

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Friday 5 June, 2026 at 2.00 pm

PRESENT IN COUNCIL:
CHAMBER

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman A Grehan (Outgoing)
Councillor B Higginson (Incoming)

Deputy Mayor
Alderman H Legge (Outgoing)
Alderman A McIntyre (Incoming)

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg,
S P Porter, S Skillen and J Tinsley

Councillors J Bamford, D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns,
R Carlin, D J Craig, A P Ewing, A Gowan, J Harpur, G Hynds,
C Kemp, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, D Lynch, U Mackin,
C McCready, M McKeever, T Mitchell, G Thompson and
N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Head of Waste Management and Operational Services
Member Services Manager
Member Services Officers (FA and HB)
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the Annual Meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to both hear and see the proceedings.

The Outgoing Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, 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.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Alderman A Grehan, welcomed her Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend A Thompson to the meeting. Rev Thompson led Members in prayer following which the Mayor thanked him for his help, support and pastoral care throughout her Mayoral term.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors P Catney, K Dickson, J Gallen, A Givan, B Magee, A Martin, R McLernon, N Parker and N Trimble and the Director of Environmental Services.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Alderman A Grehan expressed condolences to Councillor Givan and his family who had suffered a bereavement.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

4. Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 6 June, 2025

Councillor D Lynch arrived at the meeting during this item (2.09 pm).

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 6 June, 2025, as adopted and signed at the Meeting of Council held on 24 June, 2025, were noted.

5. Election of Members to Positions of Responsibility 2026/2027

5.1 Election of Mayor 2026/2027

Councillor S Lowry left the meeting during this item (2.20 pm).

Before vacating the Office of the Mayor, The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Alderman A Grehan, stated she would like to reflect on what had been an incredible year and to thank those that had helped her make it so memorable.

Alderman Grehan thanked her colleagues in the Alliance Party for giving her the opportunity to serve as Mayor, which was one of the greatest honours of her life, and she was grateful for the trust and support they had placed in her. She paid tribute to her Deputy Mayor (Outgoing), Alderman H Legge, who had stepped in to support events and represent the Council at every time of asking. Her dedication, enthusiasm and friendship meant a great deal to Alderman Grehan, and she felt extremely fortunate to have the support of Alderman Legge throughout the year.

Alderman Grehan continued to thank the Chief Executive, Directors and all staff across the Council, whose hard work, dedication and willingness to help, made so much possible during her year in office, particularly with fundraising for her chosen

5.1 Election of Mayor 2026/2027 (Cont'd)

charity and in helping promote a more inclusive city for everyone. Alderman Grehan made special mention to the staff in the Mayor's Office, Mrs D Wilson and Mrs N Prentice, and thanked them for their dedication in keeping the office running smoothly and for making her Inaugural Dinner one of the highlights of her year, and thanked her Mayor's Drivers, Messrs G McCartney, J Green and M Bingham and wished Mr McCartney a quick recovery after a recent illness.

Alderman Grehan thanked her charity committee and all who had supported her fundraising efforts throughout the year, and the people of Lisburn and Castlereagh who she had shared so many wonderful experiences with throughout the year. She thanked all who had donated to her charity fundraising and advised that almost £130,000.00 had been raised for breast screening services at Action Cancer. Alderman Grehan advised that more importantly awareness had been raised and an additional six breast cancer screening buses had been brought into the Lisburn Castlereagh area. Alderman Grehan read a letter she had received from a former Council employee, Mrs L Murray, about her experience using one of the breast screening buses, how a lump had been found, and the subsequent successful treatment she had received. Alderman Grehan advised that Mrs Murray's experience was a powerful reminder of why early detection mattered and how breast screening services really can save lives.

Alderman Grehan spoke of her theme for the year of inclusivity and thanked all who had embraced it and supported her efforts to make the city more welcoming and accessible for all. She advised of the many letters and emails she had received from families thanking her for how included they felt at events in the past year.

Alderman Grehan advised that serving as Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council had been one of the greatest honours of her life and that it was a great privilege to serve the city she grew up in.

Alderman Grehan advised that she was a Member of the Board of Governors of Park View Special School, Lisburn and reminded that every child whether living with disabilities, facing hardship or caught in conflict, deserved the chance to be seen, valued and included. A video was played of the choir of Park View Special School and Mr P Corry performing A Million Dreams from the soundtrack to The Greatest Showman.

On behalf of their parties, a number of Members paid tribute to the Outgoing Mayor, namely Councillor C Kemp, Alderman J Tinsley, Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor R Carlin and Councillor G Hynds. Reference was made to Alderman Grehan's energy, enthusiasm and commitment to the people of Lisburn and Castlereagh and to her tireless fundraising for her Mayoral Charity, Action Cancer.

The Deputy Mayor (Outgoing), Alderman H Legge, advised she could hardly believe it had been a year since she had taken the office of Deputy Mayor and pledged to support Alderman Grehan in representing the Council and supporting her in her theme and charity fundraising for the year. Alderman Legge spoke of her late father, who had sadly passed away three months prior to her taking up the role as Deputy Mayor, and thanked her party colleagues in the UUP, her family, in

5.1 Election of Mayor 2026/2027 (Cont'd)

particular her husband Mr D Legge, and Council staff, in particular those in the Mayor's Office. She made special mention to the Mayoral Drivers, Messrs G McCartney, J Green, M Bingham and S Johnston, who had assisted her throughout the year and wished Mr G McCartney well, after a recent illness. Alderman Legge thanked the Outgoing Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, and advised she hadn't met anyone else with the drive, ambition, passion and energy for the cause she had taken on. She spoke of the delight she took in being able to play a small part in the Mayoral term, and highlighted a recent garden party which had taken place in Hillsborough Castle where she had the honour of meeting the King and Queen. Lastly, Alderman Legge extended congratulations to the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

Councillor C Kemp, thanked Alderman Legge for her contribution and for having supported the Mayor throughout the year.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Alderman A Grehan, declared the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor vacant. Alderman Grehan and Alderman Legge removed their Chains of Office and Alderman Legge vacated her seat at the top table.

The Outgoing Mayor having sought nominations for the position of Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council for 2026/27, Alderman J Tinsley (Nominating Officer for DUP) stated that it gave him great pleasure in nominating Councillor B Higginson. He had known Councillor Higginson for many years and spoke of how hard he worked in his local community, how he was a veteran of the armed forces and of his recent commissioning as a Parish Reader. This proposal was seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed. Alderman Porter commended the work of Alderman A Grehan and Alderman H Legge in their term of office and wished Councillor Higginson well for the year ahead and advised he would support him in any way he could.

The Outgoing Mayor, having declared Councillor B Higginson elected as Mayor for 2026/27, placed the Chain of Office on Councillor Higginson and vacated her seat at the top table.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, took his seat at the top table and signed the Declaration of Office.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, began by thanking his DUP colleagues for putting him forward to take on the office of Mayor. He stated that he had immense pride, humility and gratitude in accepting the Office of the Mayor in an area which had been his home throughout his life, which was a privilege he took neither lightly nor for granted. He spoke of his determination to not only serve those that had voted for him but every resident, family and community throughout the Council area.

The Mayor spoke of his upbringing in Lisburn where he was born and raised, being educated in Old Warren Primary School and Lisnagarvey High School, and worked all of his adult life. He advised that through his life experiences he had developed a strong understanding of the people of Lisburn, who are its greatest

5.1 Election of Mayor 2026/2027 (Cont'd)

asset and make the city what it is. He continued that for over 30 years he had been actively involved in the community through marching band tradition and the Loyal Orders, which gave him a deep appreciation of heritage, identity, service and community spirit and showed him the importance of volunteering.

The Mayor spoke of his recent appointment as a Parish Reader and Church Warden and how it had afforded him the privilege of serving others in some of the most important moments of their lives, through which he witnessed the strength of community, the power of compassion and the importance of being there for others. He advised that the Reverend N Dark of Magheragall Parish Church had agreed to serve as his Chaplain during his term of office.

The Mayor thanked his wife and children and spoke of the family sacrifice through countless evenings away from home and missed family occasions as a result of the many hours he had spent serving others. He advised of the support he received from his family through patience, encouragement and understanding.

The Mayor advised that his theme for the year would be service and elaborated that service was something that had shaped his life, in particular his time serving in the Ulster Defence Regiment Conspicuous Gallantry Cross from 1987 – 1992. He advised that throughout his year in office he wanted to ensure that all aspects of service were recognised, celebrated and valued.

The Mayor spoke of his pride at being the first Mayor of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council from his Castlereagh South DEA and spoke of the work he had been involved in within the community. He thanked his colleagues in the DUP for placing their trust and confidence in him, in particular Alderman S P Porter, who had been a friend, mentor and source of counsel to him for many years. The Mayor acknowledged all Members of the Council and advised that regardless of political party or background, and that whilst they may not always agree, democracy was strengthened when they engaged in respectful debate, challenged each other constructively and worked together to find common ground.

The Mayor paid tribute to the Outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor, Alderman A Grehan and Alderman H Legge and congratulated them on a successful year in office. He thanked all Council staff and spoke of the work undertaken, much of which went unseen by the public, and how it was fundamental to the successful delivery of services across the Council area.

The Mayor advised he wanted to visit all areas within the Council boundary and listen to peoples' experiences and celebrate their achievements. He spoke of the vital contribution of community groups, churches, sports groups, charities, cultural and arts groups within the community, and of his desire to support and recognise the armed forces community, both serving and veterans, which was particularly important to him.

The Mayor was delighted to announce that his Mayoral Charity would be Air Ambulance Northern Ireland. He advised he hoped to raise significant funds for the charity, who provided critical care for those in need when every second mattered, and whose work embodied his Mayoral theme of service.

5.1 Election of Mayor 2026/2027 (Cont'd)

In closing, the Mayor read a quote which had often been attributed to The Right Honourable Sir Winston Churchill “We make a living by what we get, but may we make a life by what we give”.

On behalf of their parties, a number of Members congratulated the Incoming Mayor, namely Councillor C Kemp, Councillor R Carlin, Alderman H Legge and Councillor G Hynds. Members wished Councillor Higginson well for the year ahead and commended both his chosen charity and his theme for the year.

5.2 Election of Deputy Mayor 2026/2027

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, sought nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year 2026/2027.

Councillor C Kemp (Nominating Officer for APNI) nominated Alderman A McIntyre for the position of Deputy Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council for 2026/27. This proposal was seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed. Councillor Kemp congratulated The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, on having been nominated to the role of Mayor, advised that she thought they would make an excellent team and wished both him and Alderman McIntyre well for the year ahead.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, handed over the Deputy Mayoral Chain. The Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, took his seat at the top table and signed the Declaration of Office.

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, stated what a great honour it was to be nominated to the position of Deputy Mayor. He advised that like the Mayor, he was Lisburn born and bred, being educated at Largymore Primary School and Wallace High School.

The Deputy Mayor congratulated Councillor B Higginson on his appointment as Mayor and advised how he looked forward to working with him constructively, supporting his Mayoral charity, and helping ensure it was a successful year for the Council and city.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Alderman A Grehan, who he referred to as his political mother, and congratulated her on a successful year as Mayor. He thanked his colleagues in the Alliance Party and paid tribute to the late Mrs B Campbell who had sadly passed away earlier in the year. Mrs Campbell had encouraged him in his early political career, and he advised that the confidence she had shown in him had set him on the path to where he found himself now. The Deputy Mayor also spoke of his delight in seeing past colleagues Mr T Lunn, Mrs S Eastwood MP, Mr D Honeyford MLA and Mrs M Guy MLA in the public gallery whose advice, encouragement and friendship had been invaluable over the years.

The Deputy Mayor thanked his family, in particular his parents and grandmother who were in the public gallery, and his wife who could not attend due to work commitments. He thanked his wife for her understanding, patience and support.

5.2 Election of Deputy Mayor 2026/2027 (Cont'd)

In closing the Deputy Mayor thanked his constituents in the Downshire East DEA, who he was privileged to represent, and advised he looked forward to serving all of the people of Lisburn Castlereagh and working with colleagues across the Council Chamber in the year ahead as Deputy Mayor.

On behalf of their parties, a number of Members congratulated the Incoming Deputy Mayor, namely Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman H Legge, Councillor R Carlin and Councillor G Hynds. They wished him well in his new role and looked forward to working with him.

5.3 Election of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2026/2027

Arising from the nominations made by the Nominating Officers, the following appointments of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2026/2027 were agreed on a proposal made by Alderman J Tinsley and seconded by Councillor C Kemp:

(i) Planning Committee

Chair Councillor D Bassett
Vice-Chair Alderman J Tinsley

(ii) Governance & Audit Committee

Chair Councillor M McKeever

(iii) Communities and Wellbeing Committee

Chair Councillor S Lowry
Vice-Chair Councillor B Magee

(iv) Environment and Sustainability Committee

Chair Alderman S Skillen
Vice-Chair Councillor N Parker

(v) Regeneration and Growth Committee

Chair Alderman J Baird
Vice-Chair Alderman A G Ewart

(vi) Corporate Services Committee

Chair Alderman S P Porter
Vice-Chair Councillor R McLernon

6. Election of Members to Committee Positions 2026/2027

Arising from the nominations made by the Nominating Officers, the following nominations for membership of Standing Committees for 2026/2027 were agreed on a proposal made by Alderman J Tinsley and seconded by Councillor C Kemp:

6.1 Planning Committee

Councillor D J Craig
Councillor J Lavery
Councillor S Burns
Alderman O Gawith
Alderman M Gregg
Alderman A Grehan
Councillor N Trimble
Councillor A Martin
Councillor P Catney

6.2 Governance & Audit Committee

Alderman S P Porter
Alderman J Tinsley
Councillor S Burns
Councillor D J Craig
Councillor A P Ewing
Alderman O Gawith
Alderman A Grehan
Councillor J Bamford
Councillor B Magee
Councillor A Martin
Councillor R McLernon
Councillor D Bassett
Councillor D Lynch
Councillor J Gallen

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.3 Communities and Wellbeing Committee

Alderman S Skillen
Alderman J Tinsley
Councillor R T Beckett
Councillor D J Craig
Councillor A Givan
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor G Thompson
Councillor N Parker
Alderman H Legge
Councillor T Mitchell

6.3 Communities and Wellbeing Committee (Cont'd)

Councillor R Carlin
Councillor G McCleave
Councillor J Gallen

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.4 Environment and Sustainability Committee

Councillor S Burns
Councillor A Givan
Councillor A Gowan
Councillor C McCready
Councillor J Bamford
Alderman M Gregg
Councillor B Magee
Councillor M McKeever
Alderman J Baird
Councillor R McLernon
Councillor D Bassett
Councillor P Catney
Councillor G Hynds

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.5 Regeneration and Growth Committee

Councillor A Gowan
Councillor J Lavery
Councillor U Mackin
Councillor C McCready
Councillor K Dickson
Councillor J Harpur
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor S Lowry
Councillor G Thompson
Councillor T Mitchell
Councillor A Martin
Councillor D Lynch
Councillor J Gallen

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.6 Corporate Services Committee

Alderman A G Ewart
Councillor R T Beckett
Councillor A P Ewing
Councillor J Lavery
Councillor U Mackin
Alderman O Gawith
Councillor J Bamford
Councillor K Dickson
Councillor J Harpur
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor N Trimble
Councillor R Carlin
Councillor G McCleave

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman A McIntyre, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

7. Lisburn & Castlereagh Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
Chair 2026/2027

In accordance with the Justice (NI) Act 2011 under which the position of Chair of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership was rotated in turn by each of the four largest parties represented on the Council immediately after the last local general election, it was noted that the Chair of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP for 2026/2027 was a Sinn Fein Member.

Councillor R Carlin, Nominating Officer for Sinn Fein, advised that Councillor D Lynch would be Chair of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP for 2026/2027. This information was noted.

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Higginson, thanked those present for their attendance and, there being no further business for consideration, the meeting concluded at 3.20 pm.

Mayor