ER167/15 Notice and Summons for Meeting
The Director of Environment and Regeneration read the Notice and Summons for the Meeting.

ER168/15 Apologies
Authorised by: [Name]

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Campbell, Dobbins and Duffy.

ER169/15 Declarations of Members’ Interests

Item ER170/15 - Presentation – Investing in Gas Infrastructure – The Gas to the West Project

The following indicated they were Members of the Planning Committee and wished to declare an interest in the above matter.

Chairperson, Councillor B Tierney
Alderman Bresland
Councillor T Hassan
Councillor G Hastings
Councillor C Jackson
Councillor D Kelly
Item ER179/15 Collection and Processing of Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Material from Designated Council Faciliteis under the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG)

Item ER178/15 Collection and Processing of Waste Batteries and Accumulators from Designated Council Facilities under the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG)

ER190/15 Tender Report – NWRWMG – Provision of Receipt and Processing of NWRWMG Local Authority Collected Kerbside Comingled Recyclables

ER191/15 Tender Reports – NWRWMG

Councillor Hastings declared an interest in the above matters.

ER187/15 Applications Processed under Building Regulations

Councillor D Kelly declared an interest in the above matter.

Open for Decision

Deputations

ER170/15 Presentation – Investing on Gas Infrastructure – The Gas to the West Project

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Paddy Larkin, CEO, Mutual Energy and Mr D O’Malley, Director, SGN Natural Gas on Investing in Gas Infrastructure.

Mr Larkin gave a short overview in relation to the Gas to the West project which covered the following:-

- Regulated 40 year licence application process for transmission (HP) and distribution (LP).
- SGN and Mutual Energy submitted a connected bid.
• Construction of a c.77km High Pressure HP pipeline, c.128km Intermediate Pressure IP pipeline and a c.500km Low and Medium Pressure.
• To supply gas to 8 towns – Dungannon, Coalisland, Cookstown, Magherafelt, Omagh, Enniskillen, Derrylin and Strabane.
• Total project investment of £250m with up to £32.5m DETI subvention.

The deputation then provided an overhead presentation which covered the following areas:-

• Project Highlights
• The Emerging Preferred Route

At this stage of the meeting the following Members withdrew from the Chamber and discussion thereon:-

Chairperson, Councillor B Tierney
Alderman Bresland
Councillor T Hassan
Councillor G Hastings
Councillor C Jackson
Councillor D Kelly

Councillor McKeever then took the Chair at this point.

The deputation then proceeded with the presentation covering the following areas:

• Maydown Pressure Reduction Station Planning
• SGN – the Structure
• SGN Natural Gas – a New Business
• Economic Benefit
• Strabane IP Pipeline Project Launch
• Construction
• Directional Drilling
• Maydown to Strabane IP Pipeline
• Next Steps

Members indicated their support for the above project and welcomed the investment in the gas infrastructure. It was indicated that the project would result in a major improvement to the natural gas infrastructure.
Members then made a range of comments which included reference to the following:-

- The creation of 200 jobs as a result of the project and clarification was sought as to the proposed local employment arising from such opportunities.
- The forthcoming Public Realm scheme to be undertaken in Strabane and the importance of close partnership between project management and Council to ensure effective sequencing of construction works.
- Council’s commitment to local procurement supported by social clause contracting and the economic merits of promoting such practices in progression of the project.
- The construction of the pipeline from Maydown to Strabane was welcomed.
- Clarification was sought as to any proposed community role in which the company expected to undertake.
- Clarification was sought as to the role of the company in relation to the network provider and the subsequent supplier of gas.

Representatives of the deputation responded as follows:-

- It was envisaged that the proposed 200 jobs would be taken up by people from within Northern Ireland, exact locations unknown. Initially it was envisaged there would be 2 squads of 5/6 persons which would extend to 5/6 squads in advancement of the project.
- Project staff would liaise closely with Council Officers and other relevant stakeholders regarding the progression of the Public Realm scheme and proposed construction works.
- The project would have significant benefit to customers in terms of lowering energy costs.
- It was indicated that whilst 104 DETI employment contracts had been secured in relation to the construction of the cross country steel pipeline the Project Team were working with the Department in an attempt to secure the inclusion of further similar contracting in the progression of the long-term plastic pipe construction which, if successful, would have positive long term employment outcomes.
- The company would expect to extend its role in the community as the network matured.
It was indicated that whilst the company would have ownership of the infrastructure the gas would be supplied by other companies therefore promoting consumer choice and increasing market competitiveness.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that there was a team within Council working actively in the promotion of social clause contracting which could assist the company with regards to such matters. She undertook to arrange follow-up contact in relation to such matters.

The Committee

Recommended that Council endorse the ‘Gas to the West’ project being undertaken by SGN and Mutual Energy

The following Members then rejoined the meeting:

Chairperson, Councillor B Tierney
Alderman Bresland
Councillor T Hassan
Councillor G Hastings
Councillor C Jackson
Councillor D Kelly

Councillor Tierney assumed his position as Chairperson.

**ER171/15 Presentation – NIE Networks and Preparations for Winter**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr R Ballentine, Network Operations Manager and Ms F McClintock, Customer Relations Manager.

The deputation then gave a presentation which covered the following areas:

- Electricity Industry Structure
- NIE Networks Overview
- Winter Preparations
- Meter Replacement Programme
- Making the Connection
Members made a range of comments which included reference to the following:

- Clarification was sought as to the rationale which supported the extensive overhead network in Northern Ireland as opposed to underground infrastructure in the mainland. Further clarity was sought if NIE had in place any proposals to address those specific areas which suffer loss of generation as a result of damage to overhead lines.
- The new Council boundaries and clarification was sought as to the point of contact for elected Members.
- The significant delays and difficulties in achieving renewable energy connections to the grid. It was indicated that this was a matter which required immediate attention.
- Reference was made to continuing anti social behaviours around substation structures and clarification sought as to the advantage and potential construction of underground structures in such situations. Clarification was sought if underground cabling required less repair and maintenance works.
- The cross border partnership between NIE and ESB in response to emergency weather situations was welcomed and described as effective working practices.
- Work which had taken place in Strabane with regard to the replacement of electricity poles. It was indicated that new adjacent lighting was incorrectly operational 24 hours a day.
- A particular situation in Strabane in relation to antisocial behaviour around an electricity substation. NIE were requested to address the situation.
- Clarification was sought on the status of the new interconnector project in Strabane.
- Clarification was sought on the identification of those community groups which NIE had assisted in the local area.
- The absence of any Main Depot west of the Bann.

Mr. Ballentine responded as follows:

- The existing significant overhead network had been constructed between the 50s-70s. It was indicated that such infrastructure provided for easy identification of fault and maintenance
correction. Faults to underground cabling were difficult to identify, access and more costly to repair.

- In was advised that 818 mw of renewable energy had been connected to date. Reference was made to NIE's overriding responsibility to ensure a safe and secure distribution network. It was advised that a newbuild on the circuit in terms of increased conducting infrastructure was required which would incorporate socialising costs across all customer bases in Northern Ireland.
- It was advised that 30 NIE employees were now 'On Board' working with community organisations across Northern Ireland. NIE worked with one organisation within the Derry City and Strabane District Council area – the YMCA at Drumahoe.
- NIE had operationalised personalised access for Members through the Craigavon Centre which was subsequently relayed for local assistance.
- It was indicated that Officers would follow up the issues surrounding the situation at the Substation in Strabane and the continuous lighting arising from the introduction of new pole installation.
- All NIE Depots were similar, with the Craigavon depot having a larger workforce.

**ER172/15 Chairperson’s Business**

There was no Chairperson’s business.

**ER173/15 Confirmation of the Open Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on Wednesday 11 November 2015**

Minutes of the Environment and Regeneration Committee held on 11 November 2015 (ER141/15-ER159/15) were confirmed and signed by the Chairperson as correct.

**Matters Arising**

**ER174/15 Presentation by Zero Waste (Ref ER144/15 ).**

The Head of Environment advised that following last month’s meeting Officers had identified funding from within existing departmental budgets and a further report on the matter would be presented to Committee.

**ER175/15 Smarter Energy Communities in Northern and Arctic Regions**
The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the Council Energy Manager had been approached by ERNACT to participate in a bid for European funding from the Northern Periphery and Arctic Programme in collaboration with a number of regional partners – Scandinavia (Vasternorrland – Sweden, North Karelia – Finland and the Faroe Islands); West Atlantic (Donegal/Leitrim – Ireland, Derry City and Strabane – UK) and Atlantic Canada (Halifax). She indicated that this partnership would provide a unique mix of expertise, knowledge, maturity levels, climatic backgrounds and innovative approaches. The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that Members’ approval was been sought to submit an application for European funding under the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme, Priority Axis 3 – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

The Committee

**Recommended** that Council seek an application for European funding under the Northern Periphery and Arctic (NPA) Programme, Priority Axis 3 – Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy.

**ER176/15 Northwest Greenway Plan**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to present the North West Greenway Plan to Committee for Members’ endorsement by way of a 10 minute presentation from Mr McGill, Area Manager, Sustrans North West.

The Chairperson welcomed Mr McGill, Area Manager North West to the meeting.

Mr McGill advised that the aim of the Plan was to provide the basis of a strategic and co-ordinated plan for the development of a network of Greenways throughout the North West. He indicated that it provided a potential greenways map which identified a series of recommended Greenway routes for further investigation, as a result of information gathered and initial consultations. He indicated that the recommended routes were indicative only and demonstrated desirable positions on the most appropriate alignments.
Mr McGill then gave a short presentation on the Vision and Action Plan for Greenway Development which covered the following areas:

- Purpose of the Plan
- The National Cycle Network – User Groups
- Vision/Mission Statement
- Breakdown of existing NW provision
- Connect2 Peace Bridge and Waterside Greenway

Members welcomed the greenway provision which had delivered 250 km in total across both Council areas since 1999. Members commended the excellent work which had been undertaken by Sustrans.

Members made a range of comments which included reference to:

- Expansion of the greenway network in the following routes.
  - Muff, County Donegal through to Culmore Road and concluding in City Centre.
  - Castlefinn to Clady
  - Derry to Strabane
  - The natural extension of the Waterside greenway to Strathfoyle
- The importance of access to new greenways.
- The tremendous success of the Waterside Greenway was acknowledged.

Mr McGill in response made the following comments:

- The Plan would help inform future route provision throughout the region in addition to assisting in the preparation of business cases for funding.
- The recommended routes would be examined on a project by project basis.
- It had been agreed to develop a long term plan and strategic overview for greenway development in order to promote modal shift across the North West Cross Border region.
- The plan included proposals for the expansion of the greenway network in the routes identified by Members.
- The importance of exploiting the potential opportunities which existed in the short-term in relation to part development of A5.
The Committee

**Recommended**

that (a) Council endorse the Northwest Greenway Plan with a view to submitting an application to INTERREG V; and

(b) a further report on the matter be submitted to Committee in due course.

**ER177/15 MoU Winter Gritting**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to seek Members' approval with regard to entering a Memorandum of Understanding between Transport NI and Council with regard to the clearing and gritting of designated footpaths and walkways during periods of adverse winter weather.

A Member of the SDLP grouping referred to the absence of any gritting routines on roads between Cranagh and Draperstown during periods of adverse winter weather.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to liaise with Transport NI regarding this matter.

A Member of the SDLP grouping stated that he wished to commend the excellent work undertaken by Council staff and other stakeholder organisations in response to the recent incidences of flooding.

The Committee

**Recommended**

that Council enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Transport NI in regard to the clearing of designated Town centre footways and pedestrian areas during periods of adverse or prolonged winter weather subject to transport NI accepting the changes as outlined in the attached document.

**ER178/15 Collection and Processing of Waste Batteries and Accumulators from Designated Council Facilities under the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG)**
The Head of Environment advised that the purpose of the above report was to seek Members’ approval with regard to tender recommendations put forward by the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) on conclusion of the evaluation of the tender submitted under the producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) for the collection and processing of household batteries from Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs) under the control of a Council.

The Committee

**Recommended** that Council enters into an agreement with European Recycling Platform for the provision of the collection and processing of household WEEE from their designated collection facilities for 24 months from the 1 July 2015 with the option of one year’s extension.

**ER179/15 Collection and Processing of Waste, Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Material from Designated Council Facilities under the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG)**

The Head of Environment advised that the purpose of the above report was to seek Members’ approval with regard to tender recommendations put forward by the North West Region Waste Management Group (NWRWMG) on conclusion of the evaluation of the tender submitted under the producer Compliance Scheme (PCS) for WEEE for the collection and processing of household WEEE material from Designated Collection Facilities (DCFs) under the control of a Council.

The Committee

**Recommended** that Council enter into an agreement with European Recycling Platform for the provision of the collection and processing of household WEEE from their designated collection facilities for 24 months from the 1 July 2015 with the option of 1 year extension for all 5 lots.
ER180/15  City Walls Conservation Plan – Second Edition

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to seek Members' endorsement of the City Walls Conservation Plan, attached at Appendix 2.

The Committee

**Recommended**

(a) Council endorse the City Walls Conservation Plan, Second Edition, attached at Appendix 2; and

(b) Officers advise DoE Historic Environment Division accordingly.

ER181/15  Update Report on Delivery of Environment and Regeneration Directorate Annual Service Plan 2015/16

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to provide Members with an update in relation to progress on delivery of the Annual Service Plan for 2015/16.

The Committee

**Recommended**

that Members note the contents of the above report.

ER182/15  Carrickduff Windfarm

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to appraise Members of replies received from Strategic Planning, the Loughs Agency and An Bord Pleanála in relation to Carrickduff Windfarm.

The Committee

**Recommended**

that Members note the contents of the above report.

ER183/15  Proposed Provision of a Disabled Person’s Parking Bay at Main Street, Strabane and Lawrence Hill, Londonderry
The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to inform Members of correspondence from Transport NI, Network Development Section regarding the provision of a disabled person’s parking bay at Main Street, Strabane and Lawrence Hill, Derry.

Under this item a Member of the UUP grouping referred to the proposed provision of a Disabled Parking Bay at Sion Mills and sought clarification on the updated status of the scheme.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to follow up with Transport NI.

The Committee

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

**ER184/15 Proposed Experimental One Way System at Newtown Street and Patrick Street, Strabane**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised Members that the purpose of the above report was to inform Members of correspondence received from Transport NI, Network Development Section regarding the proposed experimental one way system at Newtown Street and Patrick Street, Strabane.

A Member of the SF grouping in welcoming the introduction of the above one way system at Newtown Street and Patrick Street referred to previous proposals in relation on street parking provision and enquired if there was any update in relation to this such a scheme.

The Director of Environment and Regeneration undertook to follow up with Transport NI in relation to on street parking provision at this location, prior to Council confirming its position in the introduction of the proposed one way system.

**ER185/15 Scoping Exercise Castlederg and Eglinton Recycling Centres**

The Head of Environment advised that the purpose of the above report was to appraise Members on proposals with regard to the provision of recycling facilities in the Castlederg and Eglinton areas.
A Member of the DUP grouping made reference to the recycling site at Eglinton and recent public reports of amendments to its operation. The Member stated that it was important to acknowledge several years previously, the major public outcry and opposition to draft proposals to close this facility. He stated that it was critical that any misinformation circulating in relation to the future of the site was publicly corrected.

The Head of Environment advised that as outlined in the above report, the existing facility in Eglinton was located within the Benbow Industrial Estate and following discussions with the owner an alternative site had been identified within the location for the development of a modern fit for purpose recycling centre. He stated that in consideration of such relocation, an Officer team were proposing to meet with residents who have properties backing onto the proposed site to identify their views thereon. The Head of Environment emphasised that any decision to progress would be dependent on community support and Member approval.

A Member of the SF grouping stated he wished to highlight the concerns expressed by his colleague at the November meeting of Council regarding the construction of a recycling site in Castlederg.

The Head of Environment advised that Officers did visit one of the proposed locations at Sparmount and considered this to be potentially suitable location for a recycling centre. However in order to consider the option further it was deemed prudent to the process that the local community be consulted with regard to any development at the site. In this regard Officers met representatives of the local community group at the site to outline the concept and to ascertain their views. He further stated that the Group had been advised at that stage that the process being undertaken was a scoping exercise and that any decision to progress would be dependent on public support and Member approval.

Following a proposal from a Member of the UUP grouping the Committee

**Recommended** that Officers arrange a meeting with elected representatives from the Derg Electoral Area to consider further site identification.
The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that whilst Officers would in all relevant situations seek to consult with the public in relation to such matters, it was not always possible to advise Members in advance of such informal consultation.

A Member of the UUP grouping advised that elected representatives would have been included in all informal consultations with residents in the former Strabane District Council.

**ER186/15 Update on Proposed Public Realm Scheme for the Inner Walled City**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to update Members on the progress of the DSD led project for the extension of the public realm improvement scheme to the roads along the inside of the Walls.

A Member of the DUP grouping referred to recent incidents of traffic blockage and congestion arising from deliveries to St. Augustine’s Church and Siege Museum. He requested that this be considered during preparations for the proposed public realm scheme.

**ER187/15 Applications Processed under Building Regulations**

The Director of Environment and Regeneration advised that the purpose of the above report was to advise Members of applications processed under Building Regulations (NI) between 1 October 2015 and 31 October 2015.

The Committee

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

The Meeting then went into Confidential Business.

The Meeting Terminated at 6.00 pm