

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held in the Island Civic Centre on Monday 29th January 2024 at 6.00pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Deputy Mayor
Councillor G McCleave

Aldermen A Grehan and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, P Catney, D J Craig, B Higginson, G Hynds, P Kennedy, U Mackin, A Martin and C McCready

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman M Gregg

Councillors P Burke, S Burns, K Dickson, N Eaton, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan, J Lavery BEM, A McIntyre, R McLernon, N Parker and G Thompson

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Acting Director of Environmental Services
Member Services Officers
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

Councillor R McLernon joined the meeting remotely (6.02 pm).

At the commencement of the meeting, The Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, welcomed those present to the Special Meeting of Council. For the purpose of the livestream the Member Services Officer read out the names of those Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Deputy Mayor stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Order 8.5.

The Deputy Mayor asked that mobile phones be turned off or put on silent for the duration of the meeting. The Director of Environmental Services outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Apologies** ()

Apologies for non-attendance were recorded on behalf of The Right Worshipful, the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, Aldermen O Gawith, M Guy and P Porter, Councillors T Beckett, R Carlin, C Kemp and Chief Executive, Mr D Burns.

Alderman M Gregg joined the meeting remotely (6.04 pm).

2. Declarations of Interest ()

There were no declarations of Interest.

3 Northern Ireland Water ()

Councillor D Bassett left the meeting at 6.09 pm, returned at 6.13 pm and left the meeting (6.37 pm).

Councillor P Burke joined the meeting remotely (6.10 pm).

Councillor C McCready left the meeting (6.35 pm).

Alderman J Tinsley left the meeting (6.38 pm).

Councillor G Hynds left the meeting at 6.40 pm, returned at 6.42 pm and left the meeting (7.04 pm).

Alderman A Grehan left the meeting (6.46 pm).

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting remotely (6.48 pm).

Councillor B Higganson left the meeting at 7.06 pm and returned (7.07 pm).

The Deputy Mayor reminded the Council that the meeting had been convened to enable representatives of Northern Ireland Water to present their investment plans, challenges, and development constraints, specifically those for the Council area. Accordingly, he welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- Dr Stephen Blockwell - Head of Investment Management, Engineering and Sustainability Directorate
- Mr Mark Mitchell – Head of Capital Delivery, Infrastructure Delivery Directorate

Dr Blockwell provided an overview of the organisation's investment plan, known as PC21 (Price Control 2021-2027), which aimed to deliver wastewater services and capital infrastructure across Northern Ireland. It was reported that the third year of the PC21 plan had a funding shortfall of £49 million and that Northern Ireland Water estimated an overall shortfall of £953 million over the next 3 years of the six-year price control period.

Regarding proposed work within the Council area, the officials referred to a number of planned schemes. Specifically, the £9 million base maintenance investment to the Lisburn wastewater treatment works; upgrades to the Dromara wastewater treatment works, and to the Mill Road and Knockbracken Storm overflows, which were programmed to be delivered within the PC21 period, subject to statutory approvals and funding. The Council was also provided with an overview of the feasibility study which is currently being undertaken in respect of a proposed new wastewater treatment works within the Lisburn West area. Officials further outlined a number of actions which had been taken at a tactical level to work with Developers to accommodate development where possible in the face of the capacity constraints currently faced by Northern Ireland Water.

Dr Blockwell provided details of the Fats, Oil and Grease (FOG) Campaign and requested that Council support raising awareness of the environmental harm and damage caused by fats, oil and grease on NI Water assets and the environment. It was reported that the 'Stop & Think – Not in the Sink' message encouraged everyone to dispose of FOG appropriately, and businesses to ensure their grease traps worked correctly.

Officials requested that Council considered imposing requirements for grease management systems to be in place and maintained when issuing planning approvals, and to consider opportunities for wider regulation as part of Food Hygiene inspections, to ensure businesses implement FOG management systems.

The Deputy Mayor then invited questions from Members in respect of the presentation. During discussion, a number of matters were clarified in relation to: action taken on the recent Blue Green Algae crisis, length of time discussions had been ongoing with central government in relation to wastewater capacity constraints in NI, timeline for wastewater impact assessments and at what point of the assessment process were developers permitted to proceed with site builds, standards required for developer led treatment works solutions to be adopted by NI Water, lack of capacity at Drumbeg Treatment Works, Timeline for Dromara Treatment Works upgrade (subject to funding), and timeline for Knockbracken Storm Overflow works (subject to funding).

The following undertakings were noted in response to Members' questions:

- In response to questions from Councillor S Burns, regarding new businesses in Dundonald within a business park having applied for change of use and NI Water had recommended a wastewater impact assessment, Dr Blockwell advised that they had increased capacity within the team due to demand and undertook to confirm the current timescale for completion of the engineers report.
- In response to a question from Councillor J Lavery, regarding development in Dundonald, Dr Blockwell undertook to confirm the current timescale for completion of the engineer wastewater impact assessment reports.
- Councillor D J Craig referred to storm drain issues identified for the new social housing schemes planned for the Moyes flats. Officials advised that colleagues had a meeting planned in the near future with the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and agreed to add this issue to the agenda for that meeting.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, thanked the officials for their presentation.

There being no further business the special meeting concluded at 7.08 pm.

Deputy Mayor