

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Friday 6 June, 2025 at 1.00 pm

PRESENT IN COUNCIL:
CHAMBER

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor K Dickson (Outgoing)
Alderman A Grehan (Incoming)

Deputy Mayor
Councillor R Carlin (Outgoing)
Alderman H Legge (Incoming)

Aldermen A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg, A McIntyre,
S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors J Bamford, D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns,
P Catney, D J Craig, A P Ewing, A Givan, B Higginson,
G Hynds, C Kemp, J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, D Lynch,
U Mackin, B Magee, A Martin, T Mitchell, M McKeever,
R McLernon, N Parker, G Thompson and N Trimble

PRESENT REMOTELY:

Alderman S Skillen

Councillor A Gowan

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Environmental Health
Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration and Growth
Member Services Officers (CR, CH and BS)
Technician
IT Officer

Rev S Reain-Adair, Mayor's Chaplain

Commencement of Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Councillor K Dickson, welcomed those present to the Annual Meeting of Council which was being live-streamed to enable members of the public to both hear and see the proceedings.

The Outgoing Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Business of The Right Worshipful The Mayor

Councillor R McLernon arrived to the meeting at 1.03 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Councillor K Dickson, welcomed his Mayor's Chaplain, Rev S Reain-Adair to the meeting. Before leading Members in prayer, Rev Reain-Adair thanked Councillor Dickson for having afforded him the opportunity to be Mayor's Chaplain for the past year, which had been a real honour. He commended the Mayor for his commitment, tireless efforts and dedication throughout the year. Rev Reain-Adair also expressed his appreciation to other Elected Members, with whom he had had positive and encouraging conversations. He wished Members well for the year ahead, as well as the Chief Executive and the entire Council team.

Councillor Dickson stated that it had been a pleasure to have Rev Reain-Adair with him on his Mayoral journey. He had been a great support throughout the year.

At this stage, Rev Reain-Adair left the top table and took a seat in the public gallery.

2. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Alderman J Baird and Councillors J Gallen, J Harpur, G McCleave and C McCready.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest made.

4. Minutes of Annual Meeting held on 7 June, 2024

The minutes of the Annual Meeting of Council held on 7 June, 2024, as adopted and signed at the Meeting of Council held on 25 June, 2024, were noted.

5. Election of Members to Positions of Responsibility 2025/2026

5.1 Election of Mayor 2025/2026

Councillor A Gowan left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (1.24 pm and 1.34 pm respectively).

The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Councillor K Dickson, began by referring to what he had said at last year's Annual Meeting about feeling humbled

5.1 Election of Mayor 2025/2026 (Contd)

to be taking on the role of Mayor and that it was the greatest privilege of his life so far. He stated that he felt the same way today. He was grateful for having carried out the role of Mayor for the last year, for all the events he had had the pleasure of attending or hosting and for representing the place he called home.

Over the course of the year, Councillor Dickson had had the opportunity to visit every corner of the Council area and met with community groups, schools, local businesses, faith organisations and many individuals. The commitment of people to improving the lives of others had left a lasting impression on him.

Councillor Dickson spoke of the themes he had set out for his year in Office. As the youngest First Citizen to have taken on the role of Mayor, empowering young people had been a huge priority for him. He had enjoyed having many school groups into the Council over the year. Councillor Dickson was proud of the work he had done throughout the year with the eco-schools in the area.

Councillor Dickson highlighted a number of significant events throughout the year, such as the Mayor's Parade and D-Day and VE-Day commemorations. He had been incredibly proud to represent the Council at those events and thanked Council staff involved in their organisation.

Councillor Dickson expressed a number of thanks. First of all, he thanked his family and friends for their patience, encouragement and love throughout the year. He thanked his Alliance Party colleagues for placing their trust in him to serve in the role of Mayor and for their support during the year, as well as his colleagues from other political parties. Councillor Dickson paid tribute to the Outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor R Carlin, for his support and also the Members of his Mayor's Charity Committee for their support in raising funds for his Mayoral Charity, Emerge Counselling Services. He extended too his thanks to Samantha and the team at Emerge. Councillor Dickson thanked the Chief Executive and Corporate Management Team, his Chaplain, Rev Reain-Adair and the staff in the Mayor's Office for their support and guidance throughout the year. Lastly, he thanked all the staff at Lagan Valley Island for their hard work behind the scenes, which had not gone unnoticed.

Finally, Councillor Dickson, wished his successor well in the role of Mayor for the forthcoming year and looked forward to offering his support.

On behalf of their parties, a number of Members paid tribute to the Outgoing Mayor, namely Alderman A McIntyre, Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman H Legge, Councillor D Bassett and Councillor P Catney. Reference was made to Councillor Dickson's, hard work and dedication and the fact that he had been the youngest Mayor of the Council so far. His focus on the environment was not only timely, but forward thinking, and he had delivered on the ambition he set out last year for his Mayoral Charity.

At this point, Alderman A McIntyre, advised that a video had been made of young people who wanted to thank the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor K Dickson. The video, comprising children from the eco-schools in the Council area was shown and Councillor Dickson thanked those involved.

5.1 Election of Mayor 2025/2026 (Contd)

The Deputy Mayor (Outgoing), Councillor R Carlin, congratulated Councillor Dickson for having had a fantastic Mayoral year. He had gone to all parts of the Council area and interacted with people from all communities. Councillor Carlin stated that it had been a privilege to serve as Deputy Mayor for the past year. He commented on the many groups he had hosted throughout the year, such as martial arts groups, drama groups, community groups. The groups did excellent work and the help they received from the Council was much appreciated. Lastly, Councillor Carlin extended best wishes to the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor.

On behalf of their parties, a number of Members paid tribute to the Outgoing Deputy Mayor, namely Alderman A McIntyre, Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman H Legge, Councillor P Catney and Councillor D Lynch. Members thanked Councillor Carlin for his contribution and for having supported the Mayor throughout the year.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor (Outgoing), Councillor K Dickson, declared the offices of Mayor and Deputy Mayor vacant. Councillor Dickson and Councillor Carlin removed their Chains of Office and Councillor Carlin vacated his seat at the top table.

The Outgoing Mayor having sought nominations for the position of Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council for 2025/26, Alderman A McIntyre (Nominating Officer for APNI) stated that it gave him great pleasure in nominating Alderman A Grehan. He had known Alderman Grehan for 15 years and she was so many things to her colleagues – a friend, a mentor, a sounding board. Councillor McIntyre spoke of her leadership skills and how hard she worked in her local community. This proposal was seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed. Alderman Gregg stated that Alderman Grehan was an asset to the Alliance Party and to her constituents for whom she worked so hard and he wished her well for the year ahead.

The Outgoing Mayor, having declared Alderman A Grehan elected as Mayor for 2025/26, handed over his Chain of Office and vacated his seat at the top table.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, took her seat at the top table and signed the Declaration of Office.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, began by thanking her Alliance Party colleagues for putting her forward to take on the office of Mayor. She stated that she could not be more excited and honoured, as well as a little emotional, to be stepping into this new role in a place she cared so much about, where she had lived, worked and raised her family.

Alderman Grehan paid tribute to the Outgoing Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, for the work he had done throughout his Mayoral year and stated that he had set a high bar which she would do her best to match. She went on to thank her constituents, some of whom were present in the public gallery. Alderman Grehan had worked tirelessly in her DEA and enjoyed every challenge. She thanked her constituents for their trust over the last decade and stated that she was still there for them, would still be visible and was more committed than ever.

5.1 Election of Mayor 2025/2026 (Contd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, paid tribute to deceased former Elected Members, Seamus Close and Ivan Davis, who had supported and encouraged her in her early days in Council. She thanked Trevor Lunn MLA who had encouraged her to become an Elected Member and played an important role in getting her started in local politics. Alderman Grehan spoke of past Mayor, Betty Campbell, who was a dear friend, and she acknowledged Freeman of the City, Jim Dillon, whose knowledge and experience in Council meetings had been invaluable.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, stated that she looked forward to working with her colleagues from all political parties to get the best for all constituents. Over the years, she had seen that parties working collectively brought about positive results and she stated that, as the new Mayor, she would be there for each and every one of her colleagues.

Alderman Grehan advised that her theme for the year ahead would be 'Inclusivity for Disability; a City that Sees Everyone'. This was about understanding empathy and creating a culture where people with disabilities were not just included but celebrated; it was about asking who was missing from table and how they would be brought on. The Council had already made significant progress but Alderman Grehan believed there was still more that could be done together, as Councillors, to ensure that everyone was seen.

Alderman Grehan was proud to advise that her Mayoral Charity would be Action Cancer, focussing on breast cancer awareness and screening. One in 7 women would be diagnosed with the disease in their lifetime and this impacted on so many families within the community. Alderman Grehan elaborated on how funds raised would support Action Cancer.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked her family. As a hard-working single mother, she gave a special thanks to her children, Ellie, Matt and Jack, whom she was extremely proud of. Alderman Grehan came from a humble, working-class family. She knew that her late mother, father and brother would be so proud of her today.

On behalf of their parties, a number of Members congratulated the Incoming Mayor, namely Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman H Legge, Councillor P Catney and Councillor R Carlin. Members wished Alderman Grehan well for the year ahead and commended both her chosen charity and her theme for the year.

At this stage, a video of pupils from Parkview School wishing 'Mayor Amanda' well for her Mayoral year was played. Alderman Grehan thanked the pupils for this.

5.2 Election of Deputy Mayor 2024/2025

Councillor A Gowan left, and returned to, the meeting during consideration of this item of business (1.47 pm and 1.55 pm respectively).

5.2 Election of Deputy Mayor 2024/2025 (Contd)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, sought nominations for the position of Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year 2025/2026.

Alderman H Legge (Nominating Officer for UUP) nominated herself for the position of Deputy Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council for 2025/65. This proposal was seconded by Councillor T Mitchell and agreed. Councillor Mitchell congratulated The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, on having been nominated to the role of Mayor and wished both her and Alderman Legge well for the year ahead.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, handed over the Deputy Mayoral Chain. The Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, took her seat at the top table and signed the Declaration of Office.

The Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, stated how delighted she was to have been selected by her party to serve as Deputy Mayor for a second time. This was a great honour and she intended to carry out her duties to the best of her ability and, at all times, in the best interests of the Council.

Almost 8 years ago, Alderman Legge had been nominated as Deputy Mayor and, at that time, her mother and father had been in the public gallery when she had spoken about her upbringing and the love and support she had received from them both. Throughout that year, her parents had continued to support her and her father had accompanied her to a number of engagements. Sadly, her father had recently passed away and this had left a huge hole in her family. However, his presence was still felt and always would be. Alderman Legge stated that both her and her mother were very much supported by her husband, Denis, and her son, Stephen, for which she was very thankful.

The Deputy Mayor stated that she was very pleased to be sharing the top table with her colleague and friend, Alderman Grehan. She was committed to supporting the Mayoral charity and would promote it and encourage others to do the same. She stated that she looked forward to getting involved in the great work undertaken in the community and assisting wherever she could. Alderman Grehan was the first female Mayor of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council and this was the first time a female Mayor and Deputy Mayor had served together. The Deputy Mayor thanked her colleagues for their support and encouraged them to get involved to make the year ahead great for everyone.

On behalf of their parties, a number of Members congratulated the Incoming Deputy Mayor, namely Alderman J Tinsley, Alderman A McIntyre, Councillor P Catney and Councillor R Carlin. They wished her well in her new role and looked forward to working with her.

5.3 Election of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2025/2026

Arising from the nominations made by the Nominating Officers, the following appointments of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2025/2026 were agreed on a proposal made by Alderman J Tinsley and seconded by Alderman A McIntyre:

5.3 Election of Chairs and Vice-Chairs for 2025/2026 (Contd)

(i) Planning Committee

Chair Alderman J Tinsley
Vice-Chair Councillor G Thompson

(ii) Governance & Audit Committee

Chair Councillor D Lynch

(iii) Communities and Wellbeing Committee

Chair Councillor T Mitchell
Vice-Chair Councillor A Givan

(iv) Environment and Sustainability Committee

Chair Alderman O Gawith
Vice-Chair Councillor S Burns

(v) Regeneration and Growth Committee

Chair Councillor C Kemp
Vice-Chair Councillor J Harpur

(vi) Corporate Services Committee

Chair Councillor B Higginson
Vice-Chair Councillor J Bamford

6. Election of Members to Committee Positions 2025/2026

Arising from the nominations made by the Nominating Officers, the following nominations for membership of Standing Committees for 2025/2026 were agreed on a proposal made by Alderman J Tinsley and seconded by Alderman A McIntyre:

6.1 Planning Committee

Councillor D J Craig
Councillor U Mackin
Councillor S Burns
Alderman O Gawith
Alderman M Gregg
Councillor N Trimble
Councillor A Martin
Councillor D Bassett
Councillor P Catney

6.2 Governance & Audit Committee

Alderman S P Porter
Councillor S Burns
Councillor D J Craig
Councillor A P Ewing
Alderman J Tinsley
Councillor J Bamford
Councillor S Lowry
Councillor B Magee
Councillor M McKeever
Alderman O Gawith
Councillor R McLernon
Councillor A Martin
Councillor D Bassett
Councillor J Gallen

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.3 Communities and Wellbeing Committee

Alderman S Skillen
Councillor R T Beckett
Councillor B Higginson
Councillor D J Craig
Councillor S Lowry
Alderman A McIntyre
Councillor K Dickson
Councillor C Kemp
Councillor G Thompson
Councillor N Trimble
Councillor R Carlin
Councillor G McCleave
Councillor J Gallen

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.4 Environment and Sustainability Committee

Councillor A Givan
Councillor C McCready
Alderman S Skillen
Councillor A Gowan
Councillor B Magee
Councillor M McKeever
Councillor N Parker
Councillor J Bamford
Councillor R McLernon

6.4 Environment and Sustainability Committee (Contd)

Alderman J Baird
Councillor D Basset
Councillor P Catney
Councillor G Hynds

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.5 Regeneration and Growth Committee

Alderman A G Ewart
Councillor A Gowan
Councillor U Mackin
Councillor J Lavery
Councillor C McCready
Alderman M Gregg
Alderman A McIntyre
Councillor K Dickson
Alderman J Baird
Councillor T Mitchell
Councillor A Martin
Councillor D Lynch
Councillor J Gallen

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

6.6 Corporate Services Committee

Alderman S P Porter
Alderman A G Ewart
Councillor R T Beckett
Councillor J Lavery
Councillor A P Ewing
Alderman M Gregg
Councillor J Harpur
Councillor K Dickson
Councillor N Parker
Councillor N Trimble
Councillor R McLernon
Councillor R Carlin
Councillor G McCleave

It was noted that The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Grehan, and the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge, were ex-officio Members of the above Committee.

7. Lisburn & Castlereagh Policing & Community Safety Partnership (PCSP)
Chair 2025/2026

In accordance with the Justice (NI) Act 2011 under which the position of Chair of the Policing & Community Safety Partnership was rotated in turn by each of the four largest parties represented on the Council immediately after the last local general election, it was noted that the Chair of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP for 2025/2026 was a UUP Member.

Alderman H Legge, Nominating Officer for UUP, advised that Councillor A Martin would be Chair of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP for 2025/2026. This information was noted.

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, thanked those present for their attendance and, there being no further business for consideration, the meeting concluded at 2.05 pm.

Mayor