



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN
ANTRIM CIVIC CENTRE ON 27 NOVEMBER 2017 AT 6:30 PM**

- In the Chair** : The Mayor (Councillor P Hamill)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – F Agnew, W Ball, P Barr, T Campbell,
M Cosgrove, W DeCourcy, M Girvan, J Smyth and R Swann
Councillors – A Ball, J Bingham, J Blair, P Brett, L Clarke, H
Cushinan, B Duffin, T Girvan, M Goodman, J Greer, T Hogg, D
Hollis, N Kells, N Kelly, A Logue, R Lynch, M Magill, M Maguire,
J Montgomery, S McCarthy, N McClelland, V McWilliam, P
Michael, M Rea, D Ritchie, S Ross, J Scott and W Webb.
- In Attendance** : David Porter, Divisional Roads Manager
Stephen Gardiner, Section Engineer
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - J Dixon
Director of Operations - G Girvan
Director of Community Planning and Regeneration – M
McAlister
Head of Governance – L Johnston
Borough Lawyer – P Casey
ICT Officer – John Higginson
Member Services Manager – V Lisk
Governance Support Officer - D Conlan

1 BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised Members of the audio recording procedures.

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by Rev Dr Ivan Neish.

Councillors Cushman, Goodman, Montgomery and Kelly joined the meeting at this point.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor expressed his condolences on behalf of the Council to the families of former Councillors, Mr David Neill and Mr James Graham, on their loss. He also welcomed visitors from Bombardier to the meeting.

2 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor Arthurs.

3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

4 MINUTES OF THE ANTRIM AND NEWTOWNABBEY BOROUGH COUNCIL MEETING

Moved by Councillor Duffin
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council Meeting of Monday 30 October 2017 be taken as read and signed as correct.

NO ACTION

5 MINUTES OF THE OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Councillor Rea and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Operations Committee Meeting of Monday 6 November 2017 be approved and adopted.

NO ACTION

6 MINUTES OF THE POLICY & GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Policy & Governance Committee Meeting of Tuesday 7 November 2017 be approved and adopted.

NO ACTION

7 MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITY PLANNING AND REGENERATION MEETING

Moved by Councillor Logue
Seconded by Councillor Clarke and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Community Planning and Regeneration Committee Meeting of Monday 13 November 2017 be approved and adopted.

NO ACTION

8(a) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, PART 1

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 20 November 2017, Part 1 be taken as read and signed as correct, with Item 3.6 amended to remove reference to Elected Member.

ACTION: Member Services

8(b) MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE, PART 2

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED - that the Minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee Meeting of Monday 20 November 2017, Part 2 be approved and adopted.

NO ACTION

9.1 PRESENTATION BY DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE, ROADS DIVISION

A presentation was made by Mr David Porter, Divisional Roads Manager, who was accompanied by Mr Stephen Gardiner, Section Engineer, Roads Division. An update on the current year's work, the funding position and the priorities for next year's programme was provided.

Members' questions were answered and Mr Porter agreed to contact Members individually to resolve issues.

The Mayor thanked Mr Porter for his presentation and he and Mr Gardiner left the meeting.

Councillors Hollis, McClelland and Blair, and Alderman Agnew arrived during the presentation and Alderman Campbell left.

9.2 TO APPROVE THE SEALING OF DOCUMENTS

Members were advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met:-

To approve the Sealing of Documents:

1. Deed of transfer between the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and the Council for lands at River Main Neillsbrook Randalstown.
2. Lease between the Council and Northern Ireland Electricity Networks Ltd for a substation at Lough Road Antrim.
3. Deed of Dedication between Council and the National Playing Fields Association (Fields in Trust) in relation to Lilian Bland Community Park

Moved by Councillor Magill
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and

RESOLVED - that the Sealing of Documents be approved.

ACTION BY: Paul Casey, Borough Lawyer

9.3 CE/GEN/4 TRANSPORT NI - PROPOSED DISABLED PARKING BAY - NO. ■ BUSH PARK, ANTRIM

Correspondence was received from Transport NI outlining details of their proposal to reserve an on-street disabled parking space to the front of number ■ Bush Park, Antrim (copy letter and map circulated).

A letter confirming that the Council was in agreement with this proposal was requested.

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED: that Transport NI's proposal be accepted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

9.4 CE/GEN/4 TRANSPORT NI – SCHOOL KEEP CLEAR RESTRICTIONS ON HAZELBURN ROAD AT MOSSLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL, SWANSTOWN CRESCENT AT MOSSGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL AND ELMFIELD ROAD AT ST BERNARD'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

Correspondence was received from the Department for Infrastructure, Roads Division, outlining details of proposals to introduce School Keep Clear restrictions on both sides of Hazelburn Road at Mossley Primary School,

Swanston Crescent at Mossgrove Primary School and Elmfield Road at St Bernard's Primary School (copy letter and plans circulated). DfI Roads also proposed to extend the double yellow lines on Hazelburn Road from its junction with Hollyvale to the existing road hump.

In order to improve road safety in the vicinity of the schools and assist in the safe operation of the school entrances, it was proposed to make the restrictions mandatory which could then be legally enforced when used in conjunction with a time plate.

The proposed restrictions prohibited any waiting at these locations from 8 am – 3.30 pm, Monday to Friday from 1 September to 30 June.

Any comments to be forwarded to Traffic Management, County Hall, 182 Galgorm Road, Ballymena, BT42 1QG.

Moved by Councillor Alderman Barr
Seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED: that Transport NI's proposal be accepted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

9.5 CE/GEN/4 TRANSPORT NI - PROPOSED DISABLED PARKING BAY – NO ■ TARRAGON PARK, ANTRIM

Correspondence was received from the Department for Infrastructure outlining details of their proposal to reserve an on-street disabled parking space to the side of number ■ Tarragon Park, Antrim (copy letter and map circulated).

A letter confirming that the Council is in agreement with this proposal was requested.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Kells

RESOLVED: that Transport NI's proposal be accepted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

9.6 CE/GEN/4 TRANSPORT NI - PROPOSED DISABLED PARKING BAY – NO ■ – GEORGE GARDENS, BALLYCLARE

Correspondence was received from the Department for Infrastructure outlining details of their proposal to reserve an on-street disabled parking space outside number ■ George Gardens, Ballyclare (copy letter and map circulated).

A letter confirming that the Council is in agreement with this proposal was requested.

Moved by Alderman Girvan and
Seconded by Councillor Girvan

RESOLVED: that Transport NI's proposal be accepted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

9.7 CE/GEN/4 TRANSPORT NI - PROPOSED DISABLED PARKING BAY – NO [REDACTED] CAULSIDE PARK, ANTRIM

Correspondence was received from the Department for Infrastructure outlining details of their proposal to reserve an on-street disabled parking space to the front of number [REDACTED] Caulside Park, Antrim (copy letter and map circulated).

A letter confirming that the Council is in agreement with this proposal was requested.

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Councillor Ritchie and

RESOLVED: that Transport NI's proposal be accepted.

ACTION BY: Member Services

9.8 CP/CD/12 THE FIRE BRIGADES UNION – ANTRIM FIRE STATION

Correspondence was received from the Fire Brigades Union (copy circulated) in relation to the NIFRS' decision to reduce cover at Antrim Fire Station and requesting an opportunity to meet with the Council.

Members were reminded that correspondence from NIFRS in relation to this had been noted at the Council Meeting in October 2017.

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED: the Fire Brigades Union be invited to make a presentation to the Policy and Governance Committee.

ACTION BY: Member Services

9.9 CE/GEN/79 THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE – PREPARATIONS FOR EU EXIT

Correspondence was received from The NI Executive Office on preparations for the EU Exit (circulated). Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS) had delivered

a seminar for senior Council officials on 27 October and were keen to further engage with local government on a more systematic basis in relation to Business Continuity Planning and Legislation. In both cases, the overall objective was to ensure that Council is ready for the point at which the UK leaves the EU in terms of having plans in place to manage risks and capitalise on opportunities.

The extent of the work required would only become apparent once an initial analysis had been carried out. Northern Ireland Civil Service were happy to provide Day 1 Delivery Planning guidance based on the approach being taken centrally and were keen for the scoping process to commence as soon as possible. Councils were requested to propose one point of contact for each Northern Ireland Civil Service Department through which any queries could be directed.

Moved by Councillor Kells
 Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that the Chief Executive be the point of contact until there is clarity around the level of resource required for this matter and that the overall costs, including staff costs, be reported to Council in due course.

ACTION BY: Denise Waddell, PA to Chief Executive

9.10 ED/REG/18 BELFAST CITY DEAL

Members were reminded of the previous report to the Council in August 2017 at which point a long list of projects was proposed for consideration under the City Deal. Representatives from KPMG then presented to the Corporate Workshop in October highlighting that the key focus of projects should be increased productivity that would deliver; more jobs, better jobs and assist areas of disadvantage/social need. The consultants had asked the Councils involved to shortlist around 5 projects from their respective long lists which could meet the criteria for City Deal. Officers had undertaken this task and produced the schedule (circulated) with the following projects prioritised.

Priority 1 Projects	New Roads Infrastructure to Belfast International Airport (M2 connection)
	Belfast International Airport Enterprise Zone (or Development Zone)
	Railway Halt at Merville, Shore Road to facilitate Abbeycentre area.
	Extension of Glider (Belfast's Rapid Transport system) from Belfast out to Mallusk via Glengormley and/or Shore Road
	Ballyclare Relief Road
	Additional workspace for the Enterprise Parks and workspace/office space in town centres
	Extension of Mossley Railway Halt and car parking facilities.
	Global Point - Asset Transfer Project

Members noted that a range of other projects was included on the long list some of which may be delivered by the Council in partnership with other key stakeholders, eg Glengormley Public Realm.

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor Bingham and

RESOLVED: that the Priority 1 projects listed be forwarded to KPMG for inclusion in the City Deal considerations and the specified actions progressed.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Community Planning & Regeneration

9.11 CP/CD/205 CHRISTMAS EVENTS 2018 AND BEYOND

Members were reminded that at the Council meeting held in September, it was agreed that proposals for future Christmas events incorporating a 50% reduction in costs be submitted to a Council meeting before the end of the year.

Members were also reminded that options for the delivery of the Council's Christmas programme were presented and discussed at the Corporate Workshop in October. These options focused on reducing the level of expenditure to £230,000. This reduction had already been factored into the draft estimates for 2018/19.

The 2 options presented focussed on either 2 large events in Antrim and Glengormley or alternatively 4 main events in Antrim and Randalstown and Glengormley and Ballyclare. The circulated summary of options detailed the costs associated with each, both of which could be met from the budget of £230,000.

Members were advised that some groups currently applied under the Community Festivals Fund Programme for Christmas activities and it was proposed that this continue. Relevant groups would be informed of the Council's decision.

Depending on the option selected and the remaining available budget, Officers would bring back a further report on Christmas light features on main arterial routes in the Borough.

Moved by Councillor Brett
Seconded by Councillor Kells

that Option 2 be approved.

AMENDMENT

Moved by Councillor Webb
Seconded by Councillor Logue

that Option 2 be deferred pending a further review of the proposal with a view to including activities in Crumlin within the existing budget

A recorded vote having been requested, Members voted as follows on the proposal:

In favour of the Amendment 18 Members viz	Against the Amendment 18 Members viz	Abstention 1 Member viz
Aldermen Agnew, Cosgrove, Swann Councillors Cushman, Logue, Goodman, Duffin, McClelland, Rea, Michael, Maguire, McCarthy, Bingham, McWilliam, Kelly, Webb, Lynch, Blair,	Aldermen DeCourcy, Smyth, Girvan, Barr, Ball Councillor Ball, Clarke, Kells, Ritchie, Greer, Girvan, Montgomery, Hogg, Hamill, Scott, Magill, Brett, Ross,	Councillor Hollis

18 Members voted in favour of the amendment, 18 voted against and 1 abstained. The Mayor then used his casting vote against the amendment and it was accordingly declared lost.

The Mayor then put Councillor Brett's original proposal to the meeting and on a vote of 19 Members in favour, 16 against and 2 abstentions it was

RESOLVED: that Option 2 be approved.

Councillor Logue requested that an Equality Impact Assessment be carried out in relation to the decision. The Chief Executive advised that the normal screening procedure would be applied and thereafter, if necessary, an Equality Impact Assessment would be conducted.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

9.12 PK/CP/001/VOL4 FREE CAR PARKING 2017 THE ENCHANTED WINTER GARDEN

Members were reminded that car parking for the Enchanted Winter Garden 2017 would be in town centre car parks. The combined capacity of the town centre car parks is 950 spaces to accommodate visitors to the event and the Old Courthouse as well as town centre shoppers.

To ensure that car parking could be managed as effectively as possible it was proposed that:

- (i) Railway Street car park be free of charge from 3pm each day for the duration of the event (Friday 8 to Tuesday 19 December inclusive)

It was estimated that the potential loss in car parking fees would be between £400 and £500 (parking is currently 3 hours for 10p).

- (ii) a park and ride service be put in place in partnership with The Junction.

Sales to date for Enchanted Winter Garden indicated attendances of around 5,000 each evening with 75% of these visitors expected to be from outside of the Borough and travelling by car. The Junction had indicated that they could facilitate a park and ride service throughout the event at a cost of £2,849, having been able to access very favourable rates from Translink. This would both increase the capacity for parking and potentially benefit retailers in The Junction.

Members noted that The Junction had agreed to sponsor the 'Inclusive' Enchantment evening on Friday 8 December in the amount of £2,500.

Moved by Councillor Kelly
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED: that approval be given

- (i) **for free car parking at Railway Street car park, Antrim from 3pm each day from Friday 8 December until Tuesday 19 December**
- (ii) **for the operation of a park and ride service from The Junction to the town centre throughout the duration of Enchanted Winter Garden at a cost of £2,849.**

ACTION BY: Ivor McMullan, Head of Parks

9.13 EH/GEN/007 THE ROADS (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2010: PROHIBITION OR RESTRICTION OF USE OF PUBLIC ROADS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS

Members were reminded that at the October meeting of the Council it was resolved that a policy on the Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Public Roads for Special Events be deferred for consideration at the next Council meeting.

A draft working policy was circulated and will be reviewed over the next 6 months to ensure that it meets the needs of the Council in carrying out this new statutory function.

The draft policy set out what the legislation covers and excludes, the timeframe for the application process and costs. It was proposed that small events (defined in Appendix 1) should attract no administrative nor advertising charges, while all other events should be charged at £165 for administration and £100 for advertising costs.

Delegated powers

In order to streamline the application process, it was proposed that Council delegates the decision to grant a Closure Order to the Director of Operations and the Head of Environmental Health where applications have been made without objection. Where written representations are made, the application would be referred to Council for decision.

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED: that

- (i) the proposed draft working policy for the Roads (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act (Northern Ireland) 2010: Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Public Roads for Special Events be approved and reviewed over a 6 month period;**
- (ii) authority to grant applications for Closure Orders be delegated to the Director of Operations and the Head of Environmental Health where applications are made without objection.**

ACTION BY: Clifford Todd, Head of Environmental Health

9.14 CE/GEN/61 CORPORATE WORKSHOP 2017

Members were reminded that the Corporate Workshop was held in Mossley Mill, Council Chamber on Thursday 19 October 2017.

The Workshop focused on Performance 2017/18 and the Corporate Improvement Plan progress. Reports were provided on Capital Projects and Capital Expenditure, Corporate Financial Position Proposals for Revenue Savings and Proposed Draft Estimates.

Ashleen Feeney, KPMG, Director of Business Development in NI had given a presentation relating to City Deal.

A workshop report including appendices was circulated (Appendix A), along with the presentation slides (Appendix B) for Members' information.

Moved by Councillor Maguire
Seconded by Alderman Smyth and

RESOLVED: that the 2017 Corporate Workshop Report be approved.

ACTION BY: Andrea McCooke, Director of Organisation Development

9.15 CE/GEN/076 HEATHROW LOGISTICS HUB

Members were aware that the Expression of Interest submitted in partnership with Mid & East Antrim Council for a Heathrow Logistics Hub was successful and that we have been invited to proceed to the next stage.

In order to prepare for Stage 2, a Steering Group needed to be established including 6 elected members from both Councils.

Members considered nominating a representative from each of the main political parties to the Steering Group.

The date proposed for the first meeting of the Steering Group is 18 December at 11 am in Ballymena followed by lunch and a meeting with the other key Stakeholders. It was also proposed that a further meeting of the Steering Group will be held on Tuesday 16 January when a visit to each of the sites will take place.

Draft Terms of Reference would be developed for the Steering Group and the Councils for consideration.

Joint Branding is currently being developed to reflect the partnership nature of the bid.

Members noted that there are 2 other bids in place based in Northern Ireland and it was proposed that we should engage with these with a view to developing further partnerships.

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Alderman Cosgrove and

RESOLVED: that the Chief Executive write to Group Leaders in relation to nominations to the Heathrow Logistics Hub Steering Group.

ACTION BY: Majella McAlister, Director of Community Planning & Regeneration

9.16 ED/REG/2 BALLYCLARE TOWN TEAM: PROPOSED ACTION PLAN 2017-18

Members were reminded that the Ballyclare Town Centre Action Plan 2017-18 was approved by the Council in April 2017 with a total indicative budget of £22,000 for the following projects:

BALLYCLARE TOWN TEAM ACTION PLAN 2017-18 (BUDGET ALLOCATION £22,000)

Project	Indicative budget
1. Local Business Awards campaign	£3,000
2. Town 'App' development and marketing campaign	£3,500

3. Google Tours (for 20 businesses)	£3,000
4. Merchandising mentoring (for 14 businesses)	£3,000
5. Town Centre Networking events (3 events)	£1,000
6. Festive lighting	£4,000
7. Christmas Marketing campaign	£2,000
8. Unallocated budget: further proposals to be brought back to the Council for approval later in the year	£2,500
Total	£22,000

The Action Plan includes £3,500 for the development of a town centre 'app' and associated marketing campaign. However, recent research had shown that low cost 'apps' have not been effective in increasing footfall into town centres and that a much larger budget would be required to develop an 'app' that would create the necessary impact. The Town Team therefore proposed that the Action Plan should focus on a series of targeted marketing campaigns highlighting the offer from independent retailers and range of coffee shops supported by low cost car parking in Ballyclare.

In addition, seasonal campaigns will be developed from December 2017 through to March 2018 focussing on Christmas, New Year sales and home improvement in the Spring season. It was further proposed that the unallocated budget of £2,500 be used to support these marketing campaigns creating a total promotional budget of £8,000 (including Christmas).

Moved by Councillor Bingham
Seconded by Alderman Girvan and

RESOLVED: that:

- a) the £3,500 budget for the town centre 'app' be used for marketing campaigns, and;
- b) the £2,500 unallocated to the Town Team be added to support the marketing campaigns creating a total budget for promotional activities in Ballyclare town centre of £8,000 (including Christmas)

ACTION BY: Vanessa Postle, Tourism, Town Centre & Regeneration Officer

9.17 CP/GR/50 GOOD RELATIONS ACTION PLAN 2017/2018

Members were reminded that an annual submission is made by the Council to The Executive Office (TEO) requesting financial assistance for the delivery of a local Good Relations Action Plan. TEO has calculated, as part of a Gap Analysis, that there is £20,000 of additional funding available for the District Council Good Relations Programme in the Antrim and Newtownabbey Council area. This additional funding will be provided by TEO without any match funded element required from the Council.

It was proposed that the additional funding be allocated to the following programmes:

- | | |
|--|--------|
| • Reclaiming Space through Animation Programme | £3,000 |
| • Cultural Awareness Scheme (Christmas Around the World) | £7,000 |
| • Moving Forward Together | £7,500 |
| • Citizenship and Accredited Training Programme | £2,500 |

Moved by Councillor Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and

RESOLVED: that the amendments to the Good Relations Action Plan 2017/18 be approved and the additional funding of £20,000 be accepted and utilised as outlined.

ACTION BY: Valerie Crozier-Nicholl, Good Relations Officer

9.18 CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER SECTION 26 OF THE PLANNING ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011 FOLLOWING A NOTICE OF OPINION ON AN APPLICATION OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE – REFERENCE LA03/2015/0234/F

The Department for Infrastructure had written to the Council to advise that it has issued a Notice of Opinion that planning permission should be refused for the following regionally significant planning application (copy of the letter and the accompanying Notice of Opinion circulated).

Application Reference: LA03/2015/0234/F
Proposal: 50MW Solar Farm
Location: Lands located East and West of Whappstown Road and to the North of Doagh Road, Northwest of Kells, Co Antrim.
Applicant: Elgin Energy

Full details of the application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal www.planningni.gov.uk

The Notice of Opinion contained three reasons for refusal summarised as follows:

- the unacceptable adverse impact of the proposal on the visual amenity and landscape character of the rural area by reason of siting and scale;
- the unacceptable adverse impact of the proposal on residential amenity by reason of noise nuisance; and
- that construction traffic associated with the proposed development would have an unacceptable adverse impact of the proposal on the safety and convenience of road users.

The proposed development site straddles the Council's boundary with Mid and East Antrim Borough Council with the larger portion of the site lying within the Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council area as shown on the map attached.

Following an earlier consultation by the then Department of the Environment on this application, the Council had previously agreed not to provide a corporate view and this position was conveyed to the Department in writing in November 2015.

Having now issued an opinion that planning permission should be refused to the application without the need for a public local enquiry the Department, as required by Section 26 (11) of the Planning Act, had written to the Council to ascertain if it wished to request an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Planning Appeals Commission on the application. It was noted that the Department was also required to write to Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and the applicant in a similar fashion.

If a hearing was requested by either Council or the applicant, the Department must take into account the report of this hearing. However the final decision on a regionally significant planning application such as this would rest with the Department.

Moved by Councillor Greer
Seconded by Alderman Swann and

RESOLVED: that the Notice of Opinion be noted.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

9.19 CONSULTATION BY THE DEPARTMENT FOR INFRASTRUCTURE UNDER SECTION 26 OF THE PLANNING ACT (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2011 FOLLOWING A NOTICE OF OPINION ON AN APPLICATION OF REGIONAL SIGNIFICANCE – REFERENCE U/2014/0096/F

The Department for Infrastructure had written to the Council to advise that it had issued a Notice of Opinion that planning permission should be granted subject to conditions for the following regionally significant planning application (copy of letter and the accompanying Notice of Opinion circulated).

Application Reference: U/2014/0096/F
Proposal: Quarry and Inert Landfill
Location: Hard Rock quarry immediately north east of Hightown Landfill, 59 Upper Hightown Road, Newtownabbey
Applicant: Laura McLaughlin

Full details of the application, including the application forms, relevant drawings, consultation responses and any representations received are available to view at the Planning Portal www.planningni.gov.uk

Following an earlier consultation by the then Department of the Environment on this application, the Council had previously agreed not to provide a corporate view and this position was conveyed to the Department in writing in November 2015.

Having now issued a Notice of Opinion that planning permission should be granted to the application without the need for a public local enquiry, the Department, as required by Section 26 (11) of the Planning Act, had written to the Council to ascertain if it wished to request an opportunity of appearing before and being heard by the Planning Appeals Commission on the application. It was noted that the Department is also required to write to the applicant in a similar fashion.

If a hearing was requested by the Council or the applicant, the Department must take into account the report of this hearing. However the final decision on a regionally significant planning application such as this would rest with the Department.

Moved by Councillor Hogg
Seconded by Councillor Kells and

RESOLVED: that the Notice of Opinion be noted.

ACTION BY: John Linden, Head of Planning

9.20 L/P/7 BEST KEPT AWARDS

Correspondence had been received from Doreen E A Muskett, President of the Northern Ireland Amenity Council expressing thanks to Council for affiliating and supporting the Best Kept Awards programme (*circulated*).

The correspondence advised that this year has been most successful and it was only with the help of local councils and volunteers that the Best Kept Awards initiative continued to grow each year.

Moved by Councillor Bingham
Seconded by Councillor Magill and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

9.21 G/MSMO/021 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COUNCILLORS – UK EVENTS 2018

Communication had been received from the National Association of Councillors providing a list of forthcoming NAC UK events that Members may like to attend (copy circulated). Any Member who wished to attend one of these events was requested to contact Member Services.

Moved by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Duffin and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

9.22 CE/GEN/78 NORTHERN IRELAND WATER – DUNORE POINT RENEWABLE ENERGY SCHEME GETS UNDERWAY

Correspondence had been received from Northern Ireland Water advising that work had commenced to develop a solar farm to supply electricity to Dunore Water Treatment Works (circulated). It was expected that work would be completed by late March 2018.

The £7million project would involve work on a 33-acre site on the eastern shore of Lough Neagh, in close proximity to the existing Dunore Point Water Treatment Works on Dunore Road near Crumlin. The aim of the project is to supply the energy requirements to Dunore Point Water Treatment Works and the project is expected to result in annual savings of around £500,000 in energy costs.

During the works, increased traffic in the area may be noticed due to the delivery and installation of solar panels. NI Water and their contractor GRAHAM Construction intended to do everything they could to keep any disruption to a minimum.

Members referred to this initiative as an example of best practice.

Moved by Councillor Michael
Seconded by Councillor Logue and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

9.23 CE/OA/9 NI INVESTMENT FUND – PUBLIC SECTOR STAKEHOLDER WORKSHOPS

Members were advised that on 15 November 2017, the Department for Finance announced a new £100m Investment Fund for Northern Ireland. A copy of the press release can be viewed at <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/news/ps100m-investment-fund-promote-investment-jobs-and-growth>

Members were informed that Will Church from CBRE would be in Belfast on 21 November and 6 December 2017 to run a number of 1 hour workshops in CBRE's Belfast offices. The Chief Executive and the Director of Community Planning & Regeneration will attend a workshop on 6 December 2017 and update Members in due course.

Moved by Alderman Cosgrove
Seconded by Councillor Kells and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

9.24 FI/FIN/4 BUDGET REPORT – OCTOBER 2017

A budget report for October 2017 was circulated for Members' information.

For the period, the Council's variance on Net Cost of Services was £1.1m favourable, with income from the District Rates and De-Rating Grant being in line with their respective budgets.

Members were advised that should this favourable variance on services continue to the end of the financial year, this would result in an increase to the General Fund of £321k against a budgeted decrease of £757k

Moved by Councillor Scott
Seconded by Councillor Maguire and

RESOLVED: that the report be noted.

NO ACTION

9.25 CE/GEN/74 ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN – QUARTER TWO UPDATE

Members recalled that at the Council meeting on 30 May 2017, Members agreed a new approach to business planning with a review after six months.

The consolidated Annual Business Plan replaced the separate Service business plans that were produced in previous years. The Plan contains all key projects to be undertaken in the 2017/18 financial year and therefore includes, inter alia, the seven projects identified as Corporate Improvement projects.

In summary, the revised Annual Business Plan approach has proved a more streamlined method of tracking and analysing performance, providing enhanced visibility.

The approved Annual Business Plan 2017-18 contains 198 actions to be delivered and a detailed progress report in terms of the achievement of these actions was circulated for Members' attention.

Using a traffic light scale, a high-level summary of the progress to date as at quarter two is as follows:

Actions	Number
Achieved	10
On track and likely to be achieved	180
Concerns re: achievement of target (At Risk)	8

Notable areas of achievement

Some notable areas of achievement are as follows:

1. Planning

(Please note that the following information relates to Quarter 1 data; as validated information for Quarter 2 is not yet available.

- a. Major planning applications - The Planning Service took 28.6 weeks to process and decide Major planning applications during the first quarter against the target of 30 weeks. This performance is a marked improvement on last year's overall major performance (which averaged 73.6 weeks) and ranks among the top three of the 11 Councils. This represents a 61% reduction in turnaround times.
- b. Local Planning applications - The Planning Service took 11.6 weeks to process and decide local planning applications during the first quarter against the target of 15 weeks. This performance shows continued improvement in average processing time (the average time taken in 2016/17 was 12.6 weeks) and again ranks among the top three of the 11 Councils. This represents a 61% reduction in turnaround times.
- c. The planning enforcement team ranked first in terms of other Councils, recording 16.4 weeks to process 70% of enforcement cases to target conclusion (32.8 weeks is the average processing time across all Councils). The team's performance also ranked first in the proportion of cases brought to target conclusion within the performance target of 39 weeks.

2. Waste Management

- a. 54.03% household waste recycled (Quarter 1), against a target of 49%. This compares favourably with quarter 1 (2016-17) which was 51.3%.
 - b. 59.5% of municipal waste (Quarter 1) is recycled, ranked first out of 11 Councils).
3. **Cleanliness:** 62% resident satisfaction with the level of cleanliness in their area. (2016-17: 43%).

4. **Environmental Health:** There has been a 60% increase (from the same period last year) in the number of online dog licenses issued. This is against a target increase of 10%.
5. **Leisure:** The Council introduced a new leisure membership scheme and pricing policy in October, supported by an innovative branding and marketing campaign. Initial 'take-up' of the new memberships is very encouraging. Results as at 17 November 2017: 5,416 direct debit members; 477 Members who have paid up-front. (2016-17: 5180 members). As at quarter two there is a 14% increase in the number of people taking out leisure memberships.
6. **Environmental Management:** The Council was award silver accreditation in the NI Environmental Benchmarking Survey (Arena Network). This survey allows organisations to evaluate how well they are managing their environmental impact and benchmark their performance against their peers and against their own performance year-on-year.
7. **Conferencing and Meetings:** There has been 100% client satisfaction with conferencing and hospitality service in quarter two for Mossley Mill and Antrim Civic Centre.
8. **Visitor attractions and Museum and Heritage facilities:** Almost 202,000 visitors are recorded as attending the Council's visitor attractions, museum and heritage facilities. Antrim Castle Gardens (187,203); Museum at the Mill (9,000); Sentry Hill (4,049); Pogues Entry (956) and the White House (697).
9. **Capital Projects:** Numerous capital projects have been completed in the period [April –November 2017] i.e. Reception area at Ballyearl Arts and Leisure Centre; V36 additional work; Randalstown Multi Use Games Area; Public Realm schemes completed at: Carnmoney Road, Glengormley; New Street, Randalstown; Rashee Road, Ballyclare and Bridge Street Antrim; In addition the development of public area and allotment at Knockenagh Avenue was completed. In addition, maintenance was completed at nine of the Council's play-parks; floor refurbishment in a Sports Hall in Antrim Forum; new bridge at Grange Lane, development of a public space at Randalstown and environmental improvements carried out at Abbots Cross.
10. **Customer satisfaction** is up 10% and is currently recorded at 80%, versus 70% in 2016-17.
11. **Staff attendance:** Significant progress has been made in term of increasing staff attendance. As at 31 August 2017 the average number of days lost per employee equates to 4.65 days, which is below the agreed maximum tolerable level of 5.95 days. In addition, 73% of employees have 100% staff attendance levels. This is significantly improved from the 2016-17 position of 53%.

12. **Annual Accounts:** The 2016-17 annual accounts received an unqualified audit opinion.

13. **Prompt payment:**

For the quarter to 30 Sept 2017:

- a. 67% of invoices are paid within 10 working days (2016-17: 49.5%) and ranked 3rd across 11 Councils.
- b. 85% of invoices are paid within 30 working days (2016-17: 83.7%) and ranked 4th across 11 Councils.

14. **Quality Awards:** The Council has been successful in terms of the achievement of quality awards:

- a. Antrim Castle Gardens Team achieved the Best Service Team Award at the APSE awards.
- b. Samuel Hyndman achieved the Employee of the Year Award at the NILGA Local Government Awards.
- c. The Communications Team achieved the Outstanding In-House Public Relations Team and Public Sector Team of the Year Awards at the CIPR Northern Ireland Pride Awards.

15. **Insurance:** Progress has been made in terms of the number of insurance cases settled which are attributed to the Council. Quarter 1: 33% and Quarter 2: 29%.

Concerns re: achievement of target (At Risk)

A number of actions had been assessed as 'amber' (at risk) and a more detailed report would be provided to the most appropriate Committee in due course. However, by way of a brief summary eight areas were assessed 'at risk' where the agreed targets may not be met. These are summarised as follows:

Union disengagement: The disengagement of the three recognised trade unions in April 2017 has had an impact on three of the projects / objectives as set out in the annual business plan:

- (i) the implementation of a new employee relations framework with JCNC meetings;
- (ii) the target to reduce the number of payroll routines from 25 to 12; and
- (iii) the installation of GPS and 360-camera technology on Council fleet.

Funding: Delays in government departments agreeing their budgets, as well as the rates issue (as a result of the Lands Tribunal decision) has impacted on the following objectives / projects

- (i) there may be a reduced number of commercial properties enhanced during the year due to the availability of central government funding;
- (ii) Members agreed to defer some of its expenditure associated with the delivery of its tourism strategy.

- (iii) Uncertainty in respect of central government funding for tourism could also impact on the number of initiatives delivered which may support the local tourism industry in attracting more visitors to the Borough.
- (iv) A delayed commitment to proceed from the Department of Communities for public realm schemes and other challenges such as weather/variations on other capital development projects may mean that the agreed target of 70% of projects completed on the programme at construction award stage may not be met at the year end.

The above issues are largely outside of the control of the Council.

The final area where concerns had been raised regarding the achievement of the objective was in relation to Health and Safety. As at quarter two, there had been five reportable RIDDOR (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations) incidents. This showed an increase on the prior year (four recorded in 2016-17). A plan was in place to proactively manage health and safety, which included a health and safety audit programme to identify areas for improvement and action. In addition, accident investigation training would be delivered to strengthen current processes and reduce the likelihood of recurrence.

Moved by Councillor Maguire
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

RESOLVED: that the Annual Business Plan Quarter Two update be noted.

NO ACTION

The Mayor advised that Motions 10.1 and 10.2 would be taken at this point.

10 **MOTIONS**

- 10.1 Proposed by Councillor Roisin Lynch
Seconded by Councillor Brian Duffin

Universal Credit

"This Council notes the well documented and evidenced hardship caused in England, Scotland and Wales by the roll out of Universal Credit; this Council calls for an immediate halt to the rollout of Universal Credit across Northern Ireland to protect the most vulnerable and the disadvantaged from poverty, rent arrears and homelessness; and commits to writing to party leaders calling on them to work together to deliver a system that is fair, practical and compassionate."

Various Members spoke to the Motion being put to the meeting and all Members present agreed.

RESOLVED – that the Notice of Motion be declared carried.

ACTION BY: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

- 10.2 Proposed by Alderman Smyth
Seconded by Councillor Montgomery

“Whereas this Council, Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council, recognises the vital significance of Bombardier Aerospace, formerly Shorts, for the Northern Ireland economy, with four thousand three hundred workers directly employed and a further twenty thousand employed indirectly in the supply chain or through induced economic activity; we express our profound concern at the threat posed to these jobs by the recent protectionist judgements by the US International Trade Commission which effectively placed a 300% surcharge on the C Series aircraft in an attempt to close the US market; it is resolved to express our full solidarity with the workforce and company at this time of trial and propose to write directly to the Prime Minister Theresa May MP to request that the government make it known to Boeing that if they do not withdraw their case then they will be excluding themselves from UK procurement opportunities both current and future; it is further resolved to write to the European Trade Commissioner to request an immediate escalation through existing trade disputes mechanisms.”

Various Members spoke to the Motion being put to the meeting and all Members present agreed.

RESOLVED – that the Notice of Motion be declared carried.

ACTION: Jacqui Dixon, Chief Executive

Members of staff left the meeting at this point

MOTION TO PROCEED ‘IN COMMITTEE’

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Councillor Scott and

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

9.26 IN CONFIDENCE HR/GEN/4 CHRISTMAS EVE 2017

Members were reminded that in line with the requirements of the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006 (TUPE), employees from the former Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils and the former Northern Ireland Civil Service Planning Department, transferred to the new Council on 1 April 2015.

Members were advised that the purpose of TUPE was to protect employees if the organisation in which they were employed changed hands. Its effect is to transfer employees and any liabilities associated with them, from the old employer to the new employer by operation of law.

To this end, all employees from the former Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Councils and the former Northern Ireland Civil Service Planning Department, had transferred to the new Council in accordance with their existing terms and conditions, in line with our legal obligations.

Whilst there is no legal requirement to review the pay, grading, terms and conditions for existing staff, the Council recognises the importance of building on the efficiencies envisaged through the RPA. Also, in the interests of creating a cultural environment that engages our staff to deliver service excellence, a provisional review of pay, grading, terms and conditions is in progress, albeit delayed due to Trade Union disengagement on collaborative issues. An update report would be made to Members in due course.

Last year Members considered a request made by the Trade Unions to extend to all staff a half day holiday for Christmas Eve.

Historically, legacy Newtownabbey Borough Council had a half day for Christmas Eve. When Christmas Eve was on a Saturday or Sunday, the half day was taken on the preceding Friday. Where it was not possible to close the service early, a half day leave in lieu was awarded, to be taken by agreement at a later date.

Since 2015, Members had approved the half day Christmas Eve for all staff as a goodwill gesture and Members may wish to consider granting a half day Christmas Eve this year as a further goodwill gesture for the continued staff achievements.

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Councillor Blair and

RESOLVED: that staff be granted a half day holiday for Christmas Eve 2017.

ACTION BY: Joan Cowan, Head of Human Resources

MOTION TO PROCEED 'OUT OF COMMITTEE'

Moved by Councillor Kells
Seconded by Alderman Smyth 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 their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8.45 pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 1998 and legal advice.