

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, 7 April 2022 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN
THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)

Councillor H Legge, (Vice Chairperson)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor,
Alderman S Martin

Aldermen D Drysdale and A G Ewart MBE

Councillors A Givan, C McCready, R McLernon and A Swan

**PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION:**

Councillors M Guy, G McCleave, R McLernon and Jenny Palmer

**IN ATTENDANCE
IN THE CHAMBER:**Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Service Transformation

Head of Economic Development

Head of Assets

Head of Planning & Capital Development

Portfolio Manager

Member Services Officer

Member Services/PCSP Administrative Assistant

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan extended a welcome to all present to the April 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.

At this point, Member Services/PCSP Administrative Assistant read out the names of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting.

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.

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 and proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor M Guy joined the meeting during the safety announcements (6.93 pm).

1. Apologies

It was agreed to record apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, and Councillor Carson, J Gallen and D Honeyford.

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.

Councillor C McCready declared an interest in item 4.2 Lagan Navigation Trust – Navigation House – Business Case Assessment Outcome and proposed way forward in view of his membership of the Board of Lagan Navigation Trust.

During the course of the meeting Alderman D Drysdale declared an interest in item 4.2 Lagan Navigation Trust – Navigation House – Business Case Assessment Outcome and proposed way forward in view of his former membership of the Board of Lagan Navigation Trust.

3. Report by the Head of Economic Development

3.1 On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Economic Development in relation to further progress of the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme.

The report circulated outlined the background and key issues in connection with the scheme, including the financial implications for the Council. The report detailed the criteria for identifying locations for the EV chargers as stipulated by OZEV through the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS).

A copy of the final draft EV Charger locations to be submitted to NIE had been appended to the report circulated.

The Head of Economic Development advised that due to time constraints associated with the submission of the application, Officers would update Members on progress on a DEA basis outside the Committee structure.

3.1 On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the update report on the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme, which would be subject to further consideration once the business case has been developed, be noted
- b) the updated proposed EV charger locations as set out in the appended document be agreed and that the locations be submitted to NIE for evaluation,
- c) the final list be submitted to Derry City and Strabane District Council for inclusion in the ORCS application, and
- d) the approach that Officers update Members on the progress of the scheme on a DEA basis, as outlined above, be approved.

At the request of a Member, the Head of Economic Development undertook to follow up on the request that Main Street, Glenavy be included in the list of locations for a residential EV charger.

The Director reminded Members that this was not a final investment decision and that a business plan would be brought back for Members' consideration.

3.2 Labour Market Partnership formation and planning - Update

The Head of Economic Development's report set out the background and key issues in relation to an update on the Labour Market Partnership initiative.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Action Plan had been submitted and re-submitted to the Department for Communities for staged assessments in October, November 2021, January 2022 and February 2022. Furthermore, the Department had now confirmed that the Action Plan submitted on 25th February 2022 had been approved by the Department's Contract Management Team for submission to the Regional Labour Market Partnership which was the oversight mechanism for LMPs across Northern Ireland. The Head of Economic Development advised further that the Action plan had been considered by the Regional LMP at a meeting on the 28th March 2022, a copy of which had been circulated to the Committee.

The Head of Economic Development advised that a letter of offer for the 2022-2023 year (or part thereof) was anticipated to follow in April 2022 for programme expenditure. It was also noted that the uncertainties around budget allocations in Stormont were once more creating uncertainties in the approach DfC would take in rolling out this initiative. The Committee had been circulated with a copy of a letter dated 29 March 2021 from DfC outlining these budget uncertainties.

It was proposed by Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that:

3.2 Labour Market Partnership formation and planning – Update (Cont'd)

- a) the final draft Action Plan, as circulated, be approved
- b) the procurement processes are initiated on the basis of the attached Action Plan in advance of receipt of the Letters of Offer, and according to the indicative funding allocations associated with each priority area, as set out in the report circulated, and
- c) no contracts be awarded until the Letters of Offer had been signed, processed and all necessary conditions fulfilled.

At this juncture the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, having referred to the forthcoming departure of the Council's Programme Manager from the Council's employment paid tribute to the work of the Programmes Manager on having progressed a number of significant rural development projects since her appointment. It was agreed to recommend that a letter of thanks and best wishes from the Committee be sent to the Programmes Manager for her future endeavors.

3.3 Urban Investment Grant – Third and Further Calls

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Urban Investment Grant's third and further calls, such grants having been made available through the Covid19 Revitalisation funding initiative with further support from the Council.

The Head of Economic elaborated on the success of the first two calls under this grant scheme in particular in relation to the hospitality and tourism sectors as well as the City Centre retail offering.

The Head of Economic Development advised that if a new scheme was to be released the guidelines issued could be tailored to prioritise businesses and sectors that are underrepresented currently in our urban centres. This would be done in the context of the Council's Investment Programme. It was suggested that further calls could be advertised on a rolling basis whenever sufficient demand from eligible third parties was confirmed. Included in any new scheme would be any recommendations emerging from the recently commission internal audit.

The Director of Service Transformation responded to questions from a Member in connection with a suggestion on how to attract successful traders to Lisburn City Centre and committed to bringing back a paper for consideration in the near future.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the success of the first and second call of the Urban Investment Fund be noted,
- b) further calls to establish demand on a rolling basis, subject to funding availability, be progressed, and

3.3 Urban Investment Grant – Third and Further Calls (Cont'd)

- c) any future Urban Investment schemes to attract businesses especially in priority sectors for our Urban Centres be developed.

3.4 Consultation on NI Executive's new investment strategy & Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland - Call for Evidence

3.4.1 Infrastructure 2050 – Draft Investment Strategy for NI

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in relation to the Northern Ireland Executive's public consultation seeking views on the new draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland (ISNI). The draft strategy set out priorities and objectives for investment in infrastructure projects such as new roads, schools, hospitals, social housing, and public transport. The report circulated highlighted the five themes identified under the draft Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland.

The consultation documents and associated consultation questions had been circulated to the Committee which had already been circulated via email on 25th of March providing Members with the opportunity to respond directly via the consultation portal.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Officers were currently drafting the Council response which would be circulated for consideration via email by 8th April 2022 with Members being provided with an opportunity to submit any comments for inclusion in the response by 15th April 2022. Also, due to the tight timeframe a final draft will be circulated to Members via email for further comment prior to submitting to the Executive.

3.4.2 Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland – Call For Evidence

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the Economy Minister had announced an Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland on 26th January. The Review would provide an independent assessment of the organisation's efficiency and effectiveness as well as its capacity to strategically align with, and operationally deliver, the 10X Economic Vision.

It was noted that a call for evidence had been issued on 1st March to seek evidence and opinion on the responsibilities and performance of Invest NI, in order that the needs and ambitions of the different parts of NI were fully reflected in the eventual conclusions. A web link to the summary of the Invest NI 10X Economic Vision (Department for the Economy) had been provided in the report circulated.

Details of the call for evidence had been circulated to Members via email for comment on Friday 25th March providing Members with the opportunity to respond directly via the consultation portal.

It was noted that the Council's draft response had been circulated to Members for comment prior to Committee and that any further comments from Members should be provided to the relevant Officers by 5pm on 11th April 2022.

3.4 Consultation on NI Executive's new investment strategy & Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland - Call for Evidence (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, and agreed to recommend that the course of action outlined in regard to the Draft Investment Strategy for NI (item 3.4.1) and the Independent Review of Invest Northern Ireland – Call For Evidence (item 3.4.2) be approved.

4. 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 outlined on the agenda for the meeting, namely:

- a) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person organisation (including the Council holding that information), and
- b) information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

It was proposed by the Councillor C McCready, 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 at 6.18 pm.

"In Committee"

4.1 Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Update (Report to be made available in December 2022)

The Portfolio Manager presented this item of business.

The Director of Service Transformation's update report outlined the background and key issues in relation to the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) initiatives. Details of the initiatives to be included in the BRCD were detailed in the report. A number of related appendices had been appended to the Director's Report.

The Director responded to questions and comments from the Committee in connection with issues arising from the report. The Director undertook to pursue further the issue raised in connection with appendix 1(b) paragraph 4 to ensure that the project could be advanced as far as reasonably practicable ahead of the funding agreement so as works contract could be awarded at the earliest opportunity.

4.1 Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Update (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that the Director's update report, including the related appended documents, be noted and that the recommendations as outlined be approved in order that the necessary actions be progressed.

It was noted that as the Committee had been minded that Member representation at the UK's Real Estate Investment and Infrastructure Forum was not required – the budget at recommendation number 3 would reduce by £2,000.

4.2 Lagan Navigation Trust – Navigation House & Business Case Assessment Outcome and Proposed Way Forward (Report to be redacted following April 2022 Council Meeting)

Councillor C McCready left the meeting prior to consideration of this item of business (6.42 pm).

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Transformation which outlined the background, key issues and financial implications in connection with:

- a) a Business Case Assessment Outcome for Navigation House, and
- b) Lagan Navigation Trust – final draft Business Plan and proposed way forward

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of both the above-mentioned documents.

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the Director's recommendations in connection with the Business Case Assessment Outcome for Navigation House and the final draft Business Plan for the Lagan Navigation Trust, as outlined in the report, be approved.

Councillor C McCready returned to the meeting at 6.44 pm.

Alderman A G Ewart left the meeting at 6.44 pm.

4.3 Lisburn Public Realm - Update (Report will not be redacted)

The Committee considered an update report by the Director of Service Transformation in relation to the Lisburn Public Realm matter.

It was proposed by the Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the Director's update on the Lisburn Public Realm be noted and that further reports be provided to the Committee as the ongoing matters progressed.

4.4 Citywatch (Formally Lisburn Commerce Against Crime) – Core Funding 2022-2023
(Report to be redacted in April 2023)

The Head of Economic Development presented this item of business.

Alderman A G Ewart returned to the meeting at 6.49 pm.

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Transformation outlining the background and key issues in connection with Citywatch Core Funding 2022-2023. A number of relevant documentation had been appended to the Directors report.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, left the meeting at 6.50 pm.

The Director and the Head of Economic Development responded to comments raised by a Member of the Committee, and noted the concerns raised.

Alderman D Drysdale left the meeting during the Director's contribution (6.53 pm).

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, and agreed to recommend that the Director's report, including the appended documentation, be noted and that the recommendations therein be approved.

4.5 Balmoral Show Shell Scheme; Marquees & Associated Equipment – Financial Appraisals
(Report to be redacted in April 2023)

The Director of Service Transformation's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the procurement of the necessary marquees and associate equipment on a cross-directorate basis on a three-year basis, including the Balmoral Show.

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that in order to secure best value for money the financial appraisals, as circulated, be approved in order that the projects could proceed to procurement, the appraisals having been agreed by the Council's Finance team.

4.6 Covid Revitalisation Scheme Parklets – Financial Appraisal
(Report to be redacted in April 2023)

The Director of Service Transformation's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the financial appraisal for the Covid Revitalisation Parklets Scheme.

4.6 Covid Revitalisation Scheme Parklets – Financial Appraisal (Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to recommend that the financial appraisal, as circulated, be approved, in order that the procurement and delivery of the Covid Revitalisation Parklets Scheme be progressed.

4.7 Lisburn Light Festival & Christmas Programme Evaluation (Report to be redacted in April 2025)

The Committee considered a report, and appended documents, outlining the background and key issues in connection with the Lisburn Light Festival and the 2021 Christmas Programme Evaluation.

The Director responded to questions from the Committee in connection with the 2022 Light Festival and undertook to take on board the comments raised by Members.

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, and agreed to recommend that the Director's recommendations as set out in the report be approved. In addition, the Director undertook to bring further reports on the proposed distribution of the additional pole mounts across the Council area to the Committee in due course.

Alderman D Drysdale returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.06 pm).

4.8 Tourism Major Events Programme Options / Down Rally request / Tourism Small Grants (Report to be redacted in April 2023)

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Transformation in connection with options for the Council's Major Events programme and the Council's Tourism Small Grants initiative. The report also detailed a request from the organisers of the Down Rally to stage the Down Rally at Lagan Valley Island.

The Director and the Head of Economic Development elaborated on a number of key issues and responded to questions from the Committee in connection with some of the issues raised.

Councillor G McCleave left the meeting at 7.27 pm.

4.8 Tourism Major Events Programme Options / Down Rally request / Tourism Small Grants (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that the recommendations of the Director, as outlined in the report, be approved.

It was noted that further reports on the subject of funding for major tourism events would come to the Committee as and when any budget became available.

4.9 Collaborative Procurement Process for Energy Supplies (Electricity and Gas) (Report to be available after the negotiated tender process)

The Head of Assets presented this item of business.

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Transformation in connection with the background and key issues in relation to a collaborative procurement process for energy supplies (electricity and gas).

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

- a) the course of action, as outlined in the report, to deal with the unstable market conditions be approved, and
- b) delegated authority be granted to the Chairperson of the Development Committee and Director of Service Transformation to approve any interim award should time be of the essence.

4.10 Legal advice in respect of Applications for Mixed Use Development and a New Road called-in for Lands at Blaris (Report will not be redacted)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development presented this item of business.

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Service Transformation, and associated documents, in relation to the legal advice in respect of applications for mixed use development and a new road at lands at Blaris.

It was proposed by Councillor C McCreedy, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the Director's report be noted, including the appended correspondence and legal advice, and that the Committee agrees with the recommendation as outlined in the report.

5. Any Other Confidential Business

5.1 Guidance Issue on Purdah

Further to concerns raised by some Members of the Committee in relation to NILGA's guidance on the rules of Purdah, the Director of Service Transformation agreed to follow up with the Chief Executive on the issue raised.

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, requested that the Committee writes to the Electoral Office for Northern Ireland seeking clarification on the rules of Purdah and also put on record that the Chief Executive's response should be issued to all Members in order that the same questions and concerns are not raised again in the future and that Members know exactly where they stand in relation to Purdah.

5.2 Update on Planning Advice Note (PAN) on Implementation of Strategic Planning Policy for Development in the Countryside

Alderman A G Ewart and Councillor U Mackin left the meeting during this item of business (7.44 pm) as did Councillor Jenny Palmer (7.50 pm).

At the request from a Member the Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Planning and Capital Development provided an update in relation to the ongoing matters concerning the operation of the Unit as a consequence of the Judicial Review proceedings arising as a consequence of the publication of the PAN.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed. The livestream was re-commenced at 8.02 pm.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Verbal Updates by the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

6.1.1 Relocation of Lisburn Visitor Information Centre

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, reported that the Lisburn Visitor Information Centre had relocated to the Irish Linen Centre/Lisburn Museum.

6.1.2 Business Solutions Entrepreneurs Network - Breakfast Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, commended the Officers in Economic Development for their efforts in progressing the recent Business Solutions Entrepreneurs Network Breakfast meeting which had taken place on Wednesday, 30th March 2022 in the Island Hall, Lagan Valley Island and which had been well attended.

6.1.2 Business Solutions Entrepreneurs Network - Breakfast Meeting (Cont'd)

The Chairperson also advised of two other Entrepreneurs Networking sessions planned for May, invitations to which would be sent from the Chief Executive to all Members of Council. The Chairperson encouraged Members to attend these worthwhile networking sessions.

6.2 Independent Examination of the Draft Plan Strategy – Update

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, having congratulated the Head of Planning and Capital Development and the LDP team on progressing the Council's draft Plan Strategy to the stage of the independent examination requested that he update the Committee on the progress of the independent examination.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development advised the Committee that during the independent examination process the PAC had asked over 200 questions on the draft Plan Strategy and proceeded to provide an overview of the various topics examined. He stated that he was pleased with the manner in which the examination had been conducted by the Commission and how full and robust considerations of the issues will lead to the adoption of a sound Plan Strategy for the Council area. The next part of the examination would take place during 16-27 May 2022 when five further topics would be examined. Once the examination was completed the Department for Infrastructure would commission a report on the outcome of the examination. This process would take four weeks.

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, thanked the Head of Planning and Capital Development for his detailed update and also for his efforts during this process.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Members for their attendance and there being no other business the meeting was terminated at 8.08 pm.

Chairperson