

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, on Wednesday 6 May 2026 at 6.01 pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor S Burns (Vice-Chairperson)

Alderman J Baird

Councillors P Catney, A Givan, G Hynds, B Magee, C McCready, M McKeever and N Parker

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor B Higginson

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Councillors A Gowan and R McLernon

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

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:**

Alderman J Tinsley

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Director of Environmental Services  
 Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability)  
 Waste Policy and Development Manager  
 Environmental Health Manager (Commercial)  
 Member Services Officers (EW and FA)

**Commencement of the Meeting**

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, Councillor S Burns, chaired the meeting.

Councillor S Burns, Acting Chairperson, 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 Acting Chairperson stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Acting Chairperson 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 Acting Chairperson 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 Acting Chairperson proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of the Chairperson, Alderman O Gawith, Alderman S Skillen and Councillor J Bamford.

2. Declarations of Interest

Alderman J Baird and Councillor A Gowan declared an interest in items 4.5 Annual Review of The Landlord Registration Scheme Since Transfer to LCCC and 4.6 The Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 in their capacity as Landlords.

3. Report by the Director of Environmental Services

3.1 Community Resilience Sandbag Protocol

The Director of Environmental Services delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

Councillors N Parker, P Catney, G Hynds and A Givan all welcomed the report.

In response to a query from Councillor G Hynds regarding residents near Aberdelghy and Glenmore being supplied with sandbags, the Director of Environmental Services advised that a sandbag bunker would be placed at Aberdelghy and that Glenmore has its own supply due to risk of flooding. The council wants to work in partnership with local community groups to build a resilience in communities, however if there were residents requiring assistance, the council, through individual referrals, would provide additional assistance, particularly with disabled residents or those with a vulnerability.

In response to a query from Councillor A Givan regarding the council providing advice to residents or owners of commercial properties that have been flooded, the Director of Environmental Services advised that the Sandbag Protocol provides mutual aid to the lead agency which is the Rivers Agency. The Director also advised that regionally there have been two resilience officers employed, and that the council intends to ask for their assistance, particularly to local groups where flooding has taken place in the past and how to protect their homes moving forward. The Director advised that there is a financial scheme in place for those who have had their homes flooded and reported this the Floodline.

Alderman J Baird congratulated the team on bringing this initiative forward and working with community groups, and asked if there had been any contact with Dfl around work being carried out on drains, gullies, streams and shucks drained to alleviate flooding in certain areas. The Director advised that there had been meetings with the Dfl team, particularly their engineers and one of the council's lead managers for cleansing, and are hopeful that there will be an agreed pattern of works around the unblocking of gullies in areas at risk.

### 3.1 Community Resilience Sandbag Protocol (Cont'd)

Councillor C McCready welcomed the report and asked in relation to the map provided, geographically, how it meets the needs for local constituents in different areas, particularly in Moira where flooding occurs regularly. The Director advised that the prioritisation matrix was used to determine the locations for the sandbag bunkers. Dfl are the lead agency for the provision of sandbags.

The council's approach was to map at a geographical level across the DEAs to make sure there is spread for the facility of access to sandbags in locations that have been identified as having been prone to flooding.

Councillor C McCready enquired what the key for the green and red dots was. The Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning) advised that the green dots were properties that have been affected in the past and since the key had dropped off the map, he would provide further clarification on this matter to the member. .

In response to a query from Councillor B Higginson around the location of the sandbags in Lough Moss, the Director advised that this was still to be confirmed.

Members agreed to note:

- the operational approach outlined in this paper and in Sandbag Management Protocol;
- the prioritisation methodology for sandbag allocation;
- this council's additional preparedness measures and Severe Weather Protocol activation threshold.

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

The Acting Chairperson, Councillor S Burns advised that item 4.2 was now 4.1, and that item 4.1 was now 4.2.

### 4.1 Consultation Document: Construction Products White Paper Reform

In the absence of The Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning), the Environmental Health Manager delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

Councillor G Hynds commented that the consultation highlighted the growing problem of divergence for Northern Ireland businesses and local firms were increasingly expected to navigate the overlapping of UK/EU systems creating extra uncertainty and costs that businesses elsewhere in the UK don't face. It clearly states that Northern Ireland should remain integrated within the UK framework.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor G Hynds, and agreed to approve the Draft Consultation Response, thereby enabling the Council to respond to this consultation before the closing date of 20 May 2026.

#### 4.2 Consultation Document: General Safety Requirement for Construction Products

The Environmental Health Manager delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

In response to a question from Councillor P Catney regarding how accreditations are monitored, the Environmental Health Manager advised that there are test houses which carry out certain activities and assess whether products are legitimate or otherwise.

It was proposed by Councillor M McKeever, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed to approve the Draft Consultation Response, thereby enabling the Council to respond to this consultation before the closing date of 20 May 2026.

#### 4.3 Consultation Responses – Request for Delegated Authority to Approve

The Environmental Health Manager (Commercial) delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

In response to a request from Councillor M McKeever that the blank consultations could be sent to Members in order to have the documents to prepare and plan so that timelines are not missed, the Environmental Health Manager advised that this would be done.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend approval that delegated authority is granted to the committee to allow responses to be made prior to the closing dates of the consultations.

#### 4.4 Consultation: Solid Fuel Burning – Taking Action to Reduce Fine Particulate Matter and Smoke Emissions

Alderman J Tinsley joined the meeting via Zoom during this item of business (6.33 pm).

Councillor B Higginson left and returned to the meeting during this item of business (6.36 pm and 6.39 pm respectively).

The Environmental Health Manager delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

It was proposed by Councillor B Magee and seconded by Councillor P Catney, that the response prepared by officers in relation to the consultation on Solid Fuel Burning, be approved and submitted.

Councillor C McCready proposed that individual political parties send responses individually. This proposal was seconded by Councillor A Givan.

The proposal by Councillor B Magee, seconded by Councillor P Catney, that the response prepared by officers be approved and submitted, was put to the meeting and on a recorded vote being taken, declared 'carried.'

4.4 Consultation: Solid Fuel Burning – Taking Action to Reduce Fine Particulate Matter and Smoke Emissions (Cont'd)

There were six votes in favour, four votes against and one vote abstaining, the voting being as follows:

In Favour: Alderman J Baird, Councillor P Catney, Councillor B Magee, Councillor M McKeever, Councillor R McLernon and Councillor N Parker **TOTAL: 6**

Consultation: Solid Fuel Burning – Taking Action to Reduce Fine Particulate Matter and Smoke Emissions (Cont'd)

Against: Councillor S Burns, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan and Councillor C McCready **TOTAL: 4**

Abstaining: Councillor G Hynds **TOTAL: 1**

4.5 Annual Review of The Landlord Registration Scheme Since Transfer to LCCC

Alderman J Baird and Councillor A Gowan left the meeting during this item of business (6.42 pm).

The Environmental Health Manager delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

Members agreed to note this report.

4.6 The Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026

The Environmental Health Manager (Commercial) delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend approval that the consultation response document in relation to Landlord Registration Scheme Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2026 be submitted to DfC as the council with responsibility for the management of the Scheme.

5. Any Other Business

Alderman J Baird returned to the meeting during this item of business (6.56 pm).

5.1 Smart Compactor Bins  
Councillor N Parker

Councillor N Parker commented on the possibility of introducing smart compactor bins. The Director of Environmental Services advised that there were no plans for such an installation at this time.

5.2 Derriaghy Community Association Litter-pick  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds commented that Derriaghy Community Association had carried out a litter-pick at the top of the Belsize Road recently and it was good to see the community effort. The Director of Environmental Services said that the litter-pick was very welcome and advised that the council support communities that go out to assist in clean-ups in their local areas.

5.3 Bulky Collections and Bin Collections over Easter  
Councillor G Hynds

In response to comments from Councillor G Hynds regarding bulky collections and bin collections over Easter, the Director of Environmental Services advised that there is a high demand for the bulky collections service and currently there is a four to six weeks waiting time to complete. The Director advised that two additional days had been added to the collection schedule in order to shorten the length of wait for people who want to avail of the service. The Director advised that, unfortunately during holiday periods, there would be a slight disruption to bin collections. During Easter the council were short on crews, which is why there were additional mop-ups beyond the rescheduled days for collection.

5.4 Boundary in Wallace Park  
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney commented that it had been brought to his attention that there were reports of rats in the vicinity of the boundary with the railway line in Wallace Park and asked if this could be investigated. The Environmental Health Manager agreed to report back to Councillor Catney on this matter.

5.5 Northern Ireland Environment Forum  
Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability)

The Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability) advised Members that the Northern Ireland Environment Forum would be held in the Europa Hotel, Belfast on Wednesday 20 May 2026 and that he would ask the Member Services Officer to forward the information should Members wish to attend.

5.6 Update on Wall at Hilden Court  
Councillor G Hynds

In response to a query from Councillor G Hynds regarding an update on the wall at Hilden Court, the Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability) advised that council had reported this matter to Dfl and that warning bollards and tape had been placed along the length of the wall by the Department. He advised Councillor G Hynds that he would contact the Dfl which were the lead agency and request an update.

5.7 Artefact of the Old Pump Wheel  
Councillor P Catney

Councillor P Catney thanked the Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability) for his response regarding the damaged road surface around the old pump wheel at Hilden View as he would like to see the artefact retained. The Head of Service advised that the council had communicated with DfI and asked if they had placed the protective fencing around the damaged roadway including the pump wheel and what were their intentions for the pump wheel. The Conservation Officer within the council's Planning Department had also been contacted, who in turn contacted HED and were investigating what powers would be available to HED in relation to historic protection. He agreed to keep Members informed of any developments.

6. Confidential Report from the Director of Environmental Services

Councillor P Catney left and returned to the meeting during this item of business (7.02 pm and 7.04 pm respectively).

The Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning) left the meeting during this item of business 7.02 pm).

The Acting Chairperson, Councillor S Burns, 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 C McCreedy, seconded by Councillor N Parker, 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 (7.02 pm).

6.1 Kerbside Collection Services

(Redacted report will be available in May 2026 following ratification at May 2026 council meeting, the Full Business Case will never become available)

Following the presentation of the report, the Director of Environmental Services and the Waste Policy and Development Manager responded to comments and questions from Members.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor G Hynds, and agreed to recommend approval of the following:

- the updated FBC to the kerbside collection model agreed in 2023 which includes the following revisions:
- the acquisition, assembly and distribution of 20,200 240l recycling bins and 7,000 240l black residual waste bins;

6.1 Kerbside Collection Services (Cont'd)

- the acquisition of three new refuse collection vehicles required to service the Castlereagh South and East DEAs;
- additional staff recruitment to support the delivery and implementation of the kerbside collection service; and
- retaining green as the standard colour for recycling bins.

7. Confidential Report from the Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services)

In the absence of the Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services), the Waste Policy and Development Manager delivered the following two reports, which the Members had already been furnished with.

7.1 Letter of Offer – DAERA Collaborative Change Programme for Redevelopment of Carryduff Household Recycling Centre  
(Redacted report will be available in May 2026 following ratification at May 2026 council meeting)

The Director of Environmental Services and the Waste Policy and Development Manager responded to comments and questions from Members.

Councillor B Higginson commented that this was a very welcome report, and wanted to put on record that it was a major investment for Castlereagh South.

It was proposed by Councillor C McCreedy, seconded by Councillor M McKeever, and agreed to recommend approval of the offer of funding from DAERA.

7.2 CSD Roof and Wall Repairs – Tender Evaluation Criteria  
(Redacted report will be available in May 2026 following ratification at May 2026 council meeting)

Alderman J Tinsey left the meeting during this item of business (7.46 pm).

It was proposed by Councillor G Hynds, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend approval of the tender evaluation award criteria.

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 Acting Chairperson, Councillor S Burns, thanked Members for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 7.57 pm.

---

Acting Chairperson