

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Council held in the Island Civic Centre on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022 at 6.00pm**

**PRESENT:** The Right Worshipful the Mayor Councillor S Carson  
Aldermen A Ewart, A Grehan and J Tinsley

Councillors D J Craig, Gallen, U Mackin, C McCready,  
Jenny Palmer and Hon Councillor N Trimble

**PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:** The Deputy Mayor Councillor M Guy  
Alderman D Drysdale

Councillors F Cole, A Givan, A Gowan, M Gregg,  
J Laverty, S Lee, S Lowry, S Mulholland, G McCleave,  
A McIntyre and John Palmer.

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council  
Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Director of Service Transformation (via Zoom)  
Member Services Officers (BF and EW)

**Commencement of the Meeting**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, welcomed those present to the meeting and advised that unauthorised recording was not permitted.

(Deputy Mayor Councillor M Guy joined the meeting at 6.04pm)

1. **Apologies**

Apologies for non-attendance were recorded on behalf of Aldermen J Baird, O Gawith, M Henderson, S Martin and S P Porter, together with Councillors R Carlin, H Legge and R McLernon.

2. **Declarations of Interest**

No declarations were made.

3.2 **Northern Ireland Water - Price Control 2021 to 2027**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reminded the Council that the meeting had been convened to enable representatives of Northern Ireland Water to present its infrastructure plans, specifically those for the Council area. Accordingly, he welcomed the following representatives to the meeting:

- Dr Stephen Blockwell - Head of Investment Management, Asset Delivery Directorate
- Mr Mark Mitchell – Head of Capital Delivery, Asset Delivery Directorate

- Dr Gary Curran - Head of Metering and Billing, Customer and Operations Directorate

Dr Blockwell provided an overview of the organisation's investment plan, known as PC21 (Price Control 2021-2027), which aimed to deliver wastewater services and capital infrastructure across Northern Ireland. The Council was advised that there was a requirement for central government to identify and provide sufficient funding to enable the investment needed for water and wastewater across Northern Ireland and the Council area in particular. Dr Blockwell indicated that the a capital investment of approx. £2.2bn was required for that purpose, which would enable the organisation to deliver services as efficiently and effectively as possible for the benefit of all of its customers. The officials emphasised that it was important that PC21 was fully funding and requested that Members convey that message to Assembly members on behalf of their constituents.

Regarding work carried out within the Council area, the officials referred to a number of schemes. Specifically, the £4million investment which had been made to upgrade the wastewater treatment works at Maghaberry, which had provided a direct benefit to approx. 5,000 residents. In addition, he reported that upgrades to the Dromara, and Kinnegar wastewater treatment works, and to the Newtownbreda sewer system, were programmed to be delivered within the PC21 period, subject to statutory approvals and funding. The Council was provided also with an overview of the feasibility study which is currently being undertaken in respect of a proposed new wastewater treatment works within the Lisburn west area.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor then invited questions from Members in respect of the presentation. During discussion, the following matters were clarified and undertakings noted in response to Members' questions:

- In response to a question from Councillor D J Craig, regarding the timescale for the replacement of pipework in Rosevale Park, Barley Hill and Huguenot Drive, to enable the resurfacing of roads, Dr Blockwell provided an assurance that that work would be commenced within the current financial year;
- Councillor Jenny Palmer referred to the level of chlorine in the drinking water in the general Grand Street area and, in response, the officials indicated that a water quality test would be undertaken at an address to be provided to NI Water officials;
- The Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, sought clarity on the timescales for a resolution to issues which residents had experienced at new developments in the vicinity of Ballymaconaghy Road. She pointed out that concerns had been raised that residents might be faced with longer-term cost and waste management issues should the situation remain unresolved. In response, the officials provided an update on the steps which NI Water were taking, the ongoing discussions with two developers, and how any solution in the short or medium term was likely to be developer-led;
- Councillor A Givan raised issues relating to water shortages and the contingencies which NI Water had introduced to preclude hosepipe bans, should

there be a prolonged spell of dry weather. The officials gave an overview of the steps which had been taken in this regard;

- In response to a query raised by Alderman J Tinsley, the officials provided an update on the status and potential future use for both Stoneyford and Leathemstown reservoirs. In addition, clarity was provided on a specific planning issue regarding single dwelling developments. Also, the officials outlined the powers which the organisation had to detect individuals or companies that overused water in an irresponsible manner;
- Clarification was provided to Councillor John Palmer, who had raised issues regarding the infrastructural capacity to deal with flooding in the several areas as a result of new developments;
- The officials undertook to investigate reports of lime-scale build-up in kettles which had been reported to Councillor C McCreedy in the west Lisburn/Moira Road vicinity.

(The Deputy Mayor Councillor M Guy and Hon Councillor N Trimble left the meeting at 07.05pm)

- Alderman A Grehan referred to the proposed development of a wastewater treatment works in the Lisburn area and requested that NI Water would agree to present to the Council its engagement and consultation strategy with residents, the public and developers for Members' consideration prior to the commencement of any work in this regard. In response, Mr Mitchell indicated that NI Water would be happy to present to the Council as requested.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, thanked the officials for attending. He paid particular tribute to the organisation for the manner in which its Customer and Elected Representatives phone number service was managed and the help that it provided to both elected representatives and communities.

There being no further business special meeting concluded at 7.27pm.

---

Mayor