

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Tuesday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 at 6.00 pm.****PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (COMMITTEE):**

Councillor T Mitchell (Chair)  
 Councillor A Givan (Vice-Chair)  
 Deputy Mayor Alderman H Legge  
 Alderman A McIntyre  
 Councillors T Beckett, J Craig, K Dickson, B Higginson, C Kemp, S Lowry, G McCleave and G Thompson

**PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE)**

Alderman S Skillen and Councillor R Carlin

**(NON-COMMITTEE)**

Councillor J Harpur

**PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (NON-COMMITTEE)**

Councillor G Hynds

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing  
 Director of Regeneration and Growth (remote attendance)  
 Head of Communities  
 Head of Sports Services  
 Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)  
 Head of Economic Development  
 Regeneration & Infrastructure Manager  
 Area Managers, Sports Services (CM & MS)  
 Member Services Officers (HB & EW)  
 I.T. Officer

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

Unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per 8.6 of the Council's Standing Orders. Mobile phones were to be turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting. Members attending remotely were asked to keep their cameras on. Finally, the Chair asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert the

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

The Chair also thanked his fellow committee members, Directors, Heads of Service, Officers and the Vice-Chair, Councillor Alan Givan, for their help and support during his year as Chair of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee which he had really enjoyed.

The Chair also welcomed the Area Managers, Sports Services, to the committee meeting.

1. Apologies

An apology for non-attendance was accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor J Gallen.

2. Declarations of Interest

Two Declarations of Interest were made by Members regarding Item 3.1 – Community Plan: Action Plan 2026-2030:

- Councillors G Thompson and S Lowry are both members of the Strategic Community Planning Partnership (non-pecuniary interest).

3. Report of the Head of Communities

3.1 Community Action Plan 2026-2030

The Head of Communities explained that the former Community Action Plan is now out of date and a new Community Action Plan is required to ensure delivery against the key objectives of the Community Plan 2017-2032.

Members had been provided with a narrative report and the Draft Community Action Plan 2026-2030 as well as appendices providing information about the Village Plans, an Equality Screening and a Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

The Head of Communities responded to questions from the Committee in connection with the Community Action Plan.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that the recommendations of the Head of Service, as outlined, be approved.

3.1 Community Action Plan 2026-2030 (Cont'd)

It was recommended that Members agree to:

- Approve the new Community Action Plan 2026-2030 as the agreed delivery framework for the Community Plan 2017-2032.

3.2 Department for Communities Museums Policy NI: Consultation – Delegated Authority

The Head of Communities reported that the Department for Communities is carrying out a consultation about a new Museums Policy. This will replace the existing Northern Ireland Museums Policy which was published in 2011.

Members were provided with a narrative report about the Department of Communities Museums Policy NI consultation.

Given that the deadline for submissions is 22<sup>nd</sup> June, the Head of Communities requested delegated authority for Officers to prepare a response, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair.

It was proposed by Councillor G McCleave, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, and agreed to recommend that:

- Delegated authority is granted to Officers to prepare a response to the Museums Policy consultation, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair, and
- Comments from any Member who wished to have their comments considered for inclusion in the response to be emailed to the Head of Communities at their earliest convenience.

It was agreed that a retrospective report would be brought to a future meeting for noting.

4. Report of the Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)

4.1 Request to Fly Drones on Council Sites

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities reported that a request had been received to fly a drone at Hydebank Playing Fields for a period not exceeding 30 minutes on a suitable future date, subject to Council approval.

A copy of the correspondence from the applicant and a narrative report had also been presented to Members. Approval to set aside bye-laws would be required to enable this request.

#### 4.1 Request to Fly Drones on Council Sites (Cont'd)

Councillor G Thompson asked for further information in relation to the above request and also expressed concern regarding how GDPR and safety measures would be enforced.

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities explained that this is an initial request which the council bye-laws must be set aside for; if the approval is granted then she will liaise with the Data Protection Officer and the Health & Safety Officer in the Council to ensure compliance

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to recommend that:

- Hydebank Playing Fields is used to fly a drone, as outlined in the Officer's report, and;
- Approval given to set aside the bye-laws to enable this request to progress.

#### 4.2 Request to use Cairnshill Playing Fields

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities reported that Newtownbreda FC Academy had requested the use of Cairnshill Playing Fields for a Community Fun Day on either Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> August or Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> August 2026. A narrative report, Booking Form and Parks & Open Spaces Screening had been provided to Members.

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor G McCleave, and recommended to agree to:

- The use of Cairnshill Playing Fields;
- Temporary lifting of the relevant bye-laws, and;
- Infrastructure support where required.

#### 4.3 Request to use Open Spaces – Moira Demesne

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities reported that Moira Baptist Church had requested the use of Moira Demesne for their summer Bible club and service on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2026.

A narrative report, Booking Form and Equality Screening had been provided and it was recommended that Members agree to:

- The use of Moira Demesne;
- Temporary lifting of the relevant bye-laws; and
- Infrastructure support where required.

Councillor G Thompson proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor A Givan.

#### 4.4 Draft Pitches Strategy 2026-2031

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities thanked everyone who had taken part in the Pitches Strategy workshops and stated how positive it is that there has been an increase in the usage of pitches.

Members had been provided with a narrative report along with a draft Strategy Report, Executive Summary, Equality Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

There was lengthy discussion about the draft strategy and Members were keen to see the consultation questions in advance of formal release to the public. Several Members also pointed out that opening the consultation in July/August would not work well since it is the summer holidays and suggested a later release date. The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities explained that they are keen to start the consultation but will bear these comments in mind and could extend the consultation beyond the required 12 weeks to run into September when schools are back.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing also responded to questions from Members in connection with the draft Pitches Strategy.

It was proposed by Councillor G McCleave, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and recommended to agree the:

- Draft Pitch Strategy be released for a 12 week public consultation and;
- a full Equality Impact Assessment be progressed.

Councillor B Higginson left the Chamber at 6.31 pm and returned at 6.34 pm.

### 5. Report of Head of Sports Services

#### 5.1 Carryduff Colts – Charity Football Tournament, Lough Moss Leisure Centre

The Head of Sports Services reported that, following the request at Communities & Wellbeing Committee in May, he had met with Carryduff Colts to discuss assistance from the Council for the above tournament.

The Head of Service explained that a fee of £500 had been agreed, based on no loss of income from similar facilities last year and that Carryduff Colts would engage with Council much earlier next year to explore funding options.

A narrative report had been provided to Members and was duly noted.

#### 5.2 Summer Activity Programmes 2026 for Young People

A narrative report and appendix detailing the various Council run summer schemes had been provided to Members which showed a great variety of

5.2 Summer Activity Programmes 2026 for Young People (Cont'd)

programmes in different venues offering sport, arts and crafts for young people.

The Head of Sports Services reported that summer schemes had gone on sale the day before and that some had sold out within five minutes.

This report was duly noted.

6 Any Other Business (Non-Confidential)

6.1.1 Ballyskeagh Footbridge, Huguenot Playpark, the Blue Bridge  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor Hynds thanked Officers for the work carried out at Ballyskeagh Footbridge and Huguenot Playpark which had been painted recently.

However, he pointed out that there is overgrowth at the Blue Bridge and acknowledged that this is not owned by Council. The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities confirmed that she would explore this and advise Members

6.1.2 Derriaghy Football Club  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor Hynds thanked staff in Parks & Amenities Unit, on behalf of Derriaghy Football Club, for all their recent help and support prior to the team having won the Premier League.

6.1.3 Thanks to Outgoing Chair and Vice-Chair  
Councillor G Thompson

Councillor Thompson, on behalf of the Alliance group, thanked the Chair and Vice-Chair on the manner in which they had chaired the Communities & Wellbeing Committee over the past year and congratulated both of them.

6.1.4 Alderman A McIntyre  
Anna Cheyne Centenary Exhibition

Alderman McIntyre thanked the Head of Communities and staff at the Museum for their hard work on the above exhibition which he said is remarkable.

Confidential Business

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered “in Committee”. (Recording was paused at this stage in proceedings. The member of the press left the Chamber and the two members of the public in attendance also left).

Each of the confidential reports were confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

7 Report of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

7.1 Dundonald International Ice Bowl Update

An Update Report, Communications Plan, Branding, Financial Summary and Financial Table had been provided to Members.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing updated Members on the redevelopment of the Dundonald International Ice Bowl. There was discussion and questions from Members which the Director responded to. The Director of Regeneration & Growth also responded to some of the capital questions from Members.

It was agreed that the Committee note the content of the report and appendices

7.2 Satellite Centre and Social Enterprise – Funding Programme

A narrative report had been provided to Members as well as external correspondence, Equality Screening documentation and a Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing addressed the Committee in regard to key issues as set out in her report.

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed to recommend that:

- Funding be awarded to this facility for 2026/2027 in line with the contents of the report, with ongoing evaluation to consider future funding support and;
- this funding allocation be included as part of the 2027/2028 estimates process;
- A one-year rental relief be approved.

Alderman S Skillen left remotely at 7.10 pm, at the end of Item 7.2.

Councillor S Lowry left the Chamber at 7.11 pm and returned at 7.13 pm.

7.3 Provision of Catering & Refreshments at Dundonald International Ice Bowl – Procurement Criteria

The Head of Sports Services' report set out the background and key issues in connection with the requirement for a tender for catering and refreshments at the new Dundonald International Ice Bowl.

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor J Craig, and agreed to recommend that the tender award criteria, as outlined in the Head of Sports Services' report be approved.

8 Any Other Business (Confidential)

8.1 Graffiti in Carryduff  
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor Higginson thanked Officers for their work removing graffiti at Carryduff Park and at Lough Moss Leisure Centre.

8.2 Fire at Lisburn Museum  
Councillor T Mitchell

The Chair, Councillor Mitchell, thanked Officers who had dealt with the fire at Lisburn Museum last week.

Resumption of Normal Business

Councillor B Higginson proposed coming out of committee which was seconded by Alderman A McIntyre.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, thanked those present for their attendance and - there being no further business - the meeting concluded at 7.23 pm.

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MAYOR/CHAIR