

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council held in the Civic Centre, Lisburn, BT27 4RL on Wednesday, 1 June 2022 at 7.15 pm****PRESENT IN
THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)
 Councillor H Legge (Vice Chairperson)
 Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell
 Aldermen D Drysdale and A G Ewart MBE
 Councillors A Givan, C McCready, U Mackin,
 S Mulholland and A Swan

**PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION:**

Councillors S Carson, J Gallen, M Guy, G McCleave and
 Jenny Palmer

**IN ATTENDANCE
IN THE CHAMBER:**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council
 Director of Service Transformation (Remote)
 Head of Planning & Capital Development (Remote)
 Head of Economic Development (Council Chamber)
 Head of Assets (Council Chamber)
 Portfolio Manager (Council Chamber)
 Member Services Officers (BS and RN)
 IT Officer
 Technician

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan extended a welcome to all present to the June meeting of the Development Committee. The Chairperson 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.

Prior to considering the business for the meeting, the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, extended a welcome to the two new Members of Council who had replaced Councillor D Honeyford and Councillor S Eastwood following their election to the NI Assembly the previous month, and who were in attendance at the meeting, namely; Councillor S Mulholland and Councillor F Cole.

Commencement of Meeting (Cont'd)

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.

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.

Councillor U Mackin entered the meeting at 7.18 pm.

The Head of Economic Development read out the safety announcement in the case of an emergency.

Councillor Jenny Palmer entered the meeting during the safety announcements (7.20 pm).

At this point the Chairperson, Alderman Grehan, extended a welcome to Councillor U Mackin who was in attendance at the meeting that evening following a short period of ill health.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to record apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, and Councillor R McLernon.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3. Report by the Director of Service Transformation

3.1 Service Transformation - Budgets/Performance/Risk

The Head of Economic Development presented this item of business.

The Director of Service Transformation's report outlined the background and key issues in relation to the quarterly reports in respect of performance and budgets for the Service Transformation Directorate.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the undernoted documents:

- the Service Transformation Trading Accounts covering periods 11 and 12
- outturn of operational metrics/service KPIs for Q4 (January to March 22)
- Directorate Risk Dashboard, and
- proposed operational Metrics/Service KPIs for 2022/2023

3.1 Service Transformation - Budgets/Performance/Risk (Cont'd)

It was noted that Period 12 figures were not available currently due to the ongoing financial year-end work and that the draft accounts will be presented to the Governance and Audit Committee on 23rd June 2022.

The Head of Economic Development responded to a questions from the Committee in connection with the Service Transformation KPIs 2022/23, namely:

- the target for the delivery of the Council's Covid-19 Small Settlements Grant Scheme. Members were reminded that this programme had been presented to the Committee shortly before Christmas last year with the necessary approvals in place after Christmas.
- the removal of 'Number of Strategic Partnerships that leverage resources'. The Head of Economic Development having provided some clarification thereon undertook to re-instate this area of focus into the Service Transformation KPIs.
- the length of time it was taking to progress the public realm scheme for Hillsborough Village. The Head of Economic Development explained that this project had been transferred to the Belfast Region City Deal project.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the content of the undernoted reports be noted:
 - Trading accounts covering periods 10 and 11
 - The outturn of operational metrics/service KPIs for Q4 (January to March 22)
 - Directorate Risk Dashboard, and
- b) The proposed operational Metrics/Service KPIs for 2022/2023 be approved, subject to the above-mentioned area of focus being reinstated.

4. Report by the Head of Planning & Capital Development

4.1 Feedback on Guidance for Councils on Building Preservation Notices/Schemes of Delegation

The Head of Planning & Capital Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with Guidance for Councils on Building Preservation Notices/Schemes of Delegation.

The Head of Planning and Capital Development advised Members that on 8 April 2022, Historic Environment Division issued an email alerting the Council that it was undertaking part of an informal review of Department for Communities' Historic Environment Division guidance notes in respect of BPNs. Comments and/or suggested improvements were

4.1 Feedback on Guidance for Councils on Building Preservation Notices/Schemes of Delegation (Cont'd)

invited in relation to the guidance on or before 01 July 2022. A copy of the good practice guide had been furnished to the Committee.

The Head of Planning & Capital Development advised that an internal meeting with representatives from Local Development Plan, Enforcement, and Development Management teams was scheduled to take place on 15 June 2022 to discuss the operational and technical implications of following the guidance. An informed response would be prepared prior to 15th June, 2022.

The Head of Planning & Capital Development responded to questions from the Committee in connection with key issues raised.

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the response to the consultation on the Historic Environment Division guidance notes in respect of BPN's be delegated to Council Officers,
- b) individual comments by any Member wishing to contribute to the process be provided to the Planning Unit, and
- c) the final response be added to the noting schedule for the Development Committee in due course.

5. Report by the Head of Economic Development

5.1 Regional Tourism Partnership – Visit Belfast Annual Service Level Agreement

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Visit Belfast Annual Service Level Agreement.

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that the cost per annum for local authority membership had remained at £30,000 since 2015. In addition for the last four years, the Council had agreed to purchase the additional Gold Sponsorship Package for a further £6,000 per year. This cost had been reduced to £4,500 last year due to reduced visitor numbers and the closure of Belfast Welcome Centre at times due to government guidelines associated with COVID-19). With visitor numbers continuing to increase and it being unlikely that Belfast Welcome Centre will have to close again, this bolt-on proposal was costed once more at £6,000 for 2022/23. Details of what the Gold package included were set out in the report circulated.

A copy of an evaluation report providing a detailed breakdown of activity for the 2021/22 financial year had been furnished to the Committee.

5.1 Regional Tourism Partnership – Visit Belfast Annual Service Level Agreement (Cont'd)

It was proposed by Alderman D Drysdale, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that that Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council continues its longstanding membership of Visit Belfast, at a cost of £30,000 plus a further £6,000 for the 'Gold' promotional package for a further year.

5.2 Business Development Collaboration Programme 2022-2023

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Council's annual collaboration programme of business development activity that supported the Council's overall strategy of engagement and collaborative working with businesses, business groupings and government.

The Head of Economic Development elaborated on the purpose of the ongoing activity of the Business Development Collaboration Programme, and also the various projects currently envisaged for 2022-23.

The Head of Economic Development reported that given the ongoing impact of the current macro-economic climate on the business environment, it was proposed that an element of flexibility was built into the Collaboration theme to enable the team to respond effectively and explore new or challenging emerging trends and needs.

The Head of Economic Development advised that a key emerging theme was to support local businesses that want to plan to alleviate or limit carbon consumption, and to reduce energy costs while still focusing on growth. It was proposed that expert advice and consultancy support in this specialist field would be procured as part of this programme, to ensure key business support in relevant areas including network linkages, project delivery, programme recruitment, securing keynote speakers and organising hybrid digital/event management support. The proposed overall budget for business collaborative activity during 2022-2023 was £40,500. A copy of a summary of the Business Development Collaboration Programme had been circulated to the Committee.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the annual business collaborative programme of activities for 2022-2023, as outlined, be agreed.

5.3 Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme 2022-23

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme 2022-2023.

The Head of Economic Development advised that growing the local economy was a key aim highlighted in Theme 2 of both the Community Plan and the Interim Corporate Plan. It was noted that this programme of activity formed an integral part of the transferred functions to local government under RPA. To deliver on the duties associated with the

5.3 Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme 2022-23 (Cont'd)

transferred functions, and to foster an eco-system that encouraged a growth in entrepreneurship, it was proposed that the Council develops programmes to target a number of key sectors, details of which were outlined in the report.

The Committee had been furnished with a paper outlining the proposed Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme for 2022-23 along with the proposed budget breakdown.

It was proposed by Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that the Enterprise Lisburn Castlereagh Programme of activities for 2022-2023 as outlined, be agreed.

5.4 Investment Programme 2022-2023

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Council's annual investment programme as part of its overall strategy to position the city area as a place in which to do business and to invest.

A number of key activities that had taken place as part of the Investment Programme were detailed in the report circulated.

The Head of Economic Development drew Members' attention to a number of outcomes that the Council had achieved through this Investment Programme.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a proposed outline of investment promotion related activity for 2022-2023 in terms of maintaining and strengthening the Council's existing investment links, namely;

- Westminster 2-Day Event September 2022 - (£35,000)
- Manchester, Liverpool, London & ROI Civic Visits as part of the Sales Accelerator Trade Programmes for Lisburn and Castlereagh businesses (£35,000 for total programme of civic visits, including dedicated consultancy support)
- Continued participation on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor - (£12,000 or c.€14,300 Euro)

The Head of Economic Development advised that the proposed investment activity assumed that travel remains open and restrictions remain eased.

The Head of Economic Development and the Director of Service Transformation responded to questions from the Committee in connection with the value of the Council's participation in the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor. The Head of Economic Development advised the Committee that this project was still very much at the research stage. Following further discussion the Director undertook to bring back a more detailed report on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor to the Committee in due course.

5.4 Investment Programme 2022-2023 (Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the proposed Investment programme of activity for 2022-2023 as outlined above, be agreed,
- b) the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor continued participation budget of £12,000 (or c. €14,300 Euro) be approved, and
- c) the previous approval by the Development Committee in connection with the Westminster event in September 2022 and the programme of civic trade visits be noted.

5.5 International Trade Programme 2022-2023

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Council's International Trade Programme, including budget and resource implications. The report detailed a number of recent examples of how the Council had been actively involved in supporting its business base by assisting them to explore new export markets and win new export business.

The Head of Economic Development advised that due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all planned travel activity had been put on hold during 2020-2021 and that the pandemic had severely restricted what was achievable in the short-medium term. It was argued that now in 2022, as restrictions eased, it was appropriate to revisit international linkages already established and look at developing new ones.

The Committee had been furnished with an outline of the proposed international trade programme for 2022-2023 which included a number of delivery options in terms of maintaining and strengthening the Council's existing international linkages. The proposed activity was based on a number of considerations as set out in the report.

The Head of Economic Development highlighted the breakdown for the proposed activity for 2022-23 as follows:

- Second China Virtual Trade Programme and planned civic inbound visit from Foshan
- NI-NL Re-engagement and Membership of Joint Agreement
- Trade Mission to the Netherlands

The Head of Economic Development noted a number of comments and concerns from some Members in relation to: (a) the Council's plans to visit certain European countries in light of the ongoing war in Ukraine and (b) the Council's plans to visit China.

Alderman D Drysdale left the meeting at 8.04 pm and returned again at 8.06 pm.

5.5 International Trade Programme 2022-2023 (Cont'd)

One Member spoke in support of the Council's previous trade development with China and was of the opinion that the Council should endeavour to keep these channels open.

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the annual international trade programme of activities for 2022-2023 as outlined, be agreed.

5.6 Foshan, China Trade Programme & Friendship City Agreement - Update

The Portfolio Manager left the meeting at 8.17 pm.

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Foshan, China Trade Programme and Friendship City Agreement and in particular the delivery of a virtual trade mission.

The Head of Economic Development advised that during the pandemic, all planned travel activity had been put on hold for 2020 in 2021, and the planned inbound Civic and Business Visit from Foshan in June 2020 and the reciprocal visit to participate in the Foshan Autumn Parade in November 2020 had not taken place. The Committee had agreed during this time to continue a bridging communications programme as part of this work with all the key players in Foshan (City government, Foreign Affairs Office, CCPIT, Culture Bureau etc.) on a regular monthly basis.

It was noted that a formal civic meeting was held remotely on 26th January 2022 between the Council (led by the Right Worshipful the Mayor Alderman Martin), the Mayor of Foshan, CCPIT, FAO and the Chinese Consul General in NI. This virtual meeting proved positive event and confirmed CCPIT's commitment to supporting the trade mission. Also, as per the target number, HMC Global, Consultants, had recruited five Lisburn & Castlereagh businesses to participate on the virtual trade programme.

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined a summary of the outcomes and success stories following on from this virtual event. An evaluation report on the virtual trade programme had been circulated to the Committee.

The Portfolio Manager returned to the meeting at 8.22 pm.

Alderman A G Ewart left the meeting at 8.23 pm.

It was proposed by Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor S Carson, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the contents of the update report on the Foshan, China Trade Programme & Friendship City Agreement be noted,

5.6 Foshan, China Trade Programme & Friendship City Agreement – Update (Cont'd)

- b) Officers commence to tentatively work towards a future formal visit by Foshan representatives to Lisburn & Castlereagh, with the key theme of strengthening business and tourism links,
- c) the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Development Committee, together with appropriate Officer representation, be nominated to attend the breakfast networking event in Hinch Distillery, and
- d) the Council proceeds with a further virtual trade programme with Foshan up to a maximum cost of £10,000 to take place during 2022-2023.

5.7 Current Regeneration and City Centre priority areas – High Street Task Force; Proposed Study Visit

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Council's existing Regeneration and City Centre Management programme and also the broad range of ongoing activities that linked to various Council developments and programmes.

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that The Executive Office of the NI Assembly had formed the High Street Task Force (HSTF) to identify the challenges and issues that high streets across NI face, and to oversee the development of solutions and actions that could be taken to support NI's high streets. The HSTF had issued a call for evidence at the end of 2021 which the Council had fed into and after considering the findings, the HSTF produced the "Delivering a 21st Century High Street" report which included 14 recommendations. The findings of the Call for Evidence had been summarised in the "Call for Evidence 2022 Report". A link to both reports on The Executive's website had been included in the report circulated.

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined a number of key issues in connection with the HSTF's recommendations from the "Delivering a 21st Century High Street" report. It was noted that Officers would review the recommendations with a view to applying any new learning points to the scope and design of the Council's Regeneration and City Centre Management programme going forward. Further reports would be provided to the Committee in this regard as the initiative progresses.

The Head of Economic Development drew the Committee's attention to a proposed study visit to the Liverpool area to see first-hand a number of regeneration projects in that area and which would draw on key learning from others.

Alderman A G Ewart returned to the meeting (8.24 pm).

5.7 Current Regeneration and City Centre priority areas – High Street Task Force; Proposed Study Visit (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development responded to a question from the Committee in connection with the proposed public realm scheme in Moira and undertook to keep the Member informed on this matter.

It was proposed by Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the update and recommendations of the High Street Task Force be noted,
- b) further reports be received by the Committee as the initiative progressed, and
- c) the Chair and Vice Chair of the Committee, or their nominees, lead a cross party delegation with appropriate officers to a regeneration study trip to England with the learning reported back at a future meeting of the Committee.

5.8 Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – Update

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Covid-19 Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme.

The Head of Economic Development reminded the Committee that delegated authority had been granted at February's Development Committee to the Chairperson of the Committee and the Director of Service Transformation to agree the final plan for a Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme prior to submitting to DfC in order to secure the release of a Letter of Offer. Delegated authority also had been granted by the Council in March 2022 to the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Development Committee and the Director of Service Transformation to agree the guidance and Terms of Reference for the delivery of the Rural Investment Fund, the Heritage Shop Front Grant Scheme and the Shop Front Scheme.

The Committee had been furnished with the Expression of Interest and application documents as agreed by the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Director under the agreed delegated authority for the heritage shop front scheme to be delivered in Hillsborough and Moira. It was noted that the Guidance and Terms of Reference for the delivery of the Rural Investment Fund and the Shop Front Scheme were currently being drafted for approval under the agreed delegated authority by the Chairperson and Vice Chairperson of the Development Committee and the Director of Service Transformation for approval as agreed at March's Development Committee. These documents would be presented to the Committee for noting in due course.

5.8 Covid Recovery Small Settlements Regeneration Programme – Update (Cont'd)

The Head of Economic Development confirmed that a Letter of Offer had been signed and returned to the Department for Communities, and Council match funding of £232,333 had been ring-fenced from the 2022/2023 corporate budget estimates.

The report circulated set out a number of progress areas which had been agreed following a number of meetings by the cross-directorate Small Settlements Project Board.

A copy of the overall plan which had been refined had been appended to the report, it being noted that Officers had sought to balance the planned investment across as many of the eligible settlements and the DEAs as possible whilst ensuring good prospect of delivery and positive impact within the restricted timeframe. A breakdown of the proposed projects to be delivered in each eligible settlement also had been circulated to the Committee.

The Head of Economic Development responded to questions from two Members in connection with issues arising from the report.

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the appended documents for delivery of the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation grant programme be noted,
- b) the table of projects as presented, be agreed, and
- c) further updates be presented to the Committee as the projects progressed.

5.9 Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme - Update

The Head of Economic Development's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Covid-19 Recovery Revitalisation Scheme. The Covid Revitalisation Programme had delivered a range of projects across the Council area delivering numerous benefits to the City Centre and beyond. The various projects were listed in the report, together with details of two specific projects and the related spend to date.

The Committee also had been furnished with an update on the current status of the key initiatives within the Revitalisation Scheme. It was noted the Department for Communities had extended the funding deadline until 30th September 2022 to allow the remaining projects to be delivered.

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, and agreed that the update on the projects as part of the Recovery Revitalisation Scheme be noted.

6. Confidential Report by the Director of Service Transformation

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, 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 the Alderman D Drysdale, seconded by Councillor C McCready, 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 8.47 pm.

"In Committee"

6.1 Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Update (Report to be published in December 2022)

The Portfolio Manager presented this item of business and the Director of Service Transformation also addressed the Committee in relation to this item of business.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) Programme.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the final version of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for delivery of the BRCD programme, together with a paper that had been presented to the BRCD Executive in February which outlined pertinent information on programme costs.

It was proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the Memorandum of Understanding for delivery of the Belfast Region City Deal (BRCD) be agreed to include:
 - (i) a commitment in relation to programme costs over an estimated 10 year period, and
 - (ii) a commitment to a separate contribution per annum (initially for 2 years until March 2024) for contribution towards a shared Council BRCD Employability & Skills post, as detailed in the report, and
- b) the progress of the Destination Royal Hillsborough City Deal proposal to include the approval timelines in advance of Letter of Offer issue, be noted.

6.2 Full Fibre Network NI (FFNI) Update
(Redacted Report to be published in January 2023)

The Portfolio Manager presented this item of business.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the progress of the Full Fibre Network NI (FFNI).

The Committee had been furnished with a paper setting out the details all the sites included in the FFNI project.

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to recommend that the Council agrees to:

- a) the continued engagement with Openreach to ensure that the unconnected Council sites as detailed in the report, were committed to,
- b) further detail on respective installation dates be provided to the Council as soon as scheduling had been agreed,
- c) the continued engagement with FFNI Council partners to participate in a shared procurement framework being led by Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon District Council that would appoint a suitable contractor to 'light up' and connect the sites to a refreshed IT network services contract, and
- d) the additional request to contribute to the cost of the FFNI Operations team for the period March 2022 to September 2022, as outlined in the report.

6.3 Tender Report for Blaris Car Park and Update
(Report to be published in July 2022)

This item of business was presented by the Head of Assets.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Blaris Road Car Park project and the associated tender exercise.

A copy of the tender report for the Blaris Road Car Park project had been furnished to the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Councillor C McCreedy, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the award of the tender for the construction of the Blaris Road Car Park, including the project update report, be noted,
- b) the initial proposed summer and winter opening times of the car park as detailed in the report, be approved, and

6.3 Tender Report for Blaris Car Park and Update (Cont'd)

- c) any alteration to opening and closing times to be delegated to Council Officers in consultation with local residents.

6.4 Annual Tender Report for award of Play Park Repairs and Supply of Electrical Goods Call-Off Contracts

(Report to be published following award of contract in July 2022)

This item of business was presented by the Head of Assets.

Councillor S Mulholland left the meeting and returned (9.07 pm) during consideration of this item of business.

The Director's report outlined the background and key issues in connection with the Annual Tender exercises for the award of Play Park Repairs and also the award of supply of Electrical Goods, both of which were Call-Off Contracts.

A copy of both the above-mentioned tender reports had been furnished to the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jenny Palmer, seconded by Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the award of the tenders to those contractors and suppliers for the call-off of services for Play Area Repairs and Supply of Electrical Goods as required as detailed within the tender reports be approved, and
- b) the tenders are referred for signing and sealing by the Council as required by the Council's standing orders.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed. The livestream was re-commenced at 9.10 pm.

7. Any Other Business

7.1 Thanks and Appreciation Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, this being the last meeting in her role as Chairperson of the Development Committee, wished to express a number of sentiments of thanks and appreciation to the Committee Members, past Chairmen, and also to Council Officers.

7.1 Thanks and Appreciation (Cont'd) Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

Alderman Grehan at the outset put on record her sincere thanks to the Members of the Development Committee for their support and patience during the past year, and also for the scrutiny that all Members had provided during that time. She also expressed her thanks and appreciation to her Alliance Party colleagues on the Development Committee.

Alderman Grehan acknowledged the particular difficulties for the Committee during the year due to the Covid-19 pandemic and referred to specific projects under the Covid-19 Recovery and Revitalisation projects. Alderman Grehan expressed thanks to the team in Economic Development, under the leadership of the Head of Economic Development, for their dedication which required flexibility and adaptability as a result of the necessary changes due to the ongoing pandemic, and for their huge efforts in attracting new monies for various projects from the relevant Government Departments.

Alderman Grehan having commended the efforts of Officers across the Service Transformation Directorate in progressing various projects during the year, highlighted and elaborated on the many major projects that had been progressed.

Alderman Grehan also indicated that this year had been a particularly busy year which had been affected by a number of key staff having left the Council's employ.

Alderman Grehan wished also to thank the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, for her support and commitment during the past year and stated that they had both learned a lot during their time in office working closely with Council Officers.

Alderman Grehan also thanked the staff in the Member Services Unit for their help and support throughout the year, particularly in regard to the new digital technology.

In concluding, Alderman Grehan, wished to pay a personal thanks to the Director of Service Transformation for his support during the year. Alderman Grehan commended the leadership demonstrated by the Director of Service Transformation whose commitment to the ratepayers and businesses was exceptional.

7.2 Thanks and Appreciation Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge

The Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, expressed thanks to the Director of Service Transformation, Heads of Service and Council Officers for the support they had provided to her in her role as Vice Chairperson during the past year. Councillor Legge also thanked the Members of the Committee for their support during the year.

Councillor Legge expressed appreciation on having been involved in the many Development projects and initiatives in her role as Vice Chairperson, and welcomed the opportunity to visit many businesses during the past year.

7.2 Thanks and Appreciation (Cont'd)
Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge

In concluding, Councillor Legge paid tribute to the work of the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, for the professional and efficient manner in which she had carried out her duties during an interesting and productive term of office.

7.3 Sentiments of Thanks and Best Wishes to the Chairperson and the Vice Chairperson

A number of Committee Members on behalf of their respective political parties conveyed thanks and appreciation to the Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and the Vice Chairperson, Councillor H Legge, during their term of office (Aldermen D Drysdale and A G Ewart, Councillors J Gallen, M Guy, G McCleave and Jenny Palmer). Members also expressed thanks to the Director of Service Transformation, Head of Service and Council Officers for their efforts during the year.

Councillor Guy wished to put on record the efforts of the former Councillor D Honeyford during his time on the Development Committee, David Honeyford having been elected to the Assembly the previous month. Councillor Guy stated that she was delighted that Councillor S Mulholland had filled the vacant Alliance position on the Development Committee.

7.4 Refurbishment of Hillsborough Toilet Block
Councillor Jenny Palmer

At the request of Councillor Jenny Palmer the Director of Service Transformation provided a verbal update on the refurbishment of Hillsborough toilet block, it being noted that the toilet block was scheduled to open the following morning. The Director paid tribute to the efforts of the Head of Assets and his team in ensuring the refurbishment of the Hillsborough toilet block was completed in a timely manner.

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, thanked Members for their attendance and there being no other business the meeting was terminated at 9.31 pm.

Chairperson