

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL on Wednesday 6 January 2021 at 7.15 pm****PRESENT IN
THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman W J Dillon MBE (Chairman)

Councillor U Mackin (Vice Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor,
Councillor the Hon N TrimbleAldermen J Baird and A Grehan
Councillors A Givan and C McCready**PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION:**Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer
Aldermen D Drysdale and A G Ewart MBE, Councillors S Carson,
J Gallen, M Guy, D Honeyford, H Legge, G McCleave and T Mitchell**OTHER MEMBERS
PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION:**

Alderman S Martin and Councillors John Palmer and A Swan

IN ATTENDANCE:Chief Executive (Remote Location)
Director of Service Transformation (Council Chamber)
Head of Economic Development (Remote Location)
Head of Planning and Capital Development (Remote Location)
Head of Assets (Remote Location)
Member Services/PCSP Manager (Council Chamber)
Member Services Officer (Council Chamber)**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, extended a welcome to all present to the January meeting of the Committee and advised that the meeting was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

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

The Chairman stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chairman also reminded everyone to ensure mobile phones were turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting. He proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

The Chairman 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 recorded.

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 that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard, which had been provided at the meeting.

There were no declarations of interest from the Committee.

3. Report of the Director of Service Transformation

3.1 Quarterly Reports on Performance

The Committee had been furnished with Performance Improvement KPIs for the 1st and 2nd quarter for 2020 (1 April – 30 June 2020 and 1 July to 30 September 2020 inclusive) which had been taken from the 'Performance Manager' System (Dashboard) detailing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each service within the directorate.

Councillor A Givan enquired in relation to results contained within the Planning and Capital Development KPI report; namely in relation to the average number of weeks for the processing of major planning applications. Councillor Givan having acknowledged that the reason for this result was due to a legacy application stated that he was disappointed in this result in view of the current economic climate. Councillor Givan was hopeful that the Council was engaging with investors and developers seeking to bring forward planning applications for the Lisburn and Castlereagh area which would provide employment and help get the economy moving again. Councillor Givan stated also that his comments should not be considered as criticism of the staff in the Planning Unit and that his point was in relation to working with developers and improving the economy.

In response to Councillor A Givan's concerns the Director of Service Transformation reassured members this was the approach being taken by officers and elaborated on other issues outside the Council's control that impacted these figures. The Director also assured the Member that the Planning Committee and Planning Officers were all aware of these issues and that a number of processes and reviews were being progressed to further address some of these issues, where possible. The Director also undertook to convey Councillor Givan's concerns to the Chairman of the Planning Committee.

3.1 Quarterly Reports on Performance (Cont'd)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development also addressed the Committee in regard to the issues raised during which he discussed the impact of how the consultation process for one or two particularly complex planning applications impacted on the statutory indicators. He stated that a small number of such applications inflates the quarterly figures and that it was important to look behind each application to see the reason why some applications take longer than others. The Head of Planning and Capital Development stated also that the target in relation to the number of weeks to process major applications had in fact improved year on year which was a result of making proper planning decisions on a timely basis and which subsequently resulted in investment across the Council area.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, enquired in regard to the absence figures in the Performance Reports which he felt were increasing. The Director of Service Transformation responded to The Right Worshipful the Mayor with the reasons for the current absence figures within his Directorate.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, referred to legacy planning applications for councils following the transfer of planning powers to local councils and enquired if there were any legacy cases on the books currently. The Director of Service Transformation advised that a legacy planning application for a development on the Saintfield Road had been referred back to the Council. Subsequently this had been corrected as this application remains with the Planning Appeals Commission

Comments were noted from Alderman D Drysdale in regard to occasions when the Planning Committee had requested further information on certain major applications and the importance of the Planning Committee carrying out proper due diligence which he stated was necessary in order to make sure the right decision was made.

It was agreed to recommend that the summary reports on the KPI indicators for the first and second quarter of 2020 for the Service Transformation Directorate be approved.

4. Report of the Head of Economic Development

4.1 NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP) – Covid Recovery Business Start-Up Grant Scheme

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background to the Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme which was funded by the EU European Regional Development Fund and Invest NI, as well as each Council contributing significantly. The Programme was led by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council on behalf of an eleven-Council collaborative partnership in the delivery of the business start-up programme for Northern Ireland, the 'Go For It' Programme (GFI).

The Head of Economic Development advised the Committee that the current Programme was forecast to finish at the end of March 2021 and that since 1 April 2019 until

4.1 NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP) – Covid Recovery Business Start-Up Grant Scheme (Cont'd)

31 October 2020 the Programme had assisted in the delivery of 84 completed and approved business plans and the creation of 52 new jobs in the local economy.

In response to the Covid pandemic, the Programme and most of the delivery partners had been quick to respond and alter their operations with those delivery partners that had continued to operate, such as switching to virtual and online mentoring and advice. The Contractor had secured additional resources to support continued operations and coverage for those organisations with staff on furlough.

It was also noted that national marketing efforts had been realigned to fit with the current climate and messages had changed to capture those considering self-employment as a new option.

The Head of Economic Development stated that it was important that the start-up “eco system” continued to function during this time of economic crisis and advised that in order to ensure maximum uptake within the Council area before the end of the current programme (March 2021), and to contribute to the achievement of the Council’s annual statutory job target, it was proposed that the Council offers on a temporary basis a small start-up grant to those entrepreneurs completing the Go For It Programme. It was envisaged that participants could apply for a cash grant of up to £1,000, to provide financial help towards the establishment of the new business, such as the marketing of products, capital costs, rent, set-up costs, or cost of renovating premises.

Furthermore, new entrepreneurs would have to apply for the grant upon satisfactory completion and approval of their new business plan and it was anticipated that the Council would work closely with the two Local Enterprise Agencies (Inspire and Lisburn Enterprise Organisation) in establishing the eligibility criteria, and the roll out of the grants package. It was anticipated that this process would be facilitated by the business advisors completing their business plan. If agreed, the scheme would open, once approved, run on a rolling basis, and close on 31 March 2021. Funding would be allocated on a first come first served basis and it was estimated that the budget would be in the region of £20,000, and sourced from the existing NIBSUP programme budget.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the establishment of a Covid Recovery Start-Up Grant Scheme as outlined above, up to a maximum budget spend of £20,000, be approved.

4.2 LCCC Tourism Events funding

Further to the decision of the Committee in October 2018 that a new protocol be established for third party event organisers to apply for Council funding towards major tourism events, the Committee had agreed subsequently in September 2019 a number of small changes to the Tourism Major Events application process including establishing a minimum threshold of 2,500 visitors and 100 bed nights.

4.2 LCCC Tourism Events funding (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that there are normally two levels of support from council for third party tourism supported events, with different criteria for each; namely, a) Tourism Small Grants (up to £1000 financial support) and b) Tourism Major Events (£1,000-£10,000 financial support).

Also, it had been agreed, before the pandemic, that the grant fund for 2020-21 Tourism Small Grants would have a total budget of £10,000 (typically supporting 10-12 number of small events), and that the 2020 Tourism Major Events grant fund would have a total budget of £50,000 (typically supporting 7-8 large scale events).

In this regard and subject to potential easements in public health restrictions in 2021-22, the Head of Economic Development reported that Officers were aware that third parties were beginning to plan the delivery of events and intended to approach the Council for support. The proposed economic development draft budget estimates for 2021-22 therefore included similar budgetary provision for the larger scheme but excluded the small grants scheme to the current financial year.

The Head of Economic Development reported that a number of requests had been received by third party event organisers enquiring what the Council's plans were for event support in 2021-22 and Officers were now seeking approval to start promoting and processing applications for the financial support packages for tourism events in 2021-22. It was noted that the outcome from the scoring/assessment process would be brought before a future Development Committee for Members' information, with a recommended amount of Council funding highlighted as per the agreed protocol. It was also noted that the application process would be updated to include a risk based approach in relation to Covid.

It was noted that any support for third party organised tourism events would need to be consistent with public health regulations, with the funding contract updated by the Council's solicitor to reflect this condition, including the need to further protect the Council in the circumstances of the event being cancelled.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from Councillor A Givan who enquired in relation to the flexibility within the proposed tourism events budget should any additional third party organiser wish to run a smaller-scale tourism event. The Head of Economic Development advised that there was currently limited flexibility for additional funding. He also pointed out that whilst funding for additional tourism event(s) was not included in the budget estimates 2021/2022 the Committee could accede to consider any additional request that may come forward.

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

- (a) the application process for third party tourism events be updated to include a Covid focused risk based approach,

4.2 LCCC Tourism Events funding (Cont'd)

- (b) the Council's solicitor be requested to update the contract of funding to explicitly take account of Covid risks as appropriate,
- (c) the Tourism Major Events Funding programme be advertised immediately with third party event organisers requested to submit applications before Friday 12 February 2021, and
- (d) Officers process the applications and present the results to the March 2021 Development Committee in line with the agreed protocol.

4.3 Business Solutions Online Business Summit

The Head of Economic Development reported that as part of the work of the Business Solutions team in the Economic Development Unit, the Council had hosted a range of free business support events providing information and advice to entrepreneurs across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

The report from the Head of Economic Development detailed the range of online activities that had been delivered from May 2020, together with details of the key flagship speakers, all of which had been aimed at supporting businesses during these unprecedented times.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Business Solutions Team was planning to organise a large business summit/master class style event in February/March 2021. The aim of the event was to motivate, inform and support businesses in a relevant topic over the coming months whilst providing essential transferrable knowledge. Themes being considered included: Digital, Pivoting, Leadership or Trade/Exporting.

It was noted that this event would be designed to engage all local businesses from new start-ups to existing SMEs as well as large scale businesses from across the Lisburn Castlereagh area in an online conference format. It would serve to continue the Council's high profile engagement with the local business sector.

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and agreed to recommend that a delivery agent be procured to support with the securing of keynote speakers and event management in respect of the planned business summit/master class style event, with a budget established for this event of up to £4,500.

4.4 Belfast - Dublin Eastern Economic Corridor – Members' Nominations

Alderman S Martin joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.47 pm).

At the outset the Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, had requested at the meeting of Council in December 2020 that this matter be brought back to the Committee for further consideration.

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key objectives of the Belfast-Dublin Eastern Economic Corridor Partnership which had been formed in 2018 by the Chief Executives from the eight Councils across the Belfast–Dublin Corridor to explore the development of a regional proposition for economic growth.

It was noted that as part of the proposed governance arrangements, the Partnership proposed to establish an oversight committee of Elected Members which would provide advice and opportunities to discuss strategic issues in a political context. This Group also would include political representation from each of the eight Council areas and would provide input and direction to achieve the ambitions of the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor.

The Head of Economic Development advised that an indicative budget had been established to cover a share of the cost of the website, and some economic modelling, estimated to be in the region of £15,500, which would be met from within the existing economic development budgets in 2020-21 and budget estimates for 2021-22.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee plus one other Member from the remaining largest party on the Council be nominated to sit on the oversight committee of the Belfast-Dublin Eastern Economic Corridor.

A discussion ensued during which it was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, that to ensure continuity on the oversight committee a representative be appointed from each of the three largest political parties on the Council; namely one Member from the DUP, one Member from the UUP and one Member from the Alliance Party, or their nominees, for the duration of the Council term.

In line with the Council's Standing Orders which stipulates that only one proposal may be discussed at a time Alderman A Grehan withdrew her proposal.

The proposal by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer and seconded by Councillor H Legge, was put to the meeting and agreed; namely that to ensure continuity on the oversight committee a representative be nominated by each of the three largest political parties on Council; namely one Member from the DUP, one Member from the UUP and one Member from the Alliance Party, or their nominees, for the duration of the Council term.

4.5 NI Business Start-Up Programme (NIBSUP) – New Programme Delivery

The report by the Head of Economic Development outlined the background to the eleven-Council collaborative partnership in the delivery of the business start-up programme for Northern Ireland, the 'Go for It' Programme (GFI). The programme was funded by the EU European Regional Development Fund (ERDF), Invest NI and each Council of which Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council leads on behalf of all the participating councils. This programme provided a significant contribution to the achievement of each Council's annual statutory jobs target.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the current Programme was forecast to finish at the end of March 2021 and that the Development Committee in April 2018, had agreed as part of a suite of ERDF programmes (Mentor Growth, Digi-Growth, Bid to Win) that a new application for additional funding would be submitted to Invest NI to extend the GFI initiative to March 2023. This would serve to continue delivery of this important programme, while at the same time maximising ERDF drawdown and therefore ensuring value for money for each Council.

The Head of Economic Development also advised that it had been necessary to submit the application in advance of the end of the current Programme to allow time for Invest NI to assess, award a Letter of Offer to the Council, and to allow the Council to procure an appropriate delivery contract, thus avoiding any disruption in service provision. The Collaboration Agreement had been circulated and subsequently signed by all 11 Councils, which has allowed Invest NI to release the Letter of Offer. The Letter of Offer had been received by the Council and signed as Lead Council and Invest NI had now instructed CPD to work with the Council to procure the services to deliver the agreed outputs.

The Head of Economic Development reported that in order to ensure a smooth transition between the current programme and the new programme, the outcome of the procurement exercise must be agreed week commencing 22 February 2021.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that as the associated procurement exercise would not be completed in time for February's Development Committee meeting that the Committee seeks delegated authority from the Council to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee, in conjunction with the Director of Service Transformation, to agree the outcome of the procurement exercise by accepting the most economically advantageous tender, with a retrospective report to be brought to the Committee thereon.

5. Confidential Report by the Director of Service Transformation

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, advised that the items contained in the Confidential Report were required to be considered "in Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information).

5. Confidential Report by the Director of Service Transformation (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed that the Confidential Business be considered “in Committee” in the absence of press or members of the public.

At this juncture the livestream was stopped for the purpose of consideration of the confidential business.

“In Committee”

It was agreed that the Confidential reports and recommendations contained therein be adopted subject to any decisions recorded below.

5.1 Service Transformation Directorate Budget Estimates 2021/2022

A copy of the draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure for Service Transformation Department for the forthcoming financial year 2021/2022 had been circulated to the Committee.

The Director elaborated on the draft estimates 2021/2022 which he stated reflected the reduced markets and opportunities due to the ongoing pandemic, following which he, along with the Head of Economic Development and the Head of Planning and Capital Development, responded to questions from the Committee and provided clarification in regard to a number of issues arising from the Draft Estimates.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and Alderman J Baird expressed thanks and appreciation to the Chairman of the Committee, the Director and his team for their efforts in preparing the draft Budget Estimates for 2021/2022.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble left the meeting (8.22 pm) and returned again (8.28 pm) during the above discussion.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the financial year 2021/2022 in respect of Service Transformation, as presented, 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 27 January 2021.

It was noted that during discussion the Head of Planning & Capital Development undertook to bring an update report to Committee in connection with the judicial review of a planning matter.

5.2 (AT1) - Tender for Building Maintenance and Minor Works

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the annual tender report for building maintenance and minor works.

5.2 (AT1) - Tender for Building Maintenance and Minor Works (Cont'd)

The Director of Service Transformation responded to a question from Councillor D Honeyford in relation to the above tender report.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the tender award for building maintenance and minor works, as outlined in the report circulated, be approved, it being noted that the most economically advantageous combination would be used as appropriate where necessary.

5.3 Labour Market Partnership – Update and proposed Delegated Authority

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the Council had agreed in September 2020 that a local Labour Market Partnership be established in line with emerging guidance from the Department for Communities.

A copy of correspondence from the Department for Communities had been circulated to the Committee which outlined the Department's wish for all eleven councils to agree to establishing similar initiatives based on a collaborative approach.

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed a number of key issues in relation to the Council's Labour Market Partnership and in particular the drafting of an Interim Labour Market Action Plan for 2021/2022.

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

- a) in view of the deadline for submission of the Interim Action Plan being 5th February 2021 and in order to meet this challenging timeline, the Committee seeks delegated authority from the Council to the February meeting of the Development Committee to agree the Interim Action Plan prior to submission, and
- b) all Members of Council be invited to attend the February meeting of the Development Committee in order to agree the Interim Labour Market Action Plan prior to submission.

5.4 New Tourism NI proposals for a Tourism Website

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in relation to Tourism NI's approach in relation to the integration of all Council tourism websites into one "Destination e-Tourism Solution" under the Discover Northern Ireland brand.

Full details of the Destination e-Tourism Solution had been appended to the Officer's report.

The Committee also had been furnished with the Deed of Indemnity that set out the financial assistance on offer, the terms and conditions for strategic partners, and the process for website rollout.

5.4 New Tourism NI proposals for a Tourism Website (Cont'd)

It was proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the offer from Tourism NI to be part of this new Tourism Website initiative be accepted,
- b) the Deed of Indemnity with Tourism NI be signed, and
- c) in order to start providing the content for the new dedicated tourism website after two years an evaluation be furnished to Council for ongoing consideration of extending the contract.

5.5 Refurbishment of Hilden War Memorial

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Transformation in relation to the proposed refurbishment and associated estimated costs of Hilden War Memorial.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that:

- (a) the refurbishment works to the Hilden War Memorial to commemorate the centenary of its unavailing on 29 October 1921, as outlined in the report circulated, be approved,
- (b) a budget of £50,000 be ring fenced from the Transformation Directorate underspend to the Repairs and Renewal budget provision, and
- (c) a grant application be made to the War Memorials Trust for funding.

5.6 Hillsborough Castle & Heritage Village Outline Business Case – Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD)

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Transformation in relation to the Hillsborough Castle & Heritage Village Outline Business Case which had been included in the Belfast Region City Deal Document and was due to be submitted to the UK Government and NI Departments for formal consideration and review with final approval expected in March 2021.

The Director's report outlined a number of key issues in relation to the above project, including:

- the level of BRCD investment
- match funding by the Council under the Council's Capital Programme budget,
- the list of projects that would comprise the Outline Business Case,
- estimated total costs of the Council led components and HRP led components
- the Council's requirement to undertake an outline business case 2 (OBC2), and a Full Business Case.

5.6 Hillsborough Castle & Heritage Village Outline Business Case – Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) (Cont'd)

The Director of Service Transformation commended the Portfolio Manager and her team for their efforts in progressing the Hillsborough Castle and Heritage Village Centre BRCD project to this stage which had been challenging due to the complexities of the BRCD governance processes.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, left the meeting at this point (8.43 pm).

Councillor A Givan and Alderman J Baird welcomed the Director's report on this major project and congratulated the Director, the Portfolio Manager and her team for their efforts in progressing the project to this stage.

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

- a) in lieu of the Deal Document being agreed in March 2021 work be undertaken to draft tender documentation in readiness to procure an Integrated Design Team to further work up the project to Outline Business Case 2 and Full Business Case stage with particular emphasis on the development of the car park option proposals, and
- b) Officers engage with the Chief Executive of HRP to agree actions to mitigate concerns regarding the future operation and governance of the HRP elements of the proposal, and to further agree an HRP match funding strategy for the proposal.

The Director responded to a question from Councillor John Palmer in relation to the above project and the need for the introduction of weight restrictions for HGVs in Hillsborough Village.

Other Confidential Business

5.7 Staff Working Overtime at Lisburn Light Display 2020 Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A G Ewart having put on record his thanks to the staff who had been on duty during the Lisburn Light Display which had taken place during very challenging circumstances this year, made a proposal in this regard. Alderman Ewart's proposal was seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin.

Following comments from the Chief Executive in relation to the Council's Scheme of Delegation it was agreed that the proposal by Alderman A G Ewart be left with the Director of Service Transformation to progress as appropriate.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to come “out of Committee” and normal business was resumed.

The livestream was resumed at this point.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Revitalisation Grant Scheme Update Head of Economic Development

The Head of Economic Development provided the Committee with an update on the Revitalisation Grant Scheme which provided funding to small businesses and funded by the Department for Communities (DfC). It was noted that total funding available was £185,000 and that 252 grant applications had been received. To date 208 purchase orders raised and a total of £84,480 paid out to local businesses.

The Head of Economic Development reported further that 23 applications had been received for DfC’s Urban Investment Grant 14 of which were proposals for new businesses in vacant units in the Council area. The total value of the 23 grant applications totalled £387,000. The Head of Economic Development advised that the number of applications had been higher than expected and that his team was currently working through these applications with a view to issuing Letters of Offer in the near future.

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, welcomed the update by the Head of Economic Development in particular the good news in regard to the 23 applications relating to new business in the Council area.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, also welcomed the good news in relation to the above-mentioned grant applications in particular the number of applications from new businesses in the Council area and congratulated the team in the Economic Development Unit for their efforts in progressing the above-mentioned grant Schemes. The Vice Chairman stressed the importance of this good news story being publicised appropriately.

6.2 Council’s Investment Plan Strategy Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin

The Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, reminded the Committee of the launch of the Council’s Investment Plan Strategy in 2019 and requested that the Committee be provided with an update on this Investment Plan Strategy.

Councillor Mackin also referred to a Regeneration Fund that the Committee had considered back 2016/2017 when the Committee had considered the establishment of such a fund to enable the Council to support businesses coming into the Council area.

6.2 Council's Investment Plan Strategy (Cont'd)
Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin

In response to the issues raised by Councillor U Mackin, the Director of Service Transformation undertook to bring a report to the Committee in relation to the Council's Investment Plan. The Director advised that with regard to the Capital Programme significant work had been presented to the Capital Projects Committee and to the associated workshops that had taken place.

The Director also advised that in relation to the Regeneration Fund initiative due to the change in the 'landscape' due to the pandemic and the subsequent reduction in income to the Council, this initiative had been set aside after year one. The Director undertook to bring the matter of re-establishing the Regeneration Fund to CMT for consideration and would update the Committee accordingly in due course.

The Director also stated that it was necessary to understand what funding would be coming forward from partner agencies and government departments. He indicated that he had already had had conversations with Officials from the Department for Communities and that he would endeavour to bring forward a report on overall funding opportunities for the Committee's consideration.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, having thanked Members for their attendance wished everyone a happy, peaceful and prosperous 2021.

There being no other business the meeting was terminated at 8.58 pm.

Chairman