

THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 5 MAY 2026

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No	Item	Decision
1.	The Mayor's Business	<i>Received</i>
2.	Apologies	<i>Alderman Coyle, Councillor MA McKillop</i>
3.	Declaration of Members' Interests	<i>Councillor Kyle</i>
4.	Deputation from NIE Networks – Big Network Rebuild briefing	<i>Received</i>
5.	Minutes of The Council Meeting held Wednesday 8 April 2026	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
6.	Minutes of the Planning Committee held Wednesday 25 February 2026	<i>Received and noted</i>
7.	Minutes of the Planning Committee held Wednesday 25 March 2026	<i>Received and noted</i>
8.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 14 April 2026	
	Matters Arising	
8.1	Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage (Item 7)	<i>Amendment lost - That Council approve option 2, with an amendment for the reapplication period to be drawn in as one year for decision A and option 5, adding the logic clearly referred to in item 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 of</i>

		<i>the report, and specify the languages covered under the European Charter referring to Irish language and Ulster Scots only for Decision B</i>
8.2	Borough Street Cleansing Inventory and Schedules (Item 17)	<i>Amendment lost - That Council do not approve quarterly reporting of street cleansing inventory and schedules to the Environmental Services Committee</i>
8.3	Adoption of the Minutes	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
9.	Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 16 April 2026	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
10.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 21 April 2026	
10.1	USA 250 Programme (Item 9)	<i>Amendment Carried - That the Council's USA 250 Working Group examine the feasibility of moving the whole 4th July day event and evening event to September and report to the Leisure and Development Committee with recommendations on how to proceed with the event later in the year</i>
10.2	Adoption of the Minutes	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein</i>

		<i>approved, including the resolution at Item 10.1 above</i>
11.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee held Tuesday 28 April 2026	<i>Adopted and recommendations therein approved</i>
12.	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>Nil</i>
13.	Conferences	<i>Nil</i>
14.	Correspondence	<i>Nil</i>
15.	Consultation Schedule	
16.	Seal Documents	<i>Seal Affixed (Items i-ii)</i>
17.	Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor Anderson, seconded by Councillor Elder (abbrev. Ulster University jobs)	<i>Support the Notice of Motion</i>
18.	Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Fielding, seconded by Councillor Elder (abbrev. Achievements of Coleraine Football Club)	<i>Support the Notice of Motion</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
TUESDAY 5 MAY 2026 AT 7.00 PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor McMullan

Members Present : Alderman Boyle, Brown Stewart, Callan, Fielding,
Hunter, Knight-McQuillan, John McAuley, S
McKillop, Scott

Councillors Anderson, C Archibald, N Archibald,
Bateson, Callaghan, Chivers, Elder, Holmes,
Huggins, Kane, Kennedy, Kyle, Mairs, Jonathan
McAuley, McCully, McGlinchey, McGurk,
McQuillan, McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Schenning,
Storey, Wallace, Watson, Watton, Wilson, Wisener

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (R)
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services
P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer
M Jones, Council Solicitor, Corporate and Regulatory (R)
J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture
J Richardson, Head of Capital Works, Energy and Infrastructure
J Morton, Senior Harbour Master (R)
A Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager (R)
J Keen, Democratic Services Officer

In Attendance: Peter McClenaghan, Head of Communications and
Engagement, NIE (Item 4)
Brian Sinclair, Regional Manager North NIE (Item 4)
David Grant, Customer Relations Manager NIE (Item 4)
Bronagh O'Hagan, Stakeholder Engagement Manager NIE (Item 4)

A Lennox, ICT Manager (Interim)
L Boyd, ICT Officer

Press: (2 No) (R)
Public (1 No) (R) (10no.) (C)

Key – R = Attended Remotely

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded.

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor stated this was his last Council Meeting as Mayor and thanked staff and Elected Members for their support throughout the year.

Alderman Hunter noted the sad passing of Councillor MA McKillop's father.

The Mayor offered condolences to Councillor MA McKillop and her family and requested a letter of comfort is sent to the family.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Coyle and Councillor MA McKillop.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Councillor Kyle declared an Interest in Item 18 Notice of Motion proposed by Alderman Fielding, seconded by Councillor Elder. Having declared an interest Councillor Kyle did not leave the meeting during consideration of this item.

- * **Councillor Holmes joined the meeting at 7.18pm during consideration of the following Item.**
- * **Alderman Callan joined the meeting at 7.21pm during consideration of the following item Item.**

4. DEPUTATION FROM NIE NETWORKS – BIG NETWORK REBUILD BRIEFING – PETER MCCLENAGHAN, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT, BRIAN SINCLAR, REGIONAL MANAGER NORTH, AND DAVID GRANT, CUSTOMER RELATIONS MANAGER IN ATTENDANCE

The Mayor invited Head of Communications and Engagement, Regional Manager North and Customer Relations Manager to present to Council.

The Head of Communications and Engagement and Regional Manager North delivered a presentation, the key points of which were:

- The Big Network Rebuild is a public facing campaign to explain a significant amount of work that NIE networks will be undertaking across Northern Ireland over the next six years.
- The campaign has a 3 pronged strategy

- To assist the Northern Ireland Executive to meet Northern Ireland's energy needs
 - To include connecting customers to the network and support wider initiatives such as green skills development
 - Transforming the NIE business to enable the necessary changes to be made to meet Northern Ireland's energy needs and to develop a sustainable network
- NIE will engage with the public, Council and other stakeholders. Engaging with the community will include letter drops and information days.
- At least £250m will be invested to increase the reliability and resilience of the electricity network and increase the network's capacity to carry more electricity over the longer term.
- NIE plan to deliver a more reliable, safer, resilient network, enabling electrification of heat, transport, smart grid capabilities, and enhancing the asset management and decision-making process.
- NIE are increasing their staffing levels and also engaging four contractors in preparation for the planned work.
- The NIE network is made-up of distribution and transmission network
- The planned scope of work includes pole and conductor replacement and transformer replacement.
- Primarily the work will be completed on the 11kV network that feeds most of the commercial properties and domestic properties but some of the 33kV will also be worked on.
- To future proof the network and to minimise disruption to customers NIE will be trying to complete other work at the same time including tree cutting and connection work.
- NIE plan to strategically manage temporary disruption to the network while the rebuild is being completed.
- The rebuild programme will provide significant benefit to customers but there will be temporary disruption while the work is being completed.
- Potential concerns such as noise, visual impact and vegetation management have been noted by NIE and it was confirmed that the network infrastructure is being rebuilt rather than replaced.
- Staff will be trained in giving consideration to environmental concerns and wildlife awareness. NIE will work with the Northern Ireland Environment Agency.
- Vulnerable customers will be provided with the required support through the rebuilding of the network.
- Elected Members were asked to encourage any vulnerable individuals who are not already registered on the NIE Vulnerable Customers Register to do so, in order for the appropriate support to be provided.

In response to questions regarding a specific planning application being delayed due to consultation with NIE the Regional Manager North requested that Councillor Watton send him the details, and he would look into the matter. The Regional Manager North advised that in relation to the planning process in general there are aspects that are outside of their control such as obtaining wayleaves for equipment to go across other lands and this can sometimes hold up the process.

In response to further questions the Regional Manager North advised that if planned work cannot be completed NIE do try to inform affected customers that it has been cancelled. Reasons for planned work being cancelled include faults in the apparatus or an emergency which takes employees to another location.

In response to questions the Regional Manager North advised that in emergency situations NIE employees are stepping outside their normal roles, that NIE will be rolling out a new public safety campaign and that safety surrounding the use of generators can be included in future campaigns. Councillor Kyle expressed thanks to NIE for restoring electricity to the home of a local bereaved family in time for a wake following a recent storm.

In response to further questions, the Regional Manager North advised that there is less expense associated with overhead power lines and that these can be repaired more quickly than underground cables.

In response to questions the Head of Communications and Engagement advised that connection charges to the NIE network are heavily governed by the Utilities Regulator so there are restrictions that NIE have to work within.

The Mayor thanked the representatives from NIE for their presentation.

- * **Head of Communications and Engagement, Regional Manager North, Customer Relations Manager and Stakeholder Engagement Manager NIE left the meeting at 7.35pm**

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL 2026

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock

Seconded by Councillor Chivers and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Wednesday 8 April 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD WEDNESDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2026

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 25 February 2026 are received and noted.

7. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2026

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 25 March 2026 are received and noted.

8. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 14 APRIL 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Environmental Services Committee, Alderman S McKillop.

8.1 Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage (Item 7)

Councillor Watson thanked Officers involved in the compilation of the report and welcomed the input from the Irish Language Commissioner and said that the review has been initiated following 50 constituents contacting Council to request an update to the dual-language street signage policy.

Councillor Watson stated that the current policy has been consistently criticised by the Irish language community and by international experts, primarily due to its unjustifiably high thresholds of support and the provision that treats non-responses as opposition to an application. Councillor Watson stated that as a result, to date, there has never been a successful application for dual language street signage in this council area.

Councillor Watson highlighted the cultural and historical significance of the Irish language and stated that bilingual signage represented inclusion and recognition of shared traditions rather than division. Councillor Watson referred to commentary from the Council of Europe which has been critical of the approach frequently adopted by public authorities where the need for keeping good relations has been used as justification for not implementing provisions in favour of persons belonging to minorities, this includes the erection of bilingual

signs. Councillor Watson stated that in supporting Option 2 within the report would be the best approach as only responses received should be considered in determining support for applications.

Councillor Bateson stated that Council's policy in relation to dual-language street signage policy is overly restrictive and is out of step with our legal obligations and that it places barriers in the way of people's rights when the Council's duty is to remove them.

Councillor Bateson stated that Council are bound by the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages and the Identity and Language Act 2022 and it is clear that the Irish language should be promoted and facilitated. Councillor Bateson stated that the Irish language is part of our shared heritage and that bilingual signage reflects this reality. Councillor Bateson expressed support for removing restrictive elements of the current policy.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Watson

Seconded by Councillor Bateson

- That Council approve option 2, with an amendment for the reapplication period to be drawn in as one year for decision A and option 5, adding the logic clearly referred to in item 4.3, 4.4 and 4.5 of the report, and specify the languages covered under the European Charter referring to Irish language and Ulster Scots only for Decision B.

Councillor Watton stated that the Irish language debate had become weaponised and that it was not reflective of the interests of some of the constituents he represented. Councillor Watton stated that the introduction of dual language signage could be viewed as divisive and sectarian within some communities.

Councillor Kane reaffirmed his support for option 2 in the report stating that it represented the most fair and balanced approach among the options presented. Councillor Kane raised concerns regarding the treatment of non-responses within consultations and the assigning of views to individuals who chose not to participate. Councillor Kane stated that the decision before Council related to providing direction for the review of the policy rather than adopting a final revised policy, noting that further consideration, including an Equality Impact Assessment and public consultation, would follow.

Councillor Watson requested a recorded vote.

Councillor Huggins requested clarification of the amendment.

Councillor Watson restated the amendment.

Councillor Huggins requested a recess.

The Mayor declared a recess at 7:50pm

The meeting reconvened at 7:56pm

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote

18 Members voted For; 20 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained

The Mayor declared the amendment lost

Recorded Vote Table

For (18)	Alderman Boyle, Brown Stewart
	Councillor C Archibald, N Archibald, S Bateson, Chivers, Kane, Mairs, McCully, McGlinchey, McGurk, McMullan, McQuillan, McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Schenning, Watson
Against (20)	Alderman Callan, Fielding, Hunter, Knight McQuillan, John McAuley, S McKillop, Scott
	Councillor Anderson, Callaghan, Elder, Holmes, Huggins, Kennedy, Kyle, Jonathan McAuley, Storey, Wallace, Watton, Wilson, Wisener
Abstain (0)	

8.2 Borough Street Cleansing Inventory and Schedules (Item 17)

Councillor Peacock stated that quarterly reporting on street cleansing schedules provides too much operational detail for Committee meetings and adds a burden to a small team of staff. Councillor Peacock proposed that quarterly reporting of street cleansing inventory and schedules is not brought to the Environmental Services Committee meetings.

Councillor Wilson stated that his party are contacted about the issue of street cleansing and that the spirit of the motion is to work as part of a team to keep up with concerns raised by constituents and resolve issues regarding gaps in the service.

Councillor Bateson seconded Councillor Peacock's amendment to not have quarterly reporting the Environmental Services Committee on street cleansing.

He stated that issues are quickly resolved when they have been raised. Councillor Bateson wished to put on record the high standard of street cleansing in Kilrea.

Further discussion took place regarding the value of providing quarterly reports to the Environmental Services Committee, with consideration given to adopting a data-driven approach, the availability of relevant data, reviewing the cleansing schedule, proactively maintaining a high standard of service, ensuring performance management remains within the staffing structure, and avoiding the micromanagement of Officers.

The Chief Executive stated that the issue is concerning the redeployment of staff and prioritisation of duties in the event of staff sickness. The Chief Executive advised that the operations department operates at a third of the cost of other Councils and reported that the Town Wardens are doing a great job.

Amendment

Proposed by Councillor Peacock

Seconded by Councillor Bateson

- That Council do not approve quarterly reporting of street cleansing inventory and schedules to the Environmental Services Committee

The Mayor put the amendment to the vote

12 Members voted For; 25 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained

The Mayor declared the amendment lost

8.3 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop

Seconded by Councillor Callaghan

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Environmental Committee meeting held Tuesday 14 April 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

9. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 16 APRIL 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Finance Committee. Councillor Kyle.

Proposed by Councillor Kyle

Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 16 April 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

10. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 21 APRIL 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Leisure and Development Committee, Councillor Anderson.

10.1 USA 250 Programme (Item 9)

Alderman Callan offered thanks to the USA 250 Working Group and to the Officers involved for programme that has been developed for the coming year. Alderman Callan stated that the events planned for the 4th July 2026 will be occurring during the World Cup and proposed that the USA 250 Working Group examine the feasibility of moving the events to September 2026 with a report being brought back with recommendations on how to proceed.

Councillor Holmes concurred with Alderman Callan's comments. He stated that it is an important event to celebrate and September would be better timing.

Councillor Kane raised concerns regarding the current timing and cost of the event and stated that he was content for the plans and scheduling of the event to be reconsidered by the Working Group.

Councillor Peacock also expressed support with the USA 250 Working Group giving further consideration to a potential event later in the year.

Amendment

Proposed by Alderman Callan

Seconded by Councillor Holmes and

RESOLVED - That the Council's USA 250 Working Group examine the feasibility of moving the whole 4th July day event and evening event to September and report to the Leisure and Development Committee with recommendations on how to proceed with the event later in the year

10.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor Anderson

Seconded by Councillor McCully

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 21 April 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved including the resolution at Item 10.1 above.

11. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 28 APRIL 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Chair, Councillor McShane.

Proposed by Councillor McShane
Seconded by Councillor C Archibald and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 28 April 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

12. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

13. CONFERENCES

There were no Conferences.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

15. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

The following Consultation Documents were listed:

- Department for Infrastructure Consultation on overtaking and passing buses submission by 21 May 2026
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Consultation on the draft From Waste to Worth: Northern Ireland Waste Prevention Programme submission by 10 July 2026
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Consultation opens on fisheries management plan for non-quota shellfish submission by 17 July 2026

Council NOTED the Consultation Schedule.

16. SEAL DOCUMENTS

Members were advised of the undernoted items for signing and sealing by Council, approval having been previously granted and all necessary legislative requirements being met.

Seal Documents

- (i) Grave Registry Certificates, No's 6177 to 6187 inclusive, 4938 (reissue);
- (ii) Boundary Agreement relating to Bayhead Road, Portballintrae – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and John Maurice Orr (L&PSASC – 04/03/26, CPR – 24/03/26, 08/04/26) (retrospective)

Proposed by Councillor Mairs

Seconded by Councillor Callaghan and

RESOLVED – That the sealing of documents, as listed, are approved (Items i-ii).

17. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ELDER:

That this Council requests the urgent attendance of the Vice Chancellor of Ulster University to discuss the announcement that up to 450 staff could lose their jobs. Assurances must be given that Coleraine Campus will not suffer disproportionately, should these job cuts go ahead.

Councillor Anderson read out the Notice of Motion and stated that questions could be kept until the Vice Chancellor of the Ulster University is in attendance at a Council Meeting.

Councillor Elder stated that she was pleased to support the motion and its intent. Councillor Elder stated that the prospect of up to 450 job losses at Ulster University is concerning for the staff and the wider community and that it is right that this council seeks clarity and accountability from the Vice-Chancellor. Councillor Elder stated that it is important to ensure that the Coleraine campus of the Ulster University is not affected given how important it is in the local area. Councillor Elder urged Elected Members to support the motion in the interest of fairness and protecting livelihoods.

Councillor Holmes stated that the Coleraine campus has suffered over the last number of years with the way the University has restructured itself and moved courses to other campuses. He stated that the Coleraine campus has been a key part of the economic development for this Council area. Councillor Holmes stated that nobody wants tuition fees to rise but pointed out that if costs increase while income stays the same, financial problems are

inevitable, this needs to be addressed by both the university and the Stormont Executive. Councillor Holmes stated that by not addressing basic financial calculations it could lead to failures and rising unemployment. He further stated that keeping student costs low is counterproductive if it prevents universities from employing enough lecturers.

RESOLVED – to support the Notice of Motion

18. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY ALDERMAN FIELDING, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR ELDER:

That this Council recognises the significant achievement of Coleraine FC on being Runners-up in the Irish Premiership League and in reaching the Irish Cup Final on Saturday 2 May 2026, and the pride and unity this has brought to Coleraine and the wider Borough.

Regardless of the outcome of the final, the club's journey to this stage represents a major success for the area and reflects the dedication of players, management, volunteers, and supporters.

We would ask that Council works in partnership with relevant stakeholders, including local representatives, community groups and business organisations, to facilitate a community-led event in Coleraine town centre. This could take place on a Saturday afternoon, helping to create a positive atmosphere in the town centre while also supporting increased footfall and providing an opportunity for local businesses to benefit.

This would be a civic show of appreciation allowing the Borough to recognise the team's achievement in a visible and meaningful way.

Council further agrees to formally write to Coleraine FC to commend their performance and thank them for the positive way they have represented the Borough.

Alderman Fielding stated the Notice of Motion.

Alderman Fielding congratulated Coleraine FC on winning the Irish Cup for the seventh time. Alderman Fielding praised both teams for making the final a strong showcase for Irish League football and commend Dungannon Swifts for their performance.

Alderman Fielding highlighted Coleraine's successful season under their new manager, including finishing runners-up in the Irish Premiership, securing Irish Cup victory, and qualifying for European football.

Alderman Fielding referred to the strong community support behind the club, noting the widespread celebrations across Coleraine and surrounding areas and gave special mention is given to local captain Lyndon Kane lifting the trophy.

Alderman Fielding described Coleraine Football Club as an important part of the area's identity and youth football culture, with the club's achievements benefiting the wider borough. He stated that the motion calls on the council to work with community groups, businesses, and local representatives to organise a public, community-led celebration in Coleraine town centre to recognise the team's achievements while also supporting local businesses and town activity.

Councillor Elder stated that what has been seen this season goes far beyond football, it is about pride in our place, community spirit and people coming together. Councillor Elder stated that Coleraine Football Club lifting the Irish Cup again in such a memorable final is something the whole Borough can be proud of and that huge credit goes to the players, management, volunteers and supporters who made it possible.

Councillor Elder stated that this motion is not just about recognising the success of Coleraine Football Club, it is about doing it properly by creating a moment in the town where people can come together to celebrate. It's about supporting our local businesses and making the most of this positive energy. Councillor Elder stated that Coleraine Football Club had represented the borough with pride, and it's only right that appreciation is shown in a visible and meaningful way.

During discussion Elected Members offered congratulations to Coleraine Football Club and reflected on their memories of supporting the Club over the years.

RESOLVED – to support the Notice of Motion

This being all the business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 8:42pm.

Mayor