

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber and Remote Locations on Tuesday 24 October, 2023 at 7:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor A Gowan

Deputy Mayor
Councillor G McCleave

Aldermen J Baird, M Gregg, A Grehan, M Guy, H Legge,
S P Porter, S Skillen and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, R T Beckett, P Burke, S Burns,
R Carlin, P Catney, D J Craig, K Dickson, N Eaton,
A P Ewing, A Givan, G Hynds, C Kemp, P Kennedy,
J Lavery BEM, S Lowry, C McCready, U Mackin,
A Martin, T Mitchell, G Thompson and Hon N Trimble

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Councillors J Gallen and N Parker

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Communities and Wellbeing
Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Director of Regeneration & Growth
Acting Director of Environmental Services
Member Services Officers (BS & EW)
Technician
IT Officer

Mr D Roberts, Mayor's Chaplain

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed those present to the October meeting of Council which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He pointed out that, should the meeting go into committee to consider confidential business, any members of the press and the public in attendance would be required to leave the Council Chamber for the duration of those matters.

The Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting following which the Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

Commencement of the Meeting (Cont'd)

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

At this point The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised of the undernoted of bereavements since the last meeting of Council:

- Jenny Allison, Project Support Officer, Programmes Office within Economic Development Unit, on the death of her mother, Brenda Kathleen Hunter
- James Bingham, PCSP Officer, on the death of his mother, May (Maisie) Bingham

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed his Chaplain, Mr D Roberts, to the meeting. Mr Roberts gave an address followed by prayer during which he too remembered the above-mentioned bereaved families.

Aldermen A Grehan and S P Porter entered the meeting at 7.06 pm.

At this point, The Right Worshipful the Mayor thanked Mr Roberts for his attendance and he left the meeting (7.14 pm).

1. Business of The Right Worshipful the Mayor

1.1 Mayor's Engagements (00:13:44)

The Council noted a number of engagements attended by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, and the Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave, since the previous meeting of Council.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor put on record his thanks to those organisations and community groups who had hosted fundraising events during the past number of weeks for his Mayoral charity, Cancer Fund for Children. He acknowledged the tremendous efforts of all concerned and also expressed thanks and appreciation to those people who had turned out on the day to support these events.

2. Apologies (00:14:18)

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of Aldermen A G Ewart MBE and O Gawith, and Councillors B Higginson, A McIntyre, M McKeever and R McLernon.

Alderman J Tinsley advised Members that Councillor Higginson had undergone surgery in recent days and asked Members to keep Councillor Higginson in their thoughts and prayers at this time.

3. Declarations of Interest (00:15:03)

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Council Minutes

4.1 Meeting of Council held on 26 September 2023 (00:15:40)

Proposed by Alderman J Tinsley

Seconded by Councillor U Mackin

4.2 Special Meeting of Council held on 16 September 2023 (00:16:06)

Proposed by Councillor A Givan

Seconded by Alderman A Grehan

5. Matters Arising (00:16:35))

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting of Council held on 26 September 2023 nor the minutes of the Special meeting of Council held on 16 October 2023.

6. Deputations (00:14:33)

There were no deputations.

7. Business Required by Statute

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (00:16:57)

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

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Ballymacash Sports Academy Ltd, The Bluebell Sports Complex, 10a Rushmore Drive, Lisburn BT28 2HN – Letter of Offer to Ballymacash Sports Academy Ltd – Community Investment Fund
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and the Department for Infrastructure (“The Department”) of Clarence Court, 10-18 Adelaide Street, Belfast BT2 8GB – Agency Agreement for the provision of Off-Street Parking Enforcement and a Penalty Charge Notice Processing Service
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Graham Asset Management, 20 Wildflower Way, Belfast BT1 6TA – T23/24-002 – Contract for Tender for Winter Services Provision to Council Facilities

(i) Signing of Legal Documents (Cont'd)

- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and iPower Solutions Ltd, Carnmoney House, Edgewater Road, Belfast BT3 9JQ – T22/23-014 – Contract for Tender for Provision of Demand Side Operator to Provide Demand Response Income for Lagan Valley Island Civic Centre
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Advanced Overwatch Ltd, 1st Floor, Beresford House, 2 Beresford Road, Coleraine BT52 1GE – T22/23-065 – Contract for Tender for Planned Preventive Maintenance Inspections of CCTV
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and SL Contracts, 25 Lany Road, Moira BT67 0NZ and Mervyn Kirk Excavations and Groundworks, 3 The Nursery, Inishmore, Killyleagh BT30 9UQ and Civco Ltd, 25a Hillside Road, Maghera BT46 5SD – T23/24-001 – Contract for AT1 – Building Maintenance and Minor Works
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council and Avenue Recycling Ltd, 1 Advantage Way, Ballygomartin Road, Belfast BT13 3LZ – Contract for Collection, transportation and recycling of scrap metals from Council Household Recycling Centres (Ref T22/23-075)

8. Adoption of Minutes of Committees

Communities & Wellbeing Committee

3 October 2023

(00:17:21)

Proposed by Councillor R McLernon

Seconded by Councillor A Martin

Adopted subject to item 5.1 (page 406) 2024 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run being referred back to Committee for further consideration, at the request of Councillors T Mitchell and N Trimble.

Matters Arising

During discussion on the above matter Councillor Mitchell reiterated the health and safety concerns he had raised at Committee in connection with the proposed new route for this event, in particular the width of the path along the greenway and also traffic issues along the Blaris Road and the potential for problems for emergency vehicles accessing the area in a medical emergency.

Councillor N Trimble also wished to put on record his concerns relating to his perceived health and safety issues regarding the proposed new route, and mentioned in particular the barriers that were in place at the Sprucefield Park and Ride facility which he felt were an unnecessary risk. Councillor Trimble requested that his opposition to the recommendation to approve the proposed new route for the 2024 Lisburn Half Marathon, 10K and Fun Run be recorded.

Matters Arising (Cont'd)

The Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing responded to the comments raised by Members and advised that health and safety considerations were captured in risk assessments and the event management plan which would also be presented to the Safety Advisory Group. She offered to meet with the Members concerned to discuss their concerns further.

The Chairman of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee agreed to this matter being referred back to Committee.

In view of the papers for that Committee having been approved for issue it was noted that this matter would be on the agenda for the December meeting and that meanwhile the Director would undertake to meet with the Members concerned.

Environmental & Sustainability Committee

4 October 2023

(00:23:17)

Proposed by Councillor C McCready

Seconded by Councillor R Carlin

Regeneration & Growth Committee

5 October 2023

(00:23:53)

Proposed by Councillor J Laverty

Seconded by Councillor T Mitchell

Corporate Services Committee

13 September 2023

(00:24:25)

Councillor A P Ewing, Vice Chairperson, referred to the undernoted two items of business which had been subject to the Call-In procedure and which had been deemed to be inadmissible and accordingly the minutes pertaining to these two items of business were before the Council for ratification, namely;

- 6.1 Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance 2023
Belfast Waterfront Hall 4th November 2023, and
- 6.2 Anniversary of the Greenfinches

The minutes at items 6.1 and 6.2 were proposed by Councillor A P Ewing and seconded by Councillor C Kemp.

Corporate Services Committee

11 October 2023

(00:24:53)

Proposed by Councillor A P Ewing

Seconded by Councillor C Kemp

Adopted subject to Councillor S Lowry's name being removed at item 7.1.

The minutes of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 September 2023 had been circulated for noting only as these minutes had been agreed at the subsequent meeting of the Planning Committee on 2 October, 2023. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed that their contents be noted.

9. Report from Chief Executive (00:26:57)

There were no reports for consideration.

10. Reports from Members on Boards (00:27:02)

There were no reports from Members on Boards.

11. Reports on Decisions Subject to the Reconsideration Procedure (00:27:07)

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

12. Notices of Motion

12.1 Re-Prioritisation of the A1 Dual Carriageway (00:27:15)

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G Thompson had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“Between 2002 and 2019 there has been 661 collisions and 41 people killed on the A1 Dual Carriageway (Source: SISRA/DfI). Despite a Public Inquiry and previous Ministerial Approval, phase 2 of the A1 upgrade has been recently categorised as a Tier 3 project, with no commitment on completion, despite years of campaigning from the public and political representatives.

This Council recognises the urgent need for A1 infrastructure upgrades and the strong public support for improvements.

In order to protect lives on one of our busiest roads, this Council recognises the Phase 2 upgrades as a top priority infrastructure project and requests urgent budget reallocation to support project delivery.

This Council commits to:

- writing to the Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council asking Council Members to support urgent reprioritisation of the A1 and budget reallocation to achieve Phase 2 upgrades

12.1 Re-Prioritisation of the A1 Dual Carriageway (Cont'd)

- writing to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure urging a reprioritisation of the A1, an inclusion in tier one Infrastructure projects and budget reallocation to achieve Phase 2.
- writing to the Executive and Minister for Infrastructure, when the Assembly is restored, to prioritise the A1 and urgently redirect budget to the upgrades.
- writing to the Secretary of State, urging prioritisation of the project and to engage with The Department for Infrastructure to ensure the improvements are a Tier 1 priority.”

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor G Thompson, was seconded by Councillor C McCready.

(Alderman A Grehan returned to the meeting at 7.30 pm)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that the Notice of Motion would be considered at the meeting that evening following which Councillor Thompson elaborated on her Notice of Motion. She highlighted a number of significant facts in support of her motion, including:

- the public have waited much too long for the upgrades to the A1 to be completed
- the A1 is the main Belfast to Dublin economic corridor carrying on average 40,000 vehicles daily and the need for road safety improvements on the A1 has never been greater
- a public inquiry into the proposed upgrade of the A1 took place in 2020 and the inspector of the enquiry, Kevin Chambers, recommended at that time that the improvement scheme should be expedited as quickly as possible in view of the number of serious accidents and fatalities on that road
- when the Newry bypass was completed in 2010 the phase 2 upgrades had already been planned yet 13 years later despite a public inquiry and previous ministerial approval we face continued delays
- Phase 2 safety improvements include the closing of all gaps in the central reservation between Hillsborough and Loughbrickland, the development of four new flyovers and prevention of right turns into 20 side roads
- the economic potential for this road has not been fully explored due to lack of investment and vision and the progression of this road would unlock economic potential for the Lisburn and Castlereagh area

In concluding Councillor Thompson stated that the benefits of the upgrade to the A1 were clear, which included: improved journey times, safer journeys for everyone and direct and indirect economic boost in sectors such as logistics, construction, tourism and manufacturing. Councillor Thompson hoped that all Members present would support her Notice of Motion that evening and show collective leadership on this issue.

Councillor C McCready having seconded the Notice of Motion also addressed the Council during which he referred to the A1 being the main thoroughfare from the

12.1 Re-Prioritisation of the A1 Dual Carriageway (Cont'd)

Republic of Ireland to Lisburn and Castlereagh. Councillor McCready was also hopeful that the Council would accept this motion which, he stated, would put pressure on those with authority to ensure the upgrades to the A1 are progressed in a timely manner.

At this point The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that an addendum to the Notice of Motion had been received in advance from Councillor R Carlin.

Councillor Carlin addressed the Council and having indicated his support to the Notice of Motion, read out the undernoted addendum, which he asked be included after the second point, namely;

“This Council also recognised the significant and detrimental impact of the British Government imposed budget cuts on vital public services here and much needed infrastructure projects such as the A1, and that the British Government needs to properly fund the Executive to allow it to deliver for communities.”

Councillor Thompson indicated her agreement to including the above addendum to her Notice of Motion.

A number of Members on behalf of their respective political parties spoke in support of the Notice of Motion.

Councillor G Thompson in summing up thanked those Members who had spoken in support of her motion.

The Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor G Thompson, seconded by Councillor C McCready and as amended by Councillor R Carlin, was put to the meeting and agreed unanimously, the resolution being as follows:

“Between 2002 and 2019 there has been 661 collisions and 41 people killed on the A1 Dual Carriageway (Source: SISRA/DfI). Despite a Public Inquiry and previous Ministerial Approval, phase 2 of the A1 upgrade has been recently categorised as a Tier 3 project, with no commitment on completion, despite years of campaigning from the public and political representatives.

This Council recognises the urgent need for A1 infrastructure upgrades and the strong public support for improvements.

This Council also recognised the significant and detrimental impact of the British Government imposed budget cuts on vital public services here and much needed infrastructure projects such as the A1, and that the British Government needs to properly fund the Executive to allow it to deliver for communities.

In order to protect lives on one of our busiest roads, this Council recognises the Phase 2 upgrades as a top priority infrastructure project and requests urgent budget reallocation to support project delivery.

12.1 Re-Prioritisation of the A1 Dual Carriageway (Cont'd)

This Council commits to:

- writing to the Chief Executive of Newry, Mourne and Down District Council and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council asking Council Members to support urgent reprioritisation of the A1 and budget reallocation to achieve Phase 2 upgrades
- writing to the Permanent Secretary of the Department for Infrastructure urging a reprioritisation of the A1, an inclusion in tier one Infrastructure projects and budget reallocation to achieve Phase 2
- writing to the Executive and Minister for Infrastructure, when the Assembly is restored, to prioritise the A1 and urgently redirect budget to the upgrades
- writing to the Secretary of State, urging prioritisation of the project and to engage with The Department for Infrastructure to ensure the improvements are a Tier 1 priority.”

12.2 Clean Air (00:42:13)

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor S Lowry had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“Having learned lessons of the importance of ventilation and clean indoor air for health and productivity during the Covid pandemic; and seeking to take all reasonable steps to enable use of all Council facilities by all citizens, including the vulnerable and so further inclusion; and seeking to care for the health and wellbeing of Council employees, this Council will explore the necessary requirements to signing and implementing the COVID safety pledge; to report on steps already taken to prioritise clean indoor air in Lagan Valley Island and other Council owned and occupied premises, and on what further or additional steps could be taken to improve indoor air quality for employees and service users; and to develop and promote advice that can be followed to provide clean indoor air at events supported by Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.”

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor S Lowry, was seconded by Alderman M Gregg.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6), as the above Notice of Motion fell within the remit of the Environment & Sustainability Committee, it would be referred to that Committee for consideration.

12.3 Motion in Support of addressing the Cost of Living Crisis (00:43:46)

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor P Burke had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

12.3 Motion in Support of addressing the Cost of Living Crisis (Cont'd)

“This Council recognises the enormous impact on workers, families, and communities of the ongoing cost of living crisis across the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area; further recognises that as we move into autumn and winter that people will face a greater cost burden associated with increasing need for heating and electricity; is concerned that people are being further squeezed by the consequences of inflation and interest rate rises which have led to increased mortgages and insurance costs; is deeply concerned by the imposition by the British Secretary of State of a budget which has cut millions of pounds from departmental budgets undermining public services that workers, families and the most vulnerable rely upon; and the Council will urgently write to the Secretary of State for the North to call for a reverse to these cuts and to provide real supports for those facing higher living costs.”

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that the Notice of Motion would be considered at the meeting that evening.

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor P Burke, was seconded by Councillor C Kemp who indicated that she had put forward a proposed alteration to the Motion which had been provided to Members in advance; namely; the replacement of all of the words after “is deeply concerned by” (in line 8) with the following:

“the Fiscal Council’s report of May 2023 which found that Northern Ireland is structurally underfunded by the Treasury compared to its relative need; notes the devastating impact this underfunding is having on departmental budgets, public services and households; further notes that revenue-raising will not reverse this decline and we cannot ask people to pay more for less; and calls on the Secretary of State to provide a funding package, including a Fiscal Floor, to allow the stabilisation and transformation of public services by a restored and reformed Executive.”

Councillor P Burke, having indicated that he agreed to the above alteration, elaborated on his Notice of Motion during which he made a number of pertinent comments, including:

- the current cost of living crisis has stretched most household finances and there is no doubt that those who have the least have been disproportionately impacted
- people in the North are being hit with increases in the cost of fuel, food, energy, mortgage repayments and heat. This means those on low pay and minimum wage are at risk falling into debt and being unable to pay for basic essentials
- the British Government can and should act now to cut the cost of heating oil – to help support those people who are facing the cruel decision whether to heat their home or feed their children
- the energy giants are lining their pockets as a result of this cost of living crisis and it is time for a windfall tax on big energy corporations such as BP who are profiting greatly whilst their customers struggle to heat their homes. Proceeds of a windfall tax could be redirected to workers and families and advance

12.3 Motion in Support of addressing the Cost of Living Crisis (Cont'd)

- efforts to move away from fossil fuels and into renewables to power and heat homes
- the British Government needs to do more to support home owners with rising mortgage repayments by providing targeted support to those whose mortgage interest rates have risen during the past year
 - the decision by the Conservatives to impose a 3.3% real terms cut to Block grant is a cruel and callous decision particularly given the cost of living crisis at time when people are struggling
 - the latest figures from the Department of Finance show that the Executive would need an additional £2.3b beyond what was provided most recent Tory budget just to deliver same level of services as 2021-2022.

During his contribution Councillor Burke stated that since being elected he had come to realise the responsibility placed upon each and every elected representative to deliver the best services possible to all in Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council. It was essential for all to explore ways to alleviate some of that hardship. Councillor Burke proceeded to outline a particular issue that one family had approached him about concerning their Vitality membership which until recently had been £49 per month for their family membership but now that two of the children had turned 18 years of age but still in full time education, it was now £95 per month. He stated that this was one issue that elected representatives face. He was of the opinion that the Vitality Membership scheme required a review and when possible, should be proactive in seeking solutions, being innovative and finding ways to give back to people during this this cost of living crisis.

Councillor C Kemp having seconded the Notice of Motion also addressed the Council during which she reaffirmed the difficult issues faced by many families during the cost of living crisis. Councillor Kemp also highlighted:

- the current high cost of childcare
- the cuts to the budgets for the Education Authority for the transformation of Special Educational Needs which had been reduced by 50%
- the Department for Education's budget for Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators had been reduced from £22m to £11m
- the Department for Health's budget cuts to voluntary and community sectors

During her contribution Councillor Kemp commended the social supermarket initiative in Lisburn which she stated was availed of by those out of work and also those in work.

A number of Members on behalf of their respective political parties spoke in support of the Notice of Motion and highlighted a number of personal stories of constituents who had phoned or called to their offices in need. Some Members welcomed the efforts of Gavin Robinson MP who had called for a change in the Barnett formula and another Member wished to put on record their thanks to the food banks across the Council area.

12.3 Motion in Support of addressing the Cost of Living Crisis (Cont'd)

Councillor P Burke thanked Members for their support to his Notice of Motion, as altered by Councillor C Kemp.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor put the Notice of Motion, as altered, to the meeting which was agreed unanimously, as follows:

“This Council recognises the enormous impact on workers, families, and communities of the ongoing cost of living crisis across the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council area; further recognises that as we move into autumn and winter that people will face a greater cost burden associated with increasing need for heating and electricity; is concerned that people are being further squeezed by the consequences of inflation and interest rate rises which have led to increased mortgages and insurance costs; is deeply concerned by the Fiscal Council’s report of May 2023 which found that Northern Ireland is structurally underfunded by the Treasury compared to its relative need; notes the devastating impact this underfunding is having on departmental budgets, public services and households; further notes that revenue-raising will not reverse this decline and we cannot ask people to pay more for less; and calls on the Secretary of State to provide a funding package, including a Fiscal Floor, to allow the stabilisation and transformation of public services by a restored and reformed Executive.”

12.4 Budget Cuts to Animal Welfare (01:10:00)

A copy of the following Notice of Motion in the name of Councillor N Eaton had been circulated to Members with the notice convening the meeting:

“This Council considers the impact of cuts from DAERA to Animal Welfare in Northern Ireland from £1.25m to zero with great concern. These cuts have a high risk of negatively impacting the work done by local government in the protection of non-farmed animals in Lisburn and Castlereagh area and consequently could lead to more suffering and maltreatment of animals. The Council will urgently write to DAERA Permanent Secretary to express opposition to this decision and to urge an alternative solution to be found.

Furthermore, given the significant pressure on Animal Welfare in Northern Ireland, we ask that through the Environmental Services Committee that Officers attending the Animal Welfare Strategic Board and those from the Multi Agency Animal Welfare Forum keep both members informed of the work of these groups and provides an opportunity to contribute to this work.”

The Notice of Motion as proposed by Councillor N Eaton, was seconded by Alderman H Legge.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor advised that, in accordance with Standing Order 16.1 (6), as the above Notice of Motion fell within the remit of the Environment & Sustainability Committee, it would be referred to that Committee for consideration.

13. Any Other Business

13.1 December Meeting of Council (01:11:47)
The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, advised Members that the December meeting of Council would take place on Tuesday, 19th December 2023 and which would commence at the earlier start time of 6.00 pm.

13.2 Annual National Cross Country Championships at Billy Neill MBE Country Park on Saturday, 21st October 2023 (01:13:06)
Councillor R T Beckett

Councillor R T Beckett put on record, on behalf of the Communities and Wellbeing Committee, thanks to the all the Council staff and Officers for their efforts in connection with the annual national Cross Country Championships which had taken place on Saturday, 21st October at the Billy Neill MBE Country Park and which he said had been very well attended. Councillor Beckett referred to the health and safety concerns as a result of the forecasted storm Babet that weekend but thankfully the event had gone ahead as planned.

13.3 Grand Choice Event – Castlereagh South Saturday 21 October (01:14:17)
Alderman M Guy

Alderman M Guy expressed thanks and appreciation to the Officers involved in the Grand Choice event at the weekend in the Castlereagh South area which had been very well attended.

13.4 St Ita’s Primary School – Road Safety Concerns (01:14:44)
Alderman M Guy

Alderman M Guy reported having received a telephone call that afternoon from a member of St Ita’s Primary School Board of Governors who advised of the serious concerns of the school staff in connection with road safety issues for pupils crossing the Purdysburn Road. The Council, in working with the school and DfI Roads previously had been hoping to have approval in place for a pathway as an active travel route for children and would welcome the support of the Council. Alderman Guy hoped to get a meeting arranged with the school governors, relevant DEA Members and Officers in the near future to discuss how this matter could be progressed.

13.5 Planning Application – Four Winds Area (01:15:34)
Alderman M Guy

Alderman M Guy referred to a planning application for a large Spar within the Four Winds residential area which was being objected to by the residents. Alderman Guy stated that she had pushed for a meeting many times with planning and with colleagues from communities but to date had not been successful in securing this meeting. Alderman Guy requested the support of the Council in getting this meeting organised. Alderman Guy also referred to the complicated planning history at this location and stated that she wished the residents to have the opportunity to understand the context around this planning application.

13.5 Planning Application – Four Winds Area (Cont'd)
Alderman M Guy

Councillor Carlin gave an assurance that he and his party colleagues would lend their support to both these issues.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that he hoped Officers would liaise with Alderman Guy as soon as possible to get both meetings arranged.

13.6 Retirement - Mr Aengus Hannaway, Housing Executive Area Manager
(01:16:46)
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman Porter referred to the retirement of Mr Aengus Hannaway, a former NIHE district manager for Lisburn & Castlereagh, and commended the work of Mr Hannaway who he stated had truly represented the constituents of Lisburn and Castlereagh for many years.

It was agreed at the request of Alderman S P Porter that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Mr Aengus Hannaway for his efforts and commitment in his role as district manager for Lisburn & Castlereagh for many years, and also to express best wishes to Mr Hannaway on his recent retirement.

13.7 Technical Issues in Council Chamber (01:18:10)
Councillor J Lavery BEM

Councillor J Lavery requested that Members be advised on the current situation with the PA system in the Council Chamber, in view of the on-going difficulties experienced during the meeting. Councillor Lavery referred to the substantial financial outlay in purchasing the new system and would welcome an update on how the issues would be resolved to ensure such difficulties did not happen again.

13.8 Success of Grand Choice Event (01:18:59)
Councillor R Carlin

Councillor R Carlin expressed thanks to the PCSP Officers for their efforts in ensuring a very successful Grand Choice event in Castlereagh South on Saturday 21st October. Councillor Carlin also expressed thanks to The Right Worshipful the Mayor for having attended on the day and also those groups who participated on the day.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor also commended the success of the Grand Choice event in Castlereagh South the previous Saturday and stated that he looked forward to the outcome of the successful applicants.

13.9 Recent Issue in Council Chamber (01:20:25)
Councillor G Hynds

Councillor G Hynds welcomed the opportunity to speak at the meeting that evening and made comment on a recent issue he had experienced at a recent Committee meeting in the Council Chamber and stated that he hoped others had reflected also on that issue.

14. Confidential Business (01:21:04)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, advised that the item to be considered under confidential business was due to: a) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and b) information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman S P Porter, 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 7.58 pm.

14.1 Requirement to enter into a Section 76 Planning Agreement for Planning Application LA05/2022/0830/F

Members had been provided with a copy of the Section 76 Agreement in respect of the above planning application. It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor N Trimble, and agreed that the agreement be approved and signed by The Right Worshipful the Mayor and the Chief Executive, subject to an amendment, as requested by a Member. The Director of Regeneration & Growth advised that the amendment would also require to be agreed by the other party concerned and it was accepted that the agreement be approved subject to the amendment being accepted by the respective legal teams.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman S Skillen, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed. The live stream of the meeting was recommenced at 8.26 pm.

Conclusion of Meeting

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

There being no further business for consideration, the meeting was terminated at 8.27 pm.

Mayor