

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Thursday 1st December, 2022 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A G Ewart, MBE (Chairperson)

Alderman A Grehan (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE and D Drysdale

Councillors R T Beckett, A Givan, G McCleave, C McCready, U Mackin and A Swan

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATIONDeputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy
Councillors F Cole, J Gallen and S Mulholland**IN ATTENDANCE**

Director of Service Transformation (Council Chamber)

Head of Economic Development (Council Chamber)

Head of Planning and Capital Development (Council Chamber)

Head of Assets (Remote Location)

Portfolio Manager (Remote Location)

Member Services Officers (BS and EW)

IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, extended a welcome to all present at the December meeting of the Committee and advised that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business.

At this point in proceedings, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting advise the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

The Chairman outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

The Head of Assets joined the meeting at 6.04 pm.

1. **Apologies** (00:02:12)

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, and Councillor H Legge.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:02:19)

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

3. Report by Director of Service Transformation (00:02:34)3.1 Service Transformation Performance Reports (00:02:40)

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the undernoted documents:-

- Service Transformation summary budget reports for 1st July – 30th September 2022;
- Outturn of operational metrics/service KPIs for Q2 (July-September 2022)
- Directorate Risk Dashboard

The Director elaborated on a number of key issues arising from his report and responded to questions from a Member in connection with a Planning Service matter. The Director undertook to discuss those specific issues further during consideration of Confidential Business later in the meeting.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the content of the above-mentioned performance reports be noted.

4. Report by Head of Economic Development (00:10:31)4.1 Employment Academies (00:10:40)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the delivery of two additional employment academies, namely; a Construction Academy and a Health and Social Care Academy.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from the Committee in connection with the aforementioned employment academies and undertook to report back to a Member with the breakdown of costs and further detail on the delivery of the employment academies. It was noted that the Employment Academy initiative was 100% funded by the Department for Communities.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend:

- a) the appointment of Workforce Training Services as the delivery agent for the Construction Academy, under Belfast City Council's Employment Academies Framework T1983 – Lot 3 Practical Sector, up to a maximum budget of £10,000 as outlined in the report, and

4.1 Employment Academies (Cont'd)

- b) the appointment of People 1st as the delivery agent for the Health & Social Care Academy, under Belfast City Council's Employment Academies Framework T1983 – Lot 1 Childcare and Social Care Academies, up to a maximum budget of £15,000 as outlined.

The Vice Chairman, Alderman A Grehan, entered the meeting at this point (6.20 pm).

4.2 Lisburn City Centre Draft Orientation & Walkability Strategy (00:18:15)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with an Orientation and Walkability strategy for Lisburn City Centre, funding for which had been secured from the Department for Communities' Covid Revitalisation programme.

The report circulated provided a SharePoint link to the draft Lisburn Orientation and Walkability Strategy.

The Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Economic Development responded to questions from the Committee in connection with the draft Orientation and Walkability Strategy.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the update on the draft Orientation and Walkability Strategy be noted and that the draft document proceeds to a twelve-week online public and stakeholder consultation.

4.3 Holiday World Dublin (00:24:04)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Council's representation at the Holiday World Dublin event which was taking place in the RDS, Dublin, on 27 – 29 January 2023.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by the Vice Chairman, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that the Chairman and the Vice Chairperson of the Committee, or their nominees, attend the 2023 Holiday World Dublin event, along with a Visitor Information Advisor, the estimated cost of two Members' attendance having been outlined in the report circulated.

4.4 Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2022-2023 – Update (00:25:10)

The Head of Economic Development updated the Committee in connection with the Labour Market Partnership (LMP) Funding Contract 2022-2023.

4.4 Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2022-2023 – Update (Cont'd)

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a Letter of Offer from the Department for Communities (DfC) dated 15 April 2022 (setting out the actual offer for the budget for the administration of the LMP programme and an indicative offer for the programme costs) and also a Letter of Offer dated 4 November 2022 (which set out the actual offers for budgets for both the administration and programme costs).

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed to recommend that the update report on the Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2022-2023 be noted and that the Council enters into the contract as outlined in the Letters of Offer from DfC.

5 Report from the Head of Planning and Capital Development (00:26:18)

5.1 Consultation on Review of Permitted Development Rights (00:26:22)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Department for Infrastructure's (DfI) consultation in relation to its review of permitted development rights for:

- a) the installation of microgeneration equipment to include air, ground and water source heat pumps, and
- b) the installation of reverse vending machines in the wall or within the curtilage of a shop.

A link to the above consultation by DfI had been provided in the report circulated.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development responded to questions and noted comments from the Committee in connection with a number of related issues.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the report by the Head of Planning and Capital Development be noted,
- b) the Committee welcomes the proposed changes to the Planning (General Permitted Development) Order (NI) 201 for the reasons outlined in the report,
- c) a final response be prepared to reflect the reasons as outlined in the report circulated and submitted online by the stipulated closing date of 23rd December 2022, and

5.1 Consultation on Review of Permitted Development Rights (Cont'd)

- d) the full content of the response be added to the noting schedule for the Development Committee when finalised and issued.

5.2 Consultation in relation to Draft Planning Fees (Deemed Planning Applications and Appeal) (Amendment) Regulations (NI) 2022 (00:37:08)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Department of Justice's (DOJ) consultation in relation to the above Regulations, a link to which had been provided in the report circulated. The closing date for comments on this consultation was 20th December 2022, with the proposed implementation of any increase in fees being from 1st April 2023.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development responded to questions and noted comments from a Member in connection with the above proposed increase in planning fees.

It was proposed by Councillor G McCleave, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Committee agrees with the view that the proposed changes to the above Regulations should be delayed to allow for further consultation between DfI Planning and DoJ for the reasons outlined,
- b) a final response to the Consultation be prepared and submitted to the DoJ to reflect the above view of the Committee, and
- c) the full content of the response be added to the noting schedule for the Development Committee when finalised and issued.

6. Any Other Business (00:42:40)

6.1 Christmas at the Castle Event (00:42:50) Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin commended the success of the Christmas festivities this year and in particular the event in Castle Gardens on which he had received a number of positive comments from the general public, and thanked the Officers concerned for their efforts thereon. The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, concurred with Councillor Mackin's sentiments and also conveyed thanks and appreciation to the Council Officers concerned.

6.1 Christmas at the Castle Event (Cont'd)
Councillor U Mackin

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, welcomed the Christmas switch-on event in Dundonald earlier that day which he stated had been well attended.

The Director of Service Transformation took the opportunity to highlight a number of other Council Christmas events that were planned for the forthcoming weekend.

Comments were noted from the Vice Chairman, Alderman A Grehan, in regard to the Castle Gardens Christmas event taking place again next year and the suggestion that going forward and in view of the success of this year's event, the Development Committee and the Leisure & Community Development Committee get together early next year in order to put plans in place for the Council's Christmas activities in 2023 with a view to the Castle Gardens event taking place in place of the previously organised Christmas parade in Lisburn City Centre.

The Director of Service Transformation responded to further comments raised and reminded the Committee that an evaluation report on the 2022 Christmas events would come before the Committee in due course.

6.2 Economic Development Trade and Civic Visit to Galway (00:45:02)
Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, reported on the success of the recent Economic Development trip to Galway which had been attended by himself, the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, the Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Economic Development as well as a delegation of local businesses. The Council delegation had met with the Galway Chamber of Commerce and the Mayor of Galway County Council. An invitation had been extended to the Mayor of Galway to a reciprocal visit to Lisburn and Castlereagh.

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, welcomed the opportunity to attend this trip and paid tribute to Galway's innovation hubs and tourism strategies.

The Director of Service Transformation advised that a report on the outcomes of the trip to Galway would come to the Committee in due course, and that the business delegation had reported positively on their trip.

The Director referred to the success stories from the local Enterprise parks and commercial businesses locally and reported on plans to bring forward a report to the Committee on the same. He expressed a view that the whole of the Committee would be invited to sites locally in connection the local business-system. The Director advised that

6.2 Economic Development Trade and Civic Visit to Galway (Cont'd)
Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart

these findings would be fed into a wider economic strategy with a view to maximizing opportunities within the BRDC growth deals.

Comments were noted from a Member who had spoken earlier that day with the owner of a new business in Hillsborough who had also attended the recent visit to Galway. The business owner had praised the Council on its successful trade visit and also commended the efforts of the Director of Service Transformation and the Head of Planning and Capital Development for their valued assistance in getting his new business established.

7. Confidential Report from Director of Service Transformation (00:55:34)

The Chairman advised that the Confidential report items were confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

In Committee (00:56:18)

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the Confidential Report of the Director of Service Transformation be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public. The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings (7.00 pm).

7.1 Estimates Process - Update
 (Report not to be published)

The Director of Service Transformation presented his report and drew the Committee's attention to the late information that had been circulated that afternoon.

The Director of Service Transformation, the Head of Economic Development and the Head of Assets responded to questions on a number of salient issues arising from the report.

During the discussion on this item of business Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 7.17 pm and returned at 7.20 pm.

Councillor G McCleave left the meeting at 7.35 pm.

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

7.1 Estimates Process – Update (Cont'd)

- a) four of the six proposed budget reductions as set out in the Director's report be approved with two budget reductions, as agreed during the discussion, being retained,
- b) the two alternative delivery models as set out in the report be approved,
- c) the three areas of potential change and associated budget reductions/income be approved, and
- d) the two additional budget areas as set out in the report be approved.

The Director undertook to provide the Committee with options for the location of the Balmoral Retail Marquee.

Alderman J Baird left at 7.19 pm and returned at 7.21 pm.

7.2 Hillsborough Forest Digital Sculpture Trail - Update
(Redacted Report to be published on completion of project)

It was proposed by the Vice Chairman, Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed that the recommendation as set out in the Officer's report be approved.

During discussion the Director of Service Transformation undertook to:

- a) report back to a Member who had requested further detail in relation to a matter raised during the discussion, and
- b) continue to monitor the issue in question.

During consideration of this item of business Alderman D Drysdale left the meeting at 8.04 pm and returned as 8.06 pm.

7.3 ITT for the Provision of Wooden 'Market Style' Huts
(Redacted report to be published following ratification of Decision)

It was agreed to note the award of the tender for the provision of wooden 'market style' huts, as outlined in the report circulated, which was the lowest tender submission received.

The Vice Chairman, Alderman A Grehan, and Councillor R T Beckett left the meeting at 8.40 pm.

8. Any Other Confidential Business

8.1 Planning Matters

The Head of Planning and Capital Development responded to a Member's question that had been raised earlier in the meeting in connection with planning matters. He offered to discuss any particular case with the Member directly.

8.2 Hillsborough Forest Sculpture Trail

The Director of Service Transformation responded to a question from a Member in connection with damage to one of the sculptures within Hillsborough Forest.

Resumption of Normal Business (00:56:28)

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy, and agreed to come out of Committee. Normal business and the audio recording were resumed (8.43 pm).

Conclusion of Meeting (00:56:36)

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, thanked everyone for their attendance and wished everyone compliments of the season.

There being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 8.43 pm.

Chairperson