



Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council

THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2025

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No	Item	Decision
1.	The Mayor's Business	<i>Received</i>
2.	Apologies	<i>Alderman Fielding, Hunter, Councillors McGlinchey, McGurk, MA McKillop, McQuillan, Nicholl, Watson, Wilson</i>
3.	Declaration of Members' Interests	<i>Nil</i>
4.	Deputation – NI Water	<i>Received</i>
5.	Minutes of The Council Meeting held Tuesday 4 November 2025	<i>Confirmed as a correct record</i>
6.	Minutes of Planning Committee meeting held Wednesday 22 October 2025	<i>Received and noted</i>
7.	Minutes of Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 11 November 2025	<i>Adopted and Recommendations therein approved</i>
8.	Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 13 November 2025	<i>Adopted and Recommendations therein approved</i>
9.	Minutes of Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 18 November 2025	<i>Adopted and Recommendations therein approved</i>

10.	Minutes of Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held Tuesday 25 November 2025	<i>Adopted and Recommendations therein approved</i>
11.	Matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel	<i>The matter of Economic support to businesses in Kilrea being affected by the bridge closure</i>
12.	Conferences	<i>Nil</i>
13.	Correspondence	
13.1	Joseph McGuckin, Mid Ulster District Council (Re: Caoimhé's Law)	<i>That Council support Mid Ulster District Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council who have written to us for support for their campaign and express sympathies to the families who have been affected.</i>
13.2	John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City and Strabane District Council (Re: Caoimhé's Law)	
13.3	Richard Pengelly CB, Chief Executive, Education Authority (Re: Buddy Bear Trust)	<i>Noted</i>
14.	Consultation Schedule	<i>Noted</i>
15.	Seal Documents	<i>Seal approved (Item (i))</i>
16.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Allister Kyle, seconded by Councillor Jonathan McAuley (renaming McKinley Park, Dervock)	<i>Referred to Leisure and Development Committee</i>
17.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Dawn Huggins, seconded by Alderman John McAuley (oak samplings to be provided to bereaved families)	<i>Referred to Environmental Services Committee</i>

18.	Notice of Motion Proposed by Councillor Tanya Elder, seconded by Councillor Bill Kennedy (Age Friendly Champion)	<i>Referred to Leisure and Development Committee</i>
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**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON
TUESDAY 2 DECEMBER 2025 AT 7.00 PM**

- In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor McMullan
- Members Present : Alderman Boyle, Callan, Coyle, Knight-McQuillan,
John McAuley, S McKillop, Scott, Stewart
- Councillors Anderson, C Archibald, N Archibald,
Bateson, Callaghan, Chivers, Elder, Holmes, Huggins,
Kane, Kennedy, Kyle, Mairs, Jonathan McAuley,
McCully, McShane, Peacock, Schenning, Storey,
Wallace, Watton, Wisener
- Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive
M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services
A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services
P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer
J Mills, Council Solicitor (Land and Property) (R)
A Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager (R)
J Keen, Committee & Member Services Officer
- In Attendance : Gavin McCready, NI Water (R) (Item 4)
Dr Stephen Blockwell, NI Water (R) (Item 4)
V Crozier, NI Water (R) (Item 4)
M McCartney, NI Water (R) (Item 4)
- A Lennox, ICT Officer (C)
C McLaughlin, ICT Officer (C)
- Press: 3no (R)
Public: 3no (R)

Key – R = Attended Remotely

1. THE MAYOR'S BUSINESS

The Mayor congratulated everyone involved in the lighting of the Christmas Trees and lighting up the four main towns in the Borough.

The Mayor advised that the North West Regional College has received a prestigious award and invited Alderman Callan to provide further detail.

Alderman Callan stated that the North West Regional College received the Queen Elizabeth prize for education recognising the outstanding work in business support. Alderman Callan stated the Award was highly regarded, seen as the highest national award in Further and Higher Education within the UK. This award recognises the work the College has done over the last number of years. Alderman Callan stated staff were delighted that they had been announced as one of the winners for 2025 for the Queen Elizabeth Award.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Fielding, Hunter, Councillors McGlinchey, McGurk, MA McKillop, McQuillan, Nicholl, Watson, Wilson.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no Declarations of Interest.

- * **Councillor Watton joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.09pm during discussion of this Item.**
- * **Alderman Knight McQuillan joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.09pm during discussion of this Item.**
- * **Alderman John McAuley joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.11pm during discussion of this Item.**
- * **Councillor Bateson joined the meeting in the Chamber at 7.15pm during discussion of this Item.**

4. DEPUTATION – NI WATER GAVIN MCCREADY, HEAD OF WASTEWATER SERVICES, CUSTOMER & OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE AND DR STEPHEN BLOCKWELL, HEAD OF INVESTMENT MANAGEMENT, ENGINEERING & SUSTAINABILITY DIRECTORATE IN ATTENDANCE

The Mayor invited the representatives from NI Water to present to Members.

Dr Blockwell introduced himself and G McCready.

Dr Blockwell delivered a presentation to Members, covering the following topics:

- NI Water Governance Mode
- About NI Water and relevant statistics
- Challenges currently faced by NI Water
- What NI Water are doing to maximise resources

- Local Development Plan 2038
- Planning key capital investments in water and wastewater
- Kilrea wastewater treatment plan
- Price Controls
- Planned investment
- PC28 business plan timeline

In response to questions Dr Blockwell advised NI Water are taking a multi barrier approach to the algae bloom which occurred in the summer. Dr Blockwell advised that water was safe to drink, NI Water work to maintain and improve their assets and that water was treated to the set standards. Dr Blockwell stated the main problem was getting the funding required to put the solutions in place.

In response to questions regarding upgrading the Wastewater treatment in Armoy Dr Blockwell advised he was aware of the concerns. Dr Blockwell stated the answer lies with the politicians and that if NI Water was fully funded they would have the resources required to put in place. Dr Blockwell stated that Armoy was included in the PC 28 process.

G McCready stated that NI Water were working hard to meet standards and to stay as efficient and effective as possible.

In response to questions regarding working with developers to provide solutions for funding from outside the NI Executive, Dr Blockwell stated that discussions were being undertaken with the Department for Infrastructure to find these solutions.

In response to questions regarding having capacity to facilitate the housing growth that was required within the Borough, Dr Blockwell stated that NI Water were putting effort into their plans to address this. Dr Blockwell stated that the focus is on having the basic infrastructure in place and building on that. Dr Blockwell stated that NI Water were focused on working at full capacity and abiding by licences in place to protect the environment.

In response to questions regarding the adoption of sewage systems and services, Dr Blockwell stated that checks are completed and if the works are up to standard they are adopted. In instances where systems are not adopted, extra funding is required, this normally is centrally funded from the Department for Infrastructure, although, he stated, there was some funding from PeacePlus projects that have been received from cross border funding. Dr Blockwell stated that although there are bonds in place these are often not enough as these can be used on completing roads and pavements. Dr Blockwell confirmed that he would provide

further information regarding increasing bonds directly to Alderman McAuley who had made the enquiry.

G McCready stated that NI Water did their best to assist people in sites where adoption of the sewage system has not been completed.

In response to questions, Dr Blockwell stated there are approximately 19,000 homes which have been unable to proceed due sewage connections not being installed and confirmed the housing that had been stalled as a result of this had been prioritised.

The Mayor thanked Dr Blockwell and G McCready for their presentation.

* **The representatives from NI Water left the meeting remotely at 7:46pm**

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2025

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock
Seconded by Councillor Schenning and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 4 November 2025 are confirmed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 22 OCTOBER 2025

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 22 October 2025 are received and noted.

7. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2025

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

Proposed by Alderman S McKillop
Seconded by Alderman Scott and

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee Meeting held Tuesday 11 November 2025 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

8. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2025

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

8.1 Correction to the Minutes

Alderman Callan stated he was late in joining the meeting remotely and requested that his name was added to the attendance list.

Proposed by Councillor Kyle
Seconded by Councillor Huggins and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Committee Meeting held Thursday 13 November 2025 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

9. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2025

Copy previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

9.1 Economic support to businesses in Kilrea being affected by the bridge closure (Item 19.2)

In response to questions the Chief Executive confirmed that a letter regarding Kilrea Bridge had been drafted and will be sent subject to the Call In process. The Chief Executive confirmed this matter was scheduled to be raised with the Partnership Panel.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor Kennedy and

RESOLVED - That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee Meeting held Tuesday 18 November 2025 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

10. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 25 NOVEMBER 2025

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Mayor.

Proposed by Councillor McShane
Seconded by Councillor Peacock and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 25 November 2025 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

11. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

The Chief Executive advised that the economic support to businesses in Kilrea being affected by the bridge closure as raised at the Leisure and Development Committee held 18 November 2025 has been referred to the Partnership Panel.

In response to questions the Chief Executive advised there was no date set for the next Partnership Panel meeting.

12. CONFERENCES

There were no conferences.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Purpose of Report

The purpose of the report is to present correspondence for Members' consideration.

The following correspondence has been received:

13.1 Joseph McGuckin, Mid Ulster District Council (email dated 3 November 2025, copy of letter attached)

Re: Caoimhé's Law

Council at its October meeting carried the undernoted motion:

That this Council expresses its deepest sympathy to the families affected by the unauthorised recording, sharing, and circulation of images and videos taken at the scenes of fatal or critical road traffic collisions. Condemns the increasing trend of individuals and media outlets capturing and distributing distressing footage of victims without consent, often before families have been formally notified. Recognises the serious psychological harm and trauma this causes to bereaved families, and the urgent need for legislative protection. Reaffirms that the right of families to privacy and dignity must always outweigh the voyeuristic or commercial interests of individuals or media outlets.

Backs the campaign for Caoimhé's Law — a proposed piece of legislation that would make it a criminal offence to:

- *record or share images/videos of victims at the scene of a fatal or critical road traffic collision without lawful authority or family consent;*
- *circulate such material before families are officially notified;*
- *use such content for sensationalist, exploitative, or commercial purposes;*
- *publish crash scene images without prior approval from the PSNI or relevant authorities;*
- *obstruct emergency services or interfere with rescue operations through the recording or sharing of such material.*

Acknowledges the testimony of families, including those from this district, who have been directly impacted by the unauthorised sharing of videos and images of their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of fatal road incidents. Notes that similar legislation exists or is being introduced in other jurisdictions, including the Republic of Ireland and England & Wales, recognising the same growing problem of “digital voyeurism” at accident scenes.

Calls on the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Justice to prioritise the drafting and introduction of this legislation as a matter of urgency.

I would therefore ask if you would bring this request to your elected Members for consideration and support. I would also welcome a response to this request so that I can report back to our Members in due course. Please email response to eileen.forde@midulstercouncil.org.

13.2 John Kelpie, Chief Executive, Derry City and Strabane District Council

(email dated 14 November 2025, copy of letter attached)

Re: Caoimhé’s Law

At meetings of Derry City and Strabane District Council held on 24 September 2025 and 29 October 2025, the following Motion was passed:

That this Council expresses its deepest sympathy to the families affected by the unauthorised recording, searching, and circulation of images and videos taken at the scenes of fatal or critical road traffic collisions.

Condemns the increasing trend of individuals and media outlets capturing and distributing distressing footage of victims without consent, often before families have been formally notified.

Recognises the serious psychological harm and trauma this causes to bereaved families, and the urgent need for legislative protection.

Backs the campaign for Caoimhe’s Law - a proposed piece of legislation that would make it a criminal offence to:

- *Record or share images/videos of victims at the scene of a fatal or critical road traffic collision without lawful authority or family consent;*
- *Circulate such material before families are officially notified;*
- *Use such content for sensationalist, exploitative, or commercial purposes;*
- *Publish crash scene images without prior approval from the PSNI or relevant authorities.*

Acknowledges the testimony of families, including those from this district, who have been directly impacted by the unauthorised sharing of videos and images of their loved ones in the immediate aftermath of fatal road traffic accidents. Calls on the Northern Ireland Executive and the Department of Justice to prioritise the drafting and introduction of this legislation as a matter of urgency.

Agrees to write to the Minister for Justice, local MLA's, and the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland to formally convey the Council's support for Caoimhe's Law.

Recognising the all-island nature of road traffic and digital media sharing, this Council also calls for cross-jurisdictional cooperation between the Department of Justice in Northern Ireland and the Department of Justice in the Republic of Ireland in developing compatible legislation.

Further calls on digital and social media companies to work with law enforcement and legislators to rapidly remove unauthorised and harmful content relating to fatal incidents.

Encourages media outlets operating within the Council area to adopt and adhere to ethical guidelines that prohibit the publication of images or footage from fatal or critical incidents without clearance from authorities and consent from families.

Requests that the Council's Communications and Community Safety teams explore ways to raise awareness locally about the legal and emotional consequences of sharing such content, particularly among young people and frequent social media users.

Caoimhe's Law has been proposed in response to a growing number of cases where families are retraumatised after graphic videos and images of their loved ones are shared without consent. The law is not about censorship but about ensuring basic dignity and accountability.

Council support can play a crucial role in influencing legislative attention and amplifying public education around this issue.

Council will:

- *Write to all 10 Councils that all council areas across Northern Ireland enforce and endorse this campaign, and that they fully utilise their social media platforms to promote awareness of the issues addressed by Caoimhe's Law.*
- *Requests the opportunity for campaign representatives to present directly to the relevant Council committee to share personal testimonies and further outline the case for legislative change.*
- *Further requests that the Minister for Infrastructure bring forward and draft specific legislation to criminalise the unauthorised recording and sharing of images from fatal and serious road traffic collisions.*

I would appreciate your consideration in this important matter and would be grateful for a response at your earliest opportunity.

Councillor Peacock stated that this campaign is something that has affected people in this Borough and should be supported.

Proposed by Councillor Peacock
Seconded by Councillor McShane and

RESOLVED – that Council support Mid Ulster District Council and Derry City and Strabane District Council who have written to us for support for their campaign and express sympathies to the families who have been affected.

13.3 Richard Pengelly CB, Chief Executive, Education Authority (email dated 20 November 2025, copy of letter attached)

Buddy Bear Trust

I refer to your letter dated 28 October 2025 regarding Buddy Bear Trust. At present we are funding placements for less than 5 pupils and not all would be full time. These placements are named on the pupil statement either as an agreement by EA to do so as they are appropriate placements or as a result of a SENDIST order.

Should schools wish to apply for additional funding from the Department of Education (DE) to expand provision, they are required to submit a formal application outlining the proposed expansion, anticipated outcomes, and supporting evidence of need. Applications should be made directly to DE via their online portal or by contacting the relevant department and must include detailed costings and a strategic plan for implementation. Once submitted, applications will be reviewed and assessed in line with DE criteria, with decisions communicated to the school in due course.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers the correspondence.

Council NOTED the correspondence.

14. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

The following Consultation Documents were listed:

- Royal Courts of Justice Exchange of Expert Reports in Licensing Cases
Deadline submission extended to 1 December 2025
- Housing Executive Public Consultation on our Draft Supporting People
Strategic Intent 2026-2031 submission by 16 January 2026

RESOLVED – that Council note the Consultation Schedule.

15. 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 6078 to 6101 inclusive; Deed 1660; Deed 4558; Deed 6066

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Alderman Callan and

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

16. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ALLISTER KYLE, SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MCAULEY

I hereby move that Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council support the proposal to rename Riverside Park in Dervock to McKinley Park in memory of the 25th President of the United States, William McKinley, and to commemorate the deep ancestral ties between Dervock and the McKinley family.

As we know year 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence in the United States, a momentous event that laid the foundation for the nation's freedom and democracy. In recognition of this anniversary and taking into account we have set up a committee to oversee the

anniversary, we believe it is fitting that we reflect on the profound historical connections between the North Antrim village and the United States.

Dervock's primary link to the Americas lies in its ancestral connection to William McKinley, the 25th President of the United States. McKinley's great-great-grandfather, James McKinley, who emigrated from the townland of Conagher, near Dervock, in 1743. This historic connection offers a unique opportunity to honour Dervock's contribution to American history and heritage.

The renaming of Riverside Park to McKinley Park would serve as a lasting tribute to the legacy of William McKinley, highlighting the role that Dervock's local heritage has played in shaping American history. This renaming would not only honour McKinley's presidential legacy but also strengthen the bond between the town and its American roots.

By renaming the park, the council would help raise awareness of this important historical link, fostering a greater understanding of the global influence of the Causeway Coast and Glens region. This gesture could also encourage cultural exchanges and promote tourism, with an emphasis on the rich historical ties between the US and Dervock.

I recommend that the Council formally approve the proposal to rename Riverside Park in Dervock to McKinley Park, in commemoration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence and in recognition of the ancestral connection between Dervock and President William McKinley.

This renaming would serve as a lasting tribute to both the McKinley family and the history of the United States, while also promoting local heritage, education, and international ties between Dervock and the United States.

The Notice of Motion was referred, without discussion, to the Leisure and Development Committee.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR DAWN HUGGINS, SECONDED BY ALDERMAN JOHN MCAULEY

'That this Council agrees to provide an oak sapling to all bereaved families when they collect a death certificate. This gesture will serve as a symbol of comfort and renewal at a time of loss, showing compassion and humility from the Council. It will also support our environmental and climate strategy by encouraging tree planting and biodiversity across our Borough.'

The Notice of Motion was referred, without discussion, to the Environmental Services Committee.

**18. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR TANYA ELDER,
SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BILL KENNEDY**

"This Council recognises the importance of promoting positive ageing and ensuring that older people across Causeway Coast and Glens are valued, respected, and supported to live healthy, active, and connected lives.

We also recognise the success of our Age Friendly Strategy and Action Plan, and the growing number of residents aged fifty and over in our Borough.

In light of this, I would request that an elected member be formally nominated to take on the role of Age Friendly Champion, providing leadership and ensuring continued focus on this important area"

The Notice of Motion was referred, without discussion, to the Leisure and Development Committee.

This being all the business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7:54pm.

Mayor