

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn and in remote locations on Thursday, 5 June 2025 at 6.02 pm****PRESENT IN
THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)

Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Vice Chairperson)

Aldermen J Baird and M Gregg

Councillors C Kemp, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell, C McCready
and N Parker**REMOTE
ATTENDANCE:**

Councillors J Gallen, J Lavery BEM and D Lynch

OTHER MEMBERS:

Councillor G Hynds and Councillor B Higginson (Chamber)

IN ATTENDANCE

Director of Regeneration & Growth

Head of Economic Development

Head of Assets

Member Services Officers (BS and EW)

IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, extended a welcome to all present at the June meeting of the Committee which, she stated, was her last meeting as Chairperson. The Chairperson also reminded those present that the meeting was being audio recorded unless the item was being considered under confidential business. The Chairperson also outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, and Councillors A Gowan and J Harpur.

2. Declarations of Interest

During the course of the meeting Alderman M Gregg and Councillors A Martin and B Higginson declared a non-pecuniary interest in respect of item 6.3 Castle Street Former Car Park – Procurement Abandonment and Proposed Way Forward in view of their membership of the Planning Committee.

3.0 Report of Head of Economic Development

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, entered the meeting 6.05 pm.

3.1 NI Housing Executive (NIHE) Social Investment Strategy 2025-2030

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the NIHE's Social Investment Strategy 2025-2030. The proposed three interlinked strategic priorities were set out in the Officer's report.

The Head of Economic Development reminded Members that as agreed at the previous meeting of the Committee, individual Elected Members would provide the Head of Economic Development and/or the Head of Communities with any comments for inclusion in the Council's response to the above-mentioned consultation.

In this regard a copy of the Council's response which had been submitted by the 16th May 2025, had been appended to the Officer's report for retrospective approval.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed that the response to the NIHE Social Investment Strategy 2025–2030 be approved retrospectively.

3.2 Business Development Collaboration Programme 2025-2026

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the Council's annual Business Development Collaboration programme, which aligned with the Council's strategic objectives to engage a wide range of stakeholders, including businesses, business networks, and government bodies.

The specific aims of the collaboration programme and the projects planned for 2025/2026 were detailed in the report circulated. An activity report outlining further detail on a number of projects planned for this programme had been appended to the Officer's report. It was noted that Officers may identify additional relevant projects, initiatives, or events that may emerge during 2025–2026.

In response to comments from a Member, the Director of Regeneration & Growth clarified the recommendation in regard to the Council's representation at a number of planned events, as set out in the above-mentioned activity report, namely; that a maximum of two Elected Members would be nominated to attend. namely; the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson, and/or their nominee(s).

The Head of Economic Development responded to further questions from Members in connection with:

3.2 Business Development Collaboration Programme 2025-2026 (Cont'd)

- the Northern Ireland - Netherlands (NI-NL) Trade Development initiative, it being noted that the Committee had previously approved the Council's participation in this initiative.
- the criteria in respect of the energy-related planned projects as listed at key issue no. 3 in the Officer's report.
- costs in respect of the planned events and specifically the cost of membership of the Northern Ireland Chamber of Commerce. The Head of Economic Development undertook to provide specific costs to the Member concerned
- the annual NI-NL trade dinner. The Head of Economic Development advised that previously the annual trade dinner had alternated between the Netherlands and Northern Ireland.

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the the annual Business Collaborative programme of activities for 2025-2026 as outlined in the Officer's report and the appended document, be agreed.

3.3 Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme 2025-2026

The Head of Economic Development's report highlighted the background and key issues in connection with the Council's Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme 2025/2026.

The Officer's report detailed the undernoted proposed development of targeted projects:

- Empowering Youth Entrepreneurship
- Facilitating an Entrepreneur Support Network
- Supporting Female Entrepreneurship
- Supporting Purpose-Driven and Social Enterprises at Pre-Start and Early Stages

A copy of a full breakdown for the proposed 'Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme' for 2025-2026 had been appended to the Officer's report.

The Head of Economic Development reported that a joint funding proposal had been received from Young Enterprise NI (YENI) and the local commercial sector to support the development of youth entrepreneurship across the Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council area. A document highlighting the 'Pathways to Succeed' initiative by YENI had been also appended to the Officer's report.

The Committee also had been provided with a copy of a final report in connection with the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council's Blast Off Programme (2024/2025) which had aimed at engaging with 300 stage 3 pupils from across the Council area.

3.3 Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme 2025-2026 (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from the Committee in connection with:

- any provision within the Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme for pupils with Special Educational needs and those non-academic pupils who had more practical skills, and
- the possibility of working with The Princes Trust. The Head of Economic Development undertook to discuss with the Economic Development team the matter of the Council working with The Princes Trust and to report back to the Member directly.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed to recommend that the Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme for 2025-2026, as outlined in the report, including a contribution of £12,600 to YENI, be agreed.

4. Report by Head of Assets

4.1 Glenavy Bus Shelter

The Head of Assets outlined the background and key issues in connection with a new bus shelter in Glenavy which had been proposed at Crumlin Road, Glenavy, as part of the Small Settlements Regeneration Programme. The Department for Communities (DfC) had confirmed that this bus shelter installation would meet the funding objectives of the overall programme, which was designed to address the regeneration needs of rural villages.

The Head of Assets highlighted a number of key issues in relation to the adoption of the bus shelter by the Department for Infrastructure on behalf of Translink, it being noted that the land adoption would cease should the bus shelter be removed and was exclusively transferred for the use of a bus shelter.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor J Gallen, and agreed to recommend that the Council agrees to allow DfI on behalf of Translink to adopt the four square metres of land to enable the bus shelter to be installed as outlined in the report and the appended map.

In response to a request from Councillor J Gallen that a similar bus shelter be considered country-bound close to Millennium Integrated Primary School, the Head of Economic Development advised that the Small Settlements Programme offered funding towards projects in rural areas and therefore alternative funding would need to be sourced. The Director of Regeneration & Growth also addressed the Committee on this matter and advised that whilst it was unfortunate that there was not currently a funding programme that would fit a bus shelter in the Millennium Primary School area, there were new

4.1 Glenavy Bus Shelter (Cont'd)

programmes coming forward all the time. The Director advised that he would bring a report to the Committee on the alternative funding programmes when they come forward.

5. Any Other Business

5.1 Appreciation & Thanks to the Chairperson Vice Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart

The Vice Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, put on record his thanks and appreciation to the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, for all her efforts throughout the past year. Alderman Ewart welcomed the fact that both the Chairperson and he had worked well together as a team, and wished her well for her next endeavours.

Councillor C Kemp also expressed thanks to the Chairperson for her efforts and commitment during the past year and stated that it had been a great year overall for the Regeneration & Growth Committee.

At a later point in the meeting Alderman J Baird, also congratulated the Chairperson on her successful term of office, also wished to congratulate the Economic Development team for their excellent stand at Balmoral Show. He looked forward to the evaluation report coming to Committee in the near future.

Councillor J Gallen, having congratulated the Chairperson for her hard work during the past year, stated that she had been an excellent ambassador for the Council. Councillors D Lynch and T Mitchell wished to be associated with the sentiments expressed in regard to the efforts of the outgoing Chairperson.

Councillor T Mitchell also expressed appreciation in regard to the Fred Funk retail shop having opened in Lisburn City Centre.

5.2 Belfast Region Tourism Partnership (B RTP) – Annual Performance Summary by Visit Belfast Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin, having also thanked the Chairperson for her chairmanship during the past year, enquired about the above item of business which had been provided on the Committee's Information & Correspondence Schedule this month. Councillor Mackin asked why this item of business had not been included on the agenda for that evening's meeting in view of the importance of this piece of work.

Councillor Mackin raised concern that there had been a total of 760,000 enquiries through the Tourism Partnership but only 14,000 of the enquiries had been specific to the Lisburn and Castlereagh Council area. Councillor Mackin enquired as to what consideration had been given to improving the number of enquiries relating to this Council area.

5.2 Belfast Region Tourism Partnership (B RTP) – Annual Performance Summary by Visit Belfast (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development acknowledged that this issue was a challenge for the Council and stated that given the relative contributions from the other member councils involved in the B RTP, the figures in the Annual Performance Summary report should be considered in relative balance. He assured the Committee the Tourism team continued to engage with Visit Belfast on these issues.

5.3 Highlights of the Year – Regeneration & Growth Committee Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, having thanked Members for their sentiments of congratulations and good wishes, proceeded to highlight a number of the Economic Development, Asset and Planning projects that she had been involved in during her term of office. The Chairperson wished to convey how proud she was to have been involved in all the projects and initiatives during the year and thanked the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, for his on-going support during the year,.

In concluding the Chairperson conveyed sincere thanks to the Director of Regeneration & Growth, the Head of Economic Development, the Head of Planning & Capital Development and the Head of Assets, and their teams of Officers, for their hard work and commitment during the year.

5.4 Speed Ramps in Aghalee Councillor C Kemp

Councillor G Hynds left the meeting at 6.46 pm.

Councillor C Kemp raised an issue in regard to speed ramps that had been installed through the Small Settlements grant scheme last year in Aghalee. Councillor Kemp expressed dissatisfaction on the lack of communication from the Council's Planning Enforcement Unit on this matter and also in regard to the lack of progress to date. Councillor Kemp also raised concern that the road in question had not been adopted until now and enquired where that left this Council in terms of liability during that time.

During his response, the Director of Regeneration & Growth advised that he had spoken with DfI regarding the adoption process and also had been in contact with the contractors on this issue to raise the Council's concerns.

5.5 Ramp at entry to Aghalee Councillor C Kemp

Councillor Kemp raised concern in regard to the ramp at the entry to Aghalee from Aghagallon. Councillor Kemp asked that this matter be looked into again. She also referred to previous engagement with DfI in regard to adequate signage but nothing had been forthcoming.

5.5 Ramp at entry to Aghalee (Cont'd)

Councillor G Hynds returned to the meeting at 6.49 pm.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth acknowledged the concerns raised by Councillor Kemp and undertook to look into this local matter.

6. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, advised that confidential reports were required to be considered under confidential business due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

In Committee

It was proposed by Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, 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.

6.1 BRCD Destination Royal Hillsborough (Redacted report to be published October 2025)

The Committee noted an update report by the Director of Regeneration & Growth in connection with the BRCD Destination Royal Hillsborough project.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to a number of questions from the Committee on key issues arising from the report.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to bring a further report to Committee in due course in connection with a revised business case which would take account of two other projects within the Royal Hillsborough Programme.

Councillor C McCready left the meeting at 7.02 pm.

It was agreed that the update report on Destination Royal Hillsborough be noted.

6.2 Carryduff Primary School 3G Sports Pitch Development (Redacted report to be published March 2026)

The Committee considered a report by the Director of Regeneration & Growth in connection with an in principle joint agreement for the development of a new 3G sports pitch at Carryduff Primary School

A copy of the Heads of Terms in relation to the Lease agreement had been appended to the Officer's report.

6.2 Carryduff Primary School 3G Sports Pitch Development (Cont'd)

The Director of Regeneration & Growth responded to a comment raised by a Member relating to a key issue outlined in the report and also provided clarification to another Member on a separate matter.

Councillor U Mackin left the meeting at 7.13 pm.

It was proposed by Councillor J Gallen, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the Heads of Terms as outlined in the appended document for the new pitch development be agreed and that solicitors be instructed to negotiate the requisite legal agreements.

6.3 Castle Street Former Car Park - Procurement Abandonment and Proposed Way Forward

(Redacted report to be published following Council Meeting in June 2026)

Alderman M Gregg, Councillor A Martin and Councillor B Higginson left the meeting at this point having declared an interest in this item of business in view of their membership of the Planning Committee (7.14 pm).

The Director of Regeneration & Growth's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the procurement, abandonment and proposed way forward of Castle Street former car park. A copy of the associated development brief had been appended to the Officer's report.

The Director responded to questions from two Members on issues arising from the report and provided clarification thereon.

Councillor N Parker left the meeting at 7.23 pm.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the abandonment of the current procurement exercise be agreed and a new procurement exercise be released to the open market as outlined in the Director's report.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth undertook to provide further clarity to the Committee on the issues raised by Members.

Councillor D Lynch left the meeting during consideration of this item and Alderman M Gregg and Councillor A Martin returned to the meeting at 7.26 pm.

6.4 Call Off Framework Agreement for Provision of Electrical Services, Reactive and Project Works to Council Facilities Tender Evaluation Criteria
(Redacted report to be published July 2025)

This report was presented by the Head of Assets.

The Director of Regeneration & Growth's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the tender evaluation criteria for the Call Off Framework Agreement for the provision of electrical services, reactive and project works to Council facilities.

The Head of Assets responded to questions from two Members in connection with the above-mentioned tender evaluation criteria. The Director of Regeneration & Growth also provided clarification on the issues raised.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman M Gregg, and agreed to recommend that the tender evaluation award criteria as outlined in the Officer's report be agreed.

It was also agreed to recommend on a proposal by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, that a report be prepared for the Committee's consideration on the subject of the development of a Social Value Policy.

7. Any Other Confidential Business

7.1 Members' Workshop on Car Park Strategy 16th June 2025 5.00 pm
Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

The Chairperson drew Members' attention to the workshop on the Council's Car Park Strategy which was scheduled for Monday 16 June 2025 at 5 pm, it being noted that further information would be issued to Members in due course.

7.2 Thanks to Committee
Director of Regeneration & Growth

Director of Regeneration & Growth, on behalf of his team of Officers, expressed thanks to the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and all Members of the Committee for their support and scrutiny throughout the past year.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.39 pm.

Chairperson