

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday, 28 July, 2020
at 5:30 pm**

**PRESENT IN
CHAMBER:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor Hon. N Trimble

Deputy Mayor
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, O Gawith, S P Porter and
J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, D J Craig, A Gowan, S Hughes,
S Lee, S Lowry, C McCready, U Mackin, John Palmer and
A Swan

**PRESENT IN REMOTE
LOCATION:**

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, and S Martin

Councillors R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson,
S Eastwood, A P Ewing, A Givan, M Gregg,
M Guy, D Honeyford, J Lavery BEM,
H Legge, J McCarthy, G McCleave, A McIntyre,
R McLernon, S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Head of Corporate Communication & Administration
Member Services Officers
IT Officer
Mayor's Chaplain

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed those present to the remote meeting of Council, which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

At this point, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, requested that all mobile phones be put on silent for the duration of the meeting. He also stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders.

Prayers

During consideration of this item of business Alderman S Martin and the Director of Service Transformation joined the meeting remotely at 5.40 pm and 5.49 pm respectively.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Margaret Girvan – mother of Alan Girvan, Parks & Amenities Unit, Leisure & Community Services,
- Janet Jackson – mother of Lee Jackson, Parks & Amenities Unit, Leisure & Community Services and
- Rosaleen Byrne – mother of Cathy Hardy, Environmental Health, Environmental Services
- Marie Parke – mother of Carolyn Thomas, Parks & Amenities Unit, Leisure & Community Services

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, on behalf of the Council, extended a welcome to Frances Byrne who had been appointed to the role of Head of Corporate Communication and Administration and who had taken up her new post at the beginning of July. The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed good wishes to Frances in her new role within the Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed to the meeting Rev Fiona Forbes, Harmony Hill Presbyterian Church, who gave an address and said a prayer, during which she remembered the above bereaved families. Councillor Trimble thanked Rev Forbes for her attendance and she left the meeting (5.52 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.2 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor since the previous meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor highlighted the undernoted additional engagements that he had attended recently:

- visit to the panoramic wheel in Wallace Park which was proving very popular
- visit to see the progress of the gardens at the Atlas Centre, Lisburn
- visit to a lady in Blaris Fold to join in her birthday celebrations
- visit to Lisburn Chamber of Commerce, along with Alderman W J Dillon to discuss with Mr Garry MacDonald about how the Council can support the town centres and local businesses across the council area in these difficult times
- visit earlier that day to Lagan Valley Hospital, along with the Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, Alderman S P Porter, to meet the management team and to chat with the Minister for Health about Lagan Valley

Hospital as the chosen site for day care procedures for all of Northern Ireland. The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed this good news story.

- the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, reported having attended a 'meet and greet' session with Mr Michael McConkey and Mr Irwin Edgar on their way through Lisburn as part of their 690 mile walk from Helen's Tower in Co Down to the Ulster Tower at the Somme. The Deputy Mayor stated that this had been a good opportunity to raise the profile of the Army Benevolent Fund and other NHS charities. At the request of the Deputy Mayor, The Right Worshipful the Mayor undertook to host a reception for Mr McConkey and Mr Edgar to recognise their worthwhile fundraising efforts, at a suitable and appropriate date in the future.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies on behalf of Aldermen D Drysdale, A Grehan and M Henderson MBE and Councillors J Gallen and T Mitchell.

3. Declarations of Interest

The following declaration of pecuniary interest was declared at this point:

- Councillor D J Craig in respect of Item 13.2 Notice of Motion on the subject of Lack of School Places in view of his membership of the Education Authority Board

4. Council Minutes

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 23 June, 2020 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 June 2020.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was agreed that the following legal document be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and the Department for Infrastructure of Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast, BT2 8GB – Licence for environmental improvement works at Gobrana Road/Belfast Road/Crumlin Road, Glenavy.
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Phillips Contracts (DPK) Limited of 76 Killyleagh Road, Downpatrick, County Down, BT30 9BN – Contract for works to Glenavy Village Renewal Scheme – environmental improvements.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Governance & Audit Committee

30 June 2020

Proposed by Councillor G McCleave

Seconded by Councillor S Lowry

Planning Committee

17 June 2020

The minutes of the Planning Committee meetings of 17 June, 2020 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 6 July, 2020. It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor John Palmer and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

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

Item for Decision

9.1 Covid-19 Emergency Planning Lessons Learned

Members were provided with a report outlining a number of successes achieved since the Council adopted its Emergency Plan on 18 March 2020 both at a strategic level and an operational level, some of the challenges experienced on a strategic level and operational level, and also a number of recommendations for improvement for a potential second wave of Covid-19. The report also identified some future challenges which the Council would continue to prepare for.

The Chief Executive responded to a number of comments from Members as follows:

Councillor M Gregg - in regard to lessons learned. Councillor Gregg asked that looking forward if the load could be shared amongst a number of Directors as there were a lot of pressures in particular areas as this plan was formed.

Councillor A Givan - in regard to closure of facilities. Councillor Givan requested that where possible that consideration be given to cemeteries, recycling centres, parks and sporting facilities remaining open during any second wave of the pandemic or any localised 'hot spots.' The Chief Executive stated that any such

actions had to be done in line with the Coronavirus Regulations and Restriction as set out by Government. It was the intention that, should this report be approved, Officers open up dialogue with the various NI Executive Departments to allow for collaboration to ensure as many facilities can stay open as possible during any second wave of the pandemic.

Councillor S Hughes - in regard to better informing Elected Members. Councillor Hughes enquired if a specific policy on communication would be put in place as there had been a great deal of frustration around some of the decisions that had been made in recent months. The Chief Executive advised that it was not intended to have a specific policy in place however Management Guidelines would be developed. The Chief Executive advised Councillor Hughes to approach him directly if he had any further concerns.

Alderman S P Porter – in regard to learning from those Community groups that had worked alongside the Council during the community response. The Chief Executive agreed that it was good practice to get feedback from our communities.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the Chief Executive's report on lessons learned be noted and that the recommendations contained therein be approved, namely;

1. a Covid-19 response framework to be developed to include internal concept of operations, tiered response in-line with BCP and possible recommencement of restrictions for future waves or cluster area lock downs. This was to include the identification of services that will likely need to close e.g. internal public facilities, while attempting to keep open outside spaces e.g. Household Recycling Centres, Parks and Cemeteries (under the condition of government restrictions permitting this),
2. business continuity planning as a discipline to be reviewed. This would ensure existing processes are capable of encompassing the learning of the response, address staff and supply chain outages and increases the resilience in these areas e.g. internal staff training to support Registration and external scrutiny of waste contractors' resilience planning,
3. consideration of adopting emergency governance arrangements into the Council's Emergency Plan for future similar events to provide clarity and direction,
4. a risk based approach to our corporate communications process to be adopted to better align with existing emergency governance arrangements so as to:-
 - a. ensure every participant is fully aware of the process and procedures adopted during the emergency
 - b. better inform Elected Members on a decision prior to it being communicated widely/publically

- c. reinforce governance measures to fit seamlessly with existing, well established governance arrangements
5. Officers to explore the DEA community co-ordination approach to service delivery within a Community Planning context and bring back a report to Members in due course. This should take cognisance of the successes achieved over the past 4 months linked to responsiveness, autonomy, cross cutting themes and information sharing with a view to supporting the most vulnerable within our communities,
 6. IT and digital strategy to be brought forward to promote and support agile/working from home practices. This would require a review of relevant HR&OD policies in partnership with our Trade Unions
 7. in partnership with SOLACE/NILGA, Officers to seek a review of the Scheme for Emergency Financial Assistance by DfC to ensure Local Government is not left exposed in responding to major emergencies; and
 8. Officers to link with The Executive Office with a view to achieving co-design of future Regulations, restrictions, escalation of items to NIHUB and more effective data sharing between agencies.

9.2 Arrangements for Council and Committee Meetings commencing September 2020

Further to the decision of the Council at its meeting held on 23 June 2020 that a normal schedule of Committee meetings recommence from September 2020 Members were provided with a report outlining dates for the various Committee meetings during September.

As part of ongoing recovery planning, careful consideration had been given to how Council and Committee meetings would be managed going forward whilst ensuring the safety of Members, staff and the public in line with the most up to date government guidance.

The Chief Executive outlined in his report a number of recommendations for Council and Committee meetings going forward.

It was proposed by Councillor S Lee, seconded by Councillor N Anderson, and agreed that in preparation for the implementation of the Schedule of Committee and Council meetings from September that:

In relation to Committee Meetings:

- all Members of each Committee are facilitated in the Chamber and that Officers attend remotely via Zoom with the exception of the Director or Lead Officer. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor as ex-officio Members can also be present in the Chamber should they wish to attend,
- any Member of the Committee who wishes to continue to access the meeting remotely can continue to do so, and

- non Committee Members must use Zoom to access the meeting.

In relation to Council Meetings:

- the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and 16 Elected Members be facilitated in the Chamber and
- remaining Members will attend remotely via Zoom.

It was also agreed that as these arrangements would be kept under regular review and amended in line with future government guidelines including social distancing requirements and in regard to any amendments that may be required in this regard prior to September, delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive in consultation with the Mayor.

Comments were noted from Councillor S Hughes in relation to the date for the Capital Projects Committee meeting on 8 September 2020 which may require to be changed due to the Capital Programme Workshops that were taking place in August. Information would be forthcoming from the workshops which would be relevant for the business of the Capital Projects Committee meeting in September.

9.3 Decision Log March – July 2020

The Chief Executive reminded Members that as previously reported to the Council at its meetings held on 25 May 2020 and 23 June 2020, all decisions taken under delegated authority due to the current Covid-19 emergency had been recorded in report format and issued to Members each Friday via Decision Time. In this regard Members were provided with a full list of the decisions taken to date, it being noted that a further updated list of decisions would be brought to the August Meeting of Council.

It was agreed that the full list of decisions taken under delegated authority be noted.

11. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

12. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

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

13. Notices of Motion

13.1 Ciclovia Event
Councillor S Lee

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S Lee had been circulated to Members with the Notice convening the meeting:

“This Council will consider, and explore the feasibility of hosting a Ciclovia event in Lisburn city centre in order to encourage healthier Lifestyles, engender community spirit, and attract visitors to the City.

To facilitate this, we will engage with the organisations who have previously supported the Belfast Ciclovia, including the Department for Infrastructure, Public Health Agency and PSNI, Translink, FORS, Sustrans and Roads Service.”

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor S Lee and seconded by Councillor S Hughes.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6) the Notice of Motion on the subject of a Ciclovia event would be referred to the Leisure & Community Development Committee for consideration.

13.2 Lack of School Places in Council Area
Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer

Councillor D J Craig, having declared an interest in this matter, left the meeting (6.14 pm).

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

“That Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council acknowledges the increasing demand for Nursery, Primary one and Post-Primary School admissions within the council area over the past number of years. This council recognises the negative impact this has had on families in our community in terms of the stress of uncertainty of getting a place for their child and, in many cases, children having to travel outside their immediate locale to be educated.

Accordingly, this council resolves to write to the Minister for Education and to the Education Authority to request information on what their immediate strategic Area Plan is to address the lack of places within our council area and to furthermore consider introducing double stream entry to allow for parental choice.”

The Notice of Motion was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and seconded by Councillor H Legge.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, elaborated on her Notice of Motion and at the outset stated that this matter was of major concern for parents, grandparents, carers, schools, pupils and elected members. The Deputy Mayor spoke about the number of families that had not been afforded their first choice of nursery, primary and post-primary schools, some of these families living only 100 yards from their first preference school. Afterschool care plans were thrown into chaos and this often resulted in additional travel costs to the Education Authority (EA). The EA had indicated that parental preference is not absolute and that it was constrained by the capacity of the schools and the inefficiency through a reduction in numbers attending other schools with places available. It does appear to be over provision in the area. The Deputy Mayor stressed that open enrolment was not working as parents do not have choice anymore and was of the opinion that the EA used this to mask some of their failures in addressing the root causes of schools that are failing.

The Deputy Mayor stated that there were simple solutions even on a temporary basis, for example, the Minister for Education had the power to reduce the numbers of those schools struggling to achieve and to offer those places to successful schools.

The Deputy Mayor advised of having been contacted by a distraught parent who had not been able to find place for their child in any of six local nursery schools in the past two years. That parent had even contemplated moving away from the area to somewhere where could offer local placements. This is a sad indictment on the Department for Education, the Education Authority and also the area planners who have failed to plan ahead strategically, nor did they take into consideration regional and local factors. The Deputy Mayor stated that the past few years have been reactive rather than proactive.

The Deputy Mayor paid tribute to the efforts of teachers who had been 'thrown in at the deep end' due to Covid-19 and had adapted new and different ways of teaching and had to be commended for their expertise offering support to parents for home tutoring. Teachers also had been under pressure in having to deal with distraught parents who have been unable to secure their first preference school. Teachers need our support.

The Deputy Mayor also highlighted that approximately 1800 homes were either in the planning stages or being built in the Lisburn and Castlereagh council area and at the same time communities were crying out and voicing their objections because of the lack of infrastructure in terms of roads, drainage and also provision of schools. Meanwhile we were still waiting on a 10 year strategic plan that was promised in 2009 to address this issue. There was a need for planners to make right decisions in partnership with other departments and developers so that we are building for the future needs of our schools and our children.

Furthermore, the Deputy Mayor outlined that integrated education had come to the fore in the Lisburn city area with the promise of a new Community College with the ethos of education from nursery to university. The outline business case had gone to the Department before the school became integrated in 2009 yet we had heard nothing since. The outline business case was probably well outdated and no longer met the future needs today and the Department should be proactively looking at future new builds to introduce double stream entry.

The evaluation of the schools estate is long overdue and is necessary to provide well into the future for next 50 years for the future education of our children and grandchildren. Estates management should be looking forward to a 50-year plan in terms of expansions and new builds to address the growth of our city.

Councillor H Legge, having seconded the Notice of Motion, thanked the Deputy Mayor for bringing this important matter before the Council and stated that she was pleased to be seconding the this motion not only because she was a governor of a primary school and chair of the board of governors of a local high school but also because she was a grandmother whose grandchildren were beginning their journey through the school system and unfortunately who had already been affected by the shortage of local school places.

Councillor Legge proceeded to highlight the issue of the rise in the birth rates and housing provision and the fact that the provision of places in nursery, primary one and post primary school levels had not kept pace with the needs of the local communities. Dundonald High School had faced closure in 2013 at a time when there were in the region of 200 pupils attending but due to huge parental, community and political support this school had been given a second chance. Councillor Legge said she was delighted to advise that this school was now sitting at full capacity come September 2020 with 600 mainstream pupils enrolled. Councillor Legge emphasised that this growth at Dundonald High School cannot be attributed to the birth rate solely but also to the excellent school leadership and an exceptional Board of Governors. An increase from 200 to 600+ pupils in six years shows that demand definitely existed. Councillor Legge also pointed out however that an increase in numbers attending schools will not deal with this problem. The issue for many schools is square footage. Dundonald High School addressed this issue and had its board room converted to a classroom to be able to cope with capacity. Councillor Legge also alluded to the anticipated further increase in the birth rate and emphasised that we need to play our part in helping to avoid our children and young people being disappointed in not getting a place at their preferred school and having their parents to fight for their choices.

A number of Members spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

Suspension of Meeting

The meeting was suspended for 7 minutes due to a technical issue with the live stream at 6.27 pm.

Resumption of Meeting

The meeting resumed at 6.34 pm.

At the outset Councillor S Carson put on record the tremendous work that had taken place across all our schools over the past number of months since the commencement of the Covid lockdown period when teaching changed dramatically and parents having to adjust to home schooling and juggling family and work commitments.

Councillor Carson having acknowledged all of the issues and sentiments raised by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and also Councillor H Legge, reported that he had been advised by his colleague, Paul Givan MLA, that the Director of Area Planning in the Education Authority and confirmed that a council-wide assessment had commenced of all primary provision across the Lisburn and Castlereagh area which would identify areas of growth and areas of decrease as well as putting forward suggested actions for progression. Councillor Carson also stated that the Officers within the EA focus on the NISRA live birth statistics as well as looking at current and projected housing in the area and also connectivity between schools as well. Councillor Carson felt that there was some comfort from this recent attention to the primary and nursery sectors. Councillor Carson outlined a number of comparable statistics in relation to applications and allocations across the all sectors which demonstrated that there had been a slight improvement on recent years with 345 applications over all sectors not receiving their first preference school.

Councillor S Lee was pleased to report that it had been announced just prior to lockdown that Millennium Integrated Primary School just outside Carryduff had been successful in securing a new school building to facilitate the increase in the number of classes. Councillor Lee stated that he was very aware of the concerns of parents in securing their first preference school for their children, particularly so in the Catholic Maintained sector and whilst agreeing with the sentiments of the Deputy Mayor's Notice of Motion stated that a possible solution going forward would be to simplify the education system currently in place. Councillor Lee felt that the current system was complex and that an integrated model was the way forward. Councillor Lee stated that he was in support of the Deputy Mayor's Notice of Motion.

Councillor S Lee left the meeting at 6.52 pm.

Councillor M Guy welcomed the Notice of Motion before the Council that evening which requested information on the EA's strategic area plan. Councillor Guy acknowledged that there were many more issues of concern in relation to education in Northern Ireland in particular the lack of progress with integrated education and the post primary transfer system. Councillor Guy also welcomed the announcement of additional school places in some of the over-subscribed schools for the 2020/21 school year which, in her opinion, was a short term solution.

Councillor M Guy highlighted the research that had been carried by the University of Ulster in 2018 on the theme of 'community conversation' which helped communities to contribute their views on sustainable education provision in their area. Councillor Guy requested that should the Notice of Motion be approved, the Education Authority be asked, in the communication from the Council, if they have any plans for similar community conversation exercises which would act as an additional source of data for their area plans. Councillor Guy stated that the issue in the Notice of Motion was a symptom of much bigger problems in our education system. A number of aspirations outlined in the document "New decade New Approach" document highlighted the need for a fundamental review education system.

Councillor M Guy, on behalf of Alderman A Grehan, who was unable to be in attendance that evening, requested that in the communication to the EA specific reference be made to the pressures on the school places for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). Special Education schools were doing their best but were over capacity, under-funded and under-resourced. As of 24 July there were currently 70 SEN pupils waiting on a school place this September.

Councillor McCleave also supported fully the Notice of Motion having experienced the issues first hand in recent times.

Councillor N Anderson having thanked the Deputy Mayor for raising this important issue also highlighted the serious issue of lack of school places in the Castlereagh South DEA and wished to echo a number of issues which had been raised by Councillor M Guy and Councillor S Lee. Councillor Anderson was particularly concerned that Cairnshill Primary School had been built during the 1960s yet no new building or refurbishment had been progressed. Councillor Anderson commended the quality of schools in this area and paid tribute to the work and commitment of the teachers and the EA locally.

Councillor S Lee returned to the meeting at 6.56 pm.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, indicated that she was in agreement that the two additional issues as outlined by Councillor M Guy be included in the communication to the Education Authority.

Councillor J McCarthy also supported the Notice of Motion and acknowledged that many parents were bitterly disappointed when the allocations were made known.

Alderman W J Dillon commended the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, for bringing forward this important motion. Alderman Dillon also commended the Education Minister and emphasised the importance of the Department for Education securing sufficient funding for education.

Councillor Carlin having spoken in support of the Notice of Motion highlighted the ongoing campaign in the Castlereagh South area for an Irish Medium School. The consultation had demonstrated a desire for an Irish Medium School, especially in the Carryduff and Four Winds areas.

Councillor Givan advised that he had been approached on many occasions by parents on this issue and advised that as a result he had written to the EA and received a response from the Head of Area Planning who had assured him that the EA had already commend the assessment process take account of all primary provision in the Lisburn and Castlereagh area. Councillor Givan stated that the Council can look forward to that assessment being published in due course.

In concluding the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, thanked Members for their contributions following which the Notice of Motion was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously. It was noted that the proposal to write to the Education Authority would include the two additional points as raised by Councillor M Guy:

- a) to enquire if the EA have plans for community conversation exercises which would act as an additional source of data for the area plans, and
- b) specific reference be made to the pressures on the school places for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Councillor D J Craig returned to the meeting at 7.06 pm.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Parking Fines, McKeown Street, Lisburn
Councillor John Palmer

Councillor John Palmer highlighted the concerns of residents and local business people who had been issued with parking fines in McKeown Street, Lisburn, by Smart Parking Limited on behalf of the owners of the multi storey car park in recent months. Councillor Palmer advised that he had been in contact with Mr Kevin Monaghan, Roads Service, regarding these matters which were causing annoyance and distress to those who had been issued with such a fine.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, stated that he had visited McKeown Street earlier that day, which he stated was a public street. The Mayor also queried if the company had carried out due diligence in regard to the actions they were taking.

Councillor M Guy left the meeting at 7.06 pm and returned at 7.10 pm.

Councillor A Swan also raised the issue of the YMCA not being able to use their premises in Bow Street due to the fire escape having been blocked off by a fence. This matter related to the issues relating to McKeown Street and had been considered by the Courts recently. Councillor Swan felt that the Council should be offering YMCA its support on this matter. Councillor S Carson also spoke on this matter which he stated had been on-going for a long time.

It was proposed by Councillor John Palmer, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed that a letter be furnished to the Minister for Infrastructure seeking clarity on what actions the Department could take to address this issue.

A discussion ensued during which a number of Members spoke in support of the above proposal, namely: Alderman J Tinsley, Councillor S Carson, Councillor J McCarthy, the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, and Alderman O Gawith.

Alderman Tinsley stressed that it was important that the Department pursued this matter and that it was important that refunds be provided by this company to those people who had paid such a fine.

Councillor S Carson advised that he had discussed this matter with Lisburn City Centre Management that afternoon who had indicated that they had received no response to their communication with this company. There was also the issue of GDPR being breached by this company. Councillor Carson stated that it was important that the Council supported its residents and businesses.

The Chief Executive reported that following Councillor John Palmer's approach to him about this matter, he had contacted Mr Kevin Monaghan, Roads Service, and that Mr Monaghan had advised that his Department were investigating the matter. Subsequent information from our City Centre Management Team indicated that DfI had advised that DfI had contacted the Enforcement Agency to inform them that these fines were not legitimate fines. The advice was that any Member who was approached by anyone who had received a fine in McKeown Street to say to that individual not to pay the fine.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, stated that she had been approached by two elderly individuals the previous week who had been very anxious about receiving fines. The Deputy Mayor stated that it was appropriate that the Council makes a statement on this matter on its website and other social media platforms.

Alderman O Gawith, having supported all the comments by Members on this issue, advised that Alderman A Grehan, who was unable to be in attendance at the meeting that evening, had wished to have it recorded that she too had been contacted by an individual and that she had advised that individual not to pay the fine.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, acknowledged that the Council was unanimous in supporting Councillor John Palmer's proposal, and stated that it was appropriate to have the comments by Members incorporated into the letter to the Department for Infrastructure.

14.2 Council Initiative to Support Families and Remember those who Lost their Lives during the Covid-19 Pandemic
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter outlined the difficulties and stress experienced by many families during the past few months of this world wide pandemic which involved everyone having to make many sacrifices. Especially difficult for some people was when a loved one passed away at a time when family and friends were not able to be close by to offer their personal help and support.

Alderman Porter whilst acknowledging that the pandemic was still on-going stated that it was important to plan ahead and stated that he had a proposal for a Council initiative to be put in place at the end of the pandemic which would provide the opportunity for those residents to remember family members and friends whom they lost during the pandemic due to Covid-19 as well as for other reasons. Alderman Porter indicated that he had spoken also to the Vice Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee about his proposal which was similar to the Garden of Reflection and sought approval from the Council for the Corporate Services Committee, along with The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Council Officers to progress such an initiative during the next few months.

Alderman S P Porter also advised that he had been approached about a Garden of Reflection to be established for those families who had lost loved ones due to suicide in the Council area and was of the opinion that it was right and proper for this Council to consider how it could offer support during these difficult times.

Alderman Porter stated that such an initiative should be progressed along with other appropriate community groups.

A number of Members spoke on Alderman S P Porter's proposals. The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, whilst acknowledging the difficult issues raised by Alderman Porter, stated that the Council already had a Garden of Reflection which had been established as a special place for families to remember the loss of a child, a new born or still born baby and suggested that it may be appropriate to consider the erection of a plaque with along with a ceremony within this Garden of Reflection to remember the lives lost in the Council area during the pandemic and was hopeful that these suggestions would be incorporated into the consultation around this issue.

Councillor U Mackin having thanked Alderman S P Porter for bringing his proposals forward thanked the Deputy Mayor for her comments also. Councillor Mackin indicated that he had been involved in bringing forward the Garden of Reflection for the loss of children, new born and still born babies and stated that it was right and proper that the Council recognises the hurt that had been caused to many families across the City area. Councillor Mackin advised that he had been contacted by quite a few people who had been distressed as they were not able to attend a funeral of a family member or friend. Councillor Mackin also acknowledged the importance of recognising the hurt caused to many families due to suicide. Councillor Mackin stated that he fully supported the proposals by Alderman Porter but that careful consideration was required about how the initiatives were described and where they were located as we had two sets of unique sets of circumstances.

In response The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, stated that there was agreement with the sentiments expressed by the three speakers on this matter but that there were different suggestions as to the way forward with these proposals. The Right Worshipful the Mayor also stated that it was not necessary to have a resolution of Council to have an item tabled at a Committee and that he was content that Officers had been given direction and would now consider options taking account of all the comments by Members at the meeting and that a report would be brought forward to the relevant Committee in due course. It was noted that the report would also consider a suitable venue for a Garden of Reflection.

Alderman S P Porter reiterated that the initiatives would be progressed by himself, as Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, the Vice Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee and The Right Worshipful the Mayor and Council Officers, along with input from relevant community groups.

14.3 Tribute to BT16 Covid Response Group Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry referred to the ending this week of the distribution of food boxes and also the ending of the shielding period and wished to acknowledge the good work of the BT16 Covid Response Group who had carried out a fantastic job for many local residents during the past few months. This group consisted of over 75 volunteers who on daily basis had delivered prescriptions, food boxes and hot meals, etc. Councillor Lowry put on record her thanks to her Council

colleagues, the business and voluntary community representatives and in particular the two DEA co-ordinators, Stephen Addley and Neil Reid who, she felt, had went above and beyond during that time.

14.4 Royal Mail
Councillor S Skillen

At the outset Councillor S Skillen commended the work of Royal Mail particularly during the current pandemic.

Councillor S Skillen reported having received complaints from constituents who had been waiting on correspondence about hospital appointments or other important documents. Having spoken to staff at Royal Mail it appeared that parcels were being prioritised over letters. It was agreed at the request of Councillor S Skillen that the Council writes to Royal Mail seeking clarification on this issue.

14.5 Actions Arising out of Environmental Services Committee and Leisure & Community Development Committee Briefings
Councillor S Skillen

Councillor S Skillen outlined the issues that she had raised at the Environmental Services Committee briefing and the Leisure & Community Development Committee briefing held on 8 and 9 July, respectively. It was agreed that the undernoted issues be recorded hereto for appropriate action, namely;

- a) request for report on an HRC site in Dundonald
- b) request that the Leisure & Community Development Committee writes to the Department for Infrastructure regarding a possible partnership to progress work at the central reservation on the Dundonald Carriageway for safety implications
- c) request that the Council work with community groups in Dundonald with a view to Officers bringing forward a report on a proposal to develop a Fairy Glen and Snake Rock in Moat Park as a visitor attraction (similar to the Gruffalo Trail at Colin Glen).
- d) request for a report on a bonfire interagency working group and current position
- e) request for a report on the back and side gates to be opened at the Billy Neill Park for access local residents

The Chief Executive by way of clarification advised that the briefing sessions of the various Committees to Elected Members had focused on a financial update as a result of the pandemic but that a number of unrelated issues had been raised by Members each of which would be progressed by the respective Directors and an update report would come before the relevant Committee in due course.

14.6 Planning Approval for Carryduff Shopping Centre
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson welcomed the fact that approval had been granted recently for the planning application in respect of Carryduff Shopping Centre.

Councillor Anderson stated that there was a need to get the heart back into Carryduff and to get the shops up and going again and that it was important that everyone supports local business. Councillor Anderson having acknowledged that the Council's Development Committee had been supportive of this project and that the Council had been very supportive of the re-development of Carryduff, proposed that the Council to do all in its power to support this development and engage with the developer at this early stage to ensure the project progressed in a timely manner. Councillor Anderson also proposed that such communication include the names of those Members representing Castlereagh South DEA. Councillor Anderson was hopeful of everyone working together on this project which would go some way to allow Carryduff to reach its potential.

14.7 Aerospace Industry
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor S Lee left the meeting during consideration of this item (7.39 pm).

Councillor D J Craig expressed concern in regard to the current crises being experienced by the aerospace industry in Northern Ireland which he stated would have a massive adverse impact on our Council area and emphasised the importance of a support package for that industry being put in place. Councillor Craig reported that there had been over 400 employees from the former Lisburn City Council area employed in the local aerospace manufacturing industry and that currently there were in excess of 1000 from across the Lisburn & Castlereagh Council area employed locally at Bombardier. Due to the lack of demand for flights this industry would be compelled to announce redundancies. Councillor Craig referred to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's financial rescue package for the aircraft industry for the UK/Mainland.

Councillor D J Craig proposed that the Council writes to the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland requesting that a formal rescue package is put in place for the aerospace industry in Northern Ireland similar to that which is being put in place in the UK. Councillor Craig stated that it was vital that NI was treated with equity on this issue and that the absence of such a rescue package would have a massive detrimental impact on the aerospace industry in Northern Ireland and also for this Council area. Councillor D J Craig's proposal was seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and agreed.

Councillor S Lee returned to the meeting at 7.42 pm.

14.8 Council Support to those affected by the local economy due to the Covid-19 Pandemic
Councillor S Eastwood

Councillor S Eastwood referred to the issue of redundancies and the detrimental effect that this would have on the economy as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic and stated that she wished to put on record that she and her party colleagues had been in contact with the Department for Communities and the Department

for the Economy in relation to the Chancellor's statement earlier this month on a financial package being made available to support all of the devolved regions. To date there was no sign of this financial package for Northern Ireland.

Councillor Eastwood outlined a number of findings from the Resolution Foundation Report which referred to the extent of people across the Council area who had been placed on Furlough, in the region of 17,000 people, and the fact that 15% of those people on Furlough would not have a job to go back to. Councillor Eastwood having acknowledged the particular issues of the aerospace industry as outlined by Councillor D J Craig, stated that there were also serious issues for all industries across Northern Ireland and also this Council area. Councillor Eastwood suggested that one way to address these issues would be a joined up approach with the Department for Communities, Department for Economy and local government right across Northern Ireland. Councillor Eastwood stated that the information needed was held locally and referred to the Council's excellent Economic Development Unit.

Councillor Eastwood reported that the Department for the Economy had advised that the Department had plans for a 'localised landing page' to be developed for those who have lost their job or are in the process of being made redundant. Councillor Eastwood proposed that the Council as an interim stage progresses a communication for the Council's website which would contain relevant basic information on who to contact, for example, Advice NI, SERC, the Open University, and also local job opportunities.

Councillor S Eastwood outlined a number of local businesses that had to make redundancies or had closed during the pandemic and stated that there was a proportionate strong link between employment and mental health. This was something that Councillor Eastwood said she felt passionately about and urged the Council to act now to help support the many people affected by making important information as accessible as possible.

In response the Chief Executive gave an assurance to Councillor Eastwood that he had had a discussion on the issues raised with the Director of Service Transformation earlier that day and that specific coverage containing information in support of such circumstances was being progressed currently for the Council's website.

14.9 Hillsborough Forest and Play Park Councillor A Gowan

Councillor A Gowan advised that he had been in Hillsborough Forest on Sunday past with his young family and stated that it was regrettable that the Play Park in Hillsborough remained closed especially during the summer months. Councillor Gowan whilst acknowledging that the Council were doing an excellent job with the Hillsborough Forest Play Park, asked for an update on when the play park would be open.

The Chief Executive updated Councillor Gowan in relation to the Council's decision to install toilets, which included disabled facilities, and which was extending the duration of this project until October. It was noted that such work required a consent from DAERA in respect of the drainage for the new toilet

block. Options had been considered over the past couple of days and a discussion had taken place with the Chief Executive and Directors earlier that day regarding a possible interim solution in terms of providing portable toilets as well as a temporary janitor hut on site. Whilst such temporary measures would incur additional cost it was proposed to bring forward options for early opening of the play park to the Chairman and Vice Chairman of both the Leisure & Community Development Committee and the Development Committee for consideration in the coming days.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, thanked those present for their attendance.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.50 pm.

Mayor