

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, 2 March 2016 at 7.00 pm

- PRESENT:** Alderman A G Ewart, Chairman
The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R T Beckett
Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath
- ALDERMEN:** Aldermen W J Dillon MBE and S Martin
- COUNCILLORS:** J Baird, B Bloomfield, S Carson, A P Ewing, J Gallen
A Givan, H Legge, T Mitchell, Jenny Palmer and S Scott
- OTHER MEMBERS:** Alderman S P Porter, Councillor A Grehan, A McIntyre and
O Gawith
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
Lead Head of Planning & Building Control
Lead Head of Development
Head of Building Control
Regeneration Manager
Committee Secretary
Aecom
Ms Catherine Adams
Mr Simon Wells

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, welcomed everyone to the March Meeting of the Development Committee.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors U Mackin and M H Tolerton.

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 declared at this point in the Meeting.

During the course of the Meeting the following declarations were made and Declaration of Interest forms completed in respect of the following:-

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| The Chairman of the Committee, Alderman G Ewart | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • item 5.1.1.6 'Department of Social Development – Affordable Warmth Scheme' – in view of his employment as Special Advisor to the Minister for Social Development. |
| Councillor H Legge | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • item 5.1.1.6 'Department of Social Development – Affordable Warmth Scheme' in view of her membership of the Northern Ireland Housing Council and the Board of the Northern Ireland Housing Executive |
| Councillor J Baird | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • item 4 'Moira Public Realm Scheme – Presentation' in view of a family member owning property in Meeting Street, Moira |
| Councillor A P Ewing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • item 7.2 'Lisburn & Castlereagh City Business Awards 2016' in view of his employer, Alan Brown Insurance Company, being considered for an award at this event |

3. Minutes

It was agreed that the Minutes of the Development Committee meeting held on 3 February 2016 and the Special Meeting of Committee held on 17 February 2016, as adopted by the Council at its meeting held on 23 February 2016, be confirmed and signed.

Alderman S Martin and Councillor H Legge entered the Meeting at 7.02 pm.

4. Presentation by Aecom – Moira Public Realm Scheme

The Lead Head of Development advised the Committee that the Landscape Architect, Aecom, were in attendance at the Meeting in order to present on a series of design options for a future Moira Public Realm Scheme which would form part of the initial design consultation exercise and which was on-going. The Lead Head of Development stated that Members were required to provide guidance on preferred design options.

4. Presentation by Aecom – Moira Public Realm Scheme (Cont'd)

Prior to receiving the deputation to the Meeting, the Lead Head of Development discussed access and traffic issues in Moira which would require careful consideration going forward with the design of a Public Realm Scheme.

Councillor S Scott entered the Meeting at 7.06 pm.

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, on behalf of the Committee, extended a welcome to Ms Catherine Adams and Mr Simon Wells from Aecom.

With the aid of PowerPoint Ms Adams commenced the presentation with a number of images depicting the existing conditions in the centre of Moira.

During the presentation Ms Adams and Mr Wells discussed the issue of the levels on both the south side and the north side of the main road in Moira, and also the proposals for revisions to the junction layout at Meeting Street. The Committee was provided with cross section images depicting two options, one to lower the road and the other to retain the existing levels, together with advantages and disadvantages for each option.

The Committee was provided with the results of the public consultation and also initial estimated costs for lowering the road. The Committee also noted an overview of next steps which would involve detailed consultation with Transport NI.

Alderman S P Porter entered the Meeting at 7.25 pm.

Following the presentation Ms Adams and Mr Wells responded to questions from the Committee in connection with issues raised during the presentation, during which the following points were made by Members:

- Feedback from some businesses in Moira indicated that there was concern about major work to level the road as the work would cause disruption
- Consideration should be given to a form of roundabout being included in the design in an attempt to ease traffic flow
- Traffic congestion would increase following expansion of Moira Primary School in the next two years
- The need for something to be done to address the dangerous crossing outside the Four Trees as a matter of urgency
- The inconclusive results of the public consultation,

4. Presentation by Aecom – Moira Public Realm Scheme (Cont'd)

- The need to have sight of an engineer's report in terms of the work to be undertaken on the lowering of the road in Moira, and
- Alderman W J Dillon asked for the removal of the gateway signs that had been erected some time ago in Moira village.

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, thanked Ms Adams and Mr Wells for their presentation following which they left the Meeting.

It was agreed to recommend that Aecom bring back firm proposals for the Moira Public Realm Scheme for all options, including lowering the road, taking account of comments by the Committee, to a future meeting of the Committee for further consideration.

5. Report by the Lead Head of Planning & Building Control and Lead Head of Economic Development

5.1 Report by Lead Head of Planning and Building Control

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor S Scott, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Lead Head of Planning and Building Control be adopted subject to any decisions recorded below.

5.1.1 Report by Head of Service (Building Control)

Items for Decision

5.1.1.1 Street Naming adjacent to Eaton Court, Dunmurry

The Head of Building Control reported that Braidwater Limited had proposed the name for a development that consisted of 51 dwellings in The Cutts area of Dunmurry.

A copy of the development layout had been circulated to the Committee for Members' information.

It was agreed to recommend that the name 'Eaton Park' which met the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy in that 'Eaton' was an approved name that was used in the locality be allocated to the proposed development in The Cutts area of Dunmurry, there being no objections to this proposal having been received from consultees.

5.1.1.2 Street Naming off Lurgan Road, Moira

The Head of Building Control reported that the agent for Mayfair Homes Limited had proposed the names for a development that consisted of 50 dwellings in the Lurgan

5.1.1.2 Street Naming off Lurgan Road, Moira (Cont'd)

Road area of Moira. A copy of the development layout had been circulated to the Committee for Members' information.

The Head of Building Control reported that one objection to the first preference proposal, namely; 'Magherahinch Square' had been received from consultees in that

'Magherahinch Square' whilst having a relationship with Moira and had a close proximity to Magherahinch House, it did not sit within the townland of Magherahinch and that this may cause confusion.

It was agreed to recommend that the name 'Linen Fields' which met the requirements of the Council's Street Naming Policy and linkage to Moira's historical connection with the linen industry be allocated to the proposed development in Lurgan Road area of Moira.

5.1.1.3 Street Naming off Meeting Street, Moira

The Head of Building Control reported that DTL Construction had proposed the street names for a development that consisted of 66 dwellings off Meeting Street in Moira.

A copy of the development layout had been circulated to the Committee for Members' information.

The Head of Building Control reported that the names 'Dillon Green' and 'Dillon Mews' were being recommended for the development off Meeting Street Moira, there being no objections having been received from consultees.

The Head of Building Control responded to comments from Councillor S Carson who requested clarification in regard to the Council's Street Naming policy in view of the following:

- a) the names 'Dillon Green' and 'Dillon Mews' appear to have been in use **for marketing the proposed development** for some time according to the website of the developer, DTL Construction, and
- b) the second preference names, as reported to the Committee in February 2016, of 'Harlow Green' and 'Harlow Mews' had been replaced by 'Moy Park' and 'Moy Mews'.

In response to questions from Councillor A Givan, the Head of Building Control confirmed that the developer had informed him that the reference to 'Dillon' in the names 'Dillon Green' and 'Dillon Mews' related to historical connections in Moira.

5.1.1.3 Street Naming off Meeting Street, Moira (Cont'd)

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath, spoke in support of the recommendation before the Committee; namely, that the names 'Dillon Green' and 'Dillon Mews' be allocated to the development off Lurgan Road, Moira, which he stated did not contravene the Council's Street Naming policy.

Alderman S P Porter put on record his concern in regard to the fact that the original second preference names of 'Harlow Green' and 'Harlow Mews' had been discarded.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, that the names 'Dillon Green' and 'Dillon Mews' be allocated to the development off Lurgan Road, Moira.

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor S Carson, that the names 'Harlow Green' and 'Harlow Mews' be allocated to the development off Lurgan Road, Moira.

The amendment as proposed by Councillor A P Ewing was put to the Meeting and on a show of hands declared "carried" the voting being eight votes in favour of the names 'Harlow Green' and 'Harlow Mews', and six votes against.

The amendment having become the Substantive Motion was put to the Meeting and agreed.

Alderman W J Dillon put on record that he had taken no part in the discussion thereon.

For Noting

5.1.1.4 Building Control Applications – Full Plan Applications and Regularisation Certificates

The Committee noted the undernoted information in regard to the Full Plan Applications and Regularisation Certificate:

- for the period 12 January 2016 to 9 February 2016, 128 Full Plan Applications had been "approved" and that 26 Regularisation Certificates had been issued in accordance with the powers delegated.

5.1.1.5 Department of Finance and Personnel – Completion Notice Ready Report to Land and Property Services

The Committee noted the undernoted information in regard to Completion Notice Ready Reports:

- The Completion Notice Ready Report for the period 12 January 2016 to 9 February 2016 returned to the Department of Finance and Personnel (DFPNI), Land and Property Services, had indicated that a total of 60 properties had been identified as having reached occupiable status.

5.1.1.6 Department for Social Development – Affordable Warmth Project

The Committee noted the undernoted information in regard to visits by Home Assessment Officers within the Council's Building Control Service during the month of January 2016:

- visited 205 dwellings for the Affordable Warmth Scheme and made 35 referrals for home improvements to the NIHE; completed 38 financial checks for the Housing Executive as part of their new enhanced role, as well as 6 referrals to the 'Make the Call' team.

The Committee had been furnished with, and noted the content of, a copy of correspondence which demonstrated the worth of the Affordable Warmth Scheme, the Council's very important role and the actual difference it made to people's lives.

5.1.2 Budget Report – Building Control

The Committee had been furnished with, and noted the content of, a budget report for Building Control for the year to 31 March 2016 as at 31 January 2016.

5.1.3 Rolling Year Absence Figures for Building Control for the Period 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015

The Committee had been furnished with, and noted the content of, a report detailing the absence figures for Building Control for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015.

The Lead Head of Planning & Building Control and the Head of Building Control left the Meeting (7.40 pm)

5.2 Report by Lead Head of Development

It was agreed on a proposal by councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor S Scott, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Lead Head of Development be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Item for Decision

5.2.1 Moira Public Realm Options - Presentation

It was noted that the above presentation had been received earlier in the Meeting (item 4 refers).

5.2.2 Netherlands Trade Development Programme 11-14 April 2016 – Joint Civic an Eurocities Visit to the Netherlands

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the 12th Council-led trade development programme to the Netherlands was taking place from 11 April – 14 April 2016, with six local businesses participating.

Further to the decision of the Committee at its Meeting held on 7 October 2015 that the Council become a member of the Eurocities network, the Lead Head of Development reported that membership of Eurocities would enable the Council to tap into new EU funding strategic partnerships and sharing of best practice in Economic Development. Part of the application process involved a presentation by Officers to the Eurocities Forum which was taking place in Netwerkstad Twente in the Netherlands.

It was agreed to recommend that given that Netwerkstad Twente was only 1.5 hours travel from Amsterdam where the trade delegation would be focused, the Civic visit be arranged around both the trade development visit and Eurocities Forum at a maximum cost of £5,000, and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee participate on the Civic delegation, along with the Economic Development Manager and Rural Development Officer.

It was noted that there was provision for this expenditure in the current Economic Development Budget Estimates 2016/2017.

5.2.3 Proposed Extension to the Regional Start Programme 1 April – 21 October 2016

The Lead Head of Development reminded the Committee that at its Meeting in December 2015 it had been agreed to be part of the programme extension to the Regional Start Initiative (RSI) contract managed by Invest NI through a SLA with Councils until 31 March 2016. As the new Council-led NI Business Start Up Programme would not be in place within this timescale Invest NI had agreed to extend this arrangement up to 21 October 2016.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a letter from Invest NI dated 11 February 2016 requesting written confirmation from Councils agreeing to this extension from 1 April 2016 to 21 October 2016, and confirmation of the marketing budget available for the period 1 April 2016 to 31 July 2016 at which point the national marketing campaign ceases.

Members noted from the Lead Head of Development's Report details on the targets for Business Plan delivery and associated budgets (including marketing) for the extension period from April to July 2016 for the Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area.

5.2.3 Proposed Extension to the Regional Start Programme 1 April – 21 October 2016 (Cont'd)

It was agreed to recommend that:

- a) the programme extension to the Regional Start Initiative (RSI) from 1 April 2016 to July 2016 be agreed as follows:

61 Business Plans @ £336 (Inc VAT)	£20,496.00
Invest NI staff costs April – July 2016 (Inc VAT)	£ 2,827.92
Invest NI marketing costs	<u>£ 8,016.28</u>
Total Delivery Cost	£31,340.20

- b) based on previous targets for the Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area an indicative budget of up to a maximum of £18,000 for delivery costs and a marketing budget of up to a maximum of £10,000 be provisionally allocated, with an indicative total July 2016 – October 2016 of £28,000.

The Lead Head of Development advised that there was provision for the above expenditure in the current Economic Development budget estimates 2016/2017.

5.2.4 Business Solutions – Business Mentoring Programme Extension

The Lead Head of Development reminded the Committee of its decision in June 2015 to approve the delivery of a flexible Business Mentoring Programme as part of a series of Council-led interim business support initiatives.

The Committee was advised that the programme had a target to recruit 30 businesses and to date had successfully recruited 8 with a waiting list of 32 additional companies, which would mean the programme could not offer any support to additional companies beyond March 2016.

The Lead Head of Development reported that in anticipation of the high levels of demand for the programme provision for a second phase of the project based upon the costs and outputs of the first phase had been built into the tender process.

It was agreed to recommend that the programme continues on the basis of delivery of a further phase of the Business Mentoring Programme for a 30 further businesses at a total cost of £25,500, it being noted that there was provision for this expenditure in the current Economic Development Budget Estimates 2016/2017.

5.2.5 Hillsborough Tourism Master Plan

The Lead Head of Development reminded the Committee that the Hillsborough Tourism Master Plan had been agreed at the Meeting of the Committee in October 2015 when it also had been agreed to develop a project from this Master Plan in readiness for the DARD Rural Development funding programme which was due to be launched in the near future.

The Lead Head of Development outlined a number of elements that the Master Plan had suggested a strategic project at Hillsborough Forest could include, it being noted that initial conversations with DARD officials had proven to be positive in this regard.

The Lead Head of Development advised that Council Officers had met with DARD Forestry Service representatives who had proposed that the Council considered signing a Memorandum of Understanding as a first step in moving towards a formal relationship, a copy of which had been furnished to the Committee.

It was agreed to recommend that the Committee agrees to the Memorandum of Understanding on DARD Forestry Service terms, with more detail to be provided to the Committee on a Service Level Agreement in coming months, and Officers build a half-day itinerary for Members of the Committee to see first-hand best practice within other forests that had agreed terms with Forest Service.

Alderman S Martin welcomed the progress to date of the Hillsborough Tourism Master Plan and commended the efforts of Council Officers for their efforts thereon.

5.2.5.1 Hillsborough Tourism Master Plan Economic Appraisal Delegated Authority

It was agreed to recommend that the Council grants delegated authority to a future meeting of the Development Committee to agree the Economic Appraisal of Hillsborough Tourism project in order that the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) funding deadlines could be achieved.

5.2.6 Village Renewal Scoping Study Report Outcomes

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a Village Renewal Scoping Study Report undertaken by Council staff to determine which villages should be taken forward for funding consideration under the Village Renewal Scheme as part of the Council's pending application(s) to Priority 6 of the N I Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 (NIRDP 2014-2020).

5.2.6 Village Renewal Scoping Study Report Outcomes (Cont'd)

It was agreed to recommend that the five villages of Dromara, Stoneyford, Aghalee, Glenavy and Drumbo be taken forward based on ranked scores relating to social and economic need, previous funding investment and existing opportunity for investment.

The Lead Head of Development advised that a grant of up to £150,000 at 75% of total eligible costs was available under NIRDP 2014-2020.

5.2.7 Development of Integrated Village Renewal Plans – NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020

The Lead Head of Development reported that it was a prerequisite for councils to complete an integrated village renewal plan for selected villages to be taken forward for funding consideration under the Village Renewal Scheme of the NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020. In the case where a selected village already had an integrated plan, it was a prerequisite that the plan was revisited and updated accordingly.

It was agreed to recommend that the Committee agrees to fund the appointment of a third party agent to develop five integrated village plans on behalf of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council at a maximum indicative cost of £25,000 and two integrated village plans on behalf of Belfast City Council at a cost of £10,000, it being noted that Belfast City Council would reimburse the Council for £10,000.

5.2.8 Disposal of Unsuccessful Application files – NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013

The Lead Head of Development reported that correspondence from DARD had advised that councils must retain all applications/project file papers for applications that receive a Letter of Offer for grant under the NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 until 31 December 2021.

It was noted that DARD had also informed that all other application/project files for applicants that had been unsuccessful or had withdrawn from the application process may be disposed in adherence to the Council's Document Disposal Policy. The Lead Head of Development advised that this would allow the disposal of 304 files which would release significant storage space to host new application files expected as part of the commencement of the new NI Rural Development Programme 2014-2020.

5.2.8 Disposal of Unsuccessful Application files – NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 (Cont'd)

The Lead Head of Development confirmed that the Council's new Document Disposal Policy had been sent to the Public Records Office for Northern Ireland (PRONI) for approval.

It was agreed to recommend that the above-mentioned 304 files relating to applicants that had been unsuccessful or had withdrawn from the application process under the NI Rural Development Programme 2007-2013 be disposed of subject to the Council's new Document Disposal Policy having been approved by PRONI.

4.2.9 UK-Wide Infrastructure Investment Conference 8-9 June 2016 Millennium Hotel, London Mayfair

The Lead Head of Development reported that the above-mentioned two-day UK-wide investment conference would focus on the government's new course of action and future commitment for UK infrastructure delivery; and would provide a high profile debate on market development and opportunities, investor and industry plans and views and dialogue to facilitate further investment flow into the UK's infrastructure and regeneration space.

It was agreed to recommend that the Chairman and/or Vice Chairman be nominated to attend the above Conference, the estimated cost of a Members' attendance being £830.89 based on attendance at one day only or £1,145.38 based on attendance at the full two-day programme.

The Lead Head of Planning & Building Control returned to the Meeting during consideration of the above item (8.00 pm).

4.2.10 Car Parking Strategy

The Lead Head of Development reminded the Committee that as part of the reform of local government, responsibility for off street parking had been transferred to councils from the Department for Regional Development. Following the transfer of Planning to local government from the Department of the Environment, and the publication of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement in September 2015, councils were required to produce a car parking strategy as part of the Local Development Plan process.

The Lead Head of Development stated that from an Economic Development perspective surface car parks under the Council's control provided a new opportunity for development and regeneration activities, and confirmed that the issue of car parks

4.2.10 Car Parking Strategy (Cont'd)

under the control of the Council also cut across the work of the Environmental Services Committee and the Planning Committee.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Redpath, left the Meeting at 8.04 pm.

A discussion ensued during which the Lead Head of Development and the Lead Head of Planning & Building Control responded to questions and comments from the Committee in regard to a number of issues, including:

- timescales and the requirement for an interim policy to be put in place in the first instance
- ownership issues and the extent of the estate strategy, such as assets from Central Government being transferred to Local Government
- the responsibility for traffic wardens being transferred to councils

It was agreed to recommend that the Council produces a car parking strategy in line with the new legislation by the Department of the Environment and that this work be put out to public procurement.

It was further agreed to recommend on a proposal by Alderman S Martin, seconded by Councillor A Givan, that the Council establishes a Car Parking Strategy Sub Group to include Members from the Development Committee, Environmental Services Committee and the Planning Committee as well as relevant Council Officers.

Items for Noting

5.2.11 Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 - Update

The Lead Head of Development reported that DARD had approved the Local Rural Development Strategy for Lagan Rural Partnership Local Action Group (LAG) submitted to the Department at the end of December 2015. This approval had allowed the LAG to commence the development of an Implementation Plan that would outline actions to be undertaken by the LAG to deliver the £3.23 million grants scheme. It was noted that the LAG would liaise with DARD to finalise the DARD/LAG contract for delivery of the programme and the associated service level agreement with the Council.

The Lead Head of Development advised the Committee that a business breakfast programme launch was planned to take place on Tuesday 8 March 2016, 8.00 am – 9.30 am at Café Vic Ryn, Lisburn, which would provide a brief introduction to the scheme to include detail regarding eligibility criteria and key application prerequisites.

5.2.11 Rural Development Programme 2014-2020 – Update (Cont'd)

This would be followed by the delivery of five workshops between 9 March - 23 March 2016 that would provide information and advice to applicants in advance for the first call for applications under the Rural Business Investment Scheme.

It was agreed that the Lead Head of Development's report be noted.

5.2.12 European Funding Bids – Erasmus+

The Lead Head of Development reported that the Council had recently secured the services of Euroco Limited who were to make two Erasmus+ applications on behalf of the Council by 31 March 2016, as follows:

1. to develop a programme to increase the proportion of students engaged in entrepreneurship education within vocational education and training institutions and increase the proportion of students engaged in entrepreneurial activity post education, and
2. to examine best practice of small cities across Europe whereby social and economic infrastructure had been developed to improve entrepreneurial appeal and to replicate practice within Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

The Lead Head of Development advised that the above funding applications bids would be developed in partnership with a range of other European partners focussed on economic development and if successful would drawdown funding of up to €300,000, each of which the Council should be able to draw down €60,000 for administration costs

It was agreed that the Lead Head of Development's report be noted.

5.2.13 Budget Report – Economic Development

The Committee had been furnished with, and noted the content of, a budget report for Economic Development for the year to 31 March 2016 as at 31 January 2016.

6. Confidential Reports by the Lead Head of Development

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, stated that the items in the Lead Head of Development Confidential Report, including the Additional Confidential Report, were required to be considered "in Committee" due to the reasons outlined.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the Confidential Report be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public.

It was agreed that the recommendations in the Confidential Report by the Lead Head of Development, and the Additional Confidential Report, be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

For Noting

6.1 Lisburn Public Realm – Ongoing Judicial Review – Updated Legal Costs Estimate

(Confidential due to information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings)

The Committee noted an update by the Lead Head of Development in relation to the estimated legal costs in connection with the Judicial Review for the Lisburn Public Realm Scheme.

6.2 Rolling Year Absence Figures for Economic Development for the Period 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015

(Confidential due to information relating to individuals)

The Committee had been furnished with, and noted the content of, a table depicting the rolling year absence figures for Economic Development for the period 1 April 2015 to 31 December 2015.

Additional Confidential Report by the Lead Head of Development

6.3 Lisburn Public Realm – Ongoing Judicial Review – Updated Legal Costs Estimate

It was noted that the above matter had been considered under item 6.1 above.

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by the Councillor S Carson, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Planning Matters Councillor J Baird

The Lead Head of Planning & Building Control responded to concerns raised by Councillor J Baird in relation to the Council's Planning Unit, in particular in relation to communication with Planning Officers, how difficult it was to contact them and their inability or unwillingness to return calls.

7.1 Planning Matters
Councillor J Baird (Cont'd)

The Lead Head of Planning & Building Control assured the Committee that he was working towards making a number of minor, but significant, changes such as ensuring Members' queries would be dealt with in a timely manner.

Councillor B Bloomfield and Alderman W J Dillon spoke in support of the comments by Councillor J Baird. Alderman Dillon pointed out that the Development Committee was spending considerable money in efforts to attract investment into the City area and at the same time these businesses were coming up against challenges from a planning perspective.

Alderman W J Dillon expressed thanks and appreciation to the work of the Lead Head of Planning & Building Control for his on-going efforts in addressing planning issues.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, reminded Members that a legal representative was required to be in attendance at all Planning Committee Meetings to give advice on legal matters.

Alderman S Martin and Councillor S Scott welcomed the involvement of the Lead Head of Planning & Building Control in these matters.

Councillor S Scott left the Meeting at 8.25 pm and returned again at 8.27 pm.

The Lead Head of Planning & Building Control reminded Members that the Planning Committee was a quasi-judicial committee and confirmed that training on planning matters would be rolled out to all Members of Council in the near future.

It was agreed that the issues raised in regard to planning matters be raised at the next meeting of the Planning Committee.

7.2 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Business Awards 2016
Councillor A P Ewing

Councillor A P Ewing referred to the Chairman's announcement at the Meeting of the Committee on 3 February 2016 that the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Business Awards would take place at La Mon Hotel on Friday 11 March 2016 and stated that he wished to declare an interest in this matter in view of his employer, Alan Brown & Company Insurance, having been put forward for an award.

There being no further business the meeting terminated at 8.30 pm.

Chairman