

**LISBURN CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Strategic Policy Committee held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Monday, 7th September 2009 at 5.30 pm**

**PRESENT:**

Councillor W M Ward (Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor A G Ewart

Deputy Mayor  
Alderman S P Porter

Alderman I Davis

Councillors D W Archer, P A Butler, E J Campbell,  
A P Ewing, Wm Gardiner-Watson, P J Givan, J Palmer  
and M Tolerton

**OTHER MEMBERS:**

Councillor D J Craig

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive  
Policy & Co-ordination Officer  
Equality Officer  
Committee Secretary

**Northern Ireland Local Government Association**

Ms H Moorhead, Chief Executive  
Councillor P Weir, Vice-President

1. **Minutes**

It was agreed that the following minutes be confirmed and signed:

- (a) Special meeting of the Committee held on 11 May, as agreed by Council at its meeting held on 26 May, 2009; and,
- (b) Special meeting of the Committee held on 2 July, as agreed by Council at its meeting held on 28 July, 2009, subject to the commencement time being amended to 5.00 pm.

2. **Apologies**

There were no apologies.

Councillors D J Craig and M Tolerton arrived to the meeting at this point (5.32 pm).

3. NILGA Annual Plan, Subscriptions and Constitutional Update

Councillor P J Givan arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (5.40 pm).

The Chairman, Councillor W M Ward, welcomed to the meeting the Chief Executive and Vice-President of the Northern Ireland Local Government Association, Ms H Moorhead and Councillor P Weir, respectively.

With the use of visual aid equipment, Ms Moorhead and Councillor Weir made a presentation to the Committee, which included an update on the Association's key successes and challenges during 2007/08, proposals for 2009/10 and a summary of progress on Review of Public Administration.

Ms Moorhead and Councillor Weir having answered several queries raised by Members and taken note of comments made, the Chairman, Councillor W M Ward, thanked them for their attendance and they left the meeting.

4. Report of the Chief Executive

It was agreed to accept the reports and recommendations of the Chief Executive, subject to any decisions recorded below:

Items for Decision

4.1 NILGA Annual Plan, Subscriptions and Constitutional Update

It was noted that this matter had been dealt with under item 3.

Items for Noting

4.2 400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

Members had been furnished with, and noted the contents of, copies of reports of the meetings of the Sub-Committee held on 11 May and 6 July, 2009.

4.3 Equality

Members had been furnished with, and noted the contents of, a report prepared by the Council's Equality Officer on various equality-related matters within the Council.

4.4 Equality Commission's Effectiveness Review

Members had been furnished with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a response dated 3 June, 2009 from the Northern Ireland Office in respect of concerns raised at the Committee meeting held on 26 February, 2009 regarding the Equality Commission's recommendation that equality impact assessments should be the primary method of assessing the impact of all policies.

4.5 Severance Arrangements for Councillors

Further to the discussion which took place at the Strategic Policy Committee held on 11 May, 2009 regarding the above subject, the Chief Executive advised the Committee that Councillor Wm Gardiner-Watson had declared an interest to him in connection with this item of business. Councillors E J Campbell and D W Archer also declared an interest in this matter.

4.6 Budget and Absenteeism Reports

Members had been furnished with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a budget report and an absenteeism report in respect of the Chief Executive's office.

4.7 Boundaries Commissioner – Electoral Areas

Members had been furnished with, and noted the contents of, a copy of a report prepared following a meeting between Officers of Lisburn City Council and Castlereagh Borough Council with the Boundaries Commissioner.

4.8 Review of Public Administration

4.8.1 Transition Committee

The Chief Executive advised Members that the vast majority of matters relating to the Review of Public Administration, which had previously been dealt with by the Strategic Policy Committee, were now being progressed by the Transition Committee. Members also noted that, whilst the Transition Committee was in a voluntary status, its recommendations required the ratification of both councils; however, this procedure would change early in 2010 when the Transition Committee would have a statutory basis and its minutes would be reported to the councils for noting only.

**Verbal Items**

4.9 Meeting with DOE Permanent Secretary

Those Members in attendance at the meeting were circulated with, and noted the contents of, a copy of notes of a meeting between Solace representatives and the DOE Permanent Secretary held on 21 August, 2009.

4.10 Colin Neighbourhood Partnership – Council Representation

The Chief Executive reported receipt of a letter from Councillor D W Archer advising of his resignation, with immediate effect, from the Colin Neighbourhood Partnership (CNP) as its meetings clashed with meetings of the Council's Leisure Services Committee, of which he was now Chairman. It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, Alderman S P Porter, and seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A G Ewart, that the Chairman, Councillor W M Ward, be nominated to replace Councillor Archer on the CNP. As he had served on the Partnership previously, Councillor Ward did not accept this nomination. It was agreed, on a proposal by Councillor P J Givan, that the Ulster Unionist Party contact the Chief Executive in due course to advise which of its Members would replace Councillor Archer.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other business.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.23 pm.

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Chairman/Mayor