

## **Derry City and Strabane District Council**

**Open Minutes of Environment and Regeneration Committee held in Council Chamber, Derry Road, Strabane on Wednesday 6 December 2017 at 4.00pm**

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**Present:- Councillor Dobbins (in the chair), Aldermen Bresland, Hussey, Ramsey and Warke, Councillors Campbell, Duffy, Hastings, C Kelly, D Kelly, R McHugh and Reilly.**

**Non-Members of Committee: Alderman Devenney and Councillor McGuire.**

**In Attendance: Director of Environment and Regeneration (Mrs K Phillips), Head of Environment (Mr C Canning), Regeneration Manager Mr T Monaghan and Committee Services Assistant (Ms N Meehan).**

**Representing Eunomia: Mr D Hogg and Ms C Durrant.**

**Representing Zero Waste North West: Mr J Keys.**

**Representing the Urban Villages Initiative: Ms L Farrell (Director of the Urban Villages Initiative), Mr G Murray (Programme Delivery Manager) and Mr C McGurk (Capital Programme Manager).**

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### **ER255/17 Notice and Summons for Meeting**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

### **ER256/17 Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hassan and Tierney.

### **ER257/17 Declarations of Members' Interests**

Councillors Hastings and C Kelly declared an interest in item 25 – Tender Evaluation report – Provision for the Receipt and Processing of Local Authority collected Kerbside Commingled Recyclables.

### **ER258/17 Deputation - Eunomia**

The Chair welcomed Mr D Hogg and Ms Camilla Durrant, Eunomia and Mr J Keys, Euro Waste North West who gave a powerpoint presentation updating Members on the Zero Waste Circular Economy which highlighted the following areas:

### **Zero Waste Circular Economy**

- Supported by DCSDC Community Plan
- Zero Waste Move3ment
- Zero Waste Europe identifies three main elements in moving towards zero waste

Culture Change  
Engaging Community  
Changing Infrastructure

- Other Zero Waste Municipalities achieving 80-90% separate collection and <100kg residual waste/person

Design  
Prevention (incl reuse)  
Preparation for Reuse  
Recycling  
Other Recovery  
Disposal

### Baseline Where Are We Now?

Fortnightly Recycling  
Weekly Food Waste  
Fortnightly Garden Waste  
Fortnightly Residual

### Waste Modelling Results

Comparison of Recycling Tonnages, 2029/30  
Comparison of Monetised Environmental Costs 2029/30 (£)  
Comparison of Financial Costs by Service Area, 2029/30  
Comparison of Employment, 2029/30  
Residual Waste per person per year, 2029/30

### Resource Collection Approach and Material Value

## Other Policy Areas Defined for Action

Behaviour Change and Education  
Green Procurement  
Circular Economy Business Support and Innovation

The chairperson welcomed students from Thornhill College to the Meeting. She explained that these students were Eco Prefects and had addressed an earlier Meeting of Council on the issue of zero waste.

Members concurred with the sentiments expressed by the Chairperson.

Members also welcomed those present in the public gallery whose presence reflected the importance of this subject for the City and district.

Members thanked the deputation for their comprehensive presentation and commended them on its content.

The Chairperson stated in terms of total household recycling and composting between July-September 2017 Council had achieved a total recycling, compost and reuse figure of 45.18% which was commendable. She referred to the importance of education in relation to behavioural change and again commended the Eco Prefects from Thornhill College who were proof of this.

Members then raised the following issues:

- Referred to the massive potential this strategy would have for the Council area in terms of both the economy and job creation.
- Welcomed this report which was visionary in terms of progressing the strategy and the potential £3 million savings.
- Stated that this report was timely given the extensive media attention to the issue of waste.
- Referred to the fact that education and local communities were key in terms of implementing the strategy and changing the public mind-set.
- The implementation of this strategy would force changes in relation to addressing waste.
- Referred to figures presented in regards to food waste and welcomed proposed initiatives to divert food waste from going to landfill.

- Whilst acknowledging the various recycling initiatives referred to the importance of waste prevention which had both moral as well as financial implications.
- Referred to the need to address the issue of excess packaging in terms of achieving zero waste particularly at this time given the forthcoming Christmas period when excess packaging and the subsequent increased waste arising therefrom was a major issue.
- Referred to the need to implement the strategy as extensively as possible.
- Referred to the need to highlight to the local community the financial savings to be made by Council from waste reduction which would have an ultimate impact on the rates.
- Pointed out that Council had worked tirelessly to achieve the 45.18% in relation to dealing with household waste.
- Enquired as to the possibility of extending the Eco Prefects initiative to other schools within the City and district.
- Welcomed the publication of the brochure on the issue of food waste which it was felt was most informative.

The Chairperson advised that Mark Durkan MLA the former Environment Minister had earlier that week penned a question to the Assembly Commissioner to eradicate single use plastics from Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson expressed serious concerns regarding an incident she had been notified regarding a vulnerable member of the community who had been approached by an individual requesting money in respect of the alleged contamination of his blue bin.

The Head of Environment reassured Members that Council Officers would never approach households directly to demand money.

The Chairperson referred to the need to publicise the fact that Council Officers would never request money directly for an alleged breach of Council's byelaws.

Alderman Hussey stated that anyone who finds themselves in a similar situation should be encouraged to contact the PSNI immediately as this was blatant intimidation.

Mr Hogg thanked Members for their comments and support for the strategy. He stated that if Council were to adopt the strategy it would be at the forefront in the UK of achieving the objectives contained

within the strategy and would be extremely positive for Derry City and Strabane District Council. He advised that there were a number of jurisdictions who were currently endeavouring to address issues such as single use plastics and Brighton Council had indicated that they would not purchase any more single use plastics.

Mr. Keys on behalf of Zero Waste North West thanked Council for agreeing to jointly commission with DEARA this innovative piece of work and to work in partnership with ZWMW to achieve it. He referred to the reasons behind the inception of the strategy and its role in terms of community planning. He stated that the Zero Waste Circular Economy approach to transforming how to address and deal with waste was jobs rich. In conclusion he thanked Mark Durkan MLA and DEARA for the initial contribution to funding the work and for Council for matching this funding and all those involved on this piece of work which would ultimately provide financial dividends.

In response to a query from Councillor Reilly, Mr Hogg advised that many things could be done to reduce the amount of residual waste and he referred to a policy which had been suggested in the strategy document. He stated that this would likely be a matter for discussion between Council and Zero Waste North West. He referred to the need for Council to ensure that its contract in respect of this service was flexible and did not prevent Council from availing of a more competitive priced service should the opportunity arise e.g. procure a facility on a pay as you go type contract. He stated that there were other methods available for treating residual waste aside for incineration. He referred to the need for Council to set out a contractual process which did not bind it to a service which would not be of benefit in terms of reducing residual waste.

In response to a query from Alderman Ramsey, Mr Hogg explained that a solution had been found in countries heading towards zero waste using technologies which were capable of sorting recyclable materials from remaining waste e.g. plastics which basically provided them with a second opportunity of recycling. He stated that typically the best performing systems could remove 20-30% of residual waste however, there was still a further quantity which tended to be food waste. He referred to the possible use of anaerobic digesters/composting/landfill. He stated that approximately 30% of food waste went to landfill.

Alderman Hussey suggested that Officers investigate and report back to Committee on the potential for introducing a Zero Waste Policy for the Council area together with the implications thereof.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration referred to the first report on the Committee Agenda which was for Members to adopt this Zero Waste Policy and, if adopted, there would be a Circular Economy/Zero Waste strategy for this Council area following which Council would work with local communities towards implementing as many of the initiatives contained in the strategy as possible.

Councillor McGuire enquired if research had been carried out into the issue of renewables and the waste generated from anaerobic digesters.

Mr Hogg advised that the method for using output from anaerobic digesters depended on whether this was clean or mixed waste in terms of residue. He stated that under current UK Regulations there were standards set up by WRAP called the Public Available Specification and in terms of output from digesters it was only permitted to go onto land if materials had been separated at source leaving only food waste. Ultimately these end waste products were used for agricultural purposes.

Subsequently Councillor Duffy Moved, Councillor Reilly Seconded and the Committee

**Recommended (a) that representatives from DAERA be invited to address a future Meeting of the Committee on the Zero Waste Circular Economy Strategy; and**

**(b) that the Zero Waste Circular Economy Strategy approach be fed into the Planning Committee to ensure that future developments meet with the standards set out in the Strategy.**

The Deputation were thanked for their presentation and they withdrew from the Meeting.

**ER259/17 Urban Villages Initiative**

The Chairperson welcomed Ms L Farrell (Director of the Urban Villages Initiative), Mr G Murray (Programme Delivery Manager) and Mr C McGurk (Capital Programme Manager) Urban Villages Initiative to the Meeting.

The representatives gave a joint powerpoint presentation updating Member on the Urban Villages Initiative outlining the following areas:

The Urban Villages Initiative was designed to improve good relations outcomes and develop thriving places where there had been a history of deprivation and community tension.

- Investment to Date
- Summary of What Has Happened to Date – Derry/Londonderry Capital Projects
- Wider Stakeholder Engagement
- Capital Pipeline Process
- 2017/21 Derry/Londonderry Capital Pipeline Projects
- Capital Project Development Stages
- Partnership Approach

A Strategic Approach to Delivery  
Delivery Partners  
Partnership Funding Contributions

Members thanked the deputation for their presentation and welcomed the Urban Villages Initiative.

Members then raised the following issues:

- Welcomed the Urban Villages Initiative and acknowledged the work being carried out in the various areas included in the scheme.
- Although at the early stages this Initiative had wonderful potential for the City Centre.
- Enquired if there were any plans to incorporate public art in terms of improving visual aesthetics and upgrading areas.

- This was an exciting scheme for areas which whilst under-developed had considerable historic value which should be exploited.

In response to a query from Alderman Warke regarding the various project categories, Mr McGurk explained that Local Projects referred to works costing under £1/2M; Landmark Projects between £1/2M-£2M and Transformational Projects between £2M-£10M. He stated that Transformational Schemes would have an impact across the entire Urban Village area possibly attracting people from outside the immediate area. He stated that each of the schemes would be subject to a business case which would inform the final outcome of the projects.

Ms Farrell advised that the costings in respect of the three project categories had been agreed generally for budget planning purposes. However she stated that it would not be unusual for a Local Project to have a transformational impact.

The Deputation were thanked for their presentation and they withdrew from the Meeting.

## **Chairpersons Business**

### **ER260/17 Condolences**

The Chairperson expressed her sincere condolences at the recent death Councillor Hassan's sister.

Members from all Parties requested that their best wishes be conveyed to Councillor Hassan on the death of his sister.

### **ER261/17 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 15 November 2017**

Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held 15 November 2017 (ER222/17-ER241/17) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

## **Matters Arising**

### **ER262/17 Closure of Ulster Bank Branches (Ref ER227/17)**



In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the Director of Business and Culture had undertaken to write to Ulsterbank Headquarters regarding the proposed branch closures. She undertook to ascertain if a reply had yet been received and report back accordingly.

**ER263/17 Magheramason Play Provision Update (Ref ER237/17)**

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey regarding the scoping exercise in respect of the Magheramason Play Provision, the Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that it had been agreed at the November Council Meeting that this would be brought to the next Meeting of the Capital Working Group.

**ER264/17 Adoption of a Circular Economy/Zero Waste Strategy for Derry City and Strabane District Council**

The Head of Environment presented the above report which had been previously circulated to Members. He stated that the purpose of this report was to seek Members endorsement with regard to the final draft of a Circular Economy/Zero Waste Strategy for Council prepared by Eunomia Consulting.

Arising from discussion on the above Councillor Reilly advised that he had been contacted by an individual who had a family member with Alzheimer's disease who was concerned that their family member may be in breach of Councils bye-laws by unintentionally placing waste in the wrong bins. He requested that Officers adopt a sympathetic approach when dealing with all vulnerable people.

The Head of Environment assured that Council Officers would treat such cases sympathetically and ensured a supportive approach in this regard.

Councillor Hastings stated that this strategy would provide employment opportunities for Council together with other economic benefits for the City and district resulting in ultimate savings to ratepayers.

Subsequently the Committee

**Recommended that Members endorse the Circular Economy/Zero Waste Strategy.**

**ER265/17 St Columb's Park – Disk Golf**

The Head of Environment presented the above report which had been previously circulated to Members. He advised that the purpose of the report was to advise and seek Members approval with regard to an approach from St Columb's Park House to develop a Disk Golf Course in St Columb's part of their peace in the Park programme.

Alderman Ramsey welcomed the work being carried out at St Columb's Park by Peace in the Park in an effort to combat anti-social behaviour.

The Head of Environment advised Members that CCTV was now operational in St Columb's Park and was being monitored by CCI.

Councillor Reilly welcomed the proposal and anticipated that it would attract people to the general area.

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Head of Environment undertook to ascertain if this was a recognised sport by Sport NI.

Subsequently the Committee

**Recommended that Members give approval to support St Columb's Park house to develop a Disk Golf subject to a 1 year trial period subject to confirmation of insurances and final sign off on technical detail and course layout from a management and maintenance perspective.**

**ER266/17 Street Naming and Property Numbering – Development of 6 New Dwellings art Clooney Road, Derry**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to gain Members consent to name a new development of six dwellings at the site of a former nursing home on Clooney Road, Derry.

The Committee

**Recommended** that Members approve the proposed first name for this development 'Coralmount' as it pertains to the name of a business that previously occupied the side.

**ER267/17 Street Naming and property Numbering – Development of 85 New Dwellings at Tullyally Road, Derry.**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to gain members consent to name a new development of eighty five dwellings at a site on the Tullyally Road, Derry.

The Committee

**Recommended** that Members approve the proposed first name for this development 'The Hillocks' as it complies with Council Policy as it pertains to a translation of the town land name.

**Open For Information**

**ER268/17 Applications Processed Under Building Regulations (NI)**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated. She stated that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of applications processed under Building Regulation (NI) between 1 October 2017 and 31 October 2017.

Members noted the content of the report.

**ER269/17 Street Naming and Property Numbering – Requests for Installation of Bilingual Signage.**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to inform Members of the outcome of recent applications to provide bilingual signage at Durrow Park, Derry and Mount Carmel Heights, Strabane

Members noted the content of the report.

**ER270/17 Provision of Portacabin at Culmore Country Park**

The Head of Environment presented the above application a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. He advised that the purpose of the report was to update Members on the cost of siting a portacabin for use by Culmore Community Partnership within Culmore Country Park.

Members noted the content of the report.

**ER271/17 Six Monthly Progress Report – Environment and Regeneration Directorate**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to present Members with a six monthly update in relation to progress against the Environment and Regeneration Annual Service Plan for 2017/18. She stated that this provided an opportunity to highlight the Directorate's key achievements during the period.

Councillor Hastings commended the Environment and Regeneration Directorate on their outstanding achievements during the past six months which were all towards the betterment of peoples' health and wellbeing. He thanked Officers on their determination, diligence and planning in this regard and anticipated that this would continue.

In response to concerns expressed by Alderman Hussey, the Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that Council had been progressing with legacy cases transferred from Planning Service over the past two years in terms of achieving targets. She stated that in terms of processing planning applications there had been a considerable number of legacy planning applications which had transferred over from the Department. She said she understood that now less than thirty applications remained outstanding and it was anticipated that this would be reduced below ten in the coming months which would assist the process significantly.

Councillor D Kelly referred to the considerable number of legacy planning applications processed by Council and which had been reduced significantly. Whilst acknowledging the importance of

meeting targets he referred to the need to ensure that the correct decisions were being made even if this delayed the process.

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey, the Head of Environment advised that Officers had reviewed the roll-out of the food waste collection scheme and had identified that it was one collection short of covering the entire Council area. However it was anticipated that it would be extended across the district by the end of March 2018.

Members commended the Directorate on their achievements during the previous six months.

**ER272/17 Update Report – Repair of Council Facilities following Flood Damage.**

The Head of Environment presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. He advised that the purpose of the report was to update members on works to repair Council properties following the flooding incident of August 2017.

Alderman Hussey welcomed the above report and said it was encouraging that Council was working toward the completion of works in all Councils properties.

In response to a query from Alderman Hussey regarding the anticipated completion date of these works, the Head of Environment explained that there were a number of issues around procurement which required approval. He stated that where possible works had been authorised and it was anticipated that these would be completed without delay.

Councillor D Kelly commended Officers on their hard work and efforts in this regard.

The Chairperson advised that she had requested Officers to invite to the January Meeting of the Committee representatives from a company who manufacture compostable food utensils in line with Council's Zero Waste Strategy.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.**

**ER274/17 Result of Legal Proceedings**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to advise members as to the outcome of the Magistrates' Court on 17 August 2017. 21 September 2017 and 19 October 2017.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.**

**ER272/17 Proposed Disabled Parking Bays**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration presented the above report a copy of which had been previously circulated to Members. She advised that the purpose of the report was to advise Members of correspondence dated 3 November 2017 from Transport Ni, Network Development Section, regarding proposed disabled parking bays throughout the district.

The Committee

**Recommended that Members note the contents of the report.**

**The Meeting Terminated at 6.25 pm**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chairperson**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

