



<b>Subject:</b>	Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum Northern Ireland (WISHNI) Request
<b>Date:</b>	6 <sup>th</sup> October 2020
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Jennifer Stephens, Compliance and Research Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
<b>After Committee Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>After Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Some time in the future</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Never</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
<b>1.1</b>	To notify Committee that a request has been made by the Chair of WISHNI, Jim King, for Belfast City Council Waste Officer, Jennifer Stephens, to consider and accept the role of Deputy Chair of WISHNI for the foreseeable future.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
<b>2.1</b>	The Committee is asked to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Note the request that has been made on behalf of WISHNI.</li><li>• Approve the request from WISHNI for Jennifer Stephens, Waste Officer, to accept the role as Deputy Chair for WISHNI</li></ul>

<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p>A direct request has been made from WISHNI to Belfast City Council's Waste Officer, Jennifer Stephens to consider and accept the role of Deputy Chair for WISHNI.</p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p>3.2 The Waste Industry Safety and Health Forum Northern Ireland (WISHNI) is made up of representatives from the waste management and recycling industry in Northern Ireland. WISHNI members include representatives from professional associations, recycling organisations, businesses and national and local government bodies.</p> <p>3.3 Belfast City Council (BCC) has been involved, in a voluntary capacity, with WISHNI for a number of years. Representatives from BCC Corporate Health and Safety Unit and Waste Management regularly attend WISHNI meetings and events.</p> <p>3.4 The Waste Management Service has also been in receipt of a WISHNI Ambassador Award for six years.</p> <p>3.5 The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) is also a WISHNI member, adopting an advisory role to help improve health and safety practices throughout the industry.</p> <p>3.6 The aim of WISHNI is to identify, devise and promote activities to improve industry health and safety standards.</p> <p>3.7 The Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland (HSENI) has developed a programme of work which aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reduce the RIDDOR accident rate by five per cent each year</li> <li>• understand and identify measures to reduce occupational ill health</li> <li>• ensure occupational health and safety is an integral part of the specification, procurement and management of municipal waste/recycling contracts</li> </ul> <p>3.8 To help improve health and safety standards within the waste industry and in support of the above targets, WISHNI have defined the following approach. WISHNI will act as a steering group which will oversee working groups tasked with specific initiatives designed to improve health and safety performance within the waste industry.</p>

3.9	WISHNI will harness the collective knowledge of its membership to help individuals; representative bodies; employers and other organisations secure a safe and healthy workplace.
3.10	WISHNI will provide information, guidance and assistance to the industry where possible in efforts to improve health and safety standards.
3.11	WISHNI will target organisations and encourage them to take part in planned initiatives or undertake other such actions so as to improve health and safety standards.
3.12	WISHNI hold regular meetings and events throughout the year, bringing together shared learning and expertise on waste related matters.
3.13	The role of the Deputy Chair of WISHNI would be to continue to support the work of WISHNI, to help deliver on its strategy and to deputise for the Chair in their absence, for example by chairing WISHNI meetings.
3.14	The time commitment involved in carrying out this role is estimated at approximately a half day per month. Any additional time commitments would be made in the officer's own time.
3.15	Fulfilment of this role has been requested for the foreseeable future, with no set timeframe or end date stated. However, should this request be granted, the officer will seek review of the position after two years from the date of appointment.
	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p>
3.16	There are no financial implications in accepting the role of Deputy Chair of WISHNI. Any additional resource implications, on the officer's time, would be minimal as she is already an active member of WISHNI and participates in the ongoing meeting and events.
	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment</u></p>
3.17	There are no negative Equality or Good Relations implications / Rural Needs Assessment. By supporting the request, BCC would be promoting equality of opportunity for women within the waste industry, which traditionally has been a predominantly male-dominated environment.
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	None

