

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber, Lagan Valley
Island on Tuesday 27 August, 2024 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT;

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

Deputy Mayor
Councillor R Carlin

Aldermen J Baird, O Gawith, M Gregg, A Grehan, H Legge,
S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, S Burns, P Catney, N Eaton,
A P Ewing, A Givan, A Gowan, J Harpur, B Higginson,
G Hynds, C Kemp, P Kennedy, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry,
U Mackin, A Martin, G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever,
R McLernon, T Mitchell, N Parker, G Thompson and
Hon N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Head of Communications and Administration
Head of Waste and Operational Services
Member Services Officers (BS, EW)
Technician
IT Officer

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the August meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor A P Ewing entered the meeting at 7.02 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed his Chaplain, Rev Stephen Reain-Adair to the meeting. Rev Reain-Adair addressed the Council and said a prayer following which The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Rev Reain-Adair for his attendance, and Rev Reain-Adair left the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, on behalf of the Council, extended condolences to Vincent Copeland, employed in the Procurement Unit in Assets, on the passing of his brother, Malachy.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, since the June meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen A G Ewart MBE, A McIntyre and S Skillen and Councillors P Burke, R T Beckett, D J Craig and J Gallen, the Director of Finance & Corporate Services and the Director of Environmental Services (Acting).

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Members' Declarations of Interest declared at the meeting.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council – 25 June 2024

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 25 June 2024 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the above minutes.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley, and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and OML Belfast Limited (trading as The Belfast Giants), 2 Queens Quay, Belfast BT3 9QQ – Service and Exclusivity Agreement
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and South Eastern Regional College, 25 Castle Street, Lisburn BT27 4SU – Lisburn and Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership Employability Academy – Welding Academy

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Special Governance & Audit Committee

27th June 2024

Proposed by Alderman S P Porter
Seconded by Councillor D Bassett

Planning Committee

3rd June 2024

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 3rd June, 2024 had been circulated for noting as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 1st July, 2024. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that their contents be noted.

Planning Committee

1st July 2024

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 1st July, 2024 had been circulated for noting as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 5th August, 2024. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that their contents be noted, subject to Councillor S Burns being recorded as the Vice-Chairperson of the Committee.

9. Report from Chief Executive

9.1 Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings

The Council considered a report by the Chief Executive outlining the background and key issues in connection with new regulations which would enable Councils to hold remote/hybrid meetings, it being noted that the Council had reverted to 'in person' meetings in March 2024 to ensure compliance with the relevant legislation at that time.

9.1 Council Remote/Hybrid Meetings (Cont'd)

A copy of the new Regulations had been appended to the Chief Executive's report.

The Chief Executive advised that any change to the Council's governance arrangements in regard to remote/hybrid meetings required a change to Standing Orders. A copy of the proposed changes to Standing Orders and the Remote Meetings Protocol had also been appended to the report for Members' consideration.

At the request of a Member, the Chief Executive undertook to progress the streamlining of Standing Orders with a view to replacing repetitive wording (such as lists of conditions concerning remote attendance) to a reference back to an earlier item listing the same conditions, an example having been outlined in detail by the Member.

The Chief Executive also undertook to give consideration to the following issues raised by Members:

- an issue relating to the protocol of the operation of the Planning Committee in connection with remote attendance by a Committee Member(s), and
- the issue of remote attendance by a Member(s) during consideration of confidential business

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed that all Council and Committee meetings, going forward, be open for Members to attend remotely or in person (hybrid model).

Suspension of Standing Order 27.2

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that Standing Order 27.2 be suspended in order that the amended Standing Orders incorporating the Remote Meetings Protocol to reflect the Local Government (Remote Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024, as circulated, be adopted. On a show of hands there were 31 Members in favour of the proposal and two Members having abstained.

The Chief Executive clarified that the remote/hybrid meetings model would be effective from Tuesday 3rd September 2024 and not Wednesday, 4th September 2024 as outlined in the report.

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. Notices of Motion

12.1 No. 1 on the Subject of Good Relations

A copy of the undernoted Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor N Parker, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“That this is Council recognises the vital role of Good Relations programmes in supporting reconciliation in a society recovering from conflict, bringing communities together, creating shared spaces, challenging sectarian, racism and other forms of prejudice, and promoting respect for all cultural identities; strongly condemns the recent violence and targeting of businesses; encourages greater support and investment for sporting and cultural events as a mechanism for uniting local communities; registers its disappointment that an enhanced and fully-funded regional Good Relations Strategy has not been prioritised since the restoration of the NI Assembly; further records its disappointment that the 47% reduction in good relations funding granted in 2023/24 to Councils by The Executive Office has not been reinstated to previous levels; and requests a review from Officers of the progress and future opportunities available to enhance Good Relations programmes in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to be completed within six months.

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor N Parker, was seconded by Councillor G Thompson.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that given the recent challenging circumstances he had agreed that the Notice of Motion be considered at the meeting that evening.

Councillor Parker elaborated on her Notice of Motion during which she highlighted a number of significant issues in support of her motion, including:

- this motion is not just about policy but about the future of our community, our shared values and the kind of society we wish to build together
- the importance of the Council formally recognising the essential role Good Relations programmes play in our on-going efforts to foster reconciliation and unity in a society that is still healing from the divisions of the past.
- for decades people of NI have lived through the hardships of conflict, division and mistrust and whilst we have made significant strides towards peace we cannot afford to be complacent
- Good Relations programmes are the cornerstone of our efforts to address these challenges which serve to provide a lifeline through which we engage with one another, breakdown barriers and build a society where everyone feels valued and respected.

12.1 No. 1 on the Subject of Good Relations (Cont'd)

- the recent incidences of violence and the targeting of businesses within our community were not just criminal but were deeply destructive to the fabric of our society. Councillor Parker urged the Council to stand together in condemning these acts in the strongest terms as violence, intimidation and hatred have no place in Lisburn and Castlereagh nor anywhere in Northern Ireland. The Council should make it clear we will not tolerate such behaviour and should work tirelessly to promote peace, reconciliation and unity.
- the lack of an enhanced and fully funded regional Good Relation strategy following the restoration of the Northern Ireland Assembly was deeply disappointing. This strategy would serve as a vital tool to build a truly reconciled society and the absence of such a strategy represents a significant missed opportunity to consolidate and expand on the progress made. Councillor Parker called on all Members in this Council and all those in positions of leadership to advocate for the prioritisation of this Strategy.
- a review of the Council's Good Relations programmes was not just about accountability but about ensuring the Council's Good Relations programmes were as effective and impactful as possible. They represent a collective commitment moving forward and in doing so would help heal the wounds of the past and build a society for everyone regardless of background.

In concluding Councillor Parker stated that the Council should send a clear message that Lisburn & Castlereagh is a place where diversity was celebrated, where prejudice was rejected and where every person, regardless of background, had a place at the table.

Councillor G Thompson having seconded the Notice of Motion also addressed the Council during which she supported the issues raised by Councillor N Parker, in particular in relation to Good Relations programmes having an essential role in fostering reconciliation and unity in our society. Councillor Thompson also called on the Council to support this Notice of Motion.

At this point Alderman S P Porter indicated that he had a proposed addendum to the Notice of Motion, namely; that the words **“given the wider financial constraints by the Northern Ireland Executive”**, be included after the wording of the penultimate statement (4th line up) which would, if accepted, read:

*“further records its disappointment that the 47% reduction in good relations funding granted in 2023/24 to Councils by The Executive Office has not been reinstated to previous levels **given the wider financial constraints by the Northern Ireland Executive;***

Alderman S P Porter then addressed the Council in support to the Notice of the Notice of Motion. He too made reference to the recent racism attacks on our streets and throughout Northern Ireland in recent days. He also mentioned the ongoing difficulties and challenges facing communities particularly in regard to the chronic waiting lists in the area, difficulty in seeing a GP and the lack of

12.1 No. 1 on the Subject of Good Relations (Cont'd)

schools. He felt it was right and proper that the serious frustrations and concerns of these people be heard.

During his address Alderman Porter acknowledged the efforts of Council Officers and staff in the Communities team and also the efforts of community groups and local groups all of whom were relying heavily on Stormont's budgets.

Alderman J Tinsley seconded Alderman S P Porter's addendum.

Councillor Parker indicated her agreement to including the above addendum to her Notice of Motion.

Councillor G McCleave also spoke in support of the Notice of Motion, stating that the events over the past couple of weeks had demonstrated the need for communities to come together and for Elected Representatives to show leadership.

The Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor N Parker, seconded by Councillor G Thompson, and as amended by Alderman S P Porter, was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously, the resolution being as follows:

"That this is Council recognises the vital role of Good Relations programmes in supporting reconciliation in a society recovering from conflict, bringing communities together, creating shared spaces, challenging sectarian, racism and other forms of prejudice, and promoting respect for all cultural identities; strongly condemns the recent violence and targeting of businesses; encourages greater support and investment for sporting and cultural events as a mechanism for uniting local communities; registers its disappointment that an enhanced and fully-funded regional Good Relations Strategy has not been prioritised since the restoration of the NI Assembly; further records its disappointment that the 47% reduction in good relations funding granted in 2023/24 to Councils by The Executive Office has not been reinstated to previous levels given the wider financial constraints by the Northern Ireland Executive; and requests a review from Officers of the progress and future opportunities available to enhance Good Relations programmes in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council to be completed within 6 months.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Local Sporting Achievements in Lisburn & Castlereagh and Northern Ireland
Councillor P Kennedy

Councillor P Kennedy referred to the number of great sporting achievements over the summer period, namely:

13.1 Local Sporting Achievements in Lisburn & Castlereagh and Northern Ireland (Cont'd)

- the Olympians from within this Council area and across Northern Ireland during the recent Olympic Games in Paris, and
- the Armagh GAA on their success in winning the Sam Maguire Cup in July. Councillor Kennedy put on record his congratulations to all.

In referring to the success of local Olympians by Team GB & NI and also Team Ireland, Councillor Kennedy highlighted the important role that this Council had in the success of the local athletes in terms of its sports and leisure facilities. He also reminded the Council that our very own Dame Mary Peters had won a gold medal at the 1972 Olympic Games and that local swimmer, Daniel Wiffen from Magheralin had now added to that collection in winning the gold medal in the 800 metre freestyle final in Paris last month. Councillor Kennedy referred to Daniel having trained and developed his skills in the Lagan Valley LeisurePlex and in this regard put on record his thanks to the officers and staff in the Council's sports and leisure facilities for the work they do to create and to keep the facilities to a high standard.

In regard to the success of Armagh GAA in winning the Sam Maguire Cup, Councillor Kennedy stated that as Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon District Council was our neighbouring Council it was appropriate that this Council celebrates this success and sends congratulations to the team on their significant achievement.

At the request of Councillor Kennedy The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed to send letters of congratulations to:

- a) the Armagh Gaelic Football team on their recent success in winning the All-Ireland Senior Football Championship, and
- b) each of the local Olympian medallists in both the GB & NI team and Team Ireland on their success during the 2024 Olympic games.

13.2 Local Paralympian - David Ross
Alderman O Gawith

Alderman Gawith highlighted the success of a young local Paralympian, David Ross, originally from Moira who was competing currently in the Paralympics in Paris as part of the Team GB & NI Paralympics team for wheelchair rugby. Alderman Gawith highlighted the fact that David had learnt his sporting skills at Primary School in Moira and subsequently Wallace High School before suffering a catastrophic spinal injury when he had turned 18 years of age. It was at that time when David had been introduced to wheelchair rugby. Alderman Gawith also informed the Council that David was an ambassador for Horatios Garden, a therapeutic garden at Musgrave Park Hospital.

At the request of Alderman Gawith The Right Worshipful the Mayor agreed to write to David and his family wishing him good luck in the Paralympics and conveying congratulations to David on his success to date.

13.2 Local Paralympian - David Ross (Cont'd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor wished all the Paralympians every success.

14. Confidential Business

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that the undernoted Confidential items were confidential 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 Laverty, seconded by Councillor A Ewing, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The livestream was paused at this stage in proceedings (7.29 pm).

14.1 Delegated Authority Request

(Redacted report to be made available on completion of matter)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman H Legge, and agreed that the Council grants delegated authority to the Regeneration and Growth Committee, at its meeting to be held on 5th September 2024, to take forward the matter as outlined in the report.

14.2 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2022/0545/F

(Redacted report to be made available after the agreement has been signed and sealed)

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above Agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

14.3 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2020/1170/F

(Redacted report to be made available after the agreement has been signed and sealed)

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above Agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to a number of comments and questions from Members in regard to the above agreement.

- 14.4 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 planning agreement for planning application LA05/2022/0947/F
(Redacted report to be made available after the agreement has been signed and sealed)

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of the above Agreement by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor S Lowry, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 7.51 pm.

Mayor