

**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, 12 February 2026 at 6.00 pm**

**PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Councillor C Kemp (Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE and A McIntyre

Councillors U Mackin, A Martin and C McCready

**PRESENT REMOTELY:** Councillor J Harpur (Vice Chairperson)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan

Alderman M Gregg, Councillors J Gallen, J Lavery BEM and D Lynch

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Head of Assets

Head of Economic Development

Member Services Manager (Acting)

Member Services Officer

IT Officer

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairperson, Councillor C Kemp, extended a welcome to everyone in attendance at the February 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 Councillors K Dickson, A Gowan, and the Director of Regeneration & Growth.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

Alderman M Gregg joined the meeting remotely at 6.02 pm.

### 3. Report of Head of Economic Development

#### 3.1 2026/27 Tourism Major Events

Councillor D Lynch joined the meeting remotely during consideration of this item of business (6.08 pm).

Also, during this item of business, Alderman A McIntyre left the meeting at 6.11 pm and returned at 6.12 pm.

The Head of Economic Development's report detailed the background and key issues in connection with the Council's Major Tourism Events Funding programme for 2026/2027, it being noted that a total of seven applications had been received and following assessment there were six eligible applications.

A summary of the events that had applied for and been assessed to receive funding was detailed in the report circulated. Furthermore, a summary of evaluation outcomes from the previous year's (2025-2026) Tourism Major Events Programme together with the 2026-2027 outcomes had been appended to the Officer's report.

The Head of Economic Development drew Members' attention to the Athletics NI event in relation to its previous year's funding allocation, and advised that as the organisers had not confirmed an income figure by the time this report was issued, there was no record of an income recorded in the appended table. The Head of Economic Development advised that the organisers had since informed the Council that this event had over-achieved and as a consequence this event received the first half of their grant only.

The Vice Chairman, Councillor J Harpur, having welcomed this tourism funding initiative, expressed thanks to the Tourism Development Manager and the team for their efforts in progressing this funding initiative.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from Members in connection with a number of issues in connection with the 2026/2027 Tourism Major Events programme, including:

- event locations
- those events receiving less funding compared to the previous year
- long term viability of the major events that had received funding
- advertising and promotion of (a) the Council's Major Tourism Events funding programme and (b) the various major events

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor J Harpur, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to recommend that:

3.1 Major Tourism Events (Cont'd)

- a) the proposed recipients for funding support for the 2026/2027 Tourism Major Events programme be noted, and
- b) the evaluations of recipients for 2025/2026 Tourism Major Events programme be also noted.

3.2 Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI)

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme.

The Head of Economic Development, by way of an update, reported that since the report had been issued one further application had been deemed successful and that a Letter of Offer had been issued the previous day.

The Committee had been furnished with a summary of all the successful applications to the above Rural Business Development grant scheme, which included the additional successful application.

It was agreed on a proposal by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy, that the update report and summary in connection with the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation be noted.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, joined the meeting remotely during consideration of this item of business at 6.16 pm.

4. Any Other Business

4.1 Royal Hillsborough Road Resurfacing Update  
Councillor C McCreedy

The Head of Economic Development responded to comments from Councillor C McCreedy in relation to the issue of road resurfacing in Royal Hillsborough.

The Head of Economic Development also took the opportunity to update the Committee in connection with the Public Realm Scheme for Royal Hillsborough. Having reminded Members that the planning application for the public realm works had been approved by the Planning Committee in January past, reported that the construction works were scheduled in line with the agreed programme and would start with one of the car parks.

4.1 Royal Hillsborough Road Resurfacing Update (Cont'd)  
Councillor C McCready

It was also noted that the Public Realm Project Board had been established and due to meet this month.

5. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Chairperson, Councillor C Kemp, advised that 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 A Martin, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, 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.

5.1 Change of Lease (Lisburn Rangers)

(Redacted report to be published post signing and sealing of new lease at full Council)

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

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of Lisburn Rangers' current lease and also a map showing the existing boundary together with the proposed extended area.

It was proposed by Councillor J Laverty, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Committee approves the establishment of a new lease, as outlined in the report, to Lisburn Rangers in support of their TNIFF funding application, and
- b) further information on the issues raised be provided to Members.

It was noted also that the Head of Assets would contact a Member directly on the matters he had raised.

5.2 Variation to Lease (Ballymacash Sports Academy)

(Redacted report to be published post signing and sealing of new lease at full Council)

The Head of Assets presented this item of business during which she 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 lease held by Ballymacash Sports Academy.

It was proposed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman A McIntyre, and agreed that the Committee approves the lease amendments, as outlined in the report, to Ballymacash Sports Academy in support of their TNIFF funding application.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor expressed thanks to the Head of Assets for her efforts in connection with both this matter and the previous item of business, which she stated, would benefit both clubs.

5.3 Dundrod Pits Tenure Arrangements

(Redacted report to be published post termination of the current tenancy arrangements)

The Head of Assets presented this item of business and, along with the Head of Economic Development, responded to a question from a Member in regard to a key issue from the report circulated.

The Committee had been provided with a copy of the location map depicting the lands at Dundrod Pits.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that the Committee agrees to rescind the current lease to Dundrod and District Motorcycle Club, for the reasons outlined in the report.

5.4 PPM & RM 07 – Fire Doors and Emergency Exits – Tender Evaluation Criteria  
(Redacted report to be published following ratification at Council)

The Head of Assets presented this item of business and responded to, and elaborated on, a number of questions and comments from the Committee in regard to the above tender.

The Head of Assets undertook to provide costs on the current tender for PPM & RM 07 - Fire Doors and Emergency Exits to the Member concerned.

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

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Baird, 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 6.54 pm.

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Chairperson