

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn and in remote locations on Thursday, 5 March 2026 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Councillor C Kemp (Chairperson)  
 Councillor J Harpur (Vice Chairperson)  
 The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan  
 Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE and A McIntyre  
 Councillors K Dickson, U Mackin

**PRESENT REMOTELY:** Councillors J Gallen, J Lavery BEM and T Mitchell

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Director of Regeneration & Growth  
 Head of Assets  
 Head of Economic Development  
 Member Services Manager (Acting)  
 Member Services Officer  
 Corporate Communications Officer  
 IT Officer

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairperson, Councillor C Kemp, extended a welcome to everyone in attendance at the March meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee.

The Chairperson reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business. The Chairperson also outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Apologies**

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance on behalf of Alderman M Gregg, and Councillors A Gowan, D Lynch and C McCreedy.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

Councillor T Mitchell joined the meeting remotely at 6.02 pm.

### 3. Report of Head of Economic Development

#### 3.1 Dfl Speed Limit Review – Draft Consultation Response (Closing Date 22 April 2026)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, entered the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.03 pm).

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed the background and key issues in connection with the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) public consultation on a review of speed limits with the purpose of improving road safety across Northern Ireland. A link to the consultation on the on NI Direct website was also contained within the Officer's report.

The options being considered for review by DfI had been detailed in the Officer's report, namely:

- increased use of 20mph Speed Limits
- lowering National Speed Limits on Single Rural and Dual Carriageway Roads
- increasing HGV Speed Limits

The Committee had been furnished with a draft response to the consultation which had been prepared with advice from Communities/PCSP.

A number of comments were noted from Members in connection with the draft response, including:

- 20 mph speed limits should be considered for any public-use buildings and not solely schools – there needs to be a clear connection on a case by case basis
- enforcement is key and any response should include the statement that any new measures are only as good as the enforcement by other bodies
- there should be no increase in speed for HGVs in view of their size and weight. The current speed limits for HGVs are adequate and suitable
- DfI need to focus on carriageways being fit for purpose.
- it does not make sense to reduce speed limits generally whilst increasing speed limits for HGVs. DfI need to be very cautious with how they progress with this consultation

The Head of Economic Development responded to comments from a Member in connection with an illegal 20 mph sign in the village, it being noted that correspondence from the Council had been issued to DfI on this issue.

### 3.1 Dfl Speed Limit Review – Draft Consultation Response (Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor J Harpur, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the draft response to Dfl's consultation be approved, subject to the inclusion of the comments and sentiments raised by Members.

It was noted that any further comments from Members that are conveyed to the Head of Economic Development by the end of March 2026 would also be included in the Council's response.

### 3.2 NI-NL Dinner 2026 (EU Trade)

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the the Council's previous decision to progress the development of the EU Trade Programme and the reactivation of the NI-NL Society to support local businesses in accessing opportunities in the Dutch market.

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the NI–NL Trade Dinner would be the first major event of the reactivated Society and would coincide with the launch of the EU Trade Programme.

Further to the request of the Committee at its meeting in January 2026, the estimated cost of a cross-party delegation from the Council attending the NI-NL Trade Dinner, was detailed in the Officer's report which was based on a two overnight stay, namely:

- Cost of one Elected Member (up to) £1,250
- Cost of five Elected Members (up to) £6,250

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to a question from a Member in connection with the rationale for a cross-party delegation to attend this event.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that a cross-party delegation from the Council attends the NI-NL Dinner as outlined in the report, the estimated cost of a Member's attendance being (up to) £1,250.

## 4. Report of Head of Assets

### 4.1 Planned Preventative Maintenance, Tender Evaluation Criteria Request – Building Energy Management Systems

The Head of Assets' report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the above tender evaluation criteria request in respect of Building Energy Management Systems. It was noted that this procurement established a new contractual framework for the inspection, testing, maintenance, reactive response and reporting of Building Energy Management Systems (BEMS) across the Council's estate.

4.1 Planned Preventative Maintenance, Tender Evaluation Criteria Request – Building Energy Management Systems (Cont'd)

The Head of Assets corrected a typographical error at paragraph 10 of her report in that the first bullet point should read “Technical competence in building energy management systems.”

In response to comments and questions from a Member the Head of Assets clarified the meaning of the term ‘efficient’ as referenced in paragraph number 3 of the report. The Head of Assets, having indicated that the Council did not have specific data on efficiency, undertook to look into any information that she could advise on as a result of the introduction of BEMS across the Council estate.

The Head of Assets reminded the Committee that the purpose of this report was to seek approval for the proposed tender evaluation award criteria, as set out in the Officer’s report.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that the tender evaluation award criteria, as outlined, be approved.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Maintenance of Lisburn Public Realm  
Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin expressed concern in regard to the poor condition of the footpaths in Bow Street which, he stated, was due to the utility companies having dug up the footpaths which were not being restored back to an acceptable condition. Councillor Mackin also advised that there was a further footpath being dug up at the bottom of Bridge Street, and enquired if there was anything the Council could do to address this issue.

The Director advised that the Council had written to DfI Roads on this matter, and indicated that this issue was also due to HGVs off-loading in the City Centre. The Director undertook to contact DfI Roads again on this issue to emphasise that Members are keen to have an agreed programme of repairs to the public realm in Lisburn City Centre.

5.2 Data on the Economic Activity during the Christmas Programme 2025  
Councillor K Dickson

Councillor K Dickson enquired about a report on the outcomes of the data that had been gathered by an external body in Lisburn City Centre over the Christmas shopping period.

The Head of Economic advised that this data would feed into the overall valuation as part of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing’s report to the Communities and Wellbeing Committee in the next couple of months.

5.2 Data on the Economic Activity during the Christmas Programme 2025 (Cont'd)  
Councillor K Dickson

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, emphasised that this data should not concentrate on footfall solely but also on the economic return as the reason for the Christmas programme is to regenerate economic growth in the City Centre.

5.3 Chewing Gum and Staining on Surfaces  
Councillor K Dickson

Councillor K Dickson having highlighted the extent of chewing gum and staining on surfaces in the City Centre, requested that Officers work with the Cleansing team in order to avail of the chewing gum removal machine to tackle this ongoing problem.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to raise this matter with the Director of Environmental Services.

5.4 Hilden Mill Development  
Councillor G Hynds

At the request of Councillor G Hynds the Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to include an update on any interest in this site by potential developers in his forthcoming briefing to Members.

6. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Chairperson, Councillor C Kemp, 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 addition, item 5.1 was also required to be considered under confidential business due to Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

In Committee

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor K Dickson, 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.

6.1 Progress on Public Realm CCTV integration

(Redacted report to be published following completion of new operating model)

The Head of Economic Development presented this item of business during which he responded to comments from Members present in connection with key issues set out in the report.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth provided the Committee with a verbal update in connection with recent developments in relation to the Public Realm CCTV integration. The Director also responded to questions from Members in relation to other key issues.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor J Harpur, left the meeting at 6.43 pm and returned at 6.46 pm.

Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 6.48 pm and returned at 6.50 pm.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that:

- in order to ensure orderly transition to a new operating model, that funding of Citywatch continues into the first quarter of 2026/27 with the contract for funding reviewed in three months' time,
- in order to provide reassurance to the public, a communication from the Council be issued on the Council's website on the continuation of the Public Realm CCTV integration across Lisburn Castlereagh, and
- a suite of Frequently Asked Questions be prepared to explain the transition and the arrangements for service continuation.

A Member conveyed thanks to the Director of Regeneration & Growth for his efforts in progressing the Public Realm CCTV integration project over the past number of years.

6.2 Hillsborough Car Park Access Gate, Ballynahinch Street

(Redacted report to be published following agreement with the beneficiary)

Councillor J Gallen left the meeting at 7.02 pm.

The Head of Assets presented this item of business during which she, together with the Director of Regeneration & Growth, responded to comments from Members present in connection with key issues set out in the report.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the Car Park Map and also a plan illustrating removal of the wall and vehicular gates.

## 6.2 Hillsborough Car Park Access Gate, Ballynahinch Street (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman A McIntyre and seconded by Councillor K Dickson that the Officer's recommendation be not accepted and that the boundary wall be re-instated.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart and seconded by Councillor U Mackin that the Officer's recommendation be approved, as outlined and conditioned within the report.

Alderman Ewart's proposal was put to the meeting and on a recorded vote being taken declared "fallen," there being four votes in favour and six votes against, as follows:

In Favour: Alderman J Baird, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor J Lavery, and Councillor U Mackin **TOTAL: 4**

Against: Councillor K Dickson, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur (Vice Chairperson), Councillor C Kemp (Chairperson), Councillor T Mitchell and Councillor C McCready **TOTAL: 6**

Alderman A McIntyre's proposal was put to the meeting, ie. that the Officer's recommendation be not accepted and that the boundary wall be re-instated, and on a recorded vote being taken there were six votes in favour and four votes against, as follows:

In Favour: Councillor K Dickson, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, Councillor J Harpur (Vice Chairperson), Councillor C Kemp (Chairperson), Councillor T Mitchell and Councillor C McCready **TOTAL: 6**

Against: Alderman J Baird, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor J Lavery, and Councillor U Mackin **TOTAL: 4**

The proposal in the name of Alderman A McIntyre was declared "carried."

Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting at 7.25 pm.

## 7. Any Other Business (Confidential)

### 7.1 Public Realm CCTV Communication The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

Comments were noted from The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, in connection with the above communication following which it was proposed by Councillor J Lavery, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the communication would be issued as a corporate press release in the name of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

7.2 Go Succeed – Update  
Councillor K Dickson

At the request of Councillor K Dickson, the Head of Economic Development provided an update to the Committee on the Go Succeed business support initiative.

7.3 BRCD – Update  
Councillor J Lavery

At the request of Councillor J Lavery the Director of Regeneration & Growth provided an update to the Committee on the BRCD project, it being noted that the addendum to the business case had been presented to TNI and a further report would be presented to the Committee in the next 2-3 months.

7.4 Request for Repairs to Road, Main Street, Royal Hillsborough  
Alderman A G Ewart

In response to comments and concerns by Alderman A G Ewart, the Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to contact DfI Roads as a matter of urgency in regard to the need for immediate repairs to the large break-up of surface in the form of a temporary fix at the bottom of the hill on Main Street.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.47 pm.

---

Chairperson