

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, on Wednesday 5 November, 2025 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Alderman O Gawith (Chair)

Councillor S Burns (Vice-Chair)

Alderman J Baird

Councillors J Bamford, P Catney, A Givan, B Magee, C McCready, M McKeever and N Parker

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Alderman S Skillen

Councillors D Bassett, A Gowan and R McLernon

**OTHER MEMBERS IN CHAMBER**

Alderman J Tinsley

Councillor T Beckett

**OTHER MEMBERS IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Alderman A McIntyre

Councillor G McCleave

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director of Environmental Services

Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk &amp; Emergency Planning)

Head of Service (Waste Management &amp; Operational Services)

Head of Service (Building Control &amp; Sustainability)

Member Services Officers (EW and BS)

**Commencement of the Meeting**

The Chair, Alderman O Gawith, welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business. The Chair stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chair asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting.

In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chair asked that those attending via zoom to ensure that the meeting could not be seen or heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered. The Chair proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Report by Head of Service (Building Control and Sustainability)

3.1 Dual Language Street Naming

Councillor A Gowan joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.09 pm).

Councillor G McCleave commended the residents of both areas for bringing the requests forward and hoped that it would be agreed by all parties.

In response to a query from Alderman J Tinsley regarding the overall cost for implementation, the Director of Environmental Services advised that the purchase of a new sign is £135 each and the remaining costs were attributable to officer time as part of the roles they performed.

Alderman J Tinsley asked that it be noted that some residents had been in touch with him and indicated that they were fearful of the outcome of this decision.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, and seconded by Councillor D Bassett and agreed to recommend that approval be given for the request for Glen River Mews, Glenavy to be displayed on street signage in Irish, along with the English street name, and also agreed to note the dual language application made for Riverside Court, Glenavy, did not meet the policy threshold for consideration of approval.

4. Report by Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning)

4.1 The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 – Public Analyst Appointment

Councillor D Bassett left the meeting during consideration of this item of business, as did Councillor G McCleave and Alderman A McIntyre (6.14 pm).

In response to a query from Councillor J Bamford, the Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) agreed to find out why there was a difference in the budget cost between April 2025 and November 2025 and advised that the budget was used to pay for fees of associated costs to the public analysts and any company providing the service.

It was proposed by Councillor J Bamford, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to recommend approval of the report detailing persons to be appointed as

4.1 The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991 – Public Analyst Appointment (Cont'd)

Public Analysts to the Council under Article 27 (1) of The Food Safety (Northern Ireland) Order 1991.

In advance of consideration of confidential business, the Chair, Alderman O Gawith advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this stage.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Climate Friendly Burials  
Councillor A Givan

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting during this item of business (6.17 pm).

In response to a query by Councillor A Givan, the Director of Environmental Services advised that an updated report on cemeteries would be brought to Committee in December and that the report would also include ongoing work around the condition of benches in Blaris cemetery, a Garden of Remembrance and alternative burials. The director also advised that a consultation process had not been considered yet as part of the Notice of Motion from the previous month regarding Climate Friendly Burials.

Councillor Givan stated that a consultation process should be considered at an appropriate time, and he felt it would be important for local churches and funeral directors to be included.

5.2 Update on Bryson Collections  
Councillor S Burns

In response to comments by Councillor S Burns, the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) advised that a contract management meeting had taken place that day with Bryson and reported that they were experiencing exceptionally high levels of sickness absences. They had vacant posts which were being successfully filled, mostly for drivers, and that they were receiving training, which would greatly help. He also added that Bryson were working overtime where possible to try to alleviate the problems with bin collections and generally were maintaining the weekly service required as part of their contract. The Head of Service offered his apologies to residents affected and gave assurance that the Department was working with the contractor to try and solve the problem.

5.3 Graffiti  
Councillor N Parker

In response to comments by Councillor N Parker, the Director of Environmental Services advised that the issue of graffiti had been discussed at recent DEA meetings in respect of environmental crime and consideration was being given as to how the department might develop new or amended initiatives to address such matters. The director acknowledged that this was a problem and advised that the

5.3 Graffiti (Cont'd)  
Councillor N Parker

council already had the ability to remove offensive graffiti through a contractor and the City Centre Ranger.

5.4 Comingled System  
Alderman S Skillen

In response to comments by Alderman S Skillen, the Director of Environmental Services advised that the department was in daily contact with Bryson and procedures were in place to monitor and record where there were any missed bin collections. The director advised that DAERA was continuing to review the outcomes of the consultation 'Rethinking Our Resources' which was still to be considered by the Assembly. In the meantime, a revision of options for kerbside collections across the district was being progressed by officers, which also aimed to improve upon our recycling rates as well as provide a uniform service. A further report would be brought to this committee in due course on this matter.

5.5 Kerbside Stacking Boxes  
Councillor M McKeever

In response to comments by Councillor M McKeever, the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) advised that if residents were having difficulty in getting boxes replaced and made a request for same that they could contact him or any of his officers to progress. He also advised that if a container was beyond use the contractor would not offer to remove it from the kerbside as the vehicles would not have the capacity, but that residents could take them to any of the recycling centres in the Council area.

5.6 Multi Stacks  
Alderman J Baird

In response to comments by Alderman J Baird, the Head of Service (Waste Management and Operational Services) stated that he had been advised that the new contract with Antrim and Newtownabbey Council was not affecting Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council as the same difficulties were being experienced in that area.

5.7 Update on DAERA  
Councillor C McCready

In response to comments by Councillor C McCready, the Director of Environmental Services advised that there was no further update at this time regarding confirmation of dates for the outcome of the 'Rethinking Our Resources' consultation, however she was confident that through interactions with the department that council would be informed as soon as it is known.

6. Confidential Report by the Director of Environmental Services

The Chair, Alderman O Gawith, advised that the confidential report items would be dealt with “In Committee” due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed that the following matters be considered “in Committee,” in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The member of the press seated in the public gallery left the Council Chamber (6.35 pm).

Councillor T Beckett and Alderman J Tinsley left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.37 pm).

6.1 Proposed Departmental Pricing Charges – 2026/2027

(Report will become available in February 2026 following completion of the estimates process, Appendix 1 will never become available)

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to recommend that approval be given to the Departmental pricing charges for 2026/27 financial year as outlined in Appendix 1 Confidential.

6.2 Evaluation Criteria for Personal Protective Equipment Tender

(Redacted Report will become available in March 2026)

It was proposed by Councillor J Bamford, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed to recommend that approval be given to the tender evaluation award criteria as outlined.

6.3 Single Tender Action for the provision of a collection, transportation, and recovery service for waste wood from Council Household Recycling Centres

(The Report or a Redacted Report will never become available)

It was agreed that the Single Tender Action, for a maximum period of 12 months, for the collection, transportation and recovery of waste wood from Council Household Recycling Centres, with the commencement date to be agreed, be noted.

Any Other Business – Confidential

Cemetery Provision

The Director of Environmental Services responded to questions from a Member regarding cemetery provision.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

The Chair, Alderman O Gawith, thanked Members for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.00 pm.

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Chairperson