

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL on Wednesday 2 June 2021 at 7.29 pm

PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:

Alderman W J Dillon MBE (Chairman)
Councillor U Mackin (Vice Chairman)
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor Hon N Trimble
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer
Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE and A Grehan
Councillors S Carson, J Gallen, A Givan, M Guy, D Honeyford, H Legge, G McCleave, C McCready and T Mitchell

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman D Drysdale

OTHER MEMBER PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman S Martin and Councillor A Swan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive (Remote Location)
Director of Service Transformation (Council Chamber)
Director of Finance & Corporate Services (Remote Location)
Head of Assets (Remote Location)
Head of Economic Development (Remote Location)
Head of Planning and Capital Development (Remote Location)
Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager (Council Chamber)
Member Services Officer (BS) (Council Chamber)

Lisburn Chamber of Commerce

Mr G MacDonald, President
Mr E Morton,
Mr M McCall,
Ms K Marshall,
Ms J Hoey

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, extended a welcome to all present to the June meeting of the Committee and apologised for the lateness in the commencement of the meeting which had been occasioned due to the previous Committee meeting having overrun. The Chairman advised that the meeting was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

At this point, the Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager read out the names of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chairman also reminded everyone to ensure mobile phones were turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting. He proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

The Chairman asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting to advise the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies recorded.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited Members to declare any Conflicts of Interest 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 Interests declared at the meeting.

3. Deputation – Presentation by Lisburn Chamber of Commerce

Further to the decision of the Committee in October 2020 an invitation had been extended to the Lisburn Chamber of Commerce to present to the Committee, representatives of the Chamber were in attendance remotely in order to make their presentation.

The Director of Service Transformation's report (item 4.1 refers) set out the background and key issues in relation to the Lisburn Chamber of Commerce's presentation. The Director's report also referred to other associated reports on a) City Centre Animation and PR Activity Schedule, b) the Recovery Revitalisation Scheme and c) the Integrated Marketing Campaign which had been considered by the Committee at its previous meeting in May 2021. The Committee was asked to consider the synergies within these reports and also the Chamber of Commerce's presentation that evening.

At this juncture the representatives of Lisburn Chamber of Commerce joined the meeting remotely (7.32 pm).

3. Deputation – Presentation by Lisburn Chamber of Commerce (Cont'd)

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, extended a welcome to Mr Garry MacDonald, President of the Lisburn Chamber of Commerce, and to the Chamber representatives who were also in attendance, namely; Mr Evan Morton, Mr Mark McCall, Ms K Marshall and Ms Julie Hoey.

Alderman S Martin joined the meeting at 7.35 pm.

Mr MacDonald thanked the Committee for the opportunity to make their presentation and with the aid of the screen share facility on Zoom Mr MacDonald commenced the presentation which was entitled “We Are Lisburn – A Manifesto for Lisburn City Centre.”

Mr MacDonald elaborated on the work of the Lisburn Chamber of Commerce under a number of headings including:

- The Chamber and the wider business community
- Work so far
- Wider issues
- What are our opportunities?
- Our research with the public
- Give people a reason to come into the City
- Our 2021 Action Plan
- Lisburn BID
- Next Steps.

Following the presentation the deputation responded to a number of questions from Members in connection with issues arising out of the presentation, including:

- on-street parking
- need for a wider reach and better partnership working
- need for improved communication and collaboration
- membership fees and member benefits
- derelict properties, more attractive alleyways and the unattractiveness of steel shutters

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer wished to put on record that the Lisburn City Centre Management team works tirelessly with businesses in the City Centre. Alderman A G Ewart also paid tribute to the work of Lisburn City Centre Management.

Councillor D Honeyford welcomed the survey and associated findings that the Chamber of Commerce had undertaken recently and expressed thanks and appreciation to the Chamber for their efforts thereon.

Councilor H Legge emphasised the importance of the entire Council area being included in the various Chamber initiatives, in particular Dundonald and Carryduff.

3. Deputation – Presentation by Lisburn Chamber of Commerce (Cont'd)

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, having thanked Mr MacDonald for his presentation, and also the other Chamber representatives for their contribution, advised that a report addressing a number of issues raised would be considered by the Committee in due course. The deputation left the meeting (8.14 pm).

Councillor D Honeyford left the meeting at 8.14 pm.

Clarification was provided by the Director of Service Transformation on the issue of a wider city centre partnership. The Director advised that this matter had been considered recently by the Council's Corporate Management team. A proposed new approach had been discussed in relation to the management of parks adjacent to the City Centre and the Council's events programme. This approach would align with the Council's Community Plan. The Director agreed to take a report back to Committee in due course in relation to this initiative.

4. Report of the Director of Service Transformation

4.1 Lisburn Chamber of Commerce – Presentation

(Dealt with under item 3 above.)

4.2 Key Performance Indicators and Departmental Risk Register

Councillor D Honeyford returned to the meeting at 8.16 pm.

The Committee had been furnished with Performance Improvement KPIs for the 4th quarter for 2020/2021 (January 2021 – March 2021) which had been taken from the 'Performance Manager' System (Dashboard) detailing Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for each service within the Directorate.

The Committee had also been furnished with a copy of the Service Transformation Directorate Risk dashboard. The Director's report highlighted the key issues in relation to:

- a) Risk 1 - BRCH
- b) Risk 2 - Data Sharing
- c) Risk 3 - IT/Cyber Security
- d) Risk 4 – Procurement

The Director reminded Members that the Corporate Risk Management Policy had been refreshed and approved by Council in March 2021. One of the key changes within the new policy was the adoption of a new risk template and accordingly the Corporate Risk Register had been updated to align with the new template requirements and work would be undertaken over the summer to move the Directorate risk registers onto the new templates with six monthly reporting through to Committee from September onwards.

4.2 Key Performance Indicators and Departmental Risk Register (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed to recommend that the summary reports on the KPI indicators for the quarter January – March 2021 for the Service Transformation Directorate and the Directorate Risk Register be approved.

5. Report of the Head of Economic Development

5.1 Tourism Major Events Fund 2021/2022

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee of its decision in January 2021 to put out a call for applications for Tourism Major Events funding, however the call had been delayed as a consequence of ongoing public health guidance around events and the extended period of lockdown.

The Head of Economic Development advised that as restrictions were now beginning to ease, it was proposed to put out a call in June for applications from third parties for the remainder of 2021/22. It was noted that a total available budget was up to £50,000, and normally each successful applicant would receive up to £10,000.

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined a number of key issues in relation to the staging of major events and/or social gathering of scale in the latter half of 2021, subject to the relevant restrictions being lifted. The report also highlighted the undernoted previous decisions of the Committee:

- the application process for third party tourism major events be updated to include a Covid focused risk based approach, and
- the Council's solicitor be requested to update the contract of funding to explicitly take account of Covid risks as appropriate

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the applicant guidance manual for Tourism Events funding and also a copy of the application form.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that given the massive impact of Covid on the tourism market and events sector, and the uncertainty around the detail of future public health guidance:

- a) as a temporary measure in 2021 the eligibility criteria for support be reduced as follows:
 - visitor numbers are reduced from 2,500 to 1,250, and
 - bed-nights reduced from 100 to 50 to allow applicants to meet the minimum criteria so their application will be considered and;
- b) only one application per organisation be permitted in any financial year,

5.1 Tourism Major Events Fund 2021/2022 (Cont'd)

- c) any funding support being subject to the relevant public health guidance and
- d) delegated authority be granted to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee to take any necessary decisions in relation to staging events if the guidance changes over the summer.

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting during consideration of the above item (8.17 pm).

5.2 Award of NIBSUP Enquiry Handling Tender - Delegated Authority to June Development Committee

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the Council at its meeting held on 25 May 2021 had granted delegated authority to the Development Committee to agree the award of the NI Business Start-Up Programme for Enquiry Handling.

The Head of Economic Development reported that the above tender was the third and final procurement exercise necessary to progress delivery of the overall programme, and had been delayed because of the need for a re-tender following a nil response when it first went out to the market. It was noted that the Council had already agreed the Delivery and Marketing tenders.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the re-tender exercise was now complete and that the panel findings had been approved by the Central Procurement Directorate (CPD). The panel findings were detailed in the report circulated.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that the appointment of the contractor ranked No. 1, as per the evidence presented in the report and as recommended by CPD, be approved.

Councillor J Gallen returned to the meeting at 8.20 pm.

5.3 Business Development Collaboration Programme 2021-2022

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in relation to the Business Development Collaboration Programme 2021- 2022.

It was noted that the projects currently envisaged for 2021-22 included:

- Business Awards 2022
- NI Chamber Membership and Networking
- Fairtrade
- Collaborative Events: Including Conferences, Master classes, Webinars, Workshops, Job Fairs, including 'Made in Lisburn Castlereagh'
- Global Entrepreneurship Week 2021

5.3 Business Development Collaboration Programme 2021-2022 (Cont'd)

The Committee had been furnished with paper detailing a summary of each proposed individual collaboration project outputs and indicative budget.

The Head of Economic Development advised that as we move to a post-COVID-19 environment, it was possible and perhaps likely that virtual conferences and webinars would continue and hybrid events that combine both in-person and virtual experiences would be a future feature in the Council's event calendars.

The Head of Economic Development also advised that the Lisburn Castlereagh Business Awards were due to be held again in March 2022, with planning scheduled to begin in September 2021. It was proposed to procure delivery of the Awards programme, and establish the Council as the main sponsor at a net cost of £10,000 to the Council, with the remainder of the costs of the initiative covered as in previous years, by substantial third party sponsorship. It was noted that a final decision would be required later in the year on whether to proceed, depending on evolving public health guidance.

It was noted that the proposed overall budget for business collaborative activity during 2021-2022 was £37,500 across the various projects.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and agreed to recommend that the annual business collaborative programme of activities for 2021-2022 as outlined in the report circulated be approved.

5.4 International Trade Programme 2021-2022

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Economic Development which outlined the background to and key issues in relation to the Council's delivery of an annual programme of international trade activity as part of its overall strategy to support businesses to grow through developing in new markets outside NI.

The report detailed the range of recent activities that presented ongoing opportunities as part of the International Trade Programme to date, including:

- Foshan, China Trade Programme and the Friendship City Agreement: In November 2020, The Head of Economic Development reminded Members that the Council had approved the establishment of a bridging communications programme with all the key players in Foshan (City Government, Foreign Affairs Office, China Council for the Promotion of International Trade, Culture Bureau) at a cost of £2,000 until December 2020 and then in March 2021 the Development Committee had agreed a £10,000 consultancy budget to continue a communications and relationship building programme with all the key players in Foshan and to support the delivery of a virtual trade mission for local companies.

5.4 International Trade Programme 2021-2022 (Cont'd)

- Trade Programmes: The Council had been actively involved in supporting its business base by assisting them to explore new export markets and win new export business. Recent examples included:
 - a) Atlanta and Berrien County civic visit in May 2017 and a follow-up Trade Mission to Atlanta and Berrien County in October 2017
 - b) Central & Eastern Europe: Market Visit to Poland in November 2017, and
 - c) London: Nine local tech companies attended the London 2019 Trade Mission.
- NI-NL Membership: the Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the Council had been in partnership with NITC and Invest NI to develop an NI-NL Society to develop professional trading relationships in the Netherlands. This had led to reciprocal annual trade dinners and coincided with trade missions supporting Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council businesses in the Netherlands.

It was noted that due to the Covid-19 pandemic all planned travel activity had been put on hold for 2020 but that it was argued that later in 2021 and into 2022, it would be important to potentially revisit international linkages already established and look at developing new ones. The report circulated highlighted a number of key issues in relation to proposed international trade activity. The Committee had been furnished with a full schedule of international activity for 2021 and 2022 which had been based on an overall budget of £35,000 which included the previously approved £10,000 for the China initiative.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from Alderman A G Ewart, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer and Councillor J Gallen during which he emphasised that, in regard to NI-NL Membership, the Dutch market was an important market for small businesses, particularly first time exporters, and which provided a unique opportunity in terms of comparable business culture and language.

It was agreed on a proposal by the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, and seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, that the proposed International Trade programme of activity for 2021-2022 as outlined be approved.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, left the meeting at 8.33 pm.

5.5 Investment Programme 2021-2022

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that pre-Covid the Council had delivered an annual programme of investment promotion activity as part of its overall strategy to position the City area as a place in which to do business and to invest.

5.5 Investment Programme 2021-2022 (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed a number of recent key activities that had taken place as part of the investment programme along with the key outcomes for local businesses in terms of showcasing, engaging and connecting.

The Head of Economic Development also reminded the Committee that in June 2019, the Council had agreed a budget to deliver further activity for the 2020 programme, this included hosting a 2-day Westminster event in March 2020 and also the delivery of a technology-led London Trade mission for Lisburn and Castlereagh businesses in March 2020. However due to the pandemic all planned travel activity had been put on hold for 2020 and the planned Westminster event in 2020 had been cancelled. The trade programme had moved to virtual meetings for the participating businesses.

It was noted that video conference calls and webinars had successfully played a key role in wider economic development activities during 2020-21 and it was therefore anticipated that the virtual event would remain the new norm in the short to medium term. Future travel potential would be dependent on public health guidance going forward.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a paper detailing the Inward Investment promotion related activity for 2021-2022 which outlined a number of delivery options in terms of maintaining and strengthening the Council's existing investment links and which took into account a number of considerations in terms of the Covid-19 pandemic and Brexit.

The proposed investment activity was broken down into the undernoted activities:

- Westminster 2-Day Event March/April 2022
- GB/London Trade Mission for LCCC businesses
- RoI Trade Mission for LCCC businesses
- Socio Economic Research & Positioning Strategy

The Head of Economic Development advised that the proposed overall budget for events relating to investment activity during 2021-2022 was in the region of £82,000 and that part of this activity, (namely; GB/London and RoI Trade missions at an indicative cost of £35,000) had already been approved by the Committee in November 2020, as part of the new ERDF funded Lisburn Castlereagh/Newry Mourne & Down 2021-23 Sales and Export Programme.

A number of Members of the Committee welcomed the Council's proposed Investment Programme.

In response to comments from Councillor D Honeyford regarding the possibility of expanding the Council's programme of inward investment even further the Head of Economic Development stated that an expanded programme of activity would require additional budget.

5.5 Investment Programme 2021-2022 (Cont'd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, returned the meeting at 8.36 pm.

The Head of Economic Development and the Director of Service Transformation responded to comments from the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, in connection with obstacles that Brexit may pose to the Council's investment strategy. The Deputy Mayor also enquired about achievements of local businesses as a result of the Council's successful events at Westminster over the past five years.

It was proposed by Councillor D Honeyford, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Council commits to the continuing annual investment programme of activity as outlined in the report circulated,
- b) the proposed programme of activity for 2021-2022, as outlined, be approved, and
- c) the attendance by a cross-party Elected Member delegation from the Council be approved to attend the Westminster Investment event in March/April 2022.

6. Report by Head of Planning & Capital Development

6.1 Local Development Plan (LDP): Appointment of Independent Consultant to Undertake a Procurement Exercise for establishing a Developer Contributions Framework secured through Section 76 Agreements

The Committee considered a report by the Head of Planning and Capital Development which outlined the background and key issues in relation to the appointment of an independent consultant to undertake a procurement exercise for establishing a Developer Contributions Framework secured through Section 76 Agreements. It was noted that the draft Plan Strategy of the Local Development Plan 2032 provides strategic policy direction for developer contributions secured through planning agreements, as provided through Section 76 of the Planning (Northern Ireland) Act 2011.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development advised that it was considered necessary for a draft framework to be in place in advance of the draft Plan Strategy going to Independent Examination, which was anticipated to occur in and around the last quarter of 2021. Also, consultation on the Developer Contributions Framework would be required in advance of it being adopted by the Council.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development reported that the costs associated with the procurement of consultants to undertake this piece of work was anticipated to be in the region of £30,000-£35,000. Derry City and Strabane District Council had indicated that they were willing to enter into a joint procurement process with this Council which would result in a cost saving as a consequence of working jointly with another Council.

6.1 Local Development Plan (LDP): Appointment of Independent Consultant to Undertake a Procurement Exercise for establishing a Developer Contributions Framework secured through Section 76 Agreements (Cont'd)

In order to establish a robust approach to the developer contributions process, a detailed Specification of Requirements had been developed, a copy of which had been circulated to the Committee.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development responded to a question from Councillor A Givan in regard to engagement with other Councils. It was noted that Derry City and Strabane District Council was the only council partner that was able to commit to the required timeframe.

In response to a question from Councillor M Guy in regard to Developer Contributions extending to community facilities/infrastructure, the Head of Planning and Capital Development referred to the relevant paragraph in his report and also item 3.6 (b) in the paper that had been appended to his report which listed the nature/type of Developer Contributions and that this did reference community and other facilities.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor M Guy, and agreed to recommend that the Council partakes in a joint commission with Derry City and Strabane District Council to appoint an appropriate expert to prepare a Developers Contribution Framework in accordance with the Specification of Requirements.

6.2 Local Development Plan – Amendment to the definition of Affordable Housing

The Head of Planning and Capital Development's report detailed the background and key issues in relation to the Department for Communities' (DfC) amendment to the definition of Affordable Housing. The Department's public consultation in June 2019 had sought views on its proposals to change the definition of 'Affordable Housing' for Northern Ireland. The overall aim of the consultation had been "to agree a clear definition of affordable housing that can be applied consistently in legislation, policy, local plans and in practice".

The Head of Planning and Capital Development advised that DfC had published its new definition of Affordable Housing on the 1 April 2021 and explained the difference between the old and the new definition.

By way of clarification the Head of Planning and Capital Development advised that the reference to 'social rented housing' was regarded as housing provided at an affordable rent by a Registered Housing Association. In addition, the definition of Affordable Housing has now been broadened to include intermediate housing which is shared ownership provided through a Registered Housing Association (e.g. the Co Ownership Housing Association) to help households who can afford a small mortgage, but that are not able to afford to buy a property outright.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development advised that whilst clear direction is offered in relation to the renting of social housing and the sale of intermediate housing, it is understood that further consideration is required in respect of the types of products that fall into the category of 'intermediate housing for rent' and that this is an action for the

6.2 Local Development Plan – Amendment to the definition of Affordable Housing (Cont'd)

Department for Communities. It was noted that a further report would be brought to the Committee on this matter when more information comes forward.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development advised further that the Chief Planner & Director of Regional Planning had informed the Council by email on the 19 April 2021 that the new definition of Affordable Housing took effect from the 1 April 2021 and that for the purposes of the Strategic Planning Policy Statement (SPPS) and the planning system, this new definition now applied. It was noted that as a result this would also now apply to the policies of the draft Plan Strategy (dPS).

Additionally, with submission of the dPS documents to the Department in March 2021, a Minor Change (reference MC3A) was proposed to dPS, Part 1, Strategic Policy SP08 that would further highlight that the definition of affordable housing is that which is contained in and applicable to the policies of the SPPS.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development responded to comments from Alderman A Grehan in relation to the issue of 'house blocking' whereby there was a tendency for young families to stay in their affordable housing rather than moving on to purchase a house in the private sector as their wealth increases. This greatly disadvantaged other young people and families who want to get on to the property ladder. The Head of Planning and Capital Development stated that the broadening of the definition of Affordable Housing to include 'additional intermediate housing' would help to address the issue raised by Alderman Grehan.

It was noted that DfC's definition and explanatory notes had been appended to the Officer's report and further information could be viewed on the DfC website.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the updated definition of Affordable Housing provided by DfC and how this definition is to be read in the context of published regional planning policy and the Council's own draft Plan Strategy, be noted.

7. Confidential Report by the Director of Service Transformation

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, advised of the reasons for confidentiality in respect of the items contained in the Director's Confidential Report as follows:

7.1 Lisburn Public Realm – Pre Action Protocol Letter: Confidential due to information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

7.2 Lisburn Light Festival 2021: Confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information)

7. Confidential Report by the Director of Service Transformation (Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor S Carson, and agreed that the Confidential Business be considered “in Committee” in the absence of press or members of the public.

At this juncture the livestream was stopped for the purpose of consideration of the confidential business.

“In Committee”

7.1 Lisburn Public Realm – Pre Action Protocol Letter

The Director of Service Transformation’s report outlined the background and key issues in relation to the above matter.

During a verbal update by the Director, it was noted that a subsequent report would be brought to a future meeting of the committee for consideration in due course.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and agreed to recommend that the Director’s report, including the verbal update, be noted and that the matter be considered further in due course.

7.2 Lisburn Light Festival 2021

The Director of Service Transformation’s report outlined the background and key issues in relation to the Lisburn Light Festival. It was noted that the original three-year contract for the Light Festival had ended recently.

The Director advised that his report should be considered alongside the report by the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing which outlined a proposed wider programme for Christmas events and which had been considered at the Leisure & Community Development Committee the previous evening.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of an initial business case outlining a summary of the Light Festival activity and performance to date and a recommendation for the future delivery of the Festival.

A discussion ensued during which the Director, the Head of Economic Development and the Chief Executive responded to questions and comments from the Committee in connection with a number of issues arising from the report circulated.

The Director indicated that a full programme of events would come back to the Committee in September however the procurement required to be taken forward now for the indicative programme.

7.2 Lisburn Light Festival 2021 (Cont'd)

It was proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, that the Director's recommendation, as outlined, be approved in principle, subject to a full breakdown of costs being presented to the Committee in due course. This proposal was seconded by Alderman J Baird.

Following further discussion the proposal by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and seconded by Alderman J Baird, was put to the meeting and on a show of hands, agreed.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed. The livestream was re-commenced.

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Thanks to the Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble and The Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble put on record his thanks to the Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, for the manner in which he conducted the business of the Development Committee during a very difficult year, it being noted that this Committee had progressed a substantial amount of work during that time.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also wished to thank the Director and Officers across the Service Transformation directorate who had made significant efforts during the past year. He also thanked the Director and Officers for their continued support to the Chairman.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, also wished to be associated with the sentiments of The Right Worshipful the Mayor in regard to the work of the Chairman and Council Officers. Councillor Mackin stated that it had been a pleasure to work alongside the Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, during what was a particularly difficult year, and thanked the Chairman for his guidance, and referred to his wealth of wisdom and experience.

8.2 Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme – Update and Proposal for Additional Call for Funding Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin

The Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, requested an update on the Urban Development element of the Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme.

8.2 Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme – Update and Proposal for Additional Call for Funding (Cont'd)

The Director of Service Transformation thanked the Committee for their support during the past year and also for the sentiments expressed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble and the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin. The Director expressed appreciation in regard to the support of the Chairman and Vice Chairman during this difficult year. He also thanked the Committee Members for their support during that time.

In relation to the Urban Development activities associated with the Covid-19 Revitalisation Programme the Director advised that the Lisburn Chamber of Commerce's presentation had alluded to a number of these activities, and asked the Head of Economic Development to update the Committee in this regard.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Urban Investment grant is supporting a total of up to 19 projects to date, a significant number of which were for new businesses. The total amount of grant funding was in the region of £337,500. The Head of Economic Development reported that as there was further interest in this funding initiative from 3 or 4 other new businesses wishing to invest in the city centre it was being proposed to progress another call for the Covid-19 Revitalisation Funding Programme over the summer months, on a similar basis as agreed by the Committee in October 2020.

It was agreed that the Head of Economic Development's verbal report be noted, and the proposal to progress another call for the Covid-19 Revitalisation funding projects be approved.

8.3 Thanks and Appreciation to Chairman and Vice Chairman Alderman A Grehan and Councillor J Gallen

Alderman A Grehan wished to also put on record her thanks, and the thanks for her Alliance party colleagues, to the Director and his team for having done an amazing job during the past year which had been very challenging due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic.

Alderman Grehan stated that as a result of this pandemic it had been necessary for the Committee to put its trust in the Chairman and Vice Chairman who had been granted delegated authority to progress a number of important areas of business. Alderman Grehan thanked the Chairman and Vice Chairman for having taken on this responsibility and for the successful outcomes which, in her opinion, had been due to the wealth of wisdom of both Members – not only to the Development Committee but also the Planning Committee.

Councillor J Gallen, on behalf of the SDLP, echoed the sentiments expressed by Alderman A Grehan regarding the efforts of the Chairman and Vice Chairman. Councillor Gallen also expressed thanks and appreciation in regard to the efforts of the Director and Officers across the Service Transformation directorate during a very challenging and difficult year.

8.4 Maze/Long Kesh Development Corporation - Meeting with First Minister and Junior Minister
Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, reported on the meeting that had taken place earlier that day with a Council delegation and the First Minister, Arlene Foster MLA, and the Junior Minister, Declan Kearney MLA, to discuss the future development of Maze/Long Kesh (MLK) site. The Chairman advised that the Council delegation had consisted of himself as Chairman of the Development Committee, Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, Alderman A G Ewart, the Chief Executive and the Director of Service Transformation.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, having welcomed the successful meeting that afternoon elaborated on the discussion that had taken place. Councillor Mackin also welcomed the discussion and input from the First Minister and the Junior Minister. Councillor Mackin thanked the Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, for his efforts in securing this important meeting.

8.5 Thanks of the Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, expressed thanks to the Committee for the manner in which it had conducted its business during the past year and extended a special thanks to the Vice Chairman, Councillor U Mackin, for his on-going support. The Chairman stated that he and the Vice Chairman had worked harmoniously together during the year.

The Chairman also expressed thanks and appreciation for the hard work and support of the Chief Executive, the Director of Service Transformation and the Heads of Service across the Directorate. He also thanked the Member Services Officers, the IT and technical teams for their efforts and support during the year.

In concluding the Chairman advised that during his tenure he had overseen the administration of 250 small business grants and 337 larger grants, had taken part in over 200 photoshoots and as many press statements during the year of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman W J Dillon, thanked Members for their attendance and there being no other business the meeting was terminated at 9.41 pm.

Chairman