

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Wednesday 14 June 2017 at 6.00 pm**

**PRESENT:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor R B Bloomfield MBE

Deputy Mayor  
Alderman S Martin

Aldermen, A G Ewart, T Jeffers, W A Leathem,  
G Rice MBE and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, J Craig, A P Ewing,  
O Gawith, A Givan, B Hanvey, V Kamble, H Legge,  
A McIntyre,

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Service Support  
Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development  
Assistant IT Manager (ICT Support Services)  
Member Services Officer  
Attendance Clerk

Elected Members Development Steering Group

Councillor N Anderson

Transport NI

Mr Colin Sykes – Network Maintenance Manager  
Mr Eamonn McMahon – Section Engineer

NI Electricity

Mr Eddie Byrne - Finance Director  
Mr Randal Gilbert – Head of Asset Management

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, welcomed those present and asked that all mobile phones be switched off or put on silent mode.

1. Purpose of Meeting

The special meeting of Council had been convened in order to receive the following presentations:

- Elected Members Development Steering Group
- Transport NI in respect of their Spring Report
- NI Electricity Networks – Investing for the Future.

2. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the special meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Aldermen WJ Dillon and D Drysdale, Councillors J Gallen, A Girvin, J Gray, A Grehan, T Morrow, J Palmer, S Skillen and M Tolerton.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Right Worshipful The Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, invited Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided at the meeting. There were no Declarations of Interest.

4. Elected Members Development Steering Group

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, welcomed Councillor N Anderson, Chair of the Elected Members Development Steering Group (EMDSG), to present the Group's report. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation had been uploaded to SharePoint in advance of the meeting.

Councillor N Anderson outlined the terms of reference of EMDSG. He emphasised the importance of a learning and development programme that would equip Members to deal with the continuing transformation and localisation of public services and the increasing demands and complexity of their roles.

Members were advised that EMDSG would produce a Learning and Development Plan on an annual basis and this would be divided into 3 categories: Corporate Training; Personal Effectiveness Training; and Academic Qualifications. He outlined the training scheduled for 2016/2017 and ongoing action plans.

Alderman S Martin and Councillor H Legge, also members of the EMDSG, provided further information on the group's activities and encouraged Members to support and participate in the learning programme.

(Alderman G Rice and Councillor V Kamble arrived at 6.15 pm)

4. Elected Members Development Steering Group (Contd)

Following the presentation, Councillor N Anderson responded to Members' questions as follows:

- He confirmed that EMDSG was reviewing induction training particularly for new Members coming onto Council mid-term
- EMDSG had considered whether some training should be compulsory such as training on the Bribery Act and on planning regulations. It was expected that there would be a three tiered approach to training, i.e. compulsory, highly recommended and voluntary. EMDSG would be cautious however about introducing too much compulsory training.
- Financial assistance would be available for Members working towards academic qualifications but it was considered reasonable to ask for a personal contribution on the part of the Member in the region of 10%.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Councillor Anderson and the members of the EMDSG for the presentation and their ongoing work on behalf of Members.

(Councillor J Craig left at 6.25 pm)

5. Transport NI - Spring Report

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, extended a welcome to the representatives of Transport NI, Mr C Sykes, Network Maintenance Manager, and Mr E McMahon, Lisburn & Castlereagh Section Engineer, who were in attendance to present their Spring Report. A copy of that report had been uploaded to SharePoint in advance of the meeting.

Mr Sykes, thanked the Council for the opportunity to address the meeting and apologised on behalf of the Divisional Roads Manager who had been unable to attend. He proceeded to outline the salient points of the report.

In addition to his verbal presentation, Mr Sykes confirmed that a question and answer session for Members had been held prior to the meeting and that written responses would be provided to those issues which remained outstanding or for which time had not permitted an adequate response to be provided.

Following their presentation, officials responded to a number of questions, noted comments in respect of certain schemes and agreed to investigate as follows:

Temple Roundabout and Old Ballynahinch Road:

Members welcomed these schemes. The officials were asked to contact a landowner at Old Ballynahinch Road regarding some outstanding issues.

Lights at Methodist Church, Glenavy Road:

The officials were asked to investigate these lights which were permanently switched on.

5. Transport NI - Spring Report (Contd)

Park and Ride Facilities:

The officials were asked to address the underuse of the park and ride facility at Temple roundabout and the possible provision of a park and ride facility at the junction of Ballynahinch Road and Saintfield Road, Carryduff.

Traffic Congestion at Brokerstown Road

Officials were asked about plans to deal with current traffic congestion at Brokerstown Road and were advised of concerns of local residents that the proposed Draynes Farm housing development would create even greater traffic chaos. Mr Sykes advised that planning conditions had included a requirement for the developer to undertake junction improvement works in order to mitigate the impact of additional traffic. He advised that a traffic analysis would be carried out regarding the impact of the Knockmore Link.

Enforcement of Planning Conditions

Alderman WA Leathem referred to a series of meetings and correspondence over a period of several years between the Council and DRD and DoE Ministers regarding the enforcement of planning conditions requiring private developers to carry out road improvements. He indicated that there did not appear to have been any response from the Department to the Council's correspondence of 6 April 2017. The officials undertook to investigate and provide an update on this issue.

Traffic Issues at Carryduff

In response to a suggestion that the extension of the Belfast Rapid Transit system beyond Carryduff would take traffic away from the Saintfield Road and alleviate traffic congestion, officials advised that any such extension would have to be addressed at a strategic level. They indicated that there would be an opportunity in the development of local area plans to review zoning of areas.

Officials indicated they would review traffic calming measures at Knockbracken Road and Old Saintfield Road and sequencing of lights at Knockbracken junction although they indicated that this was probably set to alleviate traffic flow on the main route.

They undertook to check street lights at Bests Hill and stated that defective street lights could be reported on an online map based system without the need for a street light number.

With regard to grass cutting at Glenhugh and Malvern, they advised that grass cutting had been limited to one cut per season with any additional cuts being carried out on a needs basis, to improve sight lines, etc.

They indicated that improvements to Mealough Road were not scheduled as high priority but they undertook to review measures to deal with potholes.

They would review the possibility of traffic calming measures at Alveston Park.

5. Transport NI - Spring Report (Contd)

Traffic Management at Entrance to Old Mill at Upper Newtownards Road

Officials reported that improvement works were scheduled to proceed this year that would help to address speeding traffic on the Upper Newtownards Road.

Recent Closure of Hillsborough Road

The officials were advised that signage alerting drivers to the recent closure of the Hillsborough Road at Carryduff could have been better located in order to allow drivers to take alternative routes rather than performing u-turns as they approached the closed road. Officials stated that road closures were generally a last resort but indicated that they would review this issue to investigate whether the closure could have been managed more effectively.

Report All App

Officials were asked if they were aware of the Report All App which the Council was piloting. Mr Sykes indicated that, while they were happy to receive reports from the Report All app, it was not joined into TransportNI's reporting system and involved additional work in that reports emailed through from the Report All app then had to be entered into the system. He stated that it would be more effective if reports could be made through TransportNI's public information portal on the NI Direct website as they then entered the system directly.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked the officials for their attendance and informative presentation and they left the meeting at 7.05 pm.

(During the course of this item of business, Councillor L Poots arrived at 6.30 pm and left at 6.43 pm; Alderman WA Leathem left at 6.53 pm; Alderman G Rice left at 6.59 pm)

(Alderman AG Ewart, Alderman J Tinsley, Councillor N Anderson, Councillor V Kamble and Councillor A McIntyre left at 7.05 pm)

6. Northern Ireland Electricity Networks – Investing for the Future

The NI Electricity Networks officials entered the meeting at 7.06 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, extended a welcome to the representatives from the NI Electricity Networks, Mr E Byrne, Finance Director, and Mr R Gilbert, Head of Asset Management. A copy of the PowerPoint presentation entitled 'Investing for the Future' had been uploaded to SharePoint in advance of the meeting.

Mr Byrne thanked the Council for the opportunity to address the meeting. The presentation covered the following:

- An overview of NI Electricity Network, its activities, customer base, workforce, etc.
- Work and activities carried out within the Council area including asset replacement schemes, load related schemes, overhead line refurbishment and meter replacement

6. Northern Ireland Electricity Networks – Investing for the Future (Contd)

- Storm response – emergency plan annually reviewed, ability to call on additional resources, local incident centres, preparation and resources, power restoration
- Investment plans for the future 2017-2024 – capital expenditure by category, proposed programmes

Following the presentation, Mr Byrne and Mr Gilbert responded to a number of questions, noted comments in respect of certain schemes and agreed to investigate as follows:

Staff Recruitment

Mr Gilbert advised that recruitment of engineers was not a problem although there was growing competition for these type of skills. NIE however offered good career opportunities. In addition, 10-20 people each year joined its apprenticeship scheme.

Meter Reading

Members were advised that the company was obliged to ensure that meter were read at least once a year. Smart meter reading programmes were being rolled out in other parts of Europe but a decision was still being awaited from central government as to whether smart meter reading would be introduced in Northern Ireland.

Capital Expenditure Plans

Mr Gilbert advised that NIE was obliged to ensure that meters were fit for purpose and therefore would continue its meter replacement programme until such time as a decision was made on smart metering.

With regard to innovation investment, Mr Gilbert advised that NIE was challenged by the regulator to ensure that it was investing appropriately for future needs but that had to be balanced with the needs of and costs to existing customers. In GB funding had been made available for researching and piloting low carbon technology and energy efficiency projects. NIE therefore looked at adopting schemes that had been trialed in GB.

Although interested in battery storage, NIE's licence did not allow it to own storage and the approach therefore was to encourage developers to explore storage opportunities and then have contractual arrangements put in place so that NIE could call upon that storage when needed. Mr Gilbert stated that there were investment challenges in dealing with power coming from multiple directions and sources.

Underground Cabling

In response to a comment welcoming underground cabling, Mr Gilbert advised that this was dealt with on a risk based approach.

Transport to Remote Locations

Mr Gilbert advised that NIE was required to have its own vehicles in order to carry out its responsibilities as an emergency responder. He advised that access to

6. Northern Ireland Electricity Networks – Investing for the Future (Contd)

helicopters was vital in being able to carry out a quick assessment and direct resources effectively. In future he indicated that drones could be used to provide aerial information. He advised that NIE did not own snow ploughs but had good working relationships with local authorities in this regard. During periods of severe weather, the farming community had been very helpful in transporting provisions and clearing snow.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked the representatives of NI Electricity Network for their attendance and informative presentation and they left the meeting at 7.47 pm.

(During the course of this item, Alderman J Tinsley returned at 7.06 pm; Alderman AG Ewart and Councillor A McIntyre returned at 7.09 pm; Councillor N Anderson returned at 7.15 pm; Alderman T Jeffers left at 7.15 pm; Councillor A McIntyre left at 7.30 m and returned at 7.32 pm; Councillor B Hanvey left at 7.45 pm))

There being no further business, the special meeting concluded at 7.52 pm.

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Mayor/Chairman