

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the hybrid Communities and Wellbeing Committee held in the Island Civic Centre on Tuesday 7th November 2023 at 18:00

- PRESENT:** Councillor T Beckett (Chairperson)
- The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan
- Aldermen A Grehan, H Legge, and S Skillen; and
Councillors D J Craig, J Gallen, A McIntyre,
T Mitchell and G Thompson.
- PRESENT REMOTELY:** Councillors R Carlin, N Eaton, B Higginson and S Lowry.
- ALSO ATTENDED:** Alderman J Tinsley and Councillors G Hynds
and A Givan (Zoom).
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Head of Communities
Head of Sports Services
Acting Head of Parks and Amenities
Member Services Officers (BF and EW).

Commencement of Meeting

- **Committee Meeting of 5th December**

The Committee agreed that the December meeting would commence at 5:30pm to facilitate Members who wished to attend community Christmas-related events which were scheduled to take place that evening.

- **Mr Gareth Lennox**

The Chairperson welcomed Mr Gareth Lennox, the recently appointed Acting Head of Parks and Amenities, to his first meeting of the Committee and, on behalf of the Members, wished him well in the role.

1. **Apologies**

An apology was reported on behalf of Alderman S P Porter.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

None.

3. **Report of the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing**

- 3.1 **Friends' School Lisburn – 250th Anniversary (00:02:12)**

The Director reported that a request for financial support had been received from the principal of the above-mentioned school, which would be celebrating its 250th anniversary in 2024/25. She informed the Committee that the school was seeking to raise £250,000 to fund several legacy projects, which included an outdoor performance space and a health and wellbeing trail within the school grounds, together with the publication of the book to mark the anniversary.

She outlined the immense contribution which the school had made to Lisburn and the Council district throughout its history and advised that a sum of £2,500 had been identified within departmental underspends should the Committee wish to donate, specifically towards the publication of the book, under the discretionary powers provided to the Council under Part 11 (4) (b) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014.

Moved by Councillor D J Craig,
Seconded by Councillor A McIntyre and

Resolved – That the Committee agrees, under Part 11 (4) (b) of the Local Government Act (NI) 2014, to make a donation of £2,500 to Friends' School's 250th Anniversary Fund, it being the opinion of the Committee that the expenditure would be in the interest of and would be of direct benefit to the district and the inhabitants of the district, with the Committee being satisfied that the direct benefits accrued would be commensurate with the payment made.

3.2 Local Investment Plan – Projects Update (00:04:49)

The Committee noted an update in relation to the Local Investment Plan which had been provided by the Director.

The Director answered several queries regarding the staffing costs associated with the delivery of the projects, together with further detail in relation to a Christmas event in Hillsborough, in respect of which she would provide the Member with additional information regarding budgets and costs.

5.0 Report of the Head of Community Services

5.1 PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan (00: 08:18)

Moved by Councillor T Mitchell,
Seconded by Councillor J Gallen and

Resolved – that the Committee agrees to note the update in relation to the PEACEPLUS Partnership and agrees to recommend that the Council, at its meeting on 28th November, grants delegated authority to the Committee to approve, at its meeting on 5th December, the PEACEPLUS Local Action Plan to enable it to be submitted to the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB) by 14th December.

Arising from discussion, the Head of Communities informed the Committee that SEUPB had since requested that further clarity be provided in respect of 'Theme 1' of the Action Plan which might delay its submission by several weeks, but that the Committee would be updated in due course.

6. Any Other Business – Non-Confidential

6.1 Wallace High School (00:11:22)

Councillor T Mitchell reminded the Committee that Wallace High School had won the Irish Schools' All-Ireland Cup by beating Newtown from Waterford in the final in October.

In response, the Right Worshipful the Mayor indicated that appropriate arrangements would be put in place to acknowledge the achievement.

7. Confidential Report of the Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing

The Chairperson advised that the reasons for confidentiality for the following matters was by virtue of the Section 6, Part 1, of the Local Government Act (2014) Northern Ireland, specifically the provisions therein as outlined within each report.

It was moved by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the confidential report of the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing be considered 'in committee', in the absence of members of the press and public.

7.1 Communities and Wellbeing – Pricing Schedule 2024/25

The Committee considered a report which gave an overview of the proposed departmental pricing schedule for 2024/25.

Moved by Councillor J Gallen,
Seconded by Councillor R Carlin and

Resolved – that the Committee agrees to adopt the recommendation of the Director in relation to the proposed departmental pricing schedule for 2024/25.

8. Any Other Business – Confidential

8.1 DJ Services at Dundonald International Ice Bowl

Alderman S Skillen referred to the above-mentioned service and proposed that the Director re-examine departmental budgets with a view to identifying funding to enable the level of DJ service to be maintained until the end of the financial year. The proposal was seconded by Alderman H Legge.

Several Members suggested that it would be prudent to examine a further report in respect in overall costs associated with the proposal, together with the impact on other services, prior to taking any decision.

The original proposal in the name of Alderman S Skillen was not put to the meeting, but the Committee agreed, as an interim measure, that the present level of DJ service be maintained until the end of December, subject to the matter being re-examined in January.

9. Resumption of Normal Business

It was moved by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that normal business be resumed.

The meeting ended at 18.34.

Chairperson