



28 May 2020

Committee Chair: Alderman J McGrath

Committee Vice-Chair: Councillor M Cooper

Committee Members: Aldermen – T Burns and M Girvan
Councillors – J Archibald, A Bennington, R Foster, J Gilmour,
N Kelly, R Kinnear, A Logue, N McClelland, J Montgomery,
S Ross and R Swann

Dear Member

MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

A remote meeting of the Operations Committee will be held in the **Council Chamber, Mossley Mill on Tuesday 2 June 2020 at 6.30pm.**

All Members are asked to attend the meeting via "Zoom".

To ensure social distancing, it is only possible to facilitate 11 Members in the Council Chamber. Priority admission will be given to Committee Members on a first come, first served basis. This does not affect the rights of any Member participating in the meeting.

You are requested to attend.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jacqui Dixon".

Jacqui Dixon, BSc MBA
Chief Executive, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council

PLEASE NOTE: no refreshments will be available

For any queries please contact Member Services:

Tel: 028 9034 0048/028 9448 1301 memberservices@antrimandnewtownabbey.gov.uk

A G E N D A

1 APOLOGIES

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

3.1 Waste Recovery Plan Update June 2020

4 ITEMS FOR NOTING

4.1 Public Health Agency – Contact Tracing Programme

4.2 Affordable Warmth Scheme – Council Funding

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5.2 arc21 Procurement of Municipal Waste Disposal Contract 2020

6. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS

REPORT ON BUSINESS TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2020

3 ITEMS FOR DECISION

3.1 WM/RC/001 WASTE RECOVERY PLAN UPDATE JUNE 2020

Household Recycling Centres – Recovery Plan Update

As Members will be aware Council initiated a Recovery Plan for the reopening of the Recycling Centres and all Centres are now operational with the restrictions outlined below:

- 7 waste streams permitted (general waste, garden waste, cardboard, timber/wood, dry recyclables, small electrical items and glass);
- Access for borough residents only;
- Appointments required for Crumlin and O'Neill Road Recycling Centres;
- Staff unable to assist with the handling of the waste;

It is proposed to lift these restrictions from 1 July with all waste streams to be accepted. Users will be advised on the need to continue to comply with social distancing by staff and additional signage and road markings will also be put in place to protect staff and the public. Appointments will remain in place at Crumlin and O'Neill Road HRCs to comply with social distancing.

Bulky Waste Collection Service

The Bulky Waste Collection Service has been suspended during the COVID emergency as the delivery of essential services was prioritised. The proposed resumption of the bulky waste service from 1 July is dependent on the safe delivery of the service and available resources. Any waste collected will need to be sprayed with disinfectant and removed by staff following social distancing protocols wearing PPE as required.

The bulky waste service in the Borough is very well used, free of charge (provided that goods take less than 15 minutes to load up) and residents can make unlimited requests. Council receives over 15,000 requests for bulky collections per annum and an immediate return to that level of requests would lead to operational difficulties in handling telephone requests and in collecting within acceptable timescales. Therefore, it is recommended that a number of restrictions are implemented through a Bulky Waste Collection Recovery Plan, similar to that for the Recycling Centres.

A proposed Recovery Plan is set out below.

Phase 1

(Working on the basis of re-commencing on Wednesday 1 July)

Households limited to the collection of bulky white electrical goods only e.g. cookers, fridges & freezers

The phased re-introduction of large bulky electrical items that residents would find difficult to transport to the Recycling Centres is an important first step. Council collects approximately 1,500 large white goods per annum and this would represent a significant resumption of the service.

Phase 2

(Working on the basis of re-commencing on Monday 20 July)

Beds, mattresses and sofas/arm chairs

This would allow beds, mattresses, and sofas/arm chairs to be added to the items which can be collected. This means that materials that are difficult to transport to the Recycling Centres will be collected. Council collects over 3,000 of these items per annum.

Phase 3

(Working on the basis of re-commencing on Monday 3 August)

Households limited to a maximum of 3 items collected from the date of approval to 31 March.

While COVID-19 restrictions, and in particular social distancing measure remain in place, it is recommended that households are limited to a maximum of 3 items for the remainder of the financial year. This temporary restriction would enable Council to maintain the service as normal for the majority of residents as 75% of requests are for 3 items or less, whilst reducing time spent treating and removing items from requests for multiple collections.

If approved, Officers propose to monitor arrangements and keep under continuous review.

RECOMMENDATION: that

- (i) approval is given for the receipt of all waste streams at the Recycling Centres from 1 July 2020 as set out above, and;**
- (ii) the bulky waste collection service is reinstated on a phased basis as set out in the Recovery Plan.**

Prepared by: Lynsey Daly, Waste Strategy and Contracts Manager

Agreed by: Michael Laverty, Head of Waste Management

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4 ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

4.1 EH/EHS/FC/016 PUBLIC HEALTH AGENCY – CONTACT TRACING PROGRAMME

Members are reminded that the Public Health Agency has commenced a contact tracing programme in Northern Ireland. The scheme will play a significant role in controlling the spread of COVID-19 in the coming weeks and months.

The Public Health Agency recognises the expertise that Environmental Health staff have in communicable disease control, and have written to each of the 11 Councils seeking assistance with the roll out of the programme.

The request is for an Environmental Health officer to be seconded for a period of one year with all costs covered by the Public Health Agency. It is recognised that there are already existing demands on Council staff in response to the current health crisis, and in particular Environmental Health Officers who have just been designated under the Health Protection (Coronavirus, Restrictions) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020.

All efforts will be made to assist with the contact tracing programme as far as is practicable within existing staffing levels.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared and Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.2 EH/PHWB/003 AFFORDABLE WARMTH SCHEME – COUNCIL FUNDING

Members are reminded that the Affordable Warmth Scheme is funded by the Department for Communities, and aims to support the most vulnerable in the community in terms of heating and energy efficiency.

The funding model for the scheme has been changed this year, from a grant payment to Council at the start of each quarter of the financial year, to a retrospective payment to Council following submission of an agreed number of suitable referrals.

This model has proven particularly challenging since the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resultant lockdown and cessation of home visits. Only emergency referrals (no heating systems) have been permitted, and this has had a knock on effect for the ability of councils to retain staff.

Following extensive lobbying by councils, the Department for Communities agreed to provide a payment equivalent to Quarter 1 of the 2019/20 financial year (approximately £10,900 per Council, letter **enclosed**).

As set out in the letter - this arrangement is conditional on Council agreeing to:

- An immediate return to fulfilling the agreed referral profiles as soon activities can return to normal, or if alternative processes are developed, and
- As well as making emergency referrals, Councils should also work on non-emergency referrals as far as possible without visits to people homes so that when the lockdown is lifted they will be able to verify the eligibility criteria and make a referral to the Housing Executive.

This funding is subject to future review and may be adjusted depending on the extent to which Council Affordable Warmth Scheme staff are eligible and accepted under the Governments Furlough Scheme.

Acceptance of the payment was requested by 5pm on Tuesday 19 May 2020. In consultation with colleagues from across the 10 Councils, it was agreed that the funding would be accepted. In doing so, the Department was also asked that future funding of the Affordable Warmth Scheme is agreed with all Councils by 30 June 2020, so that it would not place a burden on local ratepayers and that it remains both viable and sustainable for Councils to deliver.

An update on the funding position was subsequently received on 27 May 2020 from the Department for Communities (**enclosed**) which states the following-

- It is hoped that funding will be available to deliver the scheme to its full potential once lockdown has been lifted, although the mechanism by which this will be achieved is still unknown
- A revision of the payment per referral funding model cannot be changed other than by a formal Scheme Review, which will not be possible until 'some semblance of normality' has returned

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Agreed by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

4.3 EH/EHS/EP/003 NORTHERN IRELAND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICE - COUNCIL FIRE SAFETY CONSULTATIONS

Members are reminded that the Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) is a strategic partner in the delivery of a range of Council services:

- Licensing
- Building Control
- Houses in Multiple Occupation

The nature of the relationship is set out in legislation which designates the role of each organisation e.g. enforcing authority or statutory consultee. A number of Memorandums of Understanding (MoU) are in place to assist with the delivery of these services.

Despite previous representations from both individual councils and SOLACE regarding:

- the timing of such changes
- the impact on businesses at a time of extreme hardship and uncertainty
- the effective working relationships between council officers and the NIFRS

the NIFRS has not been prepared to reconsider the decision to terminate the MoU. SOLACE has once again written to the interim Chief Fire Officer stating the firmly held view that:

NIFRS should set aside any changes to the present regime until all parties can meet to agree clear and concise information for the public and businesses outside of the present emergency situation.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted.

Prepared by: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

Approved by: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations