

**Minutes of Meeting of Environment Committee of Mid Ulster District Council  
held on Wednesday 3 September 2014 in Magherafelt District Council Offices**

<b>Members Present:</b>	In the Chair, Councillor Cuddy (Chair)  Councillors Buchanan, Burton, Cuthbertson, Gillespie, Mallaghan, McAleer, McFlynn, McGinley, B McGuigan, S McGuigan, McNamee, Mullen, Mulligan and Reid
<b>Officers in Attendance:</b>	Mr Tohill, Chief Executive Mr Cassells, Director of Technical Services and Leisure Services (MDC) Mr Kelso, Director of Environmental Health and Building Control (CDC) Mrs McClements, Acting Director of Environmental Services (DSTBC) Mr Scullion, Head of Technical Services (CDC) Miss Thompson, Secretariat (DSTBC)

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm

**E6/14          Apologies**

Councillor J O'Neill.

**E7/14          Time of Meeting**

A DUP Member stated that there is an overlap of time between this meeting and that of another group which some Members of the committee serve on. The Member asked if the committee start time could be changed to 7.30 pm.

The Chief Executive stated that dates and times for all Mid Ulster meetings had been set until March 2015 and that it would be difficult to avoid clashes with all other meetings.

Members were of the view that to maintain continuity all Mid Ulster District Council meetings should continue to start at 7.00 pm.

**E8/14          Declarations of Interest**

The Chair reminded members of their responsibility with regard to declaration of interest.

**E9/14          Receive and confirm minutes of the Environment Committee  
meeting held on Thursday 10 July 2014**

A SF Member requested that the minute be amended to read –

Item E5/14 Paper on DSD Affordable Warmth Programme – Mid Ulster Cluster (C)

**Resolved** It was resolved that the Director of Environmental Health & Building Control (Cookstown DC) continues to liaise with DSD in respect of finances for the provision of double glazing in currently single-glazed dwellings for owner occupiers.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved** That the minutes of the meeting of the Environment Committee held on Thursday 10 July 2014 (E1/14 – E5/14) were considered and signed as accurate and correct, subject to the foregoing amendment.

### **Matters for Decision**

#### **E10/14 Receive and consider paper on future of waste management groups**

Mr Cassells presented a report in respect of the future arrangements for waste management groups following Local Government Reform in April 2015. As per report, Mr Cassells set out a number of key issues and highlighted the five options, set out by DoE, in relation to the replacement arrangements for the current waste management groups setting out option 5 as the preferred option, that is, to have no future formal group structure.

An UUP Member enquired as to the future of the existing waste management groups with regards to their financing and staffing.

Mr Cassells advised that, in theory, as both arc21 and SWaMP2008 are corporate bodies they could continue to run post April 2015, as NWRWMG is currently a joint committee it would cease to exist. Staffing issues will be considered in due course.

A SF Member questioned whether ongoing contracts could become a liability for Mid Ulster District Council.

Mr Cassells stated that all current contracts will transfer to Mid Ulster District Council in April 2015 with decisions on whether to re-tender to be taken closer to the time of the contract ending.

Proposed by Councillor S McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor Mallaghan and

**Resolved** That it be recommended to the Council to adopt option 5 in the DoE paper, "To have no formal trans-council waste management co-operation", but that this option will include voluntary co-operation between Councils on a project by project basis.

**E11/14      Receive and consider paper on Home Accident Prevention Strategy 2014-2024**

Mr Kelso presented a report and update in relation to the Home Accident Prevention Programme including a draft response to the Home Accident Prevention Strategy consultation 2014-2024.

A SF Member spoke in relation to comment contained within the consultation response, calling for an introduction of a targeted maintenance requirement on all landlords for all heating appliances to reduce potential for accidental poisonings or fire. The Member enquired how this could be policed.

Mr Kelso advised that there is already legislation in the form of the Private Tenancies Order and if the targeted maintenance requirement should be adopted there may be the potential to extend the remit of this legislation.

In relation to media campaigns and how to raise public awareness of home accident prevention a SF Member enquired if an increased budget would be provided for this.

Mr Kelso advised that he was not aware of any further monies becoming available for public awareness campaigns but if Members were of the view an additional comment could be included in the consultation response suggesting an increased budget for home accident public awareness.

A SDLP Member suggested that Mid Ulster District Council consider holding an open day to highlight home accident prevention as previous events organised by respective Councils have been very successful.

Proposed by Councillor Reid  
Seconded by Councillor F Burton and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Council to respond to the Home Accident Prevention Strategy response as per report including additional comment in relation to increased budget for public awareness campaigns.

**Matters for Information**

**E12/14      Receive paper on environmental health and building control contractual commitments**

Mr Kelso presented a report on the current contracts facilitated by Environmental Health and Building Control Services for the current year 2014/15. Mr Kelso advised that suitable arrangements will be required within the budget for 2015/16 for continued service delivery and that discussions have already commenced in this regard.

A SF Member queried the expenditure on utility and power supply for Magherafelt District Council.

Mr Kelso advised that a more detailed breakdown of this figure can be provided.

#### **E13/14      Receive paper on coloured collar identification tags for dogs**

Mrs McClements presented Members with the response made to the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development request for views on the Dog Licensing and Identification 'Review of Coloured Collar Identification for Dogs'.

Proposed by Councillor B McGuigan  
Seconded by Councillor McFlynn and

**Resolved**      That it be recommended to the Council to note option 3 – “To abolish the need for coloured identification tags from January 2015, with compulsory micro-chipping to be the sole method of identification” - as the preferred option moving forward.

A SF Member enquired as to the body responsible for cats.

Mrs McClements advised that there is no legislation with regard to the collection or licensing of cats however if there is welfare issues then this would be covered by animal welfare legislation.

#### **E14/14      Receive paper on waste management and technical services contracts**

Mr Cassells presented a report which provided Members with details of the five highest value waste management contracts being operated by the three Councils. He advised that all existing contracts will transfer to Mid Ulster District Council and that a further report will be brought to committee outlining preparations in relation to contractual arrangements post 1 April 2015.

A SF Member commented that this Council is in a good position in that a number of the current contracts have around two years left to run which allows sufficient time for retendering for new contracts.

UUP Members commented on the Tullyvar site and its potential to be used as a waste transfer station in the future. It was suggested that the Council target private businesses and organisations with regard to improving the segregating of waste with a view to increasing recycling rates.

The Chief Executive stated that there is still a massive opportunity to divert more waste for recycling but that there is a job of work to do with regard to raising public awareness of what can be recycled and how it should be disposed of. He suggested that this issue be explored by the Waste and Technical Services Working Group with a report to come back to committee on how best to improve public awareness of recycling.

#### **E15/14      Receive paper on Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme**

Mr Cassells presented a report with regard to proposed changes to the Northern Ireland Landfill Allowance Scheme (NILAS) as a result of Local Government Reform.

With regard to the separate collection of food waste which will be legislated for in 2016 a UUP Member enquired whether it would be feasible to collect such food waste separately in rural areas.

Mr Cassells advised that the collection of food waste in rural areas is unlikely to be cost effective on its own but that bins with separate compartments and combined collections could be looked at for the future.

A SDLP Member enquired as to the predicted life left at each Council's landfill sites.

Members were advised that the Cookstown site is due to close in 2015 and Dungannon's site by 2020. The Magherafelt site has capacity for around 40,000 tonnes although the site is not currently being used.

Mr Cassells commented that there is likely to be a complete ban on landfill by 2025.

In response to a question from a SDLP Member, Mr Cassells advised that the food waste collected by Council would be particularly useful for anaerobic digestion.

An UUP Member spoke in relation to the number of large food processors in the Dungannon area who have invested in their own systems to deal with waste.

**E16/14      Receive paper on health and safety provision within Mid Ulster waste and technical services sections**

Mr Cassells provided Members with an update on the current health and safety activity within Waste and Technical Services across the cluster of councils and future service requirements.

A SF Member enquired as to the resource implications for the future provision of health and safety requirements.

The Chief Executive advised that the health and safety of staff and customers will be a high priority requiring investment. Costs relating to this will be provided to Members at a later date.

**E17/14      Duration of Meeting**

The meeting commenced at 7.00 pm and ended at 8.45 pm.

CHAIR \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_