LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn and in remote locations on Thursday, 3 September, 2026 at 6.02 pm

PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:	Alderman J Baird (Chairperson) Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Vice Chairperson) Councillors K Dickson, A Gowan, S Lowry, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell, and G Thompson
PRESENT REMOTELY:	Councillors J Harpur, C Kemp, J Laverty BEM and D Lynch
OTHER MEMBER IN THE CHAMBER:	Alderman A Grehan and Councillor G Hynds
OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY	Alderman S P Porter
IN ATTENDANCE	Director of Regeneration & Growth Head of Assets Head of Economic Development Head of Planning & Capital Development Member Services Manager (Acting) Member Services Officer IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman J Baird, extended a welcome to everyone in attendance at the September meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee.

The Chairperson reminded those present that the meeting was being recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Alderman A Grehan and Councillor G Thompson entered the meeting at 6.03 pm.

1. Apologies

   It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance on behalf of Councillors J Gallen and C McCready.

2. Declarations of Interest

Councillor A Gowan declared an interest in items 4.1 National Ploughing Championships - Promotional Opportunity with Historic Royal Palace and Harry Ferguson Celebration Committee and item 4.3 2026/27 Tourism Major Events in view of having assisted with the Harry Ferguson Memorial Museum and Friends of Harry Ferguson with their event which had received funding from the Council.

Councillor G Hynds declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 7.1.3 Seycon Park, Dunmurry.

3, Presentation on Terms of Reference for the Regeneration & Growth Committee

The Director of Regeneration & Growth, with the aid of PowerPoint, made a presentation on an overview of the Terms of Reference for the Regeneration & Growth Committee under the key headings of

- Committee Structure
- Committee's purpose
- Committee's responsibilities under the headings: Economic Development. Assets, Capital Programme, Directorate Budget Oversight, and
- Agenda, papers & Any Other Business

4. Report of Head of Economic Development

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting for the following item of business having declared an interest in this matter (6.13 pm)

4.1 National Ploughing Championships - Promotional Opportunity with Historic Royal Palace and Harry Ferguson Museum & Farmstead

The Committee considered a report outlining the background and key issues in connection with a promotional opportunity for the Council at the National Ploughing Championships in association with Historic Royal Palaces and Harry Ferguson Museum & Farmstead.

The Head of Economic Development pointed out that the reference in his report to 'Harry Ferguson Celebration Committee' should read 'Harry Ferguson Museum & Farmstead.'

The Head of Economic Development reminded Members that the Regeneration & Growth Committee had been granted delegated authority by the Council to progress this promotional opportunity with formal representation at the National Ploughing Championships which were taking place in Tullamore, Co Offlay in September 2026.

4.1 National Ploughing Championships - Promotional Opportunity with Historic Royal Palace and Harry Ferguson Museum & Farmstead (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development's report set out a number of key issues in terms of challenges for all parties on due to the close proximity of the date of the event and also in view of the limited exhibition space available.

It was noted that following discussions with HRP, the Harry Ferguson Museum & Farmstead and the National Ploughing Championship organisers, and following consultation with the Chairman of the Committee, it was considered that a more effective approach would be to begin planning for the 2027 National Ploughing Championships. This would provide sufficient time to secure suitable accommodation, reserve an outdoor exhibition space capable of accommodating a Ferguson tractor, and develop a coordinated destination marketing campaign with partner organisations.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor K Dickson, and agreed to recommend that:

- the outcome of discussions with HRP, the Harry Ferguson Museum & Farmstead and the National Ploughing Championships organisers be noted

- the Council does not participate in the National Ploughing Championships 2026, and

- Officers commence discussions with relevant partners regarding participation in the 2027 National Ploughing Championships, including the potential booking of suitable outdoor exhibition space and associated accommodation requirements, with a further report being brought to Committee in due course.

4.2 2026/27 Tourism Experiential Programme Evaluation and Next Steps

Councillor A Gowan returned to the meeting at this point (6.15 pm).

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Economic Development which outlined the background and key issues in connection with the 2026/27 Tourism Experiential Programme Evaluation which was part of the delivery of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Tourism Strategy 2025-2030. The Programme was aimed at supporting local tourism and hospitality businesses to develop and enhance visitor experiences across the priority themes of Culture & Heritage, Adventure & Activities, and Food & Drink.

In addition to the Officer's report, the Committee had also been furnished with the Tourism Experience Development Programme Final Evaluation Report (TEAM Tourism Consulting), and the Tourism Experiential Development Programme Outcomes Summary Document.

4.2 2026/27 Tourism Experiential Programme Evaluation and Next Steps (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development noted comments from Councillor G Hynds in connection with the importance of the high street businesses benefiting from this Programme in the future and a request for a future report on City Centre support for start-up businesses.

It was agreed that the Committee notes the findings of the Tourism Experience Development Programme Final Evaluation Report.

4.3 2026/27 Tourism Major Events

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting for this item of business having declared an interest in this matter (6.20 pm).

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed the background and key issues in connection with a second call for projects under the Council's Major Tourism Events Funding programme for 2026/2027 following the agreement by the Committee in April 2026 to open a second call.

It was noted that a total of four applications had been received under the second tranche of the Programme and that following assessment and subsequent review, three events were recommended for funding support at a total grant commitment of £17,122, the details of which were outlined in the Officer's report.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth and the Head of Economic Development responded to a question from the Committee in connection with:

- the policy for funding under the Tourism Major Events initiative. The Director reminded Members that the criteria for funding of Major Tourism events had been agreed previously by the Regeneration & Growth Committee and advised that this policy was not a universal policy across the Council,
- total spend for the Tourism Major Events programme. In his response the Head of Economic Development explained about the funding matrix for this Programme.
- those groups that were unsuccessful in receiving funding this year
- participation in the Tourism Major Events. The Head of Economic Development emphasised the need for groups to promote their events widely as possible.

It was agreed that that the recipients for funding support under the second call of the 2026/27 Tourism Major Events Programme be noted.

Councillor A Gowan returned to the meeting at this point (6.26 pm).

4.4 Proposed 13 Space Car Park – Station Road, Lambeg

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed the background and key issues in connection with a proposed 13-space car park on a green space site at Station Road, Lambeg.

The Director highlighted that following consultation with the DEA Elected Members and subsequently with the Regeneration & Growth Committee, a recommendation had been agreed to progress a pre-project consultation in the community, the details of which were outlined in the report.

In addition to the Officer's report, the Committee had also been furnished with a summary document outlining the key findings, as well as a more detailed analysis of the survey responses which highlighted a number of concerns relating to the belief that the proposed car park would not effectively address the existing parking issues within the area.

The Officer's report also outlined the cost of enforcement that would be required for regulating parking in the bays including the appropriate use of designated bays, and the enforcement of a maximum stay.

The Director of Regeneration and Growth responded to comments from Members in relation to the importance of consulting with residents on the parking issues at Station Road, Lambeg. The Director assured members that consultation had taken place with DFI and undertook to convey the committee comments raised to the Head of Eastern Roads division.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor K Dickson, and agreed to recommend that:

- the outcome of the consultation and the significant concerns raised by residents regarding the proposed 13-space car park be noted, and

- the proposed 13-space car park be not progressed at this time and that Officers explore with DFI alternative solutions.

In addition to the Director's recommendation it was also agreed that in exploring alternative options to address the car parking issues at Station Road, Lambeg, residents would be consulted on any proposed solutions.

Councillor J Harpur left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.26 pm).

4.5 Taxi Rank Market Square South, Lisburn

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed the background and key issues in connection with a proposal for a change of use for a taxi rank in Market Square South, Lisburn, which has been reported as under-utilised.

Copy correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure regarding the existing taxi rank was appended to the Officer's report, together with Equality Screening and Rural Impact Screening documents.

The Head of Economic Development reported that it was proposed that this space be redefined as a loading bay which would be of benefit to local businesses and would in turn improve customers' collection opportunities. In addition, should the space allow, DfI had been encouraged to consider the provision of disabled car parking.

Comments were noted from Members in relation to:

- the need for more parking spaces generally rather than having more disabled parking spaces in view of the adequate disabled parking spaces close by, and

- the other near-by loading bay being removed and replaced with more short-stay car parking.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that Officers respond to the Department for Infrastructure confirming the preference for the existing taxi rank in Market Square to be redefined as a loading bay and that any additional space be allocated to short-stay parking spaces.

Alderman A Grehan left the meeting prior to the conclusion of this item of business (6.39 pm).

4.6 Delegated Authority Decisions Taken Over the Summer Months (Economic Development)

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed the background and key issues in connection with the undernoted two decisions relating to the Economic Development Programme that had been taken in line with the Council's agreed position regarding the delegated authority arrangements over the summer months:

- the award of a Future Growth Grant. A note of the meeting that had taken place in this regard was appended to the Officer's report together with the summary record that had been reported to August's meeting of full Council.

4.6 Delegated Authority Decisions Taken Over the Summer Months (Economic Development) (Cont'd)

- the Council's response to the public consultation on UK governments Local Growth Fund in Northern Ireland (2026-2029). A link to the consultation documents had been included in the Officer's report and copies of the following documents had been appended to the report:

  - Delegated Authority Record for Council re Local Growth Fund in Northern Ireland (2026-2029)
  - Response re Public Consultation: The Local Growth Fund in Northern Ireland (2026-2029)
  - Future Growth Grant Equality Screening, and
  - Future Growth Grant Rural Needs Impact Assessment

  By way of a verbal update, the Head of Economic Development reported that three Letters of Offer had since been issued and that there was agreement with the Programme Board for a further call, with six applications being processed currently. It was noted that an update report would be presented to the Committee in due course.

Alderman S P Porter joined the meeting remotely during this item of business (6.28 pm).

It was proposed by Councillor K Dickson, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that the two decisions that were taken under the delegated authority arrangements over the summer months be noted, and that approval be granted retrospectively.

Councillor D Lynch left the meeting at 6.30 pm.

5. Report of Head of Assets

At this point the Chairman, Alderman J Baird, advised the Committee that this was the last meeting that the Head of Assets, Leeann Vincent, would be attending as she was leaving the Council's employ to take up a position elsewhere. The Chairman expressed thanks and appreciation to Leeann for her hard work and commitment during her time with the Council and conveyed best wishes to Leeann for the future.

The Head of Assets thanked the Committee for its support during her time as Head of Assets.

5.1 Asset Management Update

The Head of Assets' report outlined the background and key issues in connection with an update on the draft Asset Management Plan Programme.

5.1 Asset Management Update (Cont'd)

The Head of Assets reported that whilst a number of areas within the previous priorities and recommendations had progressed, the update paper detailed recent developments as well as ongoing 'business as usual' matters, and provided an overview on the workings of the Assets Unit since the previous update as per the Audit recommendation for an annual update.

It was agreed to note:

- the update on the Assets Management Plan Programme, including the ongoing associated works that would be reported to this committee in the coming months, and
- the internal Asset Management Forum will be responsible for maintaining the corporate asset management base with reports being brought to Members as required for any disposals, upgrades or the like in line with established governance and policies.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth paid tribute to the workload that the Head of Assets had taken on during her time in post and conveyed thanks and best wishes for the future to Leeann.

6.0 Any Other Business

6.1 Engagement with High Street Businesses
Councillor G Hynds

In response to comments from Councillor G Hynds, the Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to bring a report to a future meeting of the Committee on the work undertaken by Officers in the Economic Development Unit in relation to engagement with high street businesses and in particular new businesses that had come on to the high street during this Council term.

6.2 Pedestrian Crossing, Glenavy
Councillor C Kemp

Councillor C Kemp requested an update on the timeframe for the pedestrian crossing in Glenavy. The Director of Regeneration & Growth advised that this project had been raised at a recent meeting with DfI Roads when DfI Officials had confirmed that they were still committing to progress the pedestrian crossing in Glenavy in the current financial year. The Director reminded the Committee that funding had been identified for this project.

6.2 Pedestrian Crossing, Glenavy (Cont'd)
Councillor C Kemp

The Director also advised in regard to speed control measures that might be applied in Glenavy village. He stated that specifications were awaited and that these measures would be taken forward as a separate planning application.

The Director also mentioned that there was a technical problem with some of the infrastructure at the proposed site of the pedestrian crossing and that DfI were liaising with the utilities on this issue.

In response to further questions from Councillor Kemp regarding a 'plan B' for the pedestrian crossing the Director assured that DfI had committed to progressing the current plan of action but that due to the technical difficulties that had arisen, the Council had requested confirmation of this agreement in writing. The Director stated that a 'plan B' would be considered if necessary.

7. Confidential Business

The Chairperson, Alderman J Baird, advised that the confidential reports were 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 A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The video recording was paused at this stage in proceedings and the member of the press left the Council Chamber (7.00 pm).

7.1 Confidential Report from the Director of Regeneration & Growth

7.1.1 BRCD Annual Report 2025-2026
(Redacted report to be published post all partner governance approvals, estimated October 2026)

The Belfast Regional City Deal (BRCD) annual report for 2025-2026 had been provided, it being noted that within the governance arrangements of BRCD, the Council was required to approve its annual report.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth provided the Committee with a verbal update on the Council's current position with the BRCD funding programme and responded to questions from the Committee.

7.1.1 <u>BRCD Annual Report 2025-2026</u> (Cont'd)

Councillor A Martin left the meeting at 7.08 pm.

It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the Belfast Regional City Deal annual report for 2025-2026 be approved.

7.1.2 <u>Ravarnet Primary School</u>
(Redacted report to be published October 2026)

A discussion ensued during which the Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to a number of comments and questions from Members in connection with Ravarnet Primary School.

It was proposed by Councillor K Dickson, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that the Director's recommendation in regard to the way forward with the above asset be approved.

In addition, it was also agreed that the governance arrangements in regard to the above recommendation by the Committee, as outlined and agreed during the discussion, be implemented if required.

Councillors A Gowan and G Hynds left the meeting at this point (7.43 pm).

Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting at 7.44 pm and returned at 7.47 pm.

7.1.3 <u>Seycon Park, Dunmurry</u>
(Redacted report to be published post presentation and agreement for sealing at Council – December 2026)

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor K Dickson, and agreed to recommend that the revised lease as outlined in the Director of Regeneration & Growth's report and appended document, be progressed.

Councillor G Hynds returned to the meeting at 7.52 pm.

7.2 Confidential Report from the Head of Assets

7.2 1 Tender Evaluation Criteria: PPM & RM 03 – Intruder Alarm Systems & Monitoring; PPM & RM 07 – Fire Alarm & Life Safety Systems; and PPM & RM 08 – Emergency Lighting Systems
(Redacted report to be published post ratification at Council)

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Councillor K Dickson, and agreed to recommend that the tender evaluation award criteria for each of the above systems, as outlined in the Head of Assets' report, be approved.

7.3 Confidential report by the Head of Planning & Capital Development

7.3.1 Correspondence from the Department for Communities in respect a possible Listing
(Redacted Report to be published when a decision is made by the Department for Communities on whether the buildings should be added to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest)

It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the Council has no comment to make in respect of the proposed listing as detailed in the Officer's report.

8. Any Other Business (Confidential)

8.1 Lisburn City Centre CCTV - Update
Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Director of Regeneration & Growth provided the Committee with a verbal update on the issues that had been raised regarding CCTV at the recent meeting of Council, it being noted that a detailed report on these issues would be presented to the Committee at its meeting in October 2026.

The Director responded to comments and questions from Members and also put on record thanks to the PSNI including their IT Department for their valuable help and support over recent months.

The Chairman, Alderman J Baird, expressed thanks to the Officers for keeping him briefed over the summer months and their efforts on this project to date.

Councillor G Thompson left the meeting at 8.09 pm and returned at 8.13 pm.

Councillor U Mackin left the meeting at 8.16 pm.

8.2 Ballyoran Units
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry requested an update on the business units at Ballyoran. The Director of Regeneration & Growth provided a short verbal update on the current position of the units at Ballyoran and undertook to report back to Councillor Lowry on the outcome.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance. There being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 8.25 pm.

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Chairman