

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the proceedings of the Special Meeting of the Development Committee of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL on Wednesday, 10 August 2022 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:

Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Chairman)

Alderman A Grehan (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE

Councillors R T Beckett, U Mackin, S Mulholland and a Swan

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy

Councillors F Cole, a Givan, G McCleave and C McCready

OTHER MEMBERS IN CHAMBER:

Aldermen O Gawith and S Martin, Councillors N Anderson and A P Ewing,

OTHER MEMBERS IN REMOTE LOCATION

Aldermen S P Porter and J Tinsley, Councillors A Gowan, M Gregg, J Lavery, A McIntyre, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer and Hon N Trimble

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Director of Service Transformation (Council Chamber)

Head of Economic Development (Council Chamber)

Head of Planning & Capital Development (Remote)

Head of Assets (Council Chamber)

Portfolio Manager (Council Chamber)

Tourism Manager (Remote Location)

Member Services Officers (BS and RN)

IT Officer

Technician

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, having welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting of the Development Committee to which all Members of Council had been invited, made reference to this being the first meeting of the new Committee following the Annual Meeting of Council.

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

The Chairman advised that the meeting was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings and extended a welcome to those watching on the livestream.

At this point, 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 to advise the Member Services accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

Councillor J Lavery joined the meeting at 6.08 pm.

The Chairperson stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. The Chairperson also reminded everyone to ensure mobile phones were turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting and proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to record apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson; Alderman D Drysdale and Councillors J Gallen and H Legge.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3. Report by the Head of Economic Development

3.1 Assessment of Applications to Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded By DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI)

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation (TRPSI) Programme which had been delivered by the Council for three consecutive years by the Programmes Team in Economic Development. The first three programmes had enabled 78 local businesses to drawdown a total of £217,500 in financial assistance to the LCCC area.

The Head of Economic Development reported that In March 2022, the Council had agreed to deliver a fourth call for applications under the Rural Business Development Grant Scheme across rural Lisburn and Castlereagh and rural Belfast. The scheme had opened for applications on the 1st May 2022 and closed on the 31st May 2022. A total of 35 applications had been received requesting £112,205 in financial assistance.

3.1 Assessment of Applications to Rural Business Development Grant Scheme funded by DAERA under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation Programme (TRPSI) (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councilor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) in view of the deadline for the completion of the Letters of Offer of 9 September 2022 applications be assessed and agreed by an appointed assessment panel of Officers,
- b) Officers agree the recommended grant allocation with DAERA,
- c) the agreed grant allocations be presented to the Development Committee for noting, and
- d) any future rounds of funding received under the Tackling Rural Poverty and Social Isolation programme (TRPSI) that are offered to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council be accepted and processed as outlined above, and reported subsequently to the Committee for noting.

4. Confidential Report by the Director of Service Transformation

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, advised that the reason for confidentiality in respect of the items contained in the Director's Confidential Report was due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person organisation (including the Council holding that information).

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed that the Confidential Business be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public.

At this juncture the livestream was stopped for the purpose of consideration of the confidential business at 6.12 pm.

"In Committee"

4.1 Friends Meeting House Sale Update

(Redacted Report to be published following Ratification of Minute in August 2022)

The Director of Service Transformation presented this item of business, assisted by the Head of Assets.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with an update on the sale of Friends Meeting House.

Councillor F Cole joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.20 pm).

4.1 Friends Meeting House Sale Update (Cont'd)

An error in the Deed of Transfer relating to the formation of Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council was noted, following which it was agreed that this would be corrected in the final Deed.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed that the recommendations of the Director of Service Transformation in relation to the sale of Friends Meeting House, as outlined in the report circulated, be agreed.

4.2 IT Strategy Refresh Tender (Report to be published in December 2022)

The Director of Service Transformation presented this item of business, assisted by the Portfolio Manager.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the progress of the IT strategy refresh tender.

The Head of Planning & Capital Development joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.30 pm).

Having sought assurances from Officers in respect of the contract on offer, Members were content to award the recommended tender which was the most economically advantageous tender (MEAT).

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed that the recommendations of the Director of Service Transformation, in relation to the award of the IT Strategy Refresh tender and the proposed commercial model, as outlined in the report circulated, be approved.

4.3 The NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP) also known as GoForIt Delivery post March 2023 (Report to be published following sign & sealing/extension of legal contract/agreement of service with supplier)

This item of business was presented by the Director of Service Transformation, assisted by the Head of Economic Development.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP) also known as the GoForIt Programme.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) officers continue to seek to identify new funding streams to replace the ERDF funding and Invest NI funding, and to identify the best way forward for the new programme,

4.3 The NI Business Start Up Programme (NIBSUP) also known as GoForIt Delivery post March 2023 (Cont'd)

- b) the Council funds a one-year extension to the current GFI programme contract for the period 2023-24,
- c) the Council continues its role as lead Council in the delivery of the contract for one further year, 2023-24, and
- d) should funding not become available, the range of alternative programme closures be brought to the Committee for consideration.

The Portfolio Manager left the meeting at the end of this item of business (6.52 pm).

Confidential Item for Noting

4.4 Hillsborough Forest Sculpture Trail – Update
(Report never to be published)

This item of business was presented by the Director of Service Transformation.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the progress of and proposed next steps for the Hillsborough Forest Sculpture Trail.

A number of related documents had been appended to the Director's report.

Councillor U Mackin left the meeting at 7.10 pm.

It was agreed that the Director's update report in relation to the Hillsborough Forest Sculpture Trail, including the proposed next steps, be noted.

Other Confidential Matter

4.5 City Watch CCTV (formally known as Lisburn Commerce Against Crime)

The Director of Service Transformation outlined a matter in relation to Citywatch CCTV.

Councillor A P Ewing and the Head of Assets left the meeting during this item of business (7.15 pm and 7.18 pm respectively).

It was agreed that a report on the matter in question be prepared and presented to the Development Committee at its meeting on 1 September 2022, with the Committee's recommendation coming before the Council for ratification at its meeting on 27 September 2022.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed. The livestream was re-commenced at 7.20 pm.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Air Conditioning in Council Chamber
Councillor N Anderson

Comments were noted by Councillor N Anderson in relation to the failure of the air conditioning unit in the Chamber during the meeting. The Director of Service Transformation undertook to follow up on this matter.

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, thanked Members for their attendance and there being no other business the meeting was terminated at 7.21 pm.

Chairperson