

LISBURN CITY & CASTLEREAGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

**Minutes of Meeting of Shadow Planning Committee held in the Chestnut Room,
Lisburn City Council offices, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Monday
10th November 2014 at 5.00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillor D Drysdale (Chairman)

Presiding Councillor/Member of Committee
Councillor J Tinsley

Councillors : N Anderson, T Beckett, W Dillon, A Ewing, A Grehan, B Hanvey, M Henderson, T Jeffers, U Mackin, T Mitchell, L Poots, G Rice

OTHER MEMBERS: Councillors : S Martin,

IN ATTENDANCE: Lisburn City & Castlereagh District Council

Chief Executive

Lisburn City Council

Director of Environmental Services
Committee Secretary
Transition Manager

Planning Service

Dermot O'Kane

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Councillor D Drysdale, welcomed all present to the Meeting.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the Meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor P Catney, Councillor R Butler, Councillor A Girvin, Councillor A McIntyre and Councillor John Palmer.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

The Chairman sought Declarations of Interest from Members and reminded them to complete the supporting form which had been left at each desk.

No Declarations of Interest were made.

3. Minutes of Meeting of Shadow Planning Committee held on 13 October 2014.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor G Rice and agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Shadow Planning Committee held on 13 October 2014 as adopted by the Shadow Council at their Meeting held on 22 October 2014 be signed.

4. Reports of Chief Executive

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

(Councillor Martin entered the meeting at 5.25 pm)

4.1 Presentation by Dermot O’Kane, Planning Service on Enforcement Matters.

It was agreed to accept a presentation on Enforcement from Mr O’Kane, Planning Service.

The Chairman welcomed Mr O’Kane to the meeting.

With the aid of a powerpoint presentation, Mr O’Kane provided information on how Planning legislation is enforced within the Planning Service.

This was followed by a question and answer session focusing on the following:

- Legacy cases
- The effectiveness of fixed penalties
- Interviews in relation to breaches
- Retrospective applications
- Concept Plans
- Wayleaves re sewerage and storm drain breaches
- Continuity across different geographical areas
- The number of cases anticipated to be handed over to Council

At the culmination of the question and answer session, the Chairman thanked Mr O’Kane for attending.

4.2 NILGA Draft Response to the Planning Element of the Code of Conduct Guidance.

Presented by the Transition Manager

It was agreed that Members consider the documentation circulated and respond to the Transition Manager by return. Alderman Rice requested that the issue of Indemnity for Councillors be included.

Councillor Martin wished to record his thanks to the NILGA Planning Working Group Members for the work they have carried out on this matter.

4.3 Consultation on Costs Awards in Planning and Related Appeals

Presented by the Transition Manager.

It was agreed that Officers draft a response to the above Consultation and that Members wishing to make any comments should forward these to the Transition Manager by Friday 21 November 2014 to enable a response to be drafted in advance of the December Committee Meeting.

4.4 Consultation on Planning Reform and Transfer to Local Government

Presented by the Transition Manager

It was agreed that Officers draft a response to the above Consultation and that Members wishing to make any comments should forward these to the Transition Manager by Friday 21 November 2014 to enable a response to be drafted in advance of the December Committee Meeting.

4.5 DoE Minister of the Environment Mark H Durkan – Draft Budget 2015-2106 – Local Government Grants

Presented by the Chief Executive.

Members had been provided with a copy of correspondence dated 29 October 2014 from the Minister of the Environment, Mark H Durkan regarding the Draft Budget 2015/16 – Local Government Grants.

Councillors Rice, Tinsley, Dillon, Anderson, Havey and Martin expressed their concern at this development highlighting that it had been previously stated that the transfer of functions would be cost neutral. Councillor Rice advised that she would be raising the issue at meetings of the Partnership Panel.

After discussion it was agreed that

- (a) Officers put together a strongly worded draft response to the letter highlighting Members' concerns.
- (b) A letter also be sent to NILGA seeking their support

- (c) The Minister of the Environment, Mark H Durkan, be invited to come to a future meeting the Shadow Council to discuss how he considered Councils might deal with any financial shortfall.

4.6 Report on Visit by Members of Council to the London Borough of Sutton

Presented by Chief Executive.

The Committee noted the content of the above Report providing information on the recent visit, by Members, to the London Borough of Sutton.

The Chairman highlighted the need for some of the operational matters to be discussed at future meetings of the Committee.

Councillor Mackin concurred emphasising the importance of the Pre-Consultation period and communication to stakeholders.

Councillor Martin highlighted potential issues in relation to Legal Services and after some further discussion the Chief Executive advised that an Options Paper would be brought to a future meeting of the Committee.

4.7 Retrofit – Transforming NI’s Heating Systems

Presented by the Transition Manager

The Committee noted information circulated providing information on Retrofit. The Transition Manager outlined that Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council had taken this one stage further by setting up the Affordable Warmth Programme. The Director of Environmental Services (LCC) gave a brief summary of the operation of the scheme.

(Councillor Grehan left the meeting at 6.15 pm)

4.8 The Fermanagh Trust

Presented by The Transition Manager

The Committee noted information circulated providing information on The Fermanagh Trust.

4.9 Presentation on BMAP

Presented by The Transition Manager

The Committee noted that, as requested by Members at the last Committee Meeting, Mrs Barbara Elliott would be making a presentation on the issues connected with BMAP at the next Meeting of the Committee, in December 2014.

Members noted that information on a Training Programme, suggested by Mrs Elliott, would be e-mailed to them.

5. Any Other Business

Councillor D Drysdale

Building Control Convention – Hilton Hotel, 13 and 14 November 2014

The Chairman, Councillor Drysdale advised Members of a forthcoming Conference on Building Control.

There being no further business, the Meeting concluded at 6.20 pm.

PRESIDING COUNCILLOR/CHAIRMAN