

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Tuesday, 24 October, 2017 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor T Morrow

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

Councillors N Anderson, J Baird, B Bloomfield MBE,
S Carson, D J Craig, A P Ewing, J Gallen, O Gawith,
A Girvin, 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, C Quinn, A Redpath,
N Trimble and R Walker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Service Transformation
Head of Cultural & Community Services
Head of 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 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

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, welcomed Pastor Brian Agnew, of Lisburn City Church, and founder of the Food Bank in Lisburn, to the meeting and on behalf of the Council, extended congratulations to Pastor Agnew for having been awarded an MBE recently. The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed thanks and appreciation to Pastor Agnew for his good work across the city area.

At the invitation of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Pastor Agnew, having thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor of his kind words, addressed the Council and said a prayer, during which he remembered Mr Andrew Kennedy, Tourism Development Manager, Economic Development, whose mother, Mrs Carol Kennedy, had passed away the previous week.

Councillor S Carson entered the meeting at 7.03 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, wished to add to the condolences to Mr Andrew Kennedy on the passing of his mother, this being a particularly difficult time as Andrew's family lived in Australia.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

Councillors N Anderson and L Poots entered the meeting at 7.11 pm.

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

- reception for Inspire Business Centre
- Entrepreneurs Network event at Lagan Valley Island
- official opening of Ballybeen Men's Shed at the Ballyoran Centre
- reception to mark the 68th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China
- MacMillan Coffee Mornings, one in the staff canteen, Lagan Valley Island and the other at Dundonald Library
- Celebration of Success event at Dundonald High School hosted by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, as Chair of the School's Board of Governors
- dinner for guests visiting for the Downshire Primary School re-union event, along with Alderman A G Ewart
- wreath laying ceremony for the National Malaya Borneo Veterans Association. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance on this occasion.
- Downshire Primary School re-union event at Downshire Centre and St Malachy's Parish Church, Hillsborough. The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that this was an enjoyable event and emotional as many people had returned after being away for 60 years approximately,
- launch of World Mental Health Day in the Cherry Room, Lagan Valley Island
- event to mark the first anniversary of the Ulster Hospital Travel Plan
- MacMillan Coffee Morning at Ballymacash Regeneration Network
- reception for Gilnahirk Pastoral Care group
- Citizenship Ceremony at Lagan Valley Island, officiated by Lord Lieutenant for County Down, Mr David Lindsay. The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that this was the first Citizenship Ceremony to take place at Lagan Valley Island due to the renovations taking place at Hillsborough Castle. A number of visitors to Lagan Valley Island had taken the opportunity to see the Council Chamber. The Lord Lieutenant had been impressed with the new venue for the Ceremony.
- attendance at the 'Live Here Love Here' Coca Cola Awards in the Great Hall at Stormont Castle at which groups from the Lisburn & Castlereagh City area had won awards
- Special Assembly at Meadowbridge Primary School to introduce the new Pupil Council
- Anahilt Parish Church Craft Fair
- Feltmakers North Workshop in Hillsborough

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Cont'd)

- Crew United formal dinner at the Maldron Hotel at Belfast International Airport at which Members from Warrington Council were in attendance. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance on the evening.
- opening of the Annual Carers Summit in the Island Hall, Lagan Valley Island
- attendance at the Four Seasons Healthcare Art Exhibition
- Dundonald Ladies Information Evening at Dundonald High School
- reception for Lisburn Golf Club Fred Daly Team
- NILGA conference at La Mon House Hotel at which the Secretary of State had made a speech.
- book launch of Mr Aidan Campbell's book "Castlereagh Updated"
- Parkview Special School's Football Tournament
- NILGA Conference Dinner at La Mon House Hotel
- official opening of Ballymacash Community Centre
- annual Prize Day at Lisnagarvey High School
- finale of the Good Relations Youth Arts Project at which the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, had deputised
- Resurgam Trust's Social Saturday at which the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, had deputised. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked the Deputy Mayor for having deputised for him at short notice.
- Breakfast Meeting at Habitat for Humanity, Riverside Centre, Lisburn
- celebration of 100 years of 1st Loughaghery Boys Brigade. The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that it was encouraging to see the young boys' interest in politics.
- MIPIM Investment event in London, along with Alderman A G Ewart and Councillor A P Ewing, the Chief Executive and Council Officers
- Down & Dromore Diocese Synod Annual Meeting in Moira Parish Church – deputised by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge
- visit to Council Chamber by Forthill Primary School Primary Seven pupils
- Mayor's Inaugural Dinner in the Island Hall, Lagan Valley Island. The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Members for their attendance on the evening.
- coffee morning in Glenavy Protestant Hall in aid of Parkinsons UK
- Carryduff GAC Fundraising Ball at the Hilton Hotel, Belfast

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

- MacMillan Coffee Morning at Eden Beauty, Lisburn
- MacMillan Coffee Morning at Lisburn Library
- coffee morning in aid of Alzheimer's at Lille Court, Lisburn
- NILGA's 2017 Best Kept City Awards in Belfast City Hall
- reception for Lisburn Gateway Club

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor H Legge, Alderman D Drysdale, Councillors R T Beckett, S Skillen and M Tolerton and the Director of Service Delivery (Non-Regulated), Mr J Rose, the Director of Service Delivery (Regulated), Mrs H Moore, and the Director of Service Support, Ms S Clarke.

3. Declarations of Interest

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, reminded Members to inform the Member Services Officer of their intention to leave the Meeting in order that Members' movements can be recorded accurately in the Minutes.

Declaration of Interest forms were completed as follows:

Councillor N Anderson – in respect of item 13.2 Judicial Review - Hillsborough Golf Resort – in view of his membership of the Planning Committee and as a precautionary measure left the meeting for the duration of consideration of this item of business

Councillor D J Craig – in respect of item 9.3 Report on Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council becoming an Autism NI "Autism Impact Award Champion" in view of him being an Honorary Member of Autism NI and item 13.2 Judicial Review - Hillsborough Golf Resort – in view of having submitted a letter of support to that Planning Application

Councillor A P Ewing – in respect of item 13.1 Delegated Authority to the Development Committee – LCAC – in view of his membership of the Board of LCAC

Councillor O Gawith – in respect of item 13.2 Judicial Review - Hillsborough Golf Resort - in view of the fact that whilst not a member of the Planning Committee at the time when the Planning Application was being considered – he had submitted a letter of support for the scheme.

Councillor A Givan – in respect of item 13.1 Delegated Authority to the Development Committee – LCAC – in view of his membership of the Board of LCAC

Councillor A Redpath – in respect of item 13.2 Judicial Review - Hillsborough Golf Resort – in view of having spoken in favour of the Planning Application when before the Council's Planning Committee

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 September 2017 be confirmed and signed.

4. Council Minutes (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed that the minutes of the Special Meeting of Council held on 5 October 2017 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

The Chief Executive responded to comments from Councillor J Baird in regard to an inaccuracy on the agenda for the Special Meeting of Council on 5 October 2017, it being noted that the reference to 'Political Briefing' on the agenda would be changed to read 'Policy Briefing.'

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

On a proposal by Councillor O Gawith, seconded by Councillor A Grehan it was agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Irish Waste Services of 94-96 Hillsborough Road, Carryduff, BT8 8HT – Contract for the recycling and recovery of residual and bulky waste from Council Household Recycling Centres/Civic Amenity Sites.

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:

Special Governance & Audit Committee

25 September 2017

Proposed by Councillor A Grehan
Seconded by Councillor J Baird

Special Development Committee

25 September 2017

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

Leisure and Community Development Committee

3 October 2017

Proposed by Alderman J Tinsley
Seconded by Councillor R Walker

Lisburn Museum - Reformation Exhibition

Councillor N Anderson commended staff in the Irish Linen Centre/Lisburn Museum in regard to the Reformation exhibition. Councillor Anderson thanked the staff for their efforts and encouraged Members to take the opportunity to visit the Museum to view the exhibition.

Environmental Services Committee

4 October 2017

Proposed by Alderman T Jeffers

Seconded by Councillor J Gray

Britain in Bloom Awards 2017 – Grounds Maintenance Team

Alderman T Jeffers congratulated the Council's Grounds Maintenance Team on their recent success in winning the category "Best Large Village" for the floral display at the entrance to Hillsborough. Alderman Jeffers reported that the Grounds Maintenance Team had been at the Britain in Bloom Champions of Champions event the previous weekend to receive their award.

Alderman Jeffers presented the trophy to Alderman J Tinsley, Chairman of the Leisure & Community Development Committee, as Grounds Maintenance was moving to the Service Delivery (Non-Regulated) Directorate on 1 November 2017.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor commended the Grounds Maintenance Team on their success and advised that the team had had further success in winning the 'Best Local Authority Service Team' award in the NILGA awards this year.

Development Committee

4 October 2017

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart

Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

Matters Arising

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Women in Business Annual Business Awards 2017 – Sponsorship Opportunity
Crown Plaza Hotel, Shawsbridge, Belfast Thursday 9 November 2017

Alderman A G Ewart proposed that the Council approves the attendance of three Members at the Women in Business Annual Awards on 9 November 2017, it being noted that two Members had been approved to attend this event at the Development Committee Meeting on 4 October 2017. Alderman Ewart's proposal was seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed.

Governance & Audit Committee

10 October 2017

Proposed by Councillor A Grehan

Seconded by Councillor J Baird

Corporate Services Committee

10 October 2017

Proposed by Councillor S Carson

Seconded by Councillor C Quinn

Special Development Committee
Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart
Seconded by Councillor A P Ewing

11 October 2017

For Noting

Planning Committee

4 September 2017

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 September 2017 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 October 2017. 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 Joint Chief Executives' Belfast Region City Growth Deal

The Council had been furnished with a copy of the following:

- a) an email dated 6 October 2017 from the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council seeking agreement on various issues on the first stage of the proposed Belfast Region City Growth Deal.
- b) a report outlining the actions from the meeting which had been held on 29 September 2017, together with supporting papers
- c) a copy of a draft letter addressed to the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council in response to the above-mentioned email correspondence

The Chief Executive reminded Members that this matter had been discussed at the Away Day held on Monday 23 October 2017, and also referred Members to item 1 of the Additional Report relating to the Belfast Region City Growth Deal.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor N Anderson, and agreed that:

- a) the Director of Service Transformation be the Council's representative at the sub-regional industrial strategy workshop, and
- b) the draft letter to the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council in response to her email dated 6 October seeking agreement on certain aspects of the first stage of the Belfast City Growth Deal proposition be approved with the addition of the following two points:
 - i) any financial contributions from this Council towards the Belfast City Growth Deal be calculated pro-rata, and

- 9.1 Joint Chief Executives' Belfast Region City Growth Deal (Cont'd)
- ii) the scoring methodology focuses on equality across the council areas to ensure that those councils without larger areas of deprivation are not disadvantaged.
- 9.2 Meeting with Members and Department for Infrastructure re Carryduff/ Saintfield Road

The Chief Executive reminded the Council of the Notice of Motion in the name of Alderman G Rice, presented to the Council at its meeting held on 25 July 2017, and the subsequent decision that the Council expresses concern to the Department for Infrastructure with regard to:-

- a) current traffic volumes in the Carryduff associated road network including the A24 Saintfield Road
- b) inadequacies of the strategic roads network on the arterial route to Belfast City
- c) extension of the public transport network provision including potential new Park and Ride at Carryduff
- d) extension of plans for Belfast Rapid Transit (BRT) to service the Carryduff area and southern approaches

The Council noted from the Chief Executive's report that a meeting with senior officials of the Department for Infrastructure to discuss the above-mentioned issues had been held on Wednesday 11 October 2017 and had been attended by representatives from the Carryduff Regeneration Forum, the Council's Chief Executive, the Director of Service Transformation and the Principal Planning Officer and Elected Members.

The Council had been circulated with a copy of a paper outlining the main issues and concerns that had been addressed at the above-mentioned meeting, namely;

- a) increased volume of traffic causing detriment to residents and commuters in terms of safety and amenity
- b) number of fatalities/reportable accidents on roads around Carryduff area evidential base for why change was needed
- c) incapacity of existing infrastructure to absorb new housing developments
- d) speed of traffic along road making area unsafe especially for children and older people
- e) damage to the environment in terms of pollution and the long term health and well-being of resident

9.2 Meeting with Members and Department for Infrastructure re Carryduff/Saintfield Road (Cont'd)

The Chief Executive advised that there had been full consensus from all participants in the discussion that the issues could not be solved by providing one solution, and that a multiple range of initiatives, studies and programme of works was needed urgently in order to address ongoing concerns. It had been agreed that an Action Plan would be drawn up to seek commitment from stakeholders (primarily the Department for Infrastructure, Translink, the Police Authority and the Council) outlining the key outcomes, actions, responsibilities and timescales, for implementing a series of improvements to the road network along the entire A24 Saintfield Road to Carryduff in the short, medium and long term.

A copy of a draft action plan had been furnished to the Council.

Cllr N Anderson and Alderman G Rice welcomed the positive discussions with the Department to address traffic issues. Alderman G Rice put on record that there had been a number of further serious road traffic incidents in recent months on the Saintfield Road and emphasised that it was important to keep the pressure on the Department.

A discussion ensued during which a number of Members welcomed the Action Plan, it being noted that some Members were less positive with the approach by Department Officials at the meeting. The Chief Executive responded to concerns raised.

Alderman W A Leathem entered the meeting at 7.35 pm.

Alderman G Rice commended the input from the Principal Planning Officer, Ms L Jackson, at the meeting with the Department and welcomed the fact that the Principal Planning Officer had challenged the Department on a number of issues.

It was proposed by Councillor N Anderson, seconded by Alderman G Rice, and agreed that:

- a) the Draft Action Plan, as circulated, be agreed and issued to the Department for Infrastructure, and
- b) the Council continues to seek regular meetings with the Department to ensure commitment and progress with the Action Plan going forward.

9.3 Report on Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council becoming an Autism NI "Autism Impact Award Champion"

The Chief Executive reminded the Council that at its meeting held on 22 August 2017 correspondence had been tabled from Autism NI, requesting Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to consider becoming an Autism Impact Award Champion, and it had been agreed that Officers be asked to liaise with Autism NI to ascertain the implications of the Council becoming an Autism Award Champion and to identify any costs involved.

9.3 Report on Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council becoming an Autism NI "Autism Impact Award Champion" (Cont'd)

Following discussion with Autism NI Members were further advised of the undernoted reasons for becoming an Autism Award Champion:

- a) legal requirement under the Autism Act NI (2011) for those responsible for a workplace environment to make reasonable adjustments regarding Autism
- b) supports staff development and continuous learning
- c) opportunity for the Council to become a leader in best practice in this area in NI
- d) provides specific opportunities to provide Autism specific services within the Council's operations
- e) Council operations would become more accessible to individuals with Autism
- f) facilitate provision of Autism friendly services
- g) PR and promotional opportunities through Autism NI's social media and website
- h) recognition as an "Autism Friendly" business

The Council was informed that in order to become an Autism Award Champion the Council would be required to:

- a) train staff in the fundamentals of Autism
- b) attend a one-day Autism Workshop for relevant staff
- c) develop a bespoke plan for the Council to address specific needs within the Council's service setting
- d) two staff members would be required to become "Autism Champions" and receive an AQA accreditation with follow up support from Autism NI in order to ensure agreed adjustments or adaptations to the workplace were completed.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that prior to the approach from Autism NI, the Council's Lagan Valley LeisurePlex facility had been already progressing accreditation as an Autism Award Champion venue, and reported that to date 30 staff members had attended the required Autism Workshop.

It was noted that the principal costs in connection with staff attendance at the required Autism NI facilitated Autism Workshop was £995 per workshop, with a maximum of 15 employees attending.

9.3 Report on Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council becoming an Autism NI "Autism Impact Award Champion" (Cont'd)

Aldermen M Henderson, S P Porter and J Tinsley and Councillors D J Craig and A McIntyre spoke in support of the proposal that Council become an Autism Impact Award Champion.

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that:

- a) given the multi facility/service nature of the Council's operations, accreditation of the Council as an Autism Award Champion be taken forward incrementally by service area, focusing initially on major front line customer facing services including:-
- Lagan Valley LeisurePlex
 - Dundonald International Ice Bowl
 - Island Arts Centre
 - ILC/Lisburn Museum
 - Activity Centres
 - Community Services
 - Lagan Valley Island - Centre Management
- b) in order to keep costs to minimum, where possible the Autism Awareness Workshops be attended by staff from more than one location
- c) production of the required bespoke plan would be particular to individual service contexts,
- d) in relation to other Council service areas e.g. Refuse Collection, Parks & Amenities Autism awareness training be taken forward as part of the Council's broader programme of disability awareness training, on the basis that a broader and less in depth knowledge of working with individuals with Autism would be required.

Alderman M Henderson, having recognised the significant time and commitment required by staff in taking the Autism Impact Award initiative forward, requested that the Council's thanks and appreciation be conveyed to all the staff involved in this initiative to date.

9.4 Reception for Erasmus+ Delegates – Age Friendly

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Council was the lead partner of an EU ERASMUS+ Programme in receipt of £270,787 funding to deliver a project entitled 'Age Friendly Communities'. The project aimed to support SMEs, Retailers and Service Delivery Agents to improve product/service delivery that better met the needs of older people and as a consequence maximise opportunities for greater economic return.

It was noted that the Council would host the first meeting of project partners on Thursday 16 November 2017 and Friday 17 November 2017 to discuss the

9.4 Reception for Erasmus+ Delegates – Age Friendly (Cont'd)

contractual obligations of each partner and agree SMART targets for programme delivery. It was estimated that 10 delegates would attend the event including practitioners of economic development and schemes to support older people from Denmark, Poland, Spain and Republic of Ireland.

It was proposed by Councillor J Gallen, seconded by Councillor O Gawith, and agreed that as it was customary for the host partner to arrange a reception for delegates during the course of the two days:

- a) a morning reception be held in the Mayor's Parlour to be hosted by the Right Worshipful the Mayor on Friday 17 November 2017 and
- b) in the afternoon the Mayor, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee, or their nominees, host delegates for lunch at a selected venue in Lisburn City Centre.

9.5 Everybody Active 2020 (Small Grants)

The Chief Executive reminded Members that at the Monthly Meeting of Council on 22 August 2017 it had been agreed to accept a recommendation from the Leisure & Community Development Committee to accept the award of £49,110 from Sport NI to allow the Council to operate the above grant scheme aimed at assisting "grassroots" community sports projects in the Council area.

The Chief Executive reported that the above grant scheme had been publicly advertised and resulting applications assessed.

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson, and agreed that as Sport NI required current year awards made under the Programme to be utilised before 31 March 2018, the Leisure & Community Development Committee at its meeting on 6 November 2017, be granted delegated authority to finalise awards under the Programme.

9.6 Support for European Capital of Culture 2023

The Council had been circulated with a copy of a joint letter dated 10 October 2017 from the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council and the Chief Executive of Derry City & Strabane District Council seeking unanimous support of all 11 Councils in progressing a bid for the title of European Capital of Culture for 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor C Quinn, seconded by Councillor A Grehan, and agreed that the Council supports Belfast City Council and Derry City & Strabane District Council in progressing a bid for the title of European Capital of Culture for 2023.

9.7 Social Enterprise NI Annual Awards Ceremony & Dinner
2017 Sponsorship Opportunity

The Chief Executive reported that Social Enterprise NI, the umbrella organisation for social enterprise in Northern Ireland, was hosting its annual Social Enterprise Awards to help promote and showcase some of the best examples of social enterprise across Northern Ireland. Recognising the role of local government in entrepreneurship, the 'Go For It' Programme and social enterprise, an opportunity had arisen to sponsor the 'Newly Established Social Enterprise' award on behalf of the Northern Ireland Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP) at Social Enterprise NI's forthcoming annual awards ceremony:

The Chief Executive advised that the awards event was taking place at 6.30 pm on Friday 27 October 2017, in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast, and as part of the award sponsorship NIBSUP had been allocated two complimentary places at the awards ceremony and dinner. The NIBSUP participating Councils had nominated Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to represent NIBSUP at the event. The total cost of sponsorship was £3,000, and as this was already included as part of the overall agreed NIBSUP Marketing budget, this amount would be split across the participating NIBSUP Councils based upon the LED allocations. (Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's contribution to this would therefore be £264 (8.8%).

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor S Carson, and agreed that the Council supports the Social Enterprise NI Awards at a cost of £264, and that the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Development Committee be nominated to attend in order to present the Award on behalf of NIBSUP.

Items for Noting

9.8 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF)

The Council had been furnished with, and noted the content of, correspondence dated 11 October 2017 from the Heritage Lottery Fund advising of Awards in the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area.

Additional Report by Chief Executive

9.9 Joint Chief Executive's Belfast Region City Growth Deal

It was noted that the above matter had been dealt with under item 9.1 above.

9.10 10B Permits & Driving Licence Requirements for Minibuses

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting during consideration of this item at 7.49 pm and returned again at 7.55 pm.

The Chief Executive reminded Members that the Council currently operated a number of minibuses for use by Council staff to enhance service delivery and as part of the Council's Community Transport Scheme, operated through Cultural & Community Services.

9.10 10B Permits & Driving Licence Requirements for Minibuses (Cont'd)

The Chief Executive reported that earlier this year the Council had been advised that the Department for Infrastructure was considering developing new guidance for the current Legislation, as a result of a difference in interpretation of the legislation in the UK compared to the other member states within the EU. At the initial stage the Department had indicated that the introduction of the new guidance would follow a formal public consultation exercise. The Department launched the draft guidance and public consultation exercise in September 2017, with a closing date for responses due back by the 17 November 2017.

Members noted from the Chief Executive's report information on the new guidance which tightened up the regulations relating to who could drive a minibus under a D1 (nfhr) categorisation. The Council had since been advised that the Department had received a legal challenge to the consultation by the Federation of Passenger Transport and that the legal challenge may prevent the current consultation process from continuing and could result in the new interpretation being introduced as early as 1 November 2017. The Department could not confirm at this stage if the 1 November 2017 implementation date was likely.

The Chief Executive advised that as a result of the new interpretation potentially being introduced earlier than first anticipated, it was necessary for the Council to consider the options for both the Community Transport Scheme and Council staff who drive Council minibuses under a D1 (nfhr) categorisation.

In this regard Members were asked to consider two recommendations, with supporting information against each recommendation:

Recommendation 1 – *Revoke current driving permits and re-issue under the new regulations.*

Recommendation 2 – *Temporary suspension of the community transport scheme for the month of November.*

Alderman J Tinsley thanked the Head of Service (Cultural and Community Services) for bringing this report forward at short notice.

Alderman Tinsley highlighted a number of issues raised in the Chief Executive's report and expressed concern that the service users would suffer most.

Following lengthy discussion it was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed that:

- a) Option 1 be the preferred option, namely; the Council revokes all current driving permits as and from 31 October 2017 and that the driving permits be re-issued on 1 November 2017 under the new regulations. It was noted that option 1, whilst not entirely satisfactory, would ensure the lesser level of disruption to service users.
- b) the Council offers support to those groups across the City area who are suffering as a result of this change in legislation for minibus drivers

9.10 10B Permits & Driving Licence Requirements for Minibuses (Cont'd)

- c) the Council writes to the Permanent Secretary seeking an urgent meeting with the Department for Infrastructure to address this matter further
- d) a further report on this matter be brought back to a future meeting of the Leisure & Community Development Committee

It was noted that in order to maintain a united front in this matter other Councils would be invited to become involved in the meetings with the Department.

The Chief Executive stated that she would also contact NILGA and SOLACE regarding this matter.

It was also noted that the Council would seek legal advice on this matter in due course.

Councillor J Gray discussed her own experiences as a service user of community transport and welcomed the meeting hosted by Lagan Valley Rural Transport in the Island Hall that afternoon. Councillor Gray proposed that the Council considers if the cost of the hire of the Island Hall could be waived for LVRT on this occasion.

The Head of Cultural and Community Services responded to comments and concerns from Councillor J Baird and Alderman W A Leathem on this matter.

Alderman A G Ewart supported the proposal by Councillor J Gray in connection with the waiving of the cost of hire of the Island Hall for LVRT. The Chief Executive stated that it would be necessary to review the Council policy prior to considering Councillor Gray's proposal further.

For Noting

9.11 Away Day– 11 September 2017

The Council had been furnished with and noted the content of a copy of the report from the Away Day held on 11 September 2017.

9.12 Special Meeting of Council

It was noted that following consultation with The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, the Special Meeting of Council which had been due to take place on 16 October 2017 be re-arranged to take place on 27 November 2017 at 6 pm in order to receive the following presentations:-

NI Housing Executive – Investment Plan
Department for Infrastructure (Roads) – Autumn Report

Members were advised that NI Water, who had been also invited to attend on 16 October, advised that they were unavailable to attend on the rescheduled date of 27 November and therefore would be invited to present in the New Year.

9.13 December Meeting of Council

Members were advised that, following consultation with The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, it had been agreed that the December Meeting of Council would take place on Tuesday 19 December commencing at 6 pm.

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

Councillor S Carson left the meeting at 8.13 pm.

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

Item 13.1 Delegated Authority to Development Committee (LCAC)

- 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 of, or office holders under, the Council
- the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information)
- information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings)
- information likely to reveal the identity of an individual(s))

Item 13.2 Judicial Review - Hillsborough Golf Resort

- Confidential due to containing information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor J McCarthy, seconded by Councillor B Mallon, 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.

Confidential Report

Item for Decision

13.1 Delegated Authority to the Development Committee

Further to the decision at the Special Meeting of the Development Committee on 11 October 2017 that an independent review be carried out on the LCAC operations in support of the Council Members on the board of LCAC it was agreed that in order to expedite the independent review delegated authority be granted to the Development Committee in respect of agreeing the terms of reference for the review and in respect of tendering and award of an appropriate Contractor thereon.

Additional Confidential Report

The following Members left the meeting having declared an interest in the undernoted item of business (item 13.2):

Councillor A Redpath (8.15 pm)
Councillor O Gawith (8.15 pm)
Alderman W J Dillon (8.15 pm)
Councillor D J Craig (8.15 pm)
Alderman G Rice (8.19 pm)
Councillor A Givan (8.19 pm)
Councillor U Mackin (8.19 pm)
Councillor B Harvey (8.19 pm)
Councillor L Poots (8.19 pm)
Councillor N Trimble (8.19 pm)
Councillor N Anderson (8.19 pm)

13.2 Judicial Review – Hillsborough Golf Resort

Councillor S Carson returned to the meeting at 8.16 pm.

The Council had been furnished with a copy of a letter drafted by Cleaver Fulton Rankin to the Judicial Review Court setting out that the Council’s Chief Executive had the consent of the Council to make an application for judicial review in respect of planning permission (Ref: S/2017/0908/F) which had been granted to Wilmar Leisure Ltd on 28 April 2017 for the removal of planning condition (“application under Section 54 of the 2011 Planning Act to remove holiday occupancy (condition 2) of the approval S/2008/0878F for holiday home development comprising 58 apartments at land at Annacloy House, 14 Trench Road, Hillsborough).

13.2 Judicial Review – Hillsborough Golf Resort (Cont'd)

The Chief Executive responded to a number of questions and concerns from Members in connection with the above matter.

Following discussion it was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor R Walker and agreed that the draft letter as circulated be approved.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

Alderman W J Dillon and Councillors N Anderson, D J Craig, O Gawith, B Hanvey and N Trimble returned to the meeting at 8.42 pm.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Department for Infrastructure, Roads – Staffing Levels
Councillor S Carson

Alderman S P Porter and Councillor L C Poots left the meeting at 8.43 pm.

Councillor S Carson expressed concerns regarding a response issued by the Department for Infrastructure, Eastern Division (Roads) which indicated that due to 'manpower levels and under staffing' in the Department a substantive response to the issue raised would not be issued. Councillor Carson was of the opinion that the Department's approach to customer service was atrocious particularly in view of the Department having achieved 'Investors in People' accreditation.

Councillor S Carson referred to the Civil Service's Voluntary Exit Scheme which he felt could be a reason for the current understaffing in the Department.

Councillor Carson acknowledged that the Department for Infrastructure (Roads) would be in attendance at the Special Meeting of Council on 27 November 2017 and stated that it was important that his concerns were raised in advance in order that the officials have answers on the evening.

It was proposed by Councillor S Carson, seconded by Councillor N Anderson, and agreed that a letter be furnished to the Department for Infrastructure (Roads) requesting a report on staffing levels across all the Divisions, including Eastern Division and local area offices, to be presented to the Council at its Special Meeting on 27 November 2017, such a report to outline:

- the numbers of staff who left through the Voluntary Exit Scheme over the past three years, and
- absence levels in terms of long term sickness

4.2 Department for Infrastructure – Work at Queensway, Lisburn
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig expressed concern in regard to a response received from the Department for Infrastructure (Roads) in relation to a noise issue associated with contractors working for NI Water on Queensway from 7.00 pm to midnight in an urban built up area. Councillor Craig read out the content of the response from the Department which concluded with the comment that any late-night noise was a matter for the local council.

It was agreed that the Council writes to the Department for Infrastructure seeking clarification on who issued the licence to NI Water to carry out the above-mentioned works on Queensway from 7.00 pm to midnight, and under what circumstances was the licence issued.

Councillor Craig stated that only emergency work should be contracted to take place during the hours of 7.00 pm to midnight.

At this juncture The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, advised Members that it would be helpful for questions to be submitted to Member Services for forwarding to the Department in advance of the Special Meeting of Council on 27 November 2017 in order to have answers on the evening.

14.3 Mayor's Inaugural Dinner
Councillor O Gawith

Councillor O Gawith congratulated The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, on an excellent evening at his Inaugural Dinner on Friday 20 October 2017, and on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed thanks to all the Council staff and catering staff concerned for their efforts in ensuring a successful evening.

14.4 Bereavement – Mr Tommy 'Tucker' English
Councillor R Walker

Councillor R Walker informed the Council of the passing of Mr Tommy 'Tucker' English in recent days, Mr English having been well known in local football and had been a member of Lisburn Rangers Football Club for over 30 years.

It was agreed that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow, sends condolences, on behalf of the Council, to the family of the late Mr English.

14.5 Congratulations to former Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield on Mayoral
Charity Funding Raising
Alderman W A Leathem

Alderman W A Leathem, having apologised for his lateness in arriving at the meeting, wished to congratulate Councillor B Bloomfield on having raised £89,000 for his Mayoral Charity, Tiny Life, during his term of office as Mayor the previous year.

14.6 Roundabout at end of McKinstry Road
Alderman W A Leathem

Alderman W A Leathem expressed concern in relation to the condition of the roundabout at the end of McKinstry Road, at Twinbrook. The brick wall feature that the former Lisburn City Council had put in place as a result of government funding for roundabouts was no longer visible due to the overgrown vegetation on the Roundabout.

It was agreed that it be confirmed that the above-mentioned roundabout was now within the Belfast City Council boundary and if so a letter be furnished to Belfast City Council requesting that the roundabout in question be attended to.

14.7 Invitation to Mayor's Parlour
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor T Morrow

The Right Worshipful the Mayor invited Members and Officers to light refreshments in the Mayor's Parlour at the conclusion of the meeting.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.59 pm.

Mayor