

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 7 October 2020 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 Hon N Trimble

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, A Grehan and D Drysdale

Councillors A Givan, D Honeyford, H Legge, G McCleave,
C McCready and T Mitchell

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer
Councillors S Carson, J Gallen and M Guy

OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman J Tinsley, Councillors S Lee, John Palmer and A Swan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service Transformation (Remote Location)
Head of Economic Development (Remote Location)
Head of Planning and Capital Development (Remote Location)
Head of Assets (Remote Location)
Portfolio Manager (Council Chamber)
Regeneration and Infrastructure Manager (Remote Location)
Member Services Officers (Council Chamber)

Tughans Solicitors

Patrick Brown (Remote Location)

Commencement of Meeting

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

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

At this point, the Member Services Officer 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.

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.

During the course of the meeting Alderman D Drysdale declared an interest in respect of item 4.3 Covid-19 Revitalisation Scheme: Small Business Grants Programme – Update in view of him being chairman of Inspire Business Park. Inspire Business Park was named in the report as a tenant had submitted a request for funding to this grants programme. A declaration of interest form was completed in this regard.

3. Verbal Matter by Director of Service Transformation

At this juncture the Director of Service Transformation advised the Committee that there was an increased number of Officers in attendance at the meeting remotely due to family members self-isolating currently. The Director extended thanks to the Portfolio Manager who was the senior officer in attendance tonight in the Council Chamber.

The Director having referred to the preparatory work that the Council's Emergency Management Team (EMT) were putting in place should further Covid-19 restrictions come into effect at a local level stated that it was important that the Council learns the lessons from the first wave of Covid-19, and create the opportunity to respond should it be required. The Director emphasised that if further restrictions came forward the Council would be required to respond quickly and accordingly any recommendations in relation to events that were approved that evening would be subject to there being no further restrictions coming forward. The Director also put on record that the above-mentioned

3. Verbal Matter by Director of Service Transformation (Cont'd)

preparatory work slowed down the traditional workloads and that what was presented tonight required to be taken in the context of the wider review of the Council's capital programme and other programmes of work.

4. Report of the Head of Economic Development

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Economic Development be agreed subject to any decisions recorded below.

4.1 Lisburn Light Festival Update

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee of its decision in relation to the Council's Light Festival at the previous meeting of the Committee, namely;

- Lisburn Light Festival with installations be delivered in Lisburn City Centre to the same scope and scale as last year but some elements be revised to ensure safety of visitors
- a light installation be delivered in Dundonald
- small scale events and markets with a single family focus be planned
- eliminate where possible opportunities for contact transmission of COVID-19

The Head of Economic Development outlined a number of proposals in relation to the Lisburn Light Festival which would run from 1 December 2020 – 10 January 2021. The key issues outlined in the report included: Lisburn City Centre installations, festival events and animation, marketing of the festival and also installations in Dundonald.

It was noted that Officers had applied for £100K funding from the Department for Communities towards the Lisburn Light Festival and that it was expected the outcome of the application would be advised in mid-October 2020.

The Head of Economic Development and the Regeneration and Infrastructure Manager responded to questions from the Committee in relation to future plans to extend the Light Festival to the Carryduff area, and the location of the new Haslem Hotel in Lisburn Square which was in proximity to the Light Festival tunnel feature.

Councillor H Legge put on record her thanks to the Head of Economic Development and his team for their efforts in ensuring that the Light Festival was extended to Dundonald this year.

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that the proposed plan for the Lisburn Light Festival and Dundonald installations, as outlined, be approved.

4.2 Food & Drink Year 2 Campaign – Possible Additional Events

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee of its decision in September 2020 to support Year 2 of the Council's Food and Drink initiative up to a maximum budget of £30,000. The original proposal for Autumn – Winter 2020 had focussed on a Halloween Farmers Market and Christmas Market at Hillsborough village, as well as features and stories, on-line blogs, recording and reporting on all activity across the Council area. Subsequently Members had queried if additional events could be staged at appropriate locations in Carryduff/Newtownbreda and Dundonald.

The Economic Development Manager reported that subject to Members' consideration of establishing additional budgetary provision within the existing Economic Development budget estimates, it would be possible to extend the year two contract to offer localised events that could potentially be delivered within the current Covid 19 post-code restrictions.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the agreed Food and Drink Year 2 Activity Autumn-Winter proposal, together with a copy of the additional proposal for the two new localised events, one at Carryduff and one at Dundonald. The additional events would require a further £16,500 investment from the Council to include all running costs, venue hire, management of health and safety measures, publicity, and evaluations. Details were also noted in regard to potential dates to stage the two additional events, the staging of which would be subject to public health guidance.

Councillor J Gallen conveyed thanks to the Officers for having included Carryduff in the year 2 Food and Drink Campaign. He also expressed thanks and appreciate to the Chief Executive of Carryduff Regeneration forum for working with the Council to deliver the Food and Drink Campaign in the Carryduff area.

It was proposed by Councillor J Gallen, seconded by Councillor D Honeyford, and agreed to recommend that the Year 2 Food and Drink budget be increased by £16,500 to cover the staging of two additional events (subject to public health guidance) in the Autumn-Winter 2020 as outlined to create a total budget of £46,500 for the Food & Drink Year 2 Campaign.

4.3 Covid-19 Revitalisation Scheme: Small Business Grants Programme – Update

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that in August 2020 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, in conjunction with the Department for Communities (DfC) and the Department for Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) had launched the Revitalisation Small Business Grants Programme in response to the challenges faced by businesses as a consequence of COVID-19. This funding had been designed to aid the recovery of businesses in the eligible area by helping them comply with public health guidelines.

It was noted that grant funding levels had been agreed as follows; £500 (all business types), £1,000 (Hospitality Businesses) or £2,000 (Licenced premises).

4.3 Covid-19 Revitalisation Scheme: Small Business Grants Programme – Update (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development outlined a number of key issues in relation to the Covid-19 Revitalisation Scheme Small Business Grants Programme including a list of eligible areas of the scheme. It was noted that tranche 1 of the scheme had a total of 167 applications, 27 of which had been ineligible. Of the 27 applications from businesses just outside the eligible areas, fundable applications amounting to a total of £18,000 had been received from the following areas:

- Lisburn: Longstone street, Sloan Street, Moira Road, Lambeg, Ballinderry Road, Glenavy Road, Belfast Road, Ballymacoss, Hilden, Young Street, Hillhall Road
- Carryduff/ Newtownbreda: Saintfield Road, Newtown Park, Ballynahinch Road, Temple
- Dundonald: Inspire Business Park, Ballyreagan Road, Lisleen Road

The Head of Economic Development reported that there was ample budget to extend eligibility to the above-mentioned areas to cover the £18,000 and that the requests appeared legitimate claim items. In this regard it had been agreed at Party Group Leaders that a further tranche be released, subject to agreement by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee. The second call would include a widening of the boundaries to include those areas highlighted above, which were considered to be close in geography to the tranche 1 boundaries and to also include the original eligible area for those businesses that have indicated that they would be keen to submit an application but missed the first call.

It was noted that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee had subsequently agreed to open a second call which would close on Friday 16 October 2020. A copy of the Guidance Document had been furnished to the Committee which included an updated map of the new eligible area.

A number of Members welcomed the update on the Covid-19 Revitalisation scheme and expressed their support to the proposal for a second call. The Director highlighted to Members and it was welcomed that the Council would be taking a proportionate approach to the applied due diligence. Consequently funding would be conditioned to encourage recipients to make appropriate applications for regulatory compliance.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the update on the Covid-19 Revitalisation Small Business Grants Scheme be noted and that the second tranche opportunities as outlined in the report be promoted to the Council's network of contacts and constituent businesses.

4.4 DFI Funding Update: Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that in August 2020 the Department for Communities (DfC) had confirmed support for Phase 1 of the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme. This first phase had seen the delivery of the Small Business Grants Programme to deliver small financial grants to businesses to mitigate the impact of Covid-19. (A separate report on this grant programme was presented at item 4.3 above.)

The Head of Economic Development also reminded the Committee that it had also been agreed by Council in September 2020 that an Action Plan, outlining proposed activities for Phase 2 of the overall scheme, would be developed by the Covid-19 Recovery Stakeholder Steering Group and with approval from the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committee be submitted to DfC for consideration.

The Head of Economic Development reported that in early September DfC officials had contacted Council officers to advise that there may be further funding made available from the Department for Infrastructure which would be additional support for further activity. The indicative allocation for the LCCC area was £379K of funding from DfI.

A number of the initiatives proposed for the Phase 2 element of the Action Plan had been detailed in the report circulated. It was noted that the guidance stipulated that eligible projects must support active travel, promote connectivity and access to services, and/or create and enhance green/blue spaces. A copy of the Action Plan outlining appropriate DfI supported projects had been circulated to the Committee.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Action Plan had been supported by the Covid-19 Recovery Stakeholder Steering Group and approved by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of Committee to enable it to be submitted as a final draft proposal bid to the Departments.

The Head of Economic Development reported that it was expected that the outcome of the application process would be advised in mid-October 2020 with the detail of each project being developed after that stage, with individual reports presented as required to future Committee meetings to consider issues as the projects developed.

Comments were noted from Councillor D Honeyford in connection with the need for a greenway project to be developed between Maghaberry Village and Moira, and also Glenavy and Aghalee. Councillor Honeyford requested that such a project be considered for inclusion the Council's application to the Department's Strategy Plan for Greenways.

Comments from Councillor J Gallen were also noted in relation to the benefit of extending the Belfast Bike Scheme to Forestside.

In response the Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, stated that, if appropriate, reports on the issues raised by Councillor D Honeyford and Councillor J Gallen would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

4.4 DFI Funding Update: Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme (Cont'd)

Comments were noted from Alderman A G Ewart in regard to the unsightly weeds in and around Lisburn City Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor G McCleave, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the proposed projects as outlined in the Action Plan be agreed, and
- b) should the bid to the Departments be successful, the progression of project planning, procurement and delivery of the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme be approved.

4.5 Awakening the Gateways Project – Funding Opportunity

The Head of Economic Development reported that following on from the successful delivery of the Lisburn Linkages Public Realm Scheme, the Department for Communities had advised that the Council had an opportunity to bid for funding to support a new capital Revitalisation project within the same area as the public realm scheme. A notional amount of funding of £200,000 had been allocated to be spent across the next two financial years (2020/21 and 2021/22), subject to a successful application and evidence of support by the Council and relevant stakeholders.

It was noted that the Council's Regeneration team had worked with local stakeholders and Departmental officials to develop a proposed project called 'Awakening the Gateways' which aimed to improve the sense of arrival and welcome for visitors to Lisburn. The goal was to enhance permeability through creative place making and promote wayfinding / navigation through the city centre. A number of other key issues in relation to this project were detailed in the report circulated.

It was noted that the strategic context for this project sat within the Lisburn City Centre Masterplan.

A copy of an overview of some examples of installations in other areas and cities had been circulated to the Committee.

It was noted that the proposals included work to the entry points to the City as listed in the report over the two-year project with phase 1 (2020/2021) having installations erected at Lisburn Train Station and the Bus Station and phase 2 (2021/2022) undertaking improvements to the remaining gateways to the City.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Lisburn City Centre Masterplan had identified a number of City Centre projects that could be brought forward to improve the landscape of the City Centre. Both the Lisburn Lightscape Project and City Centre Gateways Project could be delivered through the 'Awakening the Gateways' project. The proposed project would also enhance and compliment a number of the projects due to be brought forward from the plan in the coming years most significantly the Smithfield Square

4.5 Awakening the Gateways Project – Funding Opportunity (Cont'd)

project. Furthermore the proposed project would also offer additional opportunities to consolidate the success to date of the Lisburn Light Festival.

It was noted that there would be a period of consultation to support the design of the installations, signage etc. that would be delivered as part of the project so further input into this element by Members would be possible.

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the 'Awakening the Gateways' project, as outlined, be submitted as a funding application to the Department for Communities and should the bid be successful any subsequent offer of grant funding be accepted.

4.6 Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme – DfI Consultation

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that a Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme had been running successfully for over 10 years with the Council working with DfI (Roads) as per the Policy and Procedure Guide RSPPG_E004 for Privately Funded Planting of Roundabouts, Road Verges and DfI Car Parks. A copy of this Policy and Procedure Guide had been furnished to the Committee.

It was noted that the policy ensured that the Council acquired a license for designated roundabouts in the area, namely gateways and access points. The Council in turn promoted/advertised the roundabouts available for sponsorship, giving local businesses an opportunity to sponsor 3-4 plaques with short message and company logo on a given roundabout of choice across the Council area. DfI (Roads) issued a license to the Council per roundabout, and in turn the Council had a MoU for each roundabout, an example of which had been circulated to the Committee.

The Head of Economic Development reported that recently, DfI (Roads) had been asked to review their own Policy and Procedures, and therefore was conducting a consultation on the sponsorship arrangements for roundabouts. Copies of correspondence in this regard had been appended to the report circulated. The Head of Economic Development advised the Committee that the Council's Tourism Officers, who managed the sponsorship process each year, believed that the current policy on sponsorship of gateway roundabouts was working well and had suggested that no changes be made to the current policy.

The Head of Economic Development outlined in his report a number of key questions that the above-mentioned consultation focused on for the Committee's consideration, namely;

- a) "Should the consent process for sponsored planting schemes, including for any associated acknowledgement signage, be via a planning application? The Department notes that a number of Councils have already determined that Planning applications were required, and have applied for such."

4.6 Roundabout Sponsorship Scheme – DfI Consultation (Cont'd)

Suggested consultation response: The Council has Planning Permission in place for all 17 roundabouts currently sponsored. We would agree that all sponsored planting schemes should be via a Planning application.

- b) In order to maximise and best manage the potential for enhanced planting and maintenance at key roundabouts and other agreed locations, would Councils wish to assume overall responsibility for managing sponsorship schemes for privately funded planting schemes at all approved locations within their Council boundaries?

Suggested consultation response: The Council currently seeks DfI (Roads) approval for all signage before it is erected. This partnership approach works well and confirms shared responsibility. As the roundabout is the property of DfI (Roads) and not the Council a shared approach is more appropriate.

It was noted that although responses had been requested before the end of June 2020, DfI (Roads) had confirmed that Councils could still submit responses which would feed into the Department's review of the above-mentioned Policy and Procedure Guide.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the responses to DfI's consultation on the sponsorship arrangements for roundabouts, as outlined above, be approved and submitted to DfI (Roads).

4.7 DAERA Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme Rural Business Development Grant Scheme – Update and need for a Special Meeting

The Head of Economic Development reported that the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme 2020 had now commenced. This scheme was funded under the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI). A pilot version of this scheme had been delivered successfully earlier this year by the Programmes team which had enabled 8 local firms to avail of financial support.

It was noted that this TRPSI scheme would provide micro businesses from the Lisburn Castlereagh area with a capital grant capped at £4,999 at a match-funding rate of 50% from DAERA and 50% from participating businesses. Micro businesses were those with less than 10 full time employees including furloughed employees. In order to be eligible businesses must also demonstrate they are an existing non-agricultural business based in a rural area.

The Head of Economic Development advised that this was a competitive process and all grant offers would be awarded on the basis of merit, it being noted that the programme was delivered by the Council under contract to DAERA, and the award of each grant must be agreed by the Council. It was also noted that there was no role for the LAG (Local Action Group) in the delivery of this programme.

4.7 DAERA Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme Rural Business Development Grant Scheme – Update and need for a Special Meeting (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development advised that given the Covid-19 pandemic, a particular focus of the programme this year would be to support businesses to recover, sustain or grow through DAERA's TRPSI Programme.

A number of key issues in relation to the TRPSI Programme were detailed in the report circulated.

It was also noted that it was anticipated that the application process and subsequent award panel recommendations would be completed by early October and that it was proposed that the Development Committee convene a special meeting on Wednesday, 21 October, 2020 in order to ratify the assessment panel recommendations ahead of the October Council Meeting.

It was agreed to recommend that:

- a) the report on the TRPSI Programme and timescales for delivery be noted. and
- b) a Special Meeting of the Development Committee be convened on Wednesday 21 October 2020 in order that the assessment panel recommendations can be considered prior to the Meeting of Council to be held on 27 October 2020.

4.8 West Lisburn Development Framework – Review Update

The Head of Economic Development advised the Committee that the original West Lisburn Development Framework (WLDF) had been commissioned by the former Lisburn City Council in advance of the transfer of the Planning powers to Councils, and therefore in advance of the work programme associated with the Local Development Plan (LDP). The original exercise, completed in 2015, had sought to create a non-statutory strategic framework to assist in realising the Council's economic ambitions for the long term development of lands at West Lisburn by feeding into the early stages of the new LDP process. West Lisburn had been defined as Blaris, the Maze Long Kesh, Down Royal, Sprucefield and Knockmore/Lissue.

The Head of Economic Development reported that the framework had provided strategic context for the Knockmore M1 Link Road Project, and had provided an important opportunity for the Council to renew its thinking around the strategic need for the Road.

The report circulated detailed a number of key issues in relation to the revised West Lisburn Development Framework which had been completed in February 2018, based on an updated socio-economic analysis of 2017 data. It was noted that the revised document also needed to reflect the Council's emerging thinking for the Local Development Plan (Preferred Options Paper).

4.8 West Lisburn Development Framework – Review Update (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development advised that the WLDF now required to be transformed into a Masterplan in the LDP and associated Infrastructure Plan. In planning terms, such a Concept Masterplan would be at the next stage of the plan making process (the local policies plan) function as Supplementary Planning Guidance in the LDP. The Masterplan would therefore effectively replace the 2018 revised framework document when complete.

It was noted that the WLDF document had now been completed to final draft stage. As the LDP process gained momentum, the draft WLDF went through a number of further iterations and refinements with input from the LDP team. The document was now more flexible than the original 2015 framework and aligned with the updated economic baseline. A copy of the final draft document had been furnished to the Committee.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the next necessary step in this project would be to publish this draft document on the Council's website. He also informed the Committee that the general principle of mixed use development and the construction of a road linking West Lisburn to the strategic road network and rail halt were protected and that further community consultation was not required at this stage.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development responded to a concern raised by Councillor D Honeyford in connection with the land zoned for mixed-use development as outlined in the final draft document.

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

- a) the West Lisburn Development Framework Review Update be noted, and
- b) the updated draft West Lisburn Development Framework document be published on the Council's website.

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 the following reasons:

5.1 Lisburn Public Realm Scheme – Phase I Equality Assessment (Kerb Heights)

Confidential 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)
- 5.2 Draft Counter Representations Report: Summary of Counter Representations to Draft Plan Strategy and Proposed LDP Workshop Confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information).
- 5.3 Leave for Judicial Review against the Planning Appeals Commission Confidential due to containing information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- 5.4 eSERC Entrepreneurship & Innovation Centre – DfE Vires Compliance Confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information).
- 5.5 Leasing of Land at the Former Car Park at Union Bridge Lisburn Confidential due to containing information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- 5.6 Lisburn Chamber of Commerce – Request for match-funding Confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information).

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, 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 Lisburn Public Realm Scheme – Phase I Equality Assessment (Kerb Heights)

Mr Patrick Brown, Tughans Solicitors, Belfast, joined the meeting remotely, having been invited to the meeting in order to respond to questions from the Committee in regard to the above matter.

At the outset the Director of Service Transformation advised the Committee that in their consideration of this item of business Members were obliged to give consideration to all the material facts as presented before concluding on the most appropriate course of action.

The Director proceeded to outline the background and key issues in relation to the Lisburn Public Realm Scheme (Phase 1) which had been subject to a Judicial Review in 2016/17

5.1 Lisburn Public Realm Scheme – Phase I Equality Assessment (Kerb Heights) (Cont'd)

in connection with the kerb heights across parts of the City Centre area where the improvements had been carried out.

The following documents had been appended to the Director's report:

- a) the EQIA document, which included the access audit recommendations
- b) report on information on the site visit in November 2019
- a) cost estimates for remedial works regarding the kerbs

A discussion ensued during which the Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Economic Development responded to questions from the Committee and other Members present at the meeting. Mr P Brown, Tughans, also responded to questions from the Committee.

It was noted that during its deliberations on this matter the Committee had considered the undernoted information:

- detail of the EQIA including the access audit recommendations and consultation responses;
- additional cost estimates associated with the remedial action proposed in the access audit;
- longstanding challenges that the high street are having and the potential impacts on the city centre;
- lack of expressed issues on the kerb height by the client, Dfl, through the defects liability process
- no recorded evidence of incidents since practical completion

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed without dissent to recommend that, on balance and having given consideration to all the evidence, no further works be executed to the kerbs within the Lisburn Public Realm Scheme.

5.2 Draft Counter Representations Report: Summary of Counter Representations to Draft Plan Strategy and Proposed LDP Workshop

(Note: At the meeting of Council held on 27 October 2020 it was agreed that this item of business be referred back to Committee for further consideration)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development outlined the background and key issues in relation to the formal consultation process of the Council's draft Plan Strategy and in particular in relation to the interruption to the period for submission of counter-representations as a result of the Covid-19 emergency. It was noted that the closing date for submission of counter representations to the draft Plan Strategy had been 5pm on Tuesday, 1 September 2020.

5.2 Draft Counter Representations Report: Summary of Counter Representations to Draft Plan Strategy and Proposed LDP Workshop (Cont'd)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development advised that the Council had now prepared a draft report summarising the counter representations submitted within the required consultation period. A copy of a summary report on the main issues raised in the counter representations had been furnished to the Committee, it being noted that a copy of a report on the counter representations had been made available for inspection at the Council offices. This report had also been made available to view on the Council's website.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development also detailed in his report arrangements for an LDP workshop for Members on Thursday, 15 October 2020 at 4pm to highlight the main issues raised through the representation and counter representation process. It was noted that the workshop would focus on the 'minor changes' to the draft Plan Strategy following from the consultation period and the next steps regarding the submission of documents.

It was noted also that subject to legal advice on the proposed 'minor changes' and receipt of further supporting evidence the LDP team intended to submit documents to the Department in December 2020, in accordance with the published timetable.

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

- a) an LDP Workshop for all the Members of the Council, as outlined above, takes place on Thursday 15 October 2020 at 4.00 pm either in the Council Chamber (with appropriate provision for remote access via zoom); or remotely via Zoom,
- b) subject to the feedback from the above-mentioned workshop, all supporting documents for electronic submission to the Department for Infrastructure be finalised and collated (including an entire hard copy suite of documents)
- c) consultation bodies be notified of the submission of the Council's draft Plan Strategy and anyone who had submitted a representation or counter representation be notified also and
- d) the Belfast Gazette and Belfast Telegraph be given notice before the end of December 2020.

It was noted that once submitted, all the evidence in the form of a notice and submission documents would be placed on the Council's website.

5.3 Leave for Judicial Review against the Planning Appeals Commission

The Head of Planning and Capital Development having reminded the Committee of its decision in March 2020 to lodge Judicial Review proceedings against the Planning Appeals Commission (PAC) proceeded to outline a number of key issues in relation to this matter.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the pre-action protocol letter issued to the PAC which outlined the reasons why the proceeding was necessary and also a copy of the Senior Counsel advice note.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the advice of Senior Counsel be approved and that Officers instruct the legal advisors to accept the concession by the PAC.

5.4 eSERC Entrepreneurship & Innovation Centre – DfE Vires Compliance

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, returned to the meeting at 8.43 pm.

Councillor G McCleave left the meeting at 8.43 pm.

The Portfolio Manager outlined the background and key issues in relation to the above matter, it being noted that the eSERC Entrepreneurship & Innovation Centre proposal was one of the projects within the Belfast Region City Deal (BRDC) investment initiative. The Portfolio Manager's report also outlined a recommendation regarding a joint approach to address this issue.

On a proposal by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman A Grehan, it was agreed to recommend that in the first instance and as a matter of urgency:

- a) the Council writes to the Minister for the Economy, Diane Dodds MLA, requesting that she receives a delegation from the Council to consider this matter, and
- b) the delegation comprises of the Council's BRCD panel members together with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee and an appropriate Officer, namely; the Chairman of the Committee, Alderman W J Dillon, the Vice Chairman of the Committee, Councillor U Mackin, and BCRD Panel Members: Alderman A G Ewart, Alderman A Grehan and Alderman M Henderson

5.5 Leasing of Land at the Former Car Park at Union Bridge Lisburn

Further to the decision of the Committee held on 6 March 2019 to lease the car park area at Union Bridge, Bridge Street, Lisburn to the Clear Group the Head of Assets outlined a number of issues in relation to the lease agreement. A copy of a draft licence a draft lease had been furnished to the Committee.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the Licence Agreement be signed and that the

5.5 Leasing of Land at the Former Car Park at Union Bridge Lisburn (Cont'd)

Lease be signed and sealed by the Council for the lands at Union Bridge car park between the Council and Clearly Kids Limited.

Additional Confidential Report

5.6 Lisburn Chamber of Commerce – Request for Match-Funding

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a letter to the Chief Executive from the President of Lisburn Chamber of Commerce, received on 5 October 2020 in connection with the above match-funding request.

The Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the above-mentioned match-funding request.

A discussion ensued on a number of issues relating to the above request.

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

- a) a decision on the Lisburn Chamber of Commerce's request for match funding be deferred,
- b) a meeting be arranged with the Chamber of Commerce to be attended by the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee in order to consider this matter further, and
- c) a report on this matter be brought to the Special Meeting of the Committee on 21st October 2020 for a decision thereon.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was agreed on a proposal by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor D Honeyford, to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Proposed Development of Greenway from Aghalee to Craigavon Alderman A Grehan

Following the request by Councillor D Honeyford earlier in the meeting that the Council includes the above Greenway project in its submission to the Department for Infrastructure, it was agreed that Councillor Honeyford contacts Officers in the Economic Development Unit in order to discuss this matter further.

6.2 Defects to Public Realm
Councillor S Carson

Councillor S Carson referred to a number of defects at Market Square in regard to the public realm and requested that Officers progress work to rectify.

6.3 Link Road - Pond Park Road and Thaxton Village
Councillor S Carson

Councillor S Carson referred to the ongoing road access issues at the Thaxton Village and Pond Park Road areas. Of particular concern was that access to these areas necessitated traffic driving through a private development. Councillor Carson requested an update on this matter.

6.4 Temporary Closure of Hillsborough Forest Park Play Park
Director of Service Transformation

The Director of Service Transformation having drew the Committee's attention to the scheduled closure of Hillsborough Forest Play Park for eight weeks for the construction of the new toilet block advised that following discussion with the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee it had been agreed that the date would be put back to 21 October for eight weeks, subject to contract.

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, advised that as the last two weeks in October were the last two weeks of British summer time and also being around schools' half term break, it would be preferable that the eight week closure commenced on 1 November 2020.

It was agreed that the temporary closure of Hillsborough Play Park commence on 1 November 2020 for an eight-week period, subject to contract.

Councillor C McCreedy requested that signage be erected at the appropriate places to inform of the closure of the play park to prevent families walking unnecessarily the distance to the play park.

Councillor John Palmer expressed concern in regard to the potential for the Hillsborough Forest Play Park being crowded during the school's half term break in view of the current Covid-19 pandemic.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, thanked Members for their attendance and there being no other business the meeting was terminated at 9.07 pm

Chairman