

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Planning Committee Meeting held in the Council Chamber and in Remote Locations on Monday, 17 July, 2023 at 10.07 am

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Alderman M Gregg (Chairman)

Aldermen O Gawith and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, S Burns, P Catney, D J Craig, U Mackin, A Martin, G Thompson and N Trimble

OTHER MEMBERS:

Councillor J Lavery (Chairman of Regeneration and Growth Committee)

Councillor S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Director of Regeneration and Growth
Head of Planning & Capital Development
Principal Officers (RH & LJ)
Member Services Officers

Ms K Blair (Cleaver Fulton Rankin) – Legal Advisor

Commencement of Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Alderman M Gregg, welcomed those present to the Planning Committee. He pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under confidential business, this meeting would be audio recorded. He went on to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. **Apologies** (00:01:48)

There were no apologies.

At this point, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

2. **Declarations of Interest** (00:02:55)

There were no declarations of interest.

3. **Minutes of Meeting of Planning Committee held on 19 June, 2023** (00:03:05)

It proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor D Bassett and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Committee held on 19 June, 2023 be confirmed and signed.

4. Report from the Head of Planning & Capital Development (00:03:34)

4.1 Schedule of Applications (00:03:38)

The Chairman, Alderman M Gregg, advised that that it was necessary to go 'into committee' at this stage.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed to go "into committee" (10.12 am).

Councillor S Skillen joined and left the meeting during this discussion (11.02 am and 11.10 am).

The Head of Planning & Capital Development provided an explanation as to why the schedule of applications had been withdrawn and provided an update in relation to the process for making a Local Development Plan, the legal implications arising from the Direction recently issued by the DfI in relation to the Draft Plan Strategy and the legal advice received subsequently. The Head of Planning & Capital Development, the Director of Regeneration and Growth and the Council's Legal Advisor responded to a number of queries raised by Members.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed (11.10 am).

4.2 Review of Scheme of Delegation (00:03:54)

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor U Mackin and agreed that:

- (a) comments on proposed changes to the Scheme of Delegation be provided to the Head of Planning & Capital Development by 21 July, 2023; and
- (b) the Scheme be amended and presented to the Committee for consideration and agreement in advance of being submitted to the Department for Infrastructure for approval.

4.3 Appeal Decision – LA05/2021/0341/O (00:07:26)

It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Councillor P Catney and agreed to note the information set out the report in respect of the decision of the Planning Appeals Commission regarding the above planning application.

4.4 Appeal Decision – LA05/2020/0785/O (00:10:08)

Members were provided with information in respect of the decision of the Planning Appeals Commission regarding the above planning application.

4.4 Appeal Decision – LA05/2020/0785/O (Contd)

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed to go “into committee”, in order that legal advice could be sought in relation to the decision by the Planning Appeals Commission to grant planning permission and the impact of that decision on future decisions (11.22 am).

The Council’s Legal Advisor, as well as the Head of Planning & Capital Development, provided advice to Members.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed (11.45 pm).

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig and seconded by Councillor N Trimble that legal advice be sought on the application of policy and guidance in this instance and that a report be brought back to Committee in August to enable Members to consider the options available to the Council. At the request of Councillor P Catney, a recorded vote was taken. The proposal in the name of Councillor D J Craig was declared ‘carried’, the voting being as follows:

In favour: Councillor D Bassett, Councillor S Burns, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor U Mackin, Councillor A Martin, Alderman J Tinsley, Councillor G Thompson, Councillor N Trimble, Alderman M Gregg (10)

Against: Councillor P Catney (1)

4.5 Notification by Telecommunication Operator(s) of Intention to Utilise Permitted Development Rights (00:20:08)

It was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor D Bassett and agreed to note from the report, information regarding notification by telecommunication operators to utilise Permitted Development Rights at locations specified in the appendix to the report.

4.6 Live Applications (00:20:59)

Members were provided with a report providing a breakdown of the live applications (by duration) still under consideration by the Unit and information on how these were being managed to reduce the backlog. A number of Members’ queries were responded to by Officers. It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed that the report be noted and that similar reports be brought to the Committee at six month intervals.

4.7 Number of Appeals Decided in Previous Financial Year (00:51:05)

Members having been provided with an update report in respect of the number of planning appeals received and the outcome of appeal decisions in the previous year, it was proposed by Councillor P Catney, seconded by Councillor G Thompson and agreed that this information be noted.

Adjournment of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman M Gregg, declared the meeting adjourned for lunch (12.21 pm).

Resumption of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman M Gregg, declared the meeting resumed (1.01 pm).

5. Confidential Business

5.1 Draft Plan Strategy Update

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed to go “into committee” (1.02 pm).

Officers provided a verbal update in respect of the content of Direction and the issues for adopting the Draft Plan Strategy and, together with the Council’s Legal Advisor, responded to a number of queries raised by Members. It was noted that a presentation on this matter would be made to each political party in the coming weeks.

Members paid tribute to the work of Officers involved in the preparation of the Draft Plan Strategy.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed (2.01 pm).

6. Any Other Business (00:53:19)

There was no other business.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 2.01 pm.

Chairman/Mayor