

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 Monday, 6 March 2025 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN
THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)

Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Vice Chairperson)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Alderman J Baird

Councillors A Gowan, J Harpur, J Lavery BEM, U Mackin,
A Martin, C McCready, T Mitchell and N Parker**REMOTE
ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors J Gallen and D Lynch

OTHER MEMBER:

Councillors G Hynds (Chamber)

IN ATTENDANCEDirector of Regeneration & Growth
Head of Economic Development
Head of Planning & Capital Development
Regeneration & Infrastructure Manager
Member Services Officers (BS and EW)
IT OfficerTughans Solicitors

Patrick Brown

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, extended a welcome to all present at the March meeting of the Committee and reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business. The Chairperson also outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance on behalf of Alderman M Gregg and Councillor C Kemp.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, reminded Members that any Member who declares a conflict of interest should leave the Council Chamber for the duration of consideration of that item of business.

During the course of the meeting Councillor J Lavery declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 3.1 'DfE Sub Regional Plan – LEP Guidance and Initial Proposals' in view of his membership of the Board of Inspire Business Centre, and indicated that he would be leaving the meeting when this item was being considered.

Remote Attendance

During consideration of the following item of business and at the request of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, advised of the names of those Members attending remotely.

The Chairperson requested that the matter of reading out the names of those Members attending remotely be included as standard practice until the new software was in place in the Council Chamber which would allow those attending remotely to be shown in the Chamber.

3.0 Report of Head of Economic Development

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE) Sub Regional Plan – Local Economic Partnership Update

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the proposed membership structure and the draft Terms of reference for the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (LCCC) Local Economic Partnership (LEP).

Following the decision of the Committee in December 2024 to approve the addition of three additional Elected Members, an updated Terms of Reference had been prepared, a copy of which had been appended to the Officer's report. It was noted that the three Elected Members would be nominated and appointed via D'Hondt and that the nominations would remain for the duration of the current Council term.

The Head of Economic Development and the Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to questions from the Committee on issues arising out of the report, including:

- the Elected Member role on the LEP Board
- the importance of adding depth to the experience base on the partnership with SMEs being the preferred option when appointing the three businesses
- protocol around the nomination of the three Elected Members

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE) Sub Regional Plan – Local Economic Partnership Update (Cont'd)

The Director assured the Committee that Officers had been following Departmental guidance on the formation of the LEP and offered to have a further discussion forum with Members to discuss the issues raised and which would allow a collective Committee position on the Partnership.

Councillor Lavery left the meeting at this point having declared an interest in this matter in view of his membership of the Board of Inspire Business Park (6.20 pm).

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the updated draft Terms of Reference be agreed, and
- b) the appointments as outlined in the Officer's report, be processed.

At this point the Director of Regeneration & Growth informed the Committee that officers still wished to work through a series of options. The Director advised that Officers would work through these options and bring forward a further report on the options to the Committee in due course.

3.2 Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2025-2027

Councillor J Lavery returned to the meeting at 6.24 pm.

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the Labour Market Partnership Contract 2025-2027, it being noted that the 3-year Strategic Action Plan had been presented to the Regional Labour Market Partnership for Northern Ireland on 23 October 2024 the purpose of which was to secure funding from the Department for Communities (DfC) for the 2025/2026 and 2026/2027 financial years.

A copy of the LMP Action Plan for 2025-2026 had been appended to the Officer's report.

The Head of Economic Development highlighted some of the key issues contained in his report. He also discussed a suggested approach should there be reduction in funding from the Department for Communities, in particular in relation to the pre-enterprise activities, which he stated, could possibly be funded through the Go Succeed Programme.

3.2 Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2025-2027 (Cont'd)

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

- a) the Letter of Offer for funding be accepted, upon receipt; and
- b) Officers initiate delivery of the initiatives as summarised in the Action Plan, including the procurement of appropriate third parties.

4. Report of the Head of Planning & Capital Development

4.1 Updated Service Level Agreement with Regional Property Certificate Unit (RPCU)

The Head of Planning & Capital Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with an updated service level agreement with Fermanagh & Omagh District Council (FODC) who operate the Regional Property Certificate Unit (RPCU) on this Council's behalf and also the 10 councils who are part of the Northern Ireland Planning Portal project.

The Head of Planning & Capital Development advised that approval was sought for the latest revision to the service level agreement which would be effective for three years from 1 January 2025 and that agreement of all the participating stakeholders was required for the agreement to have effect.

It was noted that no changes were proposed to the operation of the service but that any deviation from the projected costs assigned for the service would be shared equally amongst the Councils. It was also noted that the cost to customers of the service for processing requests would increase by £2 to £86, this being a 2.3% increase in the cost to customers which was a below inflationary uplift.

A copy of the draft service level agreement between the Regional Property Certificate Unit and the 10 councils had been furnished to the Committee.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor J Lavery, and agreed to recommend that as no changes are identified and the agreement remains necessary for the operation of property certificate service which is income generating, the latest revision to the Service Level Agreement be agreed.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Carryduff Greenway Councillor J Harpur

Councillor J Harpur advised that the Carryduff Greenway Working Group had met on 20 February 2025 when the Carryduff Greenway project had been discussed. Councillor Harpur advised that the Working Group expressed disappointment that despite the on-going conversations around this project no progress had been made over the past 10 years.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth confirmed that the Carryduff Greenway project is not on the Council's agreed Work Programme. He stated that the delivery of projects led by the Regeneration & Growth Directorate was available online for Members' review.

Councillor Harpur addressed the Council again during which he reiterated his disappointment that the Carryduff Greenway project was not included in the Council's Works Programme.

The Director undertook to speak to his colleagues on the issues raised and to come back to Cllr Harpur directly.

5.2 Street Signage – Update Councillor C McCready

Further to the issue he had raised at the February meeting of Council, Councillor C McCready requested that the update report on street signage for toilet provision within Lisburn City Centre and the major tourism spots such as Royal Hillsborough, come forward next month.

The Director provided a verbal update to Councillor C McCready during which he advised that the tender for street signage had commenced and that Officers were in the process of awarding that tender. The Director reminded the Member that a commitment had been made that the proposed design of the street signs would be circulated to Members for approval and undertook to come back to the Committee on progress.

5.3 CCTV/Citywatch Councillor U Mackin

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to comments from Councillor U Mackin on CCTV/Citywatch and undertook to bring forward a report detailing the transitional arrangements to the Committee in the next couple of months.

5.4 Hillsborough Public Realm Scheme Councillor C McCready

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to comments from Councillor C McCready in regard to the on-going lack of engagement with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). The director detailed the ongoing engagement with the Department.

The Head of Planning & Capital Development left the meeting at 6.42 pm.

6. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, advised that confidential report was required to be considered under confidential business due to containing information:

- a) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information), and
- b) in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

In Committee

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor J Lavery, and agreed that the Confidential Report be considered “in Committee” in the absence of press or members of the public. The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings.

6.1 Lisburn Public Realm Scheme – Update (Report not for publication)

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, extended a welcome to Mr P Brown of Tughans and the Regeneration & Infrastructure Manager and who were in attendance at the meeting for this item of business.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth’s report set out a comprehensive update on the Lisburn Public Realm scheme. A number of related documents had been appended to the Director’s report.

The Director and the Head of Economic Development responded to questions from a Member in connection with a key issues contained within the report.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that:

6.1 Lisburn Public Realm Scheme – Update (Cont'd)

- a) having taken into account all relevant information and material considerations, including (without limitation) the position as regards funding from DfI and DfC, the current demands on the capital programme, and all information and factors assessed within the Business Case (as circulated), that the recommendation contained within the Business Case be agreed, and
- b) the Council work with DfI and other stakeholders in respect of the Council's continuing section 75 obligations for projects that may impact this Public Realm Scheme.

7. Any Other Confidential Business

7.1 Hillsborough Public Realm Scheme – BRCD
Alderman A G Ewart

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to a question from Alderman A G Ewart in connection with funding for the Royal Hillsborough Public Realm Scheme.

7.2 CityWatch/CCTV - Update
Councillor J Lavery

The Director of Regeneration & Growth and the Head of Economic Development responded to comments and questions from Councillor J Lavery in regard to CityWatch/CCTV including the timeframe for the CityWatch/CCTV update report coming to the Committee.

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, also made a number of comments on this matter.

The Director undertook to bring forward a detailed update report on CityWatch/CCTV to the Committee in May 2025.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Councillor J Harpur, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

8.0 Verbal Matters

8.1 National Association of Councillors (NI Region) Learning and Development Workshops re Councils Local Enterprise Champions

The Director of Regeneration & Growth referred to recent email correspondence that he had issued to Members of the Regeneration & Growth Committee earlier that day in connection with an opportunity by the NAC (NI Region) for Elected Members and officers from all councils to participate in four Learning and Development workshops on the subject of planning and delivering sustainable, local enterprise. The cost of the four workshops was £395 per Member.

The Director advised that nominations from this Committee were being sought through the Party Group Leader nomination protocol with one representative pertaining to each political party from within the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

It was agreed to recommend on a proposal by Councillor T Mitchell and seconded by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, that the cost of the attendance of those Elected Members, as nominated by their respective Party Group Leaders, at the above-mentioned learning and development workshops, be approved.

8.2 Invest NI Engagement Event and Breakfast Morning

The Director of Regeneration & Growth advised that arising from the establishment of the Council's Local Economic Partnership (LEP) and following recent NILGA briefings it had been requested by Members that the Council invites Invest NI Officials to host an engagement event for Members. The Director also advised that Invest NI had approached the Council in connection with the Council hosting a business breakfast event for local businesses in association with Invest NI.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor N Parker, and agreed to recommend that the Committee supports the convening of the above-mentioned Invest NI events in the near future.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.09 pm.

Chairperson