

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, on Wednesday 1 May 2024 at 6pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor C McCready (Chairperson)

Deputy Mayor  
Councillor G McCleave

Aldermen J Baird, M Gregg and J Tinsley

Councillors S Burns, P Catney, G Hynds, J Lavery BEM,  
A McIntyre, M McKeever, R McLernon and N Parker**IN ATTENDANCE:****In Chamber:**Acting Director of Environmental Services (RH)  
Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability) (CD)  
Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) (WM)  
Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) (SC)  
Member Services Officers (CR, RN)**Commencement of the Meeting**

Councillors A McIntyre and R McLernon arrived to the meeting at 6.01 pm and 6.02 pm respectively.

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, welcomed those present to the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, which would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business. He stated that, whilst the meeting was being recorded, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting.

The Acting Director of Environmental Services proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Apologies**

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Vice-Chairperson, Councillor R Carlin, Alderman S Skillen and Councillor P Kennedy. The Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, advised that Alderman J Tinsley would be arriving late to the meeting.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services

3.1 LHLN/KNIB – Small Grants Funding 2023/2024 Report

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a report in respect of the project summary, funding for and impact for the six community groups which had availed of Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful 'Live Here Love Here' small grants funding.

The Acting Director of Environmental Services answered a number of queries raised by Members and, following discussion, it was agreed that:

- (a) Councillor N Parker would be provided with information on the number of groups that had availed of this funding previously; and
- (b) Alderman M Gregg would be provided with a copy of an email from KNIB in response to comments he had made previously about it having provided paper correspondence to Elected Members which was counter-productive towards its drive to Net Zero.

3.2 Change to June 2024 Environment and Sustainability Committee Start Time

Alderman J Tinsley arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.21 pm).

The Acting Director of Environmental Services reported that the regular scheduled monthly meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee coincided with the Council's proposed D-Day celebrations in June. It was recommended that the meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee on 5 June be commenced at 5.30 pm, in order to facilitate the Regeneration and Growth Committee meeting taking place at 7.00 pm that evening.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney and seconded by Councillor G Hynds that the Environment and Sustainability Committee commence at 5.30 pm on 5 June to accommodate the meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee starting at 7.00 pm.

It was proposed by Councillor M McKeever and seconded by Alderman M Gregg that, as a 5.30 pm start time would not be suitable for a number of Members, the meeting commence at its normal time of 6.00 pm.

Lengthy discussion ensued during which the Chairperson of the Regeneration and Growth Committee, Councillor J Lavery, stated that, subject to agreement by that Committee, it could commence at 7.30 pm on 5 June in order to afford the Environment and Sustainability Committee adequate time to consider the business on its agenda should its commencement time remain at 6.00 pm.

3.2 Change to June 2024 Environment and Sustainability Committee Start Time (Contd)

During discussion, concern was raised regarding the amount of business being brought to Committee meetings and the Acting Director of Environmental Services was requested to provide a report to a future meeting in respect of those items that were no longer required to be presented to Committee, such as street naming.

The proposal by Councillor P Catney was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared 'lost', the voting being 3 in favour and 7 against.

The proposal by Councillor M McKeever was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, was declared 'carried', the voting being 7 in favour and none against.

4. Report by the Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability)

4.1 Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a report in relation to the Climate Change (Reporting Bodies) Regulations (NI) 2024 and the legislative dates for submission of adaptation and mitigation reports.

5. Report by the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning)

5.1 Eat Well Spend Less Event

Members noted from the Officer's report, information on the recent Eat Well Spend Less event.

Having commented on the success of this event, the Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, asked that a report be presented to a future meeting of the Committee regarding the financial implications of running this on an annual basis. This was supported by Alderman M Gregg.

The Chairperson, Councillor C McCready, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

6. Any Other Business (Agenda Item 7.0 refers)

6.1 Communication with Members on Council Initiatives Councillor N Parker

Councillor N Parker referred to a recent visit to Lagan Valley Island by the Minister for Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs after the Council had secured £30,000 funding from the DAERA Environment Fund, which had been used to purchase an environmentally friendly piece of equipment used for weed control.

6.1 Communication with Members on Council Initiatives (Contd)  
Councillor N Parker

Officers took note of comments by Councillor Parker regarding the importance of communicating such initiatives to Members in order that they could highlight and promote these within in their communities.

6.2 Hybrid Meetings  
Alderman M Gregg

Alderman M Gregg referred to a workshop that had taken place the previous evening but which had not been available for Members to attend on a remote basis. Officers took note of comments made regarding the option being provided for Members to attend future meetings/workshops, of a non-decision making nature, remotely.

6.3 Derelict Buildings  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds referred to derelict buildings within Lisburn City Centre, particularly in Seymour Street, Castle Street and Bridge Street. He thanked the Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability) and this team for assistance provided to date and asked what more could be done to address this issue. Officers pointed out that this matter was not the function of a single Department within the Council and a number of units worked together to deal with this. They explained what could be done within the legislation that existed, but some things were outside of the Council's control. Officers would continue to engage with each other and with the owners of such buildings and remind them of their responsibilities to maintain safe buildings.

6.4 Dog Fouling Signs  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds thanked staff for having erected new dog fouling signs in Milltown and asked, when new signs were created, if existing ones were automatically replaced or if this was done upon request. The Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) advised that signs were moved periodically. Signs were erected in hot spot areas where genuine need existed.

6.5 Council Off-Street Car Parking Arrangements  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds referred to recent changes in relation to off-street car parking and asked if there was a change to the charge on the parking app. The Acting Director of Environmental Services confirmed that the same opportunities existed as before, in that payments could be made via the app or using coins, and tariffs had not changed. The Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) pointed out that there was an option on the app to receive text reminders and there was a charge for that. This was automatically applied unless users opted out. Members suggested that communication be issued by the

6.5 Council Off-Street Car Parking Arrangements (Contd)  
Councillor G Hynds

Council to address confusion that existed amongst the public in respect of recent changes to car parking arrangements and to advise of the need to opt out of receiving text reminders on the new app.

6.6 Removal of Surface Debris from River Lagan  
Alderman M Gregg

Alderman M Gregg referred to information he had sent previously to the Acting Director of Environmental Services regarding a system for removing surface debris from the River Lagan and asked that a report on this matter be brought to the September meeting of the Committee, if possible.

6.7 Wildflower Meadows  
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney commended the Council on its wildflower meadows the previous year and asked if there were any plans to roll this out again. The Acting Director of Environmental Services having advised that this would be a matter for the Parks and Amenities Unit within the Communities and Wellbeing Directorate, Councillor Catney asked that his comments be passed on.

7. Confidential Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services (Agenda Item 6.0 refers)

The Chairperson, Councillor C McCready advised that the confidential report items would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor M McKeever, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

Members of the press and public seated in the public gallery left the meeting (7.07 pm).

7.1 Tender for the Provision of a Service for the Recycling and Recovery of Residual and Bulky Waste from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref STA23/24-043) (Agenda item 6.1 refers)  
(Redacted Report will be made available following Council approval)

Discussion took place during which Officers took account of comments raised by Members about the timescale of this item being presented to Committee and reference was also made to the importance of Elected Member representatives on arc21 attending meetings of that body.

7.1 Tender for the Provision of a Service for the Recycling and Recovery of Residual and Bulky Waste from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref STA23/24-043) (Agenda item 6.1 refers) (Contd)

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that retrospective approval be granted to the award of the above tender, as outlined in the Acting Director's report.

Verbal Matters

7.2 Update on Dog Attack

The Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) provided a verbal update in respect of a recent dog attack that had taken place within the Council area and she was asked to convey to staff involved in that incident Members' appreciation of and support for the work they did.

The Acting Head of Service also took note of comments made in relation to people walking a number of dogs at one time and addressed a suggestion made regarding the introduction of Dog Control Orders.

7.3 Funding from DAERA

Members noted a verbal update from the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) in respect of recent notification of funding from DAERA.

7.4 Council Policy on Household Bin Collection

Alderman J Tinsley left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.32 pm).

Members noted a verbal update from the Head of Services (Waste Management and Operational Services) in respect of steps to be taken to address areas within the Council where the policy on household bin collection was yet to be implemented.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by Councillor R McLernon, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting concluded at 7.37 pm.

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Chairperson