

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Remote Monthly Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 24 January, 2023 at 7:00 pm**

**PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor S Carson

Deputy Mayor  
Councillor M Guy

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE, D Drysdale,  
A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, A Grehan, M Henderson MBE,  
S Martin, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, F Cole, D J Craig,  
A P Ewing, A Givan, A Gowan, M Gregg, S Hughes,  
J Lavery BEM, S Lee, H Legge, S Lowry J McCarthy,  
G McCleave, C McCready, A McIntyre, U Mackin, T Mitchell,  
S Skillen, A Swan and N Trimble

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Councillors R Carlin, J Gallen, R McLernon, S Mulholland,  
Jenny Palmer and John Palmer

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive  
Director of Finance and Corporate Services  
Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing  
Director of Service Transformation  
Head of Waste Management and Operational Services  
Head of Corporate Communications and Administration  
Member Services Officers  
Project Manager  
Project Officer (remotely)  
Technician  
IT Officer

Reverend R Higginson, Mayor's Chaplain

Taggarts

Mr A Thompson, Technical Director

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, welcomed those present to the remote meeting of Council which, in line with Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020, was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under

Commencement of the Meeting (Contd)

confidential business, the meeting would be broadcast online and members of the public could be captured on the livestream. Data captured on the livestream was processed in the exercise of official authority which covered public functions and powers which were set out in law and to perform a specific task in the public interest.

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

The Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor 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.

Prayers (00:03:35)

Councillor R Carlin joined the meeting at 7.05 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, expressed condolences in relation to the following bereavements:

- Mrs G Lavery, mother of Kermit Lavery, Cleansing Operative;
- Mr & Mrs Easton, parents of Mr A Easton MLA, who had passed away the previous day in a fire at their home; and
- Mrs J Christie CVO, MBE, former Lord-Lieutenant for County Antrim and Freeman of the City, who had passed away in tragic circumstances.

Those present stood and observed a minute's silence as a mark of respect for Mrs Christie, given that she was a Freeman of the City.

Councillor S Mullholland joined the meeting at 7.06 pm.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, welcomed his Chaplain, Reverend Roger Higginson, Lisburn Free Presbyterian Church, to the meeting. Reverend Higginson gave an address and said a prayer during which he too remembered the bereaved families referred to by the Mayor.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, thanked Reverend Higginson for his attendance and he left the meeting (7.15 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements (00:14:35)

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, since the last meeting of Council.

2. Apologies (00:14:56)

There were no apologies.

3. Declarations of Interest (00:15:15)

There were no declarations of interest made at this point.

During the course of the meeting, Alderman D Drysdale declared an interest in item 13.1 'Kerbside Collection Full Business Case' given that he was Chairman of arc21.

4. Council Minutes (00:16:02)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman M Henderson and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 19 December, 2022 be confirmed and signed.

5. Matters Arising (00:16:25)

There were no matters arising.

6. Deputations (00:16:43)

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (00:16:48)

It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed that the following legal documents be signed at the meeting:

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Workforce Training Services, 465 Antrim Road, Belfast BT15 3BP – F22/23-006 for delivery of the HGV Transport Academy under the terms and conditions of Belfast City Council's Employment Academies Framework T1983 – Lot 3 Practical Sector;
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Rumour Mill Creative Communications, Office 3, Cubic Work, 5 Lisburn Road, Lisburn BT28 3NT – for delivery of LCCC Integrated Marketing Campaign; and
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Toland House Properties Ltd, 21-23 Chapel Hill, Lisburn BT28 1EP – Deed of Rectification re: 33b Lyngrove Hill, Glenavy.

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

**Leisure and Community Development Committee** **3 January, 2023**

(00:17:17)

Proposed by Councillor A McIntyre

Seconded by Councillor A Gowan

**Environmental Services Committee** **4 January, 2023**

(00:17:54)

Proposed by Councillor M Gregg

Seconded by Councillor C McCready

**Development Committee** **5 January, 2023**

(00:18:32)

Proposed by Alderman A G Ewart

Seconded by Alderman A Grehan

**Corporate Services Committee** **11 January, 2023**

(00:18:58)

Proposed by Councillor S Hughes

Seconded by Councillor U Mackin

**Capital Projects Committee** **18 January, 2023**

(00:19:27)

Proposed by Councillor S Lowry

Seconded by Councillor S Lee

Councillor S Lowry pointed out that the minutes of the Capital Projects Committee were still subject to the call-in procedure.

**Planning Committee** **5 December, 2022**

(00:20:03)

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 5 December, 2022 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 9 January, 2023. It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor John Palmer and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive (00:20:47)

There were no reports from the Chief Executive.

10. Reports from Members on Boards (00:20:53)

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure (00:20:57)

There were no reports on decisions subject to the reconsideration procedure.

12. Notice of Motion (00:21:04)

There were no Notices of Motion.

13. Confidential Business (00:21:08)

The matter contained in the confidential report would be dealt with "In Committee" due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

Prior to going into committee, Alderman S P Porter stated that, whilst he understood the need for the financial aspect of item 13.1 in relation to the Full Business Case being considered under confidential business, it was his view that, in the interests of openness and transparency, the decision around the policy element should be considered in open forum. In response, the Chief Executive explained that the item was confidential as it was a financial decision of the Council. It involved significant investment by the Council and that in itself was a policy decision. He understood Alderman Porter's point regarding transparency to the public; however, equally the Council had to ensure its commercial interests were protected. The Chief Executive agreed that a redacted version of the cover report would be made available in the public domain and a more extensive minute would be provided than would normally be the case for confidential items to capture points made around policy.

A number of Members spoke in support of Alderman Porter's request that discussion around the policy element of this matter be considered in open forum, namely Councillor N Anderson, Alderman W J Dillon and Councillor D J Craig.

Alderman O Gawith stated his agreement with the Chief Executive's view that this matter should be considered as confidential business. Discussions around this item to date had been considered in committee and he proposed that the matter remain confidential at this evening's meeting. This proposal was seconded by Councillor N Trimble.

A number of Members spoke in support of Alderman Gawith's proposal that the matter be considered in committee, namely Councillor N Trimble, Alderman S Martin and Councillor A Swan.

Councillor N Anderson made a counter proposal that a special meeting of the Council be convened in order to separate discussion on policy, which would be in open forum, and discussion around the Full Business Case, which would be considered in committee. Following discussion, Councillor Anderson withdrew his counter proposal but requested that the minutes record his dissent with the decision to consider this matter in committee.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed that the following item be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The livestream was paused at 7.45 pm.

13.1 Kerbside Collection Full Business Case  
(Redacted report would be available following decision)

The Council agreed to an enhanced minute of discussions. The main issues are included below.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, welcomed to the meeting Mr A Thompson from Taggart. With the use of visual aid equipment, Mr Thompson made a presentation in respect of the Kerbside Collection of Waste Final Business Case.

A number of Members’ queries were responded to by Mr Thompson, the Chief Executive and Council Officers.

The following points were raised by Members:

- Some Members wished that residents whose 240L residual waste bins were in good condition should be permitted to retain those bins rather than them being replaced needlessly. However, it was noted that current residual bins were blue and the proposal was to move to a smaller black 180L residual bin, similar to other councils;
- Mention was made of the forthcoming publication of the Department of the Environment, Agriculture and Rural Affairs (DAERA) Waste Management Strategy. The recommendation before the Council this evening would not preclude the Council from being able to access grants from DAERA at a future point.
- There was concern that a reduction in the size of the residual waste bin could be a challenge for larger households and this may result in fly-tipping and people leaving bags of rubbish on the side of the road. As part of the roll-out, the Council would keep this under review and work with households where the reduced bin size posed a problem. It was noted that there had been no increased instances of fly-tipping since the introduction of the pilot 180L residual bin scheme in Castlereagh;
- It was recognised that recycling models differed across Northern Ireland and it was suggested that there should be a role for DAERA in relation to emphasising to the public the importance of recycling. This point was recognised; however, Lisburn and Castlereagh had developed its own communications plan in the meantime to support its recycling model and this would be rolled out in due course;

13.1 Kerbside Collection Full Business Case (Contd)

- in response to whether an 'opt out' policy would be available for larger households that would have difficulty in being supplied with a smaller bin, the Council already had a policy to support families of 6 or more, those with higher volumes of medical waste and for families with children in nappies. Council Officers would work with other households through the Council's communication plan to address their needs moving forward;

Alderman S P Porter requested that the minutes record that DUP Members were disappointed this debate had not been held in the public domain. He further requested that any votes that would take place be recorded.

It was proposed by Councillor John Palmer and seconded by Councillor M Gregg that, as recommended in the Chief Executive's report, (a) the Full Business Case related to the acquisition, assembly and subsequent distribution of the preferred bin types for residents (noting the anticipated timescales) be approved; (b) the acquisition of the relevant in-cab telemetry and back office IT systems be approved; and (c) the Waste Management Operational Policies be reviewed following roll-out.

Alderman S P Porter proposed an amendment that the recommendations of the Chief Executive be approved, with the exception that any residents requesting to retain their current 240L residual waste bin be permitted to do so. This amendment was seconded by Councillor N Anderson.

Councillor M Gregg requested that the minutes record that any deviation from the Full Business Case presented to Council would incur an additional charge that would have to be funded by ratepayers.

The amendment in the name of Alderman S P Porter was put to the meeting and declared 'lost', the voting being as follows:

In Favour: Councillor N Anderson, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman W J Dillon, Alderman D Drysdale, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan, Councillor J Laverty, Councillor C McCreedy, Councillor U Mackin, Alderman S P Porter, Councillor S Skillen, Alderman J Tinsley and The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson **(16)**

Against: Alderman J Baird, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor F Cole, Councillor J Gallen, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor M Gregg, Alderman A Grehan, Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, Alderman M Henderson, Councillor S Hughes, Councillor S Lee, Councillor H Legge, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor G McCleave, Councillor A McIntyre, Councillor R McLernon, Alderman S Martin, Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor S Mulholland, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Councillor John Palmer, Councillor A Swan and Councillor N Trimble **(24)**

13.1 Kerbside Collection Full Business Case (Contd)

The proposal in the name of Councillor John Palmer was put to the meeting and declared 'carried, the voting being as follows:

In Favour: Alderman J Baird, Councillor R Carlin, Councillor F Cole, Councillor J Gallen, Alderman O Gawith, Councillor M Gregg, Alderman A Grehan, Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, Alderman M Henderson, Councillor S Hughes, Councillor S Lee, Councillor H Legge, Councillor S Lowry, Councillor J McCarthy, Councillor G McCleave, Councillor A McIntyre, Councillor R McLernon, Alderman S Martin, Councillor T Mitchell, Councillor S Mulholland, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Councillor John Palmer, Councillor A Swan and Councillor N Trimble **(24)**

Against: Alderman W J Dillon **(1)**

Abstain: Councillor N Anderson, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor D J Craig, Alderman D Drysdale, Alderman A G Ewart, Councillor A P Ewing, Councillor A Givan, Councillor A Gowan, Councillor J Lavery, Councillor C McCready, Councillor U Mackin, Alderman S P Porter, Councillor S Skillen, Alderman J Tinsley and The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson **(15)**

It was noted that Councillor N Anderson had initially voted in favour of the proposal but, prior to the conclusion of the vote, he indicated that he wished to abstain.

The Chief Executive agreed that work would be done in relation to the policy in relation to medium sized households (4-5 people) for further consideration by Members in due course.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, thanked Mr A Thompson for his attendance and he left the meeting at 10.13 pm as did the Project Officer.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor J Lavery and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at this stage (10.24 pm).

14. Any Other Business

14.1 2023 Local Government Conference – 23 February, 2023 (00:44:40)  
Chief Executive

The Chief Executive reported receipt of notification from NILGA of the 2023 Local Government Conference which was due to be held on 23 February, 2023 in the Silverbirch Hotel, Omagh. It was proposed by Alderman M Henderson,



14.1 2023 Local Government Conference – 23 February, 2023 (Contd))  
Chief Executive

seconded by Councillor T Mitchell and agreed that any Member wishing to attend advise Member Services by the end of the week and that costs associated with the attendance of Members and Officers attending the conference be approved.

14.2 Dundonald Art Corridor – Pride of Place Awards (00:45:38)  
Councillor H Legge

Councillor H Legge advised that Dundonald Art Corridor had won the ‘Community Innovation Initiatives’ category at the recent Pride of Place Awards. She sent her personal congratulations to the group which, she stated, was a small but extremely dedicated group of volunteers and community-minded individuals who were also talented in their own sphere of the arts. Councillor Legge requested that, to show the Council’s appreciation to the group, a reception be hosted at an appropriate level – whether by the Chairman of the Leisure and Community Development Committee or through the offices of the Mayor.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, stated that he, together with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Leisure and Community Development Committee, had been involved in hosting the competition’s judges a number of months ago. He too offered his congratulations to the Dundonald Art Corridor group and agreed to arrange a reception as requested. He also extended his congratulations to Annahilt and Magheraconluce Community Association for having made it to the finals of the Pride of Place competition.

14.3 Building Collapse in Bridge Street, Lisburn (00:47:26)  
Councillor N Trimble

Councillor N Trimble referred to an incident that occurred the previous day in Bridge Street when a building had suffered a partial collapse. He stated how well the emergency services, as well as Officers from the Council’s Building Control Service, had responded to make the scene safe. Councillor Trimble referred to a number of other buildings in Bridge Street being in a state of dilapidation and stated the recent incident had provoked online commentary around the Council’s role regarding unsafe structures and what powers it had to investigate. He asked that Officers give consideration to how the Council could ensure there was no further risk of a similar incident occurring. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, advised that he had spoken earlier in the day with a number of Council Officers and the points made by Councillor Trimble had already been taken on board by those staff. The Chief Executive agreed that a brief would be prepared and circulated to Members outlining the Council’s general approach to a situation such as this.

14.4 Access to General Practitioner Services (00:50:07)  
Councillor U Mackin

Councillor U Mackin referred to the large volume of complaints he had been receiving from constituents regarding difficulty they were facing in attempting to access GP Services, whereby numerous calls were having to be made before being answered, by which time it was too late to speak to a GP. He stated that

14.4 Access to General Practitioner Services (Contd)  
Councillor U Mackin

he had no criticism whatsoever for receptionists, but considered there was something inherently wrong with the system. Councillor Mackin stated that there was an onus on the Council to try to help its communities and proposed that the Health Working Group make contact with GPs to explore ways to assist them to identify the core problem and overcome present difficulties. This was seconded by Alderman W J Dillon and agreed.

14.5 NAC NI Region Meeting – 25 January, 2023 (00:54:42)  
Alderman M Henderson

Alderman M Henderson reminded Members that an NAC NI Region meeting was taking place the following morning at Lagan Valley Island.

14.6 Lack of Orbital Bus Routes (00:55:10)  
Councillor N Anderson

Councillor N Anderson referred to the fact that all bus services led into and out of Belfast City Centre and stated that there was a lack of orbital bus routes, eg. between Dundonald and Lisburn, Dundonald and Finaghy, Finaghy and North or West Belfast, etc. He proposed that a letter be sent to Translink and to the Department for Infrastructure asking what plans there were to provide such orbital routes. This proposal was seconded by Councillor A Swan and agreed.

14.7 Grand Choice Event – Downshire East (00:57:16)  
Councillor A Swan

Councillor A Swan referred to a recent Grand Choice Event ran by Lisburn PCSP in the Downshire East electoral area. This had been a very successful event and feedback from those who had attended had been very positive. Councillor Swan extended his congratulations to all Council staff who were involved in this event. The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, concurred with Councillor Swan's sentiments.

14.8 Vandalism of Seymour Hill Play Park (00:59:10)  
Councillor D J Craig

Councillor D J Craig reported that the Council play park at Seymour Hill, beside Derriaghy Football Club, had been vandalised this evening by being set on fire by a number of individuals. He condemned those responsible and requested that Council Officers attend the scene the following morning to assess the damage caused to this much-used facility.

Conclusion of the Meeting

At the conclusion of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor S Carson, thanked those present for their attendance.

**MM 24.01.2023**

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 10.41 pm.

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Mayor