

**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)

Key – 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 BILLINGUAL/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 Bilingual/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.

Proposal

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