

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of the Environment and Sustainability Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, on Wednesday 4 February 2026 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Alderman O Gawith (Chair)

Councillor S Burns (Vice-Chair)

Alderman J Baird

Councillors J Bamford, P Catney, A Givan, G Hynds and M McKeever

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman S Skillen

Councillors B Magee, C McCreedy, R McLernon and N Parker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Environmental Services

Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning)

Head of Service (Building Control & Sustainability)

Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services)

Member Services Officers (EW and FA)

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chair, Alderman O Gawith, welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business. The Chair stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chair asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting.

In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chair asked that those attending via zoom to ensure that the meeting could not be seen or heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered. The Chair proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Apologies**

No apologies were recorded.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

Alderman J Baird declared an interest in Item 4.1 and Councillor M McKeever declared an interest in Item 3.1 and stated that he would leave the meeting for the duration of this item of business.

3. Report by the Director of Environmental Services

3.1 Houses in Multiple Occupancy Review of Licence Scheme Charges and Proposed Increase in Licence Fee from 1 April 2023/6

Councillor N Parker joined the meeting via Zoom and Councillor M McKeever left the meeting during consideration of this item (6.03 pm)

The Director of Environmental Services delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

In response to questions from Councillor G Hynds regarding covering the costs incurred by Belfast City Council for the administration of the HMO licencing scheme and SOLACE decision making, the Director of Environmental Services advised that the annual charge is to enable Councils to operate the scheme on a cost neutral basis so that there is no additional financial commitment from any Council across Northern Ireland, and in response to SOLACE, the Director advised that SOLACE had agreed to the increase on the basis that this would be brought to each Council for decision making purposes.

In response to a request from Councillor G Hynds for the committee to receive an update on the operation of HMOs locally, the Director advised she would provide additional information on the matter.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend approval to the increase of the HMO licence application fee to £62 per person per year, from 1 April 2026. It was also agreed to recommend approval to increase the costs of varying an HMO licence as follows:

Licence variations	
Item	Cost
Addition of a new managing agent	£250
Addition of a new occupant	£310 for each new occupant + £125 inspection fee (per visit)

It was further agreed to note that the Chair of SOLACE would write to the DfC Permanent Secretary regarding the risk being carried by Councils and the need to bring forward legislation on this matter within the current mandate.

4. Report by Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning)

4.1 The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025

Councillor M McKeever returned to the meeting during this item of business (6.09 pm)

The Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

It was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Councillor P Catney, and agreed to recommend approval of the Consultation Response document in relation

4.1 The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 (Cont'd)

to The Private Tenancies (Notice to Quit) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2025 to be submitted to DfC on behalf of the Council.

4.2 Storm Chandra

Councillor J Bamford wished to put on record her Party's thanks to all officers and staff for their emergency response to Storm Chandra which was very much appreciated.

In response to comments made by Alderman J Baird regarding future planning for flooding of rivers, the Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk and Emergency Planning) advised that there was a Southern Eastern Preparedness Group which this council was part of and it has different work streams and partners whom the council regularly engage with to support any local issues. The Director advised that meetings had taken place with DfI around winter preparedness and once feedback from the Department was received, she would provide Members with an update.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor G Hynds, and agreed to note:

- the support and coordination role undertaken by the council during and after Storm Chandra; and
- the additional actions outlined to further strengthen the provision of council services and support of the community in any future incidents.

5. Report by Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services)

5.1 Rethinking Our Resources: Northern Ireland Resources and Waste Management Strategy Consultation

The Head of Service (Waste, Management & Operational Services) delivered this report, which the Members had already been furnished with.

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend approval that the committee is granted delegated authority for the April Environment & Sustainability Committee to consider and approve the draft response.

6. Any Other Business

6.1 Information and Correspondence Schedule Councillor M McKeever

In response to a query from Councillor M McKeever regarding the delay in receiving the Information and Correspondence Schedule, the Chair, Alderman O Gawith, advised that this had been a clerical error.

6.2 Bin Collections
Councillor M McKeever

Councillor McKeever wished to put on record his gratitude to the Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services) for his help with an enquiry regarding bins being collected in the Beechhill Road area while roadworks were being carried out and that the residents were very appreciative of the council's response, particularly the link in with Bryson to ensure there would be no disruption.

6.3 Derriaghy Road Dumping
Councillor G Hynds

In response to comments from Councillor G Hynds regarding substantial dumping in the Derriaghy Road area, the Director advised that the land was under private ownership and that a camera had been placed there for surveillance. The council's enforcement officers always looked for evidence when illegal dumping occurred in order to ascertain any links which may identify the culprit. This process was undertaken in the first instance prior to any waste being deployed to lift it. The Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning) advised that the area was now flagged as a hotspot and that enforcement officers continued to monitor the CCTV footage in order that prosecutions could be brought forward. The Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services) advised that equipment needs to be hired to remove the materials and that this was ongoing.

6.4 Sweeper in Glenmore
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds requested if a sweeper could clean footpaths in the Glenmore area to which the Head of Service (Waste Management & Operational Services) agreed to look into.

6.5 Task and Finish
Councillor G Hynds

In response to a query around Task and Finish from Councillor Hynds, the Director of Environmental Services advised that there were no plans to reintroduce Task and Finish as this was no longer in the terms and conditions of employment.

6.6 Dumping and Dog Fouling
Alderman S Skillen

In response to comments from Alderman Skillen regarding dumping on the Grahamsbridge Road and dog fouling on the Ballyregan Road in Dundonald, the Head of Service (Environmental Health, Risk & Emergency Planning) advised that enforcement officers could take action at any time when offences were brought to their attention, either through direct observation of the offence taking place or from a statement of evidence being provided. He also advised that resources could be put in place at a specific time in any area that any form of environmental crime had been reported.

6.7 Illegal Dumping
Councillor Pat Catney

Councillor P Catney reported that he had made contact through the Directorate about a complaint he had received regarding a large quantity of tyres and rubbish thrown in the Richmond Wood area and that the Directorate contacted the landowner and the matter was satisfactorily resolved.

6.8 Hilden Mill
Councillor G Hynds

Following a request from Councillor G Hynds for an updated report on Hilden Mill, in terms of agreed actions with the owner, the Director of Environmental Services advised that an update would be provided through the Information and Correspondence Schedule.

7. Any Other Business (Confidential)

At the request of Councillor M McKeever to discuss an item of any other business in confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information), the Chair, Alderman O Gawith, advised that the item would be dealt with "In Committee".

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor M McKeever, and agreed that the following matter be considered "In Committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

The member of the press seated in the public gallery left the Council Chamber (6.45 pm).

7.1 Update on Cost Recovery from Bryson Recycling

The Director of Environmental Services responded to a question raised by a Member.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

The Chair, Alderman O Gawith, thanked Members for their attendance.

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 6.50 pm.

Chairperson