

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Thursday 4th January, 2024 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Councillor J Lavery BEM (Chairperson)

Councillor T Mitchell (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE and M Gregg

Councillors P Burke, K Dickson, U Mackin, A Martin, C McCready and N Parker

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan
Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave
Aldermen A Grehan and M Guy**OTHER MEMBERS:**Councillor G Hynds (Council Chamber)
Councillor P Catney (Remote)**IN ATTENDANCE**Director of Regeneration & Growth
Head of Economic Development
Head of Planning & Capital Development
Member Services Officers (BS and EW)
IT Officer**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairperson, Councillor J Lavery, extended a welcome to all present at the January meeting of the Committee and wished everyone a Happy New Year. He reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business.

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

The Chairperson asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting advise the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

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

1. Apologies (00:03:17)

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Alderman S P Porter and Councillor J Gallen.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:03:45)

There were no Declarations of Interest made at this point in the meeting.

3. Report by Head of Economic Development (00:04:04)

3.1 Enquiry Handling- Call Centre Support for Enterprise Support Service October 2023
(00:04:12)

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the enquiry handling contract regarding call centre Support for Enterprise Support Service (ESS) for the month of October 2023.

It was noted that all costs associated with call centre support for ESS expenditure during October 2023 would be covered from the ESS budget by all 11 Councils, it being noted that an estimated maximum cost of £10,000 would be required and that Belfast City Council had supplied a contract for funding to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council to cover these costs on behalf of the other Councils.

The Head of Economic Development advised that Teleperformance had agreed to do a further one-month extension of their contract dealing with call centre enquiries at the same unit rate cost as per the historical GoForIt Programme, a direct award having been deemed appropriate on this occasion. The Head of Service reported that the individual cost to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council for the one-month extension to contract was £426.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the award to Teleperformance as outlined in the report be approved retrospectively.

4. Any Other Business (00:06:36)

There was no other business of a non-confidential nature.

5. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth (00:06:53)

The Chairperson advised that the Confidential report items were confidential due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

In Committee (00:07:08)

It was proposed by Councillor K Dickson, seconded by Councillor C McCready, 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 (6.09 pm).

5.1 Estimates Process – Update
(Report not to be published as final Estimates will be released)

Councillor P Catney joined the meeting during this item of business.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth presented his report and drew the Committee’s attention to key issues contained in the updated Estimates report.

The Director responded to questions from the Committee on matters pertaining to the estimates for 2024/2025. He also provided a verbal update in regard to related matter and in that regard he commended the efforts of the Council’s Tourism Manager thereon.

At the request of a Member, the Director undertook to convey the Committee’s thanks and appreciation to all staff concerned on the success of the Castle Gardens Light Trail which was part of the Lisburn Light Festival.

It was proposed by Alderman A Grehan, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that the progress on the estimates for 2024/2025 be approved and submitted into the overall Estimates of the Council for the year commencing 1 April 2024.

5.2 EV Chargers
(Report to be published following completion of appropriate procurement exercise and award of contract)

The Director of Regeneration & Growth outlined the background and key issues in connection with the On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS) and also in regard to a proposed way forward for the delivery of EV chargers across the Council area, the details of which were set out in the report circulated. He also responded to a question from a Member on a related issue.

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Council’s participation in the ORCS EV scheme be assessed further, subject to the outcome of the tender by Derry City & Strabane District Council, and an appropriate business case thereon be presented in due course, and

5.2 EV Chargers (Cont'd)

- b) a commercial third party operator be commissioned to assist the Council in developing a progressive partnership for the installation of chargers to be delivered on ground rental basis and/or profit share arrangement as assessed over the lifetime of the asset.

5.3 Westminster Business Showcase & Networking Event 5th and 6th September 2023 – Initial Evaluation

The Director of Regeneration & Growth outlined the background and key issues in relation to an initial evaluation of the Westminster Business Showcase and Networking Event which had taken place on 5th and 6th September 2023 at which a London Trade Programme for Lisburn and Castlereagh SMEs had also taken place.

The Committee had been furnished with a number of related documents relating to the evaluation of this event.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the positive evaluation report on the Westminster event and SME trade programme be noted,
- b) the next Westminster event be held in 2025 subject to further consideration on the detail and confirmation of available budget as part of the relevant economic development budget estimates process, and
- c) Officers explore another near shore market event, within budget allocation, for 2024 that aligns with other regional and sub regional priorities.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

6. Verbal Matters (00:07:20)

6.1 Information & Noting Schedule – January 2024 (00:07:22)

The Chairperson, Councillor J Laverty, referred to the items which had been included in the Information & Correspondence Schedule this month and encouraged Members to take time to review the information therein.

6.2 Workshop on the Council's Tourism Strategy (00:07:35)

The Chairperson, Councillor J Lavery, reminded the Committee of the workshop that would take place following the Committee meeting that evening on the emerging refreshed Tourism Strategy. The Director of Regeneration & Growth advised that a Zoom link had been issued earlier that day for those Members who wished to attend the workshop remotely.

6.3 Success of Lisburn Light Festival 2023 (00:07:48)

The Chairperson, Councillor J Lavery, highlighted the success of the 2023 Lisburn Light Festival and endorsed the Committee's request that the Director convey the Committee's thanks and appreciation to the efforts of all the staff involved.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 6.42 pm.

Chairperson