

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 3 January 2017 at 5:30 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor T Morrow
(Chairman)

Councillor A Givan
(Vice Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R B Bloomfield MBE

Deputy Mayor
Alderman S Martin

Aldermen M Henderson MBE, S P Porter, W
Leathem and J Tinsley

Councillors R T Beckett, V Kamble, H Legge, A
McIntyre, S Scott and N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Leisure & Community Services
Head of Service (Parks & Amenities)
Head of Service (Sports Services)
Head of Service (Cultural & Community
Services)
Museum Curator
Member Services Officer

Commencement of Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor T Morrow welcomed those present.

1. **Apologies**

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors N Anderson, J Gray MBE, and R Walker

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman invited Members to declare any Conflicts of Interest they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement to complete a Declaration of Interest form in this regard, which had been provided at the meeting. There were no declarations of interest at this stage in the meeting.

During the meeting, as Vice Chair of Peace IV Local Action Plan Partnership, Alderman S Martin declared an interest in item 4.6 – Peace IV Partnership Update.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure & Community Development Committee held on 6 December 2016, as adopted at the meeting of Council held on 20 December 2016, be confirmed and signed.

4. Report from the Director of Leisure & Community Services

It was proposed by Alderman Henderson, seconded by Councillor H Legge, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Director of Leisure & Community Services be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Decision

4.1 Department for Communities 2016-17: Letter of Variance – Frontline Advice Services

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence from the Voluntary & Community Division, Department for Communities, advising additional funding of £7,200 had been secured for the Council's Community Support Programme in 2016/2017. Members noted that the funding was being ring fenced for the delivery of front line advice services and that the funding had to be spent by 31 March 2017.

It was recommended to accept the additional funding from the Voluntary & Community Division, Department of Communities for the delivery of front line advice services, as set out in the Letter of Variance.

4.2 Dreamscheme NI: Request to Attend as a Delegation to Make a Presentation

Members noted the request from Dreamscheme NI to make a presentation to the Committee to outline their current and planned projects in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area.

It was recommended to agree to accede to the request from Dreamscheme NI to make a presentation to a future meeting of the Committee.

4.3 Volunteer Now: Volunteers Supporting Delivery of Public Service Conference – 8 February 2017: Crumlin Road Gaol

Members were provided with and noted correspondence from Volunteer Now with regard to the above.

4.3 Volunteer Now: Volunteers Supporting Delivery of Public Service Conference – 8 February 2017: Crumlin Road Gaol (cont'd)

It was recommended to agree that the Chairman and Vice Chairman (or their nominees) attend the Volunteer Now – Volunteers Supporting Delivery of Public Service Conference on 8 February 2017, at a cost of £86.70 per delegate.

4.4 Pride of Place Awards Scheme 2017

Members were reminded that the former Lisburn City Council had participated in the Pride of Place Awards Scheme for a number of years. However, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council had agreed not to participate in the event in 2015 or 2016 due to pressures of other priorities arising out of RPA. A request had been received from the organisers for the Council to consider participating in the scheme in 2017.

The Head of Service (Parks and Amenities) arrived at the meeting at 5.40 p.m.

The Director advised that the Pride of Place competition was organised by Cooperation Ireland. The aim of the competition was to acknowledge the work that communities were doing across the island of Ireland, with its focus on people coming together to shape, change and improve daily lives in their communities. The entry fee of approximately £500 per nomination was usually borne by the nominating authority and an element of officer time was also required to prepare and support nominations.

Alderman S Martin arrived at the meeting at 5.43 p.m.

While Members acknowledged how prestigious the event was, there were a number of issues they felt needed to be clarified before considering further the request for Council's participation.

The Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services) advised of a meeting being held later in the month organised by Cooperation Ireland in relation to the 2017 competition. He advised that he would arrange for the issues highlighted by Members to be raised at this meeting and report back to the Committee.

It was recommended to agree that consideration of the Council's participation in the Pride of Place Awards Scheme 2017 be deferred to the February meeting of the Committee. In the meantime, Officers identify one or two groups that could be considered as the Council's potential nominations to the Awards Scheme

4.5 Department for Communities: Welfare Reform Training Sessions

Members were provided with and noted correspondence from the Department for Communities advising of Welfare Reform Training Sessions for Elected Members.

It was recommended to agree that Member Services forward the details of the Welfare Reform Training Sessions to Members and seek expressions of interest in attending.

4.6 Peace IV Partnership Update

Members were provided with correspondence from the Special European Union Programmes Body in relation to elected representation on the Local Partnership, and following discussion it was agreed to note the correspondence.

4.7 Armed Forces Community Covenant

It was recommended to agree that consideration of the Armed Forces Community Covenant be deferred to enable the Director to table a report on the matter at the February meeting of the Committee.

Items for Noting

4.8 Former Derriaghy Primary School: Proposed Community Use

Members were reminded that at the Committee meeting on 6 September 2016 it had been agreed that Officers write to the Education Authority (EA) with regard to a proposal to allow a way forward for the development of community use of the former Derriaghy Primary School site. The Director advised that prior to Christmas he had met with a member of staff from the EA who had advised that a paper on the proposal was scheduled to be considered by the EA Board in the New Year.

Following discussion, Alderman S P Porter expressed the view that it may be beneficial for a meeting to be convened with the Chief Executive of the EA and that the Chairman and Councillors for the area also be in attendance.

It was recommended to agree that the Chairman, Director and Councillors for the area meet with the Education Authority with regard to proposed community use of the former Derriaghy Primary School.

4.9 Bonfires

The Director advised that arising from issues raised at the Together Building a United Community (T:BUC) Engagement Forum in June and ongoing discussions at the T:BUC Community Tensions Sub Group,

4.9 Bonfires (cont'd)

the Community Relations Council (CRC) had identified bonfires as an area for exploration within the 2016/17 financial year. To support this examination Solace had secured the cooperation of Belfast City Council to co-facilitate an advisory group, in partnership with CRC to oversee the project. The Flags, Identity and Cultural Traditions Commission had confirmed that the scoping exercise would be helpful in relation to its ongoing engagement and had agreed to participate in the advisory group.

The Director took Members through the detail on how the findings from the project would support the various key agencies/organisations. He advised that he had been invited to participate in the advisory group.

Discussion ensued with regard to the need for early engagement with community leaders involved in a number of critical local bonfire locations.

Members noted that community organisations applying to the Community Festivals fund required to be formally constituted to be considered.

Following discussion, it was agreed to recommend that Officers, Chair and Vice Chair meet with other relevant agencies, and along with local Councillors, try to improve outcomes for 2017.

4.10 Dennis H Osborne (1919-2016) Artist: Display in Appreciation

Members were provided with and noted a copy of an obituary published in the Irish Times on 1 August 2016 regarding the Portsmouth born artist, Dennis H Osborne, who had been the Head of the Art Department in Lisnagarvey High School for a number of years.

The Director advised that, in appreciation, a collection of Dennis H Osborne's work would be put on display in the Museum along with a biographical notice about his life.

Alderman W Leathem welcomed the Council's recognition of the work of Mr Dennis H Osborne.

4.11 Northern Ireland Museums Council Grant for Audio Visual Recording Equipment

Members noted that in a second round of small grants, the Northern Ireland Museums Councils had offered the Museum £1,200 or 65% of costs (whichever was the lesser), subject to the usual agreed conditions of grant aid. The grant would be used to make pod casts of talks, tours, events to be made available on the Museum's website.

4.12 Playful Museums Project Funded by the Northern Ireland Museums Council

Members noted that this pilot programme, aimed at children under five years of age, had been awarded grant aid of £4,000 for the purchase of equipment to enhance engagement with the children. The grant aid would also be used to provide a programme of activities in the Museum during February 2017 entitled 'Playful Museums Festival'.

4.13 Departmental Budget Report

Members were provided with and noted the Departmental Budget Report for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 March 2017, setting out the position as at 30 October 2016.

4.14 Report by the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities)

It was proposed by Alderman W Leathem, seconded by Alderman M Henderson, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities) be adopted, subject to the decisions recorded below.

Item for Decision

4.14.1 Facility Charges 2017-2018

Members were provided with a copy of the proposed facility charges which reflected the continuing previously agreed process of harmonisation of prices between the two former Councils.

It was recommended to approve the facility charges for 2017-2018, as outlined in the report from the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities).

Item for Noting

4.14.2 Department for Infrastructure: Correspondence Regarding the Transfer of Responsibilities – Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Public Roads: Special Events

Members were provided with and noted a copy of correspondence from the Department for Infrastructure advising that the transfer of responsibilities would not now take place on 1 January 2017. Further correspondence was expected from the Department with a revised date and Members would be updated accordingly.

4.15 Report from the Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services)

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Alderman M Henderson, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services) be adopted, subject to the decisions recorded below:

Items for Noting

4.15.1 Arts Grant Scheme Funding Awards

The Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services) advised that submissions for the most recent rounds of the Council's Arts Grant Schemes closed on 30 September 2016, with a requested value of £29,981. The applications had been assessed against the relevant scoring criteria by a panel of Council Officers.

Members were advised that, in line with the Council's Scheme of Delegation, the Director of Leisure & Community Services had accepted the recommendations in respect of the Arts Organisations and individual Artists eligible for awards as outlined in the Officer's report, amounting to a total of £21,475.

Members noted the deadline for submissions with regard to the next round of Arts Grants Scheme, Annual Arts Bursary Schemes and Annual Young Artist of the Year.

Alderman W Leathem raised a query with regard to one of the criteria for arts funding, namely, the requirement for an artist to have been born in the Council area or who currently resided in the area. He wished this to be changed to require artists to live in the Council area.

The Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services) advised that the criteria was currently being reviewed and it would be tabled for Members' consideration at a future meeting of the Committee.

In response to a query from Councillor R T Beckett, the Head of Service (Cultural & Community Services) confirmed that scoring of submissions was carried out by Officers.

The Director advised Members that a report on the re-establishment of the Arts Advisory Group would be tabled at a future meeting of the Committee.

4.15.2 Community Festival Fund Award

Members were advised that, in accordance with the Council's Community Funding Appeals Procedure for the Community Festivals Fund Award 2016/2017, the Director of Leisure & Community Services had upheld an appeal by Community Circus, Lisburn. An appeals panel scored their application 69/100, resulting in an offer of a maximum award of £3,220 on 14 December 2016. The total expenditure for the Community Festivals Fund 2016/2017 amounted to £66,790.08.

4.16 Report from the Head of Service (Sports Services)

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor N Trimble, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Service (Sports Services) be adopted, subject to the decisions recorded below:

Items for Decision

4.16.1 Review of Charges 2017/2018 – Sports Services

Members were provided with a copy of the proposed changes to the existing scale of charges for Sports Services, together with a brief synopsis for the reasoning behind the changes. Members noted that the proposed changes had been factored into the income figures for the 2017/2018 estimates.

It was recommended to approve the changes to the 2017-2018 scale of charges within Sports Services.

4.16.2 Automatic Teller Machine Services at Dundonald International Ice Bowl

Members were provided with a report outlining the financial and logistical merits for retaining the existing ATM at Dundonald International Ice Bowl.

The Head of Service (Sports Services) asked Members to consider extending the existing contract with First Trust Bank for a period up to 31 March 2019. He asked Members to note that a Single Tender Action procurement process would be completed.

Alderman W Leathem raised the potential for the provision of Automatic Teller Machine Services at other Council facilities.

It was recommended to agree that

- (i) The existing contract for the provision of an ATM at Dundonald International Ice Bowl with First Trust Bank be extended to 31 March 2019.
- (ii) The Head of Service (Sports Services) investigate the potential for the provision of Automatic Teller Machine Services at other Council Leisure facilities.

4.16.3 Entrance Colonnade – Lagan Valley LeisurePlex

The Head of Service (Sports Services) reminded Members that the Committee had been granted delegated authority by Council to consider a report on critical health and safety works to be carried out on the entrance colonnade at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex.

Members were provided with and noted a report by the Capital Projects Officer outlining the issues to be addressed and two potential options.

The report also highlighted additional works proposed to address a
 4.16.3 Entrance Colonnade – Lagan Valley
 LeisurePlex (cont'd)

drainage problem at the entrance and repairs to the front retaining wall, which if carried out at the same time, would minimise disruption to customers.

It was recommended to approve the works to be carried out on the entrance colonnade at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, as outlined in Option 2 of the Officer's report. The works to include the demolition and removal of the existing Colonnade and replacement of existing lighting and additional works required at the entrance. Given the potential Health & Safety issues and operational implications, the work to be initiated at the earliest opportunity.

4.16.4 2016 Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards – Waterfront Hall:
 6 February 2017

The Head of Service (Sports Services) outlined details of the above Awards.

It was recommended to agree that the Council take a table at the 2016 Belfast Telegraph Sports Awards in the Waterfront Hall on 6 February 2017 at a cost of £70 plus VAT per person.

Item for Noting

4.16.5 Jamie Scott – Dundonald Ice Hockey Player Selected for Great
 Britain Men's University Team

It was noted that Members had received correspondence on behalf of Jamie Scott, a local resident who had been selected to the Great Britain's Men's Ice Hockey Team to participate in the University World Games in Kazakhstan in January 2017. While the letter was initially seeking funding from Sport Lisburn & Castlereagh, he had since obtained funding from elsewhere. However, discussions were ongoing with Sports Development staff in relation to funding from Sport Lisburn & Castlereagh, and promotional activities had been arranged involving Mr Scott, Dundonald International Ice Bowl and the Chair of the Leisure & Community Development Committee.

5. Confidential Report by the Director of Leisure & Community Services

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Director of Leisure & Community Services be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

The Chairman, Councillor T Morrow, advised that the matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" for reasons relating to (i) the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and (ii) information which

was likely to reveal the identity of an individual

It was proposed by Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor N Trimble, and agreed that the following matters be considered “In Committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

“In Committee”

Items for Consideration

5.1 Draft Departmental Financial Estimates 2017/2018

Members were provided with a report setting out the Draft Departmental Financial Estimates for the Leisure & Community Services Department for the period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018.

The Director took Members through the detail of the draft estimates. The Director and Heads of Service then clarified a number of points raised by Members and took note of comments made.

During the Director’s presentation of the draft estimates, Councillor S Scott left the meeting at 6.38 p.m. and returned at 6.44 p.m. Councillor A McIntyre left the meeting at 6.40 p.m. and returned at 6.43 p.m.

Discussion ensued with regard to the estimates for salaries and wages, with a number of Members requesting a detailed breakdown of the staff employed across the Leisure & Community Services Department as casual workers, agency staff, temporary staff and full/part time staff, together with the estimates provided for each category.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman thanked the Director and Heads of Service for their work in producing the draft estimates.

It was agreed to note the Estimates Report 2017/2018 for the Leisure & Community Services Department and that the breakdown of estimates pertaining to salaries and wages, be provided to the Members who had requested it. It was further agreed the Director and Heads of Service continue to review the Draft Estimates in conjunction the Director of Corporate Services, with a view to achieving the overall figures discussed at the Special Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on 12 December 2016.

5.2 Review of Leases and Licences – Soccer Pitches

Following approaches by local football clubs to the Council seeking extensions to leases to accommodate future funding applications to Sport NI, Members had requested that a review of existing leases/licences be carried out.

5.2 Review of Leases and Licences – Soccer Pitches (cont'd)

Alderman Tinsley left the meeting at 7.12 p.m.

The Head of Service (Parks & Amenities) took Members through the report and highlighted a number of key issues.

Prior to implementing the recommendations Members asked Officers to meet with the various football clubs to ascertain if they would have any fundamental issues with the proposed new arrangements.

In response to a query from Alderman S Martin, the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities) advised that it was planned to standardise the content of pitch Leases through one solicitor and address any historic or title issues at that time.

It was agreed to recommend that consideration of the review of Leases and Licences regarding soccer pitches be deferred in order for Officers to meet with the various football clubs and report back to the next meeting of the Committee.

5.3 Award of Tender for entrance Works to the Billy Neill Soccer Centre of Excellence

Members were reminded that executive powers had been granted to the Leisure & Community Development Committee at its January meeting to award the tender in respect of the above works.

The Head of Service (Parks & Amenities) circulated a tender report on the six submissions and asked Members to note the recommendation in respect of the award.

It was agreed to approve the tender award in respect of entrance works to the Billy Neill Soccer Centre of Excellence, as outlined in the report from the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities).

5.4 Dundonald International Ice Bowl Development

Members were reminded that arising out of the last Away Day it was agreed to progress fact finding visits to assist in consideration of potential funding models that may be used in relation to the above project. Members noted the detail in the Officer's report with regard to a visit to Dumfries & Galloway in this regard.

It was recommended to agree that the Chairman and Vice Chairman (or their nominees) participate in a fact finding visit to Dumfries & Galloway, as outlined in the Director's report.

Items for Noting

5.5 Relocation of Sports Development Staff from Lagan Valley Island to Lagan Valley LeisurePlex

Members noted arrangements being put in place regarding the relocation of Sports Development staff from Lagan Valley Island to Lagan Valley LeisurePlex, effective from 6 March 2017.

5.6 Departmental Absenteeism Report

Members were provided with and noted the absence figures for the period 1 April 2016 – 31 March 2017 to 1 September 2016 – 30 November 2017.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman M Henderson, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

6. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no further business the meeting ended at 7.25 p.m.

Mayor/Chairman