THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2026

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11.2	Adoption of the Minutes	***Adopted and recommendations therein approved including the resolution at 11.1 above***
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21.	The Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs	***Meeting called to adjourn during debate***
21.1	Legal Opinion in the Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs	
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Adjourned Business

- The Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs
- Legal Opinion in the Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs
- Correspondence from the Irish Language Commissioner
- Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage
- Minutes of the 14 April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting
- Minutes of the 5 May 2026 Council meeting

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER ON TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2026 AT 7.03PM

In the Chair	:	The Deputy Mayor, Alderman Hunter
Members Present	:	Alderman Brown Stewart, Coyle, Fielding, Knight-McQuillan, S McKillop, Scott Councillors Anderson, C Archibald, N Archibald, Bateson, Callaghan, Chivers, Holmes, Kane, Kennedy, Mairs, Jonathan McAuley, McCully, McGurk, McMullan, McQuillan, McShane, Nicholl, Peacock, Storey, Watson, Wilson, Wisener
Officers Present	:	M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services P Mulvenna, Director of Leisure and Development D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (R) J Mills, Acting Senior Solicitor P O'Brien, Head of the Funding Unit (R) J Welsh, Head of Community and Culture (R) W McCullough, Head of Sport and Wellbeing (R) A Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager (R) J Keen, Democratic Services Officer
In Attendance:		K Morgan, BL (R) L Boyd, ICT Officer R Finlay, ICT Officer Press: (1 No) (R) Public: (1 No) (C)
<u>Key</u> –		**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 Deputy Mayor read the following statement on the behalf of the Mayor:

Following the tremendous success of our Armed Forces Day event yesterday, I wanted to take this opportunity, as Mayor, to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation to all Council staff for the outstanding work that went into making the day such a success. Events of this scale do not happen by chance. They are the result of months of planning, coordination, dedication and teamwork, and I know that staff from many departments worked tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure that everything ran so smoothly. From the very early preparations to the clear up - the professionalism and commitment shown by our Council Employees was evident throughout. Thanks to the efforts of Council staff, we were able to provide a fitting celebration that reflected the pride and gratitude felt across the borough. The positive feedback received from attendees, participants and visitors is a testament to the hard work and dedication of everyone involved. Your collective efforts helped create an event that brought people together, strengthened the community spirt and showcased the very best of Causeway Coast and Glens. In addition to its civic and commemorative importance, the event also delivered a significant economic benefit to Coleraine. The large number of visitors attending throughout the day provided a welcome boost to local businesses, including cafes, restaurants, shops and other service providers. It was encouraging to see our town centre bustling with activity, demonstrating how well-organised events can support local trade while promoting Coleraine as a welcoming destination for future visitors. Please convey my thanks to all members of staff who contributed in any way, whether in planning, logistics, operations, communications, facilities, administration or support roles. Every contribution played a part in the success of the day. Thank you once again for your leadership and for the commitment of your staff. It is a privilege to work alongside such a dedicated team.

The Deputy Mayor advised correspondence had been received from Minister Gordon Lyons offering congratulations to staff for their work in making Armed Forces Day a successful event.

The Deputy Mayor offered congratulations to Councillor Bateson on the birth of his baby girl.

2. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Boyle, Alderman Callan, Alderman John McAuley, Councillor Elder, Councillor Huggins, Councillor Kyle, Councillor McGlinchey, Councillor MA McKillop, Councillor Schenning and Councillor Watton.

3. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

Alderman Brown Stewart in Item 12 Dark Hedges of the Leisure and Development Minutes. Alderman Brown Stewart did not leave the meeting during consideration of this Item and did not vote.

Alderman Hunter in Item 18.1 Environmental Health and Item 18.2 Harbour and Marinas of the Audit Committee Minutes. Alderman Hunter did not leave the meeting during consideration of these Items and did not vote.

Councillor N Archibald in Item 18.2 Harbour and Marinas of the Audit Committee Minutes. Councillor N Archibald did not leave the meeting during consideration of this Item and did not vote.

Councillor Chivers in 18.5 PCSP of the Audit Committee Minutes. Councillor Chivers did not leave the meeting during consideration of this Item and did not vote.

Councillor Kane in Item 18.2 Harbour and Marinas of the Audit Committee Minutes. Councillor Kane did not leave the meeting during consideration of this Item and did not vote.

Councillor Mairs in Item 18.2 Harbour and Marinas Marinas of the Audit Committee Minutes. Councillor Mairs did not leave the meeting during consideration of this Item and did not vote.

Councillor McGurk in Item 18.4 Local Economic Partnership Marinas of the Audit Committee Minutes. Councillor McGurk did not leave the meeting during consideration of this Item and did not vote.

4. DEPUTATION - PROFESSOR P BARTHOLOMEW, VICE CHANCELLOR, ULSTER UNIVERSITY

The Deputy Mayor invited Professor Bartholomew to present to the Council.

Professor Bartholomew presented as follows:

Good evening, Mayor, Members.
Thank you for the opportunity to be here, and your interest in the University. I am very much looking forward to our conversation, but I'd first like to offer an opening statement.

I want to begin by acknowledging the seriousness of the situation we are discussing, both in relation to Higher Education in Northern Ireland, and in relation to the impact the decision we are taking will have on our staff. Namely, how on the

15th of April this year, Ulster University informed staff that we are proposing to introduce a Staff Reduction Scheme.

This is not a step we have taken lightly. It is, in fact, one of the most difficult decisions any university leadership can face, and certainly the most difficult decision of my career.

Because we share fully the concerns that Council have expressed in the time that has followed about the impact on staff, on students, and on the future of higher education in Northern Ireland more broadly, we have held off from taking this kind of decision for as long as we possibly could, and instead we have worked constructively with the Department for the Economy to seek a more sustainable funding model for higher education.

Regrettably, it is now clear that such a solution will not be forthcoming in the near future, and as a result we are left with no choice, through decisions we ourselves can, and must make, to reduce our costs in order to achieve financial sustainability.

I want to touch on three key points: first, the structural challenges in how higher education is funded here; second, the University's current financial position; and third, the consequential impact of the incompatibility between these positions and as they relate to our Coleraine campus.

Let me start with the higher education funding system.

Higher education in Northern Ireland is funded very differently from elsewhere in the UK. Since 2011, we have operated a "shared investment" or "mixed" model of funding: student fees are kept relatively low, and government funding directly to the University is intended to make up the difference.

However, both elements of that model have been steadily eroded.

Student fees have not kept pace with inflation, particularly since 2021, and at the same time, the teaching grant from the NI Executive, through the Department for the Economy to supplement student fees, has declined in real terms.

The practical – and stark – economic reality is that compared to 2009/10, Ulster University is now receiving around 63% less money in real terms to teach each government-funded students. 63% less!

That gap is simply unsustainable.

In 2025, you will remember that the Vice-Chancellors and Principals of the Higher Education institutions in Northern Ireland proposed a pragmatic solution: to restore some of the value lost through inflation by modestly increasing student fees, while still keeping them well below those in England and Wales.

Importantly, such a change would not have increased the day-to-day cost of living for students.

Under the current system, students do not pay fees upfront. They repay only after graduation, and only if their earnings reach a certain threshold. In reality, the repayments function much more like a graduate contribution or tax, linked to income rather than as a debt.

As such, any uplift to student tuition fees to reflect inflation would not have placed any financial burden on students. None whatsoever. But it would have made a transformative difference to universities.

Despite this, the proposal was not supported, and, as a result, we must face up to the consequences of a funding model that no longer works – because we have run out of time, we have run out of road to do otherwise. The funding system is no longer fit for purpose.

Ulster University is, has been, and will continue to be well managed and financially responsible - and our financial performance demonstrates this.

Over the last five years, we have generated consistent surpluses and reinvested in staff, facilities, and student experience.

We have also worked hard to diversify our income, particularly through international recruitment.

But external factors have significantly changed that picture.

UK immigration policy has reduced international student numbers.

Inflation has increased costs in all areas of our operations.

Changes to National Insurance and wage levels have added further pressure.

The result is stark: while our income has grown strongly, our costs have grown much faster.

We are now facing an annual deficit of around £25 million, and without action, our cash reserves would be exhausted before the end of the decade.

I, and my Governing Body, as trustees of the University cannot, and will not, let that happen.

We have already taken steps, making around £5 million in recurring savings, but that is not enough to bridge the gap.

Recent developments have made the situation more acute. The draft Executive budget indicates further pressure on the Department for Economy's funding. We have already been asked to plan for cuts to both teaching and research funding.

Put simply: the financial context is not improving. It is deteriorating. This brings me to our proposed Staff Reduction Scheme.

Following detailed modelling, the University' Governing Body agreed in April that to return to a sustainable position, specifically - to achieve a modest 2% surplus by 2030, we need to reduce our annual cost base by £25 million.

In practical terms, that probably equates to around 450 roles.

Our strong preference, and our proposal, is that this is achieved through a voluntary scheme, open to all staff, on all campuses.

We are currently in a statutory 90-day minimum consultation period with our recognised Trade Unions. This process is mandated, and it focuses on three things: avoiding redundancies where possible, reducing the number of redundancies, and mitigating the impact of redundancies.

I want to be clear: we do not yet know who might leave, from which areas or campuses, or in what numbers. Because the proposed scheme would be entirely voluntary, such outcomes cannot be determined in advance.

Indicatively, subject to consultation, a scheme could open in September, with outcomes known later in the year.

Let me now turn briefly to the position of our Coleraine campus.
Council, there is no doubt whatsoever about the future of the Coleraine campus. It is not under any threat of closure – in the short, medium or long term.

The Coleraine campus is an integral part of Ulster University, and the multi-campus model that is central, not only to how we operate but who we are.

It is not closing. It will not be closed. I cannot be any clearer than that. My colleagues and I remain absolutely and unshakably committed to the success of our Coleraine campus.

In each of the last two years, we have increased student numbers by more than 200 students per year.

We have seen applications to study in Coleraine increase in each of the last two years, and for this incoming year there has been a further increase in applications of 7.7%.

We have introduced new programmes in areas including Golf Management and Veterinary Nursing.

None of this, however, changes the fact that sustainable growth requires sustainable funding.

That is not forthcoming and so we have no choice but to act.

No campus is being singled out in order to make the savings required, but nor is any campus being specifically protected.

If I can emphasise one key thing for you today, it is this: the funding model for higher education in Northern Ireland is no longer sustainable.

It has been eroded for over a decade, and we are now at the point where institutions like ours must take deeply difficult decisions to make sure that we remain viable.

Ulster University has done everything it reasonably can – everything you would expect us to do - to bridge the gap: increasing income, improving efficiency, and deferring major cost reductions for as long as possible while we lobby for a viable funding model.

But we cannot solve a systemic funding problem on our own, and the consequences extend far beyond any single institution or campus.

They affect skills, research, innovation, regional development, and ultimately, the economic future of Northern Ireland.

We believe there is still an opportunity, and an urgent need, for political leadership from all political parties to address this.

And we would ask this Council to play a role in advocating for a sustainable, long-term solution.

The potential introduction of a staff reduction scheme at Ulster University is not a decision that I and my fellow trustees serving on our Council would ever wish to make. But it is a decision that we are compelled to make.

We remain committed to working with all partners, stakeholders and most importantly with our staff to navigate this period responsibly, and to secure the strongest possible future for higher education in Northern Ireland.

Thank you, I look forward to answering your questions.

The Deputy Mayor invited questions from the Elected Members.

In response to questions regarding the overspend at the Belfast campus, the Vice Chancellor stated that there was not an overspend, that the work was completed under budget, there was an error in the first report published by the Ulster University but this was corrected in the second report that was published.

In response to questions regarding the recent growth deal agreement at the Coleraine Campus of the Ulster University, the Vice Chancellor advised that the University remains committed to the growth deal.

In response to questions surrounding speculation of the Coleraine campus being under threat, the Vice Chancellor stated that this is unhelpful speculation and provided reassurance that the Coleraine campus will continue to operate. The Vice Chancellor stated that the number of students at the Coleraine campus has increased in recent years and the number of applications for the Coleraine campus this year has increased by 7.7%.

In response to questions regarding getting political support to increase student fees as a source of income for the Ulster University, the Vice Chancellor stated that student fees are not the only source of income for the University and went on the explain how income is generated including Government funding from the Department for the Economy and the Department of Health.

In response to a request for an update on the future plans for the Coleraine campus, the Vice Chancellor referred to the New Decade New Approach and outlined the strategies taken under this approach to develop the University across all 3 campuses.

In response to questions regarding constructing new buildings at the University, the Vice Chancellor stated if higher education was properly funded there would

be more potential for further development on the campus. The Vice Chancellor referred to capital development that is ongoing on the Coleraine campus.
In response to questions regarding other funding sources for universities than increasing fees, the Vice Chancellor stated that an increase in fees will not place financial burden on students and he agreed there should be funding coming from elsewhere. The Vice Chancellor stated that it is the highest earning graduates that are impacted by student fees.

In response to questions on how to support and increase growth at the Coleraine campus and how redundancies will be managed across the three campuses, the Vice Chancellor stated that the University is proposing a voluntary redundancy scheme, that capital projects will be managed as the University is financially able to, and that enormous growth at the Coleraine campus is not envisaged.

Councillor Storey wished to put on record Council's appreciation for the Vice Chancellor being proactive in promoting the three-campus model of the Ulster University.

The Deputy Mayor thanked the Vice Chancellor for his attendance at the meeting and for engaging with Elected Members.

* **Councillor Nicholl left the meeting during consideration of this item.**

* **The Vice Chancellor left the meeting at 8:06pm**

Councillor Storey stated that it would be beneficial to develop a working group between the Council and the Ulster University to enable a coordinated approach on how to best use the facilities at the Coleraine campus.

The Deputy Mayor advised that a report could be brought to the Leisure and Development Committee to allow for further discussion. All Elected Members were in agreement.

5. MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 2 JUNE 2026

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

Proposed by Councillor Peacock
Seconded by Councillor Wilson and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held Tuesday 2 June 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

6. MINUTES OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE HELD 22 APRIL 2026

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

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Planning Committee Meeting held Wednesday 22 April 2026 are received and noted.

7. MINUTES OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 9 JUNE 2026

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

Proposed by Councillor Holmes
Seconded by Councillor Chivers and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Environmental Services Committee meeting held Tuesday 9 June 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

8. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 11 JUNE 2026

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

Proposed by Councillor Wisener
Seconded by Councillor Mairs and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 11 June 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

9. MINUTES OF LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 16 JUNE 2026

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

Matters Arising

9.1 Armed Forces Day Update (Item 21)

Councillor Anderson stated that as Veterans Champion he wanted to pass on his thanks and congratulations to all who worked to make it such a successful event.

9.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Councillor McCully
Seconded by Councillor Anderson and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Leisure and Development Committee meeting held Tuesday 16 June 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

10. MINUTES OF AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE 2026

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair of the Audit Committee.

Proposed by Councillor Storey
Seconded by Councillor McGurk and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Audit Committee meeting held Wednesday 17 June 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

11. MINUTES OF CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE HELD TUESDAY 23 JUNE 2026

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

11.1 Ownership of the unregistered laneway/public walkway adjacent to Ballycastle Police Station (Councillor McShane) (Item 20.1 (AORB))

Councillor McShane noted that the minutes do not record whether agreement was reached at the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting to contact Greer Hamilton Gailey Solicitors, Ballymoney, to seek the relevant information regarding establishing ownership of the unregistered laneway adjacent to Ballycastle Police Station. She asked that this agreement be considered and approved at this Council meeting. Councillor McShane also referred to comments made by Councillor Wilson at the Committee meeting that the issues raised should be progressed through the Partnership Panel.

All Elected Members were in agreement that Greer Hamilton Gailey Solicitors, Ballymoney, should be contacted to seek the relevant information.

11.2 Adoption of the Minutes

Proposed by Alderman Fielding
Seconded by Councillor Peacock and

RESOLVED – That the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 23 June 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved including the resolution at 11.1 above.

12. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL

Matters to report to the Partnership Panel are:

Corporate Policy and Resources Committee held on Tuesday 23 June 2026, Ownership of the unregistered laneway/public walkway adjacent to Ballycastle Police Station (Councillor McShane) (Item 20.1 (AORB)) to raise concerns regarding establishing the ownership of the unregistered land within the Borough.

13. CONFERENCES

There were no Conferences.

14. CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence.

15. CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

The following Consultation Documents were listed:

- Department for the Economy Call for Evidence - Petroleum Exploration and Licensing (Repeal) Bill submission by 24th June 2026 (expired)
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Public Consultation on the Designation of Lagan Medows as a Quiet Area pursuant to the Environmental Noise Regulation (Northern Ireland) 2006 submission by 27th July 2026
- Department of Agriculture, Environmental and Rural Affairs Public Consultation on the proposed introduction of fixed fees for providing Screening and Scoping Opinions under the Marine Works (Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA)) Regulations 2007 (as amended) submission by 31st July 2026

- Department of Health Consultation on Claim Period for the day Care Foods (Nursery Milk) Scheme submission by 13th August 2026
- Department for Justice Consultation on compensation for miscarriages of justice: options for Northern Ireland statutory compensation limits submission by 17th August 2026
- Department for Communities Consultation on New Warm Healthy Homes Fund submission by 19th August 2026
- Department of Justice Consultation on the future of Limavady Courthouse submission by 21st August 2026
- Department of Health   This is your health – have your say this summer submission by 31st August 2026
- Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs Consultation on the Draft Air Quality (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) submission by 31st August 2026
- Department of Education New Direction for Youth Services submission by 29th September 2026
- Department of Education Consultation on Proposed Northern Ireland Curriculum submission by 30th September 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 6202 to 6215 inclusive, No 69 (reissue);

(ii) Car Loan Agreement reference 502202;

(iii) Commercial Lease Relating to Premises known as the Pits, Ballyreagh Road, Portrush, County Antrim – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Coleraine and District Motor Club Limited (L&PSASC – 07/01/2026, CPR – 27/01/2026, CM – 03/02/2026)

(iv) Licence Agreement for installation of a Memorial Plaque at Garvagh Museum – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Garvagh Museum Limited (L&PSASC – 03/06/2026, CPR – 23/06/2026, CM – 30/06/2026).

(v) Renewal of Commercial Lease relating to property known as Unit 2, Roe Valley Arts Centre, Main Street, Limavady, Co. Londonderry – Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Lisa Smyth
(Approved under the Scheme of Delegation in June 2026 by the Director of Corporate Services under Section 4, Paragraph 4.6 - Consent to lessees' requests for assignments, sub-lettings, permission to mortgage or charge, changes of use, new buildings, alternations, signage, reviewing leases,

licence agreements, wayleaves and other land and property legal agreements and any other matters requiring the Council's consent under the terms of existing leases and amendments of covenant affecting premises and the granting of utility wayleaves and short term licences/temporary easements (in the event that a licence or easement of more than six months duration is sought, same will require to be brought to the Land and Property Sub Committee for approval) in respect of all Council sites and properties.)

(vi) Form of Deed - Changing Places Compartment on Rathlin Island - Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and CivCo Ltd (ES – 14/4/26, CM – 05/5/2026)

Proposed by Councillor Kane
Seconded by Alderman Coyle and

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

17. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR MCSHANE AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR BATESON

<u>Public Water Refill Stations</u>
That this Council recognises the environmental, health and tourism benefits of publicly accessible water refill stations and notes the successful provision of such facilities elsewhere within the borough, including at Rathlin Harbour. Council therefore agrees to explore the feasibility of installing publicly accessible water refill stations, and to identify potential locations, costs and funding opportunities for their delivery.

Council further agrees that a report on the feasibility of this proposal be brought before the relevant committee for consideration.

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

18. NOTICE OF MOTION PROPOSED BY COUNCILLOR ANDERSON AND SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR HUGGINS

<u>National Armed Forces Day 2028</u>
Following on from the tremendous success of the Regional Armed Forces Day 2026, that this Council explores the opportunity to host National Armed Forces Day 2028 and submits a bid to the relevant authorities.

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

19. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT
19.1 Ballycastle Museum Capital Project Update

Report, previously circulated, was presented as read by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report
The purpose of the report is to provide an update to members in relation to funding secured for the Ballycastle Museum capital project.

Background
Following a report to the Leisure and Development Committee in December 2025, Council approved authorisation in January 2026 for the project team to proceed to Stage 2 of the Capital Works process. This stage includes detailed design and refinement of capital costs for the restoration and extension of Ballycastle Museum, following the acquisition of neighbouring premises on Castle Street, Ballycastle.

Proposal/Project Synopsis
The project will work with local people to revitalise Ballycastle Museum through the conservation-led restoration of the 18th-century Grade B+ listed courthouse and market building. By expanding into 57 Castle Street, it will create a community-focused museum and heritage hub that strengthens local skills, celebrates shared heritage and supports the site’s long-term sustainability.

The new museum will explore the area’s unique stories, including Ballycastle’s place in pre-industrial Ireland and its foundational role in the Irish Arts and Crafts Revival. It will also provide accredited training programmes and volunteer opportunities, supported by fully accessible and interactive permanent and temporary galleries, workshop space and essential accessible collection stores.

The capital phase will restore the museum’s 18th-century Grade B+ listed building and extend it into the adjoining property, purchased by Council for this purpose in 2025. This will almost quadruple gallery space from 64m² to 240m². The works will be supported by a wide-ranging activity plan, using the museum collection to engage diverse audiences, including people of different ages, abilities and backgrounds. Activity will take place while the museum is closed and continue after it reopens.

Funding Proposal

Council applied to the National Lottery Heritage Fund seeking £2,104,268 towards overall project costs and have subsequently confirmed an award of £2,104,268 to support final construction and the associated animation and activity programme.

The outstanding cash contribution required from Council is estimated at £358,000. Additional in-kind costs are valued at approximately £66,000.

Next steps
Officers will continue to pursue additional external funding for the activity and programming elements of the project. This will help reduce the level of financial contribution required from Council, with further applications due to be submitted in September.

A report seeking a final investment decision will be presented to Council in August.

Councillor McShane welcomed the progress to date with the museum in Ballycastle and provided thanks to the museums team.

The Deputy Mayor echoed the sentiments expressed by Councillor McShane.

Council NOTED the report.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Councillor Callaghan
Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

***AGREED** – to recommend that Council moves 'In Committee'.*

* ***Press and Public left the meeting at 8:18pm***

20. LEISURE AND DEVELOPMENT REPORT
20.1 Growth Deal – Centre for Food & Drug Discovery (University of Ulster)

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, was previously circulated and presented by the Director of Leisure and Development.

Purpose of Report
The purpose of this report is to request Members' approval for the Centre for Food & Drug Discovery project to progress to the next stage of the Growth Deal,

with the issue of the Funding Agreement to the University of Ulster, and acceptance of the Contract for Funding from the Department for the Economy.

Further information was contained within the report.

Recommendation
Members are asked to approve the Centre for Food & Drug Discovery project to progress to the next stage of the Growth Deal, with the issue of the Funding Agreement to the University of Ulster, and acceptance of the Contract for Funding from the Department for the Economy.

Proposed by Councillor Anderson
Seconded by Councillor McGurk and

RESOLVED – that Council approves the Centre for Food & Drug Discovery project to progress to the next stage of the Growth Deal, with the issue of the Funding Agreement to the University of Ulster, and acceptance of the Contract for Funding from the Department for the Economy.

21. THE MATTER OF A CALL IN NOTICE IN RESPECT OF A COUNCIL MOTION PASSED ON 5 MAY 2026 BY THE FULL COUNCIL IN RELATION TO BILINGUAL/DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGNS

21.1 Legal Opinion in the Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs

21.2 Correspondence from the Irish Language Commissioner

21.3 Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage

21.4 Minutes of the 14 April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting 21.5 Minutes of the 5 May 2026 Council meeting

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland), was presented by

Purpose of Report
The purpose of this report is to present for Members' consideration all relevant reports in respect of the decision at the 14 April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting regarding the Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage.

Recommendation
It is recommended that Council considers all items provided in respect of the Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage.

The Deputy Mayor invited questions for the Barrister and Acting Senior Council Solicitor.

There were no questions put to the Barrister or Acting Senior Council Solicitor.

The Deputy Mayor stated if there are no questions for the Barrister or the solicitor it remains that Council move to the vote.

Councillor Wilson queried what the vote was on as this item was presented for information.

The Barrister clarified that Elected Members were to reconsider a decision that has been called in.

The Barrister stated that the purpose of his legal opinion was to determine the level of vote required and to reflect on the general approach of the process.

Councillor Wilson restated his concern regarding taking a vote on an information report and that his party is uncomfortable taking a vote at this meeting. Councillor Wilson requested a recess.

The Deputy Mayor stated that there were other speakers and that she would hear them prior to the recess.

Councillor Kane stated that the motion being considered is to provide direction to Council Officers on drafting an updated policy on street naming and property numbering including dual language street signage, which will be subject to public consultation and EQIA and will return to Council for ratification. The Director of Environmental Services agreed.

The Deputy Mayor confirmed the decision which is to be voted on.

Councillor Peacock stated that with previous Call Ins a revote was taken automatically. Councillor Peacock raised a Point of Order under Standing Order 16.4, “That the Question Be Now Put”.

Councillor Holmes stated that previously a revote was automatically taken on a call in and questioned where Council stood on taking a vote on a report presented for information.

Councillor Peacock stated she had raised a point of order.

The Deputy Mayor stated that, as Councillor Wilson had requested a recess, this would now be permitted.

The Deputy Mayor called a recess at 8:56pm for 10 minutes.

The meeting reconvened at 9:22pm, after allowing further time for Elected Members to consider the information presented.

The Deputy Mayor stated that the meeting was now not quorate and that the meeting would adjourn citing Standing Order 7.1.:

“7.1 Quorum
Subject to paragraph (4), no business shall be transacted at a Meeting or Committee of the Council unless at least **half** of the whole number of Members are present; the exception is the Planning Committee which requires a quarter of the Members present and voting.”

The Deputy Mayor stated that /the meeting would be reconvened on Tuesday, 4 August, prior to the next Council meeting.

The Deputy Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting was adjourned at 9:23pm.

Adjourned Business

- The Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs
- Legal Opinion in the Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs
- Correspondence from the Irish Language Commissioner
- Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage
- Minutes of the 14 April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting
- Minutes of the 5 May 2026 Council meeting.

THE RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2026 (ADJOURNED FROM TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2026)

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MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE RECONVENED COUNCIL MEETING HELD TUESDAY 4 AUGUST 2026 AT 6.05PM (ADJOURNED FROM TUESDAY 30 JUNE 2026)

In the Chair	:	The Mayor, Councillor Huggins (C)
Members Present	:	Alderman Boyle (R), Brown Stewart (C), Callan (C), Coyle (R), Fielding (C), Hunter (R), Knight-McQuillan (C), John McAuley (R/C), S McKillop (C), Scott (R) Councillors Anderson (C), N Archibald (R), Callaghan (R), Chivers (R), Elder (C), Holmes (C), Kane (C), Kennedy (R), Mairs (C), Jonathan McAuley (R), McCully (R), McGlinchey (R), McGurk (R), MA McKillop (R), McMullan (C), McQuillan (C), McShane (C), Nicholl (R), Peacock (C), Schenning (R), Wallace (R), Watson (R/C), Watton (C), Wilson (C), Wisener (C)
Officers Present	:	D Jackson, Chief Executive (C) A McPeake, Director of Environmental Services (C) J Mills, Acting Senior Solicitor (C) N Neill, PR Officer (R) U Harper, Senior Democratic Services Officer (C) I Owens, Democratic Services Officer (C)
In Attendance:		K Morgan, BL (R) J Winfield, Acting Head of ICT (C) A Lennox, Acting ICT Manager (C) L Boyd, ICT Officer (C) C Taggart, ICT Officer (C) Press: (1 No) (R)
<u>Key</u> –		**R** = Attended Remotely

The Chief Executive welcomed Members to the Chamber at Riada House and undertook a roll call.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Councillor C Archibald.

2. DECLARATION OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

There were no declarations of Interest.

* **Alderman Coyle joined the meeting remotely at 6.10pm**

* **Councillor Watson and Alderman John McAuley joined the meeting in the Chamber at 6.15pm**

3. THE MATTER OF A CALL IN NOTICE IN RESPECT OF COUNCIL MOTION PASSED ON 5 MAY 2026 BY THE FULL COUNCIL IN RELATION TO BILINGUAL/DUAL LANGUAGE STREET SIGNS

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph 5 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland), was previously circulated.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present for Members' consideration all relevant reports in respect of the decision at the 14 April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting regarding the Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage.

Background

A report on the Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage was scheduled for the 14 April 2026 Environmental Services Committee. Prior to the meeting, correspondence from the office of the Irish Language Commissioner dated 13 April 2026, which included Best Practice Guidance Notes, was circulated to Elected Members on 14 April 2026 as an Addendum Item.

Further details on background was previously circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council considers all Items provided in respect of the Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage.

3.1 Legal Opinion in the Matter of a Call In Notice in Respect of a Council Motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the Full Council in relation to Bilingual / Dual Language Street Signs

Copy previously circulated.

3.2 Correspondence from the Irish Language Commissioner

Copy previously circulated.

3.3 Review of Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy including Dual Language Street Signage

Copy previously circulated.

3.4 Minutes of the 14 April 2026 Environmental Services Committee meeting

Copy previously circulated.

3.5 Minutes of the 5 May 2026 Council meeting

Copy previously circulated.

The Chief Executive briefed Members on the call-in notice in respect of the Council motion passed on 5 May 2026 by the full Council in relation to Billingual/Dual Language Street Signs.

Councillor Wilson stated that he wished to clarify some issues following the adjournment last month. He requested that the meeting go into recess prior to any vote.

In response to a question from Councillor Wilson asking if the decision at the 5 May Council meeting was lawful, the Chief Executive confirmed that it was. Councillor Wilson stated that Council was being asked to retake a lawfully taken decision despite the legal opinion finding the call-in to have no merit.

The Chief Executive clarified that the call-in was requested based on 41(1)(a) and 41(1)(b). He advised that the legal opinion found no merit in respect of 41(1)(b), but that on any occasion where 15% of Members request a reconsideration under 41(1)(a), Council must retake the decision. The Barrister confirmed that the Chief Executive was correct and stated that, under the 2014 Local Government Act, it is a requirement and in the spirit of the legislation to retake the decision. He stated that there is no legal jeopardy to retake the decision.

Councillor Wilson welcomed the clarity. He stated that during previous training, Councillors had been advised that decisions could fall back on individual Members of Council and noted that the paper at 3.1 stated that it was for information.

Councillor Wilson stated that the vote would reaffirm the decision taken on 5 May 2026. The Barrister clarified that Members' obligation is reconsideration of the matter rather than reaffirming the decision previously taken. He advised Members that they have a democratic mandate to consider the merits of the motion.

Councillor McGurk stated that it was regrettable that the 30 June 2026 Council meeting has had to reconvene. She stated that it is clear that some Members did not understand the call-in procedure. She stated that it was an egregious abuse of democratic powers to leave the 30 June Council meeting so that it was inquorate, as this circumvented the democratic process. She noted that the legal opinion identified sensitivities around the policy, and she asked that they are considered before a vote is taken.

Councillor Wilson stated that he was happy to proceed to a vote without a recess being called.

Councillor Watton stated that the Item was brought to the 30 June 2026 Council meeting because six unionists were missing from that meeting. Councillor Peacock challenged this and stated that the Item was published on the agenda as per the normal procedure. The Chief Executive confirmed that, on receipt of the Barrister's opinion, it went to the next available Council meeting, which was the 30 June 2026 Council meeting.

The Acting Senior Council Solicitor detailed the decisions previously agreed by Members, which were:

Decision A
Option 1 – Retain Current Policy (2015)
• Petition from at least one-third of occupiers required to initiate process
• Threshold of support of two-thirds of all occupiers on electoral register required
• Non-responses effectively treated as opposition
• Five-year restriction on reapplication

Decision B
Option 4 – Retain Current Approach and Maintain Dual Language Street Signage within the Street Naming and Property Numbering Policy.

<u>Proposal</u>
Proposed by Alderman Fielding
Seconded by Councillor Huggins
- That Council agree Option 1 for Decision A and option 4 for Decision B.

The Mayor put the Proposal to the Council to vote

18 Members voted For; 18 Members voted Against; 0 Members Abstained
Using her Casting vote the Mayor voted For

The Mayor declared the Proposal carried.

RESOLVED – That Council agrees Option 1 for Decision A and Option 4 for Decision B.

This being all the business, the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 6:30pm.

Mayor