

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley Island and Remote Locations on Tuesday 26 May, 2026 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, S Skillen 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, J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds,
C Kemp, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, D Lynch, U Mackin,
B Magee, A Martin, T Mitchell, G McCleave, C McCready,
M McKeever, N Parker, G Thompson and N Trimble

PRESENT REMOTELY: Councillor D Bassett

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Member Services Officers (FA & EW)
Technician

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed those present to the May meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reminded that the meeting 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 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 Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed Reverend N Dark to the meeting of Council. Rev Dark addressed the Council and said a prayer, following which the Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Rev Dark for his attendance, and Rev Dark 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 spoke of the honour she had in welcoming the King and Queen to Royal Hillsborough and commended the Chief Executive for the work he undertook liaising with local businesses, alongside the Chair of Regeneration and Growth, Councillor C Kemp. The Mayor commented that it was a memory she would cherish forever.

The Mayor commended all staff involved in organising and running the Mayor's Carnival Parade and Family Fun Day and spoke of the inclusivity of the event with over 100 children and adults with disabilities taking part and many more watching along the parade route with their families and friends, and commended the staff responsible for organising the Council's stand at the recent Balmoral Show, which had been enhanced compared to previous years after requests from Members.

Councillor B Higginson thanked the Mayor for attending Magheragall Parish Church at a service in which he was commissioned as a Parish Reader.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillor R McLernon.

3. Declarations of Interest

Councillors A Gowan, U Mackin and A Martin all declared an interest in the minutes of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee of 5 May 2025, namely item 5.1 Request to use Hillsborough Forest Park, as they had attended meetings with Hillsborough Working Together Group about the use of Hillsborough Forest Park car park.

After the meeting Councillor A P Ewing submitted a declaration of interest in writing, relating to the minutes of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting of 6 May 2026. This was in respect of item 4.5 Annual Review of The Landlord Registration Scheme Since Transfer to LCCC as he was a private landlord and registered with the Landlord Registration Scheme.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 28 April, 2026

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor J Gallen, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 28 April, 2026 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 Council Meeting – 28 April, 2026

5.1.1 Item 12.2 Bowel Cancer Screening

Councillor J Gallen requested a correction of the name of his friend Patrick's late wife Breda, which had been incorrectly recorded in the minutes as Freda.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Idox Software Ltd, Unit 5, Woking 8, Forsyth Road, Woking, Surrey GU21 5SB – Award Letter – 22/12/2025L3 – Idox Cloud Building Control Package 3
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and AtkinsRealis PPS Limited, Woodcote Grove, Ashley Road, Epsom, Surrey KT18 5BW – Contract for F23/24-009 – Destination Royal Hillsborough Cost Consultant and Quantity Surveyor
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Rainey Specialist Contractors, 2 Queens Road, Lisburn BT27 4TZ – Contract for T25/26-055 PPM & RM 01 Lightning Protection Systems and Steel Chimneys
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and B I Electrical Services, 11 Michelin Road, Newtownabbey BT36 4PT and GR White & Son, 43 Main Street, Edenmore, Enniskillen BT94 3LU and Irwins M&E Ltd, Unit 4, Diviny Drive, Portadown BT63 5WE and H&J Martin Group, Rosemount House, 21-23 Sydenham Road, Belfast BT3 9HA - T25/26-035 – Tender for The Call Off Framework Agreement for Provision of Electrical Services, Reactive and Project Works to Council Facilities for period 02/02/26 – 30/11/26

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Cont'd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Newable Trade Limited, t/a Newable Advice, 140 Aldersgate Street, London, EC1A 4HY – Consultancy Agreement via a Service Company for delivery of London Trade Programme

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Communities and Wellbeing Committee****5 May, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor T Mitchell

Seconded by Councillor A Givan

Matters ArisingItem 5.1 Page 240Request to use Hillsborough Forest Park

Councillor G Thompson advised that during the meeting of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee she had asked how many car parks would be utilised and how many would be remaining for public use and requested that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

Environment and Sustainability Committee**6 May, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor S Burns

Seconded by Councillor P Catney

Regeneration and Growth Committee**7 May, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor C Kemp

Seconded by Councillor J Harpur

Councillor C Kemp advised that the minutes of the Regeneration and Growth Committee were still subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Thursday, 28 May 2026.

Corporate Services Committee**13 May, 2026**

Proposed by Councillor B Higginson

Seconded by Councillor J Bamford

Councillor B Higginson advised that the minutes of the Corporate Services Committee were still subject to the Call-In procedure until 10.00 am on Friday, 29 May 2026.

Planning Committee**13 April, 2026**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 13 April, 2026 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 11 May, 2026. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor G Thompson, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

9.1 Commencement Time of June Meeting of Council

The Chief Executive presented the report which requested a change of commencement time of the Meeting of Council scheduled for 23 June, 2026 to 6.00 pm due to a clash with an event the Mayor was due to attend. It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor R Carlin and unanimously agreed to approve the recommendation of the report.

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. Notices of Motion

12.1 Dáithí's Law
Councillor D Lynch

A copy of the undernoted Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor D Lynch had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council:

Recognises the importance of funding for public campaigns from the Department of Health and the role this has in raising awareness and potentially saving lives.

Understands the vital role that having the conversations with friends and family has in raising awareness around organ donation and potentially saving lives.

Agrees to write to the health minister urging him to change his decision about pausing funding for public campaigns within his department and also urging him to redouble his efforts to get the important message of organ donation to the public.

Agrees to light up the Civic Centre and Union Bridge pink on the 1st June in the colours of Dáithí's campaign and Dáithí's Law.”

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor D Lynch and seconded by Councillor N Parker.

Councillor D Lynch informed the Council of his personal closeness to the subject, having known Dáithí's father Máirtín Mac Gabhann for many years, and through

12.1 Dáithí's Law (Cont'd)

involvement with many different aspects of the campaign. Councillor Lynch elaborated on his Notice of Motion advising:

- Of Dáithí's family's strength and determination to ensure Dáithí and all who need an organ transplant are given the best possible chance to receive it;
- How the campaign has united communities and political representatives, and drawn support from people of all backgrounds with the common goal of saving lives for all;
- That while the introduction of Dáithí's Law on 1 June, 2023 changed the organ donation system to an "opt out" model, family members had the power to overrule an organ donor decision. Councillor Lynch informed of the importance of having discussions with family members about each individual's wishes;
- That while 1 organ donor can save up to 9 lives, only 1% of deaths result in organ donation;
- Of the many times Dáithí had been in hospital, including a particular time when he showed his fighting spirit, following heart surgery in London. Dáithí opened his eyes and locked eyes with Professor Anderson at the exact moment stopping treatment had been mentioned during a discussion with Dáithí's parents;
- If Dáithí's Law was to achieve its full potential, then efforts to raise awareness around organ donation must be doubled to ensure the public understand what the law means;
- Of his concern that public information and awareness campaigns for organ donation had been paused by the Minister of Health and urged the Minister to reverse this decision; and
- Of We Are Donors Fionntán, a student led campaign to raise awareness of organ donation, in memory of the late Fionntán McGarvey.

Councillor Parker, having seconded the Notice of Motion, thanked Councillor Lynch for bringing forward this important Notice of Motion. Councillor Parker spoke of the determination, courage and hope shown by Dáithí and his family whose campaign brought organ donation into conversations across society, and how their campaign reminded people that behind every policy, law and statistic there were real lives. Councillor Parker continued that the passing of Dáithí's Law was a high point in the recent Northern Ireland Assembly mandate, and that while 60% of adults in Northern Ireland were on the organ donor register there was still more to do. Councillor Parker advised that changing the law was not enough on its own and that public awareness was crucial and spoke of her disappointment that funding for public awareness campaigns had been paused. Councillor Parker closed by stating that she welcomed and supported the proposal to light up Lagan Valley Island and the Union Bridge pink on 1 June, 2026, stating that it would be a fitting tribute to Dáithí, his family and the extraordinary impact they have had in helping to change and save lives.

Councillors T Mitchell, S Burns and J Gallen on behalf of their respective political parties spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

12.1 Dáithí's Law (Cont'd)

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor D Lynch and seconded by Councillor N Parker, was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business for consideration.

14. Any Other Business14.1 Postal Service
Alderman A G Ewart

Alderman A G Ewart referred to a Notice of Motion he had brought to Council in February 2026 regarding delays in postal deliveries. This Notice of Motion had passed unanimously, and a letter had been written to the Royal Mail's Belfast office. Alderman Ewart advised he felt that given a reply was still not forthcoming, the Royal Mail were treating the Council with contempt. Given people were still having issues with delays with postal deliveries, he proposed the Council write to the Royal Mail Head Office in London to raise the issue of the delivery service in Northern Ireland. Alderman J Tinsley seconded the proposal, advising that postal delays were still a big issue in the community.

14.2 Congratulations to Derriaghy CC FC
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds congratulated Derriaghy CC FC on their success in winning the NAFL Premier Division league the weekend prior. Councillor Hynds continued to advise the club had won 5 trophies in 5 years and that he spoken to the incoming Mayor for 2026/27 about organising a reception for the club.

14.3 Hilden Mill
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds proposed that Officers bring a report to Council about future regeneration options for the Hilden Mill site, which would include seeking advice from the Strategic Investment Board and Regenerate Northern Ireland on the potential use and implications of a Compulsory Purchase Order. Councillor Hynds clarified that he was not seeking the Council to pursue a Compulsory Purchase Order at this stage but rather wanted the Council to explore all available options and advised of the importance of the site to Lisburn and Northern Ireland's industrial heritage, how regeneration could deliver jobs, investment and tourism, and of the frustration of local residents.

The Chief Executive requested Councillor Hynds share his full proposal with him in writing to enable Officers to consider it in full and advised that

14.3 Hilden Mill (Cont'd)

as obtaining legal advice and advice from the Strategic Investment Board could be costly, an initial report could be brought to the Regeneration & Growth Committee identifying potential costs.

Alderman S P Porter seconded this proposal and commented that there are very few families in the Lisburn area that hadn't been impacted by Hilden Mill. Alderman Porter referred to the success of the regeneration of the old Hilden Primary School and advised he felt it was important the Council drive forward the regeneration of the Hilden Mill site.

Later in the meeting Councillor P Catney agreed with the comments made by the Chief Executive and spoke on the subject of Compulsory Purchase Orders, advising caution in this approach.

14.4 Congratulations to Newtownbreda FC
Councillor B Magee

Councillor B Magee congratulated Newtownbreda FC on their 50th anniversary which they would be celebrating in the upcoming weekend. Councillor Magee spoke of the community work undertaken by the club through their academy, and by organising community events and fundraising. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan advised she would write a letter of congratulations to the club.

Conclusion of Meeting

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.45 pm.

Mayor