

**LIMAVADY BOROUGH COUNCIL
COMHAIRLE BHUIRG LÉIM AN MHADAIDH
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE**

21 FEBURARY 2006

Minutes of meeting held in the Council Offices, 7 Connell Street, Limavady at 7.00 pm on the above date.

PRESENT:

Aldermen G Mullan, G Robinson and J Rankin. Councillors P Butcher, B Chivers, L Cubitt (chair), M Coyle, M Donaghy, B Douglas, J F McElhinney, C Ó hOisín, A Robinson and E Stevenson.

In Attendance: Committee Clerk, Director of Environmental Services, Technical Services Manager and the Chief Executive.

APOLOGIES:

Councillors M Carten and A Brolly.

REVIEW OF WASTE MANAGEMENT PLAN:

The chair welcomed Mr Andrew Baskin, RPS Consulting Engineer and Mr Eamon Molloy, North West Region Cross Border Group to the meeting.

Mr Baskin explained that the current Waste Management Plan put an emphasis on education and awareness, promoted materials recovery and identified the role of energy recovery to meet the 2013 and 2020 Landfill Directive BMW landfill diversion targets, however, in 2006 the plan needed to be reviewed to identify modifications required to meet future targets. He said that it was anticipated that the North West Region Waste Management Group would meet the Landfill Allowance Targets up to 2008/09 but by 2009 a shortfall would generate potential fines up to £4.2 million.

Mr Baskin highlighted that the review would look to maximising recycling/composting using robust proven and reliable technologies and to developing an integrated network of facilities to meet the needs of the North West Region. He said that the fundamental principle would be to prevent waste, recover materials, look to energy recovery and ultimately disposal as the last resort.

Mr Baskin outlined that the ongoing waste growth rate was not acceptable or sustainable and carried significant risks of infractions if exceeded. He said that targets for recycling/composting were set at 35% by 2010, 40% by 2013 and 45% by 2020 and that higher levels of materials required district wide provision of brown bins. He added that the Council needed to consider options for disposal of residual waste and the treatment should be consistent with objectives of the plan priorities of recovery of additional materials, energy recovery and disposal of residue.

Mr Baskin highlighted that the treatment options for residual waste included Mechanical Biological Treatment (MBT), energy recovery by thermal treatment and landfill. He explained the advantages and disadvantages of MBT and said this option delivered a reduction in biodegradability of waste and should be a key consideration in meeting 2009/10 targets. He said that taking into account all factors, (social, feasibility, environmental and financial) a number of scenarios had been evaluated for treatment of residual waste and that Best Practicable Environmental Option (BTEO) was a combination of MBT and energy from waste as this would provide a robust deliverable solution, minimised risks to council/ratepayer and would deliver compliance against statutory targets and obligations.

In response to members' queries in relation to the plan and measures to minimise waste from industry, Mr Baskin said that whilst high volumes of waste from agriculture and other sources were difficult to control, food packaging was a perfect example of excess packaging and there would be a requirement for the packaging industry to reduce this.

Members welcomed that Council was currently 4th best out of 26 Councils for material recovery but queried what impact the RPA would have on this. Mr Molloy said that regardless of the proposed 7 Council model, as a local authority Council had an obligation to have a plan in place by June 2006.

In conclusion, the following key proposals within the review of the Waste Plan were agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Butcher:

- **waste prevention** – *to be strengthened and managed;*
- **increased recycling and composting** *with minimum targets of 30% by 2010, increasing to 40% by 2020 for source separated collection;*
- **mechanical biological treatment and energy from waste** *(conditional on heat recovery, where feasible) for treatment of residual waste to deliver resource efficiencies through enhanced material recovery and energy recovery*

It was also agreed that Council would consult on the above proposals for the management of municipal waste in the Review of the Waste Management Plan.

The chair thanked Mr Baskin and Mr Molloy for attending the meeting.

MINUTES:

The minutes of meeting dated 17 January were approved and signed on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Alderman Rankin.

MATTERS ARISING:

None

**DIRECTOR OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES REPORTS –
FEBRUARY 2006:*****Building Control Department:***

The Building Control report which detailed applications approved, acknowledged and issued between 10 January 2006 and 14 February 2006; Entertainment and Occasional Licences issued under the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) (NI) Order 1985; Petroleum Licence under Petroleum (Consolidation Act (NI) 1929; Amusement Permit issued under the Betting Gaming Lotteries & Amusement (NI) Order 1985; application for approval of 'Venue for Civil Partnerships' and applications for Street Naming and Property Numbering were approved on the proposal of Councillor Chivers, seconded by Councillor Coyle.

Environmental Health Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Environmental Health Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Alderman Robinson, seconded by Alderman Rankin subject to the following:

Environment (Northern Ireland) Order 2002 – Air Quality Review & Assessment: The Director of Environmental Services reported that monitoring of NO₂ in Dungiven had shown that traffic emissions were contributing to an elevated level in Lower Main Street and recommended that permission be given to initiate proceedings to declare the area between the car park at the Credit Union to the Roe Bridge as an Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) from 24 February 2006. Agreed.

In response to members concerns on effect this would have on those living close by, the Director of Environmental Services explained that whilst the proposed by-pass might solve the problem, this was not in the immediate future and in the interim Roads Service would be informed of the AQMA and they would consider alternatives to improving traffic management.

Technical Services Department:

The Director of Environmental Services presented the Technical Services Report and enlarged thereon. The report and recommendations within were adopted on the proposal of Councillor Coyle, seconded by Councillor Donaghy subject to the following:

Composters: The Director of Environmental Services outlined that home composting provided householders with an opportunity to produce dark rich compost from their kitchen and garden waste and recommended that Council purchase 200 composting containers from Associated Building Supplies at a cost of £13.40 per unit to sell to the public from Ballyquin Road Civic Amenity Site. Agreed.

Relocation of Council Depot and Civic Amenity Site from Ballyquin Road: The Director of Environmental Services reminded members that in June 2003 Council had considered a feasibility study presented by the Chief Technical Services Officer into relocating Council's Depot and Civic Amenity Site from its present location at Ballyquin Road to new purpose built site. He said that Council

had agreed in principle to the proposal and had authorised officers to seek expressions of interest for suitable lands subject to carrying out a survey to establish levels of inconvenience this would cause users if the site was moved to Aghanloo and subsequent to this, a number of potential sites were brought to the attention of Council officers.

The Director of Environmental Services recommended that the following actions be agreed to process the scheme:

- update expressions of interest previously obtained for an alternative site in terms of current availability of sites, suitability and value;
- obtain valuation of lands comprising Council's current depot and Civic Amenity site at Ballyquin Road;
- obtain updated estimate of overall costs associated with the provision of a new depot and civic amenity site at an alternative location;
- commission an economic appraisal of the proposed project;
- all necessary statutory approvals and
- interim funding arrangements to cover the period between purchase of new site and disposal of current site.

The recommendations were agreed subject to noting reservations expressed by Alderman Robinson, Councillor Cubitt and Councillor McElhinney on moving from the current site.

Grounds Maintenance – Football Pitch at Vale Centre: The Director of Environmental Services reported that the Technical Service Manager and Works Supervisor had met with the Chairman and Board representatives of the Vale Centre regarding grounds maintenance and subsequent to this the Technical Services Manager had written to clarify Council's commitment and proposals on maintenance of the pitch at the Vale Centre.

Councillor McElhinney outlined that Vale Centre representatives were disappointed that Council had agreed specific specifications on maintenance but were not adhering to these and proposed that the Technical Service Manager meet with the Board of Director to resolve these issues. The Director of Environmental Services pointed out that the pitch was maintained to a satisfactory standard and if Council wanted to increase this to a higher level, it would be at cost and advised caution as all Council maintained pitches would have to be treated in the same way.

Play Area – Foreglen: Members voiced disappointment that Council's application for the construction of a play area in Foreglen was unlikely to be approved by Planning Service as the common access road constructed by the G.A.C. had been rejected by the Department of Regional Development. It was agreed that the application would be withdrawn.

COURSES/CONFERENCES:

CIWM Conference & Exhibition: It was agreed on the proposal of Alderman Rankin, seconded by Councillor Coyle that the Director of Environmental Services and Technical Services Manager would attend the CIWM 2006 exhibition and conference to be held 12 – 16 June 2006 in Paignton, Torbay.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

Backburn Path: Alderman Robinson referred to irresponsible littering in Backburn Park and suggested that Council clear the area from Alexander Road to LCDI.

NEXT MEETING:

21 March 2006.

THIS CONCLUDED THE BUSINESS
(The meeting ended at 9.15 pm)