



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF THE COUNCIL
HELD AT THE THEATRE AT THE MILL ON MONDAY 2 JUNE 2025 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : The Mayor - Councillor N Kelly (outgoing)
The Mayor – Councillor L Kirkpatrick (incoming)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – P Bradley, T Campbell, L Clarke,
M Cosgrove, M Magill, P Michael, J McGrath, S Ross and
J Smyth
- : Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Brady,
S Cosgrove, Cooper, H Cushinan, P Dunlop, R Foster,
J Gilmour, R Kinnear, R Lynch, H Magill, B Mallon, A McAuley,
E McLaughlin, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, L O'Hagan,
A O'Lone, M Stewart, S Ward, B Webb and S Wilson
- Members Present (Remotely)** : Councillors – S Flanagan, M Goodman and T McGrann
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive – R Baker
Director of Economic Development and Planning - M McAlister
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
Director of Community Planning - U Fay
Director of Sustainability – M Lavery
Director of Parks and Leisure Operations – M McDowell
Director of Organisation Development (Interim) – H Hall
Deputy Director of Governance – L Johnston
Borough Lawyer and Head of Legal Services – P Casey
Council Lawyer, Legal Services – A McDowell
Head of Corporate Affairs – J McIntyre
ICT Systems Support Officer – C Bell
ICT Helpdesk Officer – J Wilson
Member Services Manager – A Duffy
PA to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor – S Fisher
Member Services Officers – L Erwin and C McIntyre
Mayoral Driver / Attendant - J Connor

1. BIBLE READING, PRAYER AND WELCOME

The Deputy Mayor welcomed all present to the meeting and advised Members of the audio recording procedures.

The meeting opened with a Bible reading and prayer by outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dunlop

The outgoing Mayor, Councillor Kelly and Councillors Goodman and McGrann, joined the meeting.

2. APOLOGIES

Alderman Boyle

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

4. OUTGOING MAYOR'S REMARKS

At the conclusion of his term, the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Kelly expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Chief Executive, staff and Elected Members for their unwavering support afforded to him during his term as Mayor. He extended appreciation to the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dunlop emphasising the positive experience of their collaborative approach serving the entire Borough.

He conveyed his sincere thanks to his wife, Mayoress Christine acknowledging her steadfast guidance and support, which he credited as being instrumental in his political journey. He reflected on his time in office as an invaluable experience and one that he would cherish forever.

Additionally, he expressed his appreciation to his Party Group for entrusting him with the opportunity to serve as Mayor, recognising the privilege of holding the position and contributing to the community.

Party Group Leaders on behalf of their Groups, and individual Members paid tribute to the Mayor on a successful year.

5. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY INCLUDING MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR AND PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR'S MEDAL

5.1 APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR YEAR 3

Alderman Cosgrove nominated Councillor Kirkpatrick as Mayor for year 3.

Councillor Kirkpatrick was accordingly selected Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey for the year 2025/2026.

The Mayor, Councillor Kirkpatrick assumed the Chair.

In her opening remarks the Mayor expressed deep gratitude to her predecessor the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Kelly, and acknowledged the support of her colleagues, particularly Alderman Cosgrove, who nominated her for the role. She paid tribute to her friend and former colleague, the late Jim Montgomery, acknowledging his invaluable contributions throughout her career.

Reflecting on her time as Deputy Mayor in 2022/23, she highlighted key events such as the Platinum Jubilee, the passing of Queen Elizabeth II, and the Coronation of King Charles III, emphasising how these experiences were invaluable.

She also paid heartfelt tribute to her family, including her husband and two daughters, recognising their unwavering support and encouragement which had made this opportunity possible. A special tribute was paid to her late Grandmother, whom she described as her greatest inspiration.

She conveyed her enthusiasm for the year ahead, expressing her commitment to engaging with communities across the Borough and making a meaningful impact in her role as Mayor.

Members, on behalf of their Parties, congratulated the Mayor on her appointment.

5.2 PRESENTATION OF PAST MAYOR'S MEDAL

The Mayor, Councillor Kirkpatrick, presented Councillor Kelly with his past Mayor's medal and commended him again on his term in office.

Councillor O'Hagan left and returned to the Chamber during Item 5.3

5.3 OUTGOING DEPUTY MAYOR'S REMARKS

The outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dunlop expressed his gratitude for the opportunity to serve as Deputy Mayor, acknowledging the support of his Party. He paid tribute to the outgoing Mayor, Councillor Kelly for his leadership and dedication. He extended his thanks to the Chief Executive, Officers, Member Services and the Mayoral team for their professionalism and hard work.

A special acknowledgment was given to his wife, for her unwavering support as Deputy Mayoress. Finally, he congratulated the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor, wishing them success in their new roles.

Members, on behalf of their Parties, paid tribute, to the outgoing Deputy Mayor, Councillor Dunlop on a successful year.

Councillors Cooper and McLaughlin left and returned to the Chamber during Item 5.4.

5.4 APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY MAYOR YEAR 3

Councillor Webb nominated Councillor Gilmour as Deputy Mayor for Year 3.

Councillor Gilmour was accordingly selected Deputy Mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey for the year 2025/2026.

The Mayor congratulated Councillor Gilmour on her appointment as Deputy Mayor.

The Deputy Mayor, Councillor Gilmour expressed gratitude to her colleague and friend, Party Group Leader, Councillor Webb for the nomination and to the Alliance Party for their trust and support in her appointment. She acknowledged the contributions of the outgoing Mayor and Deputy Mayor, recognising the legacy they had left behind. She warmly thanked her husband and two sons, who were there to share her joy and celebrate the occasion with her.

Finally, she expressed her enthusiasm for working alongside the Mayor and serving the entire Borough in the year ahead.

Members, on behalf of their Parties, congratulated the Deputy Mayor on her appointment.

5.5 NOMINATION OF REMAINING POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY YEAR 3 – 2025/2026.

Members were nominated to the following positions of responsibility by their parties for year 3.

Party	Position	Member
UUP	Community Development Chairperson	Councillor S Wilson
DUP	Operations Chairperson	Alderman J Smyth
Sinn Féin	Planning Chairperson	Councillor R Kinnear
Alliance	Policy and Governance Chairperson	Councillor B Webb
Alliance	Audit and Risk Chairperson	Alderman J McGrath
DUP	Economic Development Chairperson	Councillor B Mallon
DUP	Community Development Vice Chairperson	Councillor M Brady
Sinn Féin	Operations Vice Chairperson	Councillor L O'Hagan
DUP	Planning Vice Chairperson	Councillor S Flanagan
DUP	Policy and Governance Vice Chairperson	Councillor H Magill

Sinn Féin	Audit and Risk Vice Chairperson	Councillor M Goodman
UUP	Economic Development Vice Chairperson	Alderman M Cosgrove

POSITIONS OF RESPONSIBILITY – YEAR 3 (ALREADY AGREED FOR TERM OF COUNCIL)

Members were reminded that positions of responsibility were agreed for the term of Council at the Annual Meeting in May 2023, with changes being made to arc21 representation at the 2024 Annual Meeting.

Subsequently, a further change was now required following Councillor Lynch's resignation from arc21 leaving a vacant position.

Following d'Hondt order, Sinn Féin party declined to appoint to position 75. At position 76, Alderman Magill confirmed Alison Bennington as the DUP nomination to the vacant arc21 position.

Members were nominated to the following positions of responsibility for the remaining term of Council as follows:

arc21	Sinn Féin	Councillor M Goodman
arc21	DUP	Councillor A Bennington
arc21	Sinn Féin	Councillor H Cushinan
Housing Council	DUP	Councillor M Cooper
Partnership Panel	UUP	Alderman M Cosgrove
NI Veterans Advisory	DUP	Councillor A Bennington

6. NOMINATION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEES YEAR 3 - 2025/2026

Nominating Officers provided details in relation to Committee Membership which was tabled at the meeting.

Members were nominated to Committees for Year 3.

YEAR 3 – 2025/26 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Total Membership 15

POSITION	PARTY	MEMBER
Chairperson	UUP	Councillor S Wilson
Vice Chairperson	DUP	Councillor M Brady
Member	DUP	Councillor P Dunlop
Member	DUP	Alderman S Ross
Member	DUP	Councillor H Magill
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor A O'Lone
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor T McGrann
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor M Ní Chonghaile
Member	Alliance	Councillor J Burbank
Member	Alliance	Councillor J Gilmour
Member	Alliance	Alderman J McGrath
Member	UUP	Councillor V McWilliam
Member	UUP	Councillor S Cosgrove
Member	SDLP	Councillor R Lynch
Member	Ind 1	Councillor M Stewart

YEAR 3 – 2024/25 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Total Membership 15

POSITION	PARTY	MEMBER
Chairperson	DUP	Alderman J Smyth
Vice Chairperson	Sinn Féin	Councillor L O'Hagan
Member	DUP	Alderman P Bradley
Member	DUP	Alderman L Clarke
Member	DUP	Councillor J Archibald-Brown
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor E McLaughlin
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor AM Logue
Member	Alliance	Councillor J Gilmour
Member	Alliance	Councillor N Kelly
Member	Alliance	Councillor A McAuley
Member	Alliance	Alderman L Boyle
Member	UUP	Councillor R Foster
Member	UUP	Councillor V McWilliam
Member	Ind 1	Councillor M Stewart
Member	Ind 2	Councillor S Ward

YEAR 3 – 2025/26 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Total Membership 15

POSITION	PARTY	MEMBER
Chairperson	Alliance	Councillor B Webb
Vice Chairperson	DUP	Councillor H Magill
Member	DUP	Councillor P Dunlop
Member	DUP	Alderman P Bradley
Member	DUP	Alderman L Clarke
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor A O'Lone
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor H Cushinan
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor M Goodman
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor T McGrann
Member	Alliance	Councillor A McAuley
Member	Alliance	Councillor N Kelly
Member	Alliance	Councillor J Burbank
Member	UUP	Councillor S Cosgrove
Member	UUP	Councillor V McWilliam
Member	UUP	Alderman M Cosgrove

YEAR 3 – 2025/26 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

PLANNING COMMITTEE

Total Membership 12

POSITION	PARTY	MEMBER
Chairperson	Sinn Féin	Councillor R Kinnear
Vice Chairperson	DUP	Councillor S Flanagan
Member	DUP	Councillor J Archibald-Brown
Member	DUP	Councillor A Bennington
Member	DUP	Alderman M Magill
Member	DUP	Councillor B Mallon
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor H Cushinan
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor AM Logue
Member	Alliance	Alderman T Campbell
Member	Alliance	Alderman L Boyle
Member	UUP	Councillor R Foster
Member	UUP	Councillor S Cosgrove

YEAR 3 – 2025/26 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

AUDIT AND RISK COMMITTEE

Total Membership 6

POSITION	PARTY	MEMBER
Chairperson	Alliance	Alderman J McGrath
Vice Chairperson	Sinn Féin	Councillor M Goodman
Member	DUP	Councillor A Bennington
Member	DUP	Councillor S Flanagan
Member	DUP	Alderman S Ross
Member	UUP	Councillor S Wilson

YEAR 3 – 2025/26 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Total Membership 8

POSITION	PARTY	MEMBER
Chairperson	DUP	Councillor B Mallon
Vice Chairperson	UUP	Alderman M Cosgrove
Member	DUP	Councillor M Cooper
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor E McLaughlin
Member	Sinn Féin	Councillor M Ní Chonghaile
Member	Alliance	Councillor J Burbank
Member	Alliance	Councillor B Webb
Member	Ind 1	Councillor M Stewart

7. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO OUTSIDE BODIES YEAR 3-2025/2026

Nominations were tabled at the meeting based on the 2024/2025 representation to Outside Bodies, with a change in one of the Council's Mindwise Mental Health representatives from Alderman McGrath to Councillor McGrann

During proceedings Alderman Magill advised of the DUP nomination change on the THRIVE project from Councillor Mallon to Councillor Brady.

Proposed by Councillor Webb

Seconded by Alderman Magill and agreed that

nominations to the positions and to Outside Bodies for Year 3 be agreed.

Members were nominated to Outside Bodies Year 3 as follows:

BODY	No.	Agreed Term	Year 3 NOMINATION
Belfast Hills Partnership	2	Annual	Councillor A McAuley
			Councillor E McLaughlin
Diversity Champions	4	Annual	Alderman P Bradley
			Councillor M Ní Chonghaile
			Alderman L Boyle
			Councillor L O'Hagan
Knockagh Monument Joint Committee	2	Annual	Alderman S Ross
			Councillor R Foster
Local Government Partnership on Traveller Issues	3	Annual	Councillor M Goodman
			Councillor A McAuley
			Councillor R Lynch
Lough Neagh Partnership	5	Annual	Councillor P Dunlop
			Councillor H Cushinan
			Councillor J Burbank
			Councillor S Wilson
			Councillor R Lynch

BODY	No.	Agreed Term	Year 3 NOMINATION
Mindwise Mental Health Champions	2	Annual	Councillor T McGrann
			Councillor R Lynch
National Association of Councillors	8	Term of Council	Alderman J Smyth
			Councillor J Archibald-Brown
			Councillor B Mallon
			Councillor L O'Hagan
			Councillor M Goodman
			Councillor J Gilmour
			Councillor B Webb
			Councillor S Cosgrove
Northern Ireland Amenity Council	1	Annual	Councillor V McWilliam
Sixmilewater Trust	5	Annual	Councillor J Archibald-Brown
			Councillor L O'Hagan
			Alderman L Boyle
			Councillor S Wilson
			Councillor R Lynch
Somme Association	2	Annual	Councillor R Foster
			Alderman S Ross
Swift Champion	1	Annual	Councillor A Logue
All Party Group on Climate Action	2	Annual	Councillor J Burbank
			Councillor R Lynch
Barnardo's The THRIVE Project	2	Annual	Councillor M Brady
(One Macedon and one Threemilewater)			Councillor J Gilmour
APSE Representative	1	Term of Council	Councillor B Webb

BODY	No.	Agreed Term	Year 3 NOMINATION
		Via d'Hondt (Alliance nomination position 62)	
NILGA Strategic Policy Network representative	1	Term of Council	Alderman J Smyth

8. NOMINATIONS OF MEMBERS TO NILGA YEAR 3

Members were nominated to NILGA by their parties for Year 3 as follows:

	PARTY	NOMINATION
1	Alliance	Councillor B Webb
2	DUP	Councillor A Bennington
3	Sinn Féin	Councillor M Goodman
4	UUP	Councillor V McWilliam
5	DUP	Councillor M Cooper
6	Alliance	Councillor J Gilmour
7	Sinn Féin	Councillor H Cushinan
8	DUP	Alderman J Smyth

There being no further business the Mayor thanked everyone for attending and the meeting concluded at 7.32pm.

MAYOR