

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 27 May, 2025 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson

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

Councillors J Bamford, D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns,
P Catney, D J Craig, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan, A Gowan,
J Harpur, B Higginson, G Hynds, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry,
U Mackin, A Martin, G McCleave, C McCready, M McKeever,
N Parker, G Thompson and J Tinsley

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor C Kemp

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Acting Director of Environmental Services
Corporate Communications Manager
Member Services Officers (CR & 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 meeting of Council which was being livestreamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor 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. 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.

Alderman S Skillen joined the meeting at 7.02 pm.

Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed condolences to the following:

- David Grimshaw, Plant Manager at LVI, on the death of his mother, Margaret; and
- Elaine Woods, Administration Manager in Environmental Health, on the death of her mother, Iris.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that his Chaplain, Rev S Reain-Adair, was unable to be present this evening. He invited Councillor A Martin to address the meeting and say a prayer, during which he also remembered the Grimshaw and Woods families.

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, advised that Councillor N Eaton had resigned from the Council to pursue studies in the Netherlands. He stated that it had been a pleasure working with Nancy over the past 2 years and wished her well for the future.

On behalf of their parties, Councillor P Catney, Councillor N Trimble, Councillor B Higginson, Alderman A McIntyre and Councillor G McCleave paid tribute to former Councillor Eaton, who had served on Council since 2023. Specific mention was made of her having been Vice-Chair of the Corporate Services Committee for the last year and having represented the Council with great respect and dignity at the Somme. Members wished her well for her studies in the Netherlands.

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, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, since the last meeting of Council.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, and Councillors D Lynch, T Mitchell and R McLernon.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made at this point.

During the meeting, the following declarations of interest were made in respect of item 14.10 "DAERA Public Consultation on the Proposed Nutrients Action Programme for 2026-2029":

3. Declarations of Interest (Contd)

- Councillor A Gowan as he owned farmland; and
- Councillor A Martin as he owned land.

At the conclusion of the meeting, a declaration of interest form was submitted by Alderman J Baird in respect of this item as he was a farmer and landowner.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Council Meeting – 29 April, 2025

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 29 April, 2025 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Studyseed CIC, 27 Lurgan Road, Moira, BT67 0LX – Award Letter to Studyseed CIC as the supplier to deliver the Gamified Essential Skills Learning Programme (T24/25-038);
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and W J MacAulay, 90 Magherahamlet Road, Ballynahinch, BT24 8JZ – Contract for Replacement of Section of Boundary Wall at Moira Demesne;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Garden Escapes (Ireland) Ltd, 43C Ballycreen Road, Ballynahinch, BT24 8UB – Contract for T24/25-031 Tender for Play Area Refurbishments;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Phillips Contracts (DPK) Ltd, 76 Killyleagh Road, Downpatrick, BT30 9BN – Contract for T24/25-033 Tender for Drumbo Trim Trail;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Clive Richardson Ltd, 54 Derrymacoose Road, Portadown, BT62 1LY - Contract for T24/25-039 Tender for Replacement Synthetic Carpet at Maghaberry Community Centre;

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Contd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Kelly McEvoy & Brown, 46-48 Main Street, Castlewellan, BT31 3DJ – Contract for T24/25-043 Tender for Provision of Castle Gardens Toilet Refurbishment Project;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust, Lagan Valley Island, Lisburn BT27 4RL – Tenancy at Will relating to a Car Park at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Housing Rights, Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF – Contract for the Housing Mediation Service (in connection with Landlord Registration);
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Housing Rights, Skainos Centre, 239 Newtownards Road, Belfast, BT4 1AF – Contract for the Landlord Advice Helpline Service (in connection with Landlord Registration);
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Cranmore Consulting Ltd, 73 Church View, Holywood, BT18 9LN – Contract for Build, Installation, Development, Maintenance and Support for the NI Landlord Registration Scheme (T23/24-036); and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Heron Bros. Limited (Contractor), 2 St Patrick's Street, Draperstown, BT45 7AL and Toromont Industries Ltd, doing business as CIMCO Refrigeration (Sub-Contractor), 1551 Corporate Drive, Burlington, Ontario, Canada L7L 6M3 – Novation of Ice Contract – Employer to Contractor relating to Dundonald International Ice Bowl Ice Package and Associated Works.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees**Regeneration and Growth Committee****1 May, 2025**

Proposed by Alderman A Grehan

Seconded by Alderman A G Ewart

Communities and Wellbeing Committee**6 May, 2025**

Proposed by Councillor D J Craig

Seconded by Alderman H Legge

At this point Councillor D J Craig stated that Mrs A McCann, Head of Communities, would be taking up a new role within the Council on 1 June, 2025. On behalf of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, he paid tribute to the excellent work she had carried out in the Communities Unit and had no doubt that she would do likewise in the Department she was moving to.

Page 258, Item 5.4Park Life Programme 2025

Councillor J Gallen asked that Castlereagh East be amended to Castlereagh South.

Environment and Sustainability Committee**7 May, 2025**

Proposed by Councillor G Hynds

Seconded by Alderman J Baird

Corporate Services Committee

14 May, 2025

Proposed by Councillor N Trimble

Seconded by Councillor J Harpur

Councillor N Trimble pointed out that the Corporate Service Committee minutes remained subject to the call-in procedure until 10.00 am on 29 May, 2025.

Planning Committee

7 April, 2025

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 7 April, 2025 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 12 May, 2025. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor S Burns and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

9.1 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2022/0447/F

The Chief Executive and the Chair of the Planning Committee, Alderman M Gregg, reminded Members that the Section 76 Planning Agreements on the agenda had been developed in line with policy and reflected the conditions already agreed by the Planning Committee. The only purpose of presenting them to Council was to get approval for signing and sealing.

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

It was noted that the report referred to three affordable housing units rather than four; however, the Section 76 Agreement was correct.

9.2 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2021/1007/F

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

9.3 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2023/0598/F

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

9.4 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2024/0100/F

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

9.5 Requirement to Enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2022/0033/F

A number of Members' queries were addressed by the Director of Regeneration and Growth in relation to:

- the plans presented to the Planning Committee when this application was being considered and that which were included in the Agreement;
- the company that had brought the Agreement forward;
- the tripartite nature of the Agreement; and
- the affordable housing unit identified at site 14 on the plan, which was one of the largest properties in the development, how it would fall within the affordable housing threshold, the potential for it be purchased other than through co-ownership and the potential for it to be purchased initially through co-ownership but co-ownership bought out at a later date and the property sold on for a much higher price.

The Chair of the Planning Committee, Alderman M Gregg, suggested that the possible loophole in relation to the potential for purchasing an affordable housing unit and selling it on at a later date for a much higher price was something that should be considered when the Local Development Plan was being revised or as soon as possible.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed that clarification be sought on this Section 76 Planning Agreement before it was issued with the planning decision and that the Council write to Mr D Wilson in Co-Ownership, Mrs G Long in the Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Mr D Polley in the Department for Communities to seek clarification on the position of affordable housing within the Council's Local Development Plan, whether this issue was a loophole that could be exploited and if there was a way to ensure that affordable housing was delivered as per the policy.

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. Notice of Motion

There were no Notices of Motion.

13. Confidential Business

There was no confidential business.

14. Any Other Business

14.1 Brooklands Primary School
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry commended Brooklands Primary School in respect of the successful VE Day events it had arranged. She further put on record her congratulations to the school on having been nominated as Best Primary School. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, concurred with Councillor Lowry's comments.

14.2 Replacement of LED Street Lighting
Councillor D J Craig

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Councillor U Mackin and agreed that a letter sent to the Department for Infrastructure expressing concern at the replacement of LED lighting witnessed at 4 separate locations. Councillor Craig stated that this was unnecessary given that it had only been in place for 2 years and was at a huge cost to public purse, especially when the Department did not have the funds to address potholes and drainage issues.

14.3 Feasibility Study for New Lough Moss Leisure Centre
Councillor J Gallen

In response to a query by Councillor J Gallen, the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing advised that the process for the development of the feasibility study for the new Lough Moss Leisure Centre had commenced but had not yet concluded. When a definitive timeline for completion of the feasibility study was known, the Director agreed to advise Members of the Castlereagh South District Electoral Area.

There was a slight pause in the meeting at this stage to allow some technical difficulties to be resolved.

14.4 Planting of Wildflower Seeds in Carryduff Park
Councillor J Harpur

Councillor J Harpur expressed his thanks to The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, as well as staff from the Parks & Amenities Team, for their recent visit to Carryduff Park when local primary school children had been

14.4 Planting of Wildflower Seeds in Carryduff Park (Contd)
Councillor J Harpur

planting wildflower seeds as part of a wider biodiversity initiative in the area. The Mayor agreed that this had been a very enjoyable afternoon and he too thanked the staff in the Parks & Amenities Team.

14.5 Incident at Liverpool FC Premier League Victory Parade
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman S P Porter referred to the success of Liverpool FC in having won the Premier League and the tragic incident that had occurred at the recent Victory Parade. He was thankful that there had not been any fatalities and wished those injured a speedy recovery. On behalf of the Council and the many football fans in the community, Alderman Porter proposed that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, write to the Mayor of Liverpool and to Liverpool FC expressing the Council's thoughts and prayers for those involved and congratulating the Club on its success in winning the League. Councillor S Lowry, who had been in attendance at the Parade, echoed the sentiments expressed by Alderman Porter and seconded his proposal, which was agreed.

14.6 Fair Trade Tea and Coffee
Councillor N Trimble

Councillor N Trimble referred to the recent light-up of Lagan Valley Island for World Fair Trade Day. On the back of PR for that event, it had been pointed out that the tea and coffee available at Lagan Valley Island was not a fair trade offering and Councillor Trimble asked that this matter be considered by Officers.

14.7 VE Day Celebrations
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley referred to the many VE Day celebrations that had taken place across the Council area, both official Council events and those arranged by community groups. He put on record his thanks to all the groups that had opened up their facilities for events. The Council events had been fantastic and put the Council in good stead.

14.8 Veteran Life: Untold Stories of the People Behind the Uniform
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley put on record his thanks to the staff at the Irish Linen Museum, including former employee Dr Collette Brownlee, who had been instrumental in compiling the above book, which had launched a few weeks ago. This had taken an amazing amount of work with veterans, families and children. The book had attracted very positive feedback, including from the Defence Minister's Office in London.

14.9 Balmoral Show
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley commented on the success of the Balmoral Show this year, at which the Council had an impressive stand.

Alderman A Grehan stated that Balmoral Show had been outstanding and had showcased the Council well. Staff had done an exceptional job and were to be commended.

Councillor P Catney also commended the transport to and from the Balmoral Show provided by Translink.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, stated that he too had attended Balmoral Show. There had been very positive feedback from local businesses.

14.10 DAERA Public Consultation on the Proposed Nutrients Action Programme for 2026-2029
Alderman J Tinsley

Alderman J Tinsley referred to the above public consultation currently being undertaken by the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs (DAERA) and stated that it had caused serious concerns for farmers right across the country, but particularly in this Council area. There were 30 deeply concerning measures being proposed by the Agricultural Minister which, if implemented, would impact every farm, whether a large or small holding. Alderman Tinsley outlined the concerns and stated that farmers were already under immense pressure, with rising costs, TB, mental health and safety issues and the threat of new inheritance tax changes. Alderman Tinsley proposed that the Council write to the Minister opposing the proposals and asking for meaningful engagement with the industry to find workable alternatives. This was seconded by Councillor C McCready.

Alderman A Grehan stated that the Alliance Party would not be supporting the proposal by Alderman J Tinsley.

Councillor N Trimble stated that it was his understanding that the public consultation was still ongoing and it would normally be the case that the Council would not take a corporate decision, but rather individual parties would make their own response to the consultation. Alderman A Grehan concurred with Councillor Trimble.

The proposal by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor C McCready, was put to the meeting and, on a recorded vote being taken, was declared 'lost', the voting being as follows:

In favour: Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor S Burns, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman A Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Councillor B Higginson, Councillor G Hynds, Councillor J Laverty, Councillor C McCready, Alderman S P Porter, Alderman S Skillen and Alderman J Tinsley (13)

14.10 DAERA Public Consultation on the Proposed Nutrients Action Programme for 2026-2029 (Contd)
Alderman J Tinsley

Against: Councillor J Bamford, Councillor D Bassett, Councillor P Catney, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, Councillor J Gallen, Alderman O Gawith, Alderman M Gregg, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur, Councillor C Kemp, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor G McCleave, Alderman A McIntyre, Councillor M McKeever, Councillor N Parker and Councillor G Thompson (16)

Abstain: Alderman J Baird, Councillor A Gowan, Alderman H Legge, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor A Martin and Councillor N Trimble (6)

14.11 Abolitionist Frederick Douglass
Councillor P Catney

In response to comments by Councillor P Catney regarding a Notice of Motion he had brought previously regarding Abolitionist, Frederick Douglass, the Chief Executive confirmed that a report on this matter was to be considered at the meeting of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee on 3 June, 2025.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.09 pm.

Mayor