

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 25 August, 2026 at 7:03 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor B Higginson

Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre

Aldermen O Gawith, M Gregg, A Grehan, H Legge,
S P Porter, and J Tinsley

Councillors J Bamford, D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns,
P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, A P Ewing, A Givan,
A Gowan, J Harpur, G Hynds, C Kemp, J Lavery BEM,
D Lynch, U Mackin, A Martin, M McKeever, N Parker and
G Thompson

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Alderman S Skillen, Councillors R Carlin, J Gallen, B Magee,
R McLernon

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Director of Organisation Development & Innovation
Head of Governance & Communications
Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)
Member Services Manager (Acting)
Member Services Officer (EW)
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, welcomed those present to the August meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reminded that the meeting was being livestreamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed Rev N Dark to the meeting of Council. Rev Dark addressed the meeting and said a prayer. During prayers Rev Dark expressed condolences to:

- Yvonne Burke, Economic Development, on the recent passing of her father, Mr Lenny Cooper, and
- Nicola Rogan, Governance & Communications, on the passing of her father, Mr Tony Rogan earlier in the month.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, thanked Rev Dark for his attendance and contribution, following which Rev Dark left the meeting.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor since the last meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen J Baird and A G Ewart MBE, Councillors S Lowry, G McCleave, C McCready, T Mitchell and Hon N Trimble, and also the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing and the Director of Regeneration & Growth.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interests declared.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 23 June, 2026

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 June, 2026 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 June, 2026.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and South Eastern Regional College, 25 Castle Street, Lisburn BT27 4SU – For delivery of Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership 2026/27 Action Plan – Employee Upskilling Programme Welding Academy
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Workforce Training Services Limited, 88-90 Springfield Road, Belfast BT12 7AJ – For delivery of T25/26-082 – Future Pathways – Young People in Looked After Care Employability Programme as per the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Action Plan 2025/26
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Stepping Stones NI, 39 Seymour Street, Lisburn BT27 4SY – For delivery of T25/26-015 – Accessible Graduate Apprenticeship Programme (Year 2) as per the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Action Plan 2026/27
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Search Workshops Supplies Ltd, Altnagelvin Industrial Estate, Trench Road, Londonderry BT47 2ED – Contract for T25/26-063 Tender for The Supply and Installation of a Prefabricated Inspection Pit with Associated Works at Central Services Depot
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Lindsay Turface, 2 Carn Court Road, Craigavon BT63 5YX, Irwins Sportsturf Limited, Unit 4, 21 Silverwood Industrial Area, Lurgan BT66 6LN, Irish Turface, Mullacash North, Naas, Co Kildare, Ireland – Contract for the Supply and Delivery of Horticultural Products
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Heron Bros Limited, 2 St Patrick's Street, Draperstown BT45 7AL, and Qubicaamf UK Limited, 8 Marchmont Gate, Boundary Way, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire HB2 7BF – Novation of Bowling Contract in relation to Dundonald International Ice Bowl Bowling Package and Associated Works

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Special Governance & Audit Committee****25 June, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor M McKeever

Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

Planning Committee**1 June, 2026**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 1 June, 2026 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 6 July, 2026. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed that their contents be noted.

Planning Committee**6 July, 2026**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 6 June, 2026 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 3 August, 2026. It was proposed by, Councillor D Bassett, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive9.1 Decisions taken under Delegated Authority

The Council considered a report and an appended document in connection with the decisions taken under delegated authority up to 18 August, 2026 in line with the report from the Chief Executive presented to Council at its meeting held on 23 June, 2026, and in the absence of committees during July and August.

Alderman Skillen sought clarification in regard to the need to declare an interest in connection with an award of funding from the Council to the organisation that she worked for.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed to note the decisions taken under delegated authority up to 18 August, 2026 as outlined in the appended document, it being noted that each of the decisions listed in the appended document would be reported to the relevant Committees in September 2026.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notices of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion for consideration.

It was agreed that agenda item 14.0 Any Other Business be considered at this point in the meeting.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Traffic Attendant Patrols on the Lambeg Road, Lambeg Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig raised the issue of vehicles parked on double yellow lines on the Lambeg Road, Lambeg which, he stated, was a health & safety issue. Councillor Craig advised that a Freedom of Information (FOI) request had been sent to DfI Roads asking for information on traffic attendant patrols on the Lambeg Road this year to date and also the number of tickets issued. Councillor Craig expressed concern that the response had listed a number of dates when 19 patrols by traffic attendants had taken place this year but that no enforcement tickets had been issued despite evidence showing this should not be the case.

It was agreed on a proposal by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor N Parker, that a letter be sent to DfI Roads requesting a meeting with Lisburn North DEA Members in order that these concerns are addressed. Councillor Craig referred to the number of accidents on the Lambeg Road recently and on one occasion a young child had been hospitalised. He stated that this meeting was necessary in order to try and find a resolution to this matter.

13.2 Double Yellow Lines – Priory Close, Lambeg

Councillor D J Craig advised that Lisburn North DEA Members had met with Roads officials in connection with the need for double yellow lines in Priory Close, Lambeg. Roads officials had advised that one objection had been made to this application for double yellow lines which had resulted in the double yellow lines not being progressed. This course of action was in line with current legislation which sets out that one objection means that the application for double yellow lines cannot be progressed.

It was agreed on a proposal by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor N Parker, that the Council writes to the Minister for Infrastructure to convey the concerns of Lisburn North DEA Members regarding the issue of double yellow lines not being progressed in Priory Close, Lambeg and requesting that the legislation be reviewed in relation to the one objection ruling, particularly from a road safety point of view.

Comments were noted from Councillor P Catney in connection with an application for double yellow lines in Glenmore Manor, Lisburn. Councillor Catney advised that he, along with Robbie Butler MLA and local residents, had met with Roads officials recently who had explained that double yellow lines

13.2 Double Yellow Lines – Priory Close, Lambeg (Cont'd)

could be applied up to 15 metres at both sides of the entrance to the development.

Councillor Hynds indicated his support to the issues raised by Councillors Craig and Catney.

13.3 Fire at Hilden Mill Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds put on record his concerns in connection with yet another fire at Hilden Mill the previous week. Councillor Hynds advised that he had attended on the evening when he had thanked the NIFRS for their on-going efforts at this site. Councillor Hynds also expressed thanks to the Chief Executive and Officers from Environmental Heath for their quick action on the evening. Councillor Hynds sought reassurance on what more the Council could do to protect this site and the need to put pressure on the current owner who has a duty to look after our history and built heritage.

The Chief Executive assured Councillor Hynds that the Environmental Health team continued to engage with the owner of Hilden Mill. He also advised that the Director of Environmental Services and the Head of Service would provide a briefing to Cllr Hynds on this matter which would also include an update on Councillor Hynds' Notice of Motion on the Hilden Mill which he had brought forward to the Council previously. It was noted that the update would be shared with all Members.

13.4 Public Realm CCTV Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds having referred to concerns that had been raised with him by a local resident about the level of recording of the CCTV welcomed the clarification that the CCTV recording was continuing uninterrupted 24/7. Councillor Hynds stated that he was, however, concerned that the part-time in-person surveillance has not been replicated and that there was a need to provide reassurance to the general public in terms of crime prevention.

Alderman S P Porter stated he had serious concerns on the issues raised and requested that this issue be discussed further during Confidential Business.

The Chief Executive assured the Member that CCTV is continuing to record on all occasions and advised that the amount of recording and monitoring that is taking place is more than what took place previously. It was noted that there was also a sharing agreement with the PSNI.

13.5 Drumlough Pipe Band Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin put on record the recent success of Drumlough Pipe Band which, he stated, had been formed in 1950 and had celebrated its 75th anniversary successfully last year by returning to the competition scene. The

13.5 Drumlough Pipe Band (Cont'd)
Councillor U Mackin

bands recent successes included: Drum Major World Champion, Ulster Champion, United Kingdom Champion, Heart of Down Champion, Champion Drum Core and World Champion in Glasgow having won Grade 3B. Councillor Mackin stated that this was a very rare achievement for a band who had come up a full grade from Grade 4D back in 2005. He also commended the Band's drum core having won Champion of Champions the previous weekend and having played up a grade to Grade 4A and had, on this occasion, come fourth. Councillor Mackin stated that this was a great achievement.

It was agreed on a proposal by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, that the Council hosts a reception to mark the achievements of Drumlough Pipe Band.

Councillor A Gowan also wished to pay tribute to the remarkable success of Drumlough Pipe Band, stating it was only right that the Council recognises the Band's success. Councillor Gowan referred to the remarkable dedication of the band members also highlighted the achievements of one of the younger band members, Henry Spencer, aged 13, who was a successful piper on an individual level and also on an All-Ireland level, and who had taken part in the recent Fleadh as well. Councillor Gowan stated that it was great to see such talent within the community.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed that these were remarkable achievements for a local band and indicated that it would be very fitting that the Council recognise its success and that he would be pleased to work with Officers in arranging a suitable reception for Drumlough Pipe Band.

13.6 Age Friendly Summer Scheme
Councillor G Thompson

Councillor G Thompson welcomed the success of the pilot Age Friendly Summer Scheme last year and also the second Age Friendly Summer Scheme which had just completed and which had been very well attended. Councillor Thompson conveyed thanks to the Council Officers and in particular to the Age Friendly Co-ordinator for all their work and planning that goes into organising these Summer Schemes. Councillor Thompson also expressed thanks and appreciation to the assistance of the community partners including Lagan Valley Community Transport who had been instrumental in getting in folk to and from the various activities throughout the Summer.

13.7 Inclusive Play Day at Lough Moss Leisure Centre
Councillor J Harpur

Councillor J Harpur thanked Officers for their efforts in organising the Inclusive Play Day at Lough Moss Leisure Centre which had taken place the previous Saturday and which he, himself, had attended. Councillor Harpur said it had been good to see the children from across the Council area and beyond playing together and enjoying the good weather. He stated that this was the first event of its kind and that he hoped to see this event come forward again next year.

13.8 Twelfth of July Celebrations in Royal Hillsborough
Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman S P Porter and Councillor G Hynds

Alderman J Tinsley commended Hillsborough District and Hillsborough Together for their efforts in organising the Twelfth of July celebrations in Royal Hillsborough which had taken place on Monday 13th July. Alderman Tinsley also conveyed thanks to Council Officers for their efforts which had ensured that the village of Royal Hillsborough looked so well for the many visitors who had come in to the village. Alderman Tinsley welcomed the musical talent that had been enjoyed on the day as well as the growth in numbers of Junior lodges and the ladies lodges.

Alderman Tinsley also referred to Belfast's Royal Black Preceptory parade that was taking place in Dundonald this Saturday and again commended Council Officers for their efforts in making Dundonald look good for those visitors coming into the area.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor concurred with the sentiments expressed by Alderman Tinsley and assured Alderman Tinsley that the Council's thanks would be passed on to the relevant teams.

Alderman S P Porter also wished to be associated with the sentiments in connection with the preparation and hard work of Council staff on these occasions. He also commended the efforts of both the Secretary and the Worshipful Master of the Hillsborough & District Orange Lodge on the amazing event in Royal Hillsborough on Monday 13th July which was one of the largest events in the Council area, and which had attracted visitors from Scotland, England and Wales, and from across the world.

Alderman Porter enquired about what the Council had done to promote this big event in Royal Hillsborough on 13th July. He also enquired about the Council's marketing strategy generally in terms of the various significant events across the Council area. Alderman Porter emphasised the importance of encouraging as many people into the Council area as possible and asked that these issues be considered further by the relevant Committee.

At a later point in the meeting Councillor G Hynds also raised the issue of the importance of promoting other large events that are held in the Council area.

13.9 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney welcomed the huge success of the Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann that had taken place in Belfast from 2-9 August, 2026. Councillor Catney stated that one of the highlights for him had been the harp player and composer, Michael Rooney, who along with the Ulster Folk Orchestra had performed in the Ulster Hall. This performance had navigated the foundations of Ulster through music and dance and its shared history. Councillor Catney also acknowledged the success of the Fleadh fringe events that had taken place in Lisburn.

13.9 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann 2026 (Cont'd)
Councillor P Catney

It was agreed at the request of Councillor Catney that the Council writes to Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann expressing thanks for their efforts in bringing the Fleadh 2026 to Belfast and to express appreciation for what they are doing across the communities.

13.10 Summer Events
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen welcomed the number of Council events that had taken place over the Summer months, which she described as fantastic events, and expressed thanks to the Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting) and her team of Officers for their huge efforts in particular the successful Parklife events in Moat Park.

Alderman Skillen also referred to the Royal Black Preceptory's parade taking place in Dundonald this Saturday and expressed best wishes to the organisers for a successful event.

13.11 Fleadh Fringe Events Lisburn and Castlereagh
Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, conveyed his personal thanks to the teams in Lisburn Museum, the Island Arts Centre, City Centre Management and also to the Head of Parks and Amenities (Acting) and her teams in regard to the Fleadh fringe events that had taken place across the Council area and also in regard to the Castle Gardens Park Life event. The Deputy Mayor, having spoken to the Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting), advised that the Castle Gardens Parklife events had had the biggest attendance yet, as had the events in Moat Park. He stated that he had attended as many events as possible and welcomed the Irish, Scottish and Breton music and traditional dancing. He expressed thanks and appreciation that his small simple request had turned it into a series of great unique events.

13.12 Moira Food Fair
Councillor A P Ewing & Alderman O Gawith

Councillor A P Ewing expressed thanks and appreciation to Council Officers for their efforts in organising Moira Food Fair which he stated was a fantastic and first class event.

Alderman O Gawith thanked Officers for the excellent clean-up afterwards which was welcomed by local constituents.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor concurred with the sentiments expressed in regard to the excellent efforts of staff. The Mayor also referred to the excellent clean-up in the Fort field in Royal Hillsborough following the Twelfth of July celebrations.

Technical Issue

At this point a technical issue occurred with the display screens in the Council Chamber which affected the video output to each of the screens. The audio output was unaffected and the meeting continued.

14. Confidential Business

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that the confidential report was required to be considered under confidential business due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

In Committee

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed that the Confidential Report by the Chief Executive be considered “in Committee” in the absence of press or members of the public. The livestream was paused at this stage in proceedings (7.54 pm).

- 14.1 Extension to arc21 Contract for the receipt and processing of Kerbside Collected Mixed Recyclables
(Redacted report to be published in May 2027 subject to no further extension required)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman H Legge, and agreed that the Dry Material Recovery Facility Contract, Lot 1 be extended for up to six months as outlined in the report.

15. Any Other Confidential Business

- 15.1 Public Realm CCTV
Alderman S P Porter

Councillor J Harpur left the meeting at 8.00 pm and returned at 8.02 pm.

The Chief Executive responded to comments from Alderman S P Porter in connection with the operation of CCTV in the City Centre. The Chief Executive advised that an update report on the issues raised by Alderman Porter would be presented to the relevant Committee in October 2026.

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 8.02 pm prior to the conclusion of the meeting.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor J Laverty, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Conclusion of Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.02 pm.

Mayor