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## MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

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1. Minutes of the meetings held on 22<sup>nd</sup> February 2017.

**Order: Agreed**

2. Matters Arising

The Chair referred to the establishment of a Subcommittee on Litter Management and that Hazel De Nortuin has resigned from this Committee. The Chair sought a Councillor & a Sectoral nomination to serve on the Subcommittee. It was agreed that Councillor Andrew Keegan & Robert Moss would serve on the Subcommittee with Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí as the Chair.

**Order: Councillor Andrew Keegan and Robert Moss to serve on the Litter Management Subcommittee**

3. To fill a Sectoral vacancy on the Climate Change Subcommittee.

**Order: Defer to next meeting**

4. Dublin Waste to Energy Project.

The Chair referred to a recent visit to the Dublin Waste to Energy plant and requested the project engineer to update the members on the status of the project.

Mr. James Nolan advised the members

- The facility is close to completion but there are some civil works to be finished which will be a week or so
- Focus is now on the commissioning phase
- Dry out for the refractory is completed for line 1, this line is ready to move to phase 2
- Line 2 is progressing slightly slower than line 1 and it is expected that the refractory dry out will be completed in 2 weeks
- First firing with waste is expected to commence on line 1 towards the end of this (April) month.

- (i) Handling of bottom / fly ash.

Member raised the following questions / queries in relation to the report that was circulated.

- At the previous meeting it was stated that there is 3 – 4 days storage capacity on the site and then goes offsite. Where will it go to. What is the storage time capability? (AK)

Mr James Nolan responded

- The ash will be removed from the site directly to the quay for exporting
- The long term plan would be to retain the material in Ireland but there is currently no facility for this
- The bottom ash will be moved from the site for exporting every 30 days over a 24 hour cycle. The fly ash will be moved every 5 days.

(ii) Carbon usage.

- Councillor Ciaran O'Moore recommended that this report is deferred until the next meeting as Joe McCarthy is not in attendance this afternoon
- Councillor Ciaran Cuffe referred to the technical depth of the reports that were circulated and that the Client Representative should report to the committee in lay terms on the technical reports.
- The Chair advised that in depth technical details in the reports were requested by the Committee

**Order: Carbon usage deferred to the next meeting**

(iii) Detailed commissioning plan

**Order: Noted**

(iv) Protocol developed by Exova

James Nolan advised the Committee that this report has not yet issued. John Daly (Covanta) has advised that when this report is available it will be reviewed (by Covanta) and issued to the Committee thereafter.

**Order: Noted**

(v) Client representative reports

James Nolan advised the Committee that the focus of the CR reports is the detail of the operation of the plant and the commissioning phase to ensure compliance with the statutory consents and the contract between DCC and Covanta. Further reports will issue to the Committee when available.

Mr. Ruairi O'Carroll CDM Smith spoke on the report that issued and made the following points

- The flu gas treatment report outlines how the emissions will be dealt with.
- The report deals with how the equipment was chosen and the design decisions were made
- The plant has not entered operation and further reports will issue when this occurs.
- Based on the information reviewed by CDM Smith the facility meets and in many cases exceeds industry standard.

- It complies with the EPA license and the project agreement with Covanta.
- CDM are confident that the flu gas treatment system will perform as expected.
- The flu gas treatment has to be commissioned and incorporated with the CEMS.
- As designed the CEMS will comply with the EPA licence
- The commissioning phase will make sure that these systems work in practice and a further report will issue on this matter.
- Covanta have appointed 3<sup>rd</sup> party independent testers for the CEMS
- CDM Smith is confident that the plant will perform as expected.

Members raised the following questions / queries

- What material is used in the tests to ensure the facility operates as intended (AK)
- Is there ongoing testing on the bottom ash to ensure it is safe (RM)
- Are there consequences for exposure to the bottom / fly ash (MM)
- Would it be more advantageous to deal with the bottom / fly ash in Ireland (MM)
- Could a summary sheet be issued from the CR to the Committee on the technical details (MM)
- Where will the ash containers be stored before shipment (MF)
- What happens to the metal element of the ash (MF)
- Is there report showing that the ash cannot be processed in Ireland (MF)
- How can the public be reassured that the plant is safe (MF)
- Will there be additional air quality monitoring points (COM)
- What is the industry standard that applies. (NOM)
- There should be air monitoring in the vicinity of the DWtE plant. (CC)

Mr Ruairi O'Carroll and James Nolan responded.

- The handling of fly / bottom is dealt with in the report that issued (ROC)
- During Commissioning waste will be used. (JN)
- Fly ash is defined as a low grade hazardous material. (JN)
- A protocol is to be developed and agreed with the EPA on how bottom ash is classified (JN)
- The classification of the bottom ash will be on an ongoing basis (JN)
- Hazardous bottom ash has not been produced by a waste to energy plant in Europe (JN)
- Covanta are exploring what potential there is for bottom ash in Ireland but the economies of scale do not currently exist (JN)
- In other European countries the use of bottom ash is incentivised for use as aggregate. In Ireland there is availability of low cost aggregate owing to the number of quarries. (JN)
- The containers with fly ash will be stored at the South Dock.(JN)
- The ash is exported, there is no metal extraction in Ireland.(JN)
- The EPA is currently reviewing Air Quality monitoring in Ireland.(JN)
- The best reassurance that the public can be given is that the facility is operating in line with the provisions of the licence issued granted by the EPA. (JN)
- The industry standard is set out in the Waste Incineration directive and the industrial emissions directive.

**Order: Noted**

(vi) Fire safety & Fire risk report.

Members raised the following questions in relation to the report that was circulated

- Fire risk is one of the greatest challenges facing the industry internationally. What procedures are in place to deal if the waste being stored goes on fire (CC)
- Is Dublin Fire Brigade undertaking training in the event that the plant cannot deal with a fire locally. (CC)
- Is there a major emergency plan in place to issue a general alarm to the public in the event of a fire. (MF & NOM)
- A media campaign / release should take place to advise the public what is going on during commissioning / operation. (MF)

James Nolan & Dick Brady responded

- There are fire sprinkler / suppression systems throughout the plant. The plant has four detection/ infrared systems. The plant has 3 hours of water storage at maximum capacity (JN)
- Will revert to the committee on the Major EMERGENCY Plan (JN)
- DCC has a Major Emergency Plan, within this plan there are procedures in place to bring in crisis management teams and notifying the media. (DB)
- The Major emergency plan will be activated should this be required (DB)
- Dublin fire brigade has actively engaged with the facility and have been on a number of training sessions at the facility (JN)
- Covanta issued a newsletter to advise the local communities what is happening and what the public can expect (JN)

**Order: Major Emergency Plan to be submitted to the Committee**

(vii) Detailed Community Gain Grants report.

Mr. Vincent Norton outlined the report that was circulated.

Members raised the following concerns / issues

- DCC community grant information is published before the money is drawn down. In the interest of transparency full grant information of the Community Gain Fund should be made available (CC)
- He believes that there are no grounds to not publish this information (MF)
- Some groups are concerned that they did not receive funds (MF)
- It is best practice to publish a list of applicant approved in principle (RM)
- Not publishing the information could give the perception of secrecy and people could assume the worst (RM)
- The information should be made public. (COM)
- The information can be sought via the freedom of information act. (MF)

Mr Vincent Norton responded.

- He understands the sentiments expressed by the Members of the Committee
- The Community Gain Liaison Committee have taken the view that they are independent.

- As an official he has no issue making the information available to the members however the CGLC has taken this view
- He would like to bring the SPC's wishes back to the CGLC for consideration

**Order: Letter to issue to South East Area Committee and to The Community Gain Liaison Committee to express the views of the SPC.**

(viii) Allowance paid to the Chair of the Community Gain Liaison Committee

Mr Vincent Norton outlined the report that was circulated.

Members made the following points.

- Who pays the remuneration of the Chair, DCC or the fund (AK)
- The amount paid to the Chair is reasonable (MF)
- For the monies that are being disbursed the payment to the chair is not excessive, how long is the Chair's tenure (COM)
- Is there an overall expectancy on the lifetime of the fund (NOM)

Mr. Vincent Norton responded

- The Chair's allowance is paid from the Community gain fund
- The Chair's tenure is at the discretion of the Chief Executive. All other Members have a term of 2 years.
- The fund will run for many years to come as there is an annual amount to be subscribed.

**Order: Noted**

5. A.O.B.

(1) Greyhound is checking green bins for cross contamination with a view to issuing fines. There is evidence that bins are being filled by individuals who do not own the bins. What Legislation will Greyhound be using, can fines issue. (COM)

The regulations on pay by weight that were deferred for a year are coming upon us. We need to have an understanding on how these will operate. (NOM)

**Order: List Contamination checking of green bins and pay by weight regulations for next meeting**

(2) Councillor Flynn raised the condition of the city owing to the Luas Cross City. It was agreed to write to the Transportation & Planning SPC's to obtain an opinion.

Mr Dick Brady that this may be a health & safety issue and that we have a team monitoring the works. Where issues arise they are addressed. If the Councillor has any specific issues contact us and they will be followed up.

(3) Robert Moss queried is there any update on the proposed District Heating. Has the glass bottle site been identified for this.

Naoise O'Muirí referred to the visit to the DWTE plant where it was pointed that heat will be lost if district heating is not enabled.

Mr Dick Brady advised that there are studies being carried currently in relation to the economics of the provisions of District Heating and in relation to potential customers. It is intended to appoint consultants to look at the financing options. The Glass Bottle site should be district heating enabled.

NAMA has a number of sites that could be suitable for district heating (RC)

**It was agreed to list District Heating on the June Agenda**

### **Attendance**

#### **Members**

Robert Colleran, Dublin Docklands Business Forum  
Councillor Ciarán Cuffe  
Councillor Mannix Flynn  
Councillor Andrew Keegan  
Councillor Edel Moran  
Robert Moss - Dublin City Community Forum  
Councillor Michael Mullooly  
Councillor Ciaran O'Moore  
Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí (Chairperson)

#### **Apologies**

William Brennan, Dublin Community Growers  
Joe McCarthy, An Taisce  
Councillor Michael O'Brien

Also in attendance

Ruairi O'Carroll, CDM Smith

#### **Officials**

Dick Brady, Assistant Chief Executive  
Vincent Norton, Executive Manager  
James Nolan, Executive Engineer  
Ciarán McGoldrick, Staff Officer  
Mary O'Meara, Staff Officer  
Ian Boggans, Assistant Staff Officer

**Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí**  
**Chairperson, 18<sup>th</sup> April 2017**