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 2nd December 2025 at 5.00 pm.

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER (COMMITTEE):	Councillor T Mitchell (Chair) Councillor A Givan (Vice-Chair) The Right Worshipful The Mayor Alderman A Grehan Deputy Mayor Alderman H Legge Alderman A McIntyre Councillors T Beckett, J Craig, K Dickson, B Higginson, S Lowry, and The Hon N Trimble
PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE)	Alderman S Skillen Councillors J Gallen, C Kemp and G McCleave
IN ATTENDANCE:	Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing Head of Communities Head of Sports Services Head of Governance & Communications Business Support Manager (Acting) Business Support Officer PA to Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing (Acting) Member Services Officers (RN & EW)

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, welcomed everyone to the meeting and gave a particular welcome to Ms Victoria Jackson, the recently appointed Head of Communities, and wished her well in her new role. The Chair also welcomed Ms Judith McNamee, the recently appointed Head of Governance and Communications, and wished her well in her new role also.

The Chair reminded Members that the meeting 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.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency. The Chair asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Councillors R Carlin and G Thompson.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. Report of Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

3.1 April 2026 Meeting of Committee – Rescheduling of Date

Members were advised that the April 2026 meeting of the Committee was due to take place on Tuesday 7th April 2026 which is a scheduled bank holiday.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, seconded by Councillor J Craig and agreed to recommend that the April 2026 meeting of Committee be re-scheduled to Tuesday 14th April 2026.

4. Report of Head of Communities

4.1 Department for Communities (DfC)
Consultation on Proposed Support Framework for
Independent Advice and Debt Services

In addition to the narrative report, Members had been provided with a draft response to the above consultation.

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig, seconded by Councillor B Higginson and agreed to recommend that the draft response to the Department for Communities' consultation on "Support Framework for Independent Advice and Support Services" be accepted as the Council's response thereto and be submitted to the DfC which had agreed to submission of a late response (the original closing date for responses having been the 3rd November 2025).

Councillor S Lowry entered the Chamber during the Head of Service's presentation of this item. (5.05 pm)

5. Any Other Business – Non-Confidential

5.1 Social Supermarket Scheme – Castlereagh South DEA
Councillor B Higginson

Councillor B Higginson welcomed the expansion of the Social Supermarket scheme to the Castlereagh South DEA. This would be facilitated by the Storehouse Trust in Carryduff and would be launched before Christmas with a roll-out period over six weeks in January and February 2026. Furthermore, the NI Housing Executive and Choice Housing would be engaging with its tenants in this area about the availability of the scheme. The expansion of the Social Supermarket scheme had been due to an underspend that had gone to the Lisburn City Church Community Trust which is the lead in the Council's area for the Social Supermarket scheme.

Councillor Higginson placed on record his thanks, and that of the local community, the Killynure Community Association and the Storehouse Trust, to the Lisburn City Church Community Trust and the Council officers for their work in enabling this expansion of the Social Supermarket scheme to be put in place.

5.2 Ulster Ladies' Minor Club Gaelic Championships Final 2025
Dub Arena, Belfast – Sunday 7th December 2025
Councillor J Gallen

Councillor J Gallen congratulated Carryduff Ulster Ladies Minor Club on reaching the final of the Ulster Ladies Minor Club Gaelic Championships and wished them all the best for the final against Clann Eireann on Sunday 7th December 2025 at the Dub Arena Belfast.

5.3 Steel & Sons Cup Final 2025
Seaview Football Grounds, Belfast - Thursday 25th December 2025
Councillor J Craig

Councillor J Craig congratulated Ballymacash Rangers FC on reaching the final of the Steel & Sons Cup and wished them all the best for the final against Holywood FC on Christmas Day at Seaview Football Grounds, Belfast.

5.4 Development of former Derriaghy Primary School site
Councillor J Craig

Councillor J Craig referred to the development of the former Derriaghy Primary School. Councillor Craig enquired as to the assistance that the Council could provide to the local community groups as part of this development and also sought an indication of the timeline for the project.

The Director stated that the Communities Team would be supporting the community groups through their training and development programme. The Director also agreed to make the timeline of the project available to Members.

5.4 Development of former Derriaghy Primary School site (Continued)
Councillor J Craig

Furthermore, the Director noted comments from Councillor Craig that Officers should actively engage with the local community groups at an early stage in the development of the programme for this project.

5.5 Apology for Councillor R Carlin
Councillor G McCleave

Councillor G McCleve presented an apology for non-attendance at the meeting for Councillor R Carlin. This was noted for recording under item 1 – Apologies.

6. Confidential Report from Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The reasons for confidentiality were as set out in the agenda, ie:-

6.1 Directorate Update
Leisure and Community Wellbeing Estimates 2026/2027
(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Report never to become available. (Final Estimates will be released.)

6.2 Community Investment Fund
Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Ballylesson, Drumbo
(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Redacted report to be available in January 2026.

6.3 Procurement of the Mayor's Carnival Parade Co-Ordination and Associated Workshops' Programme 2026 - 2030
(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Redacted report to be available on award of contract.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed that the Confidential Report of the Director be considered "in Committee". (Recording was paused at this stage in proceedings. The press member left the meeting and there were no public present. (5.12 pm)

6.1 Directorate Update
Leisure and Community Wellbeing Estimates 2026/2027

Presented by the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing who, together with the Head of Sports Services, responded to Members' questions. Other officers from the Leisure & Community Directorate were present at the meeting to assist in discussion if so required.

In addition to the narrative report which outlined the background and key issues in relation to the Estimates' process for 2026-2027 for the Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate, the following in relation to that Directorate had been provided:-

- Draft Estimates for 2026/2027;
- 2025/2026 budget and current in-year position.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor B Higginson, seconded by Councillor J Craig and agreed to recommend that:

- the progress on the Estimates' process for 2026/2027 be noted, and

- the draft Leisure & Community Wellbeing Directorate Estimates 2026/2027 be accepted and be formally presented to the January 2026 meeting of the Committee.

A number of issues raised in relation to the Dundonald International Ice Bowl development would be captured in a progress report being presented to the Committee in the New Year.

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing was happy to discuss with Members, any aspect of the Estimates' process in relation to her Directorate.

During discussion, Councillor B Higginson left and returned to the Chamber at 5.20 pm and 5.24 pm respectively.

6.2 Community Investment Fund
Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Ballylesson, Drumbo

Presented by the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing.

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Equality Screening document;
- Rural Needs Impact Assessment.

6.2 Community Investment Fund
Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Ballylesson, Drumbo (Continued)

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig, seconded by Councillor K Dickson and agreed to recommend that:-

- Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Ballylesson, Drumbo, be offered the amount of money from the Community Investment Fund as detailed in the Director's report;

- as per process, Holy Trinity Church of Ireland, Ballylesson, Drumbo, be subject to due diligence checks.

Councillors Craig and Dickson welcomed the project which would be an asset to the community, and they thanked the Council officers for their work in progressing the project to this stage.

6.3 Procurement of the Mayor's Carnival Parade Co-Ordination and Associated Workshops' Programme 2026 - 2030

Presented by the Head of Communities who responded to Members' questions.

In addition to the narrative report, the following had been provided:-

- Business Case for the Procurement of the Mayor's Carnival Parade Co-Ordination and Workshops Programme 2026 – 2030;

- Equality Screening document.

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Councillor A Givan and agreed to recommend that:-

- the report on the Procurement of the Mayor's Carnival Parade Co-Ordination and Workshops Programme 2026 – 2030 be noted;

- the Business Case for the Mayor's Carnival Parade Co-Ordination and Workshops Programme 2026 – 2030 be approved;

- Option 2 as contained in the Business Case be accepted and be progressed by means of an open tender process.

7. Any Other Business – Confidential

No other business of a confidential nature was raised.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor N Trimble, seconded by Alderman A McIntyre and agreed to come “out of Committee”. Normal business and the audio recording were resumed. (5.40 pm)

8. Any Other Business

Dealt with under Item 5.

The Chair, Councillor T Mitchell, thanked the Director and her staff for the work carried out during 2025. The Chair also thanked everyone for their attendance, wished them the Compliments of the Season and - there being no further business - the meeting concluded at 5.40 pm.

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MAYOR/CHAIR