



December 17th, 2024

**TO: The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Members
of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council**

A meeting **of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council** will be held on **Tuesday, 17th December 2024** at **6:30 pm** in the Council Chamber for the transaction of the business on the undernoted agenda.

DAVID BURNS
CHIEF EXECUTIVE
LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Agenda

1.0 BUSINESS OF THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR

📄 *Mayor and Deputy Mayor Engagements for Council December 2024 002.pdf*

Page 1

2.0 APOLOGIES

3.0 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

- (i) conflict of interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)
- (ii) pecuniary or non-pecuniary interest (Member to complete disclosure of interest form)

📄 *Disclosure of Interests form Sept 24.doc*

Page 4

4.0 COUNCIL MINUTES

4.1 Meeting of Council - 26 November 2024

📄 *MM 26.11.2024 Draft Minutes for adoption.pdf*

Page 6

5.0 MATTERS ARISING

6.0 DEPUTATIONS

None

7.0 BUSINESS REQUIRED BY STATUTE

7.1 Signing of Legal Documents

For Decision

1. Lisburn & Castlereagh Council and Irish Waste Services Limited, 94-96 Hillsborough Road, Carryduff, BT8 8HT – Contract for the Recycling and Recovery of Residual and Bulky Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres and Council Bulky (Amenity) Collection Service – ref STA24/25-019

8.0 ADOPTION OF MINUTES OF COMMITTEES

8.1 Communities & Wellbeing Committee - 3 December 2024

For Approval

📄 *CWC 03 12 2024 DRAFT Minutes for Adoption.pdf*

Page 21

8.2 Environment & Sustainability Committee - 4 December 2024

For Approval

📎 *ESC 04 12 2024 DRAFT minute for Adoption.pdf*

Page 29

8.3 Regeneration & Growth Committee - 5 December 2024

For Approval

📎 *RGC 05 12 2024 DRAFT Minutes for Adoption.pdf*

Page 38

8.4 Corporate Services Committee - 11 December 2024

For Approval

📎 *CSC 11 12 2024 DRAFT Minute for Adoption.pdf*

Page 44

8.5 Governance & Audit Committee - 12 December 2024 (to follow)

For Approval

📎 *G&A 12.12.2024 Draft Minutes for Adoption.pdf*

Page 54

8.6 Planning Committee - 4 November 2024

For Noting

📎 *PC 04.11.2024 - Ratified Minutes - FOR NOTING.pdf*

Page 59

9.0 REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

None

10.0 REPORTS FROM MEMBERS ON BOARDS

None

11.0 REPORTS ON DECISIONS SUBJECT TO THE RECONSIDERATION PROCEDURE

None

12.0 NOTICES OF MOTION

None

13.0 CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

None

14.0 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING

Tuesday 19th November

Mayor to attend AVEA conference at Hillsborough Castle and Gardens

Mayor to attend Northern Ireland Food to Go Awards, Crowne Plaza

Wednesday 20th November

Mayor to attend Belfast Region City Deal: A decade of opportunities, Stormont

Thursday 21st November

Mayor to attend Secretary of State for Education visit, Fort Hill Integrated Primary School

Mayor to attend LCCC Christmas Switch On

Monday 23rd November

Mayor to attend fundraiser by Lisburn Chamber of Commerce for Lisburn Foodbank

Mayor to host reception for High Street Heroes, LVI

Tuesday 26th November

Mayor to visit Parkview Special School for the start of the Art Workshop to design the Mayor's Christmas Card

Wednesday 27th November

Mayor to attend Annual Partnership Lunch, Lagan Valley Vineyard Church

Mayor to attend Fort Hill Integrated Primary School, Minister for Education and Lady Mary Peters in attendance to acknowledge the schools success

Mayor to attend Christmas Lights Switch On, Moira

Friday 29th November

Mayor to visit Beechlawn School for the start of the Art Workshop to design the Mayor's Christmas Card

Mayor to attend Resurgam AGM, Laganview Enterprise Centre

Mayor to visit St Patricks Youth Club, Lisburn

Saturday 30th November

Mayor to attend Elf Hunt at Lough Moss, Carryduff Regeneration Forum

Mayor to visit the annual Christmas Fayre, Ballance House

Mayor to attend showing of Snow White, Lisnagarvey Operatic & Dramatic Society, LVI

Mayor to attend Drumlough Community Association Christmas Lights Switch On

Sunday 1st December

Mayor to attend Carryduff Church Of Ireland Community Carol Service, Lough Moss Leisure Centre

Mayor to attend Christingle Service, Hillsborough Parish Church followed by Christmas Lights Switch On

Monday 2nd December

Mayor to attend Christmas Lights Switch On, Laganview Enterprise Centre

Tuesday 3rd December

Mayor to host Ballymacash Primary School group, LVI

Mayor to attend Drumbeg Community Association Christmas Lights Switch On

Wednesday 4th December

Mayor, Ald Tinsley, Cllr Trimble & Raymond Corbett to handover cheque from Festival of Remembrance proceeds to Somme Museum

Mayor to attend Christmas Lights Switch On, Halftown Residents Association

Thursday 5th December

Mayor to host reception for YMCA Lisburn group, LVI

Mayor to attend Aghalee Village Christmas Lights Switch On

Friday 6th December

Mayor to visit Santa's Grotto, Hillmount Garden Centre

Mayor to meet with Scouts at Lisburn Foodbank, handing over donations from their Christmas Appeal

Mayor to attend Drumbo Christmas Event

Saturday 7th December

Mayor to attend Lisburn Community Choir Christmas Concert, Lisburn Cathedral

Mayor to attend Dromara Christmas Event

Sunday 8th December

Mayor to attend Advent Service in Moira Non-Subscribing Presbyterian Church

Monday 9th December

Mayor to attend PSNI Carol Service, Christ Church Lisburn

Mayor to visit Friends School Christmas Markets

Tuesday 10th December

Mayor to attend Christmas Nativity Play, Fort Hill Integrated Primary School

Mayor to attend official opening of the new Garden Room in Mencap Children's Centre

Mayor to attend Dromara Christmas Lights Switch On

Wednesday 11th December

Mayor to visit nursing homes in the LCCC area to deliver Christmas gifts

Thursday 12th December

Mayor to officially open new Lidl store, Carryduff

Mayor to attend Royal Ulster Winter Fair President's Lunch, Eikon Centre

Mayor to attend Santa Dash in aid of Mayor's Charity, Lough Moss

Friday 13th December

Mayor to visit nursing homes in the LCCC area to deliver Christmas gifts

Saturday 14th December

Mayor to attend Christmas Charity bucket collection for Mayoral charity, Sprucefield

Mayor to attend Lisburn Radio ribbon cutting ceremony, Lisburn Enterprise Centre

Mayor to attend Anahilt Christmas Lights Switch On

Sunday 15th December

Mayor to attend Carol Service, Anahilt Parish Church

DEPUTY MAYOR'S ENGAGEMENTS FOR FULL COUNCIL MEETING**Friday 6th December**

Deputy Mayor to attend Christmas Lights Switch On, Dundrod

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

MEMBERS DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

1. Pecuniary Interests

The Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors under Section 6 requires you to declare at the relevant meeting any pecuniary interest that you may have in any matter coming before any meeting of your Council.

Pecuniary (or financial) interests are those where the decision to be taken could financially benefit or financially disadvantage either you or a member of your close family. A member of your close family is defined as at least your spouse, live-in partner, parent, child, brother, sister and the spouses of any of these. Members may wish to be more prudent by extending that list to include grandparents, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces or even close friends.

This information will be recorded in a Statutory Register. On such matters **you must not speak or vote**. Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, if such a matter is to be discussed by your Council, **you must withdraw from the meeting whilst that matter is being discussed**.

2. Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interests

In addition you must also declare any significant private or personal non-pecuniary interest in a matter arising at a Council meeting (please see also Sections 5.2 and 5.6 and 5.8 of the Code).

Significant private or personal non-pecuniary (membership) interests are those which do not financially benefit or financially disadvantage you or a member of your close family directly, but nonetheless, so significant that could be considered as being likely to influence your decision.

Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, you must declare this interest as soon as it becomes apparent and **you must withdraw from any Council meeting (including committee or sub-committee meetings) when this matter is being discussed**.

In respect of each of these, please complete the form below as necessary.

Pecuniary Interests

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

Date of Meeting: _____

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

Nature of Pecuniary Interest:

[Empty box for Nature of Pecuniary Interest]

Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interests

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

Date of Meeting: _____

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

Nature of Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interest:

[Empty box for Nature of Private or Personal Non-Pecuniary Interest]

Name:

Address:

[Empty box for Name and Address]

Signed:

Date:

[Empty boxes for Signed and Date]

*If you have any queries please contact David Burns, Chief Executive,
Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council*

MM 26.11.2024

6

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 26 November, 2024 at 7:02 pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Deputy Mayor
Councillor R Carlin

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg,
A Grehan, A McIntyre, S P Porter, S Skillen and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns, P Catney,
D J Craig, N Eaton, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan, A Gowan,
J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp, D Lynch,
G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever, R McLernon,
U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell, N Parker, G Thompson and
N Trimble

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor N Parker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Acting Director of Environmental Services
Head of Corporate Communications and Administration
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the meeting of Council which was being live streamed 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. 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.

MM 26.11.2024

7

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that his Chaplain, Rev S Reain-Adair, was unable to be present this evening. He invited Councillor A Martin to address the meeting and say a prayer.

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, congratulated the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, on having gotten married at the start of the month. He also welcomed Councillor D Lynch to his first meeting of full Council and extended to best wishes to former Member Paul Burke.

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, Councillor K Dickson, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, since the last meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman H Legge, Councillors P Kennedy, J Lavery BEM and S Lowry and the Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made:

- Alderman J Baird, in respect of item 12.2 – Notice of Motion on the subject of Failure to Prioritise Farming Families and Rural Economy as part of the Autumn Budget – as he was the owner of a farm and an active farmer;
- Councillor M McKeever, in respect of item 12.1 – Notice of Motion on the subject of Opposing the Proposed Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service – as he worked for the Trust;
- Councillor A Gowan, in respect of item 12.2 – Notice of Motion on the subject of Failure to Prioritise Farming Families and Rural Economy as part of the Autumn Budget – as he owned farmland;
- Councillor S Burns, in respect of item 12.3 – Notice of Motion on the subject of Review of Non-Domestic Business Rates – as she was a non-domestic business ratepayer; and
- Councillor A Martin, in respect of item 12.2 – Notice of Motion on the subject of Failure to Prioritise Farming Families and Rural Economy as part of the Autumn Budget – as he lived on a farm.

MM 26.11.2024

8

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 22 October, 2024

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 22 October, 2024 be confirmed and signed.

4.2 Special Council Meeting – 11 November, 2024

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor B Higginson and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of Council held on 11 November, 2024 be confirmed and signed.

4.3 Special Council Meeting – 18 November, 2024

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed that the minutes of the special meeting of Council held on 18 November, 2024 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Fraser Homes Limited, 72-74 Omagh Road, Dromore, Omagh BT78 3AJ – Licence for Alterations relating to The Baronsgrange Development, Comber Road, Carryduff BT8 8AN;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ballymacash Sports Academy Limited, Rushmore Drive, Lisburn BT28 2HP – Deed of Variation relating to land at Rushmore Drive, Lisburn;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City and Stepping Stones NI, 39 Seymour Street, Lisburn BT27 4Sy – Award Letter to Stepping Stones NI as the supplier to deliver the Community Numeracy Bootcamp (Additional Needs) – T24/25-007;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Studyseed CIC, 27 Lurgan Road, Moira, BT67 0LX – Award Letter to Studyseed CIC as the supplier to deliver the Gamifield Essential Skills Learning Programme – T24/25-012;

MM 26.11.2024

9

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Contd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and South Eastern Regional College, 25 Castle Street, Lisburn BT27 4SU – Service Level Agreement with South Eastern Regional College as the supplier to deliver the Hospitality Academy and Employee Led Upskilling Programme;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Maurice Flynn & Sons, Saunders House, 2 Springbank Road, Belfast BT17 0QL – Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – NEC3 Short Contract – Traffic Calming Measures in Glenavy Village;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Artifax Software Ltd, 5th Floor, 167-169 Great Portland Street, London W1W 5PF – G-Cloud 13 Call-Off Contract;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Coral Environmental, Unit B1 Westbank Drive, Belfast BT3 9LA – Contract for Tender for Planned Preventative Maintenance (PPM 10) Inspections for Legionella Prevention;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Phillips Contracts (Dpk) Ltd, 76 Killyleagh Road, Downpatrick BT30 9BN – Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – NEC3 Short Contract – Access path at Navigation House – T23/24-028;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Phillips Contracts (Dpk) Ltd, 76 Killyleagh Road, Downpatrick BT30 9BN – Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – NEC3 Short Contract – Greenway Enhancement Scheme Drum Bridge Car Park Drumbeg – T24/25-004; and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and John McQuillan (Contracts) Ltd, 11 Ballinderry Road, Lisburn BT28 2SA – Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – NEC3 Short Contract – Environmental Improvement Scheme in Anahilt Village – T23/24-029.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Communities and Wellbeing Committee****5 November, 2024**

Proposed by Councillor D Bassett

Seconded by Councillor B Higginson

Environment and Sustainability Committee**6 November, 2024**

Proposed by Councillor P Catney

Seconded by Councillor G Hynds

The Chair of the Environment and Sustainability Committee, Councillor P Catney, advised that he was unavailable to chair the December meeting of the Committee. As the Vice-Chair, Councillor G Hynds, would be joining the meeting remotely, it would be necessary for the Committee to nominate a chair at the commencement of that meeting.

Regeneration and Growth Committee**7 November, 2024**

Proposed by Alderman A Grehan

Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

MM 26.11.2024

13 November, 2024

10

Corporate Services Committee

Proposed by Councillor N Trimble

Seconded by Councillor N Eaton

The Chair of the Corporate Services Committee, Councillor N Trimble, pointed out that the above minutes remained subject to the call-in procedure until 10.00 am on Thursday, 28 November, 2024.

Planning Committee**14 and 17 October 2024**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 14 and 17 October, 2024 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 4 November, 2024. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor S Burns and agreed that their contents be noted.

Planning Application LA05/2022/0033/F – Erection of 17 dwellings in a mix of 15 detached and 2 semi-detached dwellings with associated parking, landscaping, site works and access arrangements from Quarterlands Road on lands between 58 and 66 Quarterlands Road, northeast of 54b-c & 56 Quarterlands Road north of 7-12 Zenda Cottages and southeast of 4-7 Zenda Park, Drumbeg

Councillor D J Craig referred to the above application and stated that two contradictory opinions had been provided by Northern Ireland Water in respect of sewerage system capacity. He asked if Planning Officers were certain that the evidence presented to the Planning Committee in October, that there was capacity in the local sewerage system to accommodate this development, was correct. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, pointed out that the Planning Committee minutes were only for noting this evening, having been ratified at the November meeting, and that this matter would be considered offline.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There were no reports from the Chief Executive.

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.

MM 26.11.2024

11

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Opposing the Proposed Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service

Having declared an interest in this item of business, Councillor M McKeever, left the meeting whilst this was being considered.

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor B Higginson, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council expresses deep concern over the Belfast Health & Social Care Trust plan to remove the Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors service which covers South/East Belfast within our Council area. This essential service ensures residents receive urgent medical care when GP practices are closed.

We note that discontinuing this service would disproportionately impact LCCC residents in South & East Belfast, particularly those without the means to travel to alternative facilities. This has the potential to lead to increased pressure on emergency services and waiting times at the Ulster Hospital, transferring risk and financial responsibility to the South Eastern Health Trust.

That this Council writes to the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust to express our concern at the removal of this service and commits to actively engaging in the public consultation to voice these concerns and advocate for a solution that maintains this crucial healthcare service for our community”.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor B Higginson and seconded by Councillor S Burns.

Councillor B Higginson stated that this was a highly important and emotive issue. As a representative of Castlereagh South, he registered his concern regarding the proposed restructuring of GP out of hours provision in the Belfast Health and Social Care Trust (BHSCT) area. He was fully aware of the challenges that the Trust was facing as it planned for future health needs, but believed it was imperative that any restructuring plans should be clinically led, evidence-based and have service-users at the centre of any proposed changes. Councillor Higginson was concerned that the planned removal of this service would not deliver better health outcomes for his constituents in the wider Knockbreda/South Belfast/East Belfast area. The plans to move the out of hours service to the Crumlin Road site had raised many apprehensions. The out of service was used by the elderly, vulnerable and families and he had been contacted by many of his constituents who were opposed to the proposed changes. The current primary care service was not fit for purpose. This had a knock-on effect on hospital services, especially in Emergency Departments. In previous plans regarding health restructuring, it had been the case sometimes that lower cost services had led to the public using services that were more expensive, which had led to poorer services for clients, more pressures on hospitals and more expense in the Health Care Trust. The people who used Knockbreda site were mainly from

MM 26.11.2024

12

12.1 Opposing the Proposed Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service (Contd)

South and East Belfast. Moving to North Belfast would have an impact on those constituents who would struggle to access this new site location. The BHSCT rationale for removal of the Knockbreda site would appear to be driven by budgetary restraints and not the best clinical led service for patients. Budgetary issues faced by the Trust should not be the main reason for this change to the out of hours provision. North Belfast already had the Emergency Department at the Mater Hospital, less than 50 yards from the current out of hours service on Crumlin Road, and the Emergency Department at the Royal Victoria Hospital was less than 1 mile away. That meant that people in North and West Belfast were adequately provided with out of hours cover. Councillor Higginson did not believe the explanation for the loss of this vital service had been established by the BHSCT and he was concerned that it would lead to further pressures on the already-stretched Emergency Department at the Ulster Hospital. The proposal was totally unacceptable and he urged that the BHSCT look at its restructuring plans and strive to deliver the best service for his constituents and urged Members to support the Notice of Motion.

In seconding the Notice of Motion, Councillor S Burns, stated her deep concern at the removal of the out of hours service, especially for the vulnerable, children, older people and constituents who were under specialised treatment for cancer. She reiterated comments by Councillor Higginson regarding the potential for the removal of this service to increase pressure on the already overstretched Emergency Department at the Ulster Hospital and the accessibility of the out of hours service at Crumlin Road. She was keen to encourage constituents to respond to the public consultation and attend the meetings being held this week and next in Castlereagh South.

A number of Members spoke in support of the Notice of Motion, namely Councillor J Gallen, Councillor D Bassett (on behalf of Sinn Féin) and Alderman S Skillen.

Alderman M Gregg referred to all political parties having spoken of the need to reform the health service and take the politics out of health, yet when something happened in their area, they relented. He stated that the public needed Elected Members to show leadership in terms of reform to the health service. The Alliance Party had committed to do that. It was vital for all parties to support the HSC transformation agenda. Alderman Gregg recognised that every transition was difficult but reform would be impossible if every decision made by Trusts was challenged by Councillors. Reform would never be completed if it was not allowed to start. Reform was the only way to create the higher quality, more efficient health service that constituents deserved. The Alliance Party was not in support of the Notice of Motion and continued to call for safe staffing levels and fair pay for health service staff, for the good of constituents.

In response, Councillor B Higginson stated that this proposal was out for consultation and Members had a right to respond on behalf of their constituents, which was what was happening. He had been contacted by countless people across the District Electoral Area, from all political persuasions, highlighting the struggles there would be if this out of hours service was removed.

MM 26.11.2024

13

12.1 Opposing the Proposed Removal of Knockbreda Out of Hours Doctors Service (Contd)

The proposal by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor S Burns, was put to the meeting and, on a vote being taken, declared 'carried'.

12.2 Failure to Prioritise Farming Families and Rural Economy as part of the Autumn Budget

Councillor D Lynch left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.35 pm and 7.41 pm respectively).

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Alderman A G Ewart, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

"That this Council condemns the failure by the Government to prioritise farming families and the rural economy as part of the Autumn Budget; notes with deep concern the decisions to introduce new thresholds for Inheritance Tax and Agricultural Property Relief, which will jeopardise succession planning on farms creating barriers for new entrants to agriculture and discourage investment in many farm businesses; further notes that these policies undermine the aim of increasing food security and promoting more sustainable and efficient farming practices; is equally alarmed that the Chancellor has opted not to ringfence farm support budgets or uplift levels of funding in line with inflation; calls on the Minister for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs to bring forward proposals to mitigate the impact of these damaging policies on farms, as well as avoid significant increases in food prices; and further calls on the Minister to work with the Minister of Finance to deliver an early and concrete commitment to farming families that current levels of financial support will not only be maintained but increased in the next financial year; and further asks Council to send a letter to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland asking them to reverse the decisions which have such an adverse effect on the farming community."

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart and seconded by Councillor N Trimble.

Alderman A G Ewart stated that the Notice of Motion not only related to the Council area, but was a matter of concern right across Northern Ireland. His fear for the many hardworking farmers and their families had prompted him to propose this Motion. He stated that it was clear the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not understand family farming. The fact that their land may be a valuable asset did not mean that farmers were cash rich. Alderman Ewart outlined figures published by DAERA in respect of the decreased income of Northern Ireland farmers for 2023 and further expected decreases. After a decade in which the farming community had been stretched to breaking point, with a time of tightened margins, cost increases and unfavourable weather, the ill-considered budget may just be the final straw for Northern Ireland's family farms. Agriculture was a vitally important sector in the Northern Ireland economy and a great many of those farmers today were custodians of lands passed down through generations to their families and protected and invested in for generations to come. Alderman

MM 26.11.2024

14

12.2 Failure to Prioritise Farming Families and Rural Economy as part of the Autumn Budget (Contd)

Ewart stated that it was important to acknowledge that farming was currently providing employment for over 50,000 people in Northern Ireland and the value of farming to the economy was around £1b across the United Kingdom. When the Labour Party had announced its budget, the first in 14 years, there had been immediate concern expressed by farmers and the bodies representing that industry. The Chancellor's proposal around inheritance tax and agricultural property relief (APR) was attacking the very foundations of farming life in Northern Ireland. Alderman Ewart drew attention to those he believed would be most affected by the budget policy – young farmers who had been negatively impacted by the Chancellor's decision. He hoped he would receive support for this Notice of Motion.

In seconding the Notice of Motion, Councillor N Trimble stated that it was an important issue locally, regionally and nationally and he was very much opposed to the proposed changes in APR and inheritance tax. He outlined a number of facts and figures there were pertinent to the discussion, more of which he had sourced from DEFRA than DAERA. He reiterated that, whilst farms may be asset rich, they could be cash poor. Faced with a situation where a farm owner had passed away and the estate was up for inheritance tax, it may be necessary to sell off part of the farm to pay the bill. Councillor Trimble stated that the proposal was ill thought out and not conducive to good farming. He encouraged the Council Chamber to be unified and send a message to the Government to say the proposal was wrong.

Alderman A McIntyre, on behalf of the Alliance Party, voiced support for the core substance of the Notice of Motion. He stated that the UK Government failed to understand the impact for farming families in Northern Ireland and the changes proposed threatened the future of farm succession and placed an additional burden on those wishing to continue farming. Cross-party support was required to put pressure on the UK Government to reconsider proposals. The Minister of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Minister of Finance had worked collaboratively to deliver a letter to the Chancellor of the Exchequer urging reconsideration of the harmful changes. This letter had also been co-signed the First and Deputy First Ministers which sent a powerful message to the UK Government on behalf of the people and farming community of Northern Ireland. A united front needed to continue to protect the future of farming. Alderman McIntyre proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion that everything after the word inflation be deleted and replaced with:

“welcomes the launch of the Farming for the Generations pilot scheme to support farm succession planning; calls on the UK Government to reconsider the proposed changes to Agricultural Property Relief given the disproportionate impact on family farms in Northern Ireland; further calls on the Executive to support a ringfenced budget for agriculture, agri-environment, fisheries and rural development within the 2025-26 budget and beyond; and further asks Council to send a letter to the Prime Minister, Chancellor of the Exchequer and Secretary of State for Northern Ireland asking them to reverse the decisions which have such an adverse effect on the farming community.”

MM 26.11.2024

15

12.2 Failure to Prioritise Farming Families and Rural Economy as part of the Autumn Budget (Contd)

This amendment was seconded by Alderman A Grehan.

The proposer of the original Notice of Motion, Alderman A G Ewart, did not accept the proposed amendment.

A number of Members spoke in favour of the Notice of Motion, namely Councillors G McCleave and G Hynds and Alderman S P Porter.

Following discussion, Alderman I McIntyre withdrew his amendment.

The Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman A G Ewart and seconded by Councillor N Trimble, was unanimously agreed.

12.3 Review of Non-Domestic Business Rates

Councillor S Burns left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.59 pm). Councillor N Trimble left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.59 pm and 8.02 pm respectively).

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor C Kemp, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council recognises that non-domestic rates in Northern Ireland are among the highest in the UK and Ireland.

This Council believes:

- That local businesses are a catalyst for reconnection and regeneration in our towns and villages, particularly our commercial town centres;
- That the protection of and support for local business is an economical and social priority;
- That the rating system needs to be fair and fit for purpose in the current economic climate.

Council understands that the Minister of Finance is currently considering short, medium and long-term proposals for rating policy in Northern Ireland.

The Council therefore commits to writing to the Minister of Finance and the Northern Ireland Executive requesting that they consider an independent and holistic review of regional and non-domestic rates as part of these proposals, including the potential expansion of the Small Business Rate Relief and consideration for the hospitality sector and businesses in our town centres.”

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor C Kemp and seconded by Alderman A G Ewart.

MM 26.11.2024

16

12.3 Review of Non-Domestic Business Rates (Contd)

Councillor C Kemp stated that Members were all aware of business closures within their District Electoral Areas due to rising costs. There were a number of small, independently-owned businesses really concerned for their futures. Many were facing unprecedented crisis, having weathered disruption caused by the pandemic, were now contending with labour shortages and cost of living crisis, with customers having less disposable income, and increases in National Insurance. This was having a devastating impact on local businesses, high streets, cities, towns and villages. Small businesses could not afford undue delay and a review was the best way to ensure the rating system responded to businesses' demands. Councillor Kemp acknowledged a review of rates and the relief system was not a whole solution but rather a foundation step to initiating a fairer rating system that encouraged business creation and allow established businesses to thrive, with consideration for those who needed targeted relief. She encouraged Members to support the Notice of Motion.

In seconding the Notice of Motion, Alderman A G Ewart stated that it was well known that the Northern Ireland economy was a small business economy. Statistics from Invest NI confirmed the importance of small companies in the Northern Ireland economy. Within the Invest NI portfolio for the LCCC area, 31% of firms were small, employing up to 9 employees, and 47% employed 10-49 people. Most of those companies were locally-owned small businesses and residents of the LCCC area, paying rates both as businesses and as households. The Notice of Motion was not limited to LCCC, but sought a review of rates across Northern Ireland. It acknowledged the hospitality sector and small businesses in town centres which were so vitally important to the social wellbeing of the population and the economy. Alderman Ewart paid tribute to the many local businesses that had made the case for a review of non-domestic rates. The current rating system took no account of the ability of a business to pay. The Federation of Small Businesses was seeking a fair-minded system based on the revaluation of properties on a more frequent basis.

A number of Members spoke in support of the Notice of Motion, namely Councillor G Hynds, Councillor D Lynch on behalf of Sinn Féin, and Councillor P Catney on behalf of SDLP.

The Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor C Kemp and seconded by Alderman A G Ewart was unanimously agreed.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business.

MM 26.11.2024

17

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Recent Flooding Councillor A Gowan

Councillor S Burns returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.12 pm). Alderman J Tinsley left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.12 pm and 8.13 pm respectively).

Councillor A Gowan expressed his gratitude to Council staff for the way in which they had responded to flooding in Magheraconluce the previous weekend. They had assisted to mitigate against some of the damage that could have been done to properties. He also paid tribute to other agencies, such as the Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service (NIFRS), local farmers, members of the community and the local shop which had donated hot food to those helping out.

Throughout Any Other Business, a number of Members referred to the previous weekend's flooding, where 51 houses across the Council area were affected, including Alderman M Gregg, Councillor S Burns, Alderman J Tinsley, Councillor D J Craig, Councillor U Mackin, Alderman J Baird and Councillor G Thompson.

- At the request of Councillor Burns, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, agreed to write a letter of thanks to Crosspoint Community Church in Dundonald for having opened its facilities for use by residents;
- At the request of Councillor Craig, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, agreed to write a letter of thanks to the Fire Chief;
- At the request of Councillor U Mackin, the Chief Executive agreed to arrange for a meeting with various agencies that had undertaken to do work in Dromara, Drumbo Road, Hillhall Road and Ballylesson Road; and
- Councillor G Thompson enquired if there was a guideline around getting sandbags or a number for Members to phone. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Council did provide numbers of agencies that had responsibility for these matters. However, the Council would not see people stuck and had distributed 7 tonnes of sand in sandbags on Saturday and those stocks had been replenished, should there be further flooding in the area. Officers had reflected on what elements of communication could be improved upon further and committed to ensuring all DEA Members were notified of flood response actions in future. Alderman M Gregg requested that this last point be reinforced to Officers working in such circumstances.

14.2 Festival of Remembrance Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson paid tribute to those Council staff involved in the recent Festival of Remembrance event held at Lagan Vally Island. He had received supportive feedback from many families, especially veteran families, and hoped this event could be supported again in future years.

At a later point in Any Other Business, Alderman J Tinsley, concurred with the comments made by Councillor B Higginson in respect of the Festival of Remembrance Event.

MM 26.11.2024

18

14.3 Ballymacash Sports Academy
Alderman A Grehan

Alderman A Grehan thanked the Council and the Communities and Wellbeing Committee for having sponsored Ballymacash Sports Academy to host the Friendship Cup between the UK Armed Forces and Defence Forces Ireland. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, as well as the Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the High Sherrif, the Chief Executive and many more sponsors of the Club had attended what had been an exceptional event. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, stated that it was a credit to Ballymacash for having been the first place in Northern Ireland to host this event.

At a later point in Any Other Business, Alderman J Tinsley, concurred with the comments made by Alderman A Grehan in respect of the Friendship Cup event.

14.4 December Governance and Audit Committee Meeting
Alderman S P Porter

At the request of the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, Alderman S P Porter, it was agreed that the meeting of that Committee scheduled for 12 December, 2024 would commence at the earlier time of 5.30 pm to facilitate Members' attendance at a Christmas Switch-On event later that evening.

14.5 Parking Meters
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley stated that there were both off-street and on-street parking facilities in Smithfield and referred to a driver who had recently parked in Smithfield but had paid for a ticket from the wrong machine. With the Council having responsibility for off-street parking, he asked if Officers could investigate the possibility of making the parking meters in those facilities more distinguishable, especially when they were located next to on-street parking spaces. This request was acceded to.

At a later point in Any Other Business, Councillor D J Craig echoed comments about how close some of the off-street and on-street parking meters were. He also referred to an issue around using the parking app, whereby if allowed to automatically select where a person was parked, it did not necessarily get the correct location, whilst some off-street parking charges differed. Councillor Craig asked that the appropriate Committee investigate this matter. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, advised that an updated Car Parking Strategy baseline was being presented to the December meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

14.6 Fort Hill Schools - Staff
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds paid tribute to Karen Brown who had worked in the canteen at Fort Hill Integrated Primary School for 34 years and who had recently retired, and Kate Hunter, lollipop lady at Fort Hill Integrated College; she had been a lollipop lady for 31 years and had recently been awarded Lollipop Lady of the Year for Northern Ireland.

MM 26.11.2024

19

14.6 Fort Hill Schools – Staff (Contd)
Councillor G Hynds

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, as a past pupil of Fort Hill Integrated College, also paid tribute to Karen Brown and wished her a happy retirement.

14.7 Derriaghy Football Club
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds paid tribute to the outstanding achievement of Derriaghy Football Club, having recently made it through to the Steel & Sons Cup Final, to take place on Christmas morning. Councillor D J Craig echoed these sentiments.

14.8 Chairs' Lack of Independence
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds put on record his concern in recent times regarding the lack of independence shown by some Chairs in the Chamber and on Working Groups, by voting and commenting on political lines and political matters and he asked them to reflect on that.

14.9 3G Pitch at Lough Moss
Councillor J Gallen

Councillor J Gallen welcomed the news that the 3G pitch at Lough Moss was finished and open. He thanked the Director, Officers and contractor involved for all their work.

14.10 Arctic Fox Christmas Display
Councillor J Gallen

Councillor J Gallen welcomed the return of the Arctic Fox Christmas display in Carryduff and stated that this had been well-received by residents.

14.11 Village Scheme in Drumbo
Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin referred to a recent consultation in Drumbo regarding a The community looked forward to delivery of that project in the coming months. Alderman J Baird echoed these comments.

14.12 Notices of Motion
Alderman J Baird

There having been three Notices of Motion considered at the meeting this evening, Alderman J Baird reminded the Mayor of the precedent of having no Notices of Motion at the December Council meeting.

MM 26.11.2024

20

14.13 Unadopted Development – Haddington Hill
Councillor P Catney

Councillor D Lynch left the meeting at 8.34 pm.

Councillor P Catney referred to an unadopted development, Haddington Hill, off Barnfield Road, and asked if anything could be done to help have this adopted. The developer had taken all necessary steps to get the road fit for adoption but the adoption had not yet happened. The gritter would not go into the development and it was very dangerous for residents. Councillor Catney stated that pressure should be put on developers and the Department to have all unadopted developments adopted. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, stated that the Director would take this matter up with Councillor Catney offline.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.40 pm.

Mayor

CWC 03.12.2024

21

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 3rd December 2024 at 5.00 pm.****PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (COMMITTEE):**

Councillor J Craig (Chairperson)
 Alderman H Legge (Vice-Chairperson)
 Aldermen A Grehan, A McIntyre and P Porter
 Councillors T Beckett, B Higginson, C Kemp, S Lowry, G McCleave, T Mitchell and G Thompson

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
 Councillor K Dickson
 Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin
 Councillors D Bassett and J Gallen
 Alderman S Skillen

OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER

Councillors P Catney and G Hynds

OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION

Alderman J Tinsley

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
 Head of Communities
 Head of Sports Services
 Head of Parks & Amenities
 Business Support Manager (Acting)
 Business Support Officer

Member Services Officers (BS & CH)

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairperson welcomed all present to the December 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.

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

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.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies,

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided with the papers for the meeting and which were also available in the Chamber.

The following Declarations of Interest were made:-

- Councillor T Mitchell - Item 4.2 of Report of Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing – “Ballymacash Sports Academy”. Non pecuniary interest. Shareholder in Ballymacash Sports Academy
- Councillor G McCleave – Item 4.3 of Report of Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing “Project Initiation and Business Cases in respect of a number of Small Works Programmes” (non-pecuniary in respect of Killultagh Play Park)

3. Report of Head of Communities

3.1 Partnership between The Executive Office and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to help end Violence Against Women and Girls

The Head of Communities' report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the request by The Executive Office for support from the Council to work together and increase investment in a community based and local approach helping to end violence against women and girls.

It was noted that the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls (EVAWG) strategy framework 2024-31 had been launched by the First Minister & Deputy First Minister on 16 September 2024 and the Strategy included a first Delivery Plan which would provide funding to support those organisations working to prevent and challenge the attitudes, behaviours and culture that led to violence against women and girls.

3.1 Partnership between The Executive Office and Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to help end Violence Against Women and Girls (Cont'd)

A link to Strategy and associated documents on The Executive Office's website had been included in the report circulated.

The Head of Communities responded to questions from two Members in connection with:

- the importance of including young girls in these initiatives.
- the recent new offence of coercive control
- the occurrence of domestic violence and coercive control being suffered by males

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the content of the paper in respect of partnership requested by The Executive Office to deliver the 'Change Fund' 2025/26 be noted,
- b) the delivery of an interim programme of prevention from the c£50k 'Momentum Support' funds from The Executive Office for the current 2024/2025 financial year be approved, and
- c) delivery of both programmes, ie. the localised 'Change Fund' programme and the interim 'Momentum Support' programme - be progressed through the PCSP and a broader community planning based approach with reporting of outcomes to the Communities & Wellbeing Committee.

4. Any Other Business – Non-Confidential

4.1 Delivery of 3G Pitch at Lough Moss Leisure Centre Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson welcomed the £1.7m investment by this Council for the new 3G pitch at Lough Moss Leisure Centre for Carryduff and the wider Castlereagh South area. Councillor Higginson put on record his thanks to the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing, the Head of Sports Services and the entire team of Officers for their efforts in bringing forward this major investment project.

The Chairperson, Councillor J Craig, also placed on record his thanks to all the officers and staff involved and stated that it had been a huge honour to officially open this new facility the previous evening.

4.2 Blue Bridge between Hilden and Hillhall Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds, having acknowledged the dispute over ownership of the Blue Bridge between Hilden and Hillhall, put on record his on-going concerns in connection with the dangerous state of disrepair of the Blue Bridge. He also stated that he was aware that many women were nervous about crossing this bridge at night due to safety issues. Councillor Hynds requested that Officers arrange site visits at both Hilden and Hillhall to view the condition of the bridge.

The Chairperson concurred with the concerns raised by Councillor Hynds.

The Director undertook to engage with colleagues in the Department for Infrastructure in connection with the concerns raised and also the PCSP.

Alderman A Grehan left the meeting at 5.15 pm.

4.3 Efficiency Review Steering Group (ERSG) – Change of Membership Alderman S P Porter

Alderman Porter advised that due to his other commitments he was unable to attend meetings of the ERSG and that Councillor D J Craig was replacing him on this Group.

It was noted that as the ERSG reported to the Corporate Services Committee, this change of membership was required to be reported to that Committee.

Alderman A Grehan returned to the meeting a 5.18 pm.

4.4 Heritage Crafts Association - President's Award for Endangered Crafts Vice Chairperson, Alderman H Legge

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman H Legge, reported on her attendance, along with the Council's temporary Hand Loom Weaver, Donna Campbell, who had been nominated for the President's Award for Endangered Crafts, at the award ceremony at Eltham Palace, London, on the 26th November 2024.

Alderman Legge advised that Donna was a Damask linen weaver in the Council's Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum and was one of only three such hand loom weavers in the United Kingdom. Donna had been shortlisted out of 21 nominations for this award but unfortunately did not receive the award on the evening. Alderman Legge paid tribute to Donna's work and described Donna as an ambassador for this Council. She also said it had given Donna great pleasure to know that her work had been judged by King Charles, who was the President of the Heritage Crafts Association.

Alderman Legge put on record her congratulations to Donna on having reached the final of this prestigious award.

4.4 Heritage Crafts Association - President's Award for Endangered Crafts (Cont'd)

The Chairperson, Councillor D J Craig, added his congratulation to Donna and at the request of the Vice Chairperson, agreed to write a letter of congratulations, on behalf of the Committee, to Donna on her significant achievement.

4.5 'Yours Mine Ours' Project – Reception at QUB Chairperson, Councillor D J Craig

The Chairperson, Councillor D J Craig paid tribute to the 'Yours Mine Ours' initiative and in particular the recent reception for this project at The Queen's University of Belfast at which he, as Chairperson of the Community & Wellbeing Committee, had spoken. Councillor Craig acknowledged the number of different communities that existed across the Council area and welcomed the opportunities that this initiative had provided for these communities to come together to share their culture and experiences.

Councillor Craig also paid tribute to a recent event as part of the 'Your Mine Ours' initiative at the Irish Linen Centre & Lisburn Museum which had been attended by over 800 people throughout the day. Councillor Craig advised that this project, which had been the brainchild of Officers from this Council, had brought a lot of prestige and honour to this Council.

It was agreed, at the request of the Chairperson, Councillor D J Craig, that a letter of congratulations, on behalf of the Committee, be sent to the Officers concerned.

4.6 Dual Purpose Training Nets Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin

The Head of Sports Services responded to questions from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, in connection with the provision of smaller nets that could be availed of by GAA Clubs when training at Lough Moss Leisure Centre.

The Head of Service advised that the Council was in the process of purchasing nets which were dual purpose. He undertook to check out if these nets had been delivered and to report back to the Deputy Mayor directly.

5. 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 C Kemp, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Confidential Report 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.)

5.1 Estimates Process 2025/2026 – Directorate Update (final Estimates report to be published)

Presented by the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in relation to the Estimates process for 2025-2026 for the Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate.

The Committee had been furnished with the draft Estimates for the Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate as well as a copy of the Directorate's Year End Budget report.

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

During the discussion the following Members joined or left the meeting:

- Councillor D Bassett joined the meeting at 5.30 pm.
- Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting at 5.31 pm and returned at 5.34 pm.
- The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, joined the meeting at 5.34 pm and left at 5.55 pm
- Councillor C Kemp left the meeting at 5.50 pm and returned at 5.52 pm.
- Councillor G Hynds left the meeting at 5.51 pm and returned at 5.52 pm.
- Councillor G Thompson left at 5.52 pm and returned at 5.55 pm.
- Councillor P Catney left the meeting at 5.55 pm.
- Councillor S Lowry left the meeting at 6.07 pm.

Following discussion it was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that:

- a) the progress on the estimates process for 2025/2026 be noted, and
- b) the draft Community & Wellbeing Directorate Estimates 2025/2026 be not accepted at this stage but that a further report be presented to the Committee in January 2025 which would address the issues and concerns raised during the above-mentioned discussion.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing advised that she was content to meet with political parties or Members individually between now and the Christmas break in order to provide further clarification on the issues raised. She requested that anyone wishing to meet with her, should contact the Director's office to set up a meeting.

5.2 United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) – Addendum to Letter of Offer for the Community Investment Fund (CIF) Ballymacash Sports Academy and Lisburn Rugby & Football Club
(Report to be published following ratification of decision)

Presented by the Head of Communities.

Councillor S Lowry returned to the meeting and Councillor B Higginson left the meeting at 6.10 pm.

In addition to the narrative report, the Equality and Good Relations Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment documents had been provided.

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman S P Porter, and agreed to recommend that the Committee agrees to provide funding to:

- a) Ballymacash Sports Academy to fund the provision of additional mechanical and electrical services for the first floor, including upgraded supply and installation of service controls, ventilation and extraction equipment through an addendum to the Letter of Offer issued under CIF; and
- b) Lisburn Rugby & Football Club to fund the physio tables, open lockers/individual pods in the changing facilities, installation of additional shelving for each changing room and expanded range of equipment for health and wellbeing facilities through an addendum to the Letter of Offer issued under CIF.

Councillor B Higginson returned to the meeting at 6.12 pm.

5.3 Project Initiation & Business Cases for Several Small Works Programmes
(Redacted report to be published March 2025)

Presented by the Head of Parks & Amenities.

Alderman J Tinsley joined the meeting at 6.13 pm.

In addition to the narrative report, a number of PIRSOCs and Business Cases in respect of the various small works programmes, as well as a feasibility study drawing and an addendum drawing, had been appended to the Officer's report. This documentation covered playparks, lighting, toilet facilities and feasibility studies to inform future works.

The Director and the Head of Parks & Amenities responded to questions from Members in connection with issues arising from some of the small works' projects.

5.3 Project Initiation & Business Cases for Several Small Works Programmes (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Councillor J Gallen, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that each of the projects outlined in the Officer's report be progressed to tender and feasibility/construction as detailed within each of the business case appendices.

6. Any Other Business – Confidential

6.1 Camera Turned on when Joining via Zoom Alderman S P Porter

Comments from Alderman S P Porter were noted in connection with the suggestion that cameras be on when joining Council and Committee meetings remotely in order that the Member attending can be recognised on occasions when their device is registered to another family member's name.

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 6.26 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIR

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of the Environment & Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, and in remote locations on Wednesday 4th December 2024 at 5.00 pm.****PRESENT IN CHAMBER
(COMMITTEE):**

Alderman J Baird (Acting Chair)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Aldermen O Gawith, A McIntyre and J Tinsley

Councillors S Burns, C McCready, M McKeever, R McLernon
and N Parker**PRESENT IN REMOTE
LOCATION
(COMMITTEE):**

Councillor G Hynds (Vice-Chair)

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor G McCleave

**OTHER MEMBERS OF
COUNCIL PRESENT IN
REMOTE LOCATION:**

Aldermen M Gregg and A Grehan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive

Acting Director of Environmental Services (RH)

Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability) (CD)

Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational
Services) (WM)Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk &
Emergency Planning) (SC)

Business Support Manager (DI)

Member Services Officer (CA & RN)

At the outset of the meeting, the Acting Director of Environmental Services outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Chair of Meeting

The Chair of the Committee, Councillor P Catney, had presented an apology for non-attendance at the meeting. The Vice-Chair, Councillor G Hynds, was attending the meeting but on a remote basis. However Councillor Hynds had agreed that – given the logistics of chairing the meeting from a remote location – a Chair should be appointed from those Members present in the Chamber.

Chair of Meeting (Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor G Hynds (Vice-Chair), seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that Alderman J Baird be elected Acting Chair for the meeting.

Alderman Baird took the Chair and conducted the business of the meeting.

Housekeeping Announcements

The Acting Chair, Alderman J Baird, welcomed all 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 Acting Chair stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Acting 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 Acting Chair asked that those attending via zoom ensure that the meeting could neither be seen nor heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered.

The Chief Executive entered the Chamber. (5.05 pm)

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor P Catney (Chair of Committee); and Councillors A Gowan and P Kennedy.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Report by Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability)

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE) Consultation on the Design Plans for Roll-Out of Smart Electricity Meters (Closing date: 12th December 2024)

The above consultation is available at [Design plan for the roll-out of smart electricity meters | Department for the Economy](#).

Members' comments on the consultation had been invited at the November 2024 meeting of the Committee. A copy of a draft response incorporating any comments received from Members was provided.

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE)
Consultation on the Design Plans for Roll-Out of Smart Electricity Meters
(Closing date: 12th December 2024) (Continued)

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that:-

- the draft response be accepted as the Council's response to the above consultation;
- in line with the authority delegated by the Council on the 26th November 2024, the response be submitted to the Department for the Economy by the stipulated closing date of the 12th December 2024.

Alderman A Grehan joined the meeting on a remote basis during discussion of this item. (5.09 pm)

3.2 Department for the Economy
Consultation on Support for Low-Carbon Heating in the Residential Sector
(Closing date: 31st December 2024)

The above consultation is available at [Support for low carbon heat in the residential sector | Department for the Economy](#).

Members' comments on the consultation had been invited via the November 2024 Information & Correspondence Schedule. A draft response incorporating any comments received from Members was provided.

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor M McKeever and agreed that the draft response be accepted as the Council's response to the above consultation and be submitted to the Department for the Economy by the stipulated closing date of the 31st December 2024.

3.3 Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Consultation – Establishment of a Just Transition Commission
(Closing date: 13th January 2025)

The above consultation is available at [Consultation on the establishment of a Just Transition Commission | Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs](#).

Members were invited to submit any comments they might wish to make to the Head of Service by the 16th December 2024.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor R McLernon and agreed to recommend that:-

- any comments which Members might wish to have included in the draft response to the above consultation be submitted to the Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability) by the 16th December 2024;

3.3 Department for Agriculture, Environment & Rural Affairs (DAERA)
Consultation – Establishment of a Just Transition Commission
(Closing date: 13th January 2025) (Continued)

- at its meeting to be held on the 17th December 2024, the Council be asked to delegate authority to the January 2025 meeting of the Environmental & Sustainability Committee to agree the draft response for submission to DAERA by the stipulated closing date of the 13th January 2025.

4. Report by Head of Waste Management & Operations

4.1 Eco Schools Programme – Request for Financial Support 2025/2026

The Eco Schools Programme in Northern Ireland is operated by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful (KNIB).

Copy of a letter dated the 15th November 2024 from KNIB regarding the funding of the Eco Schools Programme for 2025/2026 had been provided. The Head of Service reported extensively on this request and detailed two options that could be presented to KNIB to address their funding request.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor R McLernon and agreed to recommend that:-

- the funding proposal at a maximum of £10,942.00 be put to “Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful” (KNIB) for the Eco Schools Programme 2025/2026, such a proposal to include the benefits of the Option 1 proposal including the Wheelie Big Challenge, and also that the costs of the Awards Ceremony - £4,000.00 - are covered by this higher level of funding;
- in the event of KNIB being unable to deliver the proposal as referred to above, the Council funding offering automatically default to its Option 2 at a contribution of £2,975.00 (no Wheelie Bin Challenge and the Council meeting the costs of the Awards Ceremony itself).

In addition to the letter referred to above, the following documentation from KNIB had been provided:-

- “Wheelie Big Challenge” proposal for 2025/2026;
- Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council – Impact Cards for 2023/2024;
- Northern Ireland – Impact Cards for 2023/2024.

5. Report by Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning)

5.1 Safeguarding Position Report 2023/2024

It was agreed to recommend that the Safeguarding Position Report for 2023/2024 be noted, the focus thereof being incident reporting to the statutory agencies, namely the Health & Social Care Trusts and the PSNI.

The Acting Head of Service pointed out that whilst there was no requirement for a position report for Child Protection, this was reported similarly due to its importance.

Alderman J Tinsley sought a breakdown by location of the number of concerns reported to the Council in 2023/2024. The Acting Head of Service agreed to provide this.

Councillor M McKeever asked to have placed on record his appreciation of the good work that was being done by the Officers in regard to Safeguarding and also for certain information and clarification which he had received recently from the Designated Officers. Councillor McKeever suggested that information on training be included in the report. The Acting Head of Service advised that whilst actual training numbers were changing on an ongoing basis, a general comment on training could be included in the report. The Head of Service would also provide Councillor McKeever with the number of persons being trained and at which level that training was.

6. Any Other Business
(Agenda Item 7 refers)

6.1 Storm Bert - Thanks to staff in relation to water damage/flooding
Councillor S Burns

Councillor S Burns thanked the Acting Director and the Acting Head of Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning and their teams for the assistance provided both at the time and ongoing in relation to the aftermath of flooding in Dundonald caused by Storm Bert over the weekend of the 23rd - 24th November 2024.

6.2 Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful - "Live Here, Love Here" initiative
Alderman A McIntyre

Alderman A McIntyre referred to Item 3 of the December 2024 Information & Correspondence Schedule entitled "Live Here, Love Here".

Alderman McIntyre expressed his support for this initiative and sought clarity on the Council's funding contribution. The Acting Director responded accordingly.

6.3 Bracken Hill Park, Belfast – Bin Collection
Councillor M McKeever

Councillor M McKeever referred to bin collections at Bracken Hill Park, Belfast which were being overlooked.

The Head of Waste Management & Operations confirmed that his team, together with the Building Control Unit, were dealing with this issue so as have a satisfactory outcome. Road signage in this vicinity appeared to be confusing the matter of access.

7. Confidential Report by the Acting Director of Environmental Services
(Agenda Item 6 refers)

The Acting Chair, Alderman J Baird, advised that the confidential report would be dealt with “in Committee” with all items therein 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 Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor N Parker and agreed that the following items be considered “in Committee” in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The persons seated in the Public Gallery and in the Press area left the Council Chamber. (5.26 pm).

Receipt of Confidential Reports

Before consideration of the confidential reports, Councillor N Parker expressed concern that the three confidential reports (and their appendices) had only become available late the previous day. This – Councillor Parker stated – gave insufficient time for Members to consider the reports in advance of the meeting.

With particular reference to the Estimates’ item, Councillor Parker stated that her political party – the Alliance Party – could not be part of any decision and would request that the information contained therein be presented in a more meaningful way as had been the case in December 2023.

The Acting Director apologised for the lateness of the reports and explained that a contributory factor to this had been in awaiting the tender report from Arc21 (item 3 of confidential report refers). The information in that tender report bore influence on the Estimates’ report.

7.1 Cemeteries Management Information System

(Redacted report and redacted appendices following Council ratification.)

Presented by the Acting Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning).

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Outline Business case for Cemeteries Management Information System;
- Single Tender Action Report;
- Equality & Good Relations Screening;
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

The Acting Director and the Acting Head of Service responded to Members' questions.

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy and agreed to recommend that the Outline Business Case for the procurement of a maintenance contract for the Management Information System for Cemeteries Administration be approved and that the procurement thereof be also approved.

Alderman M Gregg joined the meeting on a remote basis during this item of business. (5.31 pm)

7.2 Estimates 2025/2026

(Report will never become available. Final estimates will be released.)

The Acting Director again apologised for the lateness of the confidential reports and again explained that a contributory factor to this had been awaiting the tender report from Arc21 (item 3 of confidential report refers) which would impact on the Estimates' report. The Acting Director also noted the request that the format of the figures being presented in January 2025 should mirror the format as that presented in December 2023 for the 2024/2025 Estimates.

The report on the draft Estimates was presented by the Acting Director of Environmental Services.

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Draft Estimates 2025/2026 for Environment Services
- Year-end budget report 2023/2024 for Environmental Services.

Members' questions were responded to by the Chief Executive and the Acting Director.

7.2 Estimates 2025/2026 (Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to recommend that:-

- the progress report on the Environmental Services' draft estimates for 2025/2026 be noted;
- the draft estimates 2025/2026 for the Environmental Services Directorate be noted for formal presentation to the Committee in January 2025 in the revised format which would allow for more meaningful understanding and comparison.

7.3 ARC21 Residual Treatment Tender (Redacted report post commencement of contract.)

Presented by the Acting Director of Environmental Services.

In addition to the narrative report, a tender report received from ARC21 in regard to the above tender had been provided.

The Acting Director and the Head of Waste Management & Operations responded to Members' questions.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed to recommend that - subject to the approval of (i) the ARC21 Committee; (ii) Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council; and (iii) to the satisfaction of the pre-award conditions - the contract procured under Lot 3 (Contract F of the Dynamic Purchasing System) for the Supply and Services relating to the Treatment and Energy Recovery/Disposal of Residual Waste Arisings be awarded to the firm as set out in the Acting Director's report.

The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, and Councillor N Parker left the Chamber during discussion of this item. (6.05 pm and 6.22 pm respectively)

8. Any Other Business (Confidential)

No items of a confidential nature were raised.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor R McLernon, seconded by Councillor C McCready and agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

After the Acting Chair, Alderman J Baird, had wished all present a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year, the meeting concluded at 6.26 pm.

Chairperson

DRAFT

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 5 December 2024 at 5.32 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)

Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Vice Chairperson)

Alderman J Baird

Councillors A Gowan, C Kemp, J Lavery BEM, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell, C McCready, and N Parker

REMOTE ATTENDANCE:Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin
Councillors J Harpur and D Lynch**OTHER MEMBERS:**

Councillor G Hynds (Chamber)

IN ATTENDANCEDirector of Regeneration & Growth
Head of Economic Development
Head of Planning & Capital 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 proceeded to outline 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 Alderman M Gregg and Councillor J Gallen.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared during 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;
- Councillor A Gowan declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 4.3 'Request to Acquire Property Holding' in view of his membership of Anahilt Primary School Board of Governors.

3. Report of Head of Economic Development

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE) Sub Regional Plan – Local Economic Partnership guidance and initial proposals

Councillor G Hynds entered the meeting during the Officers report (5.37 pm).
Councillor A Gowan entered the meeting during discussion of this item (5.51 pm).

Further to the report presented to the Committee in November 2024, the Head of Economic Development provided an update on the background and key issues in connection with the New Sub-Regional Economic Plan. Members noted that DfE had issued initial guidance and a proposed timetable on the establishment of Local Economic Partnerships (LEPs).

It was reported that the Council and the LEP were required to agree Terms of Reference, the core economic focus of its proposed 2026-27 programme of activity, and how to decide and assess the proposed projects and actions within the proposed programme. It was further reported that the projects and actions were to be assessed by 31 March 2025, based on the methodology agreed by the LEP.

The following documents had been appended to the Officer's report:

- DfE LEPs Draft Guidance
- DfE LEP Set-up timeline
- Draft Lisburn Castlereagh LEP terms of reference

3.1 Department for the Economy (DfE) Sub Regional Plan – Local Economic Partnership guidance and initial proposals (Cont'd)

The Director of Regeneration & Growth and the Head of Economic Development responded to a number of questions from the Committee in connection with the report, particularly in relation to the proposed Lisburn and Castlereagh LEP membership structure, which had been developed in line with LEP membership guidance received by DfE. A number of Members raised concern that no democratic membership was recommended in the LEP membership structure.

Further to discussion, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the initial proposed membership structure of the LEP as detailed in the report be approved, with the addition of three Elected Members to be appointed by D'Hondt, and officers to establish the LEP accordingly,
- b) the draft Terms of Reference for the LEP be approved; and
- c) further update reports be presented to the Committee as the initiative progresses and further guidance is received.

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

4. Any Other Business (Agenda Item 5.0 refers)

4.1 Christmas Programme Councillor J Laverty

Councillor J Laverty request that when planning for future Christmas Programmes, the dates of Committee meetings be considered to ensure members could attend Christmas activities across the Council area. It was noted that the Dundonald Christmas market, which had been cancelled due to the ongoing weather warning, had been due to be held that evening and a number of Elected Members would have liked to attend, however it clashed with the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

The Director of Regeneration and Growth noted the concerns raised and explained the challenges Officers faced with programming, due to the large amount of Christmas activities planned alongside the availability of traders. The Committee noted that the Dundonald Christmas Market had been rescheduled to the 19 December 2024. Members also noted that an amber weather warning had been issued for the coming days, which would have further impact on Christmas activities.

5. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth (Agenda Item 4.0 refers)

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), and information relating to any consultations or negotiations, in connections with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

In Committee

It was proposed by Councillor C McCreedy, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings.

The member of the press seated in the public gallery left the Council Chamber (6.05 pm).

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin joined the meeting remotely (6.05 pm).

5.1 Estimates Process – Directorate Update
(Report will never be made available, final estimates will be released)

Councillor A Martin left the meeting (6.15 pm).

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to a number of questions from the Committee arising from the report. Members raised concerns with the layout and format of the report as presented, making it impossible for Members to scrutinise. Further to discussion the Committee agreed to recommend that:

- a) the progress on estimates for 2025/2026 be noted; and
- b) a further report be presented to the Committee in January 2025, in the same format as the previous year.

5.2 Business Cases for European Trade Programme and ROI Trade Programme
(Redacted report to be published March 2025, appendices will never be published)

Vice-Chairperson, Alderman A Ewart left the meeting (6.22 pm).

The report was presented by the Head of Service for Economic Development. It was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the two business cases as outlined in the report be approved, and procurement of a suitable provider(s) be approved as follows:

- a) European Trade Programme: A one-year contract for the planning and delivery of the single trade programme in 2025; and

5.2 Business Cases for European Trade Programme and ROI Trade Programme Cont'd

- b) ROI Trade Missions: A three-year contract (2024-27) for the planning and delivery of two trade missions annually, resulting in six missions over the duration of the programme.

5.3 Request to Acquire Property Holding

(Redacted Report to be published on assessment completion, appendix 3d will never be published)

The Vice-Chairperson, Alderman A Ewart returned to the meeting (6.29 pm).

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that a report be approved to be presented to Committee in due course, in the context of a Council wide understanding of capital programme pressures and acquisition requests for community facilities.

6. Any Other Confidential Business

6.1 Belfast City Regional Deal - Hillsborough Councillor J Lavery

At the request of Councillor J Lavery, the Director provided an update to the Committee on progress made to date in relation to the above matter.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Vice-Chairperson, Alderman A Ewart, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

7. Additional Any Other Business

7.1 January 2025 Meeting of Regeneration & Growth Committee

It was proposed by Vice-Chairperson Alderman A Ewart, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the January 2025 meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee be rescheduled to take place on Monday 13 January 2025.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked Directors and Officers for their work over the last year and wished everyone a Merry Christmas.

There being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 6.34 pm.

Chairperson

DRAFT

CSC 11.12.2024

44

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Wednesday 11th December 2024 at 6.00 pm.****PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (COMMITTEE):**

Councillor The Hon N Trimble (Chair)
 Councillor N Eaton (Vice-Chair)
 Aldermen A Ewart MBE, A Grehan and H Legge
 Councillors T Beckett, A Ewing, A Givan, J Harpur, B Higginson, C Kemp and G McCleave

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
 Councillor K Dickson
 Deputy Mayor
 Councillor R Carlin
 Councillor J Lavery BEM

OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER:

Councillor G Hynds

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
 Director of Finance & Corporate Services
 Director of Organisation Development & Innovation
 Head of Assets
 Head of Corporate Communications & Administration
 Head of Finance
 Member Services Officers (CA & RN)

Commencement of Meeting

The Chair welcomed all 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. 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 Finance & Corporate Services outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Finally, the Chair 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.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Alderman M Gregg and Councillor D Lynch.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chair invited Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided with the papers for the meeting and which were also available in the Chamber.

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Report of Chief Executive

3.1 Elected Members' Project Dashboard

A District Electoral Area (DEA) Works Programme had been agreed by the Committee in June 2024. Further to that, the Corporate Management Team had agreed that an update on all projects – not just those under the DEA Works Programme - be shared with Members.

The Chief Executive provided an update on ongoing projects, the content of which was noted.

By means of shared screen, the Chief Executive demonstrated an Elected Members' Dashboard which had been developed and which displayed information on the progression of projects throughout the Council area. The dashboard would be refreshed by exception.

Subject to Council ratification of this item of business, the app for the Elected Members' Dashboard would be available from the end of December 2024. Members will be e-mailed with a request that they call into IT to have this app installed on their mobile device and also a link to "Favourites" on their laptop.

4. Report of Director of Organisation Development & Innovation

4.1 Outcomes of Interim Corporate Plan 2021-2024

The Council had agreed a four-year Interim Corporate Plan for 2021-2024 which would recognise the impact of the Covid pandemic. In addition to the narrative report, the Outcomes of the Interim Corporate Plan 2021-2024 were provided and duly noted.

5. Report of Head of Corporate Communications & Administration

5.1 2025 Anniversaries Programme & Budget

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Minutes of meetings of the 2025 Anniversaries Working Group held on the 6th and 25th November 2024, the Terms of Reference of the Group being agreed at the former meeting;
- Draft 2025 Anniversaries Programme, together with estimated costs.

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson and seconded by Councillor A Ewing to recommend that:-

- the 2025 Anniversaries Programme be agreed;
- the necessary funding be drawn from Reserves;
- the minutes of the Working Group meetings held on the 6th & 25th November 2024 be noted.

Councillor G McCleave, endorsed by Councillor R Carlin (Deputy Mayor), stated that the extensive funding for the 2025 Anniversaries Programme was not something which their party (Sinn Fein) could support. Councillor McCleave asked if consideration had been given to one single event and if other funding sources were considered. The Head of Service responded to the issues concerning funding and confirmed that the programme of events was put forward by the Members of the Working Group. Consideration had been given to a range of options.

A Recorded Vote was taken on the Proposal in the name of Councillor B Higginson and seconded by Councillor A Ewing. The voting was as follows:-

For the Proposal: Councillor T Beckett, Councillor K Dickson, Councillor N Eaton, Alderman A Ewart, Councillor A Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur, Councillor B Higginson, Councillor C Kemp, Councillor J Laverty, Alderman H Legge, Councillor N Trimble. **(Total = 13)**

Against the Proposal: Councillor R Carlin, Councillor G McCleave. **(Total = 2)**

The proposal as set out above in the name of Councillor B Higginson and seconded by Councillor A Ewing was therefore declared as "carried".

5.2 Illuminations 2025

In addition to the narrative report, the draft Calendar of Illuminations for 2025 had been provided. The narrative report explained how the calendar had been compiled.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Alderman H Legge and agreed to recommend that the draft Calendar of Illuminations for 2025 be approved.

It was further agreed on a Proposal made by Alderman A Grehan and seconded by Councillor T Beckett that the 12th July be designated as an Annual Building Illumination for 2025 and thereafter.

Officers were commended for the significant amount of work which had gone into compiling the 2025 Calendar of Illuminations.

6. Report of Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development

6.1 Workforce Reports

In the absence of the Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development, his report was presented by the Director of Organisation Development & Innovation.

Reports on the undernoted topics in relation to Council staff across all Departments had been provided with the report and their contents duly noted.

- Attendance Management Report for period ended 30th September 2024;
- Recruitment Reports – (i) Advert & Selection; and (ii) Appointments;
- Workforce Profile.

By way of update, the Director of Organisation Development & Innovation verbally advised that:-

- in regard to the revised Policy for Managing Attendance – Consultations with the trade unions were ongoing and final feedback was due by mid-January 2025 with an anticipated implementation date of the 1st April 2025;
- a report on the Council workforce establishment including vacancies had been made to the most recent meeting of the Efficiency Review Steering Group (3rd December 2024).

6.1 Workforce Reports (Continued)

The Director also responded to a number of questions from Members and assured them that – whilst actual costs associated with absenteeism were not readily available and were dependent on a wide range of factors – a reduction in absenteeism was being actively addressed and a reduction in the number of days lost by way of long-term absence should be noted from the report.

Employees with no days lost through sickness absence were to be commended. These comments were noted by Officers for suitable consideration.

7. Any Other Business – Non-Confidential

7.1 Neonatal Leave Councillor J Harpur

Councillor J Harpur enquired if the Council was considering a policy on neonatal leave.

The Director of Organisation Development & Innovation advised that a policy was in the latter stages of development and would be tabled for consideration at a future meeting early in 2025.

8. Confidential Report from Director of Finance & Corporate Services

The reasons for confidentiality were as set out in the agenda, ie:-

8.1 Report on Tender Awards (Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

Redacted report to be available following ratification and signing of contracts.

8.2 Provision of Contract Cleaning Services (Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

Redacted report to be available on commencement of the contract (anticipated to be 1st December 2025).

8.3 Estimates Process 2025/2026 – Corporate Status Update (Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

Report will never become available. Final estimates will be released.

8.4 Estimates Process 2025/2026 – Directorate Update

(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

Report will never become available. Final estimates will be released.

8.5 Finance Reports – Period 8 of 2024/2025

(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

Redacted report to be available after ratification on the 17th December 2024.

8.6 Treasury Outturn – Quarter 2 of 2024/2025

(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

Report to be available after ratification on the 17th December 2024.

8.7 Management Accounts – Period 8 of 2024/2025

(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information.)

Redacted report to be available after ratification on the 17th December 2024.

8.8 Efficiency Review Steering Group (ERSG) - Meetings

(Confidential for reason of 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 of, or office holders under, the council.)

Redacted report to be available after ratification on the 17th December 2024.

In Committee

It was proposed by Councillor A Ewing, seconded by Councillor C Kemp and agreed that the Confidential Report 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.) (6.42 pm)

8.1 Report on Tender Awards

Presented by the Head of Assets who also responded to Members’ questions.

Tender Reports and a Summary of Tenders Awarded had been provided with the narrative report.

8.1 Report on Tender Awards (Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to recommend that the tenders awarded in regard to the following contracts, together with the attendant tender reports, be noted:-

- F24/25-014 – Lisburn & Castlereagh Transport Academy;
- T2425-019 Schedule AT3 – Supply/delivery/laying of quarry & bituminous bound materials and associated works;
- T24/25-024 – Self-Employment Support Programme.

It was further agreed on the Proposal made by Councillor Kemp and seconded by Councillor Givan to recommend that the signing and sealing of the Tender documents be approved.

8.2 Provision of Contract Cleaning Services

Presented by the Head of Corporate Communications & Administration.

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Business Case for the Provision of Contract Cleaning Services;
- Equality Screening document.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to recommend that the Business Case for the Provision of Contract Cleaning Services be approved, and that the recommendation contained therein on the manner by which this procurement should progress be agreed.

8.3 Estimates Process 2025/2026 – Corporate Status Update

Presented by the Director of Finance & Corporate Services who responded to Members' questions.

An extensive narrative report had been provided. The Director took Members through the report and its content was duly noted.

Councillor B Higginson left and returned to the Chamber during discussion of this item. (7.00 pm and 7.02 pm)

Alderman A Ewart left and returned to the Chamber during discussion of this item. (7.08 pm and 7.09 pm)

CSC 11.12.2024

51

8.4 Estimates Process 2025/2026 – Directorate Update

Presented by the Director of Finance & Corporate Services who responded to Members' questions.

The report and appendices covered the Finance & Corporate Services Directorate; the Organisation Development & Innovation Directorate; and the Governance & Audit Unit.

An extensive narrative report together with the following had been provided:-

- Year-End Budget Report (as of 28th November 2024);
- 2025/2026 Estimates;
- 2025/2026 Civic Events' Schedule.

Councillor C Kemp placed on record that her party – the Alliance Party – would be purely noting the update and looked forward to receiving the information in January 2025 presented in a more meaningful way as had been the case in December 2023 for the 2024/2025 Estimates.

The Director of Finance & Corporate Services gave an assurance that – despite the complexities of the new accounting system and the fact that committee dates were later than usual in January 2025 due to the bank holiday period – Members would have the Estimates' information in sufficient time so as to allow consideration with their political party colleagues in advance of the Committee meetings.

The update on the 2025/2026 Estimates process for the Finance & Corporate Services Directorate; the Organisation Development & Innovation Directorate and the Governance & Audit Unit was noted.

8.5 Finance Reports – Period 8 of 2024/2025

Presented by the Head of Finance.

Members noted the content of the following:-

- the information contained in the narrative report;
- the report on Repairs & Renewals for P8 of 2024/2025;
- the report on Department for Communities' budgets for P8 of 2024/2025.

8.6 Treasury Outturn – Quarter 2 of 2024/2025

Presented by the Head of Finance.

Members noted the content of the following:-

8.6 Treasury Outturn – Quarter 2 of 2024/2025 (Continued)

- the information contained in the narrative report;
- the Treasury Management Report for Q2 of 2024/2025 including the Prudential and Treasury Indicators for that period, setting out a review of the Council's performance against the indicators approved for 2024/2025 up to the 30th September 2024.

8.7 Management Accounts – Period 8 of 2024/2025

Presented by the Head of Finance.

The Management Accounts for the period ending the 30th November 2024, together with an extensive narrative report by way of explanation, were provided and duly noted.

Councillor C Kemp left and returned to the Chamber during discussion of this item. (7.22 pm and 7.25 pm)

Councillor J Lavery left the meeting on a remote basis during discussion of this item. (7.25 pm)

8.8 Efficiency Review Steering Group (ERSG)

Presented by the Director of Organisation Development & Innovation who responded to Members' questions.

8.8.1 Meetings

In addition to the narrative report, the minutes of meetings of the Efficiency Review Steering Group (ERSG) held on the 1st October and 3rd December 2024 had been provided, and it was agreed to recommend that they be noted.

Concern was expressed that the minutes of the ERSG did not provide sufficient information for the Corporate Services Committee (which was the decision-making body for the ERSG) to make informed decisions.

It was proposed by Alderman A Ewart, seconded by Alderman A Grehan and agreed that:-

- consideration of the recommendations on the proposed staffing structure and on the specific delivery service referred to in the ERSG minutes be deferred to the next meeting, pending receipt of a more explanatory minute and detail of the proposed structure;
- cognisance be taken of the fact that the ERSG minutes required to be of such detail that informed decisions could be taken by its decision-making committee, ie the Corporate Services Committee.

8.8.2 Change in Membership

The Director of Organisation Development & Innovation reported that Alderman P Porter had been replaced by Councillor J Craig on the membership of the Efficiency Review Steering Group.

9. Any Other Business – Confidential

No further business of a confidential nature was raised.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Ewing, seconded by Alderman A Ewart and agreed to come “out of Committee”. Normal business and audio recording were resumed.

10. Any Other Business

Dealt with under Item 7.

The meeting concluded at 7.42 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIR

GAC 12.12.2024

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

54

Minutes of Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Council Chamber and Remote Locations on Thursday, 12 December, 2024 at 5:33 pm**PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Alderman S P Porter (Chairperson)

Alderman O Gawith

Councillors D Bassett, N Eaton, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Martin, M McKeever and R McLernon

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Mr E Jardine (Independent Member and Vice-Chairperson)

Councillors S Burns, A Givan and S Lowry

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
 Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
 Director of Finance and Corporate Services
 Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
 Director of Regeneration and Growth
 Acting Director of Environmental Services
 Internal Audit Manager (remote)
 Acting Environmental Health Manager
 Performance Improvement Officer
 IT Officer
 Member Services Officers

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Mr R Ross (remote)

Ross Boyd Accountants

Mr B Stewart (remote)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairperson, Alderman S P Porter, welcomed those present, in particular the external audit representatives – Mr R Ross and Mr B Stewart. He pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under confidential business, this meeting would be audio recorded. In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chair asked 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 Chair, Alderman S P Porter, asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting. The Director of Organisation Development and Innovation outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

GAC 12.12.2024

55

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, together with Councillors D Lynch and P Kennedy.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Report from the Performance Improvement Officer

3.1 Compliments and Complaints Report – Quarter 2 2024/25

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a comparative report taken from the Council's Customer Care System detailing the number of comments, complaints, and compliments in Quarter 2 of 2024/25.

In response to a query raised by Councillor M McKeever, the Performance Improvement Officer agreed to circulate a breakdown to Members, in respect of Quarter 2 Complaints upheld by department.

3.2 Performance Improvement Objectives, Case Studies & Associated KPIs – 2nd Quarter Review (2024/25)

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of:

- (a) a quarterly monitoring document (covering July – September 2024) on all projects that demonstrated improvement against the 2024/25 Performance Improvement Objectives, including the relevant Performance Improvement KPIs. An additional section was included detailing some case studies and customer feedback that had demonstrated improvement during Quarter 2; and
- (b) a report from the 'Performance Management System' detailing the Performance Improvement Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for the period July – September 2024.

Members noted an error at 1.4 of the report should have stated 'Quarter 2' not 'Quarter 4'. Councillor N Eaton put on record her appreciation to officers for the positive outcomes within the report, particularly in respect of the community development toolkit, as positive feedback had been received on how valuable the toolkit had been for community groups.

3.3 Corporate Plan KPIs – Quarter 2 2024/25 All Directorates

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of reports detailing the Quarter 2 2024/25 KPIs for each directorate. During discussion Officers responded to a number of questions from Members in relation to the new financial software system and the draft fleet strategy.

GAC 12.12.2024

56

3.4 NI Audit Office – Audit and Assessment Report 2024/25

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of:

- (a) a copy of the NI Audit Office Audit and Assessment Report 2024/25; and
- (b) Certificate of Compliance issued by NIAO.

4. Report by Acting Environmental Health Manager

4.1 Corporate Risk Register

The Acting Environmental Health Manager set out in her report, an update in respect of the quarterly review of the Corporate Risk Register. Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, copies of the Corporate Risk Dashboard and Directorate Risk Registers. Members' queries were addressed by Officers, in respect of contractors declaring tax and fleet management.

Prior to considering the confidential business on the agenda, the Chairperson, Alderman S P Porter asked Members if they had any items of any other business. No Members had any matters to raise.

The Acting Director of Environmental Services left the meeting at 6pm, as did the Acting Environmental Health Manager and the Performance Improvement Officer.

5. Confidential Business

The matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" 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 Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor J Gallen and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee," in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The member of the press seated in the public gallery left the Council Chamber (6.02 pm).

5.1 Report by Head of Finance

5.1.1 2023-2024 Final Report To Those Charged With Governance (Report will never be available – final certified accounts will be published)

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy the 2023-2024 Final Report To Those Charged With Governance, presented by Mr B Stewart (Ross Boyd Accountants).

GAC 12.12.2024

57

5.1.1 2023-2024 Final Report To Those Charged With Governance Cont'd

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services clarified the Council position in relation to the non-acceptance of a recommendation to review the chart of accounts, as the recommendation related to the old finance system which was no longer in operation. The Committee noted that the finance team considered the Chart of Accounts in advance of the new system being implemented and were satisfied that the Chart of Accounts reflected the needs of the Council.

5.1.2 Annual Audit Letter 2023-2024: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council (Report will be made available following Council ratification)

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy the 2023-2024 Annual Audit Letter, presented by Mr B Stewart (Ross Boyd Accountants).

5.2 Report by Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

5.2.1 Dundonald International Ice Bowl – Risk Register (Report will never be made available)

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of the Risk Register update for the redevelopment of Dundonald International Ice Bowl. Officers responded to a number of questions from Members arising from the report.

During discussion, Councillor S Lowry put on record her appreciation to Officers for swiftly addressing safety concerns she raised in relation to the project, which provided reassurance on how well the project was being managed.

The Director of Regeneration and Growth left the meeting (6.18 pm).

5.3 Report by Internal Audit Manager

5.3.1 Internal Audit – Progress Report (Redacted report will be made available on 30 December, 2024)

Members were provided with a copy of an Internal Audit Progress Report summarising internal audit work and progress against the Operational Plan since the last meeting of the Committee on 12 September, 2024. Copies of any internal audit reports referred to in the progress report, alongside the Terms of Reference for the external review of LCCC Internal Audit Service were also provided in full on Decision Time for Members' information.

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor R McLernon, and agreed to recommend that:

- (a) the Internal Audit Progress Report be noted; and
- (b) the Terms of Reference for the PEER Review of LCCC Internal Audit Service by Derry and Strabane District Council be approved.

GAC 12.12.2024

58

6. Closed Session

In line with good practice and the Governance and Audit Committee Terms of Reference, Members met with representatives from External Audit and Internal Audit in a closed session, the purpose of which was to afford Members the opportunity to ask questions that may not specifically be addressed as part of an audit.

The following Officers left the Meeting prior to the closed session taking place (6.22 pm): Chief Executive, Director of Organisation Development and Innovation, Director Finance and Corporate Services, Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing and Member Services Officers.

The Director of Organisation Development and Innovation and Member Services Officers returned to the meeting at 6.43 pm.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor D Bassett, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

The Chairperson, Alderman S P Porter, wished those present a Happy Christmas and New Year.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.44 pm. Buck

Mayor/Chairperson

PC 04.11.2024

59

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber and in Remote Locations on Monday, 4 November, 2024 at 10.08 am****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Alderman M Gregg (Chair)

Councillor S Burns (Vice-Chair)

Aldermen O Gawith and J Tinsley

Councillors P Catney, D J Craig, U Mackin, A Martin, G Thompson and N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:Director of Regeneration and Growth
Head of Planning & Capital Development
Senior Planning Officers (MB, PMcF and GM)
Member Services Officers (CR and CH)

Mr B Martyn (Cleaver Fulton Rankin) – Legal Advisor

Commencement of Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chair, Alderman M Gregg, welcomed those present to the Planning Committee. He pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under confidential business, this meeting would be audio recorded. He went on to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept an apology for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor D Bassett.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

The Chair, Alderman M Gregg, stated that, by virtue of being Members of Council, all Members of the Planning Committee would have an interest in planning application LA05/2023/0695/F. However, the dispensation under paragraph 6.6 of the Code of Conduct applied and Members were permitted to speak and vote on the application.

3. Minutes of Meetings of Planning Committee held on 14 and 17 October, 2024

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor S Burns and agreed that the minutes of the meetings of Committee held on 14 and 17 October, 2024 be confirmed and signed, subject to the following:

PC 04.11.2024

60

3. Minutes of Meetings of Planning Committee held on 14 and 17 October, 2024
(Contd)

- 14 October minutes, page 3, first paragraph under item (i) be amended to read 'Councillor U Mackin left the meeting and was only present in the Council Chamber when addressing the Committee; and
- 14 October minutes, page 3, fourth paragraph under item (i) be amended to read 'Councillor U Mackin apologised on behalf of Mr E Poots MLA who was unable to be present at the meeting today, but advised that the views he had expressed at the previous meeting had not changed.

In respect of the minutes of 14 October, Councillor U Mackin stated that the minutes accurately recorded him as having left the meeting at 4.02 pm, but there was no record of him having been brought back into the Chamber and the meeting was over before he was told. The Chair, Alderman M Gregg, pointed out that the meeting had terminated immediately following consideration of the application for which Councillor Mackin had left the Chamber. Alderman Tinsley stated that Councillor Mackin may have had an item of Any Other Business to raise after this application had been considered. The Chair took on board the comments made by Alderman Tinsley, but pointed out that there was no further business to be considered at that time, given that outstanding items on the agenda, including Any Other Business, were being deferred for consideration at a continuation meeting on 17 October.

4. Report from the Head of Planning & Capital Development

4.1 Schedule of Applications

The Chair, Alderman M Gregg, advised that there were 2 major and 3 local applications on the schedule for consideration at the meeting.

4.1.1 Applications to be Determined

The Legal Advisor, Mr B Martyn, highlighted paragraphs 43-46 of the Protocol for the Operation of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Planning Committee which, he advised, needed to be borne in mind when determinations were being made.

- (i) LA05/2023/0695/F – Section 54 application to vary conditions No.2 (Phasing Plan), No.9 (Landscape Works) and No.10 (Tree Protection) of Planning Approval LA05/2020/0048/F to allow amendments to the parking and landscaping layout at the proposed Dundonald International Ice Bowl, 111 Old Dundonald Road, Dundonald

The Director of Regeneration and Growth left the top table and took a seat in the public gallery when this application was being considered.

The Senior Planning Officer (GM) presented the above application as outlined within the circulated report.

PC 04.11.2024

61

- (i) LA05/2023/0695/F – Section 54 application to vary conditions No.2 (Phasing Plan), No.9 (Landscape Works) and No.10 (Tree Protection) of Planning Approval LA05/2020/0048/F to allow amendments to the parking and landscaping layout at the proposed Dundonald International Ice Bowl, 111 Old Dundonald Road, Dundonald (Contd)

The Committee received Ms S Pearson to speak in support of the application. The Director of Regeneration and Growth and the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing joined Ms Pearson when making her verbal presentation and Mr T Sloan was also available to answer questions. A number of Members' queries were addressed by Ms Pearson and the Director of Regeneration and Growth.

A Member's query was responded to by the Head of Planning & Capital Development.

Debate

During debate:

- Alderman J Tinsley welcomed this application, which was very positive. A lot of work had gone into this application over the years and this was the final step before it got started. There was no loss of green space and car parking remained the same. Alderman Tinsley stated that he was in support of the recommendation of the Planning Officer to approve planning permission; and
- the Chair, Alderman M Gregg, stated his slight disappointment in a loss of 1.3% green space and the significant landscaping on the approach to the Ice Bowl from the Old Dundonald Road; however, this would still be better than what was currently on site. He looked forward to this development being implemented and was in support of the recommendation of the Planning Officer to approve planning permission.

Vote

On a vote being taken, it was agreed to adopt the recommendation of the Planning Officer to approve planning permission, the voting being:

In favour: Councillor S Burns, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor A Martin, Alderman J Tinsley, Councillor G Thompson, Councillor Trimble and the Chair, Alderman M Gregg (9)

Against: None (0)

Abstain: Councillor P Catney (1)

PC 04.11.2024

62

- (ii) LA05/2024/0038/F – Proposed of an industrial unit with ancillary office, sprinkler pumphouse, two pumphouses, substation, external plant including silos, rooftop solar panels, car parking, landscaping and all associated site and access works on land located 400m east of Lissue Road, 300m south of Ballinderry Road, and 200m west of Ferguson Drive

The Senior Planning Officer (PMcF) presented the above application as outlined within the circulated report.

The Committee received Mr A Heasley, accompanied by Mr P Stinson and Mr K Somerville, to speak in support of the application and a number of Members' queries were addressed.

A number of Members' queries were responded to by Planning Officers.

Debate

During debate:

- Councillor D J Craig stated it wasn't often an application was received for industrial land to be used for industrial purposes. He welcomed this application and the fact that it would bring additional manufacturing to the Council area. He was fully in support of the recommendation of the Planning Officer to approve planning permission;
- Councillor P Catney too welcomed this application for use of land previously zoned for industrial use. He was in support of the recommendation of the Planning Officer to approve planning permission;
- Councillor N Trimble stated that he had had concerns that there was a flood plain on the site. The Committee didn't often approve any development where there was a flood plain; however, there was a route within FLD1 that allowed approval if the development was of significant sub-regional economic importance. The benefit was worth the risk in this case. Councillor Trimble considered that Officers had worked with the applicant to mitigate the risk as much as possible. This application should be welcomed and he wished the applicant every success in this endeavour, should the application be approved;
- Alderman O Gawith stated that he had been reassured that, in respect of the very wide class B3 that encompassed all sorts of things, the design of this proposal was quite specific to the purpose of the applicant. Given that the Council should be encouraging industry in the area, Alderman Gawith was delighted to see this proposal and was in support of the recommendation of the Planning Officer to approve planning permission; and
- the Chair, Alderman M Gregg, agreed that it was good to see an application for industrial land being used for industry and employment. He welcomed this development on industrial land and the jobs it would bring to the local area.

Vote

Having considered the information provided within the report of the Planning Officer, the Committee agreed unanimously to adopt the recommendation to approve this application.

PC 04.11.2024

63

Adjournment of Meeting

The Chair, Alderman M Gregg, declared the meeting adjourned at this point for a comfort break (11.33 am).

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting was resumed at 11.46 am.

- (iii) LA05/2022/1177/F – Proposed erection of two detached dwellings and double garages and associated site works (infill sites) on lands 60m south of 41 Windmill Road, Ballyworfy, Hillsborough

The Senior Planning Officer (GM) presented the above application as outlined within the circulated report.

The Committee received the following to speak in support of the application:

- Mr A Stephens, accompanied by Mr D Haire; and
- Mr D Honeyford MLA.

A number of Members' queries were addressed by the speakers.

A number of Members' queries were responded to by Planning Officers.

Following discussion, Alderman O Gawith proposed that this application be deferred for a site visit as he considered it would be beneficial to view the location. This proposal was seconded by Councillor U Mackin and, on a vote being taken, agreed, the voting being 7 in favour and 3 against.

Adjournment of Meeting

The Chair, Alderman M Gregg, declared the meeting adjourned at this point for lunch (12.50 pm).

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting was resumed at 1.35 pm.

- (iv) LA05/2022/1135/F – Retention of change of use from single dwelling to serviced accommodation at 72 Antrim Road, Lisnagarvey, Lisburn

The Senior Planning Officer (MB) presented the above application as outlined within the circulated report.

The Committee received the following to speak in opposition to the application:

- Mrs W McConnell; and
- Councillor N Parker.

PC 04.11.2024

64

- (iv) LA05/2022/1135/F – Retention of change of use from single dwelling to serviced accommodation at 72 Antrim Road, Lisnagarvey, Lisburn (Contd)

A number of Members' queries were addressed by the speakers.

A number of Members' queries were responded to by Planning Officers.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor G Thompson that this application be deferred to allow further information to be provided regarding whether or not the telephone complaints made by Mrs McConnell to the Planning Office were passed on to, and considered by, Environmental Health and whether those Officers had had sight of Mrs McConnell's written letter of objection prior to submitting their response to this application. This proposal was seconded by Councillor D J Craig and, on a vote being taken, agreed, the voting being 9 in favour and 1 against.

Adjournment of Meeting

The Chair, Alderman M Gregg, declared the meeting adjourned at this point for a comfort break (3.22 pm).

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting was resumed at 3.33 pm.

- (v) LA05/2021/0772/F – Proposed new dwelling in compliance with Policy COU2 on land between 56a-60 Halfpenny Gate Road, Moira, Craigavon

The Senior Planning Officer (MB) presented the above application as outlined within the circulated report.

The Committee received the following to speak in support of the application:

- Mr D Honeyford MLA; and
- Mr Wm Martin, together with his agent.

A number of Members' queries were addressed by the speakers.

A number of Members' queries were responded to by Planning Officers.

Following discussion, Councillor G Thompson proposed that this application be deferred for a site visit as she considered it would be beneficial to view the location. This proposal was seconded by Councillor N Trimble and, on a vote being taken, agreed, the voting being 6 in favour, 3 against and 1 abstention.

PC 04.11.2024

65

4.2 Statutory Performance Indicators – September 2024

The Head of Planning & Capital Development having answered a number of queries, it was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed that information relating to Statutory Performance Indicators for September 2024 be noted.

4.3 Quarter 1 Statistical Bulletin – April to June 2024

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed that the information in relation to the Quarter 1 Statistical Bulletin be noted.

4.4 Proposal for a two-storey building with retail unit, creche with equipped children's play area, community social hall and associated access, parking and servicing areas and landscaping; proposed three-storey mixed use building comprising ground floor community uses and pharmacy with apartments above, and access, parking, communal amenity space and landscaping; proposed extension to existing Wallace Village Eurospar and associated parking and landscaping; proposed three-storey apartment block with access, parking, communal amenity space and landscaping on land east of 72 – 78 Lady Wallace Road and 8 – 17 Cottage Gardens, lands east of 53 – 65 Lady Wallace Road, and lands south of 14 – 15 Lady Wallace Forge & 23 Lady Wallace Walk, Lisburn

The Head of Planning & Capital Development having answered a number of queries, it was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor U Mackin and agreed to note information in respect of the above Pre-Application Notice and that it be submitted in accordance with the relevant section of the legislation and related guidance.

4.5 Appeal Decision – LA05/2020/0106/O

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed that the report and decision of the Planning Appeals Commission in respect of the above appeal be noted.

4.6 Appeal Decision – LA05/2021/1048/O and LA05/2021/1049/O

Councillor P Catney left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (4.34 pm).

It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed that the report and decision of the Planning Appeals Commission in respect of the above appeal be noted.

4.7 Proposed Abandonment at Belsize Way, Lisburn

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor G Thompson and agreed that the Department's intention to abandon land at Belsize Way, Lisburn, be noted.

PC 04.11.2024

66

4.8 Letter from Natural Environment Division of DAERA in relation to Freshwater SAC Conservation Objectives (Rivers) – Updated Supplementary Advice

It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed that the update provided in relation to Freshwater SAC Conservation Objectives (Rivers) be noted.

4.9 Notification by Telecommunication Operator(s) of Intention to Utilise Permitted Development Rights

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor U Mackin and agreed to note from the report, information regarding notification by telecommunication operators of intention to utilise Permitted Development Rights at a number of locations in the Council area.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Proposal for a two-storey building with retail unit, creche with equipped children's play area, community social hall and associated access, parking and servicing areas and landscaping; proposed three-storey mixed use building comprising ground floor community uses and pharmacy with apartments above, and access, parking, communal amenity space and landscaping; proposed extension to existing Wallace Village Eurospar and associated parking and landscaping; proposed three-storey apartment block with access, parking, communal amenity space and landscaping on land east of 72 – 78 Lady Wallace Road and 8 – 17 Cottage Gardens, lands east of 53 – 65 Lady Wallace Road, and lands south of 14 – 15 Lady Wallace Forge & 23 Lady Wallace Walk, Lisburn

The Head of Planning & Capital Development took note of comments by Alderman J Tinsley that Elected Members had received email notification last week that the public consultation event in respect of the above Pre-Application Notice had been cancelled.

5.2 Regeneration and Growth Committee – 7 November, 2024

The Director of Regeneration and Growth extended an invitation, on behalf of the Chair, to Members of the Planning Committee to attend the meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee on 7 November, 2024, specifically for the consideration of items 3.1 'NI Water Infrastructure Update' and 3.2 'Planning Service Improvement Plan'.

5.3 Date of Next Meeting

The Chair, Alderman M Gregg, advised that the next meeting of the Planning Committee would be held on Monday, 2 December, 2024 and invited Members and Officers to wear Christmas attire that day.

PC 04.11.2024

67

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chair, Alderman M Gregg, thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 4.41 pm.

Chair/Mayor