



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD
AT ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON MONDAY 5 DECEMBER AT 6.30 PM**

In the Chair : Councillor N Kelly

**Members Present:
(In Person)** Aldermen - F Agnew, T Burns, L Clarke, M Girvan
and J Smyth
Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, R Foster,
J Gilmour, J Montgomery and N Ramsay

**Members Present:
(Remote)** Councillor R Swann

**Non Committee:
Members:
(Remote)** Councillors B Webb and V McWilliam

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, Building
Control and Property) - C Todd
ICT Helpdesk Officer – C Bell
Mayor and Member Services Officer – S Fisher
Member Services Officer – E Skillen

CHAIRPERSON'S REMARKS

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

He congratulated Molly McKenna, a recipient of the Leisure Grant Aid programme, on winning the recent DMT World Gymnastics Championships making her the British, European and World Champion. He went on to congratulate Mark Allen on winning the UK Snooker Championship, following his win the previous month at the Northern Ireland Open.

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.

1 APOLOGIES

Alderman McGrath

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

3 INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

None

4 ITEMS FOR DECISION

4.1 EH/EHS/HS/006 BETTER REGULATION OF COSMETIC TREATMENTS

Members were advised that Council have a legal responsibility to regulate some cosmetic treatments under The Local Government Miscellaneous Provisions Northern Ireland Order 1985 in conjunction with local byelaws.

The popularity of aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments has grown rapidly in recent years, with new non-surgical cosmetic procedures continually emerging on to the market. The Health and Safety Liaison Group (HSLG), a sub group of Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI) which is made up of the Heads of Environmental Health in all 11 councils, considers that existing legislation in Northern Ireland to regulate this sector was no longer fit for purpose.

The introduction of a national licensing scheme to govern the oversight of advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments, was one of seventeen recommendations made by the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Beauty, Aesthetics and Wellbeing following their Inquiry into advanced aesthetic non-surgical cosmetic treatments. While the UK Government had recently agreed to amend the Health and Care Bill in England to introduce a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures to better regulate the cosmetic industry in England, no such plans appear to have been made for Northern Ireland (NI).

The Chartered Institute of Environmental Health which successfully campaigned for better regulation and a licensing scheme for the cosmetic industry in England and is equally supportive that a similar regulatory system be introduced in Northern Ireland.

Concerns expressed by the HSLG include:

- A significant rise, in recent years, in the number and type of non-surgical aesthetic procedures available in Northern Ireland, with many practitioners performing treatments without being able to evidence appropriate training nor the required standards of oversight and supervision

- NI Councils have few powers to refuse the registration of the practitioners carrying out cosmetic treatments covered by the 1985 Order, regardless of the practitioner's level of competence or qualification
- The 1985 Order does not extend to the large number of emerging invasive treatments now available to the public

The licensing scheme planned for England would introduce consistent standards that individuals carrying out non-surgical cosmetic procedures such as lip fillers, botox injections etc. must meet, as well as hygiene and safety standards for premises. It would focus on those cosmetic procedures which, if improperly performed, have the potential to cause harm.

In October 2021, the Botulinum Toxin and Cosmetic Fillers (Children) Act 2021 came into force in England making it illegal to administer Botox or a filler by way of injection for a cosmetic purpose to a person under 18 years of age. No such legislation currently exists in Northern Ireland.

In the interests of protecting public health, the HSLG is seeking the support of all Councils by writing to the Department of Health to request better regulation of cosmetic treatments, together with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures. Put simply, this would make the non-surgical cosmetics industry better regulated in Northern Ireland.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

Council agrees to write to the Department of Health to request better regulation of cosmetic treatments in Northern Ireland in line with what is planned in England, together with the introduction of a licensing scheme for non-surgical cosmetic procedures.

ACTION BY: Karen Allen Environmental Health Manager (Health and Safety & Consumer Protection)

4.2 EH/EHS/003 REVIEW OF THE FOOD LAW CODE OF PRACTICE (NORTHERN IRELAND) IN RELATION TO A NEW FOOD STANDARDS DELIVERY MODEL

Members were reminded that Councils in Northern Ireland have a statutory responsibility to enforce legislation relating to food standards.

The Food Standards Agency (FSA) are seeking stakeholders' views on the proposed changes to the Food Law Code of Practice (the Code), that would implement a new model for delivery of food standards in Northern Ireland.

The Code sets out instructions and criteria to which Councils in Northern Ireland must have regard when discharging their duties in relation to the delivery of official food control activities. The Food Standards Agency is required to consult on amendments to the Code prior to implementation.

The proposed changes to the Code would increase the flexibility that Councils have to use Official Control methods and techniques, and direct Council's resource to where they are most needed to tackle emerging risks in the food chain.

Details of the Consultation can be found at:

<https://www.food.gov.uk/news-alerts/consultations/consultation-on-proposed-changes-to-the-food-law-code-of-practice-northern-ireland-in-relation-to-a-new-food-standards-delivery>

Officers had drafted a response for consideration, which had been circulated, the key points of which are set out below:

- Council broadly welcomes the proposed changes to the food standards intervention rating scheme
- The proposed scheme provides for a more realistic assessment of risk and allows Councils to target non-compliant businesses
- The proposed frequency of 6 and 10 years is too long a period for Businesses to remain uninspected as business activities could significantly change in this time
- Changes to the Council's information management systems will need to be made to capture the required data - this is managed directly between FSA and the IT provider – at no cost to Council
- The time needed to train officers on the new delivery model has been underestimated and should be revisited

The deadline for submission of responses is 9 January 2023.

Proposed by Councillor Archibald-Brown
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

the draft response to the Consultation on the Review of the Food Law Code of Practice, be approved

ACTION BY: Christina McErlean, Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)

4.3 L/LEI/002 LEISURE GRANT AID PROGRAMME

Members were advised that during the third call for the Leisure Grant Aid Programme (August – October 22), a total of 28 applications were submitted. All 28 applications have been scored with a table setting out details and recommendations circulated.

Should approval be given for the grants listed, the balances remaining in each funding category are set out below:

Category	No. of apps.	Budget	Approved spend to date 22/23	No. of apps.	Grants proposed	Funding Balance remaining (subject to approval of application)
					(£)	
Capital Grants	1	£40,000	£20,000	0	0	£20,000
Grants to Clubs	5	£40,000	£6,350	6	£4,000	£29,650
Grants to Athletes	32	£30,000	£22,075	8	£7,189	£736
Grants to Coaches and Officials	11	£5,000	£1,297	5	£495	£3,208
Sports Event Grant	6	£50,000	£30,196	2	£16,130	£3,674
Defibrillator Grant	1	£5,000	£0	2	£3,000	£2,000
Allocation total	56	£170,000	£79,918	23	£30,814	£59,268
Fitness suite Gold Card	4	20 Applications	4 eligible	5 Applications	5 eligible	11 applications
Total spend to date including this call, if approved £110,732						

In response to a query from a Member, the Director of Parks and Leisure Operations confirmed that churches were eligible to apply for defibrillator grants.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the grant awards set out in the enclosure be approved.

ACTION BY: Anna Boyle, Sport & Physical Activity Programmes Manager

4.4 PK/BIO/041 ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY LOCAL BIODIVERSITY ACTION PLAN

Members were reminded that in April 2022, following public consultation, Council approved the final draft of the Local Biodiversity Action Plan which had been circulated.

The 5-year action plan was developed following a recent biodiversity audit of the key habitats and species within the Borough, with a number of key objectives identified to be achieved within this time. Once approved the Action Plan would be publicly launched and promoted through an extensive PR campaign.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

the Local Biodiversity Action Plan publication be approved.

ACTION BY: Elaine Upton, Countryside Officer

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

At the most recent Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting on 11 October 2022, Members considered a detailed report. Arising from the meeting, a recommendation was made for consideration by the Operations Committee and the minutes of the meeting were circulated.

Proposed by Alderman Girvan
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the minutes of the Parks and Open Spaces Sub-Group meeting held on 11 October 2022 be approved.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

4.6 G/FM/001 LOW EMISSION FUEL - VEHICLE PILOTS UPDATE

As Members would be aware Council approved a number of pilots to trial alternative fuels to reduce carbon emissions from our fleet as part of the Climate Action Plan. In addition, Council approved the development of a report to assist in the decarbonisation of the fleet and work on this was due to be completed in March.

An electric Refuse Collection Vehicle had been used for the trade waste service although there were concerns over its operational effectiveness due to lack of range with the dispersed nature of our businesses. Further trials of electric powered medium and large vehicles are being developed although there are ongoing global issues with the supply of this type of vehicle.

While it had not been possible to trial a hydrogen powered vehicle to date, further work identifying supply options have been continuing and these findings will be fed into the fleet decarbonisation report.

The final aspect of the alternative fuels trials was the use of Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil Fuel (HVO) as a replacement to diesel in 15 vehicles in the Council fleet. HVO is a low-carbon fuel and is derived from used cooking oils, residue animal fats from food processing, and non-food grade crops with Council supplies from Nestle, who are the main supplier of HVO in Europe.

At present 15 vehicles in the Waste and Parks fleet are being powered by HVO, with no effect on performance, and it was estimated that this has reduced CO2 emissions by 255 tonnes, which was a 90% decrease on the emissions when using diesel. To offset that amount of carbon, Council would need to plant 1,530 trees. In addition, the use of HVO also delivered a 30% reduction in nitrogen oxide and 85% decrease in particulate matter which would result in improvement air quality.

HVO fuel does cost more than diesel and this year, on average, it has been 29% higher in price, which equates to approximately £46,000 more for the 15 vehicles currently on the pilot.

HVO can only be used in certain diesel powered vehicles and it was estimated that it would be feasible to run a further 18 vehicles on HVO. To transfer these vehicles over to HVO would cost another £41,000 per annum but would save a further 230 tonnes of CO2 emissions each year. The reason the cost is the same for more vehicles was due to the engine size of the remaining suitable fleet.

It was proposed to include these findings as part of the wider fleet decarbonisation study and await recommendations in the report before increasing the use of HVO. In the meantime, it was recommended that the existing vehicles using HVO continue to use this fuel.

When the report on the decarbonisation of the fleet has been completed, the findings would be presented to Council for further discussion.

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Bennington and agreed that

Council continues the use of HVO fuel in the existing 15 vehicles with the expansion of the use of HVO throughout the fleet delayed until the review of the report into the decarbonisation of the fleet.

ACTION BY: Lynda Gregg, Transport & Contracts Manager

4.7 PBS/PS/001 ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING PROVISION - ON STREET RESIDENTIAL CHARGING SCHEME

Members were reminded that at the September 2022 meeting of the Operations Committee an update was provided on the status of the On Street Residential Charging Scheme for Electric Vehicles:

- A Letter of Offer was received from the Office of Zero Emission Vehicles (OZEV) to all participating Councils for a total of £1,348,370 to fund all 124 charge points subject to meeting the timeframe for full operational delivery by June 2023
- The Department for Infrastructure confirmation that match funding commitment would increase from £350,000 to £500,000
- Business model for delivery of the project yet to be determined but 4 models are under consideration

Approval was given for Council to participate in pre-tender engagement with Charge Point Operators subject to appropriate contractual arrangements being agreed.

To date, no further clarity had been received and therefore delivery of phase I is still uncertain, however notification had been received from the Energy Savings Trust indicating that the OZEV had announced another £20 million in funding to improve the Electric Vehicle infrastructure across the United Kingdom for 2022/2023.

Local authorities had been invited to submit applications to receive this funding, subject to the following provisions:

- Councils can receive a grant to part-fund up to a maximum of 60% of capital costs relating to the procurement and installation of residential electric vehicle charge point infrastructure. Many projects may require less grant funding.

Members may wish to note that the current phase of the scheme offers funding of up to 75% of capital costs. It is not yet clear if the Department for Infrastructure would provide any match funding.

- OZEV can fund up to a maximum of £7,500 per charge point, unless electrical connection costs are exceptionally high. In these cases, funding up to £13,000 per charge point may be provided
- Applications for projects that would be delivered by the end of the 2023/2024 financial year (31 March 2024) would be considered
- There is no maximum or minimum project size, but OZEV reserves the right to approve or reject applications on a case-by-case basis
- Successful applicants would receive 75% of the grant funding upfront. The remaining 25% can be claimed on completion of the project. All capital costs associated with the installations must be individually evidenced. If the total project costs come in under the 75% paid in advance, the local authority would be required to reimburse OZEV. For more information about how to submit a project claim, see claims assistance below.

Members were also reminded that NIE Networks would continue to be required to confirm if locations chosen are viable.

Despite the uncertainty regarding the delivery of the existing approved consortium application, officers continue to liaise with other Councils who are consortium members to establish any potential to proceed with a second application in view of the current difficulties.

In response to questions by Members, The Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health, Property and Building Services) informed Members that the initial round of ORCS funding was being progressed and in the meantime a new funding round had been announced at a reduced level of funding - 60% rather than the previous 75%.

The Director of Operations confirmed that, as previously, proposed sites in each DEA area would be brought to Committee for consideration and encouraged Members to send suggestions to Officers. A Member suggested that street lights in new developments could more usefully be located at the kerb side to enable ease of use as charge points and that this suggestion be made for the Department for Infrastructure.

Proposed by Councillor Ramsay

Seconded by Alderman Burns and agreed that

approval be given to participate in a further application to the On Street Residential Charging Scheme if this proves feasible. Committee to be kept updated to facilitate a final decision being made by Council and a letter to be

sent to the Department for infrastructure regarding the suggested relocation of street lights in new developments.

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

4.8 PK/CEM/CR/006 CREMATORIUM UPDATE

Members were reminded that the Crematorium was scheduled to open in June 2023. To support the opening of this new facility, the circulated Marketing and Communications Plan and FAQs had been developed. This plan identifies the target audiences, key messaging and activity that would take place between now and the opening of the Crematorium. In addition to the Plan, there had been ongoing PR activity relating the Crematorium as follows:

- The Crematorium Manager and Council Registrar participated in the Mid and East Antrim Agewell Partnership Bereavement Services Event, held on 11th October 2022 which provided an opportunity to provide the public and funeral directors with information on the new Crematorium including the standard of service to be expected.
- Preliminary engagement has commenced with the two principle Funeral Director Professional Trade Representatives - National Association of Funeral Directors (NAFD) and National Society of Allied and Independent Funeral Directors (SAIF). The aim of this engagement is to establish a Funeral Director Forum, which would act as a conduit between Council and funeral directors on all relevant matters relating to the Crematorium.

Members were advised that the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) is the professional body of which Council's Crematorium is an affiliated member. The ICCM operates a Recycling of Metals Following Cremation Scheme whereby the income generated from precious metals following cremation is distributed to suitable local or national death or bereavement related charities. It was proposed that the Mayor annually nominates a charity which meets the above criteria.

Thanks were expressed by a Member to Jim Parker, Crematorium Manager, following the informative tour on Friday 2 December.

Proposed by Councillor Gilmour

Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and agreed that

Successive Mayors nominate a bereavement charity to benefit from the Recycling of Metals Following Cremation Scheme.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

5 ITEMS FOR NOTING

5.1 WM/WM/049 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM PERFORMANCE UPDATE

Members would be aware that Council had successfully implemented the Environmental Management System (EMS), accredited to ISO14001 standard, in order to reduce the organisation's impact on the environment. In order to retain the ISO14001 accreditation, the EMS is audited annually by an independent external auditor.

The EMS must meet specific criteria including a commitment by Council to meeting the requirements of environmental legislation and regulations, preventing pollution and striving for continued improvement in environmental performance.

The auditor completed her annual audit in November and had judged that Council had successfully achieved ISO14001 standard. The auditor stated that the continuous improvement displayed by Council was impressive, and the collaborative work across facilities and Departments to improve overall environmental performance was commended.

Planned projects to demonstrate continued improvement in environmental performance include the delivery of the climate change action plan, million trees project, trial of carbon reducing alternative fuels, plastic prevention initiatives, paperless projects and the work at making Council events and promotions sustainable.

Another demonstration of Council's environmental performance was the achievement of the Platinum Award in the Annual Northern Ireland Environmental Benchmarking Survey 2022.

The Survey was completed by Government and private organisations across Northern Ireland assessing their environmental performance in areas including energy, transport, biodiversity, water and waste.

Despite stricter scoring criteria in 2022 to encourage companies and authorities to demonstrate greater commitment to environment improvement, Council maintained their Platinum Award status.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and agreed that

this report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.2 PBS/BC/002/VOL2 BUILDING CONTROL UPDATE REPORT DECEMBER 2022

The Building Control update which had been circulated provides an overview of Building Control applications received, plan assessment and inspection performance levels, Land and Property Services (LPS) partnership working and

overall service income levels during the first two quarters of the current financial year.

As requested at a previous meeting of the Operations Committee, a summary was included.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Alderman Clarke and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.3 EH/EHS/HS/006 WORK RELATED DEATHS – REVIEW OF AGREEMENT FOR LIAISON

Members were reminded that an Agreement for Liaison was in place for the Investigation of Work-Related Deaths in Northern Ireland. The Agreement, between, the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI), the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI), the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland (PONI) and the 11 Councils through Environmental Health Northern Ireland (EHNI) had recently been revised and updated by HSENI and was circulated. The changes to the document include clarifying roles and responsibilities while also updating the signatories representing each partner organisation. Colin Kelly, Head of Environmental Health and Wellbeing represents Council on EHNI.

Councils and the HSENI are responsible, under Article 20 of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978, for making adequate arrangements for the enforcement of Health and Safety legislation in places of work with a view to securing the health, safety and welfare of workers and protecting others, principally the public.

The Agreement was designed to emphasise the importance of the appropriate investigative agencies working together to ensure that a thorough investigation is carried out of work-related deaths in Northern Ireland. The Council or HSENI would have the duty to investigate a work-related death with the division of responsibility being dependent on the premises type.

The Agreement sets out the principles for effective liaison between the parties. In particular, it deals with incidents where following a death, there is a suspicion that criminal offences, such as manslaughter and breaches of Health and Safety legislation may have been committed.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

5.4 EH/PHWB/012 EARLY DIAGNOSIS DEMENTIA PILOT

Members were reminded that the Environmental Health and Wellbeing team are responsible for delivering the Public Health Agency's Age Friendly agenda and currently undertake home safety assessments for vulnerable people and those over the age of 65.

The current home safety assessments are predominately based on an individual's mobility around the home. However, as individuals live longer and independently at home, the risk of developing age based cognitive decline and dementia can increase. As a consequence, this can increase the risk of accidents occurring within the home.

There are approximately 24,500 people over the age of 65 living within the Borough and dementia symptoms are generally more prevalent as people get older. The Environmental Health and Wellbeing team, working in collaboration with the Northern Health and Social Care Trust's (NHSCT) the Dementia Service Improvement Team, the Public Health Agency, the Northern Area Integrated Care Partnership and the Alzheimer's Society, have developed an Early Diagnosis Dementia pilot which will be rolled out by Council's Home Accident Prevention Officer in the Borough for six months commencing on the 1 December 2022.

During Home Safety visits, and with the consent of the individual, it was anticipated that the completion of the Early Dementia Diagnosis and NHSCT Dementia checklists would help highlight any early signs of cognitive decline.

If some cognitive decline was indicated, individuals would be given the opportunity and assistance to complete, a more detailed Dementia assessment that has been developed by the Alzheimer's Society. This would not be a clinical assessment but would provide an opportunity for signposting and providing guidance information, with individuals being directed towards their GP so further exploratory tests could be undertaken.

It was hoped this would identify those at the initial stages of dementia and may help individuals receive an earlier diagnosis, thus allowing for improved treatment options and families to look at advance care planning.

In response to comments from a Member the Deputy Director of Operations (Environmental Health & Property and Building Services) provided reassurance that the partnership approach involving completion of a questionnaire was simply a means to sign-post potential indicators of Dementia and was not a diagnostic assessment.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Ramsay and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

A member requested that the information on the Columbarium at the Crematorium be forwarded to Members.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Foster
Seconded by Councillor Ramsay and agreed

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

6 ITEMS IN CONFIDENCE

6.1 **IN CONFIDENCE** CCS/CEA/013, PK/GEN/197 CEMETERY BURIAL CAPACITY UPDATE

The burial capacity as at 16 November 2022 across all cemeteries was set out in the table below

Cemetery	No. of plots remaining	Current Average no. of plots sold PER YEAR (based on 3yr average)	Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)
Carnmoney	0	156	0
Ballyclare	698	70	10.0
Rashee	394	9	43.8
Sixmile	2203	60	36.7
Crumlin	442	10	44.2
TOTAL	3,737	305	12.25

The estimated burial capacity for the Borough is currently just under 13 years.

Garden of Remembrance Plots/Columbarium (for burial of ashes only)	No. of plots remaining	Average no. of plots sold (based on 3 year average)	Estimated remaining burial capacity (years)
Ballyclare	128	5	25.6
Mallusk	15	1	15
Carnmoney – GoR	28	50	0.3

Officers remain in correspondence with colleagues in Mid and East Antrim Borough Council, Belfast City Council and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council as these authorities are also seeking potential sites for cemetery provision and

therefore the potential to work in partnership was being explored. Members would be kept updated on any progress.

Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Archibald-Brown and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

6.2 IN CONFIDENCE PK/GEN/103 FOREST SERVICE

Members were reminded that in July 2022, Council approved that Officers proceed to explore the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) (Circulated) for Rea's Wood, Tardree Forest and Randalstown Forest with a view to seeking funding to improve access for walking.

Following advice from Council's legal team, it was recommended not to enter into the MOU in its current form as Council cannot accept the liability as set out in clause 5.1(g) which states that Council would be responsible for 'the management of all health and safety and public liability issues associated with its provision of recreational facilities on the lands.'

Council Officers had raised this issue with the Forest Service who state they are unable to make any adjustments relating to the clause within the MOU.

A number of queries were responded to in relation to the nature of the health and safety and public liability responsibilities set out in the Memorandum of Understanding.

Alderman Burns requested that his objection be noted.

Proposed by Alderman Clarke
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and agreed that

Council does not enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the Forest Service for recreational access to land at Rea's Wood, Tardree Forest and Randalstown Forest.

ACTION BY: Matt McDowell, Director of Parks and Leisure Operations

6.3 IN CONFIDENCE WM/WM/046 WASTE COLLECTION CONTRACTS

In February 2018, Council awarded the contract for the collection of the following waste:

- Residual Waste (black bin) – Newtownabbey only;
- Organic Waste (brown bin) – Antrim and Newtownabbey.

The contract was awarded to Avenue Recycling for a period of 5 years with a possible extension for up to a further five years. The initial contract end point for the Organic Waste is 30 April 2023, with the Residual Waste collection service ending on 30 June 2023.

The contract had been operating well and Council had offered Avenue Recycling the opportunity to extend the agreement but due to uncertainty over the cost of new replacement collection vehicles, the contractor was unable to commit to the current rate despite Council increasing by RPI in accordance with the contract requirements.

Therefore, Council would commence a procurement exercise in January 2023 to appoint a new contractor for the service. Officers are aware that there is market interest in providing the service.

In addition, the contract for the collection of the wheelie box recycling service in Newtownabbey is also due for renewal. Officers had envisaged that this contract would have been for both Antrim and Newtownabbey areas following the harmonisation of waste collection services, but delays in the award of the grant funding from DAERA mean that a short-term contract would be awarded for this service with a further contract in the future for both Antrim and Newtownabbey.

In summary, the waste collection contracts that would be procured in January 2023 are:

- Black (residual waste) bins (Newtownabbey only) – 5 years plus 2 years;
- Brown (organic waste) bins (Antrim & Newtownabbey) – 5 years plus 2 years;
- Wheelie Boxes (Newtownabbey only) – 12 months plus 12 months.

Members would be kept informed of progress with the procurement exercise.

Proposed by Councillor Bennington
Seconded by Councillor Foster and agreed that

the report be noted.

NO ACTION

PROPOSAL TO PROCEED OUT OF 'IN CONFIDENCE'

Proposed by Councillor Ramsay
Seconded by Alderman Girvan 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 on behalf the Vice-Chairperson and himself, wished Members and their families a Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year. The meeting concluded at 7.17pm.

MAYOR