

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 2 June, 2015 at 5:30 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Alderman S P Porter (Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor R T Beckett

Deputy Mayor  
Councillor A Redpath

Aldermen W A Leathem and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, B Bloomfield MBE, R Butler,  
J Gallen, A Givan, J Gray MBE, H Legge, A McIntyre,  
T Morrow and R Walker

**OTHER MEMBERS:**

Councillor J McCarthy

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Leisure & Community Services  
Assistant Director of Leisure & Community Services  
(Cultural and Community Services)  
Assistant Director of Leisure & Community Services  
(Sports Services)  
Community Services Manager  
General Manager Leisure & Marketing  
Committee Secretary

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, welcomed those present.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor S Skillen and the Assistant Director of Leisure Services (General Services), who was ill at present. It was agreed that the best wishes of the Committee be conveyed to the Assistant Director.

2. Declarations of Interest

Alderman W A Leathem declared a pecuniary interest in Item 4.14 'Ulster Scots Agency: Summer Bands Concerts Wallace Park – Grant Aid' as he was a Board Member of the Ulster Scots Agency.

2. Declarations of Interest (Contd)

During the course of the meeting, the Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, declared a non-pecuniary interest in Item 4.2 'Social Investment Fund Projects: Extension to Laganview Enterprise Centre and Redevelopment of West Lisburn Community Centre', due to his membership of the local area Board of the Social Investment Fund.

3. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor B Bloomfield and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee held on 14 May, 2015, as adopted at the meeting of Council held on 26 May, 2015, be confirmed and signed.

4. Report of the Director of Leisure & Community Services

It was proposed by Councillor B Bloomfield, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Director of Leisure & Community Services be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Decision

4.1 Department of Culture Arts & Leisure: Community Festivals Fund – Consideration of Draft Response to Consultation Exercise on a Revised Funding Scheme

Members were provided with a copy of draft comments prepared by Council Officers by way of a response to the consultation exercise on proposals for a revised Community Festivals Fund, to take effect from 1 April, 2016. It was agreed to recommend that the draft comments be accepted and that, at the request of the Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, the response make reference to the importance of festivals in bringing together rural communities.

4.2 Social Investment Fund Projects: Extension to Laganview Enterprise Centre and Redevelopment of West Lisburn Community Centre

Members were reminded that the Council had previously agreed to act as the lead delivery agent for the design and construction of the above projects, which were being 100% funded through the Social Investment Fund being operated by the Office of the First Minister and Deputy First Minister.

Members having been provided with a copy of a tender report on the appointment of a consultant architect for both projects, it was agreed to recommend that HBK Architects be appointed.

4.3 Museum Artefact Purchase Procedure in Emergency

The Director reported that, to purchase artefacts at public auction or through private negotiation, the Museum Service had, for many years, under the former Lisburn City Council, operated an Emergency Purchase Procedure.

The Director having set out in his report, details of the Museum Artefact Purchase Procedure in Emergency, as previously operated by Lisburn City Council, it was agreed to recommend that this procedure be approved for use by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council moving forward.

4.4 Community Support Plan & Development Strategy

Members having been provided with an update report on progress of the development of the above strategy, it was agreed to recommend that:

- (a) whilst it had been anticipated that the new strategy would be presented to Members in June 2015, the strategy would now be presented in December 2015 in order to allow further consideration of the new strategy and to ensure its alignment with other key corporate priorities; and
- (b) an interim Community Support & Development Action Plan for 2015-16 be developed, which would focus on service convergence, delivery and preparatory actions for the new strategy.

4.5 Interim Bonfire Management Programme 2015

Members having been provided with a report in relation to the above, it was agreed to recommend the level of 'ring fenced' funding at £8,000 from within the Cultural & Identity Programme budget, to facilitate the 2015 interim bonfire scheme.

The Community Services Manager pointed out that 'Ballybeen (Davarr)' as referred to in the report, should read 'Ballybeen (Dungoyne)'.

4.6 Community Relations Council: Correspondence Regarding Community Relations and Cultural Awareness Week 2015

Members were provided with a copy of a letter dated 5 May, 2015 from the Community Relations Council (CRC) advising that the Northern Ireland Community Relations & Cultural Awareness Week was to take place between 28 September and 4 October, 2015.

The Director having reported that, in previous years, both extant councils had organised local events for inclusion in this week, it was agreed to recommend that the Council participate in the Northern Ireland Community Relations & Cultural Awareness Week 2015. It was further agreed to recommend that the Council host a local launch event to promote the week.

4.7 Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland Including 11 Local District Council Reports

Members were reminded that the Council had previously agreed to provide 50% towards the costs of a Sport Northern Ireland led initiative to provide a Sports Facilities Strategy for Northern Ireland, to include 11 local district council reports to reflect the post Review of Public Administration council clusters. A consortium, led by Strategic Leisure Limited, had been appointed by Sport Northern Ireland to deliver the strategy, with initial fact-finding meetings held with relevant council Officers. As part of the research, a draft National Facilities Database had been developed, which had had input from the council.

Members noted that the next stage was to engage in local consultation, with consultations involving local clubs and schools having been arranged to take place on 22 June, 2015 in Dundonald Ice Bowl and on 29 June, 2015 in Lagan Valley LeisurePlex.

This, in turn, would inform a proposed Members' consultation to take place during the week commencing 14 September, 2015. It was agreed to recommend that all Elected Members be invited to take part in this consultation.

4.8 Fuel Buying Club: Expressions of Interest and Way Forward

Members were advised that the former Lisburn City Council had previously agreed to seek expressions of interest from community organisations willing to take on the development and operation of the above, within the Council area. To support the development in its initial year, the Council had agreed to make available a sum of £8,000, with the intention that the organisation would become self-sustaining.

Members having been provided with a copy of a report on the expressions of interest received, it was agreed to recommend that:

- (a) Voluntary Services Lisburn, in association with the Resurgam Trust, be selected to take forward the development of the proposed local Fuel Buying Club; and
- (b) the sum of £8,000 be transferred from Leisure and Community Services to the Development Department to assist with the first year start-up costs of Voluntary Services Lisburn in taking forward the development of the Fuel Buying Club to service the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area.

The Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, asked that the minutes record the Committee's thanks to former Councillor, Yvonne Craig, for the work she had carried out in respect of this initiative.

4.9 Lagan Valley LeisurePlex: Additional Closure – 13 July, 2015

The Committee was reminded that, at its meeting held in March 2015, it had noted that Lagan Valley LeisurePlex would close on Sunday, 12 July. Given the fact that the vast majority of the Twelfth celebration would now take place on

4.9 Lagan Valley LeisurePlex: Additional Closure – 13 July, 2015 (Contd)

Monday, 13 July, and considering the lack of usage in previous years on 13 July, it was agreed to recommend that the Lagan Valley LeisurePlex be closed on 13 July, 2015, with staff taking directed leave on this day.

At this point, the Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, referred to the current “2 for 1” offer at the LeisurePlex, which was available on Mondays and Tuesdays, and stated that the initiative was working well as he had been there the previous day and the complex had been very well attended.

4.10 Extension and Renaming of Lisburn International Sportstar Club to Reflect New Council

Members were advised that, in the extant Lisburn City Council, Sport Lisburn, with the Council’s approval, had operated the Lisburn International Sports Star Scheme. Lisburn International Sportstar Club recognised residents of the City who had achieved representative honours at Ulster, Northern Ireland, Ireland and Great Britain level in any age category and afforded them, on the production of a signed (by a National Governing Body Representative) application form, the opportunity to avail of complimentary use of the Council’s fitness suites, or if it assisted their rehabilitation from injury, the swimming pool.

It was agreed to recommend that, to reflect the new Council area, the Lisburn International Sportstar Club be renamed Elite Athlete Club and that, following the agreement of the private gym provider (X Force) in the Castlereagh area, it be extended to the new Council area, with its administration being undertaken by the newly constituted Sport Lisburn and Castlereagh.

4.11 Northern Ireland Museums Council: Nominations to the Board

At the meeting of the Committee held on 14 May, 2015, Officers had been requested to clarify with the Northern Ireland Museums Council (NIMC) whether it would be acceptable for the Council to nominate 2 Elected Members to the NIMC Board and have them rotate, with each serving 18 months of the 3 year term. Following discussion with the Chief Executive of the NIMC, it had been confirmed that the Council’s request could be accommodated.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to recommend that Councillor J Gray serve on the NIMC Board for the first 18 months and that Councillor A McIntyre serve on the Board for the next 18 months.

Items for Noting

4.12 Community Support Grant Awards 2015-2016

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of Grant Scheme Information Notes, a list of those groups deemed ineligible and a list of groups deemed eligible. The total of grants recommended for award was £147,374, which was within the approved Estimates of Expenditure for 2015/16.

4.12 Community Support Grant Awards 2015-2016 (Contd)

Alderman W A Leathem, whilst commending Officers for the substantial amount of work involved in assessing applications, expressed his disappointment, in principle, in respect of a number of groups that had not been deemed eligible and asked that the process be reviewed to ensure that the constitution and outputs of groups applying be taken into consideration in future.

The Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, pointed out that any unsuccessful applicants had the right of appeal. He further encouraged Members to advise groups interested in applying for future grants of the opportunity to avail of training and assistance offered by Officers in the Council's Community Services Section.

4.13 Department for Social Development: Summary of Public Consultation Findings and the Department's Response

Members were reminded that the Council, a number of months ago, had responded to a public consultation exercise carried out by the Department for Social Development in regard to the development of a new Strategy for the Delivery of Generalist Advice Services in Northern Ireland 2015-2020. It was noted that a summary of the consultation responses, as well as the Department's response, was available on the Department's website, details of which had been provided to Members.

4.14 Ulster Scots Agency: Summer Bands Concerts Wallace Park – Grant Aid

Having earlier declared a pecuniary interest in this item, Alderman W A Leathem left the meeting at this point (6.02 pm).

Members were advised that, following application to the Ulster Scots Agency, the Council had received an award of £1,100, representing 50% of the cost of the above series of concerts being staged as part of the Park Life Programme in Wallace Park, Lisburn, over the summer months. It was noted that the bands being utilised would be drawn from the Council's existing database of bands.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, welcomed this funding from the Ulster Scots Agency and, having stated that, in previous years, the concerts had drawn large crowds of public, encouraged Members to attend this summer.

The Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, requested that Members be emailed a list of the bands participating and the dates on which they were scheduled to play.

The Director of Leisure & Community Services stated that it was hoped this successful programme would be extended to include Moira Demesne and Moat Park, Dundonald.

Alderman W A Leathem returned to the meeting at this point (6.04 pm).

4.15 Department for Social Development: Proposed Budget Allocation Relating to the Transfer of Urban Regeneration and Community Development Powers – 1 April, 2016

Members were reminded of previous correspondence from the Minister for Social Development setting out the budgetary position and allocation model from 1 April, 2016 when powers in regard to urban regeneration and community development would transfer from the Department to local councils. As agreed by the Governance and Audit Committee, at its meeting held on 14 April, 2015, a Council delegation, including the Chairman of the Leisure and Community Development Committee, Alderman S P Porter, had met with the Minister on 18 May, 2015 to discuss the budgetary position. Arising from this meeting, Members noted that the Minister had confirmed the amount outlined in his previous correspondence as transferring to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and indicated the amount would be maintained in subsequent years. In addition, it was understood that Departmental staff had agreed to look at the question of an exit strategy in regard to current Departmental funding to a number of key community organisations within the Council area.

4.16 Lisburn Festival of Orienteering – 1-4 May, 2015

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of (a) a report on the above event, including a breakdown on competitor numbers and nationalities; and (b) a copy of the Lisburn City Festival of Orienteering Summary Entry Information.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Special Meeting of Leisure and Community Development Committee  
Director of Leisure & Community Services

Following comments by the Director of Leisure & Community Services, it was agreed that a special meeting of the Committee be held before the end of June to consider a number of matters, including the Ulster Grand Prix and the Community Festivals Fund.

5.2 Primary School Golf Tournament  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, stated that he had attended a Primary School Golf Tournament in Castlereagh Hills on Friday, 29 May, 2015. This well-attended event had been running for a number of years and Councillor Beckett, having commented on its success, suggested that consideration be given, in future years, to holding a regional event in Castlereagh and one in Lisburn, with the winners competing in a final.

5.3 Sporting Achievements of Wallace High School  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett, advised that a reception, jointly hosted by himself and the Chairman, Alderman S P Porter, was to be held

5.3 Sporting Achievements of Wallace High School (Contd)  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor R T Beckett

to mark the sporting achievements of Wallace High School over the last number of years. Members would receive an invitation to this reception in due course.

5.4 Robinson Centre  
Councillor A Givan

Councillor A Givan having enquired as to the current position regarding the responsibility of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council in relation to the Robinson Centre, the Director of Leisure & Community Services agreed to speak directly with Councillor Givan following the meeting.

5.5 Representation on Belfast Hills Partnership  
Councillor A McIntyre

At the request of Councillor A McIntyre, it was agreed to recommend that Councillor T Morrow take his place as the Council's representative on the Belfast Hills Partnership, given that Councillor McIntyre was to represent the Council on the Board of the Northern Ireland Museums Council.

5.6 Budget Reports for Leisure Facilities  
Councillor T Morrow

Councillor T Morrow having requested that the Committee be provided, on a quarterly or six monthly basis, with budget reports in respect of leisure facilities, the Director of Leisure & Community Services advised that, over the summer months, in order to ensure consistency for all Committees, the Council Management Team would be giving consideration to recommendations on the level of management information it wished to provide to Committees and the frequency of that provision for further consideration by the Council.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.20 pm.

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Mayor/Chairman