

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 24 November, 2020 at 7:05 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor N Trimble

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE, A Grehan, S Martin,
S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors D J Craig, S Hughes, S Lee and U Mackin

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Aldermen D Drysdale, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith and
M Henderson MBE

Councillors R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson, S Eastwood,
A P Ewing, A Givan, A Gowan, M Gregg, M Guy,
D Honeyford, J Lavery BEM, H Legge, S Lowry, J McCarthy,
G McCleave, C McCready, A McIntyre, R McLernon,
T Mitchell, John Palmer, S Skillen and A Swan

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
PCSP/Member Services Manager
Member Services Officer
Technicians
IT Officer

IN ATTENDANCE IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Acting Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Member Services Officer

The Very Reverend Sam Wright

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed those present to the remote meeting of Council, which was being live-streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that his Chaplain, Reverend Fiona Forbes, was unable to join tonight's meeting. In her place, he welcomed The Very Reverend Sam Wright, Lisburn Cathedral. Reverend Wright gave an address and said a prayer, following which Councillor Trimble thanked him for his attendance and he left the meeting (7.14 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Mr David Calderwood, father of Jim Calderwood, Parks & Amenities, Castlereagh Hills Golf Club; and
- Mr Paul Allison, husband of Jenny Allison, Service Transformation.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

Alderman S Martin arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.17 pm).

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, since the last meeting of Council. Councillor Trimble made particular reference to:

- (a) Armistice Day commemorations and the fact that, for the first time, the wreath laying ceremonies at the war memorials in both Lisburn and Hillsborough had been live-streamed which had allowed members of the public to participate in a virtual manner;
- (b) activities relating to the Council's Christmas programme, much of which would be for virtual distribution over the coming weeks; and
- (c) Christmas performances of 'The Broads' show that were taking place, in a socially distanced manner, in care homes throughout the Council area.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors N Anderson and J Gallen.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest at this point in the meeting.

During the meeting, the following declaration of interest was made:

- Alderman J Baird in respect of item 12.1 'Notice of Motion on the subject of Those Excluded from Covid-19 Financial Support Schemes', given that he, as company director, had been excluded from any such support.

3. Declarations of Interest (Contd)

At the conclusion of the meeting, the following declaration of interest was submitted:

- Alderman S Martin in respect of item 14.3 'Waiving of Car Parking Fees for Lisburn Health Centre Staff', due to his employment.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Councillor S Hughes and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 27 October, 2020 and the special meeting of Council held on 16 November, 2020, be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

Council Meeting – 27 October, 2020

5.1 Page 605, Item 4

Adoption of Minutes of Special Council Meeting – 19 October, 2020

Councillor D J Craig referred to the special meeting of Council held on 19 October, 2020 when representatives from the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) Roads Service had been in attendance.

Councillor Craig advised that, earlier in the day, there had been a major accident at McKinstry Road/Derriaghy Road junction and there were indications that someone may have lost their life as a result. The Council had lobbied for a number of years to have this junction upgraded, with initial approaches having been made to DfI some 7 years ago by former Elected Member, Margaret Tolerton, in conjunction with Oakwood Primary School and the local Member of Parliament, Sir Jeffrey Donaldson. A project had been put together by the Department some 5 years ago; however, due to its high cost, it was still in the pipeline and had not proceeded. It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor S Hughes and agreed that a letter be sent to the DfI and the Department of Finance (DoF) referring to the dangers at this junction, the fact that major accidents were occurring there on a regular basis and requesting that the project planned for McKinstry Road/Derriaghy Road junction be progressed. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and Councillor S Carson also voiced their concerns regarding this junction and supported the proposal by Councillor Craig.

Special Council Meeting – 16 November, 2020

5.2 Page 689, Item 4.1

Progress Report and Agreed Next Steps for the Redevelopment of Dundonald International Ice Bowl (DIIB)

Councillor S Skillen proposed that a working group be established to take forward the Dundonald International Ice Bowl (DIIB) project, such a group to consist of

5.2 Page 689, Item 4.1
Progress Report and Agreed Next Steps for the Redevelopment of
Dundonald International Ice Bowl (DIIB) (Contd)

the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Capital Projects Committee and Members of the Castlereagh East District Electoral Area (DEA). In terms of MLAs and MPs, Councillor Skillen stated that it would be useful if Members of the DEA were pushing the project forward.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, reminded Councillor Skillen that it had been agreed at the special meeting of Council that regular update reports would be presented to the Capital Projects Committee and that monthly updates would be provided to all Members. He stated that, in his view, rather than having to establish Terms of Reference for a formal working group, regular ad hoc meetings with Members of the DEA would be the most efficient approach.

The Chairman of the Capital Projects Committee, Councillor S Hughes, reiterated comments he had made at the special meeting of Council that there would be no barriers to meetings being held for transparency of information. Monthly meetings of the Capital Projects Committee were already scheduled for December, January and February at this stage. In response to comments by Councillor Skillen, Councillor Hughes referred to the enhanced lobbying campaign that had been agreed at the special meeting of Council. He stated that he was wary of having a cross-over in all of this and was keen to ensure the focus of resources was in the right areas.

Alderman J Tinsley stated that he understood Members of the Castlereagh East DEA were keen to have this project progressed and sought the advice of the Chief Executive on this matter. The Chief Executive stated that he did not want to lose sight of the good work of the Capital Projects Committee in terms of the agreed process and he was keen to avoid any potential duplication. He advised that there was already a forum for the Castlereagh East DEA, which included MLAs and MPs, and this forum met on a regular basis. He gave a commitment that regular updates would be provided at those meetings. Councillor S Skillen stated that she was content with the Chief Executive's response.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Contd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Perfect Circle JV Limited of Halford House, Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1HA – Contract for Construction Consultancy Services (Integrated Consultant Team Services) for the Laurelhill Sports Zone development;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Percy’s Coffee of 1 Moss Lane, Ballinderry Lower, Lisburn, BT28 2JR – Contract for provision of Vendor to Trade in Moira Demesne; and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Robinsons Ice Cream of 3 Carrigart, Craigavon, BT65 5BU – Contract for provision of Vendor to Trade in Hillsborough Forest and Wallace Park.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Leisure and Community Development Committee

3 November 2020

Proposed by Alderman M Henderson

Seconded by Councillor D Honeyford

Page 643, Item 5.2

Community Christmas Programme – 2020

The Chairman of the Leisure and Community Development Committee, Alderman M Henderson, referred to the ongoing programme of Christmas performances of ‘The Broads’ show in care homes throughout the Council area and advised that he had asked that Members of the relevant DEA be invited to attend each event.

Page 642, Item 5.1

Department for Communities – Covid-19 Additional Funding

Alderman J Tinsley referred to the delegated authority granted to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman to make decisions relating to the delivery of the programmes and funding to ensure the urgent need of the community be met ahead of Christmas and sought an update in this regard. The Chairman, Alderman M Henderson advised that Officers were still working on this and an update was expected by next week.

Environmental Services Committee

4 November 2020

Proposed by Councillor R McLernon

Seconded by Alderman J Baird

Development Committee

4 November 2020

Proposed by Alderman W J Dillon

Seconded by Councillor U Mackin

Corporate Services Committee

11 November 2020

Proposed by Alderman S P Porter

Seconded by Alderman S Martin

Page 680, Item 6.2
Employee Recognition

The Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, Alderman S P Porter, referred to delegated authority granted to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman in relation to the above matter and advised that, following earlier consultation with the Chief Executive, it had been agreed that in recognition of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, a shutdown take place over the Christmas week from 28 December to 1 January. All staff would be awarded an additional two days leave, on a one-off pro rata basis, and would be required to use one day from their leave allowance to allow Council buildings to remain closed throughout the shutdown. Where staff were engaged in critical service delivery during this period, they would be entitled to take the two additional days leave between 1 January, 2021 and 31 March, 2022. This step was being taken to thank staff of all levels and recognise the valuable work they had carried out throughout the pandemic.

Special Governance and Audit Committee

19 November 2020

Proposed by Councillor G McCleave
 Seconded by Councillor J Laverty

Planning Committee

5 October 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 5 October, 2020 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 November, 2020. It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon and agreed that their contents be noted.

Councillor D J Craig referred to comments he had made at the last meeting of Council regarding the need for a workshop to review protocols and procedures of the Planning Committee. He advised that this workshop had taken place earlier in the day and there had been a lot of very good feedback on the internal processes around the operation of that Committee. He thanked Officers for having arranged this workshop.

9. Report from Chief Executive

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

9.1 Additional Funding from Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI) Business Development Grant Scheme – Delegated Authority to Development Committee

The Chief Executive reminded Members that, at a special meeting of the Development Committee held on 21 October, 2020, Members had approved 17 applications for funding under the TRPSI Business Development Grant Scheme, based on the limited project allocation of £48,000 apportioned to the Council by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA). The Council had now secured an offer of additional funding from DAERA, which

9.1 Additional Funding from Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI) Business Development Grant Scheme – Delegated Authority to Development Committee (Contd)

would be enough to administer grant aid to all the applicants who successfully achieved the threshold of score of 65%. Given the timeframes of the funding programme, as outlined in the Chief Executive's report, it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman A Grehan and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Development Committee, at its meeting on 2 December, 2020, to consider this matter.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Those Excluded from Covid-19 Financial Support Schemes
Councillor S Eastwood

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S Eastwood had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“That this Council recognises the gaps in support provided to both employees and employers through various Covid-19 business support schemes, and acknowledges the economic impact this has had on many businesses through the Lisburn and Castlereagh area, the severe financial hardship this has placed on many families and calls on the Minister for Economy to act as a matter of urgency to expedite and extend support to those who have been excluded from such support schemes”.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor S Eastwood and seconded by Councillor D Honeyford.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6), the above Notice of Motion should be referred to the Development Committee for consideration. However, Standing Orders did allow for the Chairman to allow the motion to be dealt with at the meeting at which it was brought forward, if it was considered urgent and necessary to the dispatch of business. Councillor Trimble stated he did consider the content of the Notice of Motion to be pertinent enough to allow it to be dealt with at tonight's meeting.

12.1 Those Excluded from Covid-19 Financial Support Schemes (Contd)
Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Eastwood stated that, since March, we had been living in unprecedented times and our ways of life had changed completely. Many simple day-to-day things like shaking hands, hugging a friend or exchanging a smile or a nod with someone across a shop now felt like cherished luxuries from a life from a long time ago. What started as a public health emergency had rapidly turned into both a social and economic emergency. Many families were sadly grieving a loss and many others were losing their livelihoods or businesses. Others were facing severe financial hardship, with foodbank use increasing and a significant rise in applications for universal credit right across the district. While health service heroes and public sector workers saved lives, kept the lights on and emptied the bins, there was also a huge number of others who kept us fed and provided essential services. Other businesses and services for the greater good, and following the public health advice, were mandated to close, never thinking of themselves but wanting to do all they could to stop the spread and play their part in saving lives. Although the response in terms of helping those in need and the vulnerable was swift and a credit to everyone, as winter approached and in the month of Christmas, those who kept us fed, clothed and supported were now being left behind. Many business owners, sole traders or newly self-employed people had not had a pay since March and did not have the luxury of a guaranteed income, safety of stability or security of work or employment.

Councillor Eastwood welcomed the announcement from the Finance Minister the previous day and acknowledged the work that had gone into making that possible and the inclusion of many previously-excluded groups; however, many businesses were still waiting on payments from earlier schemes and announcements and many were still excluded from support. Those who had acted so selflessly for others were now being let down. These were people who had spent a lifetime building businesses that were a part of our communities. Councillor Eastwood told the story of one such businessman and the affect this was having on his self-worth and mental health and stated that she spoke to constituents daily who were living hand-to-mouth and struggling to get by. She hoped that all Members would be united in wanting to ensure every single person was looked after and every business was supported. As locally elected representatives, she stated that Members must let those who had been excluded, overlooked by the self-employment scheme or those unable to be furloughed know that they stood with them and would do all they could to ensure that no-one was left behind. Schemes must be easy to access, rolled out as a matter of urgency and bureaucracy and inflexibility should not be barriers to people who urgently needed support. The roll-out of support must match the rate and pace of demand and the economic emergency being faced.

The Council had rightly stood by many people in the community over the last number of months and it was now time to stand by local businesses, small businesses, sole traders, freelancers and those who were newly self-employed. The Council had acted rapidly through its Economic Development section and City Centre Management Team to support local businesses and the wider community with the support it had been given from Central Government so far. Councillor Eastwood called on her colleagues to commend and support her Notice of Motion and show that the Council would do all it could to support local

12.1 Those Excluded from Covid-19 Financial Support Schemes (Contd)
Councillor S Eastwood

businesses, small and large, all traders and freelancers, with support being expedited as a matter of urgency with no groups excluded.

Councillor D Honeyford stated that he welcomed the previous day's announcement regarding financial support for people and businesses which had been excluded to date, which included £20m for company directors. Many business owners had been excluded and their voices had fallen on deaf ears over the past 9 months; they had been forgotten and, hopefully, many would now get a financial lifeline. Business owners who had taken risks and created something from nothing were now struggling to pay themselves after topping up furloughed employees, paying for their business premises, insurance, equipment costs and keeping vehicles on the road; yet the scandal was that as well as excluding some businesses, the Government had been too slow to firstly, get support schemes in place and secondly, get that money to those who met the criteria. Priority must now be to provide the support that business lobby groups were demanding. Councillor Honeyford went on to tell the story of a local businessman and the difficulties that the delays to date had caused him. He stated that anything the Council could do to highlight this issue must be done; action was needed now and Councillor Honeyford supported the Notice of Motion by Councillor Eastwood.

Councillor U Mackin thanked Councillor Eastwood for bringing forward her Notice of Motion, which was very timely and said a lot that could not be disagreed with. All Elected Members had heard stories of businesses similar to those recounted by Councillors Eastwood and Honeyford, and indeed stories of people who had been very grateful for funding they had received. In recognising that there were gaps in the funding process, it was also recognised that there had been quite a considerable amount of money put into the system by HM Government and administered by the Northern Ireland Assembly and to some extent by the Council. Good as that may be, and welcome as yesterday's announcement of £338m financial support was, Councillor Mackin stated that so much more could be done. He referred to the fact that, whilst the Department for the Economy had received £137m, the Minister for that Department had requested in the region of £390m. The need was there; the difficulty was that there was not enough funding to meet the need. There were gaps in funding and those were right across political parties and across Executive Ministers, examples of which were the Job Retention Scheme, Localised Restriction Support Fund, Local Government Support, support for taxi drivers (less of half of whom had been paid the £1500 they had been promised), Belfast International Airport which was having to close down for a number of days a week. Councillor Mackin, whilst commending the Notice of Motion from Councillor Eastwood, proposed that it be amended to replace the words 'the Minister for Economy' with the words 'all Ministers in the Northern Ireland Executive', as this was a cross-cutting matter and all Ministers should be encouraged to expedite the process and get money flowing to where it was needed as a matter of urgency.

Councillor S Lee commended the Notice of Motion by Councillor Eastwood.

12.1 Those Excluded from Covid-19 Financial Support Schemes (Contd)
Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Hughes echoed what had been said previously and thanked Councillor Eastwood for bringing forward her Notice of Motion. People had had enough, particularly in the last few weeks, of political bickering and Councillor Hughes stated that it was important for the Council to send a unified message to its local communities. Yesterday's announcement was welcome but schemes were one thing, administering them was completely different. When it came to the Department for the Economy in particular, there was a history of schemes in that Department and their failure to properly work. He accepted that those issues lay not only with the Minister, who had ultimate responsibility, but there were serious systemic issues there that needed addressed. One thing to pick up was around those who were still missing out. Councillor Hughes acknowledged yesterday's announcement of £20m for company directors, but it seemed unacceptable at this stage, 9 months into the pandemic, that there were still people missing out. He appreciated that schemes could not be designed to capture everyone and criteria had to be applied, but surely at this stage there should be some central committee or body that people who had missed out so far could appeal to and some of the funds ring-fenced could be diverted so those people could receive support. Councillor Hughes urged all those with influence to expedite these schemes and administer the many funds they had been given.

Councillor R Carlin echoed what had been said previously. He stated that civil servants were doing all in their power to administer schemes as quickly as possible but he supported any additional calls to seek to progress this and expedite support for those who had thus-far missed out.

Councillor J McCarthy agreed with the sentiments expressed by other Members and thanked Councillor Eastwood for bringing forward her Notice of Motion. He stated that the key point was around expediting schemes and ensuring money was released to those in need before Christmas.

Alderman A G Ewart seconded the amendment to the Notice of Motion, as proposed earlier by Councillor U Mackin. He stated that all Ministers' Departments had not come up to the mark with Civil Service payments and it was only fair to write to all Ministers. No-one in the Council would want any business to be left behind; they all needed supported. He reiterated Councillor Mackin's reference to the Minister for the Economy having requested £390m but not getting it and stated that this should not be put on the radar of the Minister of Finance. Alderman Ewart stated that this matter should be discussed by the Development Committee, as alluded to by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, but Councillor Eastwood had not attended any meetings of that Committee to raise this matter. He put on record his thanks to the staff in the Council's Economic Development Section for the way they had worked with the business community right across the Council area and asked these sentiments be conveyed to those staff by the Director of Service Transformation.

Alderman W J Dillon stated that never before had anyone experienced such a pandemic; this was new for everyone, including the leaders in the Northern Ireland Executive and in Westminster. Mistakes had been made over the last 9 months and that was understandable, not having had to deal with such a

12.1 Those Excluded from Covid-19 Financial Support Schemes (Contd)
Councillor S Eastwood

situation before. Alderman Dillon understood that there was plenty of money available and, to date, HM Government in Westminster had allocated £300b, but that had not all got to the people it should have. No-one could be blamed for that; there were hiccups in the various schemes and systems. Through tonight's Notice of Motion, the Council could plead with the people distributing the money to speed things up as there were people in the community in a dreadful state, with no money to live. Alderman Dillon hoped that the Council would not be divided over the wording of the Notice of Motion, that a compromise would be reached and that all Ministers of the Northern Ireland Assembly would be asked to do all they could to get money out as soon as possible.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, welcomed the Notice of Motion from Councillor S Eastwood. She stated that local representatives had been taking a lot of abuse because of the failure of the Northern Ireland Executive to provide families and businesses with the funding they needed. This was a sad reflection on the Executive. Having previously been an MLA, she referred to the silos that operated within Departments and the lack of engagement or working together. She stated that £500m had been sitting in finance, no-one had bid for it for weeks and in the end the Minister for Finance released that money yesterday to try to avail the businesses that really needed it. Councillor Palmer referred to newly started businesses that had been operating for less than a year that, because Land & Property Services had not been able to rate them and give them an identity, had lost out on £20,000 back in March/April and were now at a critical stage of needing an intervention. It was frustrating that money was not being distributed in a timely fashion. Of the 3,000 local business that had applied for funding in the last tranche, less than 500 had actually received it as of last Thursday. The Northern Ireland Executive needed to be working together, not in separate silos. Councillor Palmer welcomed the Notice of Motion by Councillor Eastwood and acknowledged the comments by Councillor Mackin. She stated that cooperation was needed and it was important to get a message to the Northern Ireland Assembly that all Departments should work together to ensure strong leadership for businesses before they all closed their doors.

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, asked Councillor S Eastwood if she would be in agreement to amending her Notice of Motion, in line with the proposal by Councillor U Mackin. Councillor Eastwood stated that she wished her Notice of Motion to proceed as originally worded.

Alderman S P Porter stated that the last number of months had been horrendous for businesses. He welcomed the Notice of Motion, as well as the amendment, and believed that this matter should not be about politics. Businesses did not care who the Minister was – they wanted delivery and support. He called on Councillor Eastwood to reflect and send a clear message by writing to all Ministers, including the First and Deputy First Ministers, given that there was a collective responsibility at Stormont.

12.1 Those Excluded from Covid-19 Financial Support Schemes (Contd)
Councillor S Eastwood

The Amendment proposed by Councillor U Mackin was put to the meeting and at the request of Alderman J Tinsley, a recorded vote was taken on this matter. The Amendment was declared 'lost, the voting being as follows:

In favour: Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Carson, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman W J Dillon, Alderman D Drysdale, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan, Councillor J Lavery, Councillor S Lee, Councillor C McCready, Councillor U Mackin, Alderman S P Porter, Councillor S Skillen, Alderman J Tinsley and The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble **(17)**

Against: Councillor R Carlin, Councillor S Eastwood, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor M Gregg, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor M Guy, Alderman M Henderson, Councillor D Honeyford, Councillor H Legge, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor G McCleave, Councillor A McIntyre, Councillor R McLernon, Alderman S Martin, Councillor T Mitchell, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Councillor John Palmer, Councillor A Swan **(19)**

Abstain: Councillor S Hughes **(1)**

Having declared an interest in this item of business, Alderman J Baird took no part in the discussion or vote.

Councillor S Eastwood stated that Members were elected to be a voice for people across the community, including the business community. She hoped a message could be sent tonight that Members were all united in support of people who had been excluded from funding thus far and that support needed to be expedited as soon as possible. She thanked Members who had spoken in favour of her Notice of Motion.

Alderman J Baird left the meeting at this point (8.33 pm).

Councillor U Mackin voiced his disappointment that the debate had turned into a very narrowly focussed thing. He thanked those Members who had voted in favour of his amendment and appreciated that some had to abstain due to personal interest. It would have been so much better if the Council had been able to speak with one voice to involve all Ministers. Whilst he was disappointed, he did fully maintain that a united voice was important and was, therefore, prepared to support the Notice of Motion by Councillor S Eastwood, as originally worded.

The Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S Eastwood, seconded by Councillor D Honeyford, was put to the meeting and unanimously agreed. Alderman J Baird returned to the meeting at this point (8.37 pm).

12.2 Service Level Agreement for Recycling Centres
Councillor G McCleave

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G McCleave had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council aims to work with other councils to promote and encourage recycling. Furthermore, this council agrees to write to adjoining councils requesting a service level agreement for recycling centres”.

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor G McCleave and seconded by Councillor R Carlin.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6), the above Notice of Motion fell within the remit of the Environmental Service Committee and would be referred to the next available meeting of that Committee for consideration.

13. Confidential Business

It was agreed that the reports and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that the matters contained in the confidential report would be dealt with “In Committee” due to containing information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed that the following item be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The live stream of the meeting was paused at this stage.

13.1 Section 76 in Respect of Planning Application LA05/2016/1140/F

Members having been provided with a copy of the Section 76 Agreement in respect of the above planning application, it was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that this be approved and signed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor and the Chief Executive.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage.

14. Any Other Business14.1 Additional Day's Leave on Christmas Eve
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, proposed that, as had been tradition in the past, in a show of solidarity and thanks to Council staff, they be granted an additional day's leave on Christmas Eve. This proposal was seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed. Councillor Trimble clarified that this was in addition to the employee recognition days referred to earlier in the meeting by Alderman Porter.

14.2 Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing – Retirement
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Councillors H Legge and A McIntyre left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.42 pm and 8.58 pm respectively).

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, referred to the fact that this was the last meeting of Council at which the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing, Mr Jim Rose, would be in attendance before his forthcoming retirement from the Council. She stated that she had had the pleasure of working with Jim for some 13 years and had always found him amenable. Jim was a gentleman with a soft, gentle nature who always got things done. Councillor Palmer paid tribute to Jim who, she stated, had served the Council with credit and she wished him well for the future.

A number of other Members joined in paying tribute to the Director, namely The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman M Henderson, Alderman S Martin (who also passed on best wishes from former Elected Members Tim Morrow and Betty Campbell), Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor R Carlin and Councillor S Lee. Members referred to Jim having worked his way up through Council over many years to the position of Director and having always had the best interests of the Council at heart. Jim had a vast experience of leisure background and a passion for sport; he always took time to listen to Members' points of view and had a calming influence at meetings. It was stated that, whilst many residents did not know Jim, a lot of them had benefited from his wisdom. Members thanked Jim for his support and dedication to the Council over many years and wished him all the best for a very happy and prosperous retirement.

Jim thanked Members for their kind comments and well wishes. He stated that he counted himself lucky for having been able to build and enjoy a career of 36 years in local government and 40 years working in the leisure industry. He had been fortunate through his work to meet many of his childhood heroes, including George Best, Lady Mary Peters, Gareth Edwards, Denis Law, to name but a few. Even greater than that, had been the chance to be part of developing and providing what he hoped had been life-enhancing opportunities for people of all ages and abilities, whether in sport, recreation, outdoor play, arts or heritage. It had been a privilege over the years to be part of developing and operating facilities that were of the highest standard and used by millions of customers and local residents. Jim thanked the various Mayors, Chairmen and Elected

14.2 Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing – Retirement (Contd)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Members that he had worked with over his 36 years for believing in sport, the arts and leisure and community services. He issued a plea for Members to keep the faith in this regard, to continue to provide and maintain services and to keep raising the bar that had seen Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council recognised locally, nationally and internationally, as well as being the most desirable place to live in Northern Ireland.

Jim stated that retirement during the Covid-19 pandemic was a strange experience. There were many Members and colleagues he would have liked to see in order to thank them for their support and friendship and it was regrettable that that could not happen due to the current arrangements being worked under. Hopefully there would be an opportunity to do this in the not-too-distant future. Jim voiced his thanks for the opportunity and honour it had been to serve the Council and the local community.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, having stated that Jim would be deeply missed, agreed that it was regrettable that a reception could not be held at this time to say goodbye to him.

14.3 Waiving of Car Parking Fees for Lisburn Health Centre Staff
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, referred to the recent announcement by the Health Minister that all health staff would avail of free car parking until March 2021. However, she had been contacted by a member of staff in Lisburn Health Centre advising that, unfortunately, this did not include a lot of staff in that location who were continuing to have to pay for parking in the car park opposite. It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor S Lee and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Environmental Services Committee to consider a report on the feasibility of waiving charges for staff members of Lisburn Health Centre.

14.4 Redevelopment of Dundonald International Ice Bowl – Monthly Reports to Council
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen asked if it would be feasible for written progress reports to be provided to Council meetings on a monthly basis. The Chief Executive referred to the workload involved in this and stated that the amount of measures Members had put into place should be sufficient to ensure they were kept updated. He gave a commitment that all Members of the Castlereagh East DEA would be fully involved as the project progressed; however, he also pointed out that governance had to be respected and progression of this matter did sit with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Capital Projects Committee.

14.5 Vandalism at Moira Demesne
Councillor John Palmer

Alderman M Henderson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (9.05 pm).

Councillor John Palmer thanked the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities) for having updated Members of the Downshire West DEA regarding vandalism that had occurred the previous Saturday night in Moira Demesne. This was an ongoing problem and Councillor Palmer hoped that it could be addressed in future meetings of the Leisure and Community Development Committee with a view to having more cameras installed. The Chief Executive advised that Councillor D J Craig had also raised the issue of vandalism at Wallace Park and the Head of Service (Parks & Amenities) was liaising with the PSNI and PCSP to address this; Members would be kept informed. Councillor Craig having asked how many wardens were working in Wallace Park, the Chief Executive agreed to provide him with this information.

14.6 Help Kids Talk Initiative
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that he had been contacted by former Mayoress, Mrs Bloomfield, in relation to the Resurgam Trust's Help Kids Talk initiative. A fear had been expressed that this initiative would run out of funding and Councillor Trimble asked that this be referred to the relevant Committee for consideration. Councillor U Mackin advised that he had brought forward this very important and worthwhile scheme initially during his term as Mayor, through the Development Committee. He stated that it would be regrettable if funding was to cease and this should be taken forward as soon as possible. The Chief Executive confirmed that, as a community planning issue this matter had gone through the Development Committee. His recollection was that its funding would remain in place for another year but agreed to check this out. If that was not the case, it would be considered during the estimates process. Members would be advised accordingly.

14.7 Christmas Jumper Day and Street Collection
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, drew attention to the fact that the Council was running a Christmas Jumper Day on Friday 11 December. Members of staff were being encouraged to wear a Christmas jumper and make a donation to the Mayor's Charity. He appealed to all Members to get on board with this also. On Saturday 12 December a street collection was taking place in Bow Street/Market Square and Councillor Trimble stated that any time Members could give to assist with this collection would be greatly appreciated.

14.8 Angle of Cameras in Council Chamber
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, referred to problems associated with the angles of the cameras in the Council Chamber and asked that this be investigated.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, thanked those present for their attendance and reminded those present in the Council Chamber that they should exit the Chamber in an orderly fashion, adhering to social distancing guidance, and wear their face masks when moving about the building.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 9.10 pm.

Mayor