

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 22 May, 2018 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor T Morrow

Deputy Mayor
Councillor H Legge

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, D Drysdale, A G Ewart MBE,
M Henderson MBE, T Jeffers, W A Leatham, S Martin,
S P Porter, G Rice MBE and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, J Baird, R T Beckett,
B Bloomfield MBE, S Carson, D J Craig, A P Ewing, J Gallen,
O Gawith, A Givan, J Gray MBE, A Grehan, B Hanvey,
V Kamble, J McCarthy, A McIntyre, U Mackin, B Mallon,
T Mitchell, J Palmer, L Poots, A Redpath, S Skillen, N Trimble
and R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Head of Marketing and Communications (Ms A Goddard)
Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation
Development
Member Services Officer
Attendance Clerk

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed those present to the meeting, following which the Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor Morrow requested that all mobile phones be switched off or put on silent for the duration of the meeting.

Prayers

Councillors N Anderson and L Poots arrived to the meeting during this item of business (7.02 pm).

Prayers (Contd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, expressed condolences in respect of the recent death of:

- Mrs Joyce O'Hara, mother of Ms Elaine White, employee in Central Support Services; and
- Mr William John Curry, father of Mrs R Wilson, employee in Central Support Services.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed Rev H Gilpin, Moira Presbyterian Church, to the meeting. Rev Gilpin provided some background to his Church and said a prayer, during which he too remembered the bereaved families referred to by the Mayor.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked Rev Gilpin for his attendance.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, outlined the engagements he had attended during the month as follows:

- the Mayoress, together with the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, had attended the Ladies Vintage Tea Evening at Café Vie-Ryn;
- Creating Connections Social Media and Networking Event;
- Google Digital Garage Event;
- Visit to Cancer Focus Shop, which was a Business in the Community initiative;
- Opening of the Institute of Clerks of Works and Construction Inspectorate conference at La Mon Hotel;
- Dedication Launch of the new Phantom at the Ulster Aviation Society;
- St Joseph's Gaelic Athletic Club Event, monies raised at which had been donated to the Mayor's Charities;
- Visit to Largymore Primary School;
- Tenx9 Storytelling Event for the Mayor's Charities in Lighters Restaurant;
- Reception for Syrian families who had come to this area over the last number of years;
- Tractor Run and Barbeque in aid of cystic fibrosis;
- Lisburn Junior League Cup Finals at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex;
- Phoenix Cycle Club Charity Cycle in which The Right Worshipful the Mayor, the Mayoress and the Mayor's Driver, Mr G McCartney, had participated. This event had raised in excess of £3,000 for the Mayor's Charities;
- Photoshoot for hand-over of money raised for Air Ambulance Northern Ireland at a recent Thanksgiving Service for Emergency Services at Christ Church;
- Photoshoot with the Northern Ireland Italian Motor Club;
- AGM of the Thursday Club;
- Production of Aladin by St Joseph's Primary School;
- Re-opening Service at Saintfield Road Presbyterian Church following a fire;

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Contd)

- Mayor’s Carnival Parade & Family Fun Day, which had been a huge success with a record number of people in attendance a record amount of money raised for the Mayor’s Charities. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked staff in the Leisure and Community Wellbeing Department, the Environmental Services Department and the Mayor’s Office for their involvement in organising this event;
- Induction of new Pastor at Dundonald Elim Church;
- Charity Cycle organised by Dromara Cycle Club, all monies raised at which were donated to the Mayor’s Charities;
- Annual 5k Run at Ballybeen which The Right Worshipful the Mayor had started and which had also been attended by the Deputy Mayor;
- Reception for Lisburn Interchurch Sunday School, organised by Councillor A Redpath;
- Balmoral Show, at which The Right Worshipful the Mayor had attended several events, such as meeting the VIP The Princess Royal, the C.A.R.A.S. Awards Ceremony, RUAS President’s lunch, official launch of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Marquee and a drinks reception at the McDonald’s Marquee. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked all the businesses that had attended and for which the Show had been very successful;
- Opening of Lisnagarvey Art Exhibition;
- Presentation of prizes for Parkview Special School Football Tournament;
- Royal Wedding Party at Carryduff Play Care Centre;
- Primary School Swimming Gala Awards at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex;
- Boys’ Brigade Presentation Ceremony in Ballymena, at which the special guest was Jacob Stockdale;
- Minis in the City Annual Show in Wallace Park;
- Reception for Mr Bill Foster and his family. Mr Foster was a blind person who had cycled the length of Ireland, ran marathons and half marathons and taught Braille on a voluntary basis every week in Londonderry. It had been a privilege to host a reception to recognise Mr Foster’s service to his community; and
- Charity event at C D Fair Dental Practice.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, expressed his appreciation to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, for having attended a number of events on his behalf during the last month, as follows:

- Lisburn Rugby Football Club Annual Dinner;
- Opening of East Belfast Mission Shop;
- Lisnagarvey Hockey Club Lunch, which was after the final match of the year;
- St George’s Day Parade by Lisburn and District Scouts Group at Hillsborough;
- Community Arts Exhibition at Island Arts Centre;
- Reception for Dundonald Ladies Group;
- Girl’s Brigade Queen’s Award Presentation Ceremony at Friends’ School;
- Reception for Dundonald High School Prefects Group;
- Parkview Special School Football Tournament;

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Contd)

- Official Launch of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Marquee at the Balmoral Show;
- Reception for Commonwealth Local Members at Lagan Valley Island;
- Royal Wedding celebration events: Street Party at Resurgam Trust, Wedding Party at Derriaghy Orange Hall and Hillsborough Old Guard Wedding Celebrations; and
- Official Opening of Drumbo and District Men's Shed in Drumbo.

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, took the opportunity to thank a number of people for the help and assistance they had provided to him during his term in office. Firstly, he thanked the Chief Executive, Mrs T Donaldson, for keeping him right throughout year. He stated that Mrs Donaldson was particularly strong in the area of networking and was an example to everyone of how to engage with people to try to get business coming to Lisburn. Councillor Morrow thanked the Directors and the Chairmen of the Council Committees for their support, as well as staff in the Marketing and Communications Unit. He extended a special thanks to the Head of Central Support Services and the team in the Mayor's Office, including the Mayor's drivers, who put in an enormous amount of work. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked his Deputy, Councillor H Legge, and stated that they had struck up a very good friendship working together over the last year. He thanked his Alliance Party colleagues for having nominated him to the position of Mayor and his Elected Member colleagues from all Parties for making his role such easy one by their dignified behaviour. Lastly, Councillor Morrow thanked his wife and family for their support.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors A Girvin, C Robb and M Tolerton.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at this point. However, during the meeting the following declarations were made:

- Councillor A Redpath declared an interest in item 9.8, MoD Housing – Mountview Drive and Skyline Drive, Lisburn, as he had recently joined the Management Committee of the Lambeg Project (which was the formal name of the Base Community Centre);
- Alderman W J Dillon declared an interest in item 13.3, Down Royal Racecourse Site, as he was a member of the Down Royal Racecourse; and
- Councillor D J Craig declared an interest in item 14.2, Secondary School Places, in light of him being a Board Member of the Education Authority.

3. Declarations of Interest (Contd)

Following the meeting, Alderman S Martin submitted a declaration of interest form in respect of item 4.13 of the Corporate Services Committee minutes of 8 May, 2018, Contract for the Provision of Legal Services, as he was a former employee of one of the tendering companies.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A Redpath and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 24 April, 2018 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

On a proposal by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Alderman M Henderson, it was agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA) of Bradford Court, Upper Galwally, Belfast, BT8 6RB – Deed of Variation of Lease in respect of additional office space at Bradford Court, Belfast;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Rolston Architects of 49 Lisleen Road, Belfast, BT5 7SU – Contract for Sports Pitches Design Consultant;
- Lagan Valley Regional Park Limited of Lagan Valley Regional Park Limited, 3 Lock Keeper's Lane, Milltown Road, Belfast, BT8 7XT and Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council – Service Level Agreement; and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Joseph McGeehan, Edel McGeehan and Sean Rainey as Trustees of Santos Football Club of 7 Old Saintfield Road, Carryduff, Belfast. BT8 8EY – Lease of the Scout Field at 698 Saintfield Road, Carryduff, BT8 8BU

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

It was agreed that the minutes and recommendations of the undernoted meetings be adopted, subject to any changes recorded below:

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees (Contd)

Leisure and Community Development Committee

1 May 2018

Proposed by Alderman J Tinsley
Seconded by Councillor R Walker

Royal Wedding Celebration Community Grant Fund

The Chairman of the Leisure and Community Development Committee, Alderman J Tinsley, referred to grants that had been awarded through the above Fund and stated that the awards had been well-received throughout the City area, with many events having taken place to celebrate the Royal Wedding.

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Newtownbreda Baptist Church Event

At the request of Councillor N Anderson, it was agreed that references to Newtownbreda Baptist Church be amended to Newtownbreda Community Association.

Environmental Services Committee

2 May 2018

Proposed by Alderman T Jeffers
Seconded by Councillor J Gray

Rev H Gilpin left the meeting at this point (7.23 pm).

Development Committee

2 May 2018

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart
Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

Special Governance and Audit Committee

3 May 2018

Proposed by Councillor A Grehan
Seconded by Councillor J Baird

Corporate Services Committee

8 May 2018

Proposed by Councillor S Carson
Seconded by Councillor B Harvey

Capital Projects Committee

10 May 2018

Proposed by Alderman D Drysdale
Seconded by Alderman W J Dillon

Special Corporate Services Committee

17 May 2018

Proposed by Councillor S Carson
Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

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Chief Executive Recruitment

The Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, Councillor S Carson, advised that a report on the above matter would be considered "in committee" later in the meeting.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees (Contd)

For Noting

Planning Committee

9 April 2018

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 10 April, 2018 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 14 May, 2018. It was proposed by Councillor L Poots, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Decision

9.1 Letter from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People

Members were provided with a copy of a letter dated 4 May, 2018 from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People requesting that the Council consider providing funding for bereaved families in the Council area for the cost of burials or cremations of their children. It was agreed that this correspondence would be considered later in the meeting, within the context of the Notice of Motion regarding the waiving of charges and costs relating to funeral services for children up to the age of 18.

9.2 Wallace Park: Application to Host a Major Event – Request for Delegated Authority

Members were advised of recent receipt of an application from a third party requesting to hire facilities within Wallace Park later this year to host a major event. The organisers had indicated that a minimum of 12 weeks were required to organise the event and advised that, to meet the proposed date of the event, would require a decision on behalf of Council in early June. In view of this, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Leisure and Community Development Committee, at its meeting to be held on 5 June, 2018, to consider this request and an associated report from Council Officers.

9.3 Bells Lane Allotments: Improvement Scheme – Request for Delegated Authority

Members were reminded that, at a meeting of the Environmental Services Committee held on 6 September, 2017, consideration had been given to the Council's allotments at Bells Lane, Lambeg, and the potential for improvements. It had been agreed that Officers should work up a scheme for detailed consideration.

9.3 Bells Lane Allotments: Improvement Scheme – Request for Delegated Authority (Contd)

Responsibility for the Council allotments had moved in November 2017 from the Environmental Services Committee to the Leisure and Community Development Committee as part of the transfer of the Grounds Maintenance service and function.

The Chief Executive reported that, following discussion with the PHA, an offer of grant funding had been received; however, the window of opportunity to avail of this was limited. To facilitate potential implementation of a scheme to avail of the grant opportunity, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor J McCarthy and agreed that delegated authority be granted to the Leisure and Community Development Committee, at its meeting to be held on 5 June, 2018, to consider the Bells Lane Allotments Improvement Scheme and associated grant offer.

9.4 Agenda and Reports for Corporate Services Committee and Governance and Audit Committee – 12 June, 2018

Members were advised that, in accordance with Standing Orders, the agenda and reports for the Corporate Services Committee and Governance and Audit Committee were due to be made available on SharePoint on Thursday, 7 June, 2018, which was prior to the Annual Meeting of Council.

As there would be a new Chairman, Vice-Chairman and Committee Members appointed at the Annual Meeting in respect of these Committees, it was proposed by Councillor J Baird, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, and agreed that both the existing and newly-appointed Members be invited to attend both meetings.

Items for Noting

9.5 Hope for ME & Fibromyalgia

Members were reminded that, following a meeting of Council in March 2018, a letter had been sent to the Head of the Northern Ireland Civil Service raising concerns that it was the only Civil Service in the UK that had not implemented the UK Government's Improving Lives Strategy to get, and keep, disabled people in work. Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter of response from the Head of the Civil Service dated 2 May, 2018.

9.6 Participation with Children and Young People – Advice to Public Bodies

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter dated 9 May, 2018 from the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, together with the above publication, which provided advice and information on matters concerning the rights or best wishes of children and young persons.

9.7 Department for Communities: Letter of Offer in Regard to Community Festivals Fund 2018

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a Letter of Offer dated 8 May, 2018 from the Department for Communities confirming the award of funding in the sum of £26,700 to the Council under the Department's Community Festivals Fund Grant Award Scheme 2018/19. Given timescales, this Letter of Offer had been accepted by the Chief Executive on behalf of the Council to allow awards previously agreed by the Leisure and Community Development Committee and Council to be processed and made to successful applicants in advance of the summer festival period.

Members were reminded that the Council, under the terms of the Community Festivals Fund scheme, was required to match-fund the award in the same amount and, to this end, it was confirmed that provision of £28,500 had been made in the Council's financial estimates for 2018/19.

Members further noted that the sum offered this year by the Department represented a reduction of £1,800 on the previous year's award.

Whilst welcoming the Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities, Alderman W A Leathem expressed concern that this had not been received earlier in the year. He proposed that a letter be sent to the Department acknowledging and welcoming the Letter of Offer but, from a governance point of view, asking that this be issued earlier in future in order that awards could be made to community groups in advance of the summer festival period. This proposal was seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed.

9.8 MoD Housing – Mountview Drive and Skyline Drive, Lisburn

Members were reminded that, at a meeting of Council held on 25 April, 2017, it had been agreed that a letter be sent to the Permanent Secretary, Department for Communities, regarding the transfer of surplus MoD housing at Mountview Drive and Skyline Drive.

Further to correspondence dated 12 May, 2017, which had been presented to Council on 23 May, 2018, a further letter dated 15 May, 2018 had been received from the Permanent Secretary giving an update on the current position. Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, this correspondence.

The Chief Executive advised that, as the Northern Ireland Assembly was still not meeting, the Permanent Secretary had been asked to confirm that what he had set out in his letter of 15 May was still taking place. Such confirmation had not yet been received but, as soon as it was, it would be brought to the Council's attention.

Councillor S Carson welcomed the transfer of the housing to Clanmil and the commencement of refurbishment works to be carried out which would improve the area in general. Councillor D J Craig also stated that it was good to see this matter moving forward, for which he considered the Council owed a huge debt of gratitude to Mr Edwin Poots who had personally lobbied the Permanent Secretaries of both the Department of Finance and the Department for

9.8 MoD Housing – Mountview Drive and Skyline Drive, Lisburn (Contd)

Infrastructure. It was disappointing that damage had been done to the vacant properties in the interim period through ongoing vandalism. It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor J McCarthy and agreed that a letter be sent to the Base Youth Club in Lambeg and the Harmony Hill Community Association whose members had worked closely with the Council's Policing and Community Safety Partnership to minimise antisocial behaviour occurring in the area.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

10.1 Update from Alderman M Henderson

Alderman M Henderson:

- (a) advised that, following the death of an Alliance Party Member on the National Association of Councillors (NAC) Executive Committee, Councillor A Grehan had been appointed to take the Alliance Party place on that Committee;
- (b) advised that annual Remembrance Service at the Knockagh Monument would be taking place on Sunday, 24 June, 2018; and
- (c) reminded Members that the General Data Protection Regulations came into effect on Friday, 25 May, 2018.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, referred to there being three Notices of Motion for consideration at the meeting this evening and stated that he had allowed that rather than leave a number for the incoming Mayor at the next meeting.

12.1 Children's Funeral Fund
Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge

Alderman S P Porter arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.44 pm). Councillor S Carson left, and returned to, the meeting during this item of business (7.49 pm and 7.51 pm).

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

12.1 Children's Funeral Fund (Contd)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge

"That this Council, recognising that under the terms of the Children's Funeral Fund, Councils in England and Wales do not charge parents the costs of burials or cremations, agrees to waive all charges and costs relating to those services for children up to the age of eighteen".

In proposing the above Notice of Motion, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, advised that, under the Children's Funeral Fund scheme, launched on 1 April, 2018 by the Prime Minister, parents of children up to the age of 18 in England would no longer have to meet the cost of burial or cremations. Fees would be waived by all local authorities and met instead by government funding in England. This intervention brought England in line with Wales and followed a cross-party campaign by bereaved parents to remove fees for funerals for those under the age of 18. In bringing this forward, the Prime Minister praised the dignity and strength of Swansea East MP, Carolyn Harris, who had been at the forefront of the cross-party parliamentary campaign following the death of her 8 year old son. While not having suffered this trauma personally, the Deputy Mayor's friend and colleague from Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon Borough Council, Councillor Julie Flaherty, sadly had and it had been her dignity and strength that had encouraged Councillor Legge to follow her lead and bring this Notice of Motion forward. No parent should ever have to endure the unbearable loss of their child, a loss that no amount of time would ever truly heal, but in the raw pain of immediate loss, it was not right that grieving parents had to worry about meeting the funeral costs of their child. It was hoped that this Fund would go some way to spare grieving families the burden of meeting funeral costs. In the darkest moments of any parent's life there was little light, but there could be support.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, was asking that, in line with England and Wales, the Fund be implemented in Northern Ireland and specifically in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and, if necessary, write to the Department for Communities, the Head of the Civil Service and the Prime Minister to ensure that Northern Ireland received the same support as grieving parents in other parts of the UK. Because of the absence of a functioning Executive, the Deputy Mayor was aware that this may be difficult to achieve as a blanket arrangement. However, Councillor J Flaherty, who was leading on this campaign in Northern Ireland, had written to the Department and had received a response from the Permanent Secretary. The Permanent Secretary noted that other jurisdictions had taken steps to relieve parents from the burden of dealing with the expenditure of a burial or cremation of a child. He gave an assurance that the introduction of a similar scheme in Northern Ireland would be presented for consideration by incoming Ministers. However, in the meantime, councils had the option of introducing discretionary arrangements to waive their burial or cremation fees for children.

The Deputy Mayor advised that she had carried out some initial research on this matter and from 1 May, 2015 to 30 April, 2018, a total of 44 burials or cremations had taken place in this Council for children under the age of 18, which was less than 15 per year. Councillor Legge proposed that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council adopt the stance already accepted by a number of other councils in

12.1 Children's Funeral Fund (Contd)
Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge

Northern Ireland and consider waiving Council burial and cremation fees for those under the age of 18 as a gesture of goodwill at a most difficult time in any parent's life.

Alderman M Henderson seconded the Notice of Motion and thanked the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, for bringing it forward. He stated that it referred to children up to the age of 18 as in any other relationship, insurance policies would be taken out. The loss of a child was devastating for the whole family. What the Notice of Motion was seeking was the waiving of the Council's fee, which was for the opening of the grave. For a child under one the fee was £28; for a child over one it was £320 and cost £240 more if it happened on a Bank Holiday. The waiving of these fees would show the ratepayers of the Council area that they were cared for.

Councillor N Trimble spoke in support of the Notice of Motion and encouraged other Members to consider it in compassionate terms.

Alderman J Tinsley thanked the Deputy Mayor for bringing forward this Notice of Motion and, whilst supporting it, suggested that this matter should be considered in more detail by the Leisure and Community Development Committee in order that the Council would be protected should another group request something similar, eg. for vulnerable adults.

The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing stated that there were a number of factors around the development of a policy that he would be keen to have discussed in detail by the Leisure and Community Development Committee and also to have the policy screened from an equality perspective to make sure it met all requirements.

It was unanimously agreed that the Notice of Motion proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge and seconded by Alderman M Henderson be approved, in principle, and be referred to the Leisure and Community Development Committee for more detailed consideration.

It was further agreed that the correspondence referred to earlier in the meeting under item 9.1 also be referred to the Leisure and Community Development Committee for consideration.

12.2 Comber Greenway
Alderman D Drysdale

Councillor S Skillen left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.53 pm and 7.55 pm), as did Alderman W J Dillon (7.54 pm and 7.57 pm).

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Alderman D Drysdale, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

12.2 Comber Greenway (Contd)
Alderman D Drysdale

“This Council notes the benefits which the Comber Greenway facility has created in allowing all citizens the opportunity to become increasingly active and enables them the opportunity of increased health benefits.

The Council welcomes and calls upon the Department for Infrastructure to continue to develop through a collective approach, a strategic and costed plan for the Comber Greenway which runs from East Belfast through the Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area and beyond.

This is part of the recently launched strategic plan for Greenways within Northern Ireland.

There is no cost to the Council for this work”.

In proposing the above Notice of Motion, Alderman D Drysdale advised that it had first been constructed in 2008 and its use had far exceeded expectations. It was used by many people for running, dog walking and cycling. The Department for Infrastructure in recognising this had developed the Greenway, agreed to make it wider and agreed to put lights in it running from East Belfast as far as Dundonald. Alderman Drysdale was seeking support for Council Officers to work with the Department, should any money become available, to take this widening of the Greenway and the lights right out to the Billy Neill Playing Fields.

In seconding this Notice of Motion, Alderman T Jeffers stated that the Council had been working very closely with the Department for Infrastructure on this project. To date, the Department had spent £80,000 on the Billy Neill part where it created a new junction for a cycle hub. He stated that there would be some money becoming available, which would be debated later in the meeting, in regards to connection to the Dundonald International Ice Bowl. Alderman Jeffers provided some information on the history of the Comber Greenway. The Belfast to County Down railway was created in 1848 and it ran from the Queen’s Quay (now where the Odyssey was), through Dundonald to Comber and Newtownards where it then branched to either Newcastle or Donaghadee. At that time, the Bangor train also went from Queen’s Quay. The Ulster Transport Authority was established in 1950 and after the Beeching Report in the UK, those lines were lost. In 2002 it had been decided to reconstruct this Greenway and make use of it. The Greenway was very popular with cyclists and Alderman Jeffers was pleased work was being done to widen it. However, the Department had done away with a right of way in the construction and Alderman Jeffers would be raising this at the special meeting of Council on 29 May, at which representatives from TransportNI would be in attendance.

The Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman D Drysdale, seconded by Alderman T Jeffers was put to the meeting and unanimously agreed.

12.3 Both Lives Matter
Councillor B Mallon

At this point, Alderman J Tinsley referred to section 19.4 of Standing Orders which required Members attending full Council meetings to dress in business attire. He pointed out that Councillor A McIntyre was not adhering to this requirement this evening and was wearing clothing featuring a political slogan directly related to above Notice of Motion. Councillor A McIntyre, whilst stating that he did not consider his attire to be inappropriate, agreed to leave the Chamber and remove this garment.

Councillor A McIntyre left the meeting at 7.59 pm.

Alderman W A Leathem reminded Members that a previous Mayor from the Alliance Party had written to a number of DUP Councillors who had attended a meeting of full Council during the summer and, due to the temperature, had not worn ties. Occasions when the Mace was on display, as it was at full Council meetings, were treated as civic events and, that being the case, proper attire should be worn.

At this stage, Alderman Leathem referred to item 9.5, Hope for ME & Fibromyalgia. He requested that the Chief Executive email him a copy of the letter of 2 May, 2018 from the Head of the Civil Service in response to the Council's concerns that the Northern Ireland Civil Service was the only one in the UK that had not implemented the UK Government's Improving Lives Strategy. Alderman Leathem would then forward this letter to the constituent who had raised this matter with him.

Councillor A McIntyre returned to the meeting at 8.00 pm.

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor B Mallon, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“That this council believes that in a pregnancy both lives matter, the mother and the unborn child. This commitment to the rights of both must be reflected in the support provided to mothers, the unborn children and their families throughout their pregnancy. This Council calls for a Perinatal Hospice Care facility or service in Northern Ireland to be established to provide the best medical and emotional support for those who are faced with the diagnosis of a severe life limiting condition”.

In proposing the above Notice of Motion, Councillor B Mallon stated that it was brought at a time when the question of abortion was at the forefront of debate in the Republic of Ireland. On Friday, 25 May, a Referendum on the 8th Amendment to the Irish Constitution would be held. If the 8th Amendment was repealed, this would inevitably have an impact on Northern Ireland. Tonight, the Council had an opportunity to make it clear where it stood. It could choose to affirm the value and worth of both mothers and children and the importance of effective perinatal hospice care for severely disabled babies, or it could choose not to. It was Councillor Mallon's belief that every human being had an intrinsic dignity as a

12.3 Both Lives Matter (Contd)
Councillor B Mallon

consequence of their humanity. As a matter of biological fact, the beginning of stories of every single person started at the point of conception. They may have been smaller than a full stop, but from miniscule beginnings they grew and developed. Councillor Mallon and his wife had recently been blessed with the birth of their first child; Councillor Mallon recalled having seen his child for the first time at the 12 week scan, which had been a truly beautiful experience and at which his daughter's humanity had been undeniable. Unborn children were members of the human family and had a right to life; law and policy should seek to uphold their value. The law and policy adopted in Northern Ireland had saved lives. Research carried out by the campaign group, Both Lives Matter, upheld and reaffirmed, following a 5 month investigation by Independent Advertising Standards Authority, that an estimated 100,000 individuals in Northern Ireland (which was 5% of the population) were alive today who would otherwise not have been if the 1967 Abortion Act had been introduced. Councillor Mallon wanted to value the unborn and also equally value the life and worth of mothers. Mothers needed constructive and helpful support throughout their pregnancies, especially in cases where children were found to have severe disabilities which would prove to be life limiting. These cases were truly tragic and, as a society, it was important to seek the best care and support for mothers and fathers faced with these diagnoses. This was why the Notice of Motion called for the founding of a perinatal hospice care facility or service in Northern Ireland. If the Irish Republic chose to repeal the 8th Amendment, the Government had indicated that it would seek to allow abortion up to 12 weeks, on request, and potentially beyond on health grounds, akin to the 1967 Abortion Act, although this remained the subject of debate. Councillor Mallon hoped that the people of Ireland voted 'no' and that the island of Ireland as a whole remained a place where the value of life was upheld from its very beginning until its end.

In seconding the Notice of Motion, Councillor R Walker stated that issues surrounding abortion had become some of the most hotly contested matters between the lobbyists representing the views of those who advocated pro-choice and those whose position was identified as pro-life. Although both sides would articulate their viewpoints with compassion and sensitivity, it was impossible for any legislators to bridge the two positions in a way that would satisfy the two sides of the argument. Councillor Walker contested that the only moral and ethical position to take was that both lives mattered. It was important to focus on the word 'lives'. This issue was dealing with two persons who had life. It was that understanding that demanded the most careful and considerate examination. No-one could dispute that life was a gift, not simply at the point of conception, but on the level that progressed through the years. It was crucial to remember that, once life was gifted, it could not, and would not, be destroyed. The body in which the life resided may be subjected to death, but life, by its very definition, would live on. In the scientific and natural world there was clear evidence that life could not be terminated. The display of such flowers as the daffodil and the life-giving heat of the sun were some significant examples of how life was being preserved. Councillor Walker stated that the responsibility of doing all possible to protect the lives of mothers and children was paramount. As a mother of three children, she stated that the joy of meeting one's grandchildren and the bond between uncles, aunts, nieces and nephews could not be valued. Until a commitment was made to

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the basic principle that both lives mattered, society would be complacent in robbing families, robbing communities and in robbing the country of precious lives that should be treated as its heritage.

Councillor A Grehan stated that, for the Alliance Party, this Notice of Motion was a matter of conscience and the comments she would be making were from a personal point of view. The Notice of Motion was worded in such a way that it would be difficult for Councillor Grehan to disagree with its content. Unfortunately, she did not believe it went far enough for those who could not bear to endure the heartache of carrying a baby to full-term when there was no hope. Councillor Grehan had been asked by a good friend, who was present in the public gallery, to read a statement about the heartbreak she had endured when her first grandson was expected. At the 18 week scan it had been discovered that the baby's arms and legs were shorter than they should have been, which could have been a soft marker for Down Syndrome or Dwarfism. The expectant mother had been offered an amniocentesis test, but had refused in order to reduce the possibility of miscarriage. At 22 weeks, a scan showed that that the baby's limbs had not grown and that his ribcage was smaller than normal and his skull had developed a cloverleaf shape. His parents were told he had severe skeletal dysplasia, which was usually lethal; they went through denial and still hoped that a mistake had been made and that their baby would be just a little bit short. When blood test results were received at 24 weeks, they confirmed that the baby had Thanatophoric Dysplasia, the most severe form of Dwarfism, with most babies dying at birth, or within an hour of birth, of asphyxiation. The parents, who had already made preparations for the arrival of their baby, were devastated. When this situation happened in the rest of the UK parents had options. In Northern Ireland, where abortion was illegal in all but the most extreme circumstances, due to changes in health service arrangements couples from Northern Ireland could now have their travel and termination covered by the NHS. This allowed some politicians to claim there was no abortion in Northern Ireland. Of course there was, but it was just exported to another part of the UK. The hypocrisy of this left Northern Ireland couples in a position where they had to leave their family, friends and all those who could offer support just when they needed them most. Councillor Grehan stated that when the couple had attended the Family Planning Clinic for advice, there were protesters at the door pushing leaflets at them showing what they claimed were aborted babies and telling them to think of their baby. As arranged by the Family Planning Association, the couple, with heavy hearts, had travelled to Liverpool for a termination at 27 weeks. Their son was born asleep after a procedure to stop his heart. After a long period in labour, his mother was able to hold her tiny son. The nurses dressed him and put a teddy bear in his cot, took photographs and made prints of his hands and feet for a memory box they put together so the parents would have something physical to commemorate their very much wanted baby, who sadly would not have survived. His mum and dad had had to leave Northern Ireland to receive the healthcare and compassion they needed. They, and the baby's grandparents, were heartbroken at the loss of their son but, given the diagnosis, to allow the pregnancy to go to full-term with no hope for his survival would have been so much worse. The decision taken to terminate the pregnancy was the most humane one for everyone, including the baby. He was cremated a week later in England with no

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family around him and his parents had now to return to Liverpool to collect his ashes. It would be difficult to forgive those who forced this family apart when they needed each other most. Due to the strict abortion laws in Northern Ireland, his grandmother only saw her grandson in photographs and had been unable to hold him or say goodbye. Whilst there may be no actual abortions carried out in Northern Ireland, there were parents who found that their child had a fatal foetal abnormality and the way they were treated was unforgiveable.

Councillor A Redpath spoke in support of the Notice of Motion as he was unconditionally and unashamedly pro-life and there was nothing in the Motion, as it was worded, with which he could disagree. He stated that he would support any call which would improve health services in Northern Ireland for mothers and their children and urged all other Members to do the same. He was often frustrated by a lot of ill-informed comments from people outside of Northern Ireland on its elections and, for that reason, Councillor Redpath had always been slow to express his view on the elections of others. He noted that this Motion did not express any view on the Referendum currently taking place in a foreign country and he was unsure how much the views of this Council's Members would influence the voters of that country.

Councillor A McIntyre welcomed the proposal within Councillor Mallon's Notice of Motion for the creation of a designated perinatal hospice service in Northern Ireland. Sadly, in his personal view, the Motion was framed within the context of Both Lives Matter, which he believed was an anti-choice pro-birth organisation. In cases of a fatal foetal abnormality, Councillor McIntyre stated that choice was paramount. There had been some advancements in women's reproductive healthcare recently, including women from Northern Ireland being given the right to access free abortion services with the NHS in England. There was a central telephone line for women wishing to arrange an appointment for such a termination. However, this did not negate the fact that Northern Ireland continued to export the problem and force vulnerable individuals to travel for basic healthcare and continued to let down these women during a very traumatic period when they needed help more than ever. The UN Expert Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women had found that thousands of women and girls here were subject to grave and systematic violations of their rights through being compelled to travel for termination or being forced to carry a pregnancy to term, in many cases at great risk to the women. In Northern Ireland, a more comprehensive approach was needed to reproductive healthcare, as was revised healthcare guidelines for medical professionals to ensure that doctors no longer feared the threat of prosecution so they could offer clear care pathways both for women who chose to terminate and especially for those who needed support as they wished to continue their pregnancy to term. Councillor McIntyre stated that the Notice of Motion referred to the best medical support and the changes required for this in the healthcare system were clearly laid out in the recent report from the Stormont Working Group on Fatal Foetal Abnormalities, which included allowing access to terminations. This was simply about offering choice. Councillor McIntyre was pro-choice, not necessarily pro-abortion. He stated that abortion was happening in Northern Ireland right now. In 2015, over 1,400 women accessed abortion pills from one provider alone. In 2016/17, only 13 terminations

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had been carried out here under the strict abortion laws, which dated back to the 1860s and only allowed for abortion when the mother's life was in danger. One thousand women a year were forced to travel to the UK to seek a termination as they did not have the choice in Northern Ireland that was available in other parts of the UK. Councillor McIntyre asked if women in this Council area, and Northern Ireland in general, did not deserve to be treated with care and compassion under laws that reflected modern society and modern medical practices. The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, who would form part of a multi-disciplinary team leading the care in this proposed facility, had stated "We believe that the Abortion Act should apply equally across all of the UK. In Northern Ireland, almost 1,000 women a year are forced to travel to one of the three other nations of the UK to access abortion services. Women coming from deprived areas suffer most from this inequity". As had been stated earlier, abortion was a matter of conscience for the Alliance Party, but as this Motion stood, Councillor McIntyre could not support it. He could not support a measure that only offered a single, extremely limited avenue for women who faced a fatal foetal abnormality diagnosis. The Motion failed to acknowledge that not all women wanted to continue with a pregnancy in such tragic and heart-breaking circumstances and, only when real choice was available to women and couples in Northern Ireland either to continue with their pregnancy or to seek a medical termination, would he be able to support this Motion. Councillor McIntyre stated that, if the Motion passed, this Council would be reaffirming the violation of rights set out by the UN Expert Committee and would be voting against best medical practice. He stated that this Motion let down the victims of rape and incest and couples of wanted pregnancies who chose to terminate after a fatal foetal abnormality diagnosis. It further served to adversely impact on women from deprived areas, some of the most vulnerable in society. Women's Aid, which was a cross-island organisation, was in support of repeal of the 8th Amendment because it did impact on vulnerable women.

Councillor A Givan stated that Both Lives Matter was a profoundly simple, core value that helped people to navigate the now difficult, controversial and troublesome waters. He stated that both lives did matter very much. The right to life was the most basic right that everyone enjoyed and which began at the moment of conception, as agreed by experts. The life that began at conception should be protected until the day it died naturally. Personal choice had been mentioned earlier; however, when it came to life, there was no choice – who had the right to end a life? Our society had always protected life; to kill someone had always been a criminal offence. To open that floodgate, Councillor Givan believed, would bring about very severe consequences. Statistics bore very sad reading indeed. In Great Britain today, 600 abortions had been carried out and that happened every working day; that equated to 20 abortions every hour. From the introduction of the 1967 Abortion Act, nearly 9 million lives had perished, which was horrific and was a holocaust. Two million babies in America every year lost their lives, with every third baby conceived being aborted. Councillor Givan stated that more babies were put to death every year than there had ever been deaths in every war that had ever been fought. Remembrance Services were attended and poppies laid for those who had laid down their lives, but this paled into insignificance when sat alongside the yearly total of statistically-gathered

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information on worldwide deaths. Scientific improvements and testing was now routine for the pre-born. This could be extremely helpful and advantageous to babies if defects or disabilities were discovered, with heart operations now being able to be carried out on babies still in the womb. However, in countries where legislation allowed for abortion, this was often the first option. In Great Britain, 9 out of 10 babies were aborted because of Down Syndrome and in some countries in Europe there were none ever born with Down Syndrome. He stated that it was difficult to see this as anything other than discrimination, which would be considered unacceptable at any other time. Councillor Givan advised that he had had an uncle with Down Syndrome who had lived until he was nearly 50, was very much part of the family circle and was very much loved by all. He had contributed greatly and the family circle would have been much poorer without him. Councillor Givan referred to the simple rule in scripture that "Thou shalt not kill"; this was to protect humanity. Councillor Givan stated that he was more than happy to support the Notice of Motion in the protection of the unborn child and the mother, no matter how limited life that may be.

Councillor N Trimble stated that he had great issue, when trying to think compassionately, with the current laws on abortion in Northern Ireland. There were instances where women were left in terrible positions. He stated that he was not, nor would he ever be, the most qualified person to speak on this issue, largely due to his gender as he believed that, whilst men did have a voice, this was predominantly a women's issue and there needed to be a lot of compassion. Having read the Notice of Motion very carefully, Councillor Trimble stated that he could not disagree with it; however, he stated that abortion laws were beyond the remit of this Council Chamber.

Councillor J McCarthy stated that there was nothing in the wording of the Notice of Motion that he could disagree with. He believed the Council would be debating the issue of perinatal care, which he and his Party were fully in support of; women needed to be given care throughout their pregnancy. However, he was surprised that the debate had now become about abortion. There had been a working group set up, as previously referred to, that had given a proposal about information that could be disseminated to women under current laws. The working group had recommended, in proposal 5.8 of its report, the setting up of a regional facility, as outlined in the Notice of Motion. It was Councillor McCarthy's view that the issue of perinatal care was completely separate to the issue of abortion and, given that the Motion was about perinatal care, he asked that reference to Both Lives Matter be removed due to its connotations as a lobbying group on the topic of abortion and the impact that such groups had on women and supporters of the opening up of abortion laws. He had been to centres in Belfast where such groups harassed women. However, he did point out that, when he became a Councillor, he had received a letter from one of the groups associated with Both Lives Matters pointing out how glad he must have been that his mother hadn't aborted him due to his disabilities, which he had found to be a very Christian thing to do. Councillor McCarthy suggested that the proposers of the Notice of Motion wanted perinatal care to be accessible to anyone regarding their position on abortion, and therefore proposed an amendment to the Notice of Motion, as follows:

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“This Council recognises that better support must be given to women and their babies throughout their pregnancy. This Council notes the recommendations of the working group on Fatal Foetal Abnormality, regarding the need for better information to be provided to women in the most difficult of cases. Therefore, this Council calls for a Perinatal Hospice Care team or Service in Northern Ireland to be established, in line with the recommendations, to provide the best medical and emotional support for those who are faced with the diagnosis of a severe life limiting condition.”

This amendment was seconded by Alderman S Martin.

Councillor N Anderson stated that the Notice of Motion called for perinatal support for children, improved provision for mothers and families and also recognised that both lives mattered. Having lost a child in the womb, this was an incredibly personal issue for Councillor Anderson. It brought it home to him existentially that an unborn child was a human, was an individual and genetically distinctive. The unborn child needed human rights. There was no doubt that difficult cases were hugely tragic, but so too were the precious millions lost in the name of autonomy. Difficult cases were a small minority of the abortions that happened worldwide. In Iceland, there were virtually no babies born with Down Syndrome. Considering the advances that had been made in society towards the issue of disability, that was an incredible statistic for a western nation. Councillor Anderson was happy to say he was pro-life. He considered that in the Notice of Motion by Councillor Mallon there was nothing controversial; to say that a child in the womb mattered, as did the mother’s life, was not controversial. Councillor Anderson welcomed the Notice of Motion.

Alderman W J Dillon asked if Councillor J McCarthy had a written copy of his amendment to the Notice of Motion. Councillor McCarthy did not but agreed to email this immediately to all Members.

Alderman S Martin stated that, in the 7 years since his election, the Council had stuck to a convention of sorts that matters such as this that were more contentious were left to the Northern Ireland Assembly. However, with the Assembly not meeting, Local Government was stepping into the breach. He reiterated that this was a matter of conscience for Alliance Party Members, which was a good position to be in. On a personal basis, Alderman Martin was somewhat disappointed in that he would have wished for those in support of the Notice of Motion to have reached out to other Members in the Chamber and to have discussed it before getting to this point. He was concerned that, by passing the Notice of Motion as it stood, the Council’s seal of approval was being given to something more complicated than what was in front of Members in terms of the paperwork. He had read the working group report on Fatal Foetal Abnormalities. Alderman Martin, as a father of two daughters, stated that they were the centre of his life and had completed his family. He wished for those who wanted to have children to have that blessing and was deeply conscious of those who found

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themselves in a situation, as referred to earlier in the meeting, whereby through no fault of their own they could not go to term with the child that they wanted, which was heart-breaking. Northern Ireland was governed by legislation that had come into effect at the same time as the first legislation for divorce; the divorce laws had changed since that time, the laws that governed this area had not. A working group had been established, with good reason, by the Northern Ireland Executive in 2016 to look at these issues. The working group made up of the Chief Medical Officer, Chief Nursing Officer and Chief Social Sciences Officer, had come back with a number of recommendations for the Northern Ireland Executive to consider. Alderman Martin did not take that as gospel either – the group had taken the responses from its consultation and tried to make the best of what was a very difficult area. He was disappointed that the Notice of Motion moved away from the area of perinatal care, which he had no difficulty in looking at. He did have questions around that and wanted to know how from continuity of care it could be ensured that a mother and a parent were able to move from maternity services, how that would be funded and how it would be kept sustainable. This was healthcare, not something that Councillors knew a lot about and was outside the remit of this Council Chamber. A case was pending in the Supreme Court in relation to the human rights compatibility of the current legislation. Alderman Martin stated that, with the lack of detail for Members, he could not support the Notice of Motion as it stood.

Alderman S P Porter, as a father and an uncle and referring to his son and daughter, stated that the thought that in different circumstances someone legally had the right to take their life, for whatever reason, filled him with dread. He understood the issues and he wished every blessing for the people referred to earlier by Councillor Grehan who had been through an extremely difficult situation. Alderman Porter referred to the joy he had got, during his 17 years as a Councillor, from working with those with special needs. As Chairman of the Lisburn Assessment & Resource Centre, he took pride in his work with individuals and groups. He commended the Council in that, every time he had brought a Notice of Motion in relation to supporting adults and children with special needs, there had never been an objection from any Party. The difference in this issue was that the support of some individuals and some Parties started when the baby was born; Alderman Porter's support started when the baby was in the womb. As referred to earlier, he stated that it was wrong that, in some countries, babies with Down Syndrome were almost extinct. There were often campaigns to make sure different species of wildlife did not become extinct, yet this world did not value all life together. For this reason, Alderman Porter supported the Notice of Motion. A lot more support, care and help was needed, particularly for those going through difficult pregnancies, and as a nation, it was important to stand up for the unborn child as well as everyone else in society. Alderman Porter stated that the word foetus was often used instead of baby to try to minimise what sadly took place and he was glad that word had not been used in tonight's debate. Speaking from personal experience, he stated that there were thousands of families in Northern Ireland and throughout the UK who, when faced with miscarriage, did not use the word foetus, but instead the word baby.

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Councillor S Skillen stated that she wanted to share that she had found out in 2012 that she was pregnant; this had been an unplanned pregnancy but, whilst it had been suggested to her, abortion had not been an option under any circumstances. Councillor Skillen had, unfortunately, miscarried her baby but before that she had had a scan and heard her baby's heartbeat. Similar to Alderman Porter, it hurt her when people referred to a foetus rather than a baby.

At this stage, the amendment to the Notice of Motion, as proposed by Councillor J McCarthy and seconded by Alderman S Martin, was put to the meeting. On a vote being taken, the amendment was declared "lost", the voting being 8 in favour, 25 against and 4 abstentions.

The Notice of Motion proposed Councillor Mallon and seconded by Councillor R Walker was put to the meeting. On a vote being taken, the Notice of Motion was declared "carried", the voting being 27 for, 4 against and 6 abstentions.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked Members for the respectful manner in which the debate had been carried out.

13. Confidential Business

It was agreed that the reports and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, advised that the matters contained in the confidential report and additional confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information (a) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information); and (b) relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees or, or office holders under, the Council.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor L Poots, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed that the items in the confidential report and additional confidential report be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

Alderman G Rice and Councillors A Grehan, A McIntyre and N Anderson left the meeting at this point (8.56 pm).

13.1 Brokerstown LD1 Road Upgrade Proposals

Councillor N Anderson returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.59 pm). Councillor B Hanvey left, and returned to, the meeting during

13.1 Brokerstown LD1 Road Upgrade Proposals (Contd)

this item of business (8.58 pm and 9.00 pm), as did Councillor J Baird (9.00 pm and 9.03 pm).

The Chief Executive provided in her report, an update in relation to the above matter. Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a draft report (which was subject to Department for Infrastructure (DfI) agreement) of a meeting held on 10 May, 2018 between the DfI, Council Officers and developers' representatives.

It had been agreed at last month's Council meeting that a cross-party steering group from within the DEA would be formed at the appropriate juncture, once the design proposals were mature. It was agreed that this Members' Steering Group, with all Members within the DEA being included, now be convened on 13 June. For governance purposes, the recommendations of the Steering Group would be reported through the Corporate Services Committee and ratified at full Council.

A number of parallel actions now needed to be undertaken with a view to having a follow-up meeting with developers in mid-June, with one additional meeting in July to conclude discussions. The proposed next steps were set out in the Chief Executive's report.

13.2 Access and Land Rights Between Dundonald Leisurpark and the Comber Greenway

Members having been provided with a copy of correspondence which it was proposed be sent to the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council regarding the above matter, it was agreed that this correspondence be approved.

13.3 Down Royal Racecourse Site

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of correspondence dated 8 May, 2018 from Merrion Property Group, the current owners of the Down Royal Racecourse site in Lisburn, in relation to future development and innovative leisure opportunities for the site when the current lease expired. Members further noted the outcome of a meeting that had been held with the operators of the Race Course.

Additional Confidential Report

13.4 Appointment of Chief Executive

Councillors A Grehan and A McIntyre returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (9.11 pm).

The Director of Environmental Services, Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing, Director of Service Transformation, Head of Marketing and Communications, Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development and Attendance Clerk left the meeting at this point.

13.4 Appointment of Chief Executive (Contd)

Further to the special meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held on 17 May, 2018, Members were provided with a copy of a report in relation to the above matter. Following consideration, it was agreed that:

- (a) the incoming Mayor and two others be nominated to sit on the shortlisting panel, taking account of gender and cross-community considerations. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that, in relation to the two other Members, one be from the SDLP and one from the UUP and that Party Group Leaders provide names in due course. Councillor J Gallen nominated Councillor J McCarthy to represent the SDLP;
- (b) once identified, these panel Members be provided with delegated authority to progress with the appointment of the Chief Executive which, in the first instance, would be to agree the job description and person specification, shortlisting criteria, the format for assessment and interviews, the recruitment and selection timetable and when/where the advertisement would be placed (including potential for executive search);
- (c) Council nominate five Members to the Interview Selection Panel, which would have full authority to appoint the Chief Executive. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson that, in addition to the incoming Mayor, the other five Members be 2 DUP, 1 SDLP, 1 UUP and 1 APNI, with names being provided by Party Group Leaders. Councillor O Gawith nominated Councillor T Morrow to represent the APNI;
- (d) substitutes for the shortlisting and interview panels be appointed, should any nominated panel Member be unable to attend, with the names of these substitutes being provided by the Party Group Leaders; and
- (e) Members note the key activities required in the recruitment of the Chief Executive which would follow, as closely as possible, the dates that had been set out in option 1 of the report to the special Corporate Services Committee, with a view to completing the appointment process by the end of August 2018.

Verbal Items

13.5 Road Closure Orders

Alderman J Tinsley referred to Road Closure Orders that were required to be signed in respect of the Ulster Grand Prix. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor J McCarthy and agreed that the Chief Executive write to the Head of the Civil Service on this matter seeking an urgent response.

13.6 Excellence in Healthcare Conference

Alderman M Henderson advised that he had received communication from a Healthcare Organisation in Manchester offering the Council free places at its Excellence in Healthcare Conference. Any Member interested in attending was asked to contact the Chief Executive's Office.

13.7 Councillor M Tolerton

Alderman W A Leathem provided a verbal update in relation to Councillor M Tolerton's recent spell of ill-health. In order to meet legislative requirements, it was proposed by Alderman W A Leathem, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that approval be given to Councillor Tolerton's absence from Council, which would extend beyond six months, given her serious health condition.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked Alderman Leathem for the update on Councillor Tolerton and asked that he pass the Council's best wishes to her.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

The Director of Environmental Services, Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing, Director of Service Transformation, Head of Marketing and Communications, Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development and Attendance Clerk returned to the meeting at this point (9.17 pm).

14. Any Other Business

14.1 National Autistic Society – Presentation to Committee
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson requested that the National Autistic Society, which was building new premises in Carryduff, be received at an appropriate Committee meeting to make a presentation on the work of the Society and its future plans and proposals. It was agreed that this request be acceded to and that the Society be received at a future meeting of the Corporate Services Committee.

14.2 Secondary School Places
Councillor J Palmer

Councillor J Palmer raised concern that some secondary schools in Lisburn could not accommodate all the pupils who wished to attend, eg. Lisnagarvey High School had to turn away 19 children who had chosen that school as their first preference. This school had excelled over the last number of years and had asked the Education Authority many times to increase its intake, but these requests had been refused.

Councillor Palmer proposed that the Council write to the Education Authority seeking a review of the intakes for the secondary schools in the City area, as there were children who were now required to travel many miles to go to secondary school. With a growing primary school population, suitable secondary school places were required for those pupils. This proposal was seconded by Councillor L Poots, who advised that he was currently dealing with 11 cases of children who had not be allocated a place in any of their chosen schools. It was unacceptable

14.2 Secondary School Places (Contd)
Councillor J Palmer

to ask children from Lisburn to travel to Dundonald, when in many cases there were no bus routes and the funding available for those children's travel was inadequate.

Discussion ensued during which a number of Members concurred with the proposal. Councillor R T Beckett advised that the MP's office was also dealing with numerous complaints on this matter. Councillor N Trimble advised that, contrary to the figures cited earlier, 43 pupils had been turned away from Lisnagarvey High School, with 19 of those not having been allocated a place in any of their chosen schools. Alderman M Henderson stated that a number of pupils from Carryduff Primary School had not been placed and asked that this be also be referred to in the letter to the Education Authority.

Councillor D J Craig, as a Board Member of the Education Authority, advised that he had spoken to officials regarding this issue. He confirmed that there adequate places for children in Lisburn, but not necessarily in schools they wished to attend. He was not a supporter of children being forced to go to schools that they did not want to go to. As Chairman of Laurelhill Community College Board of Governors, he stated that, unfortunately, it would be in receipt of some of those children. There were anomalies that required to be sorted and Councillor Craig was fully in support of what Councillor J Palmer had proposed.

The proposal in the name of Councillor J Palmer, seconded by Councillor L Poots, was agreed.

14.3 Reception for Lisburn Interchurch Sunday School
Councillor A Redpath

Councillor A Redpath thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, for having hosted a very enjoyable reception for Lisburn Interchurch Sunday School for those with learning difficulties. Operations had now ceased after 25 years of voluntary service to the people of Lisburn. The group had asked Councillor Redpath to personally thank Councillor Morrow for the very kind reception he had hosted and also extend thanks to the several other Elected Members who, over the course of the 25 years, had provided voluntary support and assistance.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 9.25 pm.

Mayor