

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL on Thursday, 6 January 2022 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN  
THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)

**PRESENT IN A  
REMOTE LOCATION:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin

Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell

Councillor H Legge, (Vice Chairperson)

Alderman A G Ewart MBE

Councillors S Carson, J Gallen, A Givan, M Guy, D Honeyford,  
U Mackin, G McCleave, C McCready, R McLernon,  
Jenny Palmer and A Swan**IN ATTENDANCE:**Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive (Remote Location)

Director of Service Transformation (Council Chamber)

Director of Finance &amp; Corporate Services (Remote Location)

Head of Economic Development (Remote Location)

Head of Planning &amp; Capital Development (Remote Location)

Portfolio Manager (Remote Location)

Head of Assets (Remote Location)

Member Services Officer (BS) (Council Chamber)

Member Services Officer (PS) (Council Chamber)

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan extended a welcome to all present to the January meeting of the Committee. The Chairperson advised that the meeting was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings and extended a welcome to those watching on the livestream. The Chairperson also wished everyone a Happy and peaceful New Year.

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

The Chairperson stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chairperson also reminded everyone to ensure mobile phones were turned off or on silent mode for the duration

## Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

of the meeting. As there were no Members attending the meeting in person in the Council Chamber the Chairperson referred to the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency but did not outline the procedures in full.

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

### 1. Apologies

It was agreed to record apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman D Drysdale.

### 2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairperson 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 declared at the meeting.

### 3. Report by the Head of Economic Development

#### 3.1 Westminster Investment Showcase 2022, and Lisburn and Castlereagh Business Awards 2022 – Postponement

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Economic Development outlining a proposal in relation to the postponement of two major economic development-led events until later in the 2022/23 year, namely; the Westminster Investment Showcase 2022 and the Lisburn & Castlereagh Business Awards 2022.

The Head of Economic Development elaborated on the reasons for the postponement of these two events which was mainly due to long term absences and vacancies within the Economic Development Unit's Business Solutions team. It was noted that the proposed postponement of the Westminster Investment Showcase event until June 2022 was pending the agreement of Sir Jeffrey Donaldson, MP.

The Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Economic Development responded to a number of questions from Members of the Committee in relation to the current vacancies in the Business Solution team, the Council's current efforts to recruit a significant number of vacancies across the Council and the re-allocation of the budget that had been approved in connection with these two events. The Director elaborated on the current budget position for the Service Transformation directorate. A number of Members were of the opinion that the two events in question were important and worthwhile events.

### 3.1 Westminster Investment Showcase 2022, and Lisburn and Castlereagh Business Awards 2022 – Postponement (Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that both the Westminster Investment Showcase 2022 event and the Lisburn & Castlereagh Business Awards 2022 event be postponed to later in 2022-23, subject to the 2022-23 economic development budget estimates debate and the availability of appropriate resources with the Economic Development Unit's Business Solutions team.

### 3.2 Fairtrade Road Signage

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with a proposal in relation to Fairtrade signage being erected across the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council area.

The Head of Economic Development reminded Members that Fairtrade City status was conferred by the UK Fairtrade Foundation and Fairtrade Ireland and that Fairtrade City status had been initially awarded to Lisburn Castlereagh in 2017 and renewed in 2020 for a period of two years.

The report circulated outlined a number of key issues in relation to

- the marketing and promotion of Fairtrade which was key to retaining Fairtrade City status
- the LCC Fairtrade Steering Committee having identified that one low cost way of promoting Fairtrade would be through the erection of permanent road signage in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City council area. It was noted that this was a format that other council areas had adopted to promote Fairtrade.
- the signage being erected below existing boundary "Welcome" signage on main arterial routes, to ensure greatest visibility and impact.

The Committee had been furnished with a design created by the Council's Corporate Communications team along with a location map which highlighted the location of 4 of the Fairtrade road signs.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions and comments from Councillor U Mackin who was of the opinion that in the region of 8 or 10 Fairtrade road signs would have greater impact.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed to recommend that up to 10 Fairtrade road signs be erected below Council boundary signs at the locations indicated in the report circulated as well as on other arterial roads, including a number of B class roads where appropriate, across the Lisburn and Castlereagh City area, subject to planning approval.

#### 4. Report of Head of Assets

##### 4.1 Consultation – The Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015

The Head of Assets reported receipt of a letter dated 26 November 2021 from the Department for Infrastructure inviting comments on the draft secondary legislation required to further commence and implement key elements of the management and maintenance regime for reservoir safety provided by the Reservoirs Act (NI) 2015. It was noted that the draft consultation document was available for a response and comment for a period of eight weeks to 23 January 2022.

The Head of Assets' report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the above-mentioned consultation on the Reservoirs Act (Northern Ireland) 2015, it being noted that the Council managed an existing reservoir at Duncan's Park, Stockdam Road, Lisburn, and would potentially be required to manage the Hillsborough Forest lake, which had reservoir designation.

The Head of Assets' report listed the proposals to be included in secondary legislation as well as information in relation to reservoir designation criteria.

The Committee had been provided with a website link in order that Members could view the consultation document and further detail on the draft Orders and regulations as well as the draft designation criteria. A copy of the consultation document had also been appended to the report circulated together with a copy of the management response on behalf of the Council.

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

- a) the consultation response, as circulated, be approved
- b) any further comments that Members of the Committee may wish to make on the consultation response be forwarded to the Head of Assets for inclusion in the draft response, where appropriate, and
- c) the impact that the implementation of any subordinate legislation might have on the management of the Councils reservoir/s be noted.

#### 5. Verbal Matters by the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

##### 5.1 Economic Development Activities - Update

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, updated the Committee in relation to the undernoted Economic Development activities:

- a) the extensive positive feedback on the Council's Christmas campaign and in particular the Christmas markets that had been operating across the Council area,
- b) the success of the Buy Local campaign, and

### 5.1 Economic Development Activities – Update (Cont'd)

- c) the relocation of the Lisburn Visitor Information Centre to the Irish Linen Centre/Lisburn Museum from January 2022.

## 6. Confidential Report by the Director of Service Transformation

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, advised of the reasons for confidentiality in respect of the items contained in the Director's Confidential Report as follows:

2022 World Rally Championships Presentation: Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information),

Service Transformation Directorate Budget Estimates 2022/2023: Confidential due to:  
a) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information), and b) 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.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor A Swan, 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"

#### 6.1 2022 World Rally Championships Presentation

The Committee had been furnished with a report and related documents in relation to the 2022 World Rally Championships.

The Director of Service Transformation advised the Committee that he had received notification earlier that day that the event director of the World Rally Championships, Mr Bobby Willis, was unable to make his presentation to the Committee that evening and that following a subsequent consultation with the Committee's Chairperson recommended that this agenda item be withdrawn.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, and agreed that agenda item 6.1 '2022 World Rally Championships Presentation,' be withdrawn.

## 6.2 Service Transformation Directorate Budget Estimates 2022/2023

A copy of a report by the Director of Service Transformation on the Service Transformation Directorate Budget Estimates 2022/2023 had been circulated to the Committee along with a number of related documents relating to the draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure.

The Director elaborated on the key issues relating to the draft estimates 2022/2023 as outlined in the report, including assumptions that had been built in to the budget estimates, a number of which were in connection with the on-going Covid-19 pandemic. The Director emphasised that important decisions would have to be made in relation to a number of initiatives across the directorate during the next financial year and also undertook to report back to the Committee on those areas that would affect the budget estimates.

The Chief Executive, the Director and the Head of Economic Development responded to questions from the Committee on a number of matters relating to the budget estimates and provided clarification thereon.

A number of Members of the Committee expressed thanks and appreciation to the Director for his comprehensive report on the draft budget estimates for 2022/2023 and commended the Chairperson of the Committee, the Director of Service Transformation and his team for their efforts in preparing the draft Budget Estimates for 2022/2023.

During the discussion a Member requested that wording be included in the Tourism draft estimates to state what activities were included within the 'Promotion of City' budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, and agreed to recommend that the draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the financial year 2022/2023 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 26 January 2022.

## 7. Any Other Confidential Business

### 7.1 Local Development Plan – Independent Examination

The Director of Service Transformation having advised the Committee in relation to the progression of the Independent Examination of the Council's Local Development Plan, extended thanks to the Head of Planning & Capital Development, the Principle Planning Officer and her team for their efforts to date in relation to the Local Development Plan.

### 7.2 Planning Applications in respect of Lands at Blaris

The Director of Service Transformation updated the Committee in relation to the two major planning applications in respect of lands at Blaris and responded to questions from the Committee thereon.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by the Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed. The livestream was re-commenced.

8. Any Other Business

There was no other business raised at the meeting.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Members for their attendance and there being no other business the meeting was terminated at 7.21 pm.

---

Chairperson