

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2023 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A G Ewart, MBE (Chairman)

Aldermen J Baird and W J Dillon MBE

Councillors A Givan, C McCready, U Mackin, S Mulholland and A Swan

**PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION**The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy  
Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan  
Alderman D Drysdale, Councillors F Cole, H Legge and G McCleave**OTHER MEMBER PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION**

Alderman S Martin

**IN ATTENDANCE**Director of Service Transformation (Council Chamber)  
Head of Economic Development (Council Chamber)  
Head of Planning and Capital Development (Council Chamber)  
Head of Assets (Council Chamber)  
Head of Finance (Council Chamber)  
Portfolio Manager (Council Chamber)  
Member Services Officers (BS and EW)  
IT Officer**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, extended a welcome to all present to the first meeting of the Development Committee of 2023 and wished everyone a Happy New Year. The Chairman advised that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business.

At this point in proceedings, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting advise the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

The Chairman outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies (00:02:30)

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor R T Beckett and J Gallen.

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, joined the meeting remotely at 6.05 pm.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:02:57)

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

3. Report by Head of Economic Development (00:03:14)

3.1 New Tourism Strategy Proposals (00:03:24)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, joined the meeting remotely at 6.08 pm.

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Council's Tourism Strategy which was being revised and updated to reflect the Council's vision for tourism for the next five year period.

The summary document of the current Tourism Strategy and also the wider Tourism Strategy document had been provided to the Committee via relevant links in the report circulated.

The Head of Economic Development discussed the recommendation to commission technical assistance in order to refresh and validate the evidence base for the drafting of the new Tourism Strategy.

The Head of Economic Development and the Director of Service Transformation responded to questions from the Committee in connection with a number of issues arising from the report.

It was requested that a further report come before the Committee in regard to the outcome of the tourism strategy action plan and Economic Development initiatives.

Alderman S Martin joined the meeting remotely at 6.22 pm.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that technical assistance to assist Officers in developing a new 5 year Tourism Strategy (2023 – 2028) for the Council area be approved.

4. Report from the Head of Planning and Capital Development (00:23:00)

4.1 Proposed Amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) to introduce Validation Checklists for Planning Applications (00:23:11)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with a proposed amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 which had come forward following a review by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) of the Implementation of the Planning Act (NI) 2011. The review had recognised the importance of the introduction of a validation checklist and also a 'dispute mechanism' to be available to applicants.

A web link to DfI's public consultation on the above amendments to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) had been provided in the report circulated.

In response to a question from a Member the Head of Planning and Capital Development elaborated on the requirement for validation checklists for planning applications and also highlighted the main areas of focus for a validation checklist.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the amendment to the Planning (General Development Procedure) Order (NI) 2015 to introduce validation checklists for planning applications submitted to the Council, be approved, and
- b) the English based dispute resolution process associated with the proposed validation process be supported.

5. Any Other Business (00:30:57)

There was no other non-confidential business raised at this point in the meeting.

6. Confidential Report from Director of Service Transformation (00:31:00)

The Chairman advised that the Confidential report items were confidential due to containing information relating to:

- a) the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

6. Confidential Report from Director of Service Transformation (Cont'd)

- b) 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.

In Committee (00:31:05)

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the Confidential Report of the Director of Service Transformation be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings.

6.1 Service Transformation Estimates 2023/2024  
(Report not to be published)

Councillor H Legge left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.38 pm).

The Director of Service Transformation presented his report and highlighted one area which was presenting a budget reduction on the draft Estimates 2023/2024 since having been presented at the Meeting of the Committee in December 2022.

The Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Economic Development provided clarification on a number of queries on the Budget Estimates for 2023/2024 as presented and noted comments raised by a Member in connection with the Small Tourism Grants project.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the financial year 2023/2024 in respect of Service Transformation, which included a budget reduction as highlighted, be accepted and introduced into the overall draft Estimates due to be submitted to the Special Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee to be held on 25 January 2023.

The Head of Finance left the meeting at this point (6.54 pm).

6.2 Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme  
(Report to be published following initiation of delivery contract)

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the appointment of the delivery agent to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme, as outlined in the Director's report, be approved, it being noted that this award was the most economically advantageous tender received.

6.3 Business Growth and Entrepreneurship Support Programme Proposals  
(Report to be published at the end of the new tender period - September 2023)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the update on the proposed extension of the current NI Business Start-Up Programme be noted,
- b) the positive correspondence from the Department for the Economy regarding the achievement of the statutory jobs targets be noted,
- c) further budget of up to £10,000 from existing budget estimates to assist in determining the appropriate management and governance structures required for the new Northern Ireland wide service as outlined in the report, be approved,
- d) the recommendation that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council takes on the lead Council role be approved in principle,
- e) the funding application be submitted in the name of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council, as appropriate, and
- f) the Committee considers a detailed report at a future meeting of the Development Committee for a final decision, in terms of the risks associated with the lead Council role and how the risks can be managed and mitigated.

7. Any Other Confidential Business

7.1 City Watch CCTV Northern Ireland - Update

The Director of Service Transformation provided an update to the Committee in connection with a matter pertaining to City Watch CCTV. The Director undertook to bring forward further updates on the matter in question in due course.

7.2 Anahilt Rural Settlement Project

The Director of Service Transformation undertook to update the Member directly on the above rural settlement project.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, thanked everyone for their attendance and once again wished everyone Happy New Year.

There being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.33 pm.

---

Chairman