

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 2nd February, 2023 at 6.02 pm

PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:

Alderman A G Ewart, MBE (Chairman)

Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

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

OTHER MEMBER:

Councillor A Gowan

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson

Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy

Councillors F Cole, J Gallen, H Legge and S Mulholland

OTHER MEMBER PRESENT REMOTE LOCATION:

Councillor Hon N Trimble and Councillor S Lee

IN ATTENDANCE

Head of Economic Development (Council Chamber)

Head of Assets (Council Chamber)

Member Services Officers (BS and EW)

IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, extended a welcome to all present to the February meeting of the Development Committee.

The Chairman 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.

Councillor S Lee joined the meeting at 6.03 pm.

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.

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

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

1. Apologies (00:02:39)

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of the Director of Service Transformation, Head of Planning and Capital Development and the Portfolio Manager.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:02:58)

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

3. Report by Head of Economic Development (00:03:14)

3.1 Employment Academies (00:03:22)

Further to the report considered by the Committee at its meeting in December 2022 on the delivery by the Council of a number of Employment Academies, the Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the delivery of one final Employment Academy across the Council area; namely a Leisure Academy.

The Head of Economic Development advised that the Leisure Academy aimed to provide participants with the relevant qualifications required to become a trained Lifeguard and that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council would be the employer for this Employment Academy in an effort to alleviate the current gaps in service delivery at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex due to a shortage of skilled Lifeguards.

Councillor N Trimble joined the meeting at 6.06 pm.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed to recommend the appointment of Workforce Training Services as the delivery agent for the Leisure Academy under Belfast City Council's Employment Academies Framework T1983 (Lot 2 Customer Service Employment Academies) up to a maximum budget of £10,000.

3.2 Northern Ireland All-Party Parliamentary Group – Taste of Northern Ireland Event (00:05:34)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Northern Ireland All-Party Parliamentary Group and the Taste of Northern Ireland event which was taking place on Monday 20th February at the Houses of Parliament, London.

3.2 Northern Ireland All-Party Parliamentary Group – Taste of Northern Ireland Event (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development reported that this Westminster showcase initiative had the potential to complement the work of a number of the Council's tourism programmes, and could provide an additional promotional platform for our local producers and hospitality sector.

It was noted that participants from the Royal Hillsborough and Historic Moira marketing project had been invited to showcase their wares at two planned events, namely; a Media evening and an Influencer and Bloggers evening.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the Chairman and Vice Chairperson of the Development Committee, or their nominees, and an appropriate Officer, attend the Taste of Northern Ireland event in London for the reasons outlined.

3.3 Investment Programme 2022-2023: Rescheduling Westminster Networking Event (00:06:47)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.09 pm).

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the re-scheduled Westminster Networking Event as part of the Council's Investment Programme 2022-2023, it being noted that the original event had been postponed following the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II in September 2022.

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

- a) the Chairman and Vice Chairperson of the Development Committee, or their nominees, along with a cross party delegation of Elected Members, and appropriate officer representation attend the rescheduled Westminster networking event, and
- b) representative/s of Royal Hillsborough Old Guard be included in the invite list as part of the Council's delegation.

3.4 Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2023-2024 (00:08:27)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Labour Market Partnership funding contract for 2023-2024.

The Head of Economic Development advised the Committee that the Department for Communities had confirmed that in order to secure funding for the financial year 2023/2024, draft Action Plans were due to be submitted to the Department by 24th February 2023.

3.4 Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2023-2024 (Cont'd)

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of DfC's draft Funding Allocation Matrix, it being noted that Lisburn & Castlereagh Labour Market Partnership had a provisional budget of £361,738.53. This budget would provide for the delivery and implementation of all three programme strategic priorities the details of which were set out in the report circulated.

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

- a) the update and indicative funding allocation of the Labour Market Partnership Funding Contract 2023-2024, as outlined, be noted,
- b) the development an action plan for the 2023-2024 Labour Market Partnership, as outlined, be noted, and
- c) an action plan for the 2023-2024 period according to the strategic themes, as outlined, be submitted to the Department for Communities by 24th February 2023.

3.5 Reallocation of Labour Market Partnership funds set aside for Self-Employment Options for Prison Leavers into Employment Academies (00:09:40)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the reallocation of Labour Market Partnership funds that had been set aside within the Labour Market Partnership funding allocation for a Self-Employment Options for Prison Leavers into Employment Academies.

The Head of Economic Development noted comments from some Members in connection with a number of issues arising from the report.

It was agreed that the abandonment of the Self-Employment Options for Prison Leavers Programme, and the reallocation of funding within the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan to ensure that funding was not lost, be noted.

3.6 Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – Update (00:17:05)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme Update.

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, left the meeting at 6.25 pm.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from the Committee in connection with a number of small settlements projects as listed in the appended document.

3.6 Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – Update (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development undertook to refer the request for an update on the Parklet Scheme in Moira to the Head of Parks and Amenities.

Councillor S Mulholland put on record her frustration with the Department for Infrastructure in respect of the delay in the advertisement of the Aghalee Roads Order.

It was agreed that the update on the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme be noted and that further updates would be presented as the project progressed.

3.7 Review of Tourism Action Plan (2018 – 2022) (00:26:50)

The Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the review of the outgoing Tourism Action Plan 2018-2022. A copy of the outgoing Action Plan (2018-2022) had been furnished to the Committee.

Alderman W J Dillon advised the Committee that he, along with the Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart and the Visitor Information Advisor, Ms Linda Murray, had attended the Holiday World Dublin event the previous weekend. Alderman Dillon commended the Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, for having carried out an excellent job on the Friday and Saturday at the Holiday World event. He also commended the efforts of the Council's Visitor Information Advisor, Linda Murray, for her dedication and efforts over the entire weekend. In this regard it was agreed, at the request of Alderman W J Dillon that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Ms Linda Murray.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from a Member in connection with the delay in the Knockmore Link Development Project (reference 1.5.2 of the Outgoing Tourism Action Plan). A number of comments on this matter from other Members of the Committee were also noted following which it was agreed on a proposal by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Swan, that the Council writes to the Permanent Secretary to convey the Council's dissatisfaction with the Department for Infrastructure's on-going delay with the Knockmore Link development project which was likely affecting investment in the area.

It was agreed to recommend that the content of the review of the outgoing Tourism Action Plan 2018 – 2022 be noted.

4. Confidential Report from Director of Service Transformation (00:38:25)

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).

Councillor H Legge left the meeting at 6.41 pm.

In Committee

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, 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.

4.1 Castlerea Urban Framework - Proposed Carryduff Environmental Improvement Scheme
(Report to be published on construction completion)

This report was presented by the Head of Economic Development.

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, returned to the meeting at 6.44 pm. Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 6.47 pm and returned again at 6.50 pm. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, left the meeting at 6.47 pm.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that a suitably qualified consultant to produce the requisite business case and associated traffic study for the Carryduff Environmental Improvement Scheme be commissioned, and that the commission is taken forward in line with CPD guidance as required in order to maximise funding.

4.2 2023 Down Rally
(Redacted Report to be published following Ratification)

This report was presented by the Head of Economic Development.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the request to use Lagan Valley Island for the venue of the 2023 Down Rally on Saturday 22nd July, on the basis of the resulting positive economic impact for the area, be approved and that the Lagan Valley Island site is offered to the organisers as a benefit in lieu of any funding being offered.

The Head of Economic Development undertook to follow up with the Down Rally organisers on two issues raised by Members during discussion.

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting at 7.02 pm.

4.3 Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Into Employment Programme as per the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/23
(Report to be published following award of Tender)

This report was presented by the Head of Economic Development.

Councillor S Lee left the meeting at 7.04 pm.

4.3 Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Into Employment Programme as per the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/23 (Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that the appointment of the delivery agent to deliver the Into Employment Programme, based on the evidence presented in the report circulated, be approved.

4.4 Various Annual Tender Reports for Award of Planned Preventative Maintenance Inspections
(Report to be published following ratification of award and placing of order)

This report was presented by the Head of Assets.

The Head of Assets responded to questions and comments from Members in connection some of the annual tender reports as listed in the Director's report.

It was agreed that the award of the various annual tenders for the award of planned preventative maintenance, being the lowest compliant tender costs received, be noted.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor R T Beckett, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

5. Any Other Business (00:39:30)

5.1 Relocation of the Harry Ferguson Memorial Aircraft Sculpture – Update (00:39:36)

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, advised the Committee that further to the Committee's previous decision, the relocation of the Harry Ferguson aircraft sculpture, which was currently located at the Pantridge flyover on the A1 dual carriageway, would be moving to the Hillsborough Forest Sculpture Trail next month.

It was proposed by the Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Council hosts an appropriate re-dedication ceremony to mark the unveiling of the Harry Ferguson aircraft sculpture at its new location within the Hillsborough Forest Digital Sculpture Trail,
- b) Alderman W J Dillon, who had dedicated this sculpture a number of years ago at its current location, be nominated to undertake the re-dedication of the sculpture at its new location, and

5.1 Relocation of the Harry Ferguson Memorial Aircraft Sculpture – Update (Cont'd)

- c) representatives from the Friends of Harry Ferguson be invited to the re-dedication ceremony and reception which would take place at a local hospitality venue.

5.2 Lets Go Hydro – Tourism NI Direction Signage (00:40:50)

Councillor U Mackin reported that he had been contacted earlier that day by a constituent who was concerned about the lack of appropriate brown tourism direction signage for Lets Go Hydro. It was noted that satellite navigation systems were not selecting the quickest and safest route for visitors who were unfamiliar with the area.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that the Council contacts Lets Go Hydro to discuss the requirement of brown tourism direction signs at appropriate locations. It was noted that Lets Go Hydro would be staging an international event in the near future.

Following further comments from the Committee, the Head of Economic Development provided clarification on the application process for brown tourism direction signs.

In line with the above proposal by Councillor U Mackin, the Head of Economic Development undertook to liaise with the Tourism Development Manager with a view to assisting Lets Go Hydro in connection with their application for brown tourism directions signs.

5.3 Name Place Signs - Long Kesh (00:42:53)
Councillor C McCready

At the outset Councillor C McCready expressed disappointment at the theft of a sign at Culcavy and thanked the Chairman for having reported this matter.

The Head of Assets responded to questions from Councillor McCready in regard to the matter of replacement place name signs at Long Kesh. The Head of Assets advised that further research had been carried out on this matter and outlined the course of action that had been agreed in this regard.

5.4 Delay in Name Place Signs for Royal Hillsborough (00:53:12)
Councillor C McCready

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan and agreed to recommend that the Council writes to the Department for Infrastructure (DfI) in connection with the on-going delay in the provision of the Royal Hillsborough signs.

At the request of the Vice Chairperson, it was agreed that the letter include detail on the issues raised during item 5.2 above pertaining to tourism signage across the Council area, and also conveying to DfI the Council's proposal/offer to progress its own tourism signage.

5.5 Tourism NI Funding Bid (00:55:35)

The Head of Economic Development reported on the success of the recent Tourism NI funding bid for £20,000 as part of the Council's tourism offering within the Integrated Marketing Campaign for the Lisburn and Castlereagh area.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that the award of grant funding from Tourism NI in the sum of £20,000 be expended on the Council's Integrated Marketing Campaign as outlined by the Head of Economic Development.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.31 pm.

Chairman