

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Wednesday, 3rd September, 2014

MEETING OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE

Members present: Councillor Corr (Chairman);
The High Sheriff (Alderman L. Patterson);
Aldermen Kingston and McCoubrey;
Councillors Austin, Curran, Clarke, Garrett,
Hussey, Jones, Keenan, Kelly, Magee,
McCarthy, 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;
Mr. T. Walker, Head of Waste Management; and
Mr. B. Flynn, Democratic Services Officer.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of the Councillors M. E. Campbell, Kyle and McKee.

Minutes

The minutes of the meeting of 6th August were taken as read and signed as correct. It was reported that those minutes had been adopted by the Council at its meeting on 1st September.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Directorate

Quarterly Financial Report

The Head of Environmental Health submitted for the Committee's consideration a report which outlined the financial performance of the Department during the first quarter of the 2014/2015 financial year. She advised that an underspend of £144,000 had been recorded due primarily to the receipt of additional income and unfilled posts. She drew the Committee's attention to two performance indicators which related to procurement compliance. The first measured the number of times in which a valid purchase order had been created in advance of goods or services being ordered; and the second determined whether goods received had been recorded on the appropriate system immediately upon their receipt, rather than waiting until an invoice had been

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received. The Council had set corporate targets of 90% and 75% respectively, and it was reported that the Department had achieved compliance rates of 88.3% and 74.7% respectively.

Noted.

Update on Community Oil Buying Clubs - Pilot Project

The Head of Environmental Health provided an update regarding the establishment of Community Oil Buying Clubs, a project which the Committee, in partnership with Development Committee, had endorsed at its meeting in June. She reported that officers from the Council, together with representatives of a range of statutory bodies and agencies, had developed a '*practical guide for setting up a club*', which was aimed particularly at community groups and workers within Belfast. It was pointed out that the public launch of that guide would take place in the City Hall on Tuesday 28th October and that all Members of the Committee would be invited to attend.

Noted.

Building Control

Affordable Warmth Project

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 7th April, it was advised of the Department of Social Development's (DSD) wish to engage with local authorities in delivering schemes across Northern Ireland in the next 3 years which will seek to address fuel poverty. This proposed scheme is the third phase of an overall project in the partnership that has been conducted with a number of councils. Belfast was involved in the first scheme and had been part of the group that monitored the second phase which concentrated on one of the rural cluster council area.**
- 1.2 This project is being delivered within the Council by the Building Control Service. This involves the DSD and University of Ulster (UUJ) targeting some areas of the city and providing Building Control with addresses of those people thought to be most at risk of fuel poverty.**
- 1.3 Building Control will visit the properties and carry out a survey of occupants' home and financial circumstances to ascertain their income and subsequent expenditure on fuel. This information is then passed to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) for further consideration for grant**

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aided intervention in the dwelling to increase energy efficiency.

- 1.4 If the occupant is eligible they will be notified of the grant funding and the work to be carried out in relation to the grant. The applicant then arranges the works to be carried out, an application is made for the works to Building Control and the appropriate fees paid for the works paid by the NIHE.
- 1.5 Additionally, the Department of Social Development wishes to retain self referral as a means of gaining grants also. Self referral is when a person who lies outside the list of addresses supplied by the DSD, contacts Building Control and asks to be considered for the scheme. A survey is carried out and sent to the NIHE for their attention.
- 1.6 Progress to date:
 - a Service Level Agreement has been drawn up and cleared by Legal Services and signed by the new Chief Executive.
 - DSD has provided fuel poverty likelihood information on all parts of the city.
 - specific addresses for use by the Council have being produced by the DSD.
 - DSD, the NIHE and Council officers have agreed a methodology for the collection of occupant's data.
 - a system of data transfer has been agreed between the NIHE and the Council.
- 1.7 The Building Control Service will:
 - Employ temporary staff to work on the project.
 - Post out letters to occupants.
 - Visit the addresses as provided by the DSD and carry out surveys.
 - Carry out doorstep surveys until 1000 houses are surveyed annually
 - Provide completed surveys to the NIHE
 - Ensure applications for energy efficiency works are submitted to the Council with the appropriate fee for assessment and approval by Building Control.
 - Inspect all building and insulation works.
 - Meet with the DSD and NIHE quarterly to discuss progress and any area of concern arising.
- 1.8 The Council has now agreed job descriptions and salary scales with the Human Resources Unit and we are now in

the process of recruiting staff to carry out this function on temporary contracts.

2 **Key Issues**

2.1 There are increasing numbers of people in fuel poverty in the city and the Council is working with the DSD and NIHE to alleviate this.

2.2 This is Phase 3 of the project and will last for three years. Funding has been agreed and Building Control will provide the Council and DSD will regular reports on the progress of the project.

2.3 In participating in this project the Council can play an active role in partnership with DSD, establishing a methodology to alleviate fuel poverty in the city that may be the model going forward in the future.

2.4 The Council will in partnership deliver energy efficiency measures which will also assist to reduce the city's carbon emission footprint.

2.5 Legal Services have been fully involved in the drawing up of the Service Level Agreements.

3 **Resource Implications**

3.1 **Financial**

There are no financial implications for the Council. All set up marketing and employment costs are met by the DSD.

3.2 **Human Resources**

Four temporary members of staff will be employed on a 12 month contract basis.

3.3 **Asset and Other Implications**

There are no implications for assets

4 **Equality and Good Relations Considerations**

4.1 None at this time.

5 Recommendation

- 5.1 The Committee is requested to note the work of the Building Control Service in partnership with DSD to alleviate fuel poverty in the city.”**

After discussion, during which the Head of Building Control clarified a number of issues which had been raised by Members, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Naming of Street – John Bell Crescent

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Background Information

- 1.1 The power for the Council to name streets is contained in Article 11 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1995.**

2 Key Issues

- 2.1 To consider the following application for the naming of a new street in the City.**

<u>Proposed Name</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Applicant</u>
John Bell Crescent	Off Queens Road, BT3	Mr Michael Graham Titanic Quarter Ltd

The application particulars are in order and the Royal Mail has no objections to the proposed name. The proposed new name is not contained in the Council’s Streets Register and does not duplicate existing approved street names in the City.

The applicant has advised that the proposed street to be named, John Bell Crescent, is situated off Queen’s Road and bounds the Belfast Metropolitan College building in the Titanic Quarter. This is a presently unnamed road and there are no occupied properties that have entrances onto the road, additionally the land on both sides of the road is owned by the applicant.

The application states that they wish to name the road to recognise the significant global contribution to science and quantum physics of Belfast man, John (Stewart) Bell who died in 1990. John Bell attended the former Belfast College of Technology, now known as the Belfast Metropolitan College (BMC) in the 1940s prior to graduating from Queen’s

University Belfast. There is a Blue Plaque honouring John Bell erected at Queen's.

The policy on naming streets 4.3 states that there should be a social, historical or geographical link in connection with the proposed name. Members would need to be satisfied that that linkage fulfils the requirements of the policy. Additionally, whilst the policy is silent on the use of the names of people, the Council has traditionally avoided using the names of people in the past. On checking our records, there are a very few streets that we believe were named after people, all of these were prior to the mid 1980s. Indeed, since the 1960s, the council has only used real names on two occasions.

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 There are no Financial, Human Resources or Assets and other Implications in this report.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

- 4.1 There is no direct equality or good relations implications in this decision. However, Members will be aware that to agree this decision could mean revisiting the policy to guide decision-making in that any future names approved by Council should ensure a neutral and harmonious city.
- 4.2 This would constitute a policy change which would require screening for equality and good relations implications. The potential implications would have to address community concerns of partisan figures that were perceived as representative of one particular section of the community and not promoting shared space in the city.

5 Recommendations

- 5.1 Based on the information presented, the Committee may either:
- grant the application, or
 - refuse the application and request the applicant to submit another name for consideration."

The Head of Building Control provided an overview of the report and emphasised the following points to the Members of the Committee:

- The Policy is silent on the use of the names of people as street names;

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- In accordance with section 4.3 of the Council's Street Naming Policy, the naming of streets or roads within Belfast should be reflective of a vicinity's history, social history or geography; therefore, it would be expected that the names of streets or roads within the Titanic Quarter would be linked to the area's maritime or industrial heritage; and
- Traditionally, there existed a long-standing practice in Belfast of naming buildings, as opposed to streets or roads, after individuals – in particular, academics - and that was a further option which might be explored by Titanic Quarter Limited or the Belfast Metropolitan College should it wish to honour John Stewart Bell.

After further discussion, it was

Resolved - that the Committee agrees not to accede to the request to name a street within the Titanic Quarter after John Stewart Bell viz., John Bell Crescent, since it would not be considered to be in accordance with the spirit of the Council's Street Naming Policy and the established practice of not naming streets after individuals.

Northern Ireland Building Control - Annual Convention

The Head of Building Control informed the Committee that the 2014 Building Control Annual Convention would be held in the Templeton Hotel on 13th and 14th November. He reported that the theme of the Convention would be "Building New Communities Beyond 2015 – how new councils will shape the future". He outlined the principal aspects of the programme and gave an overview of the speakers who would address the event.

The Committee approved the attendance at the event, on a day delegate basis only, of the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman, the Director of Health and Environmental Services, together with the Head of Building Control (or their nominees).

Joint Working with Department of Social Development on Works to City Centre Buildings

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“ **Relevant Background Information**

- 1.1 **Members will be aware at your Committee meeting on 4th June, you gave permission for the Service to engage with the Department for Social Development (DSD) on the possibility of accessing finance to carry out work to buildings in the city centre. This was a result of enquiries from DSD directly to the Service following the successful partnerships established through completion of projects linked to improvement of buildings on route of the Giro. In undertaking**

these discussions, it was agreed that we would keep the Development Department fully informed, to prevent any duplication, as they also work with DSD on similar schemes and are the Council lead on regeneration.

- 1.2 To test the viability of any proposals we agreed with DSD that we would carry out a pilot exercise to assess the improvement of a vacant building in Castle Street. That pilot exercise was to carry out a detailed survey, specify and price the works to the building and present our findings to DSD a full report. That pilot project has now been completed.
- 1.3 DSD have confirmed that they are completely satisfied with the Services work and they now wish to enter into a more formal arrangement with the Council to carry out this work and other projects within the area of a similar nature.

Key Issues

- 2.1 The project is based on partnership working between the Council (through the Building Control Service) and the DSD, with clearly defined roles. The DSD are committed to reducing dilapidation in the city centre and are seeking the assistance of the Council to carry out that work. The scheme proposed is similar to work successfully carried out in relation to the Giro and indeed the Dilapidations Project carried out in conjunction with the Department of the Environment.
- 2.2 This scheme will be carried out for and on behalf of the DSD. They selected both the area and the buildings to be improved. The Service will be the delivery mechanism as set out in the pilot for each of the projects. The costs of the work to the building and the Services costs in delivering the project will be met by DSD. There is no application from building owners, no grant involved and therefore no financial input by the owner/occupier. It is therefore very similar to the works we previously carried out using DSD funding in North East Quarter prior to the Giro with the exception that these are occupied commercial units.
- 2.3 The projects they are proposing in this phase of the scheme is to buildings in the area alongside the current Public Realm Environmental Improvement works being carried out by DSD in Bank Square. It is anticipated that the projects will raise the overall look of the area, with a view to the works being completed prior to the expected Christmas shopping rush.
- 2.4 In addition to the ongoing Dilapidations Project in March 2012, Council agreed a four year citywide Renewing the Routes

(RTR) programme that forms part of the £150m Investment Programme. The programme delivers local regeneration along Belfast's main arterial routes by improving the frontages to business, targeting graffiti and addressing derelict space.

- 2.5 The approach to the programme, based on previous experience, is direct delivery rather than through grant support. The RTR programme operated by the Development Department seeks to deliver improvements to commercial properties and associated areas working with the owner/occupier who are required to make a 10% contribution. This requirement arose from the Council consideration of the pilot programme carried out using Urban and BLSP funding.
- 2.6 The broader RTR programme has previously excluded the city centre areas due to the potential for duplication as the DSD has funded such interventions directly. Post April 2015 council will have responsibility for city centre regeneration. As part of the LGR process for the transfer of the DSD regeneration functions, there is currently no budget provision for this type of activity and the participation in this partnership project does not commit the Council to an ongoing programme or commitment.
- 2.7 If we decide to participate in this project the Council will use our contractors as selected through the tendering process for dilapidated buildings and submit final accounts to the DSD following the completion of each project. For the proposed project it should be noted that DSD will prioritise the properties for improvement and we carry out the works to those buildings. Also, in order to provide coherence with the established approach to commercial improvements, it is proposed that further discussions are undertaken with the Development Department and the DSD.
- 2.8 While DSD will identify properties within the terms of the scheme, the Council will be responsible for ensuring that the works are carried out from survey to completion.
- 2.9 The proposed spend and timeframe on the programme is £78,500,00 to be completed before Christmas 2014.
- 2.10 DSD is finalising a Service Level Agreement for the project which will outline the roles of DSD and the Council. Any Agreement will be given to Legal Services for assessment, but given the timescales involved to get the project initiated, it is proposed that Committee and Council authorise the Director of Health & Environmental Services the delegated power to sign the agreement.

2.11 DSD has confirmed that they will provide funding for any additional staff, including structural or asbestos surveys as required by the Council.

2.12 We have consulted with Legal Services and the Development Department and they are satisfied that we can engage in this scheme. We will bring a full report to Committee in due course outlining the works in this scheme.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

DSD provide all funding for the physical improvement works to be carried out to the properties. DSD will also provide funding for council's staffing needs and external consultants to deliver their part of the project.

3.2 Human Resources

This project can be delivered using the existing building control staff.

3.3 Assets and Other Implications

None.

4 Equality Implications

4.1 The Department for Social Development will undertake its own Equality Impact Assessment of any proposed projects.

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is requested to agree:

a) that the Council enters into an agreement with the Department for Social Development to deliver this project in the city centre and continues to assess with the Development against the established approach to commercial improvements.

b) that the Lead Operations Officer/Head of Environmental Health be given delegated authority to sign off any Service Level Agreement in consultation with Legal Services, based on the arrangements as outlined above and as agreed by Committee."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Cleansing Services

Designation of Land within the Council Area
for the Free Distribution of Printed Matter

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 The Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, which came into force on 1st April 2012, introduced new powers to control the distribution of free printed matter in those areas of the city where there is a history of significant littering problems as a result of leaflet distribution. Prior to the introduction of the legislation, the city centre and the university areas had been the subject of sustained leafleting activities by entertainment premises, retail outlets and the tour bus companies resulting in complaints about the increase in litter and the nuisance factor associated with this activity.
- 1.2 Following approval from the Committee, the city centre and the university areas were designated for the purposes of distributing free printed matter. On 1st May 2013, The Free Printed Matter (Belfast) Designation Order came into operation. This required any person wishing to distribute free printed matter on the land in these areas to first obtain consent (in the form of a permit) from the Council.
- 1.3 Once the lands, subject to the Designation Order, had been declared, it became an offence to distribute free printed materials in these areas without a permit. Anyone who is caught distributing leaflets within the designated areas, without a permit, can be issued with a fixed penalty notice for £80 or be prosecuted. In addition, all materials can be seized but may be returned upon proper application to the Court. Prosecutions carry a maximum penalty of £2500 in the Magistrate’s Court. The distribution of free printed matter for political, religious or charitable purposes is exempt from the need to obtain consent in the legislation.
- 1.4 Since the scheme came into operation, the amount of litter caused as a result of leafleting has reduced dramatically. It was agreed that the effectiveness of the scheme would be reviewed after it has been in operation for a year with a view to identifying any necessary changes to the scheme and thereafter bringing a report to Committee.

2 Key Issues

2.1 Permits may be offered on an annual or a temporary basis. The following number of permits were issued from 1st May 2013 to date:

- **45 Annual Permits (city centre only) (£450)**
- **91 Temporary Permits (city centre and university area) (£75)**

2.2 From 1st May 2013, letters were sent out to businesses in the city centre to advise about the new controls that were in place to control leafleting. Advice and warning was also given to anybody who was giving out free printed matter within the newly designated areas. Signage was erected within the two designated areas to warn that the areas were designated for the purposes of distributing free printed matter.

2.3 There has been a high level of compliance with the legislation resulting in a significant decrease in litter levels associated with this activity in the two areas. The scheme has been closely monitored by the Enforcement Section and the following enforcement activity has taken place within the first year of the scheme:

- **85 Warnings were given to those who were found to be leafleting.**
- **9 Fixed penalty notices were issued.**
- **Three cases were prosecuted for non payment of the £80 fixed penalty notice.**

2.4 Now that the scheme has been in operation for over a year, the following amendments have been identified to improve the scheme:

(1) Dispensation for Statutory Organisations

2.5 It is proposed that dispensation is given to statutory organisations for the distribution of free printed matter that contains public health and safety messages. This includes the following statutory organisations:

- **NHS (including the Blood Transfusion Service)**
- **Fire Service**
- **Police Service**
- **Health Promotion Agency**
- **Councils**
- **Northern Ireland Housing Executive**

- Northern Ireland Environment Agency
- Department for Regional Development Roads Service
- Department for Social Development
- Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

2.6 These organisations would not be required to apply to the Council for a permit; however, they would be expected to contact the Council in advance of any planned distribution and to have arrangements in place to clear up any litter that is associated with their distribution. This dispensation does not allow any distribution to occur within the prohibited areas (eg see Appendix).

(2)Temporary permits

2.7 Under the existing scheme, a temporary permit is only available for one day at a cost of £75. It is proposed to amend the existing scheme so that there will be two types of temporary permit available:

- A temporary permit for up to three days at £75
- A temporary permit for one week (seven days) at £120

2.8 Enforcement staff will continue to monitor the leaflet designation scheme to ensure that all permit holders are complying with the conditions attached to their permits, as well as pursuing action against individuals and organisations who attempt to distribute free printed materials within the designated areas and who do not have a permit from the Council.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 There was an additional administrative and enforcement resource required to administer and police the scheme. Additional resources had been approved by committee to implement the new powers contained within the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (NI) 2011.

3.2 The income that has been generated for the first year of the scheme amounts to £23,175. The predicted costs of operating the scheme for the first year were £26,202.

3.3 The scheme was designed to reduce the adverse environmental impact of the distribution of free literature within the city and this has been achieved by controlling the activities of those involved in the distribution of leaflets. This has resulted in a reduction in the resources required to keep the streets clean in both of the designated areas and allowed

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for those resources to be diverted to other city centre hot spots.

4 Equality Implications

5.1 There are no relevant equality or good relations implications

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is requested to note the significant reduction in litter and nuisance leafleting as a result of the introduction and implementation of the legislation to control the distribution of free printed matter.

5.2 In the light of operational experience, the Committee is requested to approve the suggested changes to the scheme highlighted in paragraphs 2.5-2.8 and approve the attached updated guidance note.”

The Committee adopted the recommendations and approved the associated guidance note, a copy of which was published on the Council’s website.

Digital Advertising Northern Ireland Awards

The Committee was advised that the Corporate Communications Section, in conjunction with the Cleansing Services Section, had been shortlisted for the ‘Best Use of Social Media’ category at the Digital Advertising Northern Ireland Awards, which would take place in the St. Columb’s Hall, Londonderry, on 19th September. It was reported that the Council had been short-listed for its ‘Belfast’s Next Top Doggie’ initiative which had sought to raise awareness of the issue of dog fouling and to promote the Council’s “Your Dog, Your Job” campaign. The Head of Cleansing Services reported that the cost of attending the ceremony would be £108 per delegate.

The Committee agreed to authorise the attendance at the awards ceremony of three officers from within the Department who had been involved in the project.

Environmental Health

**Belfast City Council Traffic Regulation
(North Belfast) Order (Northern Ireland) 2014**

The Committee was reminded that the North Belfast Area-Based Working Group had, as part of its intervention project, agreed to allocate a sum of £90,000 to provide alley-gates within the area. The Head of Environmental Health reminded the Committee that the Council possessed the power to make Gating Orders under Section 69 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act (Northern Ireland) 2011. She reported that the purpose of the Order was to prohibit the use by vehicles and pedestrians of specified entries where alley-gates would be erected. She explained that a Notice of

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Intention to make an Order had been advertised on 11th July in relation to the areas affected.

Accordingly, the Committee agreed that the Council be requested, at its meeting on 1st October, to pass a resolution to make a Traffic Regulation Order in the undernoted streets and areas which would be included in the Order:

- 1. To the rear of 1-15 Glenbank Parade**
- 2. To the rear of 68-80 Glenbank Place**
- 3. To the rear of 828-854 Crumlin Road and to the side of 834 Crumlin Road**
- 4. To the rear of 2-44 Oakley Street and to the side of 2 Oakley Street**
- 5. To the rear of 1-55 Glenbank Drive and to the side of 1 Glenbank Drive**
- 6. To the rear of 24-45 Farringdon Court**
- 7. To the rear of 2-32 Cranbrook Court and to the side of 32 Cranbrook Court**
- 8. To the rear of 1-22 Farringdon Court**
- 9. To the rear of 1-37 Velsheda Court and to the side of 39 Velsheda Court**
- 10. To the rear of 72-118 Farringdon Gardens**
- 11. To the rear of 73-115 Velsheda Park**
- 12. To the rear of 53-141 Oldpark Avenue and to the side of 83, 117 and 141 Oldpark Avenue**
- 13. To the rear of 162 and 164 Cliftonville Road**
- 14. To the rear of 1-15 Donore Court**
- 15. To the rear of 103-119 Antrim Road**
- 16. To the rear of 105-113 North Queen Street**
- 17. To the rear of 2-16 Little George's Street and to the side of 2 Little George's Street**
- 18. To the rear of 1-6 McCleery Street**
- 19. To the rear of 298-316 Skegoneill Avenue**
- 20. To the rear of 18-40 Northwood Drive**
- 21. To the rear of 1-39 York Park and to the side of 39 York Park**
- 22. To the rear of 43-133 York Park and to the side of 43, 87, 89 and 133 York Park**
- 23. To the rear of 137-185 York Park and to the side of 137 York Park**
- 24. To the rear of 2-24 York Park**
- 25. To the rear of 1-23 York Drive**
- 26. To the rear of 2-44 Veryan Gardens and to the side of 2 Veryan Gardens**
- 27. To the side of 19 and 23 Serpentine Road**
- 28. To the rear of 1-53 Veryan Gardens and to the side of 1 Veryan Gardens**
- 29. To the rear of 2-64 Vandyck Gardens**
- 30. To the rear of 1-37 Vandyck Gardens**

**31. To the rear of 2-44 Voltaire Gardens and to the side of 2
Voltaire Gardens**

Horizon 2020 European Funding – Community Safety Projects

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 Horizon 2020 is the largest European research and innovation programme, at a value of approximately £80 billion across Europe during the period 2014 – 2020.**
- 1.2 The overall goal of Horizon 2020 is to ensure Europe produces world-class science by removing barriers to innovation and making it easier for the public and private sectors to work together in delivering innovation.**
- 1.3 Horizon 2020 is comprised of a number of work streams to deliver on this goal, with one specific work stream about undertaking the research and innovation activities needed to protect our citizens, society and economy as well as our infrastructures and services, our prosperity, political stability and wellbeing.**
- 1.4 The first applications to Horizon 2020 will be considered over the coming months, with successful projects expected to be announced in spring 2015. Horizon 2020 projects require co-operation across a number of European countries and typically involve consortiums of a range of public and private sector organisations.**
- 1.5 The Police Service of Northern Ireland has asked Belfast City Council for support in relation to two proposals being submitted to the Horizon 2020.**

2 Key Issues

Project Name: Security and Crime Perception Platform (SCRIP2T)

This consortium is led by Fraunhofer IAO, a leading European Research and Development company with a range of local authorities and police agencies from across Europe. The Police Service of Northern Ireland has signed up as an end user partner to the project with a view to undertaking a case study as part of the project in an area of Belfast. The PSNI have approached Belfast City Council as the local authority to

also be an end user partner, recognising the valuable contribution Belfast City Council makes to working in partnership on policing and community safety issues.

2.2 The aim of the project is to develop a geo data platform, visualizing the perception of the population regarding crime as well as social media data and police crime information.

2.3 The expected outcomes of the project are:

- It will reveal and articulate the perception of crime within the population;
- It will help city planners and the police to identify and prioritise security challenges within large urban environments;
- It will combine information in order to enhance the knowledge regarding the perception of crime and insecurity;
- The subjective module will collect user generated content, enhancing community engagement. Further it addresses the bi-directional communication between citizens and the police;
- The project will offer various market opportunities as for example regarding the emotion measurement hardware/software or the geo referenced presentation platform.

2.4 End user partner commitment will involve full engagement in design and implementation of the project with the opportunity to shape the project to specifically benefit policing and community safety issues in Belfast. It will typically involve staff involvement at a level of between 15-30 days per annum. All staff costs are reimbursed at 100% with an additional 25% allowance for indirect costs such as heating, lighting and HR/Finance costs. All travel and subsistence costs associated with end user partner involvement is reimbursed at 100%.

Project Name: ACCEPT: Advancing Community Collaboration and Enhancing Policing Transition

2.5 The Police Service for Northern Ireland is also acting as lead partner on a consortium to improve co-operation between local authorities and police agencies on community policing across Europe. As part of this project, PSNI have requested that

Belfast is selected as a case study area and the PSNI has approached Belfast City Council to support the project as an official stakeholder.

- 2.6 The aim of the project is to develop strengthened community policing principles and future technology to deliver enhanced co-operation between law enforcement agencies and citizens.**
- 2.7 The expected outcomes of the project are:**
- It will strengthen and accelerate communications between law enforcement agencies and citizens on policing issues;**
 - It will increase community engagement and reduce feelings of insecurity;**
 - It will build an understanding of the case study communities and the policing service they receive;**
 - It will increase collaboration between communities and police.**
- 2.8 Official stakeholder commitment will involve twice yearly stakeholder sessions with all stakeholders from participating European jurisdictions to shape the development and implementation of the project. It will typically involve staff involvement at a level of 2-3 days per annum. Staff costs are not directly reimbursed as an official stakeholder, however, previous experience of being involved as a stakeholder in European projects has added significant value to the knowledge and networks of Belfast City Council in progressing its policing and community safety work. All travel and subsistence costs associated with official stakeholder involvement is reimbursed at 100%.**

3 Resource Implications

- 3.1 There are no resource implications at present as proposals have not yet been approved. However, if approved the resource implications will be as follows:**

Project Name: Security and Crime Perception Platform (SCRIP2T)

- 3.2 15-30 staff days reimbursed at 100% plus 25% indirect costs also reimbursed. All travel and subsistence will also be reimbursed at 100%.**

3.3 Project Name: ACCEPT: Advancing Community Collaboration and Enhancing Policing Transition

2-3 staff days costs of which not reimbursed but which previous involvement in European projects has shown significant added value in terms of policing and community safety knowledge and networks. All travel and subsistence will be reimbursed at 100%.

4 Equality and Good Relations Considerations

4.1 There are no equality and good relations implications at present.

5 Recommendation

5.1 The Committee is requested to note the contents of the report and to support the Council's involvement at this proposal stage.

5.2 The Committee is requested to agree to receive notification in spring 2015 on whether the proposals are successful and at that stage to consider in more detail Belfast City Council's involvement in the projects and associated case studies."

The Committee adopted the recommendations.

Waste Management

Sustainable Ireland Awards

The Committee was advised that the Waste Management Service had been short-listed in the "Council Award for Excellence in Waste Management" category at the Sustainable Ireland Awards. The Head of Waste Management reported that the award category sought to recognise local authorities which had made significant progress in meeting its recycling targets in recent years. He indicated that the Sustainable Ireland Awards would take place in the Ramada Hotel later that evening. Accordingly, it was recommended that the Chairman and the Deputy Chairman, together with the Head of Waste Management (or their nominees), be authorised to attend the event. The total cost for three delegates would be £238.00.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Extension to Contracts

The Head of Waste Management reminded the Committee that it had previously approved contracts for the procurement of various goods and services as set out hereunder:

**Health and Environmental Services Committee,
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- Collection of skips and hook-lift waste containers;
- Stock control, assembly and delivery of all waste containers;
- Inspection, repair and maintenance of roll-on/roll-off skips; and
- Hazardous waste - various lots.

He reported that, due to the high level of work which the Council's Procurement Service had undertaken over the recent period, there had been a delay in the tendering process for the renewal of the above-mentioned services. He, therefore, sought the Committee's approval to extend, for a period of six months, the current contracts and, if necessary, thereafter on a monthly basis.

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

**Waste Management Service Recycling and
Customer Service Standards Update**

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

"1 Relevant Background Information

- 1.1 **On 15th January 2014, the Committee noted the half year update to the recycling and customer service standards. This report presents details at the end of year position in regards to recycling, NI Landfill Allowances Scheme (NILAS) and Customer Service Standards.**
- 1.2 **As Members are aware, the end-of-year recycling and NILAS figures are subject to external verification by the Dept of the Environment (DoE). This process been just been completed and the recycling and NILAS updates included in this report are the final 2013/14 year-end results for the Council.**
- 1.3 **The recycling target for 2013 was 40% and the NILAS Allowance was 45,652 tonnes.**

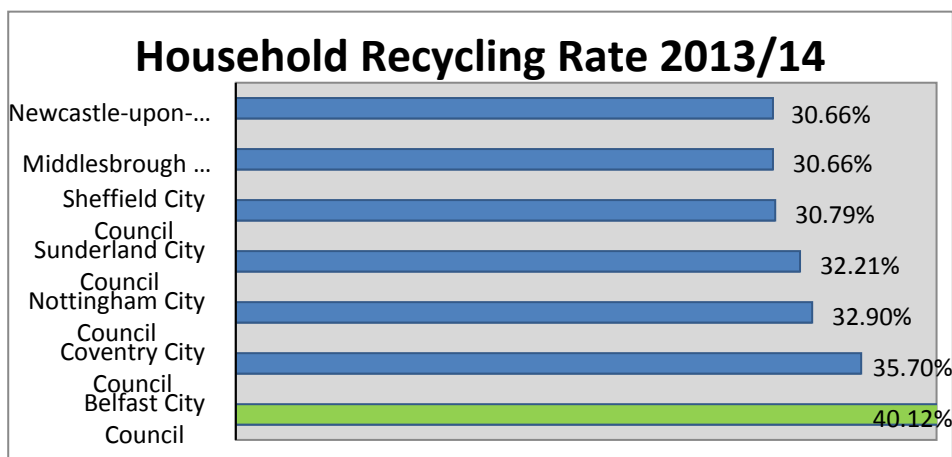
2 Key Issues

Recycling Performance Year-to-Date

- 2.1 **The household recycling rate, for end of year 2013/14 was 40.13% (verified); therefore Belfast has achieved its annual recycling target.**
- 2.2 **This has been achieved against a dramatic backdrop of change within the waste sector and has been managed by successfully implementing various recycling initiatives as outlined in the 'Towards Zero Waste' Action Plan. This report provides a brief update in relation to progress and performance against these initiatives.**

Bench Marking

- 2.3 Due to the population, household numbers, housing stock and social deprivation, Belfast has no obvious comparator in NI. To compensate for this, Waste Management has consistently benchmarked against similar post-industrial cities. The implementation of the Action Plan's initiatives has resulted in a significant improvement in Belfast's placing against these comparators.
- 2.4 In 2010/2011, Belfast's recycling rate was ranked fifth out of the benchmark group but, at the end of 2012/2013, the city had moved up to second place (see Appendix 1).



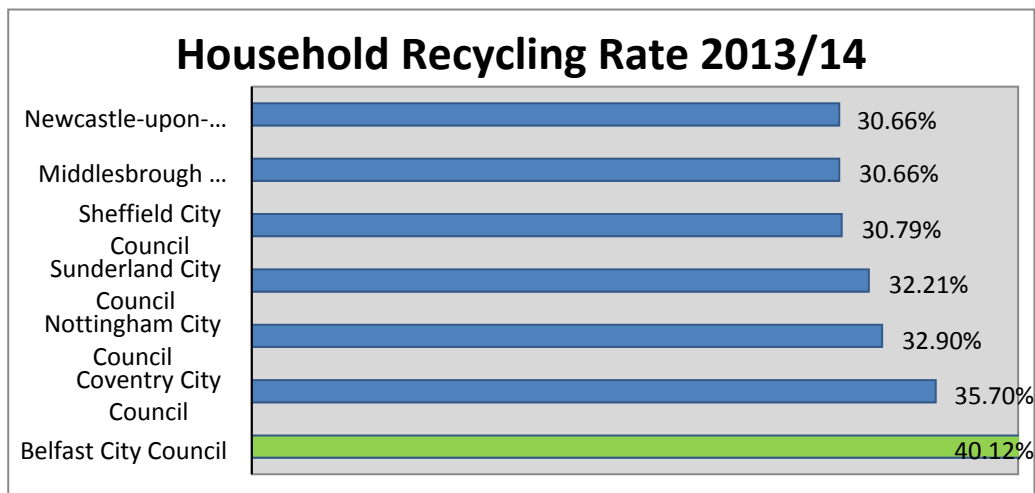
- 2.5 Belfast has now overtaken its benchmark group and is currently ranked first in its group (see above). The Service is considering revisiting its benchmarking cluster to identify a new grouping to compare against.

Organic Waste

- 2.6 Almost one third of the household recycling rate in Belfast is made up of organic waste and, as such, it can be heavily impacted on by the weather (a breakdown of the materials for 2013/2014 is included in Appendix 2). Members will be aware of the previous impact of severe cold weather in March 2013 (one of the coldest on record) which resulted in a loss of almost one full percentage point on the recycling rate.

The Importance of Organics to the Household Recycling Rate

- 2.7 The end of the 2013/2014 year has seen a strong organic waste performance following a good summer and mild winter which provided excellent growing conditions. Organic waste at the Household Recycling Centres (HRC) was up 24% on the previous year (HRC repairs were completed without any closure in 2013/14), and brown bins up 3% on last year.
- 2.8 In conjunction with the new kerbside box scheme, a new inner city food collection scheme was phased in from August 2013. The data from the first six months of this scheme was encouraging and in line with predictions. For example, the inner-city food waste contributed 1.4% to the recycling rate in 2013/14. As this was a half year implementation it is reasonable to expect that there will be an additional 1.4% added to the 2014/15 recycling rate.



Dry Recyclables

- 2.9 The dry recyclables tonnage has increased considerably in comparison to last year. This is despite a decrease in packaging weight across all sectors and the impact of economic downturn continuing to affect householders' disposable income. This applies to both the blue bin scheme and the box scheme, as well as from some additional recycling from residual bins as part of the Landfill Diversion contract.
- 2.10 The new inner city kerbside box scheme has resulted in a significant recycling improvement:

- Set-out rate is at 53% compared with 29% under the previous scheme
- Participation rate is estimated as similar in comparison to the blue bin scheme at around 70%. The average yield for dry recyclables is 2.00kg per household compared with 1.02 kg per household under the old scheme.

- 2.11 If the current performance is maintained, the scheme will contribute around 5,300 tonnes of dry recyclables and contribute a further 1% uplift on the recycling rate next year.
- 2.12 It is also worth noting that the recycling tonnages at the HRCs have increased by 15% in 2013/2014, largely attributable to the closure of Palmerston HRC last year for remedial works in the previous year which impacted negatively upon recycling habits. This can be contrasted with the interim arrangements at Blackstaff HRC which remained operational during the 2013/14 re-surfacing works.

Waste Awareness

- 2.13 The Education & Promotions team has been an important factor in bringing about the behavioural change required for the public to engage in the various recycling schemes (kerbside, recycling centres, bring sites, re-use schemes, and waste prevention). The team has been focused on delivering projects which specifically build upon and support the Action Plan and deliver a co-ordinated and consistent message to householders.
- 2.14 During the year, the team delivered 1,135 waste awareness and recycling sessions (against a target of 700 sessions) to around 16,000 participants from community groups, businesses, schools and through general public road shows. The team also complemented the work of the new kerbside box scheme by booking awareness sessions in those areas which were due to receive the new scheme.
- 2.15 Additionally, the Resource Advisors (doorstep canvassing team) introduced the new box scheme and, during the communications phase of this project, they visited each of the 55,000 households on three occasions achieving a 'hit' rate of just over 50%. Without this intensive communications and 'after-care' campaign, it is unlikely the scheme would have delivered the results to date.

NILAS Update

- 2.16 The arc21 Residual Waste Treatment Project remains at a critical juncture of its procurement schedule. In order to provide some stability for the forecasting of the NILAS update, the current arrangements for the diversion of residual waste are being assumed for future years (i.e. 70% of all residual waste will be treated and 30% will be directly landfilled). Appendix 3 provides details of the future forecast for Belfast under these conditions.
- 2.17 As reported to Committee last month, the Council landfilled within its allowances for 2013/2014. The actual level of achievement was 8,700 tonnes under the maximum permissible level, which equated to 80% of the threshold tonnage
- 2.18 It is worth noting that if no diversion arrangements had been in place, the Council would have exceeded its allowances by almost 10,000t in 2013/14, and by similar amounts each year going forward; in the absence of any treatment operation or transfer protocol being used, this could result in the DoE applying financial penalties to the Council of around £1.5 million per annum.
- 2.19 For 2014/2015, the Service will continue to actively review the level of treatment available to achieve both NILAS compliance and remain within the Service's budget.

Customer Service Standards

- 2.20 It is noted that the Service's Customer Service Standards continue to have a strong performance in 2013/2014; all standards are either broadly acceptable or meet/ exceed target.

Communiqué on the Circular Economy

- 2.21 Members may be interested to note that, on 3rd July, 2014, the Commissioner for the DG Environment launched a Communiqué on the Circular Economy which introduced new recycling targets, a food waste reduction goal, landfill bans for certain recyclable materials and the desire to '*virtually eliminate*' landfill by 2030, and improvements in business resource efficiency. These different items will be progressed through various Directives and other EU policy instruments by seeking to create a circular economy which places resource management central in the development and evolution of an economy.

2.22 This communiqué contextualises much of the work done by the Service in recent years on waste prevention, the Council's Business Improvement through Environmental Solutions (BITES) scheme, working with contractors and the third sector to develop new approaches to waste management, and the EU-funded research work currently underway with Questor on the Resource Innovation Network for European Waste (ReNEW) project amongst others. As the current 'Towards Zero Waste' Action Plan is drawing to a close, the next plan will develop actions to deliver many of the points above for the Council.

3 Resource Implications

3.1 Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

3.2 Human Resources

There are no human resource implications associated with this report.

3.3 Asset and Other Implications

No other implications associated with this report.

4 Equality and Good Relations Implications

4.1 There is no Equality or Good Relations Implications associated with this report.

5 Recommendations

5.1 The Committee is requested to note this report."

After discussion, during which Members expressed satisfaction at the figures which had been reported regarding the Council's recycling rates, the Committee noted the information which had been provided.

Award of Contracts for Municipal Waste Disposal

The Head of Waste Management reported that arc21 had undertaken a procurement exercise to renew municipal waste disposal contracts from 1st October 2014, for a nine-month period, with an option to extend those contracts until April, 2016.

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He informed the Committee that, following the receipt of submissions, an evaluation exercise had been undertaken which had recommended that the contracts be awarded as follows:

- Lot 1 - for the disposal of Municipal Waste at the Mullaghglass Landfill Site to the Alpha Resource Management Ltd; and
- Lot 2 - for the disposal of Municipal Waste at the Cottonmount Landfill Site to Biffa Waste Services.

The Committee endorsed the awarding of the contracts as set out.

arc21 – Response to Draft Local Government (Standing Orders) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2014

The Committee was advised that arc21 had submitted a response to the Department of the Environment in respect of the above-mentioned consultation exercise, the principal aspects of which were alluded to by the Head of Waste Management.

The Committee noted the arc21 response.

Review of Waste Management Plan and associated Strategic Environmental Assessment

The Committee considered the undernoted report:

“1 Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To appraise the Committee on progress with the review of the Waste Management Plan (WMP) including the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) and seek endorsement of the final revised WMP and SEA.**

2 Background

- 2.1 Members may recall that, at the April Committee meeting, they considered the initial stages of the WMP, including an update of the SEA, which had just completed its public consultation phase. Taking into account the submissions arising from this exercise, a final suite of documents was drafted and approved by the Joint Committee in March.**
- 2.2 In accordance with due process, the WMP and SEA were presented to the councils for their consideration prior to being submitted to the Department of the Environment (DOE) for their consideration and final approval.**
- 2.3 Earlier this summer, the DOE, having scrutinised the draft plan, formally responded that it was content that it met the**

statutory requirements and, in line with the legislative obligations and due process, each council is now required to formally determine the plan.

3 Key Issues

3.1 The Waste Management Plan and associated SEA have been revised and is attached. Members will recall the proposed format of the draft revised WMP remains largely unchanged as have the main strategic aspects. This revised Plan sets out the arrangement for the management of the following waste streams:

- **Local Authority Collected Municipal Waste (that is the waste collected by or on behalf of District Councils);**
- **Commercial and Industrial Wastes;**
- **Construction, Demolition and Excavation Waste;**
- **Packaging Waste;**
- **Hazardous Waste;**
- **Agricultural Waste;**
- **Mining Waste;**
- **Healthcare Waste; and**
- **Priority and Other Waste Streams.**

3.2 In terms of municipal waste, the WMP has been updated to include the current and proposed collection and management regimes. It also reflects the current status of the Residual Waste Treatment Project (i.e. it is still in procurement).

3.3 Article 23 of the Waste and Contaminated Land (NI) Order 1997 requires a draft copy of the revised WMP to be formally submitted to the DOE to enable them to check it provides the requisite information as required by the statute. Following due approval of the Joint Committee and councils earlier this year, the draft copy of the WMP was submitted to the DOE which examined the report and is content that it complies with the statutory requirements.

3.4 Councils are now obliged to finally determine the WMP to complete the statutory process. The provisions require the DOE to be sent a copy of the WMP once this has been done and arc21 will then inform the DOE that this has been done. Once the WMP has been finally determined, councils are also obliged to:

- **Take such steps as in the opinion of the council will give adequate publicity in its district to the WMP. This has been met simply by making**

appropriate reference to the WMP on the councils' website, allied to the information contained on the arc21 website.

- Keep a copy of the WMP and to make it available at all reasonable times at its principal offices for inspection by member of the public. They are also required to supply a copy of the WMP upon request and on payment by that person of such a reasonable charge as the council requires.

3.5 An electronic copy of the WMP/SEA will be provided to each council and the full documents will be accessible through the arc21 website. As there are over 300 pages to the final document a copy of the WMP Executive Summary has been appended to this report. As per the April report, a full copy of the revised WMP and SEA is available for Members upon request.

4 Resource Implications

Financial Implications

4.1 There are no financial implications directly associated with this report but, depending upon the outcome of the procurement exercise, there will be revenue costs. These will be factored into the Service's budgeting process should the project satisfactorily conclude.

Human Resources

4.2 None

5 Equality and Good Relations Implications

5.1 None.

6 Recommendation

6.1 It is recommended that the Committee approve the Waste Management Plan and the associated strategic environmental assessment."

The Committee adopted the recommendation.

Chairman