



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD AT ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023 AT 6.30 PM

- In the Chair** : Councillor N Ramsay
- Members Present: (In Person)** Aldermen - F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, J McGrath and J Smyth
Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, J Gilmour and J Montgomery
- Members Present: (Remote)** Councillors - R Foster and A Logue
- Non Committee Members: (Remote)** Councillors – R Lynch, A McAuley, V McWilliams and M Stewart
- Officers Present** : Director of Operations - G Girvan
Director of Parks & Leisure Operations - M McDowell
Director of Waste Operations – M Laverty
Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property & Building Services) - C Todd
Head of Finance – R Murray
Systems Support Officer – C Bell
Member Services Officer – J Moreland

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

The Chairperson welcomed everyone to the January Operations Committee meeting and reminded all present of the audio recording procedures.

Although the COVID restrictions had been relaxed, to manage numbers and minimise risk, members of the public and press continue to access those parts of the Council meetings which they are entitled to attend through the livestream on the Council's website.

The Chairperson expressed condolences to the family of Sam Magee, former Chief Executive of Antrim Borough Council.

1 APOLOGIES

Alderman M Girvan
Councillors – N Kelly and R Swann.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Item 5.4 – Councillor Archibald-Brown

3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

None

4 PRESENTATION

4.1 FI/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATES UPDATE 2023/24

An update on the 2023/2024 Draft Rates Estimates for the Operations Department was presented at the meeting by the Director of Operations, Director of Parks & Leisure Operations and Director of Waste Operations.

The Directors and the Head of Finance responded to questions from Members.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Operations advised that the estimates would be discussed at each meeting this month and that until the rate is set in February that changes can still be made to draft budgets. In response to a request, it was agreed that the presentation would be circulated to Members.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed

that the presentation be noted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

The Head of Finance left the meeting during Item 5.1.

5 ITEMS FOR DECISION

5.1 PK/BIO/011 ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS – SUSTAINABLE NORTHERN IRELAND

Correspondence had been received from Sustainable Northern Ireland (circulated) requesting a financial contribution of £6,000 for the incoming financial year. Members were reminded that Council had provided support to Sustainable NI for a number of years.

Sustainable NI work with a range of stakeholders, including local councils, with the aim of a sustainable low carbon future. Members were reminded that Council have two Members who sit on the All Party Group for Sustainable Development, Councillors Lynch and Webb.

Sustainable NI provides valuable access to information which is useful to the Sustainability Working Group.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Alderman McGrath and agreed

that a contribution of £6,000 is made to Sustainable Northern Ireland for financial support for 2023/2024.

ACTION BY: Paula Robinson, Executive Officer to the Director of Operations

5.2 PBS/BC/003 VOL 2 STREET NAMING – RASHEE ROAD, BALLYCLARE

A development naming application had been received from Justin McClay on behalf of Rashee Road Developments regarding the naming of a residential development off Rashee Road, Ballyclare. The development consisted of 150 No. dwellings, these were a mixture of detached, semi – detached and townhouses. The development names and developer's rationale had been submitted as outlined below, with the developer's application, location map and site plan circulated.

1. Paper Mill – Ballyclare was the home of papermaking for over 200 years. The Paper Mill employed 800 workers at its peak before closure in 1951. It was felt, given the history and location, this name was in keeping with the area
2. Mill Heights – Given the location and history of Ballyclare as a paper production /paper mills, it was felt this would work as it is in keeping with the area.
3. Milltown Green – Given the location and history of Ballyclare as a paper production / paper mills, it was felt this would work as it is in keeping with the area

In order to rationalise postal numbering, it was requested that Officers were given delegated powers to add suffixes to the agreed development name. Should the Council not wish to select one of the above names, the matter would be referred back to the developer via the Building Control section for further consideration.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald Brown
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed

that the street naming application regarding the residential development off Rashee Road, Ballyclare be referred back to the developer by the Building Control Section for further consideration.

ACTION BY: Liam McFadden, Principal Building Control Surveyor

5.3 PK/GEN/035/VOL4 PARKS AND OPEN SPACES SUB GROUP

At the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 13 December 2022, Members considered a detailed report. Arising from the meeting a series of recommendations were made for consideration by the Operations Committee and the minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Montgomery
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed

that the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 13 December 2022 be approved.

ACTION BY: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations

Having declared an interest in the next item, Councillor Archibald-Brown left the Chamber.

5.4 PK/GEN/003/VOL2 REQUESTS FROM NIE NETWORKS TO CARRY OUT WORKS ON COUNCIL LAND

Officers had received a notice of intended entry from NI Water to carry out works on Council land at Neilsbrook, Randalstown as per the statutory obligations outlined in the Water and Sewerage (NI) Order 2006.

NI Water proposed to upgrade the Neilsbrook Wastewater Pumping Station, which was located at the end of the Mainebank cul-de-sac. The main work would be at the pumping station. However, there was a short section of sewer to upsize on the existing inlet sewer, which crossed through our section of land. A dashed line on the map, (circulated), marked the location of the new sewer pipe.

The overall scheme was programmed to last approximately 47 weeks (Award October 22 with completion September 23) but this section of sewer work was programmed to commence on 1st February 2023 to 31st March 2023.

To accommodate these works, NI Water proposed that the width of the wayleave should be 15 metres where structures permit and with an additional allowance for 3 metres for adverse ground conditions.

These works were to be covered by a 1.5 metre wide easement and it had been agreed that NI Water would carry out all excavation and reinstatement for these works.

Officers were obtaining a valuation of the wayleave from Land and Property Services to see what cost NI Water would have to pay the Council for the said wayleave.

Officers have liaised and would continue to liaise with NI Water or the appointed contractor for NI Water, to oversee the works.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed

that Members, subject to NI Water paying the necessary cost of the wayleave to the Council, approve the requests from NI Water for access to Council land to carry out works at Neilsbrook, Randalstown subject to them agreeing to the following:

- i. A Grant of Easement is agreed between the parties.**
- ii. Indemnify the Council for any liabilities associated with the works and to reinstate Council land to its current condition.**

ACTION BY: Paul Mawhinney, Head of Parks Operations and Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer

Councillor Archibald-Brown returned to the Chamber.

6 ITEMS FOR NOTING

6.1 PK/GEN/088 CORRESPONDENCE FROM GUIDE DOGS NORTHERN IRELAND

Members were reminded that at November 2022 Committee, approval was granted to allocate time in Council's dog parks for exclusive use of Guide Dogs. Correspondence (circulated) had been received from Guide Dogs Northern Ireland thanking Council for taking the motion forward, and how this support would be invaluable to service users.

They had also reiterated their support for working in partnership in future.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed

that the correspondence be noted.

NO ACTION

6.2 EH/GEN/008 PROMOTION OF RESPONSIBLE DOG OWNERSHIP

Members were reminded that as part of the Litter Strategy workshop, an action arising was to review the provisions that exist to promote responsible dog ownership.

Most dog owners across the Borough did act responsibly in relation to the behaviour of their dogs in public. However, to encourage the few that did not, a new awareness campaign had been developed to highlight the particular issues that arise in a specific area.

The campaign branding, (circulated), could be produced in leaflet, poster or signage format. These would then be used as required in targeted areas where complaints had been received, including Council parks and green spaces, so as to have the greatest impact and encourage buy in from the whole community to

help tackle the irresponsible behaviour.

The messaging addressed not only the issue of dog fouling but also dogs that were off lead in Dog Control Areas, or dogs not being kept under control when on or off lead and which can be alarming for people, including elderly and younger children who may not be comfortable around dogs.

Research had shown that messaging, especially in signage or poster formats, had the most impact when only displayed for short periods and then removed when the irresponsible behaviour improves. It was therefore intended to adopt this approach in targeted complaint hotspot areas rather than a blanket approach of signage for the whole Borough.

In addition, where residents wished to set up a Dog Watch Scheme in their area, the Enforcement Team would be able to assist with support material to help with the roll out. For Members' information, a Dog Watch Scheme involved liaison with either a Neighbourhood Watch or willing community group, the installation of signs/stencils, additional patrols and engagement with dog walkers as well as provision of dog bags and promotion of the scheme.

In response to a question from a Member, the Director of Operations advised that community and Neighbourhood Watch groups could be contacted directly and advised about the Dog Watch scheme. The potential of issuing bin stickers also to be considered.

Proposed by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed

that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: Geraldine Girvan, Director of Operations

6.3 WM/WM/040 WASTE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE ANNUAL UPDATE 2021-22

Under the Landfill Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2003, Council was required to submit waste data returns to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency. These are completed on a quarterly basis throughout the year and are used by the NIEA to calculate Council's recycling rate and compliance with the relevant legislation.

The new legislative targets for Council under the Circular Economy Package are:

1. Recycle 65% of municipal waste by 2035
2. Interim targets of 55% recycling rate by 2025 and 60% by 2030;
3. Maximum of 10% of municipal waste to be landfilled by 2035.

The annual waste data submission for 2021-22 had been verified and set out Council's performance for the year for both Household and Municipal waste.

A summary of the recently published results for Council for 2021/2022 together with the results from 2020/2021 are set out below. The results include the performance of all 11 Northern Ireland Local Authorities for reference.

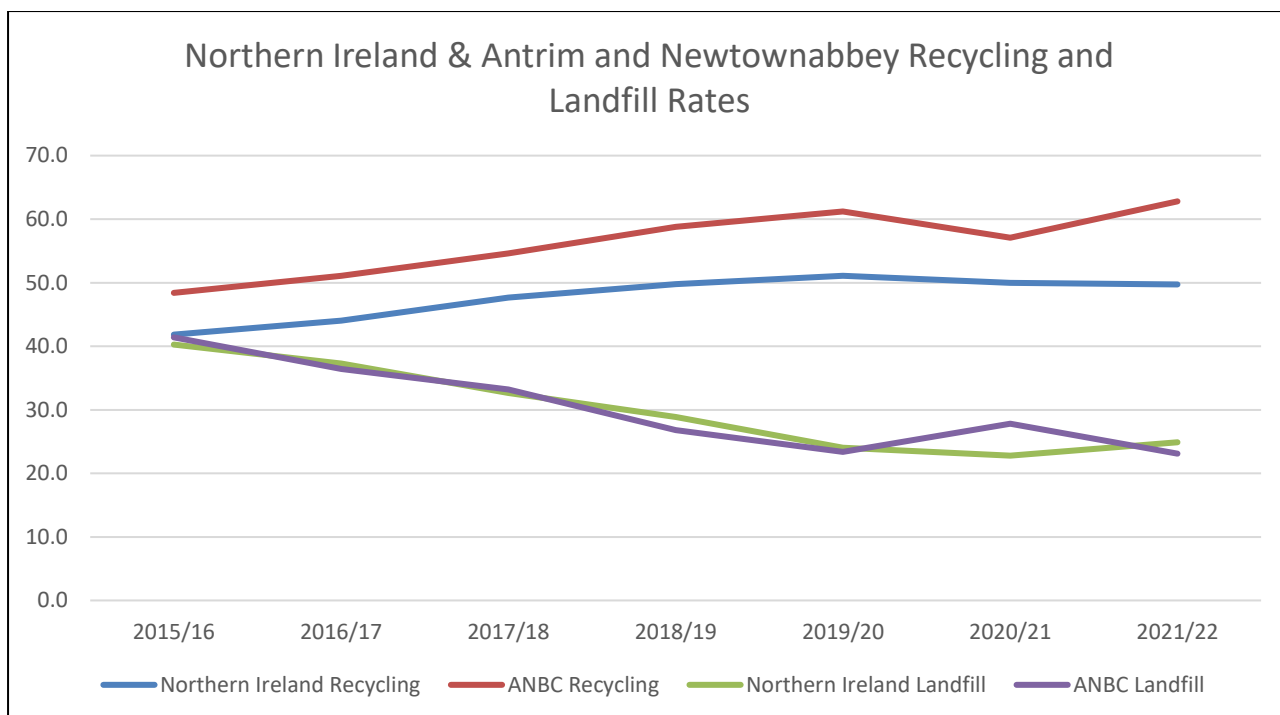
	2020-21		2021-22		Ranking
	Tonnes	%	Tonnes		
Total Household Waste Arisings	78,090		80,680	Up 3.3%	4 th largest tonnage
Household Waste Arisings to Recycling	44,454	56.9	48,571	60.2	Highest household recycling rate (%)
Household Waste Arisings to Recovery	12,305	15.8	12,764	15.8	7 th largest % of household waste sent to recovery
Household Waste Arisings to Landfill	21,331	27.3	19,345	24.0	6 th largest % of household waste sent to landfill
Total Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste Arisings	95,468		106,804	Up 11.9%	3 rd largest tonnage
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recycling	54,522	57.1	67,049	62.8%	Highest % of waste recycled.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Recovery	14,382	15.1	14,134	13.2%	8 th largest % of waste sent to recovery.
Municipal Waste Arisings to Landfill	26,564	27.8	24,700	23.1%	7 th largest % of waste sent to landfill.

* Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (LACMW) was ALL the waste that the Council collects i.e. commercial, street sweepings, recycling centres as well as household waste.

The table above showed the following:

- Antrim and Newtownabbey achieved both the highest Household Recycling Rate, 60.2%, and the highest Municipal Recycling Rate, 62.8%, in 2021/22;
- While waste arisings did increase, the amount of waste landfilled was reduced on the previous year.

The graph below demonstrated how recycling rates for Northern Ireland had plateaued, however Antrim and Newtownabbey achieved an increase in the amount of waste recycled by residents and had maintained a rate well above the Northern Ireland average.



Proposed by Alderman Smyth
 Seconded by Councillor Montgomery and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.4 WM/WM/037 NORTHERN IRELAND LARAC REPRESENTATIVE

The Local Authority Recycling Advisory Committee, LARAC, represented local authority views in waste and recycling issues in the UK. Memberships were made up from local authorities in England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales and Council had been a member since 2015.

LARAC sought to influence UK waste policy for the benefit of its members and it provided information services which had helped Officers gain insight into best practice from across the UK.

Earlier this year, Lynsey Daly, Head of Waste Strategy & Contracts was invited to speak at the annual LARAC Conference in England on how Council had achieved some of the highest recycling rates in the UK. As a result of the presentation, Lynsey had been invited to become the Northern Ireland representative for the organisation. The role would not affect Lynsey's current position with Council and all parties should benefit from the arrangement. Lynsey had accepted the position, which would run for an initial 12-month period. The position was a further demonstration of Council's standing in the local authority waste sector.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington

Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed

that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.5 PBS/PS/001 ELECTRIC VEHICLE FORUM UPDATE

An Electric Vehicle (EV) webinar forum addressing the topic of EV charging in Northern Ireland was attended by the Head of Property and Building Services in December. This strategically important webinar was attended by Councils and consisted of a panel including a number of electric vehicle charge point operators, Northern Ireland Electricity, the Department for Infrastructure, the Northern Ireland Utility Regulator and the Electric Vehicle Association of Northern Ireland (EVANI) – a group which promoted Electric Vehicles (EV) in Northern Ireland and represented the interests of users.

Discussions included the origins of Northern Ireland's charging network, its development over the past 10 years and an assessment as to why the infrastructure roll out in Northern Ireland was lagging behind other parts of the UK and the Republic of Ireland.

As previously reported to Committee, there were significant obstacles to the roll out of electric vehicle charge points in Northern Ireland and the most important of these - lack of suitable grid capacity together with prohibitive grid connection costs were discussed. To illustrate this point, the table below illustrated costs in Northern Ireland.

Grid Cost Comparison:

Scenario	Total cost of Primary Substation Upgrade + 11kV Network upgrade	Approx cost of Primary Substation Upgrade to customer	Approx costs of 11kV network upgrade to customer	Approx cost of dedicated connection (e.g. 500m 11kV cable & new customer substation)	Total cost customer has to pay to connect
NI	£2M + £1M	£2M	£1M	£200k	£3.2M
GB (current regulations)	£2M + £1M	£200k (2/20 x £2M)	£400k (2/5 x £1M)	£200k	£900k
GB (from March 2023)	£2M + £1M	£0	£0	£200k	£200k

Timeframes for grid connection consultations were also problematic with three month waiting times in Northern Ireland compared to four weeks in Great Britain.

Despite these challenges, there were significant private sector interest in developing the EV charge point market in Northern Ireland.

During the webinar, key commercial charge point operators including ESB, EasyGo and Weev presented updates on their investment plans with new charging infrastructure in the pipeline for all areas across Northern Ireland including development of charging hubs. In addition, Members were asked to note that ESB confirmed that they now expect tariffs to be introduced on their network before the end of March 2023.

The introduction of tariffs was seen as a necessity for all commercial business models and this would accelerate the commercial roll out of charge point provision in the NI market.

On a separate but related note, an EV Infrastructure Action Plan for Northern Ireland, was published by the Department for Infrastructure in late November 2022. It could be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.infrastructure-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/infrastructure/ev-infrastructure-action-plan-2022.pdf>.

The Plan recognised the obstacles outlined above and included the following actions:

Action	Expected results	Lead	Key Stakeholders	Target
Future Proofing Electrical Capacity at key strategic sites along Key Transport Corridors	Increased provision of charging infrastructure along key transport corridors Phase 1: Production of report identifying locations along key transport corridors Phase 2: Implementation of Phase 1 report	DfE	NIEN, UR, DfI	Phase 1: January 23 - June 23 Phase 2: June 23 - December 25
Review of Connection Costs	More Charge Point Operators(CPOs) entering the charging market	UR	DfE, NIEN, DfI	Completed end 2023
Establishment of oversight group to ensure co-ordinated approach to EV infrastructure	Evaluation of provision to ensure coverage addresses target of 25 miles from a Rapid charger	DfI	DfE, NIEN	January 2023
Paying for Charge	Improved network use, less blockages and more CPOs entering the market	ESB	EVANI, DfI	December 2022
Consumer Priorities	Development of a 'Code of Practice' for NI	CCNI	EVANI, DfE, DfI	December 2024
EV Charging at Park and Ride Sites	Provision of appropriate charging infrastructure at Park and Ride sites to facilitate en route charging and public and shared transport	DfI	NIEN, DfE, Translink	Feasibility Study June 2023 First operational charge points April 2024

Members were reminded that specialists, EVP Solutions, had been appointed to assist Council in planning for the decarbonisation of its fleet and they would take into account the impact of the issues raised in the Department for Infrastructure's Action Plan. It was anticipated that a report would be provided for Committee's consideration in February or March 2023.

As reported to Committee in December, the On Street Residential Charging Scheme (ORCS) application submitted collaboratively with a number of other councils for the year to 31 March 2022 had been successful and a Letter of Offer had been issued for the sites was circulated, however, as the business model for delivery of the project was yet to be determined, approval was given for Council

to participate in pre-tender engagement with Charge Point Operators subject to appropriate contractual arrangements being agreed.

Furthermore, on receipt of notification from the Energy Savings Trust of a further £20 million in funding to improve the Electric Vehicle infrastructure across the United Kingdom for 2022/2023, approval had been given to develop a further application, if this proved feasible, with Committee to be kept updated to facilitate a final decision being made by Council. Officers were currently working on proposed locations and any suggestions by Members could be explored and incorporated if viable.

The Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services) advised that there were ongoing discussions with Northern Ireland Electricity Networks to establish the feasibility of specific locations for charge points and that that the private sector is also required to follow the same process.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the report be noted.

ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services)

6.6 L/LEI/VLC/001 USE OF THE VALLEY LEISURE CENTRE FOR THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTION BALLOT COUNT ON 4TH-6TH May 2023

Members were reminded that approval was given to use the Valley Leisure Centre for the Local Government Election count from Thursday 4th May to Saturday 6th May 2023 inclusive. Subsequently the date of King Charles III Coronation had been confirmed as Saturday 6th May 2023, and as a result the Local Government Elections had now been rescheduled to Thursday 18th May to Saturday 20th May 2023 inclusive.

The Centre would be affected as follows:

- (a) The main sports hall and ancillary halls to be closed from 09.00am on Thursday 18th May 2023 to allow the building to be secured.
- (b) Total closure of the centre on Friday 19th May and Saturday 20th May 2023 inclusive.

The Centre would re-open on Sunday 21st May 2023.

The pitches could remain open, being independently operated from the pavilion, and MORE members would be informed of the alternative facilities at Sixmile and Ballyearl.

Proposed by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed

that the amended dates for the Local Government Elections, and closures at the Valley Leisure Centre are noted.

8 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

In response to questions from a Member:

- the Director of Waste Operations agreed to review cardboard recycling in Crumlin
- the Director of Parks & Leisure Operations agreed to provide an assessment for additional security measures at Glen Car Park, Crumlin and to provide costs for replacement of life rings for the same location, as previously requested.

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed

that the following Committee business be taken In Confidence and the livestream and audio recording would cease.

7 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

7.1 IN CONFIDENCE WM/arc21/4/VOL10 arc21 JOINT COMMITTEE PAPERS

The papers for the arc21 Joint Committee Meeting were circulated for:

- 6 December 2022

Members were reminded that these documents were confidential and may be legally privileged or otherwise protected from disclosure so therefore Members were asked not to disclose this information to any third party and the information must be kept secure.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed

that the papers be noted.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed

that the remainder of Committee business be taken in Open Session.

The Chairperson advised that audio-recording would recommence at this point.

There being no further Committee business, the Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7:22 pm.

MAYOR