

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn and in remote locations on Thursday, 6 November 2025 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:

Councillor C Kemp (Chairperson)

Councillor J Harpur (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, M Gregg and A McIntyre

Councillors K Dickson, A Gowan, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell and C McCready

PRESENT REMOTELY: Councillors J Gallen and J Lavery BEM

OTHER MEMBER:
(COUNCIL CHAMBER) Councillor P Catney

IN ATTENDANCE

Director of Regeneration & Growth
Head of Economic Development
Head of Assets
Head of Planning & Capital Development (remotely)
Community Development & Resources Manager (Acting)
Member Services Manager (Acting)
Member Services Officer
IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairperson, Councillor C Kemp, extended a welcome to everyone in attendance at the November meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee.

The Chairperson reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business. The Chairperson also outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Apologies**

There were no apologies for non-attendance recorded.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following declarations of interest were recorded:

- Alderman J Baird - in respect of item 7.1 Provision of Cemetery Land in view of his possible submission of an EOI.
- Councillor A Martin in respect of item 7.1 Provision of Cemetery Land in view of being a landowner in the Council area and in respect of item 7.2 Barbour Gardens EOI in view of his membership of Dromore Presbytery in Umbrella Group of Sloan Street Presbyterian Church and also in view of his membership of the Planning Committee.

During the course of the meeting Alderman M Gregg, Councillors P Catney and J Lavery declared an interest in item 5.2 Barbour Gardens EOI in view of their membership of the Planning Committee.

Also during the course of the meeting Councillor J Lavery declared an interest in item 7.3 Local Economic Partnership – Draft Action Plan in view of his membership of the Board of Inspire Business Park.

3.0 Report of Director of Regeneration & Growth

3.1 Management Agreement incorporating a License at Tolerton Sports Zone

The Director of Regeneration & Growth's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the Management Agreement incorporating a license at Tolerton Sports Zone.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the Management Agreement under License for Tolerton Sports Zone.

At the outset the Director of Regeneration & Growth welcomed the Acting Community Development & Resources Manager to the meeting who had assisted in regard to progressing this new license agreement and who was in attendance to respond to Members' questions.

The Director reported that under the terms of the proposed license, Seymourhill & Conway Residents Association would continue to manage the day-to-day operation and maintenance, including surface combing of the Tolerton Sports Zone. The licensee would also remain responsible for all operational costs, including utilities and other running expenses associated with the facility. The License Agreement would run for a further three-year term, effective from 1st July 2025.

3.1 Management Agreement incorporating License at Tolerton Sports Zone (Cont'd)

It was noted that should this licence agreement be successful it was proposed at the point of termination of existing leases that these arrangements be considered on other sites as an alternative option so as to ensure all statutory compliance as a minimum was achieved.

The Director responded to questions from two Members and provided clarification thereon in regard to the License Agreement, it being noted that there were no additional resources required from the Council in taking this new license forward. It was also noted that the issuing of licenses of this nature was a delegated function.

It was agreed that the license agreement with Seymourhill & Conway Residents Association for a period of three years effective from 1st July 2025, under the terms outlined in the Director's report, be noted.

The Community Development & Resources Manager (Acting) left the meeting (6.09 pm).

4.0 Report of Head of Planning & Capital Development

4.1 Consultation from Dfl on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in New Housing Developments

The Head of Planning & Capital Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with a public consultation by the Department for Infrastructure on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in New Housing Developments.

It was noted that the consultation was seeking the view of the Council on the development of policy relating to the future regulation and use of SuDS in new housing developments. The consultation also aimed to explain the main considerations, as well as gathering essential information and opinions on key parts of the policy, potential implementation challenges, and opportunities to promote the wider uptake of SuDS.

A link to the consultation documents had been included in the Officer's report, it being noted that the consultation was available for comment until 19 December 2025.

The Head of Planning & Capital Development responded to a question from a Member in connection with the funding of SuDS, it being noted that the consultation questions had addressed the issue of funding.

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that:

4.1 Consultation from DfI on Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) in New Housing Developments (Cont'd)

- a) the content of the draft response be approved,
- b) delegated authority be granted to Officers to make a submission to this consultation before 19 December 2025, and
- c) Members of the Committee who wish to make any comments on the consultation to provide their comments to the Head of Planning & Capital Development for inclusion in the Council's response, if deemed appropriate.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann – Belfast – August 2026
Alderman A McIntyre

Alderman A McIntyre advised that he had raised the issue of the Fleadh coming to Belfast next year at the Communities & Wellbeing Committee meeting on Tuesday past, and enquired as to how the Council could maximise on this major event which was estimated to attract in the region of 700,000 visitors to the area. The Director of Regeneration & Growth advised that he would arrange for this matter to be raised with the Tourism team.

7. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Chairperson, Councillor C Kemp, advised that confidential reports were required to be considered under confidential business 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 McCready, seconded by Councillor K Dickson, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings.

Alderman J Baird and Councillor A Martin left the meeting at this point having declared an interest in the following item of business.

7.1 Provision of Cemetery Land
(Report not for Publication)

This report was presented by the Director of Regeneration & Growth who also responded questions from the Committee.

A copy of a related document had been appended to the Officer's report.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that the current situation in regard to cemetery provision be noted and that the Officer's recommendations, as set out in the report circulated, be agreed.

7.2 Barbour Gardens EOI
(Redacted report to be published following ratification by Council)

Alderman J Baird returned to the meeting at 6.33 pm.

Councillor J Lavery, left the meeting remotely at 6.34 pm (transferred to the waiting room facility on Zoom), having declared an interest in this item of business in view of his membership of the Planning Committee.

Alderman M Gregg and Councillor P Catney also left the meeting at this point having declared an interest in this item of business, in view of their membership of the Planning Committee (6.34 pm and 6.35 pm respectively).

This report was presented by the Head of Assets.

A copy of the LPS valuation certificate had been appended to the Officer's/Director's report.

In response to comments from a Member of the Committee, the Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to look into a covenant issue concerning Barbour Gardens and report back to the Member concerned. The Director also provided an update to the Member in connection with a matter concerning access to the Barbour Gardens site.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that the Council disposes of Barbour Gardens lands for the proposed development, subject to planning permission being granted in line with an updated LPS valuation certificate.

7.3 Local Economic Partnership – Draft Action Plan
(Redacted report only to be published following ratification by Council)

Alderman M Gregg, Councillors A Martin and Councillor P Catney returned to the meeting at this point (6.43 pm).

7.3 Local Economic Partnership – Draft Action Plan (Cont'd)

This report was presented by the Head of Economic Development who also responded to questions from Members.

A copy of the draft LEP Action Plan had been appended to the Officer's report, together with two other related LEP documents.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth addressed the Committee in regard to one of the targets contained within the Action Plan that required the identification of suitable lands.

It was proposed by Councillor K Dickson, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the draft LEP Action Plan as amended, be approved,
- b) the draft LEP Action Plan be submitted to the Department for Economy as a bid to secure the maximum available funding allocation,
- c) the Letter of Offer, when received, be accepted so that programme and project delivery can commence without delay, and
- d) the final agreed Action Plan reported to a subsequent Committee for noting, provided that there are no significant departures from the submitted draft.

It was further agreed on a proposal by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, that:

- a) the Council progresses with an Expression of Interest (EOI), as outlined verbally by the Director, which would expedite delivery readiness in relation to the identification of suitable lands, and
- b) update reports on this EOI be brought to the Committee in due course.

Councillor J Lavery was re-admitted to the meeting remotely at 6.52 pm.

7.4 Visit Belfast – Three-year Enhanced Proposal (Redacted report to be published following ratification by Council)

This report was presented by the Head of Economic Development who, along with the Director of Regeneration & Growth, responded to questions and comments from the Committee in connection with key issues contained within the report.

7.4 Visit Belfast – Three-year Enhanced Proposal (Cont'd)

A document detailing Visit Belfast's promotional activity examples had been appended to the Officer's report together with a document setting out the Regional Tourism Partnership's (RTP) Enhanced Partnership Proposal.

The Head of Economic Development undertook to discuss the issues raised by Members with the Officers in the Tourism Unit on how best to promote local attractions to tourists on cruise ships.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor K Dickson, and agreed to recommend that the enhanced Visit Belfast RTP proposal and the development of an associated Service Level Agreement at £81,500 per annum for 2026/27, 2027/28, and 2028/29, as per budget estimates, be approved.

8.0 Any Other Confidential Business

8.1 Ballynahinch Street Car Park Alderman A McIntyre

At the request of Alderman A McIntyre the Head of Assets and the Director of Regeneration & Growth updated the Committee in relation to a matter concerning Ballynahinch Street Car Park.

Councillor P Catney left the meeting during this item of business (7.18 pm).

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

9.0 Verbal Updates by Chairperson, Councillor C Kemp

9.1 Launch of Future Cities Growth Grant

The Chairperson welcomed the launch of the Future Cities Growth Grant, the public advertisement of which had been issued that day, and encourage Members to use their contacts to promote this funding initiative.

9.2 Moir Community Hub

The Chairperson welcomed the completion of Moira Community Hub as part of the small settlements programme, it being noted that the premises would be used as part of the publication on the outcomes of small settlements.

9.3 Miracle on Market Square

The Chairperson welcomed the new pop up Christmas Shop, Miracle on Market Square, which had been established in the former Shannon's Jewellers building in the City Centre, and which had increased footfall in the area by 50% in that area over its first weekend of trading.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.21 pm.

Chairperson