
MINUTES OF THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGIC POLICY COMMITTEE HELD ON 30th NOVEMBER 2016

1. Minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2016 & amended minutes of the meeting held on 29th June 2016.

Order: Agreed.

2. Chairpersons Business.

None.

3. Matters arising

Dealt with under DWtE update report.

Order: Noted.

4. Correspondence.

None.

5. Litter Management Plan 2016 -2018 update report.

Simon Brock, Waste Management Services updated the Members on the progress and implementation of the Litter Management Plan 2016-2018 to include

- Online bulky waste collection services in place –in excess of 200 collections have taken place to date.
- Street washing programme in the City Centre implemented on the Night Shift.
- North and Southside crews now assigned and scheduled cleaning / power washing of areas has begun
- Waste Management provided on call service to Area Depts for removal of Bonfire Materials in advance of Halloween
- Updated bin survey underway in conjunction with Implementation of unique identifier system for bins
- CCTV currently in use at seven bring centres and 2 other pilot locations.
- Run local cinema and radio advertising on litter, dog fouling and Christmas tree campaigns.
- Ongoing development and roll out of the Green Schools Programme to primary, post primary and third level institutions.

Simon referred to further initiatives not included in the plan are also being implemented

- **Anti Graffiti Animated Video**
Produced in cooperation with the South East Area Office to combat the practice of tagging.
The video is aimed children in the primary school age group and is due to be launched in October 2016
- **Graffiti Removal Framework**
A new framework agreement has been put in place for the provision of graffiti removal services.
- **Trial of Segregated Bins**
An initial trial of on-street segregated bins is due to begin before the end of Sept. 2 units with 3 waste stream receptacles will be trialled at high use locations in the north and south city centre at South King Street and Wolfe Tone Park.
- **Smart Bin Technology**
2 trials of smart bin technology are taking place within the city. In the South East Area 52 smart bin units have replaced bins on 2 routes to assess their suitability and increased efficiencies.
A further trial is due to commence shortly in the North West Area with the replacement of 20 bins with an alternative smart bin design
- **Dog Fouling Enforcement Campaign**
An enforcement campaign is underway across the city targeting enforcement of section 22 of the Litter Pollution Act. Area Office staff and Litter Wardens are carrying out enforcement patrols in green areas in cooperation with Local Gardai.

Members of the Committee raised the following matters

- Lack of public conveniences in the City.
- Noise of the Council's fleet at night time in the City
- Problems surrounding drug related litter

Order: Report Noted.

6. Litter Priorities – Chairperson Councillor Naoise Ó'Muirí.

Chairperson, Naoise Ó'Muirí circulated a report in relation to litter priorities to enhance the Litter Management Plan and invited Members to indicate areas of concern.

Members raised the following areas that require attention

- Drug related litter
- Litter outside Take-Aways, Pubs and Shops
- The removal of litter bins for misuse
- The introduction of temporary parking restrictions to ensure street are swept properly.
- Provision of additional temporary public conveniences.

- Overflowing of street litter bins, particularly at weekends
- Non compliance of multi-occupancy dwellings with the Waste Bye-Laws
- Cigarette butts

Order: Report noted. Nominations to be sought to sit on Subcommittee to advance the priorities identified.

7. Fly / Bottom Ash & Dublin Waste to Energy update reports.

Members raised the following questions in relation to the Dublin Waste to Energy and Ash

- Ecocem presented to this Committee recently. Have all efforts been made to establish that there is no market for the IBA (incinerator bottom ash). What country will the ash be exported to. (AK)
- The report refers to 86% of IBA being used for aggregate replacement in the UK, could a reference for the figure be provided as it is my understanding that a smaller % is used as most of it is used on Landfill sites. (JMCC)
- The 4 – 6 days to characterise the IBA referenced in the report. It is my understanding that the curing etc takes 6-12 weeks in the open air. Where will the curing take place, is it proposed to carry this out on the Poolbeg peninsula (JMCC)
- In relation to fly ash, the report refers to 24 tonne loads leaving the plant and that the fly ash will be encased in concrete. Are the 24 tonne loads the raw fly ash which is toxic and at what point is it encased in concrete. (JMCC)
- Where is it stored before it is shipped (JMCC)
- Will the bottom and fly ash go to the same German / Norwegian destinations. (JMCC)
- Where do the 3 lorry loads physically go to and who carries out the recycling (JMCC)
- The facility does not have permission to remove bottom / fly ash from the Poolbeg peninsula. The permission granted was only for export. (JMCC)
- The fly ash is definitively a hazardous substance, it contains the dioxins. Do Rialta have premises on the Poolbeg Peninsula and if so do they have permission to store this material. (JMCC)
- Has there been a decision on who will benefit from the district heating and where it will be installed (COM)
- The EPA won't add or subtract from the license issued. (JMCC)
- The EPA does not do the testing, this is carried out by an independent company (JMCC)
- It is a license requirement that the commissioning plans are provided by Covanta 3 months in advance of 1st testing. DCC, Covanta & the Client Representative should have these plans and the plans should be given to the SPC (JMCC)
- He is concerned that there is delay upon delay in providing the Committee with information (JMCC)
- The information (commissioning plans) will be substantial (JMCC)
- If the plans are not in existence someone is seriously derelict in producing what should be now available (JMCC)
- An independent company should be engaged to do parallel testing to check that the Covanta testing is accurate. This will be expensive (JMCC)
- If it cost €2m to do the tests it should be spent instead of giving it in interest to the financiers in Luxembourg (JMCC)

- Will Hitachi be testing their own plant. (JMCC)
- In the absence of the EPA at the Special meeting of the Environment SPC the meeting should proceed (JMCC)

James Nolan, Executive Engineer responded.

- Norway and Germany are the countries to which the ash will be exported
- There is currently no market for retaining the material and using it in Ireland.
- Ecocem have used IBA as part of their process, there is no facility in Ireland to treat the ash so it can be used in the production of cement, Ecocem potentially have to import the treated IBA.
- He will get a reference for the 86%
- If the IBA is to be reused in construction curing is required, the curing process will take place at the recovery facility. It is not 6 – 12 weeks before it can be exported.
- Clarified that the fly ash is “usually” encased in concrete. The 24 tonne loads refers the material leaving the facility in sealed containers.
- The fly ash will go to Rialta who are the only licensed operator to manage hazardous waste in Ireland.
- He will revert with details of where the ash will go.
- Covanta will give a presentation at the meeting to be held on 8th December. This presentation will cover points raised by Mr. McCarthy in relation to Rialta (permission / storage etc)

Mr. Dick Brady A.C.E. in response to Councillor O’Moore’s query about district heating stated a value for money assessment will be carried out which will identify the options for delivering DH. This assessment has not yet occurred. Consultants will be sought to move this forward.

Chairperson, Councillor Naoise Ó’Muirí summed up

- The Special meeting of the Committee will be held on 8th December 2016 to deal with the Testing and Commissioning of the plant
- Presentations and documentation that will be given at the meeting to be made available to the Committee in advance of the meeting
- We are looking to secure the attendance of the EPA at the meeting

Order: Report noted.

8. City Council Depot Consolidation report.

Members raise the following concerns / questions in relation to the report that was circulated

- What consultation has taken place with staff / staff representatives in relation to the proposed new depots and relocations (MOB)
- What is the plan for the vacated lands / depots. Will they be disposed of or could they be adapted for community / recreation uses. (MOB)
- What will be the uses for the vacated sites (MF)
- What is the rationale for retaining depots like Bow Lane (MF)
- Could the sites be used to build accommodation for the homeless or housing (MF)

- What is the value of the land, some of it is very valuable (MF)
- A feasibility study on what the land could be used for should be carried out. Based on this study a public private partnership could be developed. (RC)
- If depots are sold in advance of the new depots (in order to secure the finance) being developed will this have an adverse impact on service delivery (RM)

Mr. Dick Brady, A.C.E. responded

- DCC wants to provide the best possible services from the most up to date buildings. It is anticipated the 2 well designed, apportioned equipped depots will achieve this.
- Speaking with staff, local management in relation to the depots is part of the negotiations to progress these proposals
- It is envisaged that the financing of the depots will come from the sale of the vacated depots
- The first depot will cost in the order of €25 m
- Some depots are being retained to deliver specific local services.
- This is a cross council initiative and not just an E & T issue.
- The actual phasing of the transformation (sequence of disposals) has not been entirely worked out.

Order: Report Noted

9. Climate Change Strategy report.

The Chair referred to the report that was circulated and recommended the Strategy is noted by the City Council

Order: Report noted. Recommend that the amended Strategy is forwarded to the City Council for noting.

10. National Ambient Air Quality Programme 2017 report.

Sarah Middleton, Senior Environmental Health Officer outlined the report as set out below

- A consultation paper issued by the EPA in October 2016 to review the Air Quality Strategy for the country
- The current network will be evaluated and enhanced where deemed necessary
- It is hoped to improve air quality forecasts by modelling air quality data
- It is not proposed to provide additional monitoring sites in the Dublin region.

Members raised the following question concerns

- The World Health Organisation's (WHO) standards are higher than the EU standards. Why would the WHO standards not be applied (NO'M)
- There is a fragmented public transport infrastructure with more cars in the city than previously encountered. (AK)
- There is a lack of investment in public transport infrastructure. (AK)
- There is a big issue with the burning of domestic refuse. (AK)
- Surprise and disappointment that additional sites will not be provided (JMCC)

- Where is the city centre monitoring site located (JMCC)
- I gave a detailed presentation to the Committee on Air Quality in the Eastern part of the City (JMCC)
- If Marino is excluded there are no monitoring stations in D1, 2, 3 & 4 (JMCC)
- Large parts of the City, the City Centre, Raheny, Clontarf, Ringsend, Sandymount are not being measured at all. This is where most of the air pollution occurs. (JMCC)
- Is it possible for this committee to formulate a submission at this stage. (JMCC)
- Why did management not forward this committee's expressed wishes to the EPA as part of the consultation process. (JMCC)
- The measurement standards for PM10 and PM2.5 are weak and nowhere near the WHO guidelines (JMCC)
- We should set better standards than merely the European standards (JMCC)
- There are 1200 deaths per annum from particulate pollution (JMCC)
- To clarify, recommendations from DCC did not issue to EPA to improve the number of monitoring stations in the Centre and the East of the City (JMCC)
- Rejects that the monitoring campaigns on Sean Moore road were satisfactory, the Air Quality standard was breached all the time (JMCC)
- We adopted positions (additional monitoring stations x 4) at the SPC. This should be added to the submission to the EPA (JMCC)

Sarah Middleton & Dick Brady, A.C.E. responded

- The Air Quality regulations are the legal target levels that must be met. (SM)
- We do not assess against the WHO standards we assess against the legal framework (SM)
- The data gathered cannot specifically identify domestic refuse burning but the Air Quality Unit works with Waste Management's Enforcement Unit to investigate reports of this practice. (SM)
- The Air Quality Unit investigated the burning of bituminous coal (SM)
- The role of the EPA in reporting to the EU is to show compliance with Air Quality standards set of in the CAFÉ (clean air for Europe) directive. (SM)
- We would be in compliance with many of the WHO's standards. (SM)
- There were monitoring stations in D1, D2, D3 & D4 historically. (SM)
- The station in Ringsend was measuring sulphur dioxide and the EPA has a portable station in Ringsend also. The sites were removed because the levels of pollution shown were not significant. The results for these sites are available. Measurement were taken for sulphur dioxide, particulate matter. (SM)
- The submission to the EPA did state that moving beyond compliance is an important consideration in terms of public health protection (D.B.)
- DCC would be representing the view that you go the extra mile in relation to Air Quality (DB)
- DCC does want a proper funding system for upgrading / replacement and to provide real time monitoring system. (DB)
- The submission contains the basic position of the SPC. (DB)
- We will send the additions (extra monitoring stations) to the EPA (DB)

Order: Report noted. The expressed view of the SPC in relation to additional monitoring stations, measuring to WHO standards to be forwarded to the EPA as an addendum to the DCC submission.

11. Presentation by Brendan Price, Irish Seal Sanctuary,

Apologies received from Brendan Price, Irish Seal Sanctuary, that he is unable to attend this meeting owing to competing commitments. It was agreed that he is invited to a future meeting (February) to deliver his presentation.

Order: Brendan Price, Irish Seal Sanctuary, to be invited to a future (February) Meeting.

12. Dublin City Councils Parks and Biodiversity Services proposed actions to protect Seals on Bull Island / Dublin Bay. (Report Attached)

Order: Report Noted

13. Meeting dates 2017

Order: Noted

14. A.O.B.

Attendance **Members**

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

Absent

Councillor Declan Flanagan
William Brennan, Dublin Community Growers

Officials

Dick Brady, Assistant Chief Executive
Eithne Gibbons, Senior Executive Officer
Helen McNamara, Senior Executive Officer
James Nolan, Executive Engineer
Sarah Middleton, Senior Environmental Health Officer
Simon Brock, Administrative Officer
Ciarán McGoldrick, Staff Officer
Owen Sweeney, Staff Officer

Councillor Naoise Ó Muirí
Chairperson, 1st December 2016.

