

**North West Region Waste Management Group Joint Committee
Wednesday 7th March 2012
Strabane District Council**

Present:

Ballymoney Borough Council
Councillor Evelyne Robinson
Alderman Cecil Cousley

Coleraine Borough Council
Councillor William King
Kieran Doherty

Derry City Council
Councillor Shaun Gallagher
Jim McGrath
Conor Canning

Limavady Borough Council
Alderman Michael Coyle
Noel Crawford

Magherafelt District Council
Andrew Cassells

Moyle District Council
Councillor Robert McIlroy
Aidan McPeake

Strabane District Council
Councillor Jay McCauley
Malcolm Scott

NWRWMG
Eamon Molloy
Jonathan Gray
Keith Swerdlick
Joanne Curran

PDSU
Alan McVicker

Item 1 - Apologies

The following apologies were recorded:

Councillor Michael Cooper
Councillor Kieran McGuire
Councillor Sean McPeake
Councillor William McCandless
Councillor Kate Lagan
Councillor Jack Rankin
Councillor Catherine McCambridge
Richard Lewis
Roger Wilson

Danny McSorley
Sharon O'Connor
John McLaughlin
John Dempsey
Liam Flanigan
John Kelpie
Oonagh Warke
John Michael

Item 2 - Minutes

The Chair reviewed the previous minutes with the Committee on a page-by-page basis.

The minutes of the meeting of the 1st February 2012 were:

PROPOSED by Councillor R McIlroy and **SECONDED** by Councillor S Gallagher

Item 3 - Matter Arising

There being no matters arising the Chair moved to the next item of business.

Item 4 - Project Update Report - Confidential

The Development Officer updated the meeting on the current status of the project. He informed the group that he was liaising with the Minister and her officials regarding the NIROCs Consultation and that the latest information suggests that a decision will be made around late May early June.

He further informed the meeting that he had held a further clarification meeting with the Bidder and that this matter had been raised by them. Understandably they have their concerns regarding the delay but are fully aware of the position the Group is faced with.

Councillor Gallagher stated that he is not very optimistic and that it is very frustrating as the project is ready to go and that the department needs to push things forward.

The Development Officer informed members that this is a process and unfortunately the only safeguard the Group has is to ensure that the process is worked through correctly, with this in mind, until the NIROCs Consultation is completed the final evaluation cannot be finalised and therefore the recommendation cannot be brought to the Committee and hence the Councils until then. He explained that his focus and that of the project manager is to tie up any outstanding issues so that once the Consultation has been complete there should be no further delays.

Councillor Gallagher stated that he wished it recorded that there is no criticism of the work of the officer team; his frustration lay with the Department.

Item 5 - Options Paper the Mixed Dry Recyclables Contract - Confidential

The Development Officer stated that he was still awaiting outstanding responses to his correspondence to RecyCo. He continues to liaise with the legal advisors on this matter and that progress has been slower than anticipated. He pointed out that it was necessary to ensure that all the facts are available before a recommendation can be made to the Committee on how to proceed.

He informed the group that the current contract for blue bins will expire on the 31st March 2012 and in order to make certain that an uninterrupted service could be provided he had examined the options from a legal perspective in order to advise on an interim basis. He then took the members through the options paper. A lengthy discussion ensued and it was recommended that the current provider, Glassdon Recycling, be offered an extension on a rolling month to month basis. This will be kept under review and brought to the Joint Committee on a monthly basis for consideration.

This was **PROPOSED** by Councillor S Gallagher and **SECONDED** by Councillor W King

Item 6 - NIAO Management Letter - Confidential

The Development Officer informed the meeting that the enclosed audit letter would normally be presented to an Audit Committee but in the absence of one he was bringing it to the Joint Committee. He pointed out that this was the first time the group had been audited separately and it had resulted in the Local Government Auditor issuing an unqualified audit opinion on the 28th October 2011.

He advised members that the management letter highlighted areas that needed to be addressed and he proceeded to take the meeting through these matters one by one. He stated that some of the recommendations made by the auditor are already in place and the others would be addressed by the recommendations that follow.

The group then discussed the issues and it was recommended that:

Management Letter and Responses are accepted by the Joint Committee
PROPOSED by Alderman M Coyle and **SECONDED** by Councillor R McIlroy

The Joint Committee set up an Audit Committee
PROPOSED by Councillor S Gallagher and **SECONDED** by Councillor W King

A review of the governance arrangements for the Joint Committee is carried out to ensure that they remain fit for purpose, the said review to be conducted by the Group's legal advisers Belfast City Council legal services

PROPOSED by Councillor S Gallagher **and** **SECONDED** by Alderman C Cousley

A Service Legal Agreement is put in place to cover the costs of the secretariat, the said agreement to be signed by the participating councils

PROPOSED by Alderman M Coyle **and** **SECONDED** by Councillor R McIlroy

Item 7 - Annual Report (Draft)

The Development Officer referred to the draft Annual Report for 2010 / 2011 that had been forwarded to members via email. It was established that not all members had received the document and the Development Officer was asked to bring this item to the next meeting of the Committee. The Development Officer stated that this would be placed on the Agenda for next month's meeting.

Item 8 - AOB

The Development Officer reminded members of the group's obligation to meet NILAS targets in the target year 2013 and that the issue needed to be addressed by the Group now to ensure compliance. He stated that the matter had been discussed by the Directors group and sought members' permission to proceed with a tender on behalf of the Group to achieve this objective.

PROPOSED by Alderman M Coyle **and** **SECONDED** by Councillor R McIlroy

The Development Officer informed members that the date in the next meeting is the 4th April 2012 in Coleraine Borough Council offices.

There being no further business the Chair thanked members for their attendance and closed the meeting.

The meeting terminated at 2.40pm

Signed:



Cllr Evelyne Robinson
Chair