

**ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE**  
**Meeting No 092**  
**MINUTES**  
**Tuesday 3 December 2024**  
**Hybrid meeting held in Antrim Civic Centre**

**Members Present:**

|   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| Councillor M Goodman ( <i>Chair</i> )       | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council |
| Councillor H Cushinan                       | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council |
| Councillor R Lynch                          | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council |
| Councillor B Smyth                          | Belfast City Council                  |
| Councillor A Givan                          | Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council    |
| Councillor G McKeen ( <i>Deputy Chair</i> ) | Mid & East Antrim Borough Council     |
| Alderman M Morrow                           | Mid & East Antrim Borough Council     |
| Councillor R Quigley                        | Mid & East Antrim Borough Council     |
| Councillor C Enright                        | Newry, Mourne & Down District Council |
| Councillor T Andrews                        | Newry, Mourne & Down District Council |

**Members' Apologies:**

|                              |                                       |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Councillor C Blaney          | Ards & North Down Borough Council     |
| Councillor J Cochrane        | Ards & North Down Borough Council     |
| Councillor E Thompson        | Ards & North Down Borough Council     |
| Councillor M Collins         | Belfast City Council                  |
| Councillor E McDonough-Brown | Belfast City Council                  |
| Councillor P Kennedy         | Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council    |
| Alderman S Skillen           | Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council    |
| Councillor K Murphy          | Newry, Mourne & Down District Council |

**Officers Present:**

|          |                                       |
|----------|---------------------------------------|
| T Walker | arc21                                 |
| J Green  | arc21                                 |
| K Boal   | arc21                                 |
| L Smits  | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council |
| N Martin | Ards and North Down Borough Council   |
| B Murray | Belfast City Council                  |
| S Morley | Mid & East Antrim Borough Council     |
| C Hunter | Mid & East Antrim Borough Council     |

**Officers' Apologies:**

|            |                                       |
|------------|---------------------------------------|
| M Laverty  | Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council |
| D Lindsay  | Ards & North Down Borough Council     |
| S Leonard  | Belfast City Council                  |
| R Harvey   | Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council    |
| S Murphy   | Newry, Mourne & Down District Council |
| H Campbell | arc21                                 |

### **Item 1 - Conflicts of Interest Statement**

The Chair read out the Conflicts of Interest Statement, and none were noted.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 2 - Apologies**

Apologies were noted.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 3 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 091 held on 31 October 2024**

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Cllr McKeen, seconded by Ald Morrow, and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

### **Item 4 - Matters Arising**

Any specific matters were discussed under the main agenda items.

**Action: Noted**

## **IN COMMITTEE**

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move "*in committee*" which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Cllr McKeen.

Matters of a confidential and commercially sensitive nature were discussed under these agenda items.

Following discussion on the commercially sensitive matters, the Chair recommended that the meeting would now return to the main agenda, which was approved, but whilst "*In Committee*" during this section of the meeting, there were six matters discussed.

**Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 091 held on 31 October 2024 'in committee' - approved**

**Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted**

**Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project – noted**

**Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - noted**

**Item 9 - Tender Report – Supply of Services Relating to the Treatment and Energy Recovery/Disposal of Residual Waste Arisings – Dynamic Purchasing System, Lot 3 - Contract F - approved**

**Item 9a - Governance Report - Temporary Extension of Delegated Authority Powers - approved**

## **OUT OF COMMITTEE**

Proposed by Cllr Lynch and seconded by Cllr Givan.

## Item 10 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Ms Boal provided a report on the performance statistics for October.

### Service Status

She reported that all services were operational during the month, and there were no requests from contractors to put any contingency arrangements in place.

### Performance

The contractor performance was presented, which included details on the number of loads in each contract, site visits, overweight vehicles, use of contingency arrangements, turnaround, availability, maintenance of records and reporting.

She noted that turnaround times had been reviewed, and in most cases the contractors provided adequate reasons for any discrepancies, and therefore no service credits were being applied this month. However, service credits were applied to Bryson and RiverRidge for failing to meet their contracted turnaround limits.

Regarding the landfill contract, she reported that the overweight vehicles continue to be monitored and have increased slightly this month compared to last month and overall remain quite high. She noted that council officers had been asked to liaise with their operational teams and sub-contractors to reduce these going forward.

She noted that in October, most reports were submitted on time and there were only minor issues with the reporting from Heatricks and RiverRidge that required revision due to incorrect data.

She advised that there were eleven requests for bring site rectifications (they did not have the specified capacity) across all contracts. These were communicated to the contractors, and the majority of these were serviced within the required 48 hours; no service credits were applied to those contractors. However, there was one occasion during the month when one paper bank was not serviced within the required timeframe, and therefore service credits were applied to McQuillans Environmental.

She highlighted that going forward, the performance of the residual waste contract would be stripped out of the table and presented separately as otherwise it would become too cluttered.

**Action: Ms Boal**

### Health & Safety

#### (i) Incidents

During October 2024, Ms Boal reported that there were two Health & Safety incidents reported to arc21 by contractors due to driver error.

She noted that council officers had been asked to liaise with their H&S officers and operational managers, including those of external contractors, to ensure that all their operational teams have due regard to Health & Safety obligations and that they understand and abide by the site rules of each site.

(ii) Audits

In terms of audits, Ms Boal reported that the external Health & Safety consultant continues to undertake health and safety audits.

In October, an audit was conducted of ENVA at their site in Toomebridge and observed the collection of bottle banks at a selected bring site. The report has been shared with ENVA with only minor actions identified. She noted that arc21 was working closely with ENVA to complete these as soon as possible.

Rejected Loads

Ms Boal reported that there had been no rejected loads delivered into MRF facilities in October 2024 and one into the Organics delivery sites, and that officers continue to monitor the procedures to make sure vehicles for mixed use are properly emptied to avoid contamination.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

A list of the contract tonnages for October 2024, compared to the same period last year, was presented and summarised as follows:

- MRF Lot 1 - an increase of 8.1%;
- MRF Lot 2 - a 0.2% decrease for MDR material delivered to ReGen;
- Organics Contract - a 14.8% increase for Type 1 material and for Type 2 material, a decrease of 8.8%; and
- Landfill Contract - the tonnages were almost identical between October 2024 and October 2023.

Supplies

The number of orders placed and delivered in October was presented and Ms Boal noted that there were two deliveries that arrived without being booked in and there were no other non-compliances.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

**Item 11 - Waste Tonnage Trends**

Ms Boal presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material processed through arc21 contracts and noted the following:

- landfill at a similar level as previous year;
- BCC residual showing a considerable increase to same time last year;
- Organics Type 1 has been ahead of where it was in the last three years in terms of October, but obviously had been running a bit below during some of the August and September months, also very weather dependent because it's just garden;
- Organics Type 2 was not a particularly good year, apart from May, and has fallen below last year. Coming to the end of the contract and will be looking at reconciliation and if any revenue share or rebate is due back to us and will be reporting this around March;
- MRF Lot 1 running higher than previous 3 years;
- MRF Lot 2 is seeing a correlation in terms of October being the same in two out of the last three years;
- MRF combined was running just slightly higher than they have been in the previous three years and following similar trajectory to last 2 years;

- Textiles had a spike in October and was running above previous levels in terms of tonnes. She highlighted that CTR was becoming increasingly selective about which charity shops they were servicing but they were remaining constant to arc21. She reported that she would be meeting up with CTR in December to see how the markets are going and would report back in January.

The other smaller contracts were also presented for information.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 12 - Consultation: Draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement for Northern Ireland**

Mr Walker presented the Joint Committee with a proposed response to the Draft Environmental Principles Policy Statement for Northern Ireland for consideration prior to submission by the deadline of 9 December.

He reported that these principles arose from the Environment Act, 2021 which supplanted many of the underlying principles which had been enshrined in EU legislation and underpinned the recently adopted Environmental Improvement Plan for Northern Ireland. He highlighted that the new principles were largely a rework of the previously EU ones, but the issue was not their wording or content but their application in practice.

A discussion ensued regarding where Ministers had taken decisions which appeared to depart from Government policy and at odds with the previous sets of environmental principles following which Members were asked to consider the response, ratify its content and submit it by the deadline of 9 December.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to approve the response for submission. Proposed by Cllr Enright, seconded by Cllr Given, and agreed by all.

**Action: Agreed**

### **Item 13 - ISO 9001:2015 Quality Management System**

Ms Boal provided a verbal overview of arc21's recent performance in its annual internal and external audits for ISO9001. She highlighted that there had been no informatives and no observations arising from these exercises. Ald Morrow commended Ms Boal and the team for this outcome which was endorsed by Cllr Andrews.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

**Action: Noted**

### **Item 14 - AOB**

Ald Morrow raised the matter of recent correspondence which had been received in councils and by Members from No-ARC21. She enquired as to whether arc21 was going to refute the content within the letter. Mr Green highlighted that a journalist with the Antrim Guardian had been in contact and had drafted an article the content of which went some way to rebutting the allegations which the letter. He identified that the stated claims were unsubstantiated and that, notwithstanding these allegations, arc21 was continuing to proceed diligently to finalise the bundle of papers for submission to the DfI planners which was based upon facts.

Mr Green was requested to circulate the arc21 position/statement in relation to this recent correspondence.

**Action: Mr Green**

**Item 15 - Next Meeting Thursday 30 January 2025 using MS Teams**

**Action: Noted**

**Date: 30 January 2025**

**Deputy Chair:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.