

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 23 January, 2018 at 7:01 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 Leathem, S Martin,
S P Porter 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 Girvin, A Givan, J Gray MBE, A Grehan,
V Kamble, J McCarthy, A McIntyre, U Mackin, B Mallon,
T Mitchell, J Palmer, L Poots, C Quinn, A Redpath, S Skillen,
M Tolerton, 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 Support
Director of Service Transformation
Lead Head of Planning & Building Control
Head of Marketing and Communications (Ms A Goddard)
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.

Alderman S P Porter arrived at the meeting at this point (7.02 pm).

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

Prayers

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

Prayers (Contd)

- Mrs Maureen Watson, mother of Mrs Heather Coll, who was an employee in Bridge Community Centre;
- Mr John Morrow, father of Mrs Nichola Martin, who was an employee in Moneyrea Community Centre; and
- Mrs Catherine Hamlin, mother of Mr Mick Hamlin, who was an employee in Bridge Community Centre.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed Rev C Wilson, Moneyrea Presbyterian Church, to the meeting. Rev Wilson addressed the Council, outlining the background of his Church, which was one of two Non Subscribing Presbyterian Churches within the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area. Rev Wilson read a passage of Scripture 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 Wilson for his attendance and he left the meeting at this point (7.10 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

Alderman J Tinsley and Councillor N Anderson left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.12 pm and 7.14 pm respectively).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, referred to the death of his mother on 19 December, 2017, just before the Council meeting. He thanked both his Elected Member colleagues and Council Officers for the help and support they had afforded him at that time, for attending her funeral, making phone calls and sending cards, texts and emails.

Councillor T Morrow proceeded to outline the engagements he had attended during the month as follows:

- Lisburn Junior Invitational Football League Semi Finals;
- Citizens Advice Lisburn & Castlereagh AGM in Bridge Community Centre;
- Lisburn City Centre Stakeholder Meeting at Lisburn City Church;
- Northern Ireland Charter for Elected Member Development. Councillor Morrow expressed his appreciation to all Elected Members and Officers involved in this and extended a special thanks to the Elected Member Steering Group;
- AGM of Outlook;
- Samaritans Brew Monday event at the Great Hall at Queen's University;
- Lunch for the new High Sheriff of County Antrim and an evening event for the new High Sheriff of Belfast;
- Visit to St Joseph's Primary School, Carryduff;
- Final afternoon session of the Women's Enterprise Bootcamp;
- Visit to Creative Composites;
- Service of Installation and Induction of Rev Rodney Cameron at St Columba's Presbyterian Church;
- AGM of Atlas Women's Centre; and
- VIP Visit of the Countess of Wessex at Mencap.

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

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, expressed his appreciation to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, for having chaired the last Council meeting at short notice, following the death of his mother. He also thanked her for having attended a number of events on his behalf during the last month, as follows:

- Visits to over 30 Residential and Nursing Homes;
- Women's Enterprise Bootcamp; and
- Art Exhibition at Island Arts Centre.

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed Councillor M Tolerton to the meeting, having been ill over recent months.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman G Rice MBE and Councillor B Hanvey. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, advised that Alderman Rice was ill and expressed the Council's best wishes for her speedy recovery.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 19 December, 2017 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

Councillor L Poots left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.15 pm).

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Contd)

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Bryson Recycling Limited of Belfast Road, Mallusk, Country Antrim, BT36 4FS – Contract for the provision of a Kerbside Sort Service for the collection and recycling of dry recyclables from households within the Lisburn and Castlereagh City area;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Cobra Specialist Security Services Limited of Unit C6, Knockmore Hill Business Park, 9 Ferguson Drive, Lisburn – Contract for the provision of Key Holding and Alarm Response Services;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Noonan Services Group (NI) Limited of Edgewater Business Park, 8 Edgewater Road, Belfast BT3 9JQ – Contract for the provision of Security/Concierge and Receptionist Services; and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Geoffrey Sands Trading as Hi-Tech Security Services of 54 Hillhall Road, Lisburn, BT27 5BX - Contract for the provision of Lock and Unlock Services.

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:

Leisure and Community Development Committee **9 January 2018**
Proposed by Alderman J Tinsley
Seconded by Councillor R Walker

Councillor L Poots returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.17 pm).

Governance and Audit Committee **9 January 2018**
Proposed by Councillor A Grehan
Seconded by Councillor J Baird

Page 28, Item 4.4
Appointment of Independent Member to G&A

Councillor S Carson stated that it was his understanding that the Governance and Audit Committee, rather than having agreed, in principle, to the appointment of an independent member to that Committee, had agreed only that a report in relation to the logistics and possible costs of this appointment be prepared for consideration. The Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, Councillor A Grehan, concurred that this was the case and agreed that the minutes be amended to reflect this.

Alderman J Tinsley stated that the former Lisburn City Council and former Castlereagh Borough Council had both decided against the suggestion of appointing an independent member. He further stated that, not only did he have

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Appointment of Independent Member to G&A (Contd)

every confidence in the great job carried out by Council Officers, but the Council also had external auditors and was scrutinised by the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO). He also stated that Elected Members were from a variety of backgrounds and brought with them a wealth of experience. This being the case, Alderman Tinsley proposed that the Council not proceed with investigating the appointment of an independent member to the Governance and Audit Committee. This proposal was seconded by Councillor N Anderson.

Alderman S Martin stated that the discussion that had taken place at the Governance and Audit Committee meeting on 9 January had been a very informative one. He pointed that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council was the only one of the 11 councils in Northern Ireland that did not have an independent member on its Governance and Audit Committee. Alderman Martin sat on the Libraries Board and, whilst it had a very capable team of Officers, it also used the expertise of an independent member. From a corporate governance perspective, it was Alderman Martin's opinion that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council should aim for best practice, follow the lead of the NIAO in terms of its recommendations and proceed to determine the costs and logistics of appointing an independent member. He stated that, to stop the process of finding out this information for future consideration, would not send out the right message when this Council did strive for excellence in terms of corporate governance.

Councillor L Poots referred to the other 10 councils that had appointed an independent member and asked if those councils had a Governance and Audit Committee or solely an Audit Committee. The Chief Executive was unaware of this and The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, stated that this information could be ascertained.

Alderman W A Leathem referred to an outside body that he had sat on for a number of years and that had also appointed an independent member. For three years, Alderman Leathem had been on that body's Audit and Risk Committee and during that time the independent member had not made one input. He reiterated comments by Alderman J Tinsley regarding the former Lisburn City and Castlereagh Borough Councils' decision not to appoint an independent member and advised that this matter had also been considered by the Shadow Council and in the first year of the new Council, when it had been ruled out as an option.

Councillor J Gallen stated that he believed it would be beneficial to have the skills in finance, or audit specifically, that an independent member could provide. This was best practice, as was advised by the NIAO Officer.

Councillor J Baird stated that he could not see any major hindrance in having an independent member on the Governance and Audit Committee. It was his opinion that consideration should be given to costs and what that person's role would be before rejecting the idea. Investigations should be carried out and information brought back for consideration. In light of these comments, Councillor S Carson suggested that the proposal by Alderman J Tinsley be amended to allow a report on this matter to be considered. He further suggested that, as the Governance and Audit Committee was not scheduled to meet again

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until April 2018, the report on this matter be presented to the next monthly meeting of Council. Alderman M Henderson pointed out that, at its meeting on 9 January, the Governance and Audit Committee had agreed that to convene a special meeting in February 2018 to consider this matter. He also stated his opinion that the process should be gone through to investigate the matter in order that an informed decision could be made going forward.

Councillor A Grehan, Chairman of the Governance and Audit Committee, referred to a report prepared by Ernst & Young that had suggested the appointment of an independent member, as had the NIAO. She had considered that this matter should be discussed by the Governance and Audit Committee to decide if this was a way forward for this Council. The matter had been considered by the Committee and it had been agreed that a report be prepared in relation to the logistics and possible costings. Councillor Grehan asked Members that this be taken forward and that further information on this matter be considered by the Governance and Audit Committee.

Alderman S P Porter reiterated earlier comments that the recommendation to appoint an independent member had been rejected previously by the Council, as well as by the former Lisburn City and Castlereagh Borough Councils, and nothing had changed since then. From a party perspective, he stated that nothing had changed and there was no point wasting time preparing a report for consideration.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, referred to the amendment that Councillor S Carson had suggested to the proposal in the name of Alderman J Tinsley. Alderman Tinsley requested that his original proposal stand, ie. that the Council not proceed with investigating the appointment of an independent member to the Governance and Audit Committee.

The proposal in the name of Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor N Anderson was put to the meeting and, at the request of Councillor A McIntyre, a recorded vote was taken. The proposal was declared "carried", the voting being 20 in favour of and 18 against, as set out below:

In favour: Councillor V Kamble, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Carson, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor S Skillen, Alderman D Drysdale, Alderman A G Ewart, Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman S P Porter, Councillor R Walker, Councillor J Gray, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor N Anderson, Councillor D J Craig, Councillor M Tolerton, Councillor A Givan, Alderman T Jeffers, Alderman W A Leathem, Councillor B Mallon and Councillor L Poots

Against: Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor A Redpath, Councillor B Bloomfield, Alderman W J Dillon, Alderman M Henderson, Councillor J Baird, Councillor N Trimble, Councillor J Palmer, Councillor A Girvin, Alderman S Martin, Councillor A McIntyre, Councillor O Gawith, Councillor A Grehan, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor C Quinn, Councillor J Gallen, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge.

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Appointment of Independent Member to G&A (Contd)

At this stage, Alderman S Martin put the Council on notice that he would be considering options in terms of the “Call-In” procedure on this matter and would be in contact with the Chief Executive’s office in the coming days.

Pages 29 and 30, Items 5.1.2, 5.1.3, 5.1.4

“Business Continuity Planning, Legislation & Brexit”, “Presentations on Brexit by the Executive Office to Councils” and “Brexit and Fulfilling Work, Responding to Threats and Exploiting Opportunities”

Councillor U Mackin referred to the above Brexit-related items and stated that a lot of good and very valuable work had been done and this would be good for the Council in general. He stated that the Council was a member of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA). It too was doing a lot of very valuable work on this matter and was running regular Brexit-related events. Councillor Mackin advised that he and Alderman W J Dillon represented the Council on NILGA’s Committee for the Economy and Investment in Rural Development. A lot of workshops had been happening with Council Officers and he considered that the Council needed to be aware of all that was going on. Councillor Mackin sought an assurance that there was a good communication stream between the Council and NILGA to make sure work was not overlapping and that there was a sharing of good practice. Brexit was a very important agenda and was something the Council need to stay aware of. He stated that the Federation of Small Business was also doing a lot of good work on this. 90-95% of businesses with this Council area were small businesses and a third of those had given no thought to Brexit. Therefore, there was a job of work to be done to increase awareness among the business community to highlight potential issues.

In response to the above, the Chief Executive stated that this was a very important point. The Governance and Audit Committee had been provided with whatever information was available and had asked that the Executive Office be requested to make a presentation to the Council. The Chief Executive confirmed that the Chief Executive of NILGA was doing a lot of good work as well. She asked that any Members who were aware of Brexit-related events notify her office of details and those would then be circulated to all Elected Members.

Environmental Services Committee

10 January 2018

Proposed by Alderman T Jeffers

Seconded by Councillor J Gray

Alderman S Martin left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.43 pm).

Development Committee

10 January 2018

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart

Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

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Special Environmental Services Committee

17 January 2018

Proposed by Alderman T Jeffers
Seconded by Councillor J Gray

Special Development Committee

17 January 2018

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

Capital Projects Committee

18 January 2018

Proposed by Alderman D Drysdale
Seconded by Alderman S P Porter

Corporate Services Committee

18 January 2018

Proposed by Councillor S Carson
Seconded by Councillor C Quinn

Verbal Matter – Men’s Mental Health

Alderman S Martin returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (7.45 pm).

Councillor T Mitchell referred to Horizons, a local mental health charity that raised suicide awareness and supported families affected by suicide in the greater Lisburn area. The organisation was comprised largely of people who had been personally affected by suicide and, therefore, understood the pain, distress and confusion experienced by families affected. As part of its strategy to raise awareness of men’s mental health, Horizons planned to hold a relatively small fundraising theatre production entitled “A Family Affair”, potentially in late April/early May. In order to host the production, Horizons required a small neutral venue and had approached Councillor Mitchell to request that the Council support the event by providing free use of the studio theatre at Lagan Valley Island. Councillor Mitchell pointed out that the mental health awareness message for this year focused on mental health in the workplace. Councillor Mitchell proposed that Council Officers investigate the cost of hosting such an event, in conjunction with promoting mental health among the workforce, and that a report on this matter be presented to the next meeting of the Corporate Services Committee for consideration. This proposal was seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed.

For Noting

Planning Committee

4 December 2017

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 December, 2017 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 8 January, 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 agreed that the reports and recommendations of the Chief Executive be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below.

Items for Decision

9.1 Attendance at Second Stage 2 Application Process Meeting
INTERREG North West Europe Programme – Support for Social
Entrepreneurs (SuNSE)

Members were reminded that the Council had been successful as part of a step 1 application for funding under the INTERREG North West Europe Programme being led by the Highlands and Islands Enterprise. Members were provided with a copy of a proposal which aimed to increase social entrepreneurship opportunities in rural/semi-rural areas within the Council area by piloting a range of diverse business support models, with a particular focus on addressing youth unemployment.

Members were further reminded that the Council had agreed, in October 2017, to continue to work in collaboration with the Highlands & Islands Enterprise to develop a detailed step 2 application, to be submitted in mid-March 2018. To advance this, the Council had been represented by a member of staff at a meeting on 7 December, 2017 in Brussels, Belgium, to discuss proposed programme management, workplan activities, partner responsibilities and budget distributions.

The Chief Executive reported that the Council was also obliged to send a member of staff to a second meeting to finalise the details of the application submission. This meeting was also to be held at the Scotland Europa Office in Brussels on 5 February, 2018 from 10am to 4pm.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that an Officer from the Economic Development Unit attend the above meeting in Brussels to finalise the detail of the Stage 2 INTERREG application, the estimated cost of attendance being £350.

9.2 Centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918

Members were provided with a copy of a letter dated 16 January, 2018 from the Department for Communities advising of arrangements to mark the Centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918. The Act marked its centenary on 6 February, 2018, the objectives of which were to celebrate the centenary, educate young people on its significance and build a legacy for the future by encouraging young women into political and public life.

The Department was seeking an understanding of any plans the Council may have to mark the centenary, with a view to having a collaborative approach and potentially enabling delivery of a programme of events and initiatives across central and local government. Members were advised that the Council had no plans to mark this occasion at present.

9.2 Centenary of the Representation of the People Act 1918 (Contd)

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, stated that she had put a proposal to the Chief Executive and to other female Members of Council that, beginning this year but not solely for this year, female Members of Council form an informal working group to look at a range of issues, including an event around International Women's Day on 8 March. The Centenary of the Representation of the People Act dealt in a large part with the Suffrage Movement and the work it did in bringing about votes for women and also its work to promote and encourage the participation of young women in politics. The date of 6 February was very close but the Council had only been made aware of the event within the last week to 10 days. The Deputy Mayor requested approval to use 6 February as a launch date for the initiative, given that it was rather short notice to plan anything of any significance. The working group, which was meeting the following day, would like to move forward looking at that and other issues including International Women's Day. The Deputy Mayor asked that the Council support the launch initiative on 6 February and provide support in working with Chief Executive and other relevant Officers to develop a programme of events. She advised that the Chief Executive had written to the Department for Communities asking if there was any funding that could be made available, particularly in connection with the Centenary event. If so, it was hoped that there would be minimal or no cost to the Council for this initiative. If funding from the Department was not available, the Deputy Mayor asked that the Council set aside a sum of up to £5,000 to take this initiative forward.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, advised that information had recently been received in relation to the Suffrage Movement and, in particular, information regarding a Lisburn resident, Mrs Lilian Metge, who had not only been the Founder and Leader of the Lisburn Suffrage Society, but had represented the Irish Women's Suffrage in Budapest at the International Suffrage Congress held in 1913. Councillor Legge stated that it would be worthwhile looking to include such local history in the work that would be done moving forward.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that the aforesaid requests from the Deputy Mayor be approved.

9.3 Commencement Time of Future Corporate Services Committee Meetings

Given that the Governance and Audit Committee only now met on a quarterly basis and the Capital Projects Committee on a bi-monthly basis, at the December meeting of the Corporate Services Committee it had been agreed to recommend that consideration be given by Council to future meetings of the Corporate Services Committee commencing at 5.30 pm.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that future meetings of the Corporate Services Committee commence at 5.30 pm.

Items for Noting

9.4 Initial Response – Department of Finance Budgetary Outlook Briefing January 2018

Members were provided with a copy of a draft interim response dated 16 January, 2018 to the Department of Finance, prepared by NILGA on behalf of the Council. Members were advised that Council Officers had forwarded information to NILGA for inclusion in the response on this matter. It was proposed by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C Quinn and agreed that this information be noted.

9.5 Notice of Motion – Bombardier Aerospace

Following a Notice of Motion presented to Council on 28 November, 2017, in relation to the above, Members were provided with:

- (a) copy of a letter dated 20 December, 2017 from the European Commission advising that it fully shared the Council's concerns with regard to the potential job losses resulting from the imposition of final duties by the US. The final decision of the US authorities was expected at the beginning of February 2018 when analysis of options and possible actions could be made; and
- (b) copy of a letter dated 3 January, 2018 from the Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy thanking the Council for its support and stating that safeguarding jobs at Bombardier Aerospace remained a top priority for the Government, which would work closely with Bombardier and the Canadian Government to resolve this issue positively.

It was proposed by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C Quinn and agreed that this correspondence be noted.

9.6 Rural Strategy and Action Plan First Annual Progress Report

Members were provided with a copy of a letter received on 15 December, 2017 from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive advising that it had launched its "Sustainable Rural Communities", Rural Strategy and Action Plan – Annual Progress Report 2016-2017. It was proposed by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C Quinn and agreed that this correspondence be noted.

9.7 Citizenship Ceremony – 22 December, 2017

Members were provided with a copy of a letter dated 28 December, 2017 from Sir Nigel Hamilton thanking the Council and staff for the special arrangements made at the recent Citizenship Ceremony on 22 December, 2017 in the Council Headquarters. It was proposed by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C Quinn and agreed that this correspondence be noted.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, thanked Councillor S Carson for having attended this Citizenship Ceremony on his behalf. He also

9.7 Citizenship Ceremony – 22 December, 2017 (Contd)

expressed his appreciation to Council staff for the special arrangements that had been put in place to accommodate this event on a day that the Council Offices were closed.

9.8 Boundary Commission Consultation

Members were provided with a copy of an email from the Boundary Commission confirming that it would be launching its third and final consultation on the 2018 Review on 30 January, 2018. A formal letter would follow in mid-January seeking the Council's assistance in being a public display point. It was proposed by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C Quinn and agreed that this information be noted.

9.9 Appointment of Sheriffs for Northern Ireland for 2018

Members were provided with information on the appointment of Sheriffs for Northern Ireland for 2018, as published in the Belfast Gazette. It was proposed by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor C Quinn and agreed that this information be noted.

Additional Report

9.10 Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council – Request for Financial Assistance

Members were reminded that, in 2017, the Leisure and Community Development Committee had received a presentation from the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council in regard to the organisation's role and work.

The strength and depth of sport in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area had recently been highlighted with the announcement of the team selected to travel to represent Northern Ireland in the XXI Commonwealth Games to take place in the Gold Coast, Australia, from 4-15 April, 2018.

No less than 15 of the team, including competitors, coaches and support staff came from the City Council area, reflecting great credit on local sporting structures, clubs and coaches. At a recent meeting with Council Officers and the Chairman of the Leisure and Community Development Committee, Alderman J Tinsley, representatives of the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council had outlined the substantial cost in sending a team to Australia and the previous generosity of the Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council in supporting the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Team.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that the Council provide £10,000 in assistance to the Northern Ireland Commonwealth Games Council to offset the substantial costs associated with local residents travelling as part of Team NI to the XXI Commonwealth Games in the Gold Coast, Australia, it being noted that this financial assistance would come from 2017/18 revenue budgets. It was further agreed that the Council host a reception for the local team upon their return from the Games.

Further Additional Report

9.11 NILGA – Driving Government Locally Summit

Members were provided with a copy of an invitation from NILGA to the Driving Government Locally Summit at the Killyhevlin Lakeside Hotel, Enniskillen, on 22 February, 2018 from 10 am to 3.30 pm. The only cost associated with Members' attendance at this conference would be mileage. It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell and agreed that any of the Council's appointed NILGA representatives who wished to attend this conference notify the Member Services Unit accordingly.

9.12 Northern Ireland Housing Executive

The Chief Executive reminded Members that, at the meeting of Council held on 19 December, 2017, it had been agreed that she write to the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) expressing the Council's gratitude for the presentation made at a special meeting of Council on 27 November. Members were provided with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a response from the Chief Executive of the NIHE dated 12 January, 2018.

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

There was no confidential business.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Lagan Gateway Project
Councillor A Redpath

Councillor A Redpath drew Members' attention to the fact that the Lagan Gateway Project had broken ground earlier in the day. This was the first major step to re-opening the Lagan Navigation and was a multi-million pound infrastructural project at the Belfast end of the Lough. This moved the emphasis of development further towards this Council area and the next steps involved some quite substantial

14.1 Lagan Gateway Project (Contd)
Councillor A Redpath

infrastructural work in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area. This work represented the removal of a major barrier to navigating the canal as far up as Lisburn and the potential for tourism associated with that. There would be potential for some major investment in this area, which hopefully some local firms would benefit from, and this was welcomed by Councillor Redpath.

14.2 Redevelopment of Redundant Landfill Sites as Solar Farms
Councillor J Palmer

Councillor J Palmer advised that a council in England that had developed a solar farm on a redundant landfill site and asked if there was a potential for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to do the same with its redundant landfill sites at Moss Road, Ballygowan, and at Drumlough, Hillsborough. In relation to those two sites the Director of Environmental Services advised that both were undergoing closure plans, although one had now been determined. The future use of the sites would be determined by the outcome of the implementation plans. There were future options for the sites but those could not be determined until the closure plans and the aftercare costs, etc. were identified. This matter was in progress and the Director pointed out that, within the investment programme, the closure costs had been included. It was anticipated that the implementation plans would be available for Members' consideration early next financial year.

14.3 Potholes in Roads
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson referred to a number of roads that, as a result of recent bad weather, had been left with potholes. These roads included the Lisnasharragh Road, Hillsborough Road in Carryduff and Hillhall Road. Councillor Anderson proposed that a letters be sent to DfI Roads (a) drawing attention to those roads in particular and asking that steps be taken to address this matter; and (b) requesting an update in relation to the Carryduff/Newtownbreda/Cairnshill road system and the Saintfield Road corridor. Alderman Martin seconded this proposal and it was agreed.

Alderman Martin stated that £8.2m had been released to the Department for Infrastructure for the purpose of roads structural maintenance. It was important, given the amount of public discourse at the minute around this matter, that the Council indicate to the Department that it was aware of the release of this money and would request the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area to be prioritised.

14.4 Behind the Masc
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson referred to Behind the Masc, which was a young men's mental health support group. He stated that it was great to see the work the group had done in bringing forward the issue of mental health.

14.5 Board of Governors
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig advised that the Education Authority had commenced an application process for Board of Governors members. He drew attention to two changes in the current process. One was that, even existing Board of Governors members had to complete an application as re-appointment was no longer automatic. The second change was that this round of applications included those for grammar schools, which had formerly been a separate process. Councillor Craig stated that it was important that Council Members were represented locally on Boards of Governors and encouraged Members to submit applications. Alderman J Tinsley requested that an email be sent to Members reminding them about this matter.

14.6 Billy Neill Playing Fields
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen referred to recent reports of dog food containing poison having been found at Comber Greenway. Earlier in the day, she reported that there had been a similar find at Billy Neill Playing Fields and requested that this be investigated by Council Officers.

14.7 Lands at Former Dunmurry High School Site in Seymour Hill
Alderman J Tinsley

Councillor S Skillen left the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.04 pm).

Alderman J Tinsley advised that the Council, in June 2017, had ratified a minute of a meeting of the Leisure and Community Development Committee agreeing, subject to contract, the transfer of a parcel of land at the former Dunmurry High School site in Seymour Hill from Connswater Housing Association to the Council to allow the development of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). The transfer of the land was at nil cost to the Council. Members were advised that, following legal advice, the contract between the parties had been agreed and it was anticipated it would be received by the Council from its legal advisors in the next few weeks.

To allow the award of the construction contract for the MUGA to proceed as soon as possible, it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that, having previously approved the transfer, approval be given to the Transfer Agreement being executed on behalf of the Council by The Right Worshipful the Mayor and the Chief Executive at the earliest possible date following receipt of the contract.

14.8 Lisburn Carers Forum
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter advised Members that the AGM of the Lisburn Carers Forum was taking place the following evening at 7.30 pm in the Lisburn Assessment & Resource Centre.

14.9 Board of Governors
Alderman S Martin

Alderman S Martin referred to the above issue, raised earlier under item 14.5 and welcomed the changes to the process, as advised by Councillor D J Craig.

14.10 Death of Alfie Martin
Alderman S Martin

Councillor S Skillen returned to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (8.06 pm).

Alderman S Martin referred to the recent death of a longstanding friend of the former Lisburn City Council, Mr Alfie Martin, aged 97. Alderman Martin paid tribute to Alfie, who had been a very well-known World War II Veteran. Alderman Leathem also paid tribute to Mr Martin, whose death was a great loss to the community of Dunmurry in which he had lived, the RAF Benevolent Society and all other organisations with which he had been involved. At the request of Alderman Martin, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, agreed to send a letter of condolence, on behalf of the Council, to the family of Mr Martin.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.10 pm.

Mayor