

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 28 January, 2025 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor K Dickson

Deputy Mayor  
Councillor R Carlin

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg,  
A Grehan, H Legge, A McIntyre, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns, P Catney,  
D J Craig, N Eaton, A P Ewing, A Givan, J Harpur,  
B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp, S Lowry, G McCleave,  
C McCready, M McKeever, R McLernon, T Mitchell and  
G Thompson

**PRESENT REMOTELY:**

Alderman S Skillen

Councillors J Gallen, J Lavery BEM, D Lynch and N Parker

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive  
Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing  
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation  
Acting Director of Environmental Services  
Head of Corporate Communications and Administration  
Head of Planning and Capital Development  
Member Services Officers  
Technician  
IT Officer

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Mayor pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency. The Right Worshipful the Mayor requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, referred to his ongoing project with local eco-schools. A short video of a recent visit by the Mayor to St Joseph's Primary School in Carryduff was played, showing the school's eco-garden and hearing from pupils why they felt it important to look after the environment. The Mayor thanked the staff and pupils of St Joseph's for facilitating his visit.

### Prayers

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, expressed condolences in respect of the following bereavements:

- Paul Spence, husband of Nicola Spence, employee at Lagan Valley LeisurePlex; and
- George Millar, father of Gina Brabon, employee in Parks & Amenities.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor welcomed his Chaplain, Rev S Reain-Adair, to the meeting. Rev Reain-Adair gave an address and said a prayer, during which he also referred to the above bereavements and offered his sympathy to the families. The Mayor thanked Rev Reain-Adair for his attendance and he left the meeting (7.10 pm).

## 1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

### 1.1 Mayor's Engagements

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, since the last meeting of Council.

## 2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Councillors A Gowan, P Kennedy, U Mackin, A Martin and N Trimble and the Director of Regeneration and Growth.

## 3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

## 4. Council Minutes

### 4.1 Council Meeting – 17 December, 2024

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 17 December, 2024 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman A Grehan and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and AR Marquees, 22 Clarkes Road, Newtownhamilton BT35 0EQ – Letter of Appointment – Supply of Marquees and Associated Equipment;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and HI Reach, 18 Causeway Manor, Lisburn BT28 2FZ – Contract for Provision of Power Washing Services;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ryak Cleaning, 9 Hillview Road, Belfast BT14 7BT – Contract for Provision of Power Washing Services;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and DGS Service Solutions, Unit 14 48 North, 48 Duncrue Street, Belfast BT3 9BJ – Contract for Provision of Power Washing Services;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Tangible Consulting Ltd, 11 Glengoland Avenue, Belfast BT17 0HY – Letter of Offer – T24/25-024 – Self Employment Support Programme;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Workforce Training Services, 465 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 3BP – Letter of Offer – F24/25-014 – HGV Employment Academy;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and R&M Greenkeeper Limited, Unit C1 Kilcronagh Business Park, Cookstown BT80 9HG – Contract for Provision of a Haulage Service for Residual and Green Wastes from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref: STA 24/25-017); and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Gibson Quarries (Banbridge) Ltd, 1 Kilmacrew Road, Banbridge BT32 4ES – Contract for Resurfacing Programme.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

**Communities and Wellbeing Committee**

**7 January, 2025**

Proposed by Councillor D J Craig

Seconded by Alderman H Legge

**Environment and Sustainability Committee**

**9 January, 2025**

Proposed by Councillor P Catney

Seconded by Councillor G Hynds

Item 4.1, Page 26  
Stray/Abandoned Dog

Councillor G Hynds put on record that the Council was in a better place as regards to Max, but he outlined concerns in respect of the Environment and Sustainability Committee meeting, which would hopefully be addressed at the next meeting.

**Corporate Services Committee**

**8 January, 2025**

Proposed by Councillor N Eaton

Seconded by Councillor B Higginson

**Regeneration and Growth Committee**

**13 January, 2025**

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart

Seconded by Councillor C Kemp

**Planning Committee**

**2 December, 2024**

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 2 December, 2024 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 6 January, 2025. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive

There were no reports from the Chief Executive.

10. Reports from Members on Boards

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion

12.1 Transparency

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G Hynds, had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council believes that maintaining accountability and public trust in the democratic process is essential. A key part of this is ensuring that decisions are made openly and can be subject to public scrutiny. Council recognises the need to ensure

12.1 Transparency (Contd)

transparency in its decision making through council, committee and working group discussions and decisions conducted in restricted session.

We recognise the improvements made in Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council in relation to transparency to help maintain public trust and ensure that the people of Lisburn and Castlereagh can be fully informed about how decisions that affect them have been reached. We reaffirm our ongoing commitment that this council is committed to 'transparency by default' by which all meetings and documentation will be placed in the public domain as standard, with information or discussions only being redacted or restricted very specifically in relation to those issues which fall within the exemptions in the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. We request that officers investigate and cost options to allow full council and committee meetings to be live streamed as standard, with recordings then published online within an appropriate timeframe for the public to remain informed at the time of discussions and decisions.

We believe that Councillors must have the ability to seek clarity and challenge Council Officers to ensure that exemptions are minimised and are not overused and that the overall public interest is maintained. In the interests of public accountability and confidence, we believe that where a matter on an issue is brought to a vote in committee, the result of which is not unanimous, that that vote must be recorded. Officers are requested to consider and present proposed amendments to standing orders and other associated guidelines in relation to all council, committee and working group discussions and decisions and decisions which enables this approach, to ensure maximum transparency while adhering to legislative requirements, ultimately making this organisation an exemplar public body in terms of transparency and openness".

The Notice of Motion was proposed by Councillor G Hynds and seconded by Councillor P Catney.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, advised that the above Notice of Motion would be referred, without debate, to the Corporate Services Committee for consideration as it related to matters linked to the corporate running of the Council. However, any change to Standing Orders in due course would be presented back to Council.

In response to a query by Councillor P Catney, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, advised that, whilst he and Councillor Hynds would be permitted to speak to the Notice of Motion at the Corporate Services Committee meeting, it would require to be proposed and seconded by Members of that Committee.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 Storm Eowyn

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, referred to Storm Eowyn the previous weekend and put on record his sincere thanks to Council staff for their work in the aftermath of the storm. A number of community centres and Council facilities had been opened up to provide assistance to the many residents who were left without power. The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland had visited Lagan Valley Island the previous day and met with staff who had been working on the ground and his appreciation was shared by Elected Members. The Mayor also expressed his appreciation to the staff of Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE) for their efforts during such a difficult situation, with work ongoing to restore power to those homes still without electricity. Lastly, he thanked all those community groups and community volunteers who had helped.

A number of other Members put their thanks on record, namely Councillor G Thompson (on behalf of the Alliance Party), Councillor B Higginson (both personally and on behalf of Councillor A Gowan), Councillor D J Craig, Alderman H Legge (on behalf of the UUP and Councillor A Martin), Councillor G Hynds, Councillor D Bassett and Alderman J Tinsley. Comments made included:

- sincere thanks and gratitude for the team effort and hard work by all Council Officers involved. The welcome provided to those residents attending community centres for food, hot drinks, charging appliances etc had been much appreciated by local communities. Particular thanks were extended to the Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing and staff within Community Services and Parks & Amenities;
- thanks to the Chief Executive for his leadership and for the regular updates communicated to Elected Members. This had been invaluable for Members who were approached by people seeking help and support;
- thanks to community centres, churches, sports groups and community organisations throughout the Council area that had opened their doors to provide a warm space, hot food, showering facilities etc;
- thanks to the staff of NIE whose hard work had been second to none;
- thanks to a number of caterers who had supplied hot food for those without power;
- thanks to local farmers for their support in clearing trees and debris from roads; and
- thanks to other statutory agencies for assistance provided, such as Northern Ireland Housing Executive, Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service, PSNI.

13.1 Storm Eowyn (Contd)  
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson

Arising from discussion, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson agreed to:

- write a letter of thanks to Council staff for their hard work over the last number of days. The Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, Councillor D J Craig, stated that he had intended writing a letter of thanks, but would be happy to do this jointly with the Mayor;
- write a letter of thanks to Mr Michael Barr, Store Manager at EUROSPAR Brackenvale, Carryduff, for having donated essential supplies to Lough Moss Leisure Centre for those residents in need of assistance; and
- write a letter of thanks to NIE thanking all its staff for their continued efforts in restoring power to the very many properties affected by the storm.

13.2 Green Lane  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds stated that he had been contacted by residents of Green Lane reporting that lights had been removed by the Department for Infrastructure (DfI). Despite the lights having been maintained for many years, DfI had advised that the area had never been adopted. Councillor Hynds stated that the area now being left in darkness was unacceptable, especially given the current situation as regards violence towards women and girls, and proposed that a letter be sent to the Department highlighting concerns. This was seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed.

13.3 Derriaghy Football Club  
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds referred to Derriaghy Football Club having won the Steel & Sons Cup on Christmas Day and asked that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, recognise this outstanding achievement. The Mayor agreed to this request.

At a later point in Any Other Business, the Chair of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, Councillor D J Craig, advised that he had already agreed to host a reception for Derriaghy Football Club and this would be held in conjunction with the Mayor.

13.4 Follow Up on Actions from Special Council Meeting to Receive DfI Roads (Eastern Division) – 18 November, 2024

Councillor J Lavery having enquired about updates on actions from DfI Roads following the special meeting of Council on 18 November, 2024, the Chief Executive advised that the Director of Regeneration and Growth had been following up on this matter with DfI. The Chief Executive agreed to discuss this matter with him on his return from leave.

13.5 Retirement of PCSP Officer  
Councillor S Lowry

Councillor S Lowry, Chair of Lisburn & Castlereagh Policing and Community Safety Partnership, referred to the forthcoming retirement of PCSP Officer, Stephen Addley. She paid tribute to Mr Addley's many years of service both to the former Castlereagh Borough Council and to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. His contribution had been valued and appreciated across the Council and she stated that Mr Addley would be missed by Members and staff alike. At the request of Councillor Lowry, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, agreed to write a letter to Mr Addley thanking him for his years of service and wishing him well in his retirement.

At a later point under Any Other Business, Alderman S Skillen also paid tribute to Mr Addley.

13.6 Screen in Council Chamber for Zoom Display  
Alderman J Tinsley

At the request of Alderman J Tinsley, it was agreed that Officers investigate the possibility of providing a screen in the Council Chamber so those in attendance in the Chamber were able to see those Members attending remotely.

13.7 March Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee  
Alderman S P Porter

At the request of the Chair of the Governance and Audit Committee, Alderman S P Porter, it was agreed that the meeting of that Committee scheduled for 13 March, 2025 would commence at the earlier time of 4.30 pm to facilitate Members' attendance at the Mayor's Community Awards later that evening.

13.8 Reconvening of Working Group  
Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, advised that he had been in contact recently with a number of developers in the Carryduff/Fourwinds area and understood there had been some movement around Knockbracken. He proposed that the Council reengage with some of the landowners around the Carryduff Greenway and potentially reconvene the previously-established Working Group. This proposal was seconded by Councillor D Bassett and agreed.

14. Confidential Business

The matter contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).



“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Alderman J Baird and agreed that the following items be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The livestream was paused at this point.

- 14.1 Requirement to Enter Into a Section 76 Planning Agreement and Related Agreements for Planning Applications LA05/2022/0247/F and LA05/2022/0249/F  
(Report will be made available after the agreement is signed and sealed)

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor B Higginson and agreed that approval be granted to the signing and sealing of these agreements by the Mayor and Chief Executive.

- 14.2 Local PEACEPLUS Action Plan: Theme 1 Regeneration/Transformation Match Funded Projects

Councillor D J Craig sought an update on the above matter, which had been considered at the January meeting of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee. The Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing provided a verbal update on actions taken since that meeting and, following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed that letters be forwarded to the Finance Minister and Education Minister as a matter of urgency.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage.

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.07 pm.

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Mayor