Dr Steve Blockwell, Head of Investment Management,
Engineering & Sustainability Directorate, Northern
Ireland Water
David McCullough, Head of Wastewater Production
Line, Customer & Operations Directorate, Northern
Ireland Water
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - R Baker
Director of Community Development – U Fay
Director of Sustainability, Operations – M Laverty
Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations – M McDowell
Director of Organisation Development (Interim) – H Hall
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
ICT Change Officer – A Cole
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson
Member Services Manager – A Duffy

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting and advised Members of the audio recording procedures.

Councillor Magill joined the meeting at this point.

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Alderman Michael.

The Mayor, Councillors Burbank, Cushinan, Kinnear, McAuley, McLaughlin, Ní Chonghaile and O'Lone joined the meeting at this point.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor took to the Chair and welcomed all present to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Councillors – M Goodman and A Logue

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor and Members, paid tribute to the former Mayor and Councillor, Jim Montgomery, following his sad passing. expressing their sincere condolences to his family, friends and colleagues.

The Mayor advised that the presentation from the Northern Ireland Water would be taken at this point of the meeting.

Councillors Cooper and Ní Chonghaile left and returned to the Chamber during the presentation.

10 PRESENTATION

10.1 G/MSMO/7 NORTHERN IRELAND WATER UPDATE

1. Purpose

The purpose of this presentation was to provide Members with an update on the on the works of Northern Ireland Water across the Borough.

2. Introduction

The Mayor welcomed Dr Stephen Blockwell, Head of Investment Management, Engineering and Sustainability Director and Mr David McCullough, Head of Wastewater Production Line, Customer and Operations Directorate, to the meeting. Dr Blockwell updated Members on NI Water investment, challenges and development constraints. They responded to Members' queries and

agreed to provide a more detailed map regarding the nine areas affected by the Network constraints.

The Mayor and Members thanked Dr Blockwell and Mr McCullough for their presentation and they left the meeting.

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Webb

RESOLVED - that the presentation be noted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 27 January 2025 be taken as read and signed as correct.

5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor McWilliam
Seconded by Councillor McAuley and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 3 February 2025 be approved and adopted.

6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor O'Lone
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 4 February 2025 be approved and adopted.

7 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Gilmour and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Special Council Meeting of Monday 10 February 2025 be taken as read and signed as correct.

8 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Cooper and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Development Committee Meeting of Monday 10 February 2025 approved and adopted.

9(a) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING, PART 1

Moved by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Cosgrove and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 17 February 2025 Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct.

In response to a Member's query regarding correspondence received relating to a decision taken at the Planning Committee Meeting, the Chief Executive confirmed that due process had been followed, officers had verbally communicated with objectors and agreed that he was content for this to be followed up in writing.

A Member's comments regarding factually incorrect statements and false accusations contained within the correspondence received was noted and that this should be reflected in the communication to the objectors.

ACTION BY: Sharon Mossman, Deputy Director of Planning and Building Control

Alderman Ross left and returned to the Chamber during Item 11.1.

11 ITEM FOR DECISION

11.1 PT/CI/067 NILGA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AWARDS 2025

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to recommend to Members to note the outcome of the Council's submissions to the NILGA, Local Government Awards 2025, and seek approval for attendance at the Awards Ceremony.

2. Background

The NILGA Local Government Awards recognise and celebrate excellence in service delivery in local government. They showcase the best examples of service provision, new initiatives and commitment from councils, councillors and officers. The categories were designed to acknowledge innovation, and individual commitment and to highlight the best working practices while providing opportunities for those working within local government a chance to step forward and shine.

Speaking at the launch, NILGA President Councillor Alison Bennington said "The 1st April 2025 would be the 10th Anniversary of the new councils being established, as we enter this momentous year, it's important to recognise the positive changes that have taken place in local government. A huge amount

of hard work and dedication has gone into modernising and improving councils to benefit local people and communities".

3. Award Finalists and Ceremony

The Council had been shortlisted as Award Finalists in the following categories:

- **Best Outcome of the Past Decade Award**
Leisure – Transformation and Modernisation into a UK Awards Wining Service
- **Service Innovation & Improvement Award**
Leisure – Transformation and Modernisation into a UK Awards Wining Service
- **Engaging Communities Award**
Community Development - Family Support Supermarket
- **Best Initiative by a Councillor Award**
Councillor Mark Cooper BEM – Transformative Leadership
Alderman Julian McGrath – Anti-Poverty Strategy
- **Innovative Planning for the Future Award**
Organisation Development - iLead Development Programme

Nominees are judged by an independent panel, with Finalists in each category invited to attend the Awards Recognition Celebration at the **Game of Thrones Studio, Banbridge, on Thursday 27 March 2025.**

4. Financial Implication

The cost of attending the Awards Ceremony was £65.00 plus VAT per attendee, which would be met within current budgets.

5. Attendance

It was proposed that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Alderman Julian McGrath, Councillor Mark Cooper BEM, Chairs of Council Committees, or their nominees, attend as an approved duty along with the relevant Officers.
The Council's NILGA Elected Member representatives would be invited to attend the Ceremony as guests of NILGA.

Moved by Councillor Burbank
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED - that:

- a) The Councils success at being shortlisted as Finalists for 5 Award categories at the NILGA Local Government Awards 2025, be noted.**

- b) **The Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Alderman Julian McGrath, Councillor Mark Cooper BEM, Chairs of Council Committees, or their nominees, attend along with the relevant Officers as an approved duty.**

ACTION BY: Allen Templeton, Performance Improvement Officer

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Brady
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct the following business 'In Committee'.

Members were advised that the live stream and audio recording would cease at this point.

12 ITEM IN CONFIDENCE

12.1 IN CONFIDENCE FI/PRO/TEN/576 COLLABORATIVE TENDER FOR THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC ANALYST SERVICES

CONTRACT PERIOD: 1 APRIL 2025 – 31 MARCH 2027, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR UP TO A FURTHER 24 MONTHS, SUBJECT TO PERFORMANCE AND REVIEW

1. Purpose

The purpose of this report was to update Members on the procurement process currently under way and to obtain approval for delegated authority to appoint a suitably qualified and experienced organisation to provide public analyst services for Environmental Health departments at each of the 11 Northern Ireland Councils.

2. Introduction/Background

A collaborative tender exercise was underway for 11 Councils, led by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. The contract would enable Environmental Health to execute their planned food sampling programme and would include the collection, analysis and reporting on samples collected from each Council and the provision of professional advice and support regarding the service. The annual spend for Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council was approximately [REDACTED]. The current contract was due to expire on 31 March 2025. Therefore, in order to ensure the contract was awarded expeditiously and to ensure operational continuity for all 11 Councils, it was requested that delegated authority be given to the Chief Executive to approve the appointment of the service provider.

The tender opportunity was made available on eSourcingNI on Thursday, 23 January and was set to close on 25 February 2025. Any tenders received would be referred to the evaluation panel and assessed on a two-stage basis as follows:

STAGE 1 – SELECTION STAGE

The tenders would be evaluated on a pass/fail basis for tenderer's professional conduct, economic and financial standing, previous relevant experience, management systems and practices, compliance with regulatory requirements, laboratory standards, and declarations and form of tender. Where a tenderer passes all aspects of this stage, they would progress to Stage 2.

STAGE 2 – AWARD STAGE

Sub-Stage 1 – Technical Assessment

The tenders would be evaluated on a pass/fail basis for compliance with the specification. If they meet all the requirements of this stage, they would progress to the Quality and Commercial Assessment.

Sub-Stage 2 – Quality/Commercial Assessment

The tenders would be evaluated on the basis of implementation and mobilisation plans (15%), standards of service (15%), service delivery (15%), contract performance (15%), and cost (40%). Agreed quality thresholds had been established to ensure that a high level of service delivery was achieved.

The contract would be awarded to the highest scoring tenderer who passes all stages of the process as long as the costs were in line with market rates and officers were content that they represent value for money.

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Foster and

RESOLVED - that:

- a) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive to award the tender once the evaluation exercise has been completed as outlined above.**
- b) an update report on the contract award be brought to the Operations Committee Meeting in April for noting.**

ACTION BY: Melissa Kenning, Procurement Manager

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

RESOLVED - that the Council proceeds to conduct any remaining business 'In Public'.

Members were advised that the audio recording would restart at this point.

The Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 7.39pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.