

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 25 November, 2025 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Alderman A Grehan

Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

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

Councillors J Bamford, R T Beckett, S Burns, R Carlin,
P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, A P Ewing, J Gallen,
A Givan, A Gowan, B Higginson, C Kemp, J Lavery BEM,
S Lowry, D Lynch, U Mackin, B Magee, A Martin, T Mitchell,
G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever, R McLernon, N
Parker and N Trimble

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor J Harpur

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Member Services Officers (CR, EW & FA)
Technician
IT Officer

DfI Roads (Eastern Division)

Mr S Wells, Divisional Roads Manager
Mr P King, Network Development Manager

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the meeting of Council which was being livestreamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

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

Commencement of the Meeting (Contd)

Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed the Mayor's Chaplain, Rev Andrew Thompson, to the meeting of Council. Rev Thompson addressed the meeting and said a prayer, during which he offered condolences to Mr W Muldrew, Head of Waste Management and Operational Services, on the death of his father, William Muldrew, who had passed away in his 101st year.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Rev A Thompson for his attendance and he left the meeting (7.09 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, since the last meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, put on record her thanks to all those staff involved in the recent Christmas Lights Switch-On.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors D Bassett and G Thompson.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were declared in respect of item 4.1 of the minutes of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee held on 4 November, 2025 'DIY & Technical Assistance Fund 2025/26':

- Councillor A Gowan, due to having assisted a number of successful groups within his DEA to get funding, he had family members in Lisnagarvey Hockey Club and Dromara Village Football Club and he held an Advice Surgery in a hall that had been awarded funding; and
- Alderman J Baird, due to being a member of Boardmills LOL, which had been awarded funding.

A declaration of interest form, also in respect of the above item, was submitted at the conclusion of the meeting from Alderman J Tinsley, due to having assisted a number of groups in applying for funding.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 28 October, 2025

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor G McCleave and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 October, 2025 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

6.1 To receive representatives of DfI Roads (Eastern Division) in order to present on the Eastern Divisions' Annual Report

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed to the meeting Mr S Wells, Divisional Roads Manager, and Mr P King, Network Development Manager, in order to present the DfI Roads Eastern Division's Annual Report.

Mr Wells made a verbal presentation to Members during he referred to low levels of funding being a key challenge faced by the Department and the effects of that in meeting demands. He pointed out that, when there were opportunities to bid for additional money in monitoring rounds, those were taken. Mr Wells spoke about capital funding, resurfacing schemes, pothole repairs, the scale of the work that been completed last year and that was being undertaken this year, network development, active travel and the Transport Strategy.

Questions had been submitted in advance of the meeting by Alderman S P Porter and Councillors R T Beckett and D J Craig in respect of the North Lisburn Feeder Road, grass verge maintenance and clearing road drainage, particularly in advance of storm warnings by the MET office. Mr Wells provided answers to these questions and agreed to forward written responses in due course.

During discussion:

- Councillor D J Craig, on behalf of former Elected Member, the late Mrs M Tolerton, thanked DfI Roads for the recent junction improvements carried out at McKinstry Road, The Cutts, Derriaghy; and
- Councillor P Catney referred to a query he had raised the recent DEA engagement session regarding the pedestrian crossing at St Colman's Primary School. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, pointed out that written responses had been provided by DfI Roads but agreed that a further copy would be furnished to Councillor Catney.

6.1 To receive representatives of DfI Roads (Eastern Division) in order to present on the Eastern Divisions' Annual Report (Contd)

Arising from discussion, during which a number of Members' questions were addressed, Mr Wells agreed to:

- continue to engage with Council Officers in order to ensure closer working between the Council and DfI to maximise the limited resources both had available to assist with drainage clearing, particularly in hot spot areas when MET office storm warnings were issued; he further agreed to make sure drains at the specific locations identified by Councillor D J Craig (the bridge at Glenmore and under the railway bridge at Kingsway/Queensway) did not have any long term issues;
- pass on to the Section Office, a query regarding how long it took before action was taken if a grass cutting order had been issued to a landowner but they failed to comply with that;
- ascertain if there were any strategic actions planned to improve road safety at stretch of Dundrod Crossroads between the Church and the bad bend;
- ascertain if information could be provided in respect of the value of claims made for the Council area; and
- check if works at Millreagh Drive, previously planned for 2024/25 would proceed in this financial year.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Messrs Wells and King for their attendance and they left the meeting (7.39 pm).

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, and agreed that the following legal document be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Event Warrior t/a Craft Event Co, Annon House, 261-263 Ormeau Road, Belfast BT7 3GG – Operating Agreement relating to the provision of Lot 1 – Catering Services at Lagan Valley Island; Operating Agreement relating to the provision of Lot 2 – Bar Services at Lagan Valley Island

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Communities and Wellbeing Committee

Proposed by Councillor T Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor A Givan

4 November, 2025

Environment and Sustainability Committee

5 November, 2025

Proposed by Alderman O Gawith

Seconded by Councillor S Burns

Regeneration and Growth Committee

6 November, 2025

Proposed by Councillor C Kemp

Seconded by Councillor J Harpur

Corporate Services Committee

12 November, 2025

Proposed by Councillor B Higginson

Seconded by Councillor J Bamford

Planning Committee

6 October, 2025

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 6 October, 2025 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 3 November, 2025. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

9.1 King's Award for Volunteering

Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.45 pm).

Members having acknowledged the success of Ballymacash Sports Academy and Live Life Wellbeing in achieving the King's Award for Volunteering, it was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Councillor J Bamford and agreed that separate civic functions for both organisations be held in the Island Hall, in partnership with the Lord Lieutenant.

The Chief Executive responded to comments regarding the guest lists for the events and the need to ensure value for money was achieved. He took note of a suggestion that (a) all groups from the Council area that had been nominated for the King's Award for Volunteering be recognised in some way; and (b) a list be drawn up of all the groups in the Council area that had achieved the King's Award for Volunteering and previously, the Queen's Award for Volunteering.

9.2 Rescheduling of December Committee Meetings Commencement Times

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart and agreed that, in order to facilitate Members' attendance at community switch-on events, a number of the December Committee meetings commence at an earlier time, as follows:

- Communities and Wellbeing Committee on 2 December – 5.00 pm;
- Environment and Sustainability Committee on 3 December – 5.00 pm;
- Regeneration and Growth Committee on 4 December – 5.30 pm; and
- Governance and Audit Committee on 11 December – 5.00 pm.

9.3 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2021/0789/F

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

Alderman Gregg pointed out that the Planning Committee date of 7 April, 2025, given in the covering report was incorrect; however, the date noted in the Section 76 Agreement was correct, ie. 2 September, 2024.

9.4 Internal Operating and Standing Orders Adjustments

Members were provided with a report outlining key issues arising from a Notice of Motion on transparency and associated changes to Standing Orders, as agreed by the Corporate Services Committee at its meeting held on 12 February, 2025.

In order that amendments to Standing Orders could be considered, it was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Councillor G Gallen and agreed unanimously that Standing Order 27.2 be suspended for the duration of this item of business.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor K Dickson, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed that:

- (a) audio recordings of Committee meetings be published within 3-5 working days of the meeting taking place;
- (b) Standing Order 20.4 'Show of Hands' be deleted;
- (c) Standing Orders 8.0 'Admission to Meetings', 11.0 'Deputations' and 20.5 'Recorded Vote' be amended as outlined in the report;
- (d) a report be brought to Council in the New Year outlining full costs and implementation options necessary for commencing the livestreaming of Committee meetings, a breakdown of the cost involved in employing a new staff member and details of what steps had been taken since February to progress this matter; and
- (e) consideration be given to revising Standing Orders to allow for recordings to be uploaded to social media channels by Elected Members.

In response to comments regarding a typographical error at item 20.2 of Standing Orders, the Chief Executive explained that Officers had picked up a number of such errors and these would be reported back next month when an item was being presented in relation to the Planning Committee.

Alderman S P Porter put on record his thanks for Councillor G Hynds for having brought this Notice of Motion forward.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Support for Family Farmers and Call for Action from DAERA

A number of Members left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business, namely Councillor C Kemp (8.20 pm and 8.22 pm respectively), Councillor K Dickson (8.21 pm and 8.25 pm respectively), Alderman A G Ewart (8.21 pm and 8.26 pm respectively) and Councillor N Trimble (8.28 pm and 8.31 pm respectively).

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Alderman J Baird, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council notes the Ulster Farmers’ Union’s unprecedented motion of no confidence in the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA), which reflects deep and widespread frustration within the farming community.

This Council recognises the unrelenting pressures faced by family farmers across Northern Ireland, including:

- The unresolved and escalating crisis surrounding Bovine Tuberculosis (bTB);
- Uncertainty regarding the future Inheritance Tax arrangements for farm succession;
- Continued planning paralysis affecting essential agricultural development; and
- Increasing policy and regulatory pressures, with little meaningful assurance, progress or action from DAERA to address these challenges.

This Council further acknowledges that family farmers are the backbone of Northern Ireland’s agri-food sector, sustaining rural communities, underpinning the regional economy, and serving as essential custodians of our environment and biodiversity.

This Council therefore calls on the Minister for DAERA to move beyond an “open door” approach and to actively engage, listen and deliver tangible action in partnership with the Ulster Farmers’ Union. Family farmers must be treated as key stakeholders in shaping policy that secures the future of the agri-food industry, protects our environment, and sustains rural livelihoods.”

12.1 Support for Family Farmers and Call for Action from DAERA (Contd)

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Alderman J Baird and seconded by Councillor U Mackin.

Alderman J Baird stated that, following the unprecedented vote of no confidence in DAERA by the Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU), a growing number of agri-food businesses were following suit with their concerns. He spoke in detail of the agri-food industry, which generated £2.87 billion per annum in Northern Ireland's economy. The industry was not only made up of farmers, but included food and drinks processors, which employed around 100,000 people in Northern Ireland, as well as other ancillary businesses, such as suppliers and transporters. If the agri-food industry was allowed to collapse, it would have a detrimental effect on the overall economy. Alderman Baird referred to the mental, physical and financial stress that farmers were facing. The Wildlife Intervention Strategy that had been approved some years ago had still not been updated or enacted and that remained stressing for farmers. As a representative of rural areas, Alderman Baird outlined the effect of a number of policies on existing farming establishments as well as those seeking planning permission, not only for new enterprises but those wishing to expand. He stated that farmers were dismayed at being blamed for all of the environmental problems that affected this country. He called on the Minister to actively engage, listen and deliver tangible action in partnership with the UFU.

Councillor U Mackin, who also represented the rural community, thanked Alderman J Baird for bringing forward this Notice of Motion. He stated that 75% of the landmass of Northern Ireland was agricultural and that land was managed by over 20,000 farmers, who genuinely wanted to protect that land, which was their asset and wealth. Sadly, they were lumbered with regulation that was out of control. There was a massive burden placed on farmers to maintain a certain level that was not achievable. They had made representation for a number of years but felt they were not being listened to. Farmers wanted to be listened to and understood and they wanted to work to achieve the goals set out by the Minister. They did not disagree with the goals set out, but how it was proposed they be achieved. Councillor Mackin stated that the DUP was fully in support of the Notice of Motion.

Councillors R Carlin and P Catney spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

Alderman M Gregg stated that the Alliance Party was not in support of the Notice of Motion. He stated that the Notice of Motion called for everything that the Minister was already doing. He elaborated on a number of things that were not mentioned in the Motion, such as the Lough Neagh Report or Action Plan, the Nutrients Action Plan, planning, the fact that farmers were prepared to play their part in creating an environmentally and economically sustainable agriculture industry, that the Lough Neagh Report had established that 62% of pollution causing blue-green algae was created by agriculture or that the DfI was failing to support NI Water to address the 24% of pollution from its wastewater treatment works and 12% from septic tanks. Alderman Gregg stated that the Minister was already actively involved with stakeholders, as was called for in the Motion. The Alliance Party agreed that farmers were the backbone of the agri-food sector, sustaining rural communities, underpinning the regional economy and served as

12.1 Support for Family Farmers and Call for Action from DAERA (Contd)

essential custodians of the environment and biodiversity. The Minister had already brought forward the Bovine TB Blueprint for Eradication, giving a clear and decisive way forward to setting Northern Ireland on the pathway to eradication. He had been calling for cross-departmental working and a collaborative approach with all stakeholders in relation to a number of issues, such as planning and NI Water funding. Alderman Gregg stated that the Alliance Party wanted a positive future for everyone in Northern Ireland, including the farming community, and to focus on delivering a collaborative future for Northern Ireland.

In response to Alderman Gregg's comments regarding what had not been mentioned in the Notice of Motion, Alderman J Baird stated that it also had not mentioned that the farming community currently had 155,000 acres under environmental schemes or that, in the last year, 1,000 acres of trees had been planted for the environment. Statistics could be quoted, eg. in relation to Lough Leagh, but if policies were not agreed in partnership, they would never work. Alderman Baird called on Members to support the Notice of Motion.

On a vote being taken, the Notice of Motion by Alderman J Baird was declared 'carried', the voting being as follows:

In favour: Alderman J Baird, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Burns, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor P Catney, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor J Gallen, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan, Councillor B Higginson, Councillor J Laverty, Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, Councillor D Lynch, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor A Martin, Councillor G McCleave, Councillor C McCready, Councillor R McLernon, Alderman S P Porter, Alderman S Skillen, Alderman J Tinsley and Councillor N Trimble **(24)**

Against: Councillor J Bamford, Councillor K Dickson, Alderman O Gawith, Alderman M Gregg, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur, Councillor C Kemp, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor B Magee, Alderman M McIntyre, Councillor M McKeever and Councillor N Parker **(12)**

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Member Services Officer – Early Retirement
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

Councillor G McCleave left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.51 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, advised that this was the last full Council meeting at which Member Services Officer, Mrs C Roe, would be in attendance before her forthcoming early retirement. She paid tribute to her work with the Council and stated that she would be missed.

13.1 Member Services Officer – Early Retirement (Contd)
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

At a later stage in Any Other Business, Councillors D J Craig and P Catney, as well as the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, also paid tribute to Mrs Roe and wished her well.

13.2 The Dales and Moynes Flats at Seymour Hill
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig referred to the plan by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE), almost 7 years ago, to have the Moynes Flats at Seymour Hill demolished, new housing built and the residents from the Dales Flats transferred to that new housing. He referred to the massive delay that had come about by the refusal of telecommunications operators to remove masts from the top of the tower block. Councillor Craig thanked NIHE for now finally taking action. He stated that there were 168 properties that did not meet Warm Homes Standards in Northern Ireland at all and that included residents living in the Dales flats. There was no insulation whatsoever, with a single block wall between the residents and outside, and the flats were heated with electricity which was the single most expensive form of heating in Northern Ireland. Councillor Craig proposed that the Council write to NIHE offering congratulations that work had commenced but requesting that the programme of demolition be accelerated. There was an urgency for those who lived in the Dales flats who needed rid of the uncertainty that had hung over them for the last 7 years and who needed to get into sustainable homes that were cheaper to heat. This proposal was seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed.

13.3 Ulster Grand Prix
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley welcomed the recent launch of the Ulster Grand Prix, which was one of the biggest sporting events in Northern Ireland held up until 5/6 years ago. A positive meeting had been held the previous evening when engagement had taken place with residents who lived along the course. The organisers had praised the Council for the engagement they had had with Officers. Alderman Tinsley was aware that the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing was meeting with the organisers regarding the transfer of the lease at The Pits, Dundrod, and thanked her and her team for working with them.

13.4 Remembrance Memorial for Northern Ireland Prison Service
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley asked that engagement take place with the Prison Officers' Association with a view to having a memorial put in place, possibly at Castle Gardens, where wreaths could be laid at future Remembrance events to commemorate the 32 Prison Officers who had lost their lives between 1946 and 2016. Having had 3 prisons within the Council area in the past, and 2 currently, Lisburn was considered an ideal location for a memorial. 2026 would be the 20th anniversary of the Prison Service having received the Freedom of the City so it may be timely to put something in place. Alderman Tinsley proposed that the

13.4 Remembrance Memorial for Northern Ireland Prison Service (Contd)
Alderman J Tinsley

Chief Executive liaise with the Chair of the Corporate Services Committee, Councillor B Higginson, to have a report brought back with a view to having something in place for Remembrance Sunday 2026. This was seconded by Councillor B Higginson. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, stated that she would arrange a reception with the Chief Executive, Councillor Higginson and the Prison Officers' Association.

13.5 Underage Purchasing of Vaping Products
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin stated that he had been contacted recently by a concerned parent who's 13 year old son had purchased vaping products from retailers within the Council area. They had contacted the PSNI who had directed them to Trading Standards, who had passed them back. This had gone on for a number of weeks but, through Councillor Carlin, had been referred to the Council's Environmental Health Unit. Officers had dealt with the matter very quickly. Councillor Carlin stated that there was potentially a broader issue across the district with young people accessing vaping products. He asked that the Council do some more work on this and also raise awareness that such matters were the responsibility of the Council rather than the PSNI or Trading Standards. The Chief Executive confirmed that Council Officers did carry out spot checks but further consideration would be given to this matter and reported back to Members in due course.

Councillor G McCleave returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.56 pm).

13.6 Pride of Place Award – Aghalee Village Hall
Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, referred to her recent attendance at the Pride of Place Awards in Limerick. Three groups from the Council area had been nominated and Aghalee Village Hall had received a Runner Up Award. Alderman Legge asked that Aghalee Village Hall be acknowledged and thanked for the work it had done

14. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business.

Conclusion of Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan thanked those present for their attendance.

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There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.58 pm.

Mayor