

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Communities & Wellbeing Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Tuesday 14th April 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (COMMITTEE):

Councillor T Mitchell (Chair)
Councillor A Givan (Vice-Chair)
The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Alderman A Grehan
Alderman A McIntyre
Councillors T Beckett, J Craig, J Gallen, K Dickson, B Higginson, C Kemp, G McCleave and G Thompson

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE)

Deputy Mayor Alderman H Legge
Alderman S Skillen and Councillor S Lowry

(NON-COMMITTEE)

Alderman J Tinsley and Councillor P Catney

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (NON-COMMITTEE)

Councillor G Hynds

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Head of Communities
Head of Sports Services
Head of Parks & Amenities (Acting)
Business Support Manager, Parks & Amenities
Member Services Officers (HB & EW)
I.T. Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

Unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per 8.5 of the Council's Standing Orders. Mobile phones were to be turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting. Members attending remotely were asked to keep their cameras on. Finally, the Chair asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert the

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance were accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillor R Carlin and Councillor The Hon N Trimble.

2. Declarations of Interest

No Declarations of Interest were made.

3. Report of Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

3.1 DEA Investment Programme for 2026/2027

Members had been furnished with a report providing an update on the DEA Local Investment Plan. In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:

- Equality Screening DEA Local Investment Programme
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment DEA Programme

A number of Members welcomed the update on the DEA Investment Programme and the Director responded to Members' questions, noting comments about groups needing funding as soon as possible.

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Alderman S Skillen, and agreed to recommend that:

- the budget for the proposed DEA Local Investment Programme 2026/27 for phase 1 and phase 2, as outlined in Table 2 , be agreed;
- given the need in community facilities, the delivery of the Council's Community Facility Fund (as listed under Phase 2) be released as soon as possible in May 2026 alongside the Technical DIY Fund (as listed under Phase 1); the Programme being rolled out as one phase, and

3.1 DEA Investment Programme for 2026/2027 (Cont'd)

- the Committee seeks delegated authority from the Council at its meeting in May 2026 in order to release funding for the Anti-Poverty and Inclusion fund to the groups at the earliest opportunity.

Alderman J Tinsley joined the meeting remotely at 6.30 pm.

3.2 Community Investment Fund – Ballinderry War Memorial Hall

Members were provided with a narrative report outlining the background and key issues in connection with the regeneration and restoration of about Ballinderry War Memorial Hall.

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig and seconded by Councillor T Beckett and agreed to recommend that the issuing of a formal Letter of Offer to Ballinderry War Memorial Hall, be approved.

Councillor J Craig asked why Letters of Offer needed to be approved at Committee, rather than brought for noting, which would speed things up for groups applying.

The Director explained that when the original Community Investment Programme had been set up, the aim was to carry out due diligence and reduce any risk. The Director offered to look into the possibility of delegated authority in this regard.

4. Report of Head of Communities

4.1 Community Services Strategy

In addition to the narrative report, Members had been provided with a Draft Community Development & Good Relations Framework 2026-2029, Equality Screening Draft Framework and a Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

The Head of Communities explained that community development and good relations had operated separately in the past. However, following robust consultation, a new collaborative framework would enable streamlining and also allow for a community planning approach.

The Head of Communities responded to Members' questions and assured them that service delivery would be enhanced.

It was proposed by Alderman S Skillen, seconded by Councillor C Kemp and agreed to recommend that the Draft Community Development & Good Relations Framework 2026-2029 be approved.

Councillor C Kemp left and returned to the Council Chamber during this item of business at 6.28 pm and 6.30 pm respectively.

6. Any Other Business (Non-Confidential)

6.1 Lough Moss Business Case
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson asked for an update on the options appraisal for Lough Moss Leisure Centre. The Head of Sports Services explained that he met recently with colleagues in Capital Development and confirmed that consultants are progressing the business case.

Councillor B Higginson explained that he would be keen to see a report brought back to committee before the summer recess. The Director advised that she would liaise with the Director of Regeneration and Growth to agree a timetable.

6.2 Fleadh Events
Alderman A McIntyre

Alderman A McIntyre thanked the Head of Communities and the Acting Head of Parks & Amenities for their work on the Fleadh.

6.3 All Ability Football Competition
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked the team for their work on the All Ability Football Competition in which eight disability teams were involved. She hoped that this was something which the Council would continue to do every year.

6.4 Activity Classes for Over 50s
Councillor G Thompson

Councillor G Thompson, the Age Friendly Champion for Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, thanked the Director and other officers for listening to requests from residents to re-instate the activity classes for Over 50s.

6.5 Tea Room at Hilden Mill and Rambler's Bridge & Mclroy Park
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds asked for an update about signage for the Tea Room at Hilden Mill. He also asked for an update about Rambler's Bridge which needs tidied up and about new signage at Mclroy Park.

The Head of Communities confirmed that work is ongoing and locations are being explored.

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities confirmed that the work at Rambler's Bridge would be carried out by the end of the month.

6.6 All Ability Football Competition
Alderman A Givan

Alderman A Givan thanked The Right Worshipful the Mayor for inaugurating the All Ability Football Competition event which he attended and hoped that this was something which future Mayors would continue to do.

The Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, left the meeting at 6.46 pm.

6.7 Historical features in Lambeg
Councillor P Catney

6.7.1 Old Carriageway in Lambeg

Councillor P Catney explained that the old carriageway at Lambeg (underneath the railway track) is in a state of disrepair and could be a real gem. He advised that he was meeting with Translink about the possible use of this old carriageway.

The Chair replied that the Director of Communities & Wellbeing would liaise with the Director of Regeneration regarding the old carriageway in Lambeg and the historical pillars at the former Vauxhall site.

6.7.2 Historical pillars at Former Vauxhall Site, Lambeg

There are two pillars at the former Vauxhall site on the Belfast Road in Lambeg which were the original pillars into the old Manse. On top of the pillars are signs for the Holy Trinity and Councillor P Catney asked if these pillars could be protected.

6.7.3 Aberdelghy Golf Course

Councillor P Catney asked for an update about the options for potential upgrade at Aberdelghy Golf Course. The Head of Sports advised that Members would be furnished with a timeline as per the previous item regarding Lough Moss.

6.7.4 Stained Glass Window, First Lisburn Presbyterian Church

Councillor P Catney also asked for an update about the stained-glass window at Lisburn First Presbyterian Church to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the establishment of the USA.

In regard to the stained glass windows at Lisburn First Presbyterian Church, the Head of Communities confirmed that Heritage & Environment Division do not require listed building consent and that work is progressing in partnership with the church for the stained-glass window.

6.8 Tea Room at Hilden Mill and Council Play Parks
Councillor J Craig

Councillor J Craig suggested putting in additional facilities at the grassy area at the Hilden Tea Room. He also pointed out that some of the play parks owned by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council are in need of repair and need to be painted, re-varnished, power hosed, etc.

The Director explained that there is a regular scheme of works with colleagues in Assets with staff regularly checking the playgrounds. She requested if any Member was aware of anything of concern to liaise directly with the Acting Head of Parks and Amenities.

6.9 Play Park at Manor Park, Lisburn
Councillor T Mitchell

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, asked if there is a feasibility study about a play park at Manor Park which local people are asking about. The Director confirmed that this project is on the works programme and that Parks staff have looked at a brief which would then move to feasibility stage only after consideration by Members.

6.10 Billy Neill Park
Alderman S Skillen

Alderman S Skillen asked if there will be a consultation about access to Billy Neill Park. The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities confirmed that the consultation is planned for May and results should be presented at a future Committee.

6.11 Carryduff Park – Thanks to Director and Team
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson thanked the Director and team for work carried out at Carryduff Park on Easter Tuesday.

Councillor J Craig left the meeting at 7.20 pm.

6.12 Carryduff Ladies Gaelic Football team
Councillor J Gallen

Councillor J Gallen thanked the Mayor and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, for hosting a civic reception for the Carryduff Ladies Gaelic Football team.

6.13 Duncan's Dam and Car Parking
Councillor Hynds

6.13.1 Duncan's Dam

Councillor G Hynds asked for an update on Duncan's Dam. The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities confirmed that the Biodiversity Officer carried out a site visit and birds are currently nesting. A specialist contractor has been employed to clear the water in Duncan's Dam without disturbing the natural habitat.

6.13.2 Car Parking

Councillor G Hynds also added that people parking their cars continues to be an issue at Thornleigh Drive and at Glenmore.

The Chair suggested that pupils at Wallace High School park at Thornleigh Drive and suggested contacting the school and the Department for Infrastructure.

The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities explained that PCSP Unit has been informed about commuters parking at Glenmore and that this work is ongoing.

6.14 Lyngrove Hill Play Park, Glenavy
Councillor G McCleave

Councillor G McCleave highlighted that the play park at Lyngrove Hill in Glenavy needs to be re-painted. The Acting Head of Parks & Amenities confirmed that this is part of the ongoing works across parks.

Councillor P Catney left the meeting (remotely) at 7.05 pm.

7. Confidential Business

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, advised that the confidential reports were required to be considered under confidential business due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, including the Council holding that information.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig, seconded by Councillor J Gallen and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings and the member of the press left the Council Chamber (7.05 pm).

7.1 Communities: Tender Evaluation Criteria - Celebrating Us: Cultural Awareness
(Redacted report will become available on award of contract)

An Equality Screening and Rural Needs Impact Assessment had been provided to Members along with a narrative report.

The Head of Communities explained that 'Celebrating Us: Cultural Awareness' is one of the largest programmes in PEACEPLUS. It provides longer term benefits in building capacity.

It was proposed by Alderman S Skillen, seconded by Councillor B Higginson, and agreed to recommend that the tender evaluation award criteria as outlined, be approved.

7.2 Parks & Amenities: Business Case - Lock & Unlock Facilities
(Redacted report will become available in December 2026)

A report and business case for Lock & Unlock Facilities had been provided to Members.

It was recommended that Members note the contents of the report and agree Option 1 of the Business Case being progressed through a tender process.

Alderman A McIntyre proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Councillor B Higginson.

Alderman J. Tinsley left the meeting (remotely) at 7.20 pm.

7.3 Parks & Amenities: Business Case – Static Attendants
(Redacted report will become available in December 2026)

A report and business case for Static Attendants had been provided to Members.

It was recommended that Members agree to Option 2 of the Business Case being progressed through a tender process.

This recommendation was proposed by Councillor B Higginson and seconded by Alderman A Givan.

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting at 7.27 pm.

7.4 Sports Services: Tender Evaluation – Cleaning Supplies
(Redacted report will become available following procurement)

A narrative report had been provided to Members.

It was recommended that Members agree the tender evaluation award criteria as outlined.

7.4 Sports Services: Tender Evaluation – Cleaning Supplies (Cont'd)

Councillor B Higginson proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Alderman A Givan.

7.5 Sports Services: Tender Evaluation – Confectionery
(Redacted report will become available following procurement)

A narrative report had been provided to Members, and it was recommended that the tender evaluation award criteria be agreed.

Councillor C Kemp proposed the recommendation which was seconded by Alderman A Givan.

8 Any Other Business (Confidential)

No items.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman A Givan, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, thanked those present for their attendance and - there being no further business - the meeting concluded at 7.36 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIR