

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at 6 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)

Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird and M Gregg

Councillors J Gallen, A Gowan, J Harpur, C Kemp, U Mackin, T Mitchell, C McCready and N Parker

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE:**

Councillor J Laverty BEM

**OTHER MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors G Hynds, G McCleave, G McKeever and N Trimble

**IN ATTENDANCE**Director of Regeneration & Growth  
Head of Economic Development  
Head of Assets  
Member Services Officers (CH and CR)  
IT Officer**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business. The Chair stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chair asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting. In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chairperson asked that those attending via zoom to ensure that the meeting could not be seen or heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered.

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

## 1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson together with Councillors P Burke and A Martin.

## 2. Declarations of Interest

The Director of Regeneration and Growth brought Item 4.3 'Development of Barbour Gardens' to the Committees attention, advising those Members who had membership of the Planning Committee that they may wish to leave the Chamber during discussion of that item of business, or alternatively, if they chose to remain for the item of business they would consider declaring an interest at any future Planning Committee in relation to the matter.

The following interests were declared:

- Councillor G McCleave in respect of item 4.5 'Small Settlements Update and Further Consideration' given that he resided within a development where a play park upgrade was recommended;
- Alderman M Gregg in respect of item 4.3 'Development of Barbour Gardens' given that he was a member of the Planning Committee.

## 3. Head of Service Reports

### 3.1 Report by the Head of Economic Development

#### 3.1.1 Industrial Decarbonisation for Northern Ireland (ID-NI) - Knockmore Hill Industrial Cluster

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Industrial Decarbonisation for Northern Ireland (ID-NI) - Knockmore Hill Industrial Cluster.

It was reported that IDNI was an Innovate UK funded programme, which was led by Invest NI and included Manufacturing NI, Mineral Products Association, Ulster University, Queens, all 11 Councils, NIEN, SONI, Gas Operators, NI Water, DAERA, DFE, DFI, NI Chambers and others. It was further explained that the partnership aimed to create a decarbonization plan for Northern Ireland's industry by the end of 2024 and had identified a minimum of four industrial clusters of high energy users, within a defined geographical area.

### 3.1.1 Industrial Decarbonisation for Northern Ireland (ID-NI) - Knockmore Hill Industrial Cluster Cont'd

It was noted that an ID-NI workshop had taken place at Lagan Valley Island on Wednesday 12 June 2024, with a total of 52 attendees which included 36 businesses, 12 Stakeholders and four Council representatives. Attendees received information on ID-NI and were signposted to sign up to the Invest NI Portal.

The Committee had been furnished with a map of the Knockmore Hill Industrial Park and noted that the Knockmore Hill/Lissue industrial area, within Lisburn and Castlereagh had been selected as one of the four industrial cluster projects within Northern Ireland.

The Head of Economic Development responded to a number of comments and questions from the committee arising from the report. In response to a query raised by a member of the committee in relation to financial implications, the Head of Economic Development clarified that the Councils provision of programme support would not incur any additional financial implications beyond the existing funding already allocated within the green growth programme.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) LCCC businesses being one of four industrial clusters in NI be noted; and
- b) ongoing co-ordination and programme support in conjunction with Invest NI be approved.

### 3.1.2 Labour Market Partnership – Additional Funding Bids for Childcare Academies

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership design and the additional funding bids for Childcare Academies.

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that it had considered and agreed the draft Action Plan at its meeting in June 2024, in order that the initiatives funded exclusively from the Council's match funding could proceed, and the planning for the delivery of the associated initiatives could progress subject to funding.

The Committee noted that the Council was now in receipt of the final Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities for the full amount of funding of £361,882.99 for the activities presented under the 24/25 Action Plan.

### 3.1.2 Labour Market Partnership – Additional Funding Bids for Childcare Academies Cont'd

It was reported that following a special meeting on 9 August, DfC advised all LMPs that additional funding had been sourced by the Department of Education (DE) to support childminding and from the Department for the Economy (DfE) for childcare, and following an open call for Expressions of Interest, two separate undernoted bids were submitted:

1. Childminding Academy for 13 participants at a cost of £26,000. Participants would have the opportunity to gain qualifications in Paediatric First Aid, Safeguarding Children, Health and Safety, Business Development and Marketing; and
2. Higher Level Childcare Academy for eight participants at a cost of £25,000. The academy would provide candidates with the skills needed to apply for positions within childcare as supervisor/room leader and provide ongoing support through a dedicated mentor to complete the L3 qualification.

It was noted that following submission of the bids to DfC a Letter of Offer was issued on 17 September 2024, for the Childminding Academy as per the submission.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Letter of Offer received for the Childminding Academy and any subsequent Letter of Offer for the Childcare Academy be accepted; and
- b) procurement for both Academies via the Belfast City Council Framework be approved, should this be the most expedient way to ensure delivery within the specified timeframes.

### 3.2 Report by the Head of Assets

#### 3.2.1 Land Assembly Proposal

The Head of Assets outlined the background and key issues in connection with an option for enhanced blue/greenway provision within the Castlereagh South area. The Head of Assets explained that a residential street off the Purdysburn Road, close to Cairnshill Park and Ride, which was in close proximity to St Ita's Primary School became very congested at drop off and pick up times during term time, as parking within the school grounds was limited. It was further reported that the existing footpath along the busy Purdysburn Road was considered to present risks to the patrons of the school.

### 3.2.1 Land Assembly Proposal Cont'd

It was noted that an option had been identified to assemble a piece of land to enable a phased approach to a wider path network as part of the Capital Programme considerations.

The Head of Assets explained that as the Council had previously considered creating a network of greenways within the DEA, the option to acquire the piece of land and the installation of the pathway would act as a starting point for any future greenway paths and would align with the Council's Corporate Plan relating to Health and Wellbeing. It was further explained that the initial phase would enable parents to park their cars in the Park and Ride car park and walk their children safely to school in the first instance and ultimately form part of that wider network.

Separately officers had also submitted two expressions of land interests in the adjacent lands to provide for future consideration by members to understand the opportunities as per the Council's agreed works programme. The Committee had been furnished with the following:

- a map showing proposed pathway,
- a map of land to be acquired,
- equality screening document, and
- rural needs impact assessment.

Officers responded to a number of comments and questions from Members arising from the report. A number of Members paid tribute to Officers for their ongoing work on the project and to Michelle Guy for spearheading the project during her time as an Elected Member at Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council.

It was proposed by Councillor J Gallen, seconded by Councillor J Harpur, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) entering into an options agreement, or similar be approved, for the acquisition of the land from Northern Ireland Water for the construction of the greenway path adjacent to the covered reservoir;
- b) entering into agreement with the Department for Infrastructure for the creation of an entrance linking with the Park and Ride be approved; and
- c) the execution of these agreements be subject to the progression of the project proposals within the Council's Capital Programme.

The Chair, Alderman A Grehan, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

#### 4. Any Other Business

##### 4.1 Hydebank Refurbishment - Water Fountain for Dogs Councillor J Gallen

Responding to a request by Councillor J Gallen for an external water fountain for dogs as part of the Hydebank refurbishment, the Head of Assets confirmed that Officers were currently looking into the request.

##### 4.2 Local Economic Partnerships Director of Regeneration and Growth

The Director of Regeneration and Growth provided a verbal update to the Committee in relation to proposals, which had been announced the previous day by the Department for the Economy, in relation the Local Economic Partnerships.

It was reported that the document included a series of options to create Local Enterprise Partnerships with the undernoted objectives:

- helping business drive towards net zero,
- increase quality of jobs,
- improving productivity, and
- creating a balanced economy.

The Director undertook to circulate the document to Members for further consideration. Members also noted that a paper on the matter would be tabled to a future meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

#### 5. Confidential Report by the Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, advised that confidential report items 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),
- information likely to reveal the identity of an individual, and
- information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees if, or office holders under the Council.

#### In Committee

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered “in Committee” in the absence of press or members of the public. The member of the press seated in the public gallery left the Council Chamber (6.39 pm).

5.1 Public Realm CCTV Integration  
(Redacted report will be made available in January 2026)

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 6.52 pm and returned (6.55 pm).  
Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 7.24 pm and returned (7.30 pm).  
Councillor G Hynds left the meeting (7.26 pm).  
Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting (7.30 pm).  
Councillor N Parker left the meeting at 7.41 pm and returned (7.44 pm).  
Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 7.51 pm and returned (7.54 pm).

Both the Director of Regeneration and Growth and Councillor N Trimble paid tribute to board members for their continued support in finding a solution on the matters at hand.

The Director of Regeneration and Growth responded to a number of questions by Members arising from the report.

Following lengthy discussion, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) progress to date and the complexities involved in bringing forward a seamless solution be noted,
- b) the next steps as outlined in the report be approved, with the exception of steps one and five, which was agreed would need further consideration at a future meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee,
- c) an extension of the existing security contract be approved, as detailed in the report, and in addition to the Officer's recommendations,
- d) that the PSNI's official position in relation to the matter be sought in writing, and
- e) further engagement be held with City Watch to ascertain their most up to date position, and details of both be included in a future report to the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

In seconding the proposal, Alderman M Gregg placed on record his disappointment of not being presented with alternative options, and felt Members had no choice other than to accept the Officers recommendations as outlined above.

5.2 Drumlough Landfill Site  
(Redacted report will be made available following signing and sealing)

Councillor U Mackin left the meeting (8.11 pm).

## 5.2 Drumlough Landfill Site Cont'd

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed to recommend that the terms of licence as outlined in the report be approved.

## 5.3 Development of Barbour Gardens

(Redacted report will be made available following Council ratification)

Alderman M Gregg left the meeting at 8.13 pm and returned (8.30 pm).

Councillor C McCready left the meeting (8.14 pm).

Alderman A G Ewart left the meeting at 8.15 and returned (8.18 pm).

Report Presented by the Head of Assets. Officers responded to a number of questions from the Committee arising from the report.

Councillor N Trimble put on record his opposition to the Officers recommendations as set out in the report.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor A Gowan, seconded by the Vice-Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the recommendations as outlined in the report be agreed in principle, with a report to be brought back to the committee following the outcome of a public consultation.

## 5.4 BMX Club Lease Extension and Amendment

(Redacted report will be made available following Council ratification)

Councillor N Trimble left the meeting (8.33 pm).

Councillor C Kemp left the meeting at 8.42 pm and returned (8.45 pm).

Report presented by the Head of Assets. Officers responded to a number of questions from the Committee arising from the report.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Councillor A Gowan and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the notice received for a new ten-year lease to commence 1st March 2025 be approved,
  - b) any proposed amend to incorporate the Skateboard Park and Strating Ramp be approved,
- and in addition to the Officer's recommendations,
- c) a paper be tabled to a future meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee, detailing rental charges for all sporting and community groups within the Council area.



5.5 Small Settlements Update and Further Consideration

(Redacted report will be made available following Council ratification)

In response to a request made by a Member of the Committee, the Director of Regeneration and Growth undertook to bring forward details of the revised BRCD programme.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor A Gowan, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the update provided be noted, and
- b) the options presented for additional projects to be delivered from the potential underspend be approved.

5.6 Balmoral Show – Council Presence

(Redacted report will be made available following Council ratification)

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting (9.01 pm).

Report presented by the Head of Economic Development. Officers noted a number of Members comments around the lack of Council presence at the previous years show, and the desire going forward to have a Marquee similar to previous years, were feasible.

It was proposed by the Vice-Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor N Parker, and agreed to recommend that a further options paper on the matter be presented to a future meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

6. Confidential Any Other Business

6.1 Go Succeed Transfer

Director of Regeneration and Growth

Members noted a verbal update by the Director of Regeneration and Growth, in relation to correspondence received from the Department for the Economy regarding the Go Succeed transfer targets.

6.2 Carparking Survey Statistics  
Councillor N Parker

In response to concerns raised by several Members in relation to the quality of data and statistics presented at Environment and Sustainability Committee the previous evening regarding a recent car parking survey, the Director of Regeneration and Growth noted Members' disappointment.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Vice-Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 9.19 pm.

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Chairperson