Health and Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, 7th January, 2015

MEETING OF HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairman);
the High Sheriff (Alderman L. Patterson);
Aldermen Kingston and Stoker;
Councillors Austin, M. E. Campbell, Curran,
Clarke, Garrett, Jones, Keenan,
Kelly, Magee, McCarthy, McKee,
McNamee and Thompson.

In attendance: Mrs. S. Toland, Lead Operations Officer/
Head of Environmental Health;
Mr. T. Martin, Head of Building Control;
Mr. S. Skimin, Head of Cleansing Services;
Ms. N. Largey, Solicitor;
Mr. H. Downey, Democratic Services Officer; and
Miss. L Francey, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman McCoubrey.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 2nd December were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 5th January.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Presentation on Empty Homes Strategy

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting on 4th June 2014, it had agreed to receive at a future meeting a presentation on the Empty Homes Strategy. It was reported that Ms. Elma Newberry, Assistant Director of Land and Regeneration, Northern Ireland Housing Executive, together with Mr. John McManus from the Housing Executive's Empty Homes Unit, were in attendance and they were welcomed to the meeting.

Ms. Newberry provided a brief overview of the Empty Homes Strategy, which was being delivered by the Department of Social Development in partnership with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which sought to raise awareness of empty homes

within the public domain. She drew the Committee's attention to an Implementation Plan which had been formulated, the aims of which were primarily to develop an empty homes website for reporting purposes, to target 120 empty homes per year, to develop incentive programmes such as 'Repair and Lease' and 'Match-maker' schemes, and examine the enforcement process. She highlighted the fact that, as of 31st December, 2014, 484 homes within Belfast had been reported to the Housing Executive as being vacant and provided a breakdown of that figure on an area basis, details of which would be forwarded to Members in terms of specific streets.

During discussion, a Member raised the issue of unoccupied homes which had been causing a nuisance to neighbouring properties, by way of, for example, an overgrown garden or dampness, but which were not classified as being dangerous structures. The Head of Building Control advised that, under current legislation, the Council had limited powers in order to deal with such properties. Ms. Newberry explained that Empty Dwelling Management Orders had been introduced in England, but research had shown that they had been generally ineffective in addressing such complaints. She pointed out that important legislation was due to come into effect in Northern Ireland in September, 2015, which would allow for data-sharing between Land and Property Services and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive, which would enable the Housing Executive to access ownership details for vacant properties more easily, thereby expediting the process of enforcement.

A further Member expressed concern at the low uptake from Housing Associations in purchasing vacant properties to repair and let. Ms. Newberry explained that that had been due largely to the fact that most vacant properties were spread across the City, thereby creating significantly higher maintenance costs for Housing Associations. She stated also that Housing Associations generally favoured newly built developments as a more cost effective option.

A Member suggested that research be undertaken into more innovative ideas, such as "property guardianship" which was currently being used in parts of England, in order to restore empty properties to use. That initiative sought to encourage owners to rent their properties to suitable tenants at a reduced cost. In turn, the owner would have the benefit of a tenant residing in the property, thereby deterring squatters, vandalism and general deterioration, whilst the tenant would have the use of a house at a lower rent. Ms. Newberry and Mr. McManus were thanked for their presentation and left the meeting.

After discussion, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and agreed that a report be submitted to a future meeting detailing innovative initiatives for restoring empty homes to use, including property guardianship, and examples of best practice which had been implemented in other local authorities.

Tobacco Retailers Register for Northern Ireland

The Head of Environmental Health reminded the Committee that smoking was the single greatest cause of preventable illness and premature death in Northern Ireland, killing around 2,300 persons each year. She reported that the Northern Ireland Assembly had, since 2007, introduced a number of legislative controls to address this

serious public health issue, the most recent of which had been the Tobacco Retailers Act (Northern Ireland) 2014. The Act provided for, amongst other things, the establishment of a central register of tobacco retailers, which it was envisaged would contain between 2,500 and 3,000 entries. Similar registers had already been established in the Republic of Ireland and Scotland.

She explained that the register would enable councils and the public to check the registration status of retailers in their area and would allow for nominated council staff to enter and observe information relating to regulatory action taken with regards to relevant tobacco control legislation. There would be no costs or conditions associated with registration for the business.

She reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 8th October, it had been advised that the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety had requested that the Council assume the role of tobacco registration authority for Northern Ireland. The Committee had agreed, in principle, to the request, subject to that Department making available sufficient funding to cover in full the associated costs, and authorised officers from the Environmental Health Service and Digital Services to engage in further discussions around the proposal. She confirmed that the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety had since agreed to meet the full costs associated with the setting up and operation of the register, including officer costs.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the Council become the regional registration authority for tobacco retailers in Northern Ireland and delegated authority to the Head of Environmental Health to draft an appropriate Service Level Agreement and funding agreement in that regard.

Food Hygiene Rating Bill - Update

The Committee was reminded that, in June 2011, the Council had adopted the voluntary Food Hygiene Rating Scheme shortly after its introduction by the Food Standards Agency. The scheme was regarded as being a key public health measure and an incentive for businesses to improve and maintain their compliance with food hygiene legislation. Under the initiative, food hygiene ratings were published online and stickers displaying their rating were provided by the Council. However, the success of the scheme relied on consumers being able to access this information and businesses had not, to date, been obliged to display their rating.

The Head of Environmental Health reminded the Committee that the Food Hygiene Rating Bill had, on 4th November 2014, been introduced into the Northern Ireland Assembly, with a view to making it compulsory for food businesses, such as restaurants, takeaways and supermarkets, to display their hygiene ratings in a prominent position. She explained that the Bill was now at Committee Stage for detailed scrutiny and that the Council had received an invitation to submit by 12th December, 2014 to the Assembly's Committee for Health, Social Services and Public Safety, comments on its contents. The Committee had, on 2nd December, agreed that, due to the deadline, a response be submitted by officers, subject to subsequent ratification by the Committee.

She drew the Committee's attention to a response which had been drafted by a specialist working group, comprising of the Council's Environmental Health Manager (Food Safety and Port Health) and which had been endorsed by the Chief Environmental Health Officer's Group (CEHOG) which represented all councils across Northern Ireland.

Accordingly, she recommended that the Committee endorse the following response and authorise the Environmental Health Manager (Food Safety and Port Health) to present, on 14th January, on behalf of CEHOG, oral evidence on the Food Hygiene Rating Bill to the Assembly's Health, Social Security and Public Safety Committee.

"FOOD HYGIENE RATING BILL

CEHOG supports the introduction of the Food Hygiene Bill requiring businesses to display food hygiene ratings and recognises this Bill has the potential to better inform consumers whilst encouraging business to comply with the hygiene requirements.

Some councils have expressed concerns about the detail of the Bill and particularly:

1. The scheme may be resource intensive and if, at some stage in the future, councils consider that the scheme is not making the best use of their limited resources to improve the health and wellbeing of its citizens, they would like an option to opt out. Consultation was carried out with the existing 26 councils and the support for a mandatory scheme may need to be re-assessed in line of the forthcoming Local Government Reform and resultant 11 councils. This scheme locks councils in at a time when FSA focus is increasingly on food standards work, food fraud and health improvement. These concerns are within the context of increasing budgetary stress, the aftermath of the horse meat scandal and the Elliot review. The focus is now shifting from Food Hygiene where compliance levels are high towards Food Standards.

2. Its prescriptive nature in terms of response times for councils and detailed requirements around provision of the service. CEHOG recognises the need for agreed standards but is of the opinion that they should not be absolute legal requirements and are more appropriate in statutory guidance rather than in the Bill itself.

3. Whilst recognising the need for safeguards to protect businesses the appeals and re-rating requirements may be overly protective of businesses awarded poor ratings. This could be to the detriment of the consumer – the main stakeholder.

4. FSA policy to reduce the inspection burden through introducing flexibilities in the intervention requirements contained within the Food Law Code of Practice (FLCOP) and the financial stress councils are facing is likely to result in many food premises not being inspected as often or in the case of lower risk premises being removed from inspection programmes altogether.

CLAUSE 1: FOOD HYGIENE RATING

Clause 1(1)
Where a district council has carried out an inspection of a food business establishment in its district, it must rate the food hygiene standards of the establishment on the basis of that inspection.

Consumers may assume that all premises are subject to a reasonably frequent inspection programme to ensure ratings are periodically updated. This expectation may not be consistent with the FLCOP and FSA policy. The FLCOP encourages the removal of lower risk premises from inspection programmes and alternating between inspections and lighter touch interventions for the majority of other premises in an effort to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses. Therefore significant numbers of premises do not require inspection and most other premises are only required to be inspected every 3 or 4 years. Light touch interventions which may replace inspections would not collect sufficient information to produce a food hygiene rating. Therefore for some premises there is no mechanism to ensure the renewal of their rating and these will, over time, become out dated. Consumers can only expect that most premises have been rated within the previous 3- 4 years.

Clause 1(5)

A reference to carrying out an inspection of a food business establishment is a reference to carrying out an activity in relation to the establishment as part of official controls under Regulation (EC) 882/2004

Comments
What constitutes an inspection for rating purposes needs to be more clearly defined and consistent with requirements for an intervention rating within the FLCOP which states "The intervention rating(s) of a food business should only be revised at the conclusion of an inspection, partial inspection or audit, and in accordance with Annex 5. An officer must have gathered sufficient information to justify revising the intervention rating".

CLAUSE 2 - Notification & Publication

2(1) Within 14 days of carrying out an inspection of a food business establishment, a district council must, if it has prepared a food hygiene rating for the establishment on the basis of that inspection, notify the rating to the operator of the establishment.

(3) The notification must be in writing and accompanied by - (relevant information as stipulated in a-h).

CEHOG agree that businesses should be notified of their rating in writing within 14 days as is the case under the voluntary scheme. There may be exceptional circumstances where this may not be possible and therefore an absolute legal requirement is not appropriate. CEHOG would suggest that the timeframe be detailed in (statutory) guidance rather than be prescribed in law. CEHOG are of the view that councils should monitor compliance with this requirement under section 14(1) and report performance to the FSA

Furthermore it may not be appropriate for all the information outlined under Clause 2(3) a-h to be provided at the same time, for example some councils may provide information on compliance in writing at the time of inspection and notify the Food Business Operators (FBOs) of their rating at a later time.

2(6) The Department may by regulations prescribe the form of sticker to be provided under subsection (3)(a).

Comments
2(6) As is the case with the voluntary scheme councils should be permitted to apply their own corporate branding to the stickers in addition to the FSA branding. This will reflect the major role the councils have in delivering the scheme and raise awareness that business and consumers should contact their local council if they have any queries. The FSA should cover the total costs of producing the stickers including the council branding as part of their contribution to the scheme.

CLAUSE 3 - Appeal

3(1) The operator of a food business establishment may appeal against the establishment's food hygiene rating.

Comments
CEHOG believe an appeal mechanism is an essential element of the FHRS, although some councils have expressed concerns about the potential resource implications. CEHOG supports clause 14 (3 b) which requires the FSA to review the operation of this section.

CLAUSE 4 – Request for Re-rating

4(2) Within three months of receiving the request, the district council must -
a) inspect the establishment and review the establishment's food hygiene rating on the basis of that inspection

Comment
CEHOG fully supports the provision that businesses may request additional inspections for the purposes of re-rating.

The term *inspection* is used again in this section without definition although section 16 (2) states it is not to be read in accordance with section 1. The term *inspection* for the purposes of re-rating should be clearly defined and consistent with that in the *brand standard* under the voluntary scheme to be *any official control*.

4(2)(a) Under the proposed scheme the maximum period of time between initial inspection and re-rating is just approximately 4 months as opposed to the voluntary scheme which is just approximately 6 months.

Whilst this might be favourable to FBOs it may encourage temporary improvements which would defeat the purpose of the scheme. CEHOG supports clause 14 (3)(c) which requires the FSA to review the operation of this section. This should evaluate fluctuations in compliance rates.

There is currently no limit on the number of revisits that a business owner can request and the payment of fees may favour the larger businesses due to their ability to pay for multiple visits. CEHOG are of the opinion that businesses should only be able to demand one re-rating inspection in any 6 month period. This will help reduce demand on councils whilst allowing business sufficient opportunities for re-rating.

A flat fee for Northern Ireland has been suggested in previous consultation responses to be set at a level to help prioritise only reasonable requests.

4(3) Within 14 days of carrying out an inspection under subsection (2), the council must notify the operator of the establishment of its determination on reviewing the establishment's food hygiene rating

CEHOG would repeat the comments made under clause 2(1) to the effect that timeframes for notification should be stipulated in (statutory) guidance as opposed to legislation. And performance should be closely scrutinised by councils and reported to the FSA under section 14(1).

CLAUSE 6 - Validity of rating

6(1) A food business establishment's food hygiene rating –
a) becomes valid when it is notified to the operator of the establishment under section 2, 3 or 4 (as the case may be), and
b) unless it ceases to be valid as a result of subsection (2), continues to be valid until, where there is a new food hygiene rating for the establishment, the end of the appeal period in relation to that new rating.

Comments – *Offence*
Clause (10) Concerns have been raised about implications on the potential council resources to monitor the display and accuracy of stickers on premises. Enforcement may prove to be a lower priority within some councils.

Some councils have concerns that the proposals allow a business to display their old rating until the end of the appeal period. Where a business's compliance has significantly fallen, this will mislead the consumer. CEHOG are of the opinion that a business should be required to display the new rating or an awaiting rating sticker until the end of the appeal period. Furthermore, councils should be given the power to remove FHRS stickers immediately should there be a significant drop in standards.

There is the potential for a delay in updating a new rating on the website. This may contrast with a more up-to-date rating on display at the premises.

CLAUSE 7 - Duty to display rating
7(1) The operator of a food business establishment must ensure that a valid sticker showing the establishment's food hygiene rating is displayed in the location and manner specified by the Department in regulations for so long as the rating is valid.

Comments
CEHOG is of the view that the sticker should be visible to consumers before they enter the premises so enabling customers to make an informed choice prior to entering.

It will be essential that the requirements of these regulations are clear and supported by guidance sufficient to ensure consistency of enforcement.

CLAUSE 8 - Duty to provide information about rating

8(1) The operator of a food business establishment or a relevant employee at the establishment must, on being requested to do so,

orally inform the person making the request of the establishment's food hygiene rating.

Comments
CEHOG welcome this clause whilst recognising it may be difficult to enforce.

CLAUSE 10 & 11

CLAUSE 10 - Offences
10(7) A person guilty of an offence under this section is liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding level 3 on the standard scale.

CLAUSE 11 - Fixed Penalty
11(3) The Schedule (which makes further provision about fixed penalties) has effect.

Comments
CEHOG note the fixed penalty amount under the Welsh scheme is set at £200 and consider this an appropriate penalty. CEHOG are of the view a similar penalty is required in NI to provide a suitable deterrent.
CEHOG believe an additional offence should be considered to prevent an establishment making any misleading claims or false advertising with respect to a valid rating. A catch all clause of this nature could cover claims made other than by way of a FHRS sticker.

CLAUSE 12 - Provision of information for new businesses

12- (1) this section applies if an establishment which is or would be a food business establishment-
(a) is registered under article 6 of Regulation (EC) 852/2004 by a district council, or
(b) applies to a district council for approval under Article 4 of Regulation (EC) 853/2004.
(2) the district council must, within 14 days of making the registration or receiving the application, provide the person who is or would be the operator of the establishment with such information as the Department may specify in regulations.

Comments
A key objective of our enforcement and regulatory policy is to support the local economy and in particular to assist businesses in complying with their legal obligations. Councils adopt a range of techniques to do this including provision of seminars for new businesses, operating business advice centres, identifying and providing information to new business prior to their opening etc.

CEHOG would encourage the FSA to engage with councils to agree standards or develop guidance on the provision of information for the FHRS and CEHOG supports an FSA review of this approach under section 14. However CEHOG is of the opinion that using a legislative instrument to require councils to provide information to all businesses within 14 days of making the registration is not appropriate. Councils should have some flexibility in how they achieve the overall objective, providing information in the most appropriate way.

We agree that councils will want to support businesses particularly new businesses to build compliance and specifying 14 days for information to be forwarded to newly registered businesses should not pose any particular problem for local councils. However it places an additional burden on councils and timeframes should, if required, be contained within guidance.

CLAUSE 13 – Mobile Establishments

13(1) The Department may by regulations make provision for enabling the transfer of the inspection and rating functions of a district council, in so far as they are exercisable in relation to mobile food business establishments registered with the council under Article 6 of Regulation (EC) 852/2004, to another district council.

Comments
Premises would usually be inspected during operating hours rather than at their home address where trading may not take place. It is envisaged that this would require agreements and co-operation between councils.

CLAUSE 14 - Review of operation of Act

14(1) Each district council –
a) must keep the operation of this Act in its district under review, and
b) must provide the Food Standards Agency with such information as it may request for the purpose of carrying out a review under this section.

Comments
This should give some more detailed direction on the type and extent of review that is expected. Information currently required by FSA should be revised to reflect the additional requirements so as to avoid an additional administrative burden.

Under section 14(2) the FSA must carry out a review of the Act. Considering some of the concerns raised by councils CEHOG welcomes the inclusion of this clause.

14(3) The review must include a consideration of the following matters –
a) where this Act specifies a period in which something may or must be done, whether that period is adequate for the purpose;
b) whether section 3 is operating satisfactorily;
c) whether section 4 is operating satisfactorily and, in particular, whether there should be a limit on the number of occasions on which the right to make a request for a re-rating under that section may be exercised.

FSA 14(3) The review should measure the progress of the statutory scheme in achieving the stated aims and objectives, in particular improving compliance (as determined by ratings, not re-ratings) and reducing foodborne illness in NI and providing value for money.

The review should estimate the resource burden placed on councils and seek their views as to how successful the scheme has been, considering value for money and where they would like to see the scheme improved.

The review should include consultation with all relevant stakeholders especially consumers.

CLAUSE 15 – Guidance

15 In exercising a function under this Act, a district council must have regard to –
a) guidance issued by the Department, and
b) guidance issued by the Food Standards Agency.

Comments
CEHOG consider that guidance should be definitive, clear and timely.

CLAUSE 16 – Interpretation

CEHOG believe this should include definition of inspection for rating and inspection for re-rating.

CLAUSE 17 - Transitional Provision

The Bill allows for the Department to make a transitional provision which would allow councils to use historical data to produce ratings.

CEHOG are of the opinion that historical data should be used to produce ratings for all premises within scope, and CEHOG also supports the introduction of transitional provisions to facilitate this.

There must be a widely advertised campaign for food businesses, covering the whole of Northern Ireland, well in advance of the introduction of mandatory display legislation.

CLAUSE 18 - Regulations and Orders

Councils welcome the option for making regulations and orders under the scheme to permit necessary improvements/amendments following consultation with all stakeholders.

CLAUSE 19 - Crown Application

CEHOG agree that the duty to display should apply to Crown premises.

CLAUSE 20 - Short title and commencement

20(2) CEHOG believe that the timing of enactment date is very important to councils as they are preparing for LGR and transition to larger councils and welcome some space for this reform process to be embedded prior to enactment"

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Tackling Anti-Social Behaviour – Internal Review

The Head of Environmental Health reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 4th June, 2014, it had approved Terms of Reference relating to an internal review of practice and service delivery in relation to anti-social behaviour. The purpose of the review was to provide a level of assurance that the Council's response to anti-social behaviour was effective and consistent. The review would consider also changing needs within the City, with a view to providing a more focused and cohesive approach in addressing anti-social behaviour. It would provide also an element of scrutiny in relation to anti-social behaviour related work, in keeping with the Council's obligation to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions were exercised.

She reported that the Health and Environmental Services Committee had also appointed representatives to a Strategic Project Board in order to provide guidance and direction to those officers who were undertaking the review. The Board had met on 19th September and had approved a project plan which had identified a number of actions, under the themes of accountability, customer service, information and communication, prevention and early intervention and process, which would seek to tackle antisocial behaviour and improve the service which was provided to communities.

She provided an overview of the progress which had been made to date, which had involved, amongst other things, the facilitation of workshops for frontline staff within the Community Safety and Parks Sections. A mapping exercise had been undertaken to collate information on anti-social behaviour across the City in order to identify areas of concern. That had identified four areas, namely, Falls Park/City Cemetery and Musgrave, Orangefield and Woodvale Parks. Staff from the aforementioned sections had met to examine ways in which to implement focused interventions in those areas and had drafted a plan, which would be monitored by a project team, for delivery in each area from mid-January.

After discussion, during which the Head of Environmental Health confirmed that Members would be invited to participate in the project teams, the Committee noted the information which had been provided and that a report providing an update on the effectiveness of the initiative would be submitted to a future meeting.

Result of Judicial Review re: Application for a Dual-Language Street Sign at Ballymurphy Drive

(Ms. N. Largey, Solicitor, attended in connection with this item.)

The Head of Building Control informed the Members that the power for the Council to consider applications to erect a second street nameplate in a language other than English was contained within Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (Northern Ireland) Order 1995. He explained that, in accordance with the Council's policy for the erection of dual-language street signs, a survey of all persons appearing on the Electoral Register for that street, together with tenants or owners of commercial properties, was required to be undertaken. At least 66.6% of those surveyed would be required to be in favour of the proposal before the application could be placed before the Committee for approval.

He reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 6th August, 2014, it had been advised that, following an unsuccessful application by a resident of Ballymurphy Drive to have an Irish language sign erected in that street, the applicant had applied for a Judicial Review against both the decision and the Council's policy in relation to Dual-Language street signs. He explained that the figure of 66.6% of those surveyed in the street had not been attained and therefore the application had not been presented to the Committee.

He reported that the Judicial Review had been heard on 5th September and 10th November, 2014 before Mr Justice Horner and had been based on the following five grounds:

("Ground 1")

The refusal of the Council to consider the proposal to erect an Irish language Street name plate at Ballymurphy Drive was ultra vires, because the respondent fettered its discretion in applying the policy in such a way as to prevent due consideration being given to the particular circumstances of this application.

("Ground 2")

The Council's dual language street sign policy is unlawful because it requires two-thirds or more of the occupiers appearing on the Electoral Register to indicate that they are in favour of the proposal to erect a second language street sign and /or because it deems those who do not reply to the proposal as not being in favour of it and/ or set the level of expressions of approval at the same threshold as that formally required to change the street name.

("Ground 3")

The terms of the policy are inconsistent with the terms of Article 11 of the 1995 Order, insofar as Article 11 requires the respondent to have regard to the views expressed by the occupier, whereas the policy allows those who do not respond to be considered to have expressed opposition to it.

("Ground 4")

The policy is inconsistent with the council's commitment to act in accordance with it's obligations under the European Charter for regional or minority languages, and in particular the Charter obligation under 10(2)(g) to the use of adoption of traditional and correct forms of place-names in regional or minority languages.

("Ground 5")

The policy was ultra vires as it was an attempt to re-enact the substantive terms of (the repealed) Section 21 of the Public Health Amendment Act 1907, where no such legislative power exists.

He informed the Committee that Mr Justice Horner had, on 4th December, 2014, delivered his decision and had found that the Council's decision making process had been lawful and that the applicant's challenge had failed on each of the aforementioned five grounds. In particular he had determined that, as a general proposition, international treaties or agreements which had not been incorporated into national laws, were not enforceable. He had determined also that a public authority could not be obliged to treat itself as bound to act in compliance with an international obligation and that, even where it does so, the Courts would adopt a very light-touch review which would not extend to ruling on the meaning or effect of the international treaty.

The Head of Building Control reported that an order for costs had been made in favour of the Council, however, as the applicant was in receipt of legal aid, the order could not be enforced without further leave of the court.

The Committee noted the information which had been provided and noted that a copy of Mr Justice Horner's decision could be viewed on the Mod.gov site.

Building Control

Application for the Erection of Dual-Language Street Signs

The Head of Building Control reported that the undernoted application to erect an additional street nameplate in a language other than English had been received by the Council:

English Name	Non English name	Location	Applicant
Glenshane Gardens	Garraithe Ghleann Sheáin	Off Slieveban Drive, BT11	Ms Rosie McCorley

He explained that, in accordance with Council policy, a survey had been conducted which had ascertained that in excess of 66.6% of the residents of the street had been in favour of the above-mentioned second street nameplate. Accordingly, he recommended that the erection of the nameplates be authorised.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Extension of Cleansing Services Litter Bin Tender

The Head of Cleansing Services reminded the Committee that, at its meeting on 2nd February, 2011, it had granted approval to undertake a tendering exercise for the supply and installation of litter bins over a two year period. He explained that the contract, which covered both free standing and post-mounted bins, had ended on 31st August, 2014. However, the priority afforded to awarding vehicle tenders, in addition to Local Government Reform commitments, had meant that a tendering exercise had not been undertaken for the aforementioned bins. Following discussions with the Council's Central Procurement Unit and Legal Services, the contract had been extended for a further year, until August, 2015, which would allow for an assessment of the future litter bin requirements of the City in light of its extended boundary.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed:

1. to grant retrospective approval to extend the contracts for the supply and installation of free standing and post-mounted bins to 31st August, 2015;
2. to approve the commencement of a tendering exercise in early 2015 for the future supply and installation of those litter bins; and
3. that authority be delegated to the relevant Director to award the contract on the basis of the most economically advantageous tender received, in line with the evaluation criteria.

Chairman