

ARC21 JOINT COMMITTEE

Meeting No 104

MINUTES

Thursday 30 April 2026

Using MS Teams

Members Present:

Councillor A Bennington (<i>Chair</i>)	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Alderman S Copeland	Belfast City Council
Alderman O Gawith	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 D Lee-Surginor	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
Councillor T Andrews	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Members' Apologies:

Councillor M Goodman	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor H Cushinan	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
Councillor C Blaney	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor E Thompson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor J Cochrane	Ards & North Down Borough Council
Councillor M Collins	Belfast City Council
Councillor E McDonough-Brown	Belfast City Council
Alderman S Skillen	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Councillor R Quigley	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
Councillor J Brennan	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers Present:

T Walker (<i>Acting Secretary</i>)	arc21
B McKeown (<i>Acting Secretary</i>)	arc21
K Boal	arc21
J Green	arc21
M Laverty	Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council
G Bannister	Ards & North Down Borough Council
K Patterson	Ards & North Down Borough Council
A McCann	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
W Muldrew	Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
D Carey	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
M Fitzpatrick	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

Officers' Apologies:

H Campbell (<i>Secretary</i>)	arc21
S Leonard	Belfast City Council
B Murray	Belfast City Council
R Moore	Mid & East Antrim Borough Council
S Murphy	Newry, Mourne & Down District Council

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 103 held on 26 February 2026

The Joint Committee approved the minutes. Proposed by Ald Gawith, seconded by the Chair, and agreed by all.

Action: Agreed

Item 4 - Matters Arising

Any matters arising were dealt with 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 Ald Morrow and seconded by the Cllr Givan.

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*", there were five matters discussed.

Item 5 - Minutes of Joint Committee Meeting 103 held on 26 February 2026 'in committee' - approved

Item 6 - Matters Arising - noted

Item 7 - Residual Waste Treatment Project - noted

Item 8 - Commercially Sensitive Contract & Procurement Issues - approved

Item 9 - Audit Committee Meeting Report – 24 March 2026 - noted

OUT OF COMMITTEE

Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Ald Morrow.

Item 10 - Contracts & Operations Briefing Report

Ms Boal presented a report to provide the Joint Committee with an update in relation to contracts and operations.

Service Status

She stated that all services had performed well throughout March and April, with ReGen continuing to use their site at Derryboy Road to accept waste from several arc21 contracts.

Performance

She provided an update on contractor performance across all the contracts in March and highlighted where some service credits had been applied for turnaround times, the number of overweight vehicles, reporting issues by contractors, and the bring contracts rectification requests issued and serviced.

Health & Safety

Ms Boal reported that between April 2025 – March 2026, there had been 19 health and safety incidents, which was one more than the same period last year. A session is being planned with council officers later in the year to review some of the health and safety trends and to share best practice.

Audits

Ms Boal reported that the external health and safety audit programme continues with a recent visit to the ReGen Derryboy Site in Newry at which no issues had been identified.

Rejected Loads

She reported that in March there were two rejected loads into Bryson Recycling but none into NWP Glenside.

arc21 Contract Tonnages

Details of the tonnages delivered in March for the main contracts were provided, along with a comparison against the same period last year.

Update on NWP Initiatives

Ms Boal provided an update on NWP information being circulated by councils and that this was being well received. This was discussed amongst Members who agreed that this was worth further promotion in order to increase the understanding of and demand for the NWP-produced compost and how it could be used practically both domestically and by the councils.

Engagement with arc21 Recycling Officers

She highlighted that a meeting had been held with the councils' recycling officers on 23 March which had been well attended and that further meetings would be organised in the coming months.

Supplies

A summary of the orders and deliveries of supplies for March 2026 was included in Ms Boal's report.

Following discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by Cllr Givan and seconded by Ald Gawith.

Action: Noted

Item 11 - Waste Tonnage Trends

Ms Boal presented a report showing the tonnage comparisons for material received through the arc21 contracts split into two parts, Part A showing the tonnage comparisons for materials processed through the arc21 contracts while Part B showed the annual tonnage comparison for the tonnage processed through the contracts. The data presented graphically highlighted the increases and decreases in the tonnage trends over these time periods.

She highlighted that as the councils were using residual waste treatment contracts there was no waste delivered direct to landfill. She also highlighted that the issues previously reported to Members concerning textiles showed no signs of being resolved in the near term but notwithstanding this situation, the contractor continued to collect materials from arc21 councils' sites.

Following a brief discussion, the Joint Committee noted the report. Proposed by the Ald Gawith and seconded by Cllr Givan.

Action: Noted

Ald McKeen left the meeting at this point.

Item 12 - Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy Consultation

Ms Boal presented an overview of the proposed arc21 consultation response and highlighted that this continued to be a work in progress to assimilate the comments from the Steering Group officers and that having prepared a draft, she was waiting on the receipt of final input from the Chief Executive and Project Director.

Given that the submission date for this consultation was Wednesday, 6 May at noon, she proposed that in order to include comments from both of these officers, it would continue to be amended and refined and the final version would then be discussed with the Chair prior to sending.

Following consideration, the Chair proposed and Ald Gawith seconded this approach.

Action: Approved

Item 13 - Governance Report – CIWM(NI)/Recycle NI Annual Conference, 2026

Mr Walker reminded Members of the CIWM(NI)/Recycle NI annual conference, which is scheduled to be held on 21 May 2026 in the Titanic Conference Centre.

He stated that he was seeking retrospective approval for the attendance of the Chair and Acting Chief Executive (or their nominees) at the event which would consider local policy developments as he had already booked the places in order to secure the discounted “*early bird*” rate.

He also flagged that since drafting this report which was due to be considered at last month's Joint Committee meeting, as immediate past-President of CIWM he had received a request from this year's President (Dr David Greenfield) to substitute for him as a speaker due to a diary clash. Dr Greenfield's topic was on his presidential report entitled "*Lost Opportunities? Winning Back Materials to Drive the UK's Circular Economy*" which is a call to action to capture and derive value from resources that are currently being lost to the UK's economy. Following discussions with the local organisers, the talk will be amended to provide an update of general CIWM work which had been undertaken during the current year.

Mr Walker went on to highlight that he had received an email from Indaver proposing that they be permitted to present their approach for the facilities proposed for development at the Hightown Site, Mallusk. He went on to say that Indaver had also proposed facilitating a visit to their facilities at Duleek, Co Meath, should Members be interested.

Following a discussion, Members approved the attendance of the Chair and Acting Chief Executive (or their nominees) at the CIWM(NI)/Recycle NI event. The benefit of seeing facilities firsthand was raised and accordingly it was proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Gawith that Indaver be invited to present to the Joint Committee, and that discussions be entered into with them regarding facilitating a site visit.

Action: Approved

The Chair suggested that Councillors from all of arc21's councils should be invited, and Mr Walker indicated that he would follow up on this with Indaver accordingly.

Action: Mr Walker

Item 14 - AOB

Mr Walker highlighted that a further DAERA consultation paper "*From Waste to Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme*" had recently been issued and was live until 10 July. He said that arc21 would review its content and draft a response accordingly for the consideration of Members.

Action: Noted

Item 15 - Next Meeting Thursday, 28 May 2026 at 10.30am using MS Teams

The Chair advised that the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday 28 May, 2026 and will be held online. She encouraged all to attend and to confirm their attendance with Ms Campbell in advance of the meeting.

Action: ALL

All officers were asked to leave the meeting for this matter, with the exception of Mr McKeown who remained to take minutes.

IN COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move "*In Committee*" in order to consider one item which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Andrews and seconded by Ald Given.

Item 16 - Update on the Recruitment of the Post of Chief Executive - approved

OUT OF COMMITTEE

The Chair recommended that the meeting would now move out of “*In Committee*” which was agreed. Proposed by Cllr Gawith and seconded by Cllr Copeland.

Action: Agreed

Date: 28 May 2026

Chair: *A Bennington*