

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, Lisburn on Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 18:00

PRESENT: Councillor R T Beckett (Chairperson);
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan;
Aldermen H Legge and S P Porter; and
Councillors D Bassett, D J Craig, N Eaton, J Gallen, B Higginson, S Lowry, A McIntyre, T Mitchell and G Thompson.

ALSO ATTENDED: Councillors P Catney and G Hynds.

IN ATTENDANCE: Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Head of Communities
Acting Head of Parks and Amenities
Head of Sports Services
Member Services Officers (BF & EW)

1. Apologies

Apologies were received on behalf of the Deputy Mayor (Councillor G McCleave); Aldermen A Grehan and S Skillen; and Councillor R Carlin.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3.0 Head of Communities

3.1 NIHE - Draft Community Involvement and Cohesion Strategy 2024/29

The Committee was advised that notification had been received from the Northern Ireland Housing Executive regarding a consultation exercise in respect of the above-mentioned strategy.

The Committee noted the comments which had been made in relation to ensuring that any initiative or funding endorsed as part of the strategy should be equitable across Northern Ireland.

It was moved by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed:

- that a response be submitted to the consultation exercise with Members' comments to be sought by 12th June;
- that delegated authority is granted to the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson, to submit the response in advance of the deadline of 5th July; and
- that the response be placed on the information and Correspondence schedule for Members' information.

4.0 Any Other Business – Non–Confidential Matters

4.1 Council Funding Streams

A Member requested an update in relation to the plans for the hosting of a Members' workshop to consider the management of the Council's overall funding streams, a matter which had been raised at the Committee's meeting on 9th April. In response, the Director indicated that, subject to the identification of a suitable date, it was anticipated that the workshop would take place in June.

4.2 Committee Agenda

The Director clarified several queries which had been raised in relation to the number of items being presented to Committee for consideration.

4.3 Dundonald International Ice Bowl

In response to a question in relation to the above-mentioned development, the Director indicated that it was anticipated that an update report in respect of the project would be presented to the Committee in June.

4.4 Flower Beds and Grass Cutting

A Member referred to the recent inclement weather which had delayed the undertaking of seasonal work on flower beds and the provision of grass cutting across the Council's parks and amenities. The Acting Head of Parks and Amenities provided an overview of the work that would be scheduled across the department to address any delays experienced in carrying out the work in question.

4.5 Northern Ireland Disability Darts Team

Councillor G Hynds placed on the record his congratulations to the members of the Northern Ireland Disability Darts Teams, six of whom resided within the Council district, on their recent successes in the European Championships which had taken place in Spain.

5.0 Confidential Report of the Director

The Chairperson advised that the reasons for confidentiality for the following matters were by virtue of the Section 6, Part 1, of the Local Government Act (2014) Northern Ireland, namely, in that it contained information relating to the financial or business affairs of any person (including the Council holding that information).

It was moved by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Alderman H Legge, and agreed that the confidential report of the Director be considered 'in committee'.

5.1 Aghalee Changing Facilities

It was moved by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the Committee note the contents of a report in the above-mentioned matter and endorse the following course of action:

- that the Project Initiation Request & Strategic Outline Case (PIRSOC) be approved;
- that the uplift in costs as outlined be approved; and
- that the scheme would progress to business case stage.

(The Right Worshipful the Mayor left the meeting at 18:24.)

5.2 Seycon Park Changing Facilities

It was moved by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed that the Committee note the contents of a report in the above-mentioned matter and endorse the following course of action:

- that the Project Initiation Request & Strategic Outline Case (PIRSOC) be approved;
- that the uplift in costs as outlined be approved; and
- that the scheme would progress to business case stage.

6.0 Any Other Business – Confidential Matters

6.1 Format of Committee Meetings and Agendas

The Committee noted the comments of a Member in relation to the format of committee meetings and agendas.

The Committee noted further the Chairperson's comments in relation to the ability of Members to raise miscellaneous matters under 'any other business'.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was moved by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that normal business be resumed.

The meeting ended at 18:40.

Chairperson