

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 22 November, 2016 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor R B Bloomfield MBE

Deputy Mayor
Alderman S Martin

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

Councillors N Anderson, J Baird, R T Beckett, S Carson,
P Catney, A P Ewing, J Gallen, O Gawith, A Girvin,
A Givan, J Gray MBE, A Grehan, B Hanvey, H Legge,
J McCarthy, A McIntyre, U Mackin, B Mallon, T Morrow,
J Palmer, L Poots, A Redpath, S Scott, N Trimble and
R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Corporate Services
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure & Community Services
Lead Head of Economic Development
Lead Head of Planning and Building Control
Head of Marketing and communications (Mrs C Bethel)
Member Services Officer
Attendance Clerk

Commencement of the Meeting

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

Prayers

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Mrs Vera Moorhead, mother of Mr Brian Moorhead, employee in Environmental Services (Operations);
- Mr John Morrison, father of Mrs Rachel Kerr, employee in Environmental Services (Environmental Health);

Prayers (Contd)

- Mrs Lily Beattie, mother of Mr John Beattie, employee in Leisure and Community Services;
- Mrs Colleen Kennedy, mother of Mr David Kennedy, employee in Corporate Services (Marketing and Communications Unit); and
- Mrs Maria Wilson, mother of Mrs Elaine Lappin, employee in Economic Development (Tourism).

At the invitation of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, Rev E Coulter, addressed the Council and said a prayer, during which he too remembered the bereaved families referred to by the Mayor. Rev Coulter also congratulated Members of Council in respect of the very successful Christmas Switch-on event that had taken place on Thursday, 17 November.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

Councillor B Mallon arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of Business (7.14 pm).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, reported that an Investors in People (IIP) assessment process had been carried out in the Council by an accredited consultant with IIPUK, Mr E Salmon, during the period 7-10 November, 2016. Following this, Mr Salmon had reported very positive feedback from staff, most of whom were very optimistic about the future of the Council. He had advised that he would be issuing a report to IIPUK recommending the Council for a Bronze Standard Accreditation. It was expected that confirmation of this achievement would be received by the end of the month. The Mayor congratulated the Chief Executive, Directors, Heads of Service and all Council staff on this achievement. In recognition of this, and in appreciation of their hard work and commitment during the year, the Mayor sought agreement of the Council for staff to be granted an additional day's leave on Friday, 23 December, 2016 and this was agreed. Those staff scheduled to work on that day would receive a day in lieu, which would require to be taken by the end of March 2017.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor outlined the key engagements he had attended during the month as follows:

- Several Remembrance events – planting of crosses at the war memorial on 5 November; service at St Anne's Cathedral on 6 November; service at St Saviour's Church on 9 November; service at Killowen Primary School on 10 November; two minutes' silence at the war memorial on 11 November, as well as a Festival of Remembrance in the Island Hall; and services on 13 November at Hilden and Lisburn war memorials and in Christ Church;
- The Mayor had hosted a number of receptions for the following:
 - Parliamentary Under Secretary of State;
 - Chief Executive of Warrington Borough Council;
 - Rockmount Ladies' Golf Team, who had been the winners of the 2016 Revive Active All Ireland Fourball Final and were the first ladies' team in Northern Ireland to have won this competition;
 - Volunteers from Ballance House;

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

- Lisburn Distillery Football Club, at which the Mayor had been presented with a very generous cheque for his charity;
- Group of school teachers – six Spanish, three Belgian and three local teachers – who were part of the Erasmus Project. The emphasis of this was on good practice in relation to the use of IT in classrooms and the Mayor reported that Northern Ireland was ahead of the game in this regard;
- Mrs Heather Cairns, who was retiring from the Council, having worked for 50 years in the Corporate Services Department;
- The Mayor had attended photoshoots in relation to the following:
 - Shop Mobility in relation to the selection of its CHRISTMAS CARD;
 - Opening of new accommodation for young homeless people (aged 16-25), at Longstone Street, Lisburn, together with the Minister of Communities. The Mayor stated that this was a very successful venture between Fold Housing Association and MACS Northern Ireland;
 - Santa Dash in Wallace Park;
 - Re-opening of Barbour Playing Fields play park;
 - Representative from the Consulate of Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, who had presented the Mayor with signed baseball shirts to thank the Council for the work it had done in supporting the provision of the first purpose-built baseball diamond in Northern Ireland, which had opened at Hydebank Playing Fields earlier in the year;
- The Mayor had attended the following school visits:
 - Killowen Primary School for a Remembrance Service;
 - Harmony Hill Primary School for a choir event;
 - Tonagh Primary School to meet the new school council and have a tour of school by the Principal;
 - Fort Hill Integrated College prize night;
- Networking Breakfast at Inspire Business Park in Dundonald;
- A celebration at Lisburn Enterprise Park of the anniversaries of two business enterprises – Power Action and Arcatech Ltd;
- Book launches at Moira Library and the Irish Linen Centre;
- Treat Week events at the farmers market at The Inns, Saintfield Road, and in Lisburn Square;
- Halloween Events at Elim Pentecostal Church and Seymour Hill Methodist Church;
- Lisburn Chamber of Commerce Dinner at Larchfield Estate;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh Sports Personality of the Year Awards Dinner at Lagan Valley Island;
- Twilight Night by Fairy Light event in Wallace Park; and
- Christmas Switch-on event in Lisburn City Centre.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen W A Leathem and G Rice MBE, and Councillors D J Craig, V Kamble, T Mitchell and M Tolerton.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at this point. However, during the meeting, Alderman S P Porter and Councillor S Carson declared an interest in item 9.4 Lisburn Courthouse, given that they were employed by the Minister for Communities, Mr P Givan MLA.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor T Morrow, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 October, 2016 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

5.1 John Lewis – Sprucefield Retail Park
Page 877, Item 14.1

Councillor U Mackin stated that, whilst he had not been in attendance at the last meeting of Council, he had been pleased to read the above item in the minutes, in which the Council had agreed unanimously to reaffirm its support for John Lewis at Sprucefield. He went on to welcome the announcement the previous week that the court had found in favour of removing Clause 6 from the Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan, meaning that there was freedom to develop the site at Sprucefield commercially and without any kind of restriction. Councillor Mackin stated, however, that it was sad that a neighbouring council had then lodged an appeal against this. Councillor Mackin proposed that a letter be sent to the First Minister, Mrs A Foster, acknowledging the recent decision by the court, thanking her for her support over the last 18 months in helping the Council to get to this stage and seeking her continued support in the days and months ahead to bring this matter to a satisfactory conclusion. This proposal was seconded by Alderman A G Ewart and agreed.

Alderman W J Dillon fully supported the comments by Councillor U Mackin in commending the First Minister and also voiced his disappointment that Belfast City Council had attempted to stifle the John Lewis development at Sprucefield. It was proposed by Alderman Dillon, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that a letter be forwarded to John Lewis extending an invitation to meet with the Council in order that the Council could express its unanimous support for the John Lewis development at Sprucefield. It was further agreed, at the request of Councillor P Catney, that the letter to John Lewis would make reference to the fact that Managing Director, Mr A Street, was to stand down in order to become involved in politics and that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council wished him every success. Councillor Catney also suggested that an invitation be extended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor for Mr Street to visit the Council before he left his position.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed that a letter be forwarded to Belfast City Council highlighting the wonderful developments currently underway in its area, which Lisburn &

5.1 John Lewis – Sprucefield Retail Park (Contd)
Page 877, Item 14.1

Castlereagh City Council would not stand in the way of, and asking that Belfast City Council afford the same grace in respect of the John Lewis development and reconsider its appeal against this development.

A number of other Members placed on record their support for the development of John Lewis at Sprucefield.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council with the South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust of Trust Headquarters, Ulster Hospital, Dundonald – Licence Agreement for a section of car parking spaces in the overflow car park, Warren Park, Lisburn.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

The Mayor's Chaplain, Rev E Coulter, left the meeting during consideration of this item of business.

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

Leisure and Community Development Committee

1 November, 2016

Proposed by Councillor T Morrow

Seconded by Councillor A Givan

Page 883, Item 5.2

Museum (Draft) Exhibition Programme 2016-2018 and Reformation 500
Exhibition Proposal

Councillor N Anderson welcomed the plan for a display to mark the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation and placed on record his thanks to Officers in this regard.

Environmental Services Committee

2 November, 2016

Proposed by Councillor J Baird

Seconded by Alderman J Tinsley

Development Committee

2 November, 2016

Proposed by Councillor U Mackin
Seconded by Councillor J Gallen

Page 914, Item 4.2.1

City Promotion Budget – Recommended Funding Allocations 2017-2018

At the request of Councillor A Grehan, it was agreed that the final paragraph under the 'Christmas Campaign' section of the above item be amended to read "Councillor A Grehan put on record that she did not support the promotion ...".

Governance and Audit Committee

8 November, 2016

Proposed by Councillor J Baird
Seconded by Alderman J Tinsley

Corporate Services Committee

8 November, 2016

Proposed by Councillor O Gawith
Seconded by Councillor B Mallon

For Noting

Planning Committee

3 October, 2016

It was proposed by Councillor A Redpath seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 3 October, 2016 be noted, having been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 7 November, 2016.

9. Report from Chief Executive

It was proposed by Councillor J McCarthy, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed that the report and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Decision

9.1 Future Delivery of Electoral Services

Members were provided with a copy of (a) a letter dated 12 October, 2015 from the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in regard to the consultation on the Future Delivery of Electoral Services; (b) the press release issued by the Northern Ireland Office; and (c) the response submitted by NIPSA, which called for the retention of rural electoral services. Responses to the consultation were required by 9 January, 2017.

Members were reminded that Mr G Shields, Chief Electoral Officer, had attended a meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on 13 September, 2016 to address the issue of the closure of Regional Electoral Offices. During the discussions, Members of that Committee had welcomed the proposals for an

9.1 Future Delivery of Electoral Services (Contd)

increased role by councils in the organisation and running of elections in Northern Ireland.

It was agreed that the response submitted by NIPSA be noted and that responses to the consultation from this Council be made on the basis of individual political parties.

9.2 Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom

Members noted from correspondence dated 13 September, 2016 received by NILGA, that the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) would be interested in Northern Ireland hosting a future RHS Britain in Bloom event and details were set out in the Chief Executive's report.

Having discussed this matter at the Party Group Leaders Forum, an expression of interest for the delivery of this event had been submitted by the required date of 14 November. The expression of interest had been submitted on an 'in principle' basis, setting out the opportunities for both Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and also the region of Northern Ireland. To date, the interest likely to be expressed by all other councils had not been confirmed; however, it was anticipated that Belfast City Council was also submitting an expression of interest.

It was agreed that retrospective approval be granted to the submission of the expression of interest, on behalf of the Council, in regard to the delivery of the 2018 RHS Britain in Bloom event.

9.3 Nuclear Free Forum Conference – 25 November, 2016 – Dublin

Members were provided with a copy of correspondence received from the Nuclear Free Local Authorities All Ireland Forum in regard to its conference on "Energy policy, renewable futures, Brexit and Sellafield – What Councils need to know", which was being held on 25 November, 2016 in Dublin City Hall Council Chamber. It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon and agreed that no nominations be made for attendance at this conference.

Items for Noting

9.4 Retention of Lisburn Courthouse

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter dated 4 November, 2016 from the Director of Public Prosecution in response to an enquiry by the Council as to what action the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) might be taking to ensure staff would be brought back into Linenhall Street offices in light of the decision by the Minister for Justice to overturn the decision of the previous Justice Minister to close Lisburn Courthouse. A copy of a similar letter received by the PPS from Mr P Givan MLA, together with the reply, were attached to the aforesaid correspondence.

9.4 Retention of Lisburn Courthouse (Contd)

Members were also provided with a copy of a letter dated 15 November, 2016 from the Office of the Justice Minister in response to correspondence by the Council in regard to providing a range of judicial services at Lisburn Courthouse. It was noted that the Minister had commissioned a Courts Review which would look again at how court buildings could be utilised more effectively and more inclusively in the future and would be happy to engage with the Council and other stakeholders when the Review was at a more developed stage.

9.5 Nicholson's Crossroads, Kinallen

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a letter dated 8 November, 2016 received from the Minister for Infrastructure in response to representations by the Council regarding safety improvements at Nicholson's Crossroads, Kinallen.

9.6 Central Appointments Unit – Newsheet

Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a newsheet received from the Central Appointments Unit which included a list of the public appointment vacancies expected to arise during the first half of 2017.

9.7 Choice Housing 2015-2016 Annual Report

Members noted that a copy of the Choice Housing 2015-2016 Annual Report had been received and would be made available to any Member interested in having a copy.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

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

12. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

13. Confidential Business

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

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield, advised that the matter contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" due to

13. Confidential Business (Contd)

containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor A Redpath, seconded by Councillor J Baird and agreed that the item in the Confidential Report be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

13.1 Away Day – 21 November, 2016 – La Mon House Hotel

Members were provided earlier in the day with a copy of a report from the Away Day held on 21 November, 2016, together with the stated actions within each of the projects discussed. Members having thanked the staff involved in organising the Away Day, it was agreed that:

- (a) the report of the Away Day be noted;
- (b) a further Away Day be held in February/March 2017, the date of which would be advised to Members in due course; and
- (c) the actions within each of the projects discussed be approved, subject to the following:

Dundonald International Ice Bowl

It was agreed on a proposal by Alderman A G Ewart that this be amended to reflect that Members agreed that Options B and C would be looked at.

Governance

The Chief Executive noted comments by Alderman S P Porter regarding the need to utilise existing staff rather than seek outside assistance.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson and seconded by Councillor A Redpath that Option 3 should be the preferred option.

It was proposed by Councillor Mackin and seconded by Alderman J Tinsley that Option 2 should be the preferred option, with reference to existing Committees, rather than the creation of new ones, and a strengthened link to the managerial role.

The proposal in the name of Alderman M Henderson was put to the meeting and there were 18 votes in favour. The proposal in the name of Councillor U Mackin was put to the meeting and there were 16 votes in favour. Therefore, the proposal in the name of Alderman M Henderson, that Option 3 should be the preferred option, was declared "carried".

It was further agreed, on a proposal by Councillor A Redpath, that legal advice be sought in relation to whether membership of the Members Advisory Panel (as referred to in Option 3) should be selected using the D'Hondt mechanism for allocating places or if the Council was at liberty to decide the membership using a different mechanism.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Regeneration Powers
Councillor O Gawith

Councillor O Gawith reported that Regeneration Powers that had been due to transfer to councils would now remain with the Department for Communities.

14.2 Letter of Condolence to Mr Denny Vitty
Alderman D Drysdale

On a proposal by Alderman D Drysdale, seconded by Councillor T Morrow, it was agreed that a letter of condolence be sent to Mr Denny Vitty, former Elected Member of Castlereagh Borough Council and North Down Borough Council. Mr Vitty's wife had recently passed away and, just three weeks later, her sister had died from Motor Neurone Disease.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 8.05 pm.

Mayor