

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Development Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday 14 August 2018 at 7.05 pm

PRESENT: Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Acting Chairman)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Grehan
Aldermen W J Dillon MBE and T Jeffers
Councillors J Baird, A P Ewing, B Hanvey,
T Morrow, A Redpath and S Skillen

OTHER MEMBERS: Alderman S P Porter and A Givan

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Service Transformation
Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Head of Economic Development
Regeneration and Infrastructure Manager
Member Services Officer

Purpose of Meeting

The Special Meeting of the Development Committee had been convened in order to consider updates and recommendations in connection with a number of items of business.

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting the Acting Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart welcomed those present to the Special meeting of the Development Committee, in particular those Members who were not members of the Committee.

The Acting Chairman outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency and stated that should any Member require to leave the meeting to notify the Members Services Officer in order that their departure could be recorded accurately in the minutes.

1. **Apologies**

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Chairman, Alderman W A Leathem, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor U Mackin, Aldermen D Drysdale and S Martin, and Councillors J Gallen and J Gray MBE.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Acting Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, invited Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided at the meeting.

Councillor T Morrow declared an interest in respect of item 3.1 Rural Development – Additional Funding Opportunities within the 2018/2019 Financial Year – in view of his membership of the Rural Development Partnership's Local Action Group.

The Acting Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, declared an interest in respect of item 3.1 Rural Development – Additional Funding Opportunities within the 2018/2019 Financial Year – in view of his membership of the Rural Development Partnership's Local Action Group.

3. Report by Director of Service Transformation

At the outset the Director referred to the additional items that had been included in his report to the Special Meeting which had been included for consideration due to the timescales of the respective projects and expressed appreciation to the Committee Chairman, Alderman W A Leathem, for his indulgence in this regard.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, seconded by Councillor B Hanvey and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Director of Service Transformation, including the confidential report, be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

3.1 Rural Development – Additional Funding Opportunities within 2018/2019 Financial Year

The Director of Service Transformation outlined the additional funding opportunities for the Council that had arisen under the NI Rural Development Programme for the financial period 2018/19. The Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) had requested that all Local Action Groups (LAGs) revise their implementation plan grant spend projections with a view to uplifting in-year projected grant allocations by identifying new potential projects for grant award which would be required to be completed and paid for by March 2019.

The Director reported that two projects had been identified from the Leisure and Community Wellbeing Directorate that would meet the DAERA criteria and could be delivered within the ambitious timeline; namely,

- a) Health & Wellbeing Programme of Activities – Billy Neill Playing Fields – Total Cost = £583,733, Potential DAERA Grant Request @ 75% = £437,800
- b) Green Gym Scheme – Bells Lane Allotments – Total Cost = £360,000, Potential DAERA Grant Request @ 75% = £270,000

3.1 Rural Development – Additional Funding Opportunities within 2018/2019 Financial Year (Cont'd)

The Director advised that the above-mentioned projects had already been identified within the Council's Capital Development Programme. The projects amounted to a combined total cost of £943,733 which would require overall grant award of £707,800 from the LAG to the Leisure and Community Wellbeing Directorate.

It was noted that at the meeting of Lagan Rural Partnership LAG on Monday 18 June 2018 it had been agreed that delegated authority be given to the LAG Board Chairman to negotiate with DAERA regarding drawing down additional grant for distribution. As a consequence Lagan Rural Partnership LAG had requested an additional £629,300 (over and above the LAG's original grant allocation of £2.6M) of unallocated funds from DAERA within this financial year on the basis that both projects were considered for assessment and grant award.

The Director advised that it was expected that DAERA would approve the above-mentioned request and therefore mitigate the risk of the LAG not securing future funding for all other programmed grant commitments to include those under the current Village Renewal Scheme.

In line with delegated authority granted to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 24 July 2018 it was agreed that the Council submits applications for assessment and grant award for project one (Health & Wellbeing Programme of Activities – Billy Neill Playing Fields) and project two (Green Gym Scheme – Bells Lane Allotments) to Lagan Rural Partnership LAG upon confirmation from DAERA that additional grant funds of £629,300 were allocated to the LAG.

It was further agreed that if both projects were assessed and accepted for grant award, officials from the Leisure and Community Wellbeing Department ensure that both projects be completed and paid for by March 2019 to secure full funding entitlement.

3.2 Lisburn City Centre Light Festival – Update and Financial Appraisal

The Acting Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, advised that further information had been furnished to the Committee within a Confidential Report in relation to the tender report that had been prepared in respect of the above project and accordingly this item of business would be required to be considered "In Committee" due to containing information in relation to the financial or business affairs of the organisation concerned (including the Council holding that information).

Prior to consideration of the Confidential report on this matter the Director outlined the principle around the proposals for a Lisburn City Centre Light Festival following the decision of the Committee at its meeting held on 12 April 2018 that a 'Light' Festival should be developed for delivery in Lisburn City Centre in December 2018 with a budget allocated of £250,000. At that same meeting Members had been presented with examples of lighting installations and festivals from across the world,

3.2 Lisburn City Centre Light Festival – Update and Financial Appraisal (Cont'd)

that had been delivered on a much larger scale, with a view that the Light festival to be delivered in Lisburn City Centre this year be produced to a high level delivering elements of a range of ideas but also potential to grow in future years.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the financial appraisal which had been assessed by the Council's Financial Services Unit in line with the emerging capital programme approach, it being noted that this project was affordable within this year's investment capital programme.

In line with delegated authority granted to the Committee by the Council at its meeting on 24 July 2018 it was agreed that the financial appraisal for the Lisburn City Centre Light Festival be agreed.

It was noted that the City Centre Management team had been working with the businesses in the City Centre to advise them of the proposals at this stage and to assess their potential 'buy in' to the project. Trader meetings had been scheduled for later in August to advise of the project option and detail, as recommended by Committee.

It was also noted from the Director's report that following further market research and having spoken to a range of potential suppliers a range of options were available for Members to consider. A recommendation from this research was that to ensure that the lighting installations included in the Lisburn City Centre Festival were unique and impactful something bespoke would need to be designed and built. The research also indicated that the current budget agreed previously may not be adequate to enable this. A tender specification was therefore developed and issued to the market requesting options on the delivery of the Light Festival.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor J Baird, seconded by Alderman T Jeffers , and agreed that the confidential report in relation to the tender process for the Light Festival be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the deadline for tender submissions had been 10 August 2018 and a tender report subsequently prepared, a copy of which had been furnished to the Committee for consideration.

Councillor S Skillen entered the meeting at 7.14 pm.

At this point the Committee was provided with a presentation by the Regeneration and Infrastructure Manager on the Lisburn City Centre Light Festival proposals.

The Regeneration and Infrastructure Manager outlined the concept and opportunities in connection with the Light Festival which would be promoted through the Council's integrated marketing campaign. The Committee also had been provided with the proposed costs for a three-year programme.

3.2 Lisburn City Centre Light Festival – Update and Financial Appraisal (Cont'd)

A discussion ensued during which the Director, the Head of Economic Development and the Regeneration and Infrastructure Manager responded to questions and comments from Members in relation to the proposals as presented to the Committee.

Alderman W J Dillon left the meeting at 8.00 pm and returned at 8.09 pm.

Councillor S Skillen left the meeting at 8.10 pm and returned at 8.12 pm.

Alderman W J Dillon left the meeting at 8.11 pm and did not return.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, left the meeting at 8.11 pm and returned at 8.13 pm.

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Alderman T Jeffers, that Option 1 (as detailed in the Confidential Report) be the preferred option.

A counter proposal was proposed by Councillor T Morrow, seconded by Councillor J Baird, that option 2 (as detailed in the Confidential Report) be the preferred option.

The amendment by Councillor T Morrow, that option 2 be the preferred option was put to the meeting, there being two votes in favour.

The proposal by Councillor A P Ewing, that option 1 be the preferred option was put to the meeting and declared “carried,” there being three votes in favour.

It was proposed by Councillor J Baird, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

In line with delegated authority granted by the Council at its meeting on 24 July 2018 to the Development Committee in respect of the Lisburn City Centre Light Festival project, it was agreed that:

- a) the recommendation to appoint the most economically advantageous tender, as outlined in the Director’s Confidential Report, be agreed, and
- b) Option 1 be the preferred option in relation to the Lisburn City Centre Light Festival, as proposed by Councillor A P Ewing and seconded by Alderman T Jeffers.

It was noted that the delivery of the City Centre Light Festival would depend on an agreed level of commitment towards this project from relevant stakeholders.

Alderman S P Porter left the meeting as did the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing (8.26 pm).

3.3 Eastern Economic Corridor

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the Belfast-Dublin Economic Corridor had existed as a concept for some 20 years, and in March 2014, the Lord Mayors of Belfast and Dublin had signed a Memorandum of Understanding to work collaboratively to maximise the economic opportunities between both cities.

Following discussions in April 2018, to discuss collaborative working between five local authorities to progress the future development of the corridor, a coordinating Steering Group had been set up in May 2018. This group comprised representatives from the economic development departments of eight local authorities (as detailed below), as well as Ulster University and Dublin City University:

1. Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
2. Belfast City Council
3. Dublin City Council
4. Fingal County Council
5. Newry, Mourne & Down District Council
6. Louth County Council
7. Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
8. Meath County Council

Lanyon Communications also sat on the Steering Group to support collaborative branding and initiatives.

The Head of Economic Development reported that the first meeting of the Steering Group had been held on 15 June 2018 to agree roles and consider undertaking an economic study for the Eastern Economic Corridor as well as a joint conference with the key aim to identify and deliver a collective and measurable economic vision for the corridor. A second meeting had also taken place on 4 July 2018. The Committee noted a number of actions that had followed on from the above-mentioned meetings.

The Head of Economic Development advised that in order to progress an economic study all local authorities had been asked to financially contribute to a maximum of £6,500 each.

A copy of the Terms of Reference which outlined the purpose and scope of the Steering Group had been furnished to the Committee.

It was agreed to recommend that the Committee supports the economic study to a maximum cost of £6,500, which would establish an evidence base for potential local government-led collaboration along the corridor.

It was also agreed to recommend that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee, or their nominees, be nominated to attend the collaborative workshop on 19 September 2018 along with an appropriate Officer from Economic Development.

Items for Noting

3.4 Tree Preservation Order (Provisional) between 53-63 Dromore Road, Hillsborough

The Director reported that the above-mentioned site had received outline planning approval for 2 dwellings (Planning Application reference LA05/2016/0670/O) and that following concerns raised by a member of the public, the arboriculturist had confirmed that there were significant trees (300 year old oaks) on the site which offered a high amenity value.

Given the concerns raised, a provisional Tree Preservation Order (TPO) dated 3 July 2018 had been placed on the site for a period of 6 months with land owners and neighbours having also been informed, it being noted that any representations received during this period would be considered prior to confirmation of the TPO.

A copy of the provisional TPO on the lands between 53-63 Dromore Road, Hillsborough and the associated map outlining the site had been furnished to the Committee.

The Council had requested an arboriculturist to carry out a detailed survey on the site to identify any specific trees which may benefit from a TPO. These would not preclude or affect the approved development, but enhance the amenity value of the site.

It was agreed that the report on the Tree Preservation Order in respect of the site at 53-63 Dromore Road, Hillsborough, be noted.

3.5 Financial Appraisals – Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Housing Growth/Methodology Review

The Director reminded the Committee that Landscape Character Assessment (LCA) and Housing Growth/Methodology Review studies had been approved by the Committee at its Special Meeting held on 13 June 2018.

The Committee had been furnished with and noted the content of the financial appraisals for the LCA and Housing Growth/Methodology Review, it being noted that minor modifications had been made to the financial appraisal following further discussion with the Finance Unit.

It was agreed that the Financial Appraisal for the Landscape Character Assessment and Housing Growth/Methodology Review be noted.

There being no further business for consideration the Special meeting terminated at 8.28 pm.

Chairman