

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Tuesday 7 January 2025 at 6.01 pm.**

**PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (COMMITTEE):**

Councillor J Craig (Chairperson)  
Alderman H Legge (Vice-Chairperson)  
Aldermen A Grehan and A McIntyre  
Councillors R T Beckett, B Higginson, G McCleave, T Mitchell and G Thompson

**PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE)**

Aldermen S P Porter and S Skillen  
Councillors D Bassett, J Gallen, C Kemp and S Lowry

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER**

Councillor G Hynds

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION**

Alderman J Tinsley

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing  
Director of Environmental Services (Acting) (Zoom)  
Head of Communities  
Head of Sports Services  
Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)  
Business Support Officer (SG)  
Member Services Officers (BS & EW)  
IT Officer (MW)

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairperson welcomed all present to the January meeting of the Committee and reminded Members that the meeting would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business. Unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per 8.5 of the Council's Standing Orders. Mobile phones were to be turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency. The Chairperson asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

Alderman S P Porter joined the meeting at 6.03 pm.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies recorded.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3. Report of Head of Parks & Amenities

3.1 George Best Community Cup 2025

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities' report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the request by the IFA to host the George Best Community Cup Tournament at the Billy Neill MBE Country Park during 19 and 20 June 2025, with set up on the evening before the tournament and dismantling on the morning after.

A number of Members spoke in support of the Officer's recommendation that this Council supports this major tournament going forward as such an event promoted inclusivity and diversity, and also provided the opportunity for the Council to showcase its facilities to the many visitors that attended this event.

It was proposed by Alderman S Skillen, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Council accedes to the use of the pitches at the Billy Neill MBE Country Park at no cost to the IFA for the annual George Best Community Cup Tournament, as outlined, and
- b) future event requests from the IFA for this annual event be approved by the Head of Parks & Amenities.

4. Report of Head of Sports Services

4.1 Proposed Route Change 2025 – Vitality Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K & Fun Run

The Head of Sports Services' report outlined the background and key issues in connection with proposed route changes to the Vitality Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run. Details of the identified new routes had been appended to the Officer's report.

The Head of Sports Services, by way of a further update, advised that Corporate Health & Safety, the Acting Sports Development Officer and the PSNI had driven the proposed new routes the previous day and had reported positively on the route changes being proposed. Furthermore, the PSNI had

4.1 Proposed Route Change 2025 – Vitality Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K & Fun Run (Cont'd)

advised that they were recommending a one-hour temporary diversion which would prevent traffic accessing the Longstone/Moira Road area which would allow the safe passage of the runners on that route.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that the three proposed routes for the 2025 Vitality Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run be approved, including the temporary one-hour diversion at Longstone/Moira Road.

5. Report of Head of Communities

5.1 Draft Good Relations Action Plan 2025/2026

The Head of Communities' report set out the background and key issues in relation to the Council's Draft Good Relations Action Plan 2025/2026 which would be delivered under The NI Executive's District Council Good Relations Programme as part of the wider 'Together: Building a United Community (T:BUC)' Strategy.

The Officer's report also included information on the Good Relations budget which had been subject to variation over the past two years, it being noted that TEO had not a confirmed budget position for 2025/2026 at this time. The report also highlighted progress to date in regard to the Good Relations Action Plan 2024/2025.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a commissioning letter that had been received from The Executive Office to invite the Council to apply for funding for the financial year 2025/2026 subject to the approval of the Council's Good Relations Action Plan. Also appended to the Officer's report was a paper setting out the five programmes as part of the draft 2025/2026 Good Relations Action Plan with associated budgets included.

The Head of Communities, by way of a further update, advised that TEO had since written to the Chief Executive offering an additional £10,800 uplift for this current financial year. The Head of Communities advised that this uplift in funding would cover the overspend on the Council's Good Relations grants which had been agreed previously to be taken from departmental underspends.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing and the Head of Communities responded to questions from the Committee in relation to the 2025/2026 Good Relations budget and in particular in relation to any shortfall in funding.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor G McCleave, and agreed to recommend that:

5.1 Draft Good Relations Action Plan 2025/2026 (Cont'd)

- a) the 2025/2026 Good Relations Action Plan and associated budget as presented be agreed and submitted to The Executive Office by the required deadline of 24 January 2025, and
- b) the uplift in the sum of £10,800 from TEO for the current financial year be noted.

6. Any Other Business – Non-Confidential

6.1 Request for Update on Pitches Strategy  
Councillor G McCleave

In response to Councillor G McCleave's request the Acting Head of Parks & Amenities advised that the Pitches Strategy was out to tender currently and that it was anticipated that it would be early Summer before the tender exercise was completed. He also advised that the outcome would be reported to the Committee in due course.

6.2 Request for Update on Damage to Fence at Bells Allotments  
Councillor G Hynds

In response to Councillor Hynds' request the Acting Head of Parks & Amenities advised that Officers had spoken with the PSNI earlier that day about the damage to a fence at Bells Allotments that had been caused by a road traffic incident. He also advised that the matter was with the respective insurance companies.

6.3 Road Safety Issue at DIIB Redevelopment Site  
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry expressed thanks and appreciation to the Head of Sports Services and his team for their prompt action in resolving the road safety issue that had arisen at the DIIB redevelopment site.

6.4 Request for Update on Tree Planting to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of CARE DAY 2025  
Councillor G Thompson

Councillor G Thompson requested an update on her Notice of Motion that had been agreed by the Committee in November 2024 in regard to the planting of a tree in a public space within the Council area to mark the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of CARE DAY on the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2025. The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing undertook to follow up on this matter with the Acting Head of Parks & Amenities and report back to Councillor Thompson directly.

6.5 Active Travel Delivery Plan (item 2 of the January 2025 Information & Correspondence Schedule refers)  
Alderman A McIntyre

At the request of Alderman A McIntyre it was agreed that the deadline for Members' comments on the Department for Infrastructure's proposals for LCCC's Active Travel Delivery Plan be extended in order to allow all Members more time to submit their comments to the Community Planning Manager.

7. Confidential Report from Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The reason for confidentiality for each of the confidential reports was due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

In Committee

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Confidential Reports of the Director be considered "in Committee". (Recording was paused at this stage in proceedings, and any members of the press and public left the meeting.)

7.1 Leisure & Community Wellbeing Estimates 2025/2026  
(final Estimates report to be published)

Presented by the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing.

The Committee had been furnished with the draft Estimates for the Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate as well as a number of related appendices including the Council's capital programme listing. The draft Estimates were built on previous draft Estimates update reports and had addressed the feedback from the December meeting of the Committee.

The Director and the Head of Sports Services responded to a number of questions and comments raised by Members in connection with draft estimates up-date, as presented.

In regard to one of the items raised the Head of Sports Services undertook to provide the Member with the promotional material that had been circulated when the simulation facility in the new indoor golf studio at Castlereagh Hills Golf Course had been launched.

The Acting Director of Environmental Services addressed the Committee on another matter raised in connection with potential funding for waste services.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the draft Estimates for the Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate 2025/2026, as presented, be agreed and be submitted into the overall Estimates of the Council for the year commencing 1 April 2025.

7.2 Laurelhill Sports Zone – Expression of Interest Delivery Partner  
(Redacted Report to be published June 2025)

Presented by the Head of Sports Services.

In addition to the narrative report, the draft Expression of Interest document and the Equality and Good Relations Screening document had been provided.

The Head of Sports Services responded to a number of questions from Members and provided clarification on the issues raised.

It was proposed by Councillor G McCleave, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that the Council approve the progression of an Expression of Interest for the day-to-day operational management of the Laurelhill Sports Zone.

8. Any Other Business – Confidential

8.1 Community Outreach Clinic 10 am – 2 pm  
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson expressed thanks to the Head of Communities and the team for their efforts in organising the Community Outreach Clinic in Killynure Community Hub. He requested that consideration be given to holding such clinics in the evening time as many of the community volunteers work during the day. Councillor Higginson also asked that consideration be given to an Outreach Clinic being held in the Castlereagh South area next time.

8.2 Lough Moss Leisure Centre 3G Pitch  
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson outlined an issue in relation to usage of the new 3G pitch at Lough Moss Leisure Centre. Officers undertook to consider this and arrange to meet with the relevant clubs.

8.3 Billy Neill MBE Vitality Gym  
Alderman S Skillen

The Head of Sports Services responded to an issue raised by Alderman Skillen in connection with an incident that had occurred the previous Saturday concerning the Vitality Gym at the Billy Neill MBE Centre. The Head of Sports Services undertook to address this issue as a matter of urgency.

8.4 Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan: Theme 1 Regeneration\Transformation Match Funded Projects (Item 1 of the January 2025 Information & Correspondence Schedule refers)  
Chairperson, Councillor D J Craig

At the request of the Chairperson, Councillor D J Craig, the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing updated the Committee in relation to an issue concerning SEUPB funding for three projects included in the Council's Local Action Plan. The Head of Communities also responded to questions raised by Members.

During the discussion a number of next steps by Officers were noted.

Councillor R T Beckett left the meeting during consideration of this item (7.32 pm).

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor S Lowry, and agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business the meeting concluded at 7.40 pm.

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MAYOR/CHAIR