

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the Development Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, Lisburn, and remotely, on Thursday 3rd November 2022 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Alderman A G Ewart, MBE (Chairman)

Alderman A Grehan (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE and D Drysdale

Councillors R T Beckett, A Givan, H Legge, C McCready, U Mackin, S Mulholland and A Swan

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor S Carson and Councillor F Cole

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Service Transformation
 Head of Economic Development
 Head of Planning and Capital Development
 Head of Assets
 Portfolio Manager
 Member Services Officers (CH EW)
 IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, extended a welcome to those present at the meeting of the Development Committee, including those who were seated in the public gallery. The Chairman advised that the meeting would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

At this point, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers 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, Alderman A G Ewart, stated that, whilst the meeting was being recorded, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, Councillors J Gallen and G McCleave.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made at the meeting.

3. Report by Head of Economic Development

3.1 HGV Transport Academy – update (6.07 pm)

The Committee considered a report which outlined the background and key issues in connection with the delivery of the HGV Transport Academy across Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council, including allocated budget and additional grant from DfC, which would enable a minimum of 20 participants to complete the programme.

The Head of Economic Development responded to a number of questions from the Committee arising from the report.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the Committee proceeds with the appointment of Workforce Training Services as the delivery agent for the HGV Transport Academy under Belfast City Council's Employment Academies Framework T1983 – Lot 3 Practical Sector up to a maximum budget of £45,000, as detailed in the report circulated.

3.2 Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – Update (6.14 pm)

The Head of Economic Development's report provided a progress update on the current status of the key initiatives in connection with the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme.

Members were provided with copies of the terms of reference and application Documents for the Rural Investment Fund which had gone live on the 4th October 2022.

The Committee agreed that the contents of the report and associated appendices be noted.

3.3 Assessment of Applications to Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI)
(6.26 pm)

The Head of Economic Development spoke to a report outlining progress in relation to the appointed Assessment Panel for the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA.

3.3 Assessment of Applications to Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI)
Cont'd

Members were provided with a copy of the Assessment Panel Recommendations.

The Committee agreed that the recommendations of the Assessment Panel, which resulted in the issue of 23 Letters of Offer, with a combined grant award of up to £75,672.01 be noted.

4. Report of the Head of Planning and Capital Development

4.1 Planning Publication Policy (6.28 pm)

The Head of Planning and Capital Development provided an update in relation to the introduction of a new planning portal which is proposed to go live on the 5th December 2022. He reported that all the participating Councils as planning authorities are required by legislation and in the public interest, to publish details of the applications and any supporting documentation, to include comments received on planning applications.

Members were provided with a copy of the associated Planning Publication Policy which would inform users how their personal data would be processed.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the Planning Publication Policy be uploaded to the Council website as part of the implementation of a new planning portal and online application service.

5. Confidential Report from Director of Service Transformation

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, advised that the confidential report items would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person or organisation (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The member of the public seated in the public gallery left the meeting (6.29 pm).

5.1 Estimates Process 2023/24 for the Service Transformation Directorate (6.30 pm)

The Director of Service Transformation responded to a number of comments and questions from the Committee arising from the report.

Following discussion it was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) progress on the estimates process for 2023/24 be noted;
- b) proposed Price Point percentage increases for 2023/24, be approved for Property Certificates, subject to the outlined governance; and
- c) a range of efficiency initiatives being considered in support of the corporate efficiency programme be noted.

5.2 Dublin Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) Resource Request and Update (7.19 pm) (Report to be published March 2023)

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that the recommendations of the Director be approved, namely;

- a) the progress to date to develop the DBEC be noted and the Draft Strategy be adopted;
- b) the recruitment of the two DBEC posts on a two year fixed term contract as outlined in the resource report be approved;
- c) the use of remaining DBEC Partnership budgets to cover the costs of the two staff posts, as referred to above, until March 2023 be approved;
- d) an estimated contribution per annum from April 2023 onwards, as detailed in the report, until such time the combined Council contribution of 100% discontinues through alternative funding sources be approved; and
- e) payment of the final balance for completion of the strategy in the amount as detailed in the report be approved.

5.3 Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) – Update (7.29 pm)
(Report to be published October 2023)

Alderman D Drysdale left the meeting at 7.39 pm.

The Director of Service Transformation and the Portfolio Manager presented this item of business. The Officers present responded to a number of questions from the Committee.

5.3 Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) – Update (Cont'd)

Having been advised that Padraic Murphy from the Portfolio Office had recently left the Council, the Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, suggested that a letter of appreciation be sent to Padraic on behalf of the committee, for his hard work and dedication on the Belfast Region City Deal Project. The committee agreed to this course of action.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the recommendations of the Director be approved, namely:

- a) progress of the Destination Royal Hillsborough City Deal proposal through DfE casework committee, and the draft implementation plan with indicative timelines and key milestones in advance of the formal Letter of Offer be noted;
- b) overview on the BRCD ongoing work programme for Lisburn & Castlereagh, and wider programming and project coordination role for the BRCD posts be noted; and
- c) the three posts to support delivery of the Council's BRCD work programme as outlined in the report be made permanent.

5.4 Full Fibre Networks NI Collaborative WAN/MPLS Contract Update (7.43 pm) (Report to be published March 2023)

The Portfolio Manager presented this item of business and outlined the background, key issues and next steps in relation to the above contract.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed to recommend that, as the WAN/MPLS contract had been awarded as detailed within the report circulated, that the Council formally becomes part of the collaborative Council contract, the cost of which was set out in the report.

5.5 Tender Report for award of Boiler Replacement Programme (7.49 pm) (Redacted report to be published November 2022)

The Head of Assets presented this item.

Councillor F Cole placed on record her concern in connection with the Council's carbon footprint and that this needed to be addressed.

The Committee agreed that the award of the tender for the Boiler Replacement Programme in accordance with the Council's Scheme of Delegation be noted.

- 5.6 Tender Report for Planned Maintenance Inspections of Gas Detection (7.55 pm)
(Redacted report to be published following ratification of award and placing of order)

The Head of Assets presented this item. In line with delegated authority, the Committee agreed that the award of the tender to the Contractor, as detailed within the report circulated be noted.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Christmas Markets

The Head of Economic Development advised the Committee of the following agreed dates for upcoming Christmas Markets:

- a) Dundonald: 1st December 2022
- b) Royal Hillsborough: 9th December 2022
- c) Carryduff: 16th December 2022

The Head of Economic Development reported that officers were in discussion with potential sponsors for each of the Christmas Markets.

6.2 Jobs Fair

The Head of Economic Development reported that the first of two agreed Jobs Fairs to take place this financial year was to be held on Thursday 24th November, Lagan Valley Island and indicated that all Members were welcome to attend.

6.3 Maze/Long Kesh Signage

In response to a question raised by Councillor C McCready, the Head of Assets reported that, in particular, the Long Kesh signage had been temporarily removed due to objections received. The signage in question was part of the roll out of the Councils 'Village Name Plates Initiative'. It was further advised, that the designation of the area as 'Long Kesh' was noted within the area plan, and that the same designations had been used for the Small Settlements, however, it was understood that the area was also recognised locally

as 'Maze'. The Head of Assets informed the Committee that a consultation with the local community was due to take place shortly.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 8.02 pm.

Chairman