

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**Minutes of Meeting of the Regeneration & Growth Committee held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn and in remote locations on Thursday, 1 May 2025 at 6.00 pm****PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER:**

Alderman A Grehan (Chairperson)

Alderman A G Ewart MBE (Vice Chairperson)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson

Aldermen J Baird and M Gregg

Councillors A Gowan, J Harpur, C Kemp, U Mackin, A Martin, T Mitchell, C McCready and N Parker

OTHER MEMBERS:

G Hynds (Chamber)

IN ATTENDANCE

Director of Regeneration & Growth

Head of Economic Development

Head of Planning & Capital Development (Remote)

Head of Assets

Member Services Officers (CH and EW)

IT Officer

Commencement of Meeting

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

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance on behalf of Councillors J Gallen and J Lavery.

2. Declarations of Interest

The following interests were declared:

- Alderman J Baird, in respect of item 3.1 'NI Enterprise Support Service- Go-Succeed: Delivery Update to March 2025 & 2025/26 (2026/27) Funding Overview,

2. Declarations of Interest Cont'd

as his company had benefited from the programme,

- Alderman M Gregg, in respect of item 5.4, 'Barbour Gardens Community Engagement', as he was a member of the Planning Committee,
- Councillor A Martin, in respect of item 5.4, 'Barbour Gardens Community Engagement' as he was a member of the Planning Committee, and an Elder in the Church involved in the conversation.

3. Report from the Head of Service (Economic Development)

3.1 NI Enterprise Support Service - Go-Succeed: Delivery Update to March 2025 & 2025/26 (2026/27) Funding Overview

Having declared an interest in item 3.1, Alderman J Baird left the meeting at the commencement of the above item (6.06 pm).

The Committee considered a report which provided information in connection with a delivery update and funding overview for the Go Succeed service. Copies of performance against output targets (2024-25), performance indicators (2025-26) and a summary of the grants delivered to businesses 2023-24 were circulated to Members for information.

Members were reminded that in February 2025, the Regeneration & Growth Committee approved a funding request of up to £48,000 from Belfast City Council (BCC), acting as the Lead Council for the Go Succeed service. This funding was designated to support staff resources within the BCC Programme Management Office (PMO) for the first three months of the 2025/26 financial year. It was noted that only £42,102 of the allocated £48,000 was required.

Following discussion, it was proposed by the Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor K Dickson, seconded by Vice-Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart, and agreed to recommend that the following be approved:

- a) the commitment of £119,153 of current budgets as match funding for 2025/26 to support programme delivery,
- b) the signing of a one-year extension to the Go Succeed collaboration agreement between BCC and LCCC for 2025/26, subject to no significant changes in the terms and conditions,

3.1 NI Enterprise Support Service - Go-Succeed: Delivery Update to March 2025 & 2025/26 (2026/27) Funding Overview Cont'd

- c) the allocation of £42,102 for PMO staff resources for the 2026/27 financial year, pending the confirmation of additional UKSPF or alternative funding beyond 2025/26, and
- d) the overperformance in business grants awarded be noted, (over-delivery of 44 grants, an increase of 51%).

3.2 NI Housing Executive (NIHE) Social Investment Strategy 2025-2030 – Consultation

Alderman J Baird returned to the meeting (6.16 pm).

The Committee considered a report which provided information in connection with a consultation, which had been issued by the Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) on 21 February 2025, on its draft Social Investment Strategy 2025-2030 entitled 'People, Place and Prosperity'.

A link to access the full consultation document had been circulated to Members for their consideration. It was noted that, given the consultation closing date of 16 May 2025, there would not be sufficient time for any agreed response to be ratified at Full Council on 27 May 2025.

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that the following be approved:

- a) the draft strategy and consultation questions be noted,
- b) Members forward any comments for inclusion in the Council response to the relevant Head of Service no later than Wednesday 7 May 2025, and
- c) final Council response is submitted by the closing date of 16 May 2025, and considered for approval retrospectively at the June meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

4. Report from the Head of Service (Planning & Capital Development)

4.1 Local Development Plan 2032 Quarterly Update

Councillor A Gowan left the meeting during this item of business (6.26 pm).

Members noted that the Head of Service for Planning and Capital Development was in attendance remotely to answer any queries they may have in respect of the above item.

4.1 Local Development Plan 2032 Quarterly Update Cont'd

The Director of Regeneration and Growth presented the report detailing the background and ongoing work relating to the Local Development Plan 2032. During discussion, the Committee noted that a Members' workshop on the Council's Car Parking Strategy was scheduled for June.

In response to a Member's query regarding the city centre directional signage designs, the Head of Economic Development clarified that the design options would be circulated to Members for their consideration once they were available. Following responses to several further Members' queries, it was agreed to note the update on progress with the Local Development Plan.

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, advised that Any Other Business would be considered at this point in the meeting.

5. Any Other Business (Agenda item 6.0 refers)

5.1 NI-NL Trade Programme Vice Chairperson, Alderman A G Ewart

Councillor A Gowan returned to the meeting during this item of business (6.29 pm).

In response to a question raised by Alderman A G Ewart, the Head of Economic Development provided an update on progress made in relation to the matter. He advised that a positive meeting had recently taken place with Invest NI. Members noted that, whilst Invest NI were no longer in a position to contribute in the same capacity as before, they expressed a willingness to support the programme by sponsoring an event - potentially the annual New Year's Dinner.

6. Confidential Report from Director of Regeneration & Growth (Agenda item 5.0 refers)

The Chairperson, Alderman A Grehan, advised that confidential reports were required to be considered under confidential business due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and 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 Councillor T Mitchell, seconded by Councillor C McCready, and agreed that the Confidential Reports be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public.

The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings. The members of the public seated in the public gallery left the Council Chamber (6.31 pm).

6.1 Business Case for Integrated Marketing Campaign to include Royal Hillsborough and Historic Moira (Redacted report to be published post ratification by Council)

Councillor T Mitchell left the meeting (6.18 pm) and returned at 6.20 pm.

The Head of Economic Development presented this item of business. Officers responded to a number of questions from the Committee arising from the report.

In response to a query raised by a Member, the Director of Regeneration and Growth confirmed that COVID message stickers on the ground at Bow Street Mall would be referred to the appropriate organisation for action.

It was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed to recommend that the Business Case and the procurement of a suitable provider(s) be approved, in line with the evaluation criteria as outlined in the report, for all aspects of the programme.

Following further discussion, it was proposed by Councillor N Parker, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed to recommend that officers explore the suitability of including a social value element within the contract.

6.2 On-Street Residential Chargepoint Scheme (ORCS)
(Redacted report to be published following award of tender)

Councillor C Kemp left the meeting during this item of business (6.57 pm).

The Director of Regeneration and Growth presented this item of business.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor U Mackin, and agreed to recommend that the Council reserves its position with regard to the associated concession agreement in the form of the draft outlined in the report appendix, until reassurance is given in respect of zero burden to the ratepayer.

6.3 Public Realm CCTV Integration
(Redacted report to be published March 2026)

Councillor C Kemp returned to the meeting during this item of business (7.00 pm).

The Director of Regeneration and Growth presented this item of business.

It was proposed by Councillor A Martin, seconded by Councillor C Kemp, and agreed to note the progress to date and the complexities involved in bringing forward a seamless solution.

6.4 Barbour Gardens Community Engagement
(Redacted report to be published post ratification by Council)

At the commencement of the above item, Alderman M Gregg, and Councillor A Martin left the meeting, having declared an interest (7.07 pm).

The Head of Assets presented this item of business.

A number of Members' queries having been responded to, it was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Councillor T Mitchell, and agreed to recommend that the following be approved:

- a) to the progressing of an advertisement for disposal of lands at Barbour Gardens, Lisburn,
- b) to the development of the relevant heads of terms for consideration by Committee prior to agreed disposal, and
- c) that final sale is subject to further consideration and planning permission being granted for any proposals.

7. Confidential Any Other Business

Alderman M Gregg returned to the meeting (7.15 pm).

7.1 Lease of Council Pitches
Councillor N Parker

In response to a query raised by Councillor N Parker, the Director of Regeneration and Growth provided an update on the matter and advised that a related paper would be tabled at a future meeting of the Regeneration and Growth Committee.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

Conclusion of Meeting

The Chairperson thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business for consideration the meeting was concluded at 7.19 pm.

Chairperson