

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Meeting of the Development Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Thursday 2nd March, 2023 at 6.02 pm

**PRESENT IN
THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A G Ewart, MBE (Chairman)

Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE and D Drysdale

Councillors R T Beckett, A Givan, C McCreedy,
U Mackin and A Swan

**PRESENT IN A
REMOTE LOCATION:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson

Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy

Councillors F Cole, J Gallen, H Legge, G McCleave
and S Mulholland

IN ATTENDANCE

Director of Service Transformation (Council Chamber)
Head of Economic Development (Council Chamber)
Head of Assets (Remote)
Member Services Officers (BS and RN)
IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, extended a welcome to all present to the March meeting of the Development Committee.

The Chairman advised 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 Chairman 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 Chairman outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies (00:02:48)

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of the Head of Planning and Capital Development.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:02:59)

During the course of the meeting the following declarations of interest were declared:

- Councillor C McCready in connection with item 4.2 (Lagan Navigation Trust – Navigation House – Update and Way Forward) in view of him being a Council nominee on the Lagan Navigation Trust.
- Alderman D Drysdale in connection with item 4.2 (Lagan Navigation Trust – Navigation House – Update and Way Forward) in view of him being a former member of the Lagan Navigation Trust.

3. Report by Director of Service Transformation (00:03:20)

3.1 Service Transformation Performance Reports (00:03:23)

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

- Service Transformation Management Accounts for 1st October 2022 to 31st December 2022, and
- Outturn of operational metrics/service KPIs for Q3 (1st October 2022-December 2022)

The Director responded to a question from a Member in connection with issues relating to the operation of the new Planning Portal and also in relation to other challenges in the Planning Unit, and undertook to arrange for the Head of Planning and Capital Development to contact the Member directly on the issues raised.

Councillor H Legge joined the meeting at 6.07 pm.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Councillor A Grehan, and agreed that the content of the above-mentioned performance reports be noted.

4. Report by Head of Economic Development (00:07:44)

4.1 Update on Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC) (00:07:56)

The Committee considered a further update on the Dublin-Belfast Economic Corridor (DBEC).

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the final DBEC Strategy document together with a copy of the associated draft Action Plan.

The Head of Economic Development responded to comments from a Member in connection with any lessons that could be learned from the Belfast Region City Deal framework.

The Director of Service Transformation also responded to the comments raised by Members wished to put on record his thanks and appreciation for the effort and commitment of those Members on the DBEC working group.

Councillor C McCready entered the meeting at 6.15 pm having been in attendance remotely up to that point.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that the content of the draft DBEC draft Action Plan be noted and that any feedback from Members be forwarded to either the Director or Officers in the Economic Development Unit.

4.2 Update on Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Into Employment Programme as per the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/2023 (00:15:15)

Further to the Committee's decision in relation to the reallocation of monies within the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/2023 (from the Self-Employment Options for Prison Leavers Programme), the Head of Economic Development outlined the background and key issues in connection with the award of the delivery agent to deliver the Employment Programme.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of a detailed analysis outlining the delivery agent's understanding of deprivation levels across the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area.

Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 6.24 pm.

The Head of Economic Development and the Director of Service Transformation responded to questions from Members in connection with unemployment issues arising from the above-mentioned detailed analysis. The Head of Economic Development undertook to provide information on the numbers of long-term unemployed who are re-employed to the Member directly.

4.2 Update on Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Into Employment Programme as per the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/2023 (Cont'd)

The Director of Service Transformation commented on the Jobs Fair that had taken place recently in the Lisburn LeisurePlex in partnership with the Department for Communities and undertook to provide a matrix on the outcome of that event to the Committee in due course.

Alderman J Baird returned to the meeting at 6.27 pm.

A further question was raised by a Member in relation to the termination of European Social Fund (ESF) funding and highlighted that ESF funding had been invaluable in targeting the most vulnerable people in society including ex-offenders and people with disabilities.

It was proposed by Councillor F Cole, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) the detailed analysis by the delivery agent on deprivation across the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area be noted,
- b) the contract for the delivery of the Into Employment Programme be awarded to People 1st, the Committee being satisfied that they had demonstrated their understanding of deprivation and how their recruitment processes will be developed to reach this target audience, and
- c) a letter from the Council be sent to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for the Economy enquiring what funding would be put in place to replace ESF funding to ensure that those in most need do not go unsupported.

5. Confidential Report from Director of Service Transformation (00:25:15)

The Chairman 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 addition the report in connection with Lagan Navigation Trust was confidential due to containing information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.

In Committee

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed that the Confidential Report of the Director of Service Transformation be considered “in Committee” in the absence of press or members of the public. The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings.

5.1 Food and Drink Programme - Year 1 Evaluation – Year 2 Proposal
(Redacted report to be published following contract period)

This report was presented by the Head of Economic Development.

The Director of Service Transformation’s report outlined the background and key issues in connection with an evaluation of year 1 of the Council’s Food and Drink Programme and also the proposals for year 2.

The Director of Service Transformation responded to questions from the Committee in connection with issues arising from the report and assured the Committee that he and his team were following up on the issues raised.

It was proposed by Alderman W J Dillon, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that the content of the attached evaluations on the year one Food and Drink events be noted and that the recommendations in connection with year two of the Food and Drink programme of events, as outlined in the report, be agreed.

5.2 Lagan Navigation Trust – Navigation House – Update and Recommended Way Forward
(Redacted report to be published following ratification in April 2023)

Councillor C McCready left the meeting at 6.46 pm.

The Director of Service Transformation’s report outlined an update and recommended way forward in connection with a number of matters relating to the Lagan Navigation Trust.

Alderman J Baird left the meeting at 7.08 and returned again at 7.11 pm.

During discussion the Director of Service Transformation responded to a number of matters arising from the report.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that the recommendations on the way forward for the Lagan Navigation Trust, as outlined in the Director’s report, be agreed.

The Director undertook to bring a further report on the issues raised to the Committee in due course.

5.2 Lagan Navigation Trust – Navigation House – Update and Recommended Way Forward (Cont'd)

Alderman D Drysdale put on record that he had not taken part in either the debate or subsequent decision of the Committee on this matter.

Councillor C McCreedy returned to the meeting at 7.12 pm.

5.3 ITT for the provision of Parklet on Bachelors Walk
(Redacted Report to be published post project completion)

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the e-tender opening report for the provision of a parklet on Bachelors Walk, Lisburn.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and agreed to recommend that the tender be awarded as outlined in the report, at a cost of £50,900, with funding being met 100% by the Department for Communities under the Covid Revitalisation Funding.

5.4 New Entrepreneurship Support Service proposals – UK Shared Prosperity Fund
(Redacted Report to be published following completion of application and procurement process)

The Head of Economic Development presented this item of business.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the final draft document outlining the proposed management and governance arrangements for the new Entrepreneurship Support Service.

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that:

- a) the Director's update on the new Entrepreneurship Support Service proposals including the emerging position of roles and responsibilities, be noted, and
- b) further update reports be brought to Committee on receipt of the Letter of Offer.

The Director of Service Transformation responded to further comments from a Member.

5.5 Update on Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme as per the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/23

The Head of Economic Development presented this item of business.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the tender report for the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme.

5.5 Update on Award of Delivery Agent to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme as per the Labour Market Partnership Action Plan 2022/23
(Cont'd)

It was proposed by the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed that the update on the award of the delivery agent to deliver the Economic Inactivity Linked to Disability Programme be noted being the most economically advantageous tender received.

5.6 Tender Reports for (a) Play Ground Equipment and (b) Planned Preventative Maintenance Inspections for Thermostatic Mixing Valves (TMV's)
(Report to be published following ratification of award and placing of order)

The Head of Assets presented this item of business.

The Committee had been furnished with copies of the tender reports for (a) playground equipment and (b) Planned Preventative Maintenance Inspections for Thermostatic Mixing Valves (TMV's).

It was proposed by Councillor A Givan, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the award of the tenders as outlined in the report circulated be noted, being the lowest compliant tender cost received.

5.7 Financial Appraisal for Annual Tender Building Maintenance and Minor Works
(Report to be published following ratification of award and placing of order)

The Head of Assets presented this item of business.

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the financial appraisal in connection with the annual tender Building Maintenance and Minor Works as approved by Financial Services.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that the financial appraisal in connection with the annual tender for building maintenance and minor works be agreed and that the tender progresses to the procurement stage.

6. Any Other Confidential Business

6.1 Westminster Investment Event – Update

Following a verbal report by the Director of Service Transformation it was proposed by Alderman J Baird and seconded by Councillor F Cole, that the Committee seeks delegated authority to the Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and the Director of Service Transformation in regard to any decision

6.1 Westminster Investment Event – Update (Cont’d)

deemed necessary relating to the Westminster Investment event. It was noted that the delegated authority would require to be approved retrospectively on this occasion.

6.2 Tourism NI Grant Funding

Following a verbal report by the Director of Service Transformation it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed to recommend that the Committee seeks delegated authority to the Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and the Director of Service Transformation in regard to a Tourism NI funding matter relating to Royal Hillsborough and that a retrospective report on the matter raised be brought to the Committee.

6.3 Labour Market Partnership Budget Allocation

Following a verbal report by the Head of Economic Development it was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor A Swan, and agreed to recommend that the Committee seeks delegated authority to the Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, the Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, and the Director of Service Transformation in regard to any necessary procurement for the Labour Market Partnership programmes to enable the grant funding to be utilised by the financial year end.

6.4 Balmoral Show 2023

Following a verbal report by the Director of Service Transformation, it was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, and agreed to recommend that:

- a) a budgetary matter in connection with a trader’s space at the 2023 Balmoral Show be agreed, and
- b) a report by the Director of Service Transformation be brought to the April meeting of the Committee in connection with the matter raised.

6.5 Promotion of Hillsborough as a Tourism Destination

The Director of Service Transformation responded to Members’ comments in connection with the need for appropriate promotion of Hillsborough as a major tourism destination and undertook to bring a comprehensive report to the Committee to include details on the promotional activities of by Tourism NI and Visit Belfast.

6.6 Special Spring Farmers Market, Castle Gardens, Lisburn, Saturday, 11 March 2023
Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, drew the Committee's attention to the Special Spring Farmers Market that was taking place in Castle Gardens on Saturday 11th March 2023 from 11.00 am – 3.00 pm.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor C McCready, seconded by Councillor A Givan, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

7. Any Other Business (00:25:28)

7.1 Lisburn & Castlereagh Business Awards (00:25:30)
Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart

The Chairman welcomed the success of the Lisburn & Castlereagh Business Awards that had taken place on Friday, 3 March 2023 at La Mon House Hotel. The Chairman conveyed congratulations to the businesses who had won awards or had been short listed and to those businesses that had entered to take part in this awards ceremony. He also congratulated Officers and staff who had worked extremely hard on this event and asked the Director of Service Transformation to pass on his thanks and appreciation to all the Officers and staff concerned.

The Vice Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, wished to be associated with the Chairman's sentiments and welcomed in particular the success of the Down Royal Racecourse on winning an award on the night, which she stated was another jewel in our crown in the Lisburn City area.

7.2 World Book Day – 2 March 2023 (00:27:17)
Councillor F Cole

Councillor F Cole wished to acknowledge the excellent job of schools and Libraries NI for their efforts with World Book Day which was taking place today, 2 March 2023, and which encouraged children of all ages to come together to share the joy of reading.

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairman, Alderman A G Ewart, thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 8.07 pm.

Chairman