

Council

MONTHLY MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Thursday, 1st December, 2016
at 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston) (Chairperson); the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell); the High Sheriff (Alderman Rodgers); Aldermen Browne, Convery, Haire, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, R. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Bunting, Carson, Clarke, Collins, Copeland, Corr, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Garrett, Graham, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Jones, Kyle, Long, Magee, Magennis, McAllister, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Newton, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, Reynolds and Walsh.

Reading of Scriptures

Prior to the meeting commencing, the Lord Mayor read a passage from the Scriptures.

Summons

The Chief Executive submitted the summons convening the meeting.

Apologies

Apologies were reported on behalf of Alderman L. Patterson and Councillors Lyons and O'Neill.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were reported.

Minutes of the Council

Moved by the Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston),
Seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell) and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the monthly meeting of the Council of 1st November be taken as read and signed as correct.

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Official Announcements

New Member of the Council

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, welcomed Councillor Georgina Milne, who had replaced former Councillor Brown, to her first meeting and paid tribute to the former Councillor for the service which he had provided to the Council and his constituents during his time as an Elected Member.

Councillor Kyle

The Lord Mayor, on behalf of the Council, condemned those responsible for the recent assault on Councillor Kyle at the David Ervine Memorial in East Belfast.

Chief Executive

The Lord Mayor referred to the fact that the Chief Executive had recently attained the Outstanding Business Woman of the Year Award at the 2016 Women in Business Awards and, on behalf of the Council, congratulated her on her success.

Congratulations

At the request of Councillor Boyle, the Council agreed that a letter be forwarded to Ulster Rugby player, Mr. Rory Best, to mark his achievement in making his 100th appearance for Ireland and to the Chairman of Slaughtneil Gaelic Athletic Club in recognition of the club's historic success in winning this year's Ulster football, hurling and camogie titles.

Change of Membership on Committees/Outside Bodies

The Chief Executive reported that notification had been received from the Democratic Unionist Party indicating that it wished:

- Councillor Dorrian to replace Councillor Reynolds on the City Growth and Regeneration Committee;
- Councillor Craig to replace Councillor Hussey on the Board of Belfast City Centre Management; and
- Councillor Hussey to replace former Alderman Stalford on the Board of the Linenhall Library.

The Council approved the aforementioned changes.

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Strategic Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor Hussey,
Seconded by Alderman Convery,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Strategic and Policy and Resources Committee of 11th and 18th November be approved and adopted.

**Request for Matter to be Taken Back
for Further Consideration**

**2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies –
Provisional Proposals**

At the request of Councillor Reynolds, the Council agreed that the minute of the meeting of 18th November, under the heading “2018 Review of Parliamentary Constituencies – Provisional Proposals”, be taken back to the Committee for further consideration.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing omission, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee of 11th and 18th November were approved and adopted.

People and Communities Committee

Moved by Councillor Garrett,
Seconded by Councillor Corr Johnston,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the People and Communities Committee of 8th November be approved and adopted.

**Official Recognition of the
“White Stone on Cavehill”**

Arising from discussion on the above-mentioned minute, the Council agreed, at the request of Councillor Copeland, that the Lord Mayor forward to Mr. Richard Lamont and Mr. David McCrum a letter commending them on the significant role which they had played in securing the rescue of a woman who had fallen whilst walking in the Cavehill Country Park.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing addition, the minutes of the meeting of the People and Communities Committee of 8th November were approved and adopted.

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City Growth and Regeneration Committee

Moved by Councillor Graham,
Seconded by Alderman McKee and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the City Growth and Regeneration Committee of 9th and 16th November be approved and adopted.

Licensing Committee

Moved by Councillor Armitage,
Seconded by Councillor Heading and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Licensing Committee of 10th November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Johnston,
Seconded by Councillor Carson and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Planning Committee of 15th November, omitting matters in respect of which the Council has delegated its powers to the Committee, be approved and adopted.

Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee

Moved by Councillor Walsh,
Seconded by Alderman Haire and

Resolved - That the minutes of the proceedings of the Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Hall Ltd. Shareholders' Committee of 21st November be approved and adopted.

Notices of Motion

Metropolitan City Growth Deal

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Alderman Convery proposed:

“This Council notes that the British Government has agreed major City Region Deals in England, Scotland and Wales, including:

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- a £1.13 billion Glasgow and Clyde Valley Infrastructure Fund, in partnership with Scottish Government and local authorities;
- a £1.2 billion City Deal for the Cardiff Capital Region, in partnership with the Welsh Government and 10 local authorities; and
- a £315m City Region Deal for Inverness and the wider Highlands area with Scottish and UK governments.

The Council notes that these deals are based on the ability to increase productivity and also in many cases to ensure that many communities are not left behind. The ability of councils to contribute finance alongside the Treasury and the Northern Ireland Executive to fund major infrastructure, regeneration and skills development projects, in Belfast, will be essential to realising the executive's emerging economic and social strategies.

The Council recognises that City Region Deals can have far-reaching impacts, not just on the economy, but on regional competitiveness, connectivity, infrastructure, housing, employment and lifestyle.

The Council welcomes the dialogue with neighbouring local Councils about promoting city region devolution deals and calls upon the Minister of Finance and the Northern Ireland Executive to prioritise City Region Deals and to actively facilitate negotiations between the Department of Finance, local authorities and the UK Treasury."

The motion was seconded by Councillor Attwood.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Boyle proposed:

"This Council, on 4th July, passed a resolution which called upon the Assembly to "engage with the British, Irish and Scottish Governments to find a way to accommodate the democratic will of the people of Northern Ireland/North of Ireland to remain a part of the European Union".

The Council recognises that 56% of the Northern Ireland electorate voted to remain in the European Union during the Referendum. The Council further recognises the direction of the High Court in

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London that the House of Commons must be consulted with before triggering Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty.

The Council agrees to encourage all of our Members of Parliament to respect the democratic mandate of the people of Northern Ireland as a member of the European Union during any debate or discussions in the House of Commons.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Mullan.

On a recorded vote, thirty-two Members voted for the proposal and twenty-three Members against, with one ‘no vote’, and it was declared carried.

<u>For (32)</u>	<u>Against (23)</u>	<u>No Vote (1)</u>
The Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Campbell); Alderman Convery; and Councillors Armitage, Attwood, Austin, Beattie, Bell, Boyle, Carson, Clarke, Corr, Garrett, Groves, Hargey, Heading, Howard, Jones, Long, Magee, McAllister, McAteer, McCabe, McConville, McCusker, McDonough-Brown, McVeigh, Milne, Mullan, Nicholl, O'Donnell, O'Hara, and Walsh.	The Lord Mayor (Alderman Kingston); The High Sheriff (Alderman Rodgers); Aldermen Browne, Haire, McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKee, R. Patterson, Sandford and Spence; and Councillors Bunting, Copeland, Corr Johnston, Craig, Dorrian, Dudgeon, Graham, Hussey, Hutchinson, Johnston, Kyle, Newton and Reynolds.	Councillor Collins

Irish Presidential Elections

At the request of Councillor Carson, the Council agreed, in accordance with Standing Order 13(i), that the motion standing in his name be withdrawn from the agenda and be submitted to its monthly meeting in January.

Age Discrimination Legislation

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Corr Johnston proposed:

“This Council calls upon the Northern Ireland Executive Office to take immediate steps to extend Age Discrimination Legislation to include the provision of goods, services and facilities.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Kyle.

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On a vote by show of hands, thirty-one Members voted for the motion and fourteen against and it was declared carried.

Belfast Metropolitan Area Plan

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor Attwood proposed:

“This Council notes with concern the decision of the High Court which decided that bulky goods only could be removed from the Belfast Metropolitan Area in relation to Sprucefield.

The Council notes that the Minister for Infrastructure, Mr. Chris Hazzard, agreed on a proposal to have BMAP adopted without the bulky goods restriction.

The Council notes that the Javelin report stated, in August 2016, that Belfast needs to improve the quality of its shops and that a John Lewis store would be seen as one of the major catalysts to rejuvenate Belfast City Centre.

Belfast needs to be a strong city in many ways to support the rest of Northern Ireland. This means that it has to have the right critical mass of offices, retail, residential, culture and arts to allow it to grow, not at the expense of other parts of Northern Ireland but in support of putting more money in everyone’s pockets and creating more jobs both in the city and in the many businesses in the external supply chain. Belfast needs to compete with other cities if Northern Ireland is to be more financially successful. This means that it needs more people living, working and visiting here. It should be (according to its size) one of the top 10 cities in the UK but is currently only 16th in the retail rankings. This is not good enough for Northern Ireland.

The Council believes that the decision of the High Court will have an adverse impact on Belfast and other town centres and supports the decision to appeal the decision of the High Court and will work with retailers and others to challenge this decision.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Heading.

In accordance with Standing Order 13(f), the motion was referred, without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Transfer of Regeneration Powers

In accordance with notice on the agenda, Councillor McDonough-Brown proposed:

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“This Council expresses its profound disappointment in the decision of the Minister for Communities not to proceed with the Regeneration Bill and devolution of regeneration powers to local government.

The Council:

- (i) recognises that these powers would strengthen and enhance our ability to drive strategic regeneration activity, when used alongside community and land use planning;
- (ii) believes this decision to be in conflict with the entire direction and ethos of local government reform and to be a significant missed opportunity; and
- (iii) reiterates our support for the devolution of regeneration powers to local government; and calls for the Minister for Communities to meet with the Council with a view to reversing his decision and proceeding with the Bill.”

The motion was seconded by Councillor Howard.

Suspension of Standing Orders

At the request of Councillor McDonough-Brown, the Council agreed, with all forty-eight Members present and voting supporting the proposal, to suspend Standing Order 13(f) to enable the Council to debate point (iii) of the motion.

After discussion, the Council agreed to adopt point (iii) of the motion and, in accordance with Standing Order 13(f), referred points (i) and (ii), without discussion, to the Strategic Policy and Resources Committee.

Lord Mayor
Chairperson