

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, 8 January 2026 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, J Gallen, A Gowan, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell and C McCready

PRESENT REMOTELY: Councillors J Lavery BEM and D Lynch**OTHER MEMBERS IN THE CHAMBER** Councillors B Higginson and G Hynds**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT REMOTELY:** Councillors D Bassett and R Carlin**IN ATTENDANCE**Director of Regeneration & Growth
Head of Assets
Head of Economic Development
Head of Planning & Capital Development
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 January 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**

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan and Alderman A G Ewart.

2. Declarations of Interest

During the course of the meeting Councillor A Martin declared an interest in item 5.2 Consultation for the Proposed Listing of a Building in view of his membership of Dromore Presbytery which oversees the building proposed to be listed by DfC.

3. Report of Head of Economic Development

3.1 EU Trade Programme (NI-NL Trade Initiative)

Councillor R Carlin joined the meeting remotely at 6.04 pm.

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed the background and key issues in connection with the EU Trade Programme known as the NI-NL Trade Initiative.

The Head of Economic Development updated the Committee on developments since the issuing of the report in that the Department for the Economy had confirmed that the Local Economic Partnership (LEP) funding would be eligible to fund the NI-NL trade activity element of this initiative.

It was noted that a revised Programme was re-tendered and successfully awarded at the beginning of December 2025 and that the detailed programme of activities for the event was currently under development, which included the New Year Trade Dinner which was proposed to take place in early 2026.

The Head of Economic Development having outlined the recommendations as set out in h report, highlighted that nominees to take part in the NI-NL Trade initiative would be sought through the Party Group Leaders on a cross party basis.

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

- a) the EU Trade Programme and NI-NL Forum are scaled up in line with the agreed Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Action Plan,
- b) delegated authority for the approval of the final programme be granted to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Committee in consultation with the Director of Regeneration & Growth, and
- c) the EU Trade Programme be progressed as outlined in the report.

In addition and at the request of Councillor K Dickson, it was agreed to recommend that full costings for a cross-party delegation to take part in the civic element of the initiative be brought to Committee for consideration.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 Free Car Parking During January 2026
Councillor G Hynds

It was agreed at the request of Councillor G Hynds that social media posts be issued to advertise the free car parking in Council car parks on Saturdays during January 2026.

4.2 Street Signage
Councillor A Martin

Councillor A Martin welcomed the new signage in and around Lisburn City Centre, which, he stated, looked good and also directed to where the public toilets were located. Councillor Martin commended the Council for having progressed this initiative.

5. 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 Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, 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.

5.1 Letting of Pitch 5i, Lough Moss Leisure Centre
(Redacted report to be published 31 March 2026)

The Head of Assets presented this item of business during which she, along with the Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to comments from Members present in connection with key issues set out in the report.

It was proposed by Councillor J Gallen, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor J Harpur, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the insertion of a five year break clause within the draft lease be agreed, and
- b) the abandonment of the letting of pitch 5i at Lough Moss be agreed should the draft lease as amended not be signed by the end of June 2026, and not by the end of February 2026 as detailed in the Officer’s recommendation.

Councillors D Bassett and R Carlin left the meeting remotely at 6.30 pm.

Councillor A Martin left the meeting at this juncture, having declared an interest in the following item of business (6.30 pm).

5.2 Consultation for the Proposed Listing of a Building

(Report to be published when a decision is made by the Department for Communities on whether the buildings should be added to the list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest)

Councillor B Higginson left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.33 pm).

The Head of Planning & Capital Development presented this item of business and responded to a question from a Member in regard to the above-mentioned consultation.

Copies of related correspondence from the Department for Communities (DfC) Historic Environment Division dated 24 November 2025 and 5 December 2025 had been appended to the Officer's report together with the consultation report, a location Map and an extract of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011 (ref Section 81).

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that the Officer's recommendation be agreed; namely; the Committee agrees that the tests for issuing a building preservation notice are not met in this instance and that the Council has no comment to make in respect of the proposed listing.

5.3 Regeneration & Growth Estimates 2026/2027

(Full Estimates to be published in February 2026)

Councillor A Martin returned to the meeting at 6.36 pm.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the current year-to-date budget position for the Regeneration & Growth Directorate together with the current proposed budgets for 2026/2027.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth outlined the background and key issues in connection with the draft Estimates for the Regeneration & Growth Directorate for 2026/2027 during which he provided a verbal update following a recent notification from LPS. The Director and the Head of Economic Development responded to questions and comments raised by Members in connection with draft estimates, as presented.

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting during the Director's presentation (6.37 pm).

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the draft Estimates for the Regeneration & Growth Directorate 2026/2027, as presented, be agreed and be submitted into the overall Estimates of the Council for the year

commencing 1 April 2026 for consideration at a Special Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on 22nd January 2026.

6. Any Other Business - Confidential

6.1 Lease Agreements

Vice Chairperson, Councillor J Harpur

The Director of Regeneration & Growth and the Head of Assets responded to comments from the Vice Chairperson, Councillor J Harpur in relation to a previous request for a report to come to Committee on the subject of Council rental and lease agreements across the Council area. The Director advised that it was intended that such a report would come forward in the next couple of months, along with an update on the Estate.

Councillor D Lynch left the meeting remotely at 7.03 pm.

6.2 Issue with a Pathway in Castlereagh South DEA

Vice Chairperson, Councillor J Harpur

Councillor C McCready left the meeting at 7.04 pm.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to comments from the Vice Chairperson, Councillor J Harpur, in connection with an issue relating to a pathway within Castlereagh South DEA.

6.3 February Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee

Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Director of Regeneration & Growth apologised for his unavailability at the February meeting of the Committee which had been re-scheduled to Thursday, 12 February due to the Council meeting to strike the rate taking place on Thursday, 5 February. The Director advised that one of the Heads of Service from his Directorate would take the lead at this meeting.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Alderman A McIntyre, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone a Happy New Year. There being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.08 pm.

Chairperson