

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL****Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn and in remote locations on Monday 13 January 2025 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird and M Gregg

Councillors A Gowan, J Harpur, C Kemp, J Lavery BEM, U Mackin, C McCready and N Parker

**REMOTE ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors J Gallen, D Lynch and T Mitchell

**OTHER MEMBER:**

Councillors G Hynds (Chamber) and G McCleave (Zoom)

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Director of Regeneration & Growth  
 Head of Planning & Capital Development  
 Head of Assets  
 Member Services Officers (BS and EW)  
 IT Officer

**Commencement of Meeting**

In the absence of the Chairperson, the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, chaired the meeting.

The Vice Chairperson extended a welcome to all present at the January meeting of the Committee and reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Councillor C McCready entered the meeting at 6.01 pm.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, Councillors R T Beckett and A Martin, and the Head of Economic Development.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3.0 Report of Head of Economic Development

In the absence of the Head of Economic Development, the Director of Regeneration & Growth presented the Head of Service's report.

3.1 Holiday World Dublin 2025

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the Council's representation at Holiday World Dublin which was taking place in the RDS, Dublin, from 24-26 January 2025, the Council having taken part as a partner on the Visit Belfast stand at this event in 2024.

The Director responded to a question from a Member in connection with the lateness of this item of business coming before the Committee.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed to recommend that the Council takes a stand over the three days at Holiday World Dublin at a cost of £550 and that the attendance of the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson and/or their nominees be approved.

4. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman, Alderman A G Ewart, advised that confidential report items were required to be considered under confidential business 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 Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed that the Confidential Reports 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 Regeneration & Growth Estimates 2025/2026  
(Full Estimates to be published in February 2025)

The Director of Regeneration & Growth highlighted a number of previously referred to issues in connection with the draft estimates and responded to questions and comments raised by Members in connection with draft estimates, as presented. The Head of Assets also addressed the Committee in response to one of the items raised.

#### 4.1 Regeneration & Growth Estimates 2025/2026 (Cont'd)

The Director commended the efforts of the Programme Manager and her team for their efforts in relation to the number of TRPSI letters of offer that had been issued recently, it being noted that a report on this programme would come forward in due course.

Alderman M Gregg reminded Members of the agreement at the Environment & Sustainability Committee meeting the previous week and the cross-referenced comments relating the proposals presented.

The Vice Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, expressed thanks to the Director and his team of Officers for their work on the draft estimates.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that the draft Estimates for the Regeneration & Growth Directorate 2025/2026, notwithstanding the proposed adjustment agreed in relation to the corporate position, as presented, be agreed and be submitted into the overall Estimates of the Council for the year commencing 1 April 2025.

#### 4.2 Business Case Display Feature Maintenance Contract

(Redacted Report to be published following ratification by Council)

Presented by the Head of Assets.

The Committee considered a report outlining the background and key issues in connection with the business case display feature maintenance contract, a copy of the contract having been appended to the Officer's report.

The Head of Assets advised the Committee of a correction to the report in connection with the term of the contract, it being noted that the correct contract term should read March 2024-February 2025.

The Head of Assets and the Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to questions from Members in connection with issues arising out of the Officer's report. The Director undertook to provide further information to a Member in connection with the issue she had raised.

In addition the Director gave assurances that much of the work for the maintenance of the Council's assets within the forest would be dealt with by the Council's in-house resources where possible.

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

- a) Option 4 of the Business Case, as presented, be approved, and
- b) the tender process for the Display Feature Maintenance Contract be progressed.

4.3 Small Settlements Update and Programme Extension  
(Redacted Report to be published July 2025)

The Committee considered a report outlining the background and key issues in connection with the Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration programme the deadline of which had been extended by the Department for Communities to June 2025.

An update paper on the progress of projects to date and associated projected spend had been appended to the Officer's report, together with a list of proposed projects to utilise any underspend.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth elaborated on some of the projects and responded to questions from Members in connection with a number of the projects listed in the appended documents, as well as a request for an additional project.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the update report on the Small Settlements Programme and Programme extension be noted,
- b) the options presented for additional projects be delivered from the potential underspend, as outlined, be approved, including an additional bus shelter project in Culcavy which had been proposed on the evening,
- c) the projects be included in the Council Works Programme, and
- d) in addition, the feasibility of a further proposal for a commemorative inscription be investigated by the Director of Regeneration & Growth which had been requested on the evening.

4.4 Balmoral Show 2025 – Council Representation  
(Redacted report to be published following ratification by Council)

The Committee considered a report outlining the background and key issues in connection with the Council's representation at the Balmoral Show 2025.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to questions from two Members in connection with issues highlighted in the report.

It was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the Council proceeds with the proposed location site for the 2025 Balmoral Show, as set out in the appended documents, and that the supporting programme, as outlined, be approved.

4.5 Business Case for London/Westminster Investment Showcase and UK Trade Programme

(Redacted Report to be published March 2025)

The Committee considered a report outlining the background and key issues in connection with the London/Westminster Investment Showcase event and the UK Trade Programme.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the business case which outlined the rationale, business needs, and preferred options for this initiative.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Councillor A Gowan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the business case and the procurement of a suitable provider(s) for the relevant aspects of the London/Westminster Investment initiative be approved, and
- b) the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and/or other nominees from the Committee on a cross party basis be in attendance.

4.6 Business Case for UK Shared Prosperity Fund – Christmas Activity

(Report to be published July 2025)

The Committee considered a report outlining the background and key issues in connection with the UK Shared Prosperity Fund and the 2024 programme of Christmas activity.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the business case which had been agreed previously to be provided to the Committee retrospectively and which provided Members with the background for the expenditure, the business need and a recommendation for the preferred option.

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, on behalf of the Committee, conveyed thanks and appreciation to the City Centre Development Officer and her team for their efforts which had ensured a very successful Christmas programme of events.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to questions from two Members arising from the report and noted a request in connection with the Christmas lights in Moira.

It was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy, and agreed to recommend that the business case and the recommendation to go with Option 4 in respect of new elements of the Council's Christmas activity programme, to be funded through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, be agreed retrospectively.

5. Any Other Confidential Business

5.1 Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) – Update on Project Timelines  
Councillor J Lavery

At the request of Councillor J Lavery, the Director of Regeneration & Growth and the Head of Planning & Capital Development updated the Committee in regard to the timelines for one of the BRCD projects.

5.2 Apology for Non-Attendance by Councillor A Martin  
Councillor T Mitchell

Councillor T Mitchell submitted a late apology on behalf of Councillor A Martin and it was agreed that Councillor Martin's apology be recorded.

5.3 Electronic Travel Authorisation  
Alderman M Gregg

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to comments and concerns from Alderman M Gregg in connection with the proposals to introduce electronic travel authorisation to anyone travelling to the UK including Northern Ireland.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Vice Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.05 pm.

---

Chairperson