

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE

Meeting No 093

MINUTES

Thursday 30 January 2025

Using MS Teams

Members Present:

Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor E Thompson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Alderman S Skillen	Lisburn & Castlereagh 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 K Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor C Enright	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

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 C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor B Smyth	Belfast City Council
Councillor M Collins	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Councillor P Kennedy	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor R Quigley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker	arc21
H Campbell	arc21
J Green	arc21
K Boal	arc21
B McKeown	arc21
M Lavery	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
D Lindsay, N Martin	Ards and North Down Borough Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
N O'Malley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
C Hunter	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
E Reilly	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

S Leonard	Belfast City Council
R Harvey	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
S Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

The Deputy Chair took the Chair for the meeting in Cllr Goodman's absence. He welcomed all to the meeting and noted the absence of the Chair was due to ill health. It was agreed to forward a letter with best wishes to the Chair on behalf of the Committee.

Action: 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 092 held on 3 December 2024

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

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Any specific matters were actioned or 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 Enright and seconded by Ald Morrow.

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 four matters discussed.

Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 092 held on 3 December 2024 'in committee' - approved

Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - approved

Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - approved

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Ald Morrow and seconded by Cllr Enright.

Item 9 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Service Status

Ms Boal reported that all services were operational during the month of November and December 2024, and there were no requests from contractors to put any contingency arrangements in place.

She noted that a new contract commenced for the treatment of the residual HWRC Waste from Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council from 1 November 2024 and the information was encapsulated in the report presented in terms of the operational performance in tonnages.

She noted that arrangements were made with all of the contractors required to receive waste for pull back collection days over the Christmas period, and all seemed to work well.

Due to the impact of storm Éowyn, she noted that arc21 contractors did not receive waste on 24 January 2025. A number of councils rescheduled collections, and arc21 liaised with contractors to ensure facilities were open to receive waste over the weekend where required. She noted that there was some contingency arrangements to accommodate the closure of the Keady site which had suffered damage and closure.

Ms Boal referred to the recent fire at the RiverRidge facility at Craigmore and advised that only one council had been affected by this and as a consequence was currently using the contingency delivery point at Portadown. She noted that arc21 had been advised that there was no impact on the plant utilised for secondary processes undertaken at the Craigmore facility and referred to the fact that the operator anticipated it should be operational during the first week in March 2025.

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 and in most cases, she noted that the contractors provided sufficient reasons, and therefore no service credits were applied. However, service credits were applied to Bryson and IWS in November and again to Bryson in December for failing to meet their contracted turnaround limits.

Regarding the landfill contract, she reported that the overweight vehicles continue to be monitored and have stayed more or less the same for each month, and there had been a noticeable decrease on the Organics contract which was the lowest they have been since February 2024. She noted that council officers had been asked to monitor the situation.

She reported that there were only minor issues with Heatricks reporting in December that required a version 2 of their report due to incorrect data and no service credits were applied.

Ms Boal reported that the DPS contracts' turnaround times were reviewed for November and December and ReGen provided adequate reasons for both months and therefore no service credits were applied to them. Service credits were applied to RiverRidge for failing to meet their contracted turnaround limits in November. She advised that arc21 was still waiting on information from RiverRidge to confirm if service credits will be applied in December regarding their turnaround times.

She noted that in November and December, there were issues with RiverRidge not submitting certain reporting documentation for the monthly reports for the MEABC and ANBC contracts, and therefore service credits will be applied to them.

For the bring contracts In November and December, she reported that there were 17 (Nov) and 18 (Dec) 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.

However, there were two occasions in November when two paper banks were not serviced by McQuillan Environmental within the required timeframe, and in December there was one occasion when ENVA failed to service a glass bring site within the required timeframe and therefore service credits were applied to both contractors. She noted that arc21 was still waiting on information from CTR to see if any service credits should be applied to them regarding rectification requests.

She noted that arc21 is keeping a watching brief on the textile contract and will be bringing a report to the March Committee in terms of the costs as there had been another downturn in terms of the index arc21 is currently using for payment, and the market does not show any signs of recovery at present.

Health & Safety

(i) Incidents

During November and December 2024, Ms Boal noted that there were four Health & Safety incidents reported to arc21 by contractors, which were generally due to driver error, and that arc21 continues to monitor and liaise with the relevant councils and contractors.

She advised that council officers continue to be asked to liaise with their H&S officers and operational managers, including those of external contractors, to ensure that all councils' 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 November, there were audits conducted with RiverRidge at their Craigmore site and with McQuillan Environmental at their site in Antrim and included observing the collection of paper banks at a selected bring site.

In December, she noted that audits were completed with RiverRidge at their Mallusk site and with CTR at their Randalstown site. All reports have been shared with these contractors with some minor actions identified. She advised that arc21 was working closely with all contractors to complete these as soon as possible.

WEEE Collections

She reported that arc21 has become aware of some issues with the collection of Household WEEE, namely Display units (TV's and monitors) and Fridges and Freezers and arc21 is liaising with the respective service providers and councils to address the issues.

Rejected Loads

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

She noted that in terms of the rejected loads from NWP which would traditionally have gone to landfill, that arc21 will be putting in place alternative arrangements from 1 February, and this will be done on a geographical basis in terms of which site is best to go to.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

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

- MRF Lot 1 - a 11.2% decrease (Nov) and a 7.7% increase (Dec);
- MRF Lot 2 - a 7.1% decrease (Nov) and an 11.9% increase (Dec) for MDR material delivered to ReGen;
- Organics Contract - a 16.7% decrease for Type 1 material (Nov), and a 3.8% increase (Dec);
- for Type 2 material, a decrease of 2.6% (Nov), and a 6.7% increase (Dec); and
- Landfill Contract - a 7.2% decrease (Nov), and an 8% increase (Dec).

Supplies

The number of orders placed and delivered in November and December was presented and Ms Boal noted that there was one non-compliance in November due to the delivery arriving a day late.

She noted that council officers are informed on a monthly basis to place orders for supplies at the earliest opportunity as delays due to transportation and increased demand for certain categories of containers etc. may occur with the introduction of new policies, such as *Simpler Recycling* in England, which may affect delivery timescales.

Update On Correspondence Sent To NIEA Re Public Complaints

Ms Boal presented correspondence which had been sent by the Committee in 2024 along with the response received from NIEA in relation to an action raised at the Joint Committee meeting on 26 September 2024 on the process for dealing with odours. At the time of writing, she noted that this arose from the issues at Warrenpoint but there was a wider context regarding any site and the interface with environmental officers and councils in terms of getting the information and the speed operators themselves get the information to act in real time.

She reported that the response from NIEA had noted the concerns raised and the points Members had flagged, and suggested that the district council environmental health group might be the most appropriate forum to have the discussion. The letter proposed that the Committee consider if this was viable.

She advised that the correspondence noted that NIEA were developing a new incident management system which will streamline the process. She noted that she had been in contact with an officer from NIEA who had confirmed that the intention was for that system to go live and as an internal only system, with no interface with other bodies, but it may indeed streamline the current process and enable the NIEA to inform other authorities. She noted that she would let this bed in for a few months before picking this up with the NIEA again.

There was no further action arising from this.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 10 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Ms Boal presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material processed through arc21 contracts. She advised that there were further tables included in the report with the most recent contracts for residual treatment now being included.

The report also included an analysis of current performance against future landfill and recycling targets using information from Waste Data Flow (2024/25 unvalidated).

She noted the following:

- landfill slightly up from previous December;
- Lot 2 contracts for ANBC and MEABC are reliant upon Full Circle Generation as the outlet for energy from waste, however an enforcement notice had been served in terms of ongoing issues in regard to dioxins, and we need to understand how they will deal with the waste from these two contracts;
- Type 1 organics - the lines are acquiescing around December in terms of tonnages collected, and follows through with Type 2;
- MRF Lot 1 - ahead of 23/24 year and at same point as 22/23 year;
- MRF Lot 2 - well above last three years in December;
- MRF combined running above last two years.

The other smaller contracts were also presented for information.

She reported that the second part of the report showed the analysis against future landfill and recycling targets.

She noted that for the percentage of waste to landfill would reduce given the award of the new contracts but that there would be differences between the solutions.

Following discussion the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 11 - Audit Committee Meeting - 12 November 2024 Report

Mr McKeown presented a report on the issues discussed with the Audit Committee at the meeting held on 12 November 2024.

He advised that this was the first re-convened Audit Committee meeting following the local government elections in 2023 and that the meeting included the election of Cllr Cadogan Enright as Chair, and Cllr Gregg McKeen as Deputy Chair.

He advised that the next meeting was scheduled for 11 March 2025.

Cllr Enright noted that, in terms of arc21s risk management process, he had asked for the risks to be collated into groups for deeper consideration at future Audit Committee meetings.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report.

Action: Noted

Item 12 - Consultation: Department for Communities Consultation Document "Consultation on draft statutory guidance for the implementation of the McCloud Remedy in the Local Government Pension Scheme (Northern Ireland)

Mr McKeown presented Members with a proposed response to the consultation for consideration prior to submission.

He noted that the consultation issued by DfC consisted of 3 questions and the proposed arc21 response generally agreed with the draft guidance, but asked the question regarding what safeguards are in place to ensure the average member is fully aware of the compensation process should they wish to make a claim, especially given the highly complex aspects of the McCloud Remedy.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee agreed to approve the response for submission by the deadline of 19 February 2025. Proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Murphy, and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed

Item 13 - Annual arc21 Seminar

Mr Walker informed Members of the forthcoming annual arc21 seminar, scheduled to be held on Wednesday 12 March from 10am to 12noon. He noted that he had approached a number of speakers, and a programme was being finalised. He noted that a placeholder would be circulated in due course with registration and programme details to follow.

Action: Mr Walker

Item 14 - AOB

There was no further business discussed.

Item 15 - Next Meeting Thursday 27 February 2025 using MS Teams

Action: Noted

Date: 27 February 2025

Chairman:

