

Council

ANNUAL MEETING OF BELFAST CITY COUNCIL

Held in the City Hall on Thursday, 1st June, 2006
at the hour of 6.00 o'clock p.m., pursuant to Notice.

Members present: The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor
(Councillor W. Browne) (Chairman);
the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery);
the High Sheriff (Councillor Humphrey); and
Councillors Adamson, Attwood, Austin, D. Browne,
M. Browne, Campbell, Cobain, Crozier, Cunningham,
Cush, D. Dodds, N. Dodds, Ekin, Empey, Ervine,
Hanna, Hartley, Hendron, Jones, Kelly, Kirkpatrick,
Lavery, Long, Maginness, A. Maskey, P. Maskey,
McCann, McCarthy, McCausland, McClenaghan,
McCoubrey, McGimpsey, McKenzie, McMillen,
Mhic Giolla Mhín, Moore, Mullaghan, Newton,
Ní Chuilín, O'Neill, O'Reilly, Patterson, Rodgers,
Rodway, Smyth, Stalford, Stoker and Wilson.

Reading of Scriptures

In accordance with Standing Order 9, the Lord Mayor read a short passage from the Scriptures.

Filming and Recording of Proceedings

The Chief Executive reported that requests had been received from a number of broadcasting companies for permission to film and record the election and installation of the new Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor. He requested that the Council indicate whether it wished to accede to the requests.

The Council granted permission for the companies to be admitted to the Council Chamber to record the election and installation of the new Lord Mayor and the Deputy Lord Mayor.

Expression of Thanks

The Lord Mayor (Councillor W. Browne) reviewed his year of Office and expressed his appreciation for the support which he had received from the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery), the High Sheriff (Councillor Humphrey), the former High Sheriff (Councillor D. Browne) and the Lady Mayoress. The Lord Mayor placed on record his appreciation of the support which he had received from all Members throughout his term of Office and for the staff who had assisted him during the previous year.

Tributes

Representatives of each of the Party Groupings on the Council paid tribute to the Lord Mayor (Councillor W. Browne) for the manner in which he had fulfilled his duties during his year of Office.

Election of Lord Mayor

Nominations were invited for the Office of Lord Mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor McCarthy was proposed by Councillor Maginness and seconded by the Deputy Lord Mayor (Councillor Convery), while Councillor Ní Chuilín was proposed by Councillor A. Maskey and seconded by Councillor Cunningham.

On a vote by show of hands thirty-seven Members voted for Councillor McCarthy and fourteen for Councillor Ní Chuilín.

It was accordingly

Resolved – That Councillor Pat McCarthy be and he is hereby elected Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2007.

Councillor McCarthy, having been conducted to the dais by Councillors Convery and Maginness, was installed in Office and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.

(The Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McCarthy) in the Chair.)

Councillor McCarthy expressed his gratitude to the Members for the honour which they had bestowed upon him by electing him to the Office of Lord Mayor. He then outlined what he hoped to achieve during his term of Office and indicated that his theme for the year would be to promote a Shared Future for all citizens of the City.

Election of Deputy Lord Mayor

The Lord Mayor invited nominations for the post of Deputy Lord Mayor for the ensuing year. Councillor Patterson was proposed by Councillor Stalford and seconded by Councillor McMillen, while Councillor Lavery was proposed by Councillor McClenaghan and seconded by Councillor Moore.

On a vote by show of hands thirty-six Members voted for Councillor Patterson and fourteen for Councillor Lavery.

It was accordingly

Resolved – That Councillor Ruth Patterson be and she is hereby elected Deputy Lord Mayor of the City of Belfast for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2007.

Councillor Patterson, having been conducted to the dais by Councillors Stalford and McMillen, was installed in Office and subscribed to the Declaration of Acceptance of Office. She then thanked the Members for her election.

Minutes

Moved by the Right Honourable the Lord Mayor (Councillor McCarthy),
Seconded by Councillor Stalford and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Monthly Meeting of the Council of 2nd May, 2006 be taken as read and signed as correct.

(The Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Patterson, in the Chair.)

Appointment of Members to Standing Committees, Sub-Committees and the Housing Liaison Committee

The Council considered the appointment of Members to the Standing Committees, Sub-Committees and the Housing Liaison Committee and it was

Resolved – That the Standing Committees, Sub-Committees and the Housing Liaison Committee as set out below, having been constituted in conformity with Acts of Parliament, Standing Orders and Resolutions of Council, be and they are hereby appointed for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2007 or until such time as the Council might determine otherwise:

Membership of Standing Committees

Policy and Resources Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor Crozier
Councillor D. Dodds
Councillor McCausland
Councillor Newton
Councillor Rodway
Councillor Wilson

Sinn Féin Group (6)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor Hartley
Councillor Lavery
Councillor A. Maskey
Councillor McCann
Councillor Moore

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Attwood
Councillor Maginness
Councillor O'Reilly

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor D. Browne
Councillor Cobain
Councillor Rodgers

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Jones

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

Community and Recreation Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (5)

Councillor W. Browne
Councillor Campbell
Councillor Humphrey
Councillor McMillen
Councillor Stalford

Sinn Féin Group (5)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor McCann
Councillor McClenaghan
Councillor Ní Chuilín
Councillor O'Neill

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Attwood
Councillor Convery
Councillor Mullaghan

Ulster Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor McCoubrey
Councillor Rodgers
Councillor Stoker

Alliance Party Group (2)

Councillor Ekin
Councillor Hendron

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Ervine

Development Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor Crozier
Councillor D. Dodds
Councillor Humphrey
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor McCausland
Councillor Newton

Sinn Féin Group (5)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor Hartley
Councillor A. Maskey
Councillor P. Maskey
Councillor Ní Chuilín

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Convery
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Maginness

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor Empey
Councillor McGimpsey
Councillor Stoker

Alliance Party Group (2)

Councillor Ekin
Councillor Long

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor W. Browne
Councillor Campbell
Councillor N. Dodds
Councillor Kirkpartrick
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Patterson

Sinn Féin Group (6)

Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Cush
Councillor McCann
Councillor McClenaghan
Councillor Mhic Giolla Mhín
Councillor O'Neill

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (4)

Councillor Hanna
Councillor Kelly
Councillor Mullaghan
Councillor O'Reilly

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor D. Browne
Councillor McCoubrey

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Jones

Town Planning Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor Campbell
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Patterson
Councillor Rodway
Councillor Stalford
Councillor Wilson

Sinn Féin Group (5)

Councillor Lavery
Councillor P. Maskey
Councillor McClenaghan
Councillor Moore
Councillor O'Neill

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Hanna
Councillor Maginness
Councillor Mullaghan

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor Cobain
Councillor Empey
Councillor McGimpsey

Alliance Party Group (2)

Councillor Hendron
Councillor Long

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

Membership of Sub-Committees

**Finance, Administration and Information
Systems Sub-Committee**

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Campbell
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Newton

Sinn Féin Party Group (3)

Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Hartley
Councillor O'Neill

**Social Democratic and Labour
Party Group (2)**

Councillor Maginness
Councillor O'Reilly

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor D. Browne
Councillor Rodgers

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Jones

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Ervine

Members' Sub-Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor Crozier
Councillor McMillen
Councillor Patterson

Sinn Féin Party Group (4)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor Lavery
Councillor McCann
Councillor Ní Chuilín

**Social Democratic and Labour
Party Group (2)**

Councillor Kelly
Councillor O'Reilly

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor Cobain
Councillor McCoubrey

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Hendron

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

Personnel Sub-Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor N. Dodds
Councillor Patterson
Councillor Rodway
Councillor Wilson

Sinn Féin Party Group (3)

Councillor Cunningham
Councillor P. Maskey
Councillor Moore

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (2)**

Councillor Kelly
Councillor Mullaghan

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor Cobain
Councillor Rodgers

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Ekin

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

**Policy and Performance Review
Sub-Committee**

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Campbell
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor Newton

Sinn Féin Party Group (3)

Councillor Austin
Councillor Mhic Giolla Mhín
Councillor Moore

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (2)**

Councillor Attwood
Councillor Mullaghan

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor Stoker

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Ekin

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Ervine

**Belfast Waterfront and Ulster
Halls Board**

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Crozier
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor Rodway
Councillor Stalford

Sinn Féin Party Group (3)

Councillor Austin
Councillor Lavery
Councillor Mhic Giolla Mhín

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (3)**

Councillor Convery
Councillor Maginness
Councillor O'Reilly

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor Empey
Councillor McGimpsey

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Ekin

**Community and Leisure Services
Sub-Committee**

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Campbell
Councillor McMillen
Councillor Newton
Councillor Patterson

Sinn Féin Party Group (4)

Councillor Lavery
Councillor McCann
Councillor Moore
Councillor O'Neill

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (2)**

Councillor Attwood
Councillor Convery

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor D. Browne
Councillor Stoker

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Long

**Parks and Cemeteries Services
Sub-Committee**

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor W. Browne
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor McCausland
Councillor Stalford

Arts Sub-Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Humphrey
Councillor Kirkpatrick
Councillor McCausland
Councillor Newton

Sinn Féin Party Group (4)

Councillor Austin
Councillor Cush
Councillor Hartley
Councillor McClenaghan

Sinn Féin Party Group (4)

Councillor Cunningham
Councillor Hartley
Councillor Lavery
Councillor P. Maskey

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (2)**

Councillor Attwood
Councillor O'Reilly

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (2)**

Councillor Kelly
Councillor Maginness

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor McGimpsey
Councillor Rodgers

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor Cobain

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Long

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Long

Economic Development Sub-Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor Crozier
Councillor D. Dodds
Councillor Newton

Sinn Féin Party Group (4)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor P. Maskey
Councillor McCann
Councillor McClenaghan

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (2)**

Councillor Convery
Councillor Maginness

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor Empey
Councillor Stoker

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Jones

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

**Tourism and Promotion of Belfast
Sub-Committee**

Democratic Unionist Party Group (4)

Councillor Crozier
Councillor D. Dodds
Councillor Humphrey
Councillor Patterson

Sinn Féin Party Group (4)

Councillor M. Browne
Councillor Hartley
Councillor P. Maskey
Councillor Mhic Giolla Mhín

**Social Democratic and
Labour Party Group (2)**

Councillor Mullaghan
Councillor O'Reilly

Ulster Unionist Party Group (2)

Councillor Adamson
Councillor McCoubrey

Alliance Party Group (1)

Councillor Hendron

Membership of Housing Liaison Committee

Democratic Unionist Party Group (6)

Councillor Campbell
Councillor Humphrey
Councillor McCausland
Councillor McKenzie
Councillor McMillen
Councillor Patterson

Sinn Féin Group (5)

Councillor Austin
Councillor Cush
Councillor McCann
Councillor Ní Chuilín
Councillor O'Neill

Social Democratic and Labour Party Group (3)

Councillor Attwood
Councillor Convery
Councillor Kelly

Ulster Unionist Party Group (3)

Councillor D. Browne
Councillor Empey
Councillor McCoubrey

Alliance Party Group (2)

Councillor Hendron
Councillor Jones

Progressive Unionist Party Group (1)

Councillor Smyth

**Appointment of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of Standing Committees,
Sub-Committees and the Housing Liaison Committee**

The Council considered the appointment of Chairmen and Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees, Sub-Committees and of the Housing Liaison Committee and it was

Resolved – That, in accordance with Standing Order 43, the Chairmen and the Deputy Chairmen of the Standing Committees, Sub-Committees and the Housing Liaison Committee as set out below be and they are hereby approved and adopted for appointment for the period to end on the date of the Annual Meeting of the Council to be held in June, 2007 or until such time as the Council might determine otherwise:

	Chairmanships	Deputy Chairmanships
	Party	Party
Policy and Resources	Sinn Fein Councillor A. Maskey	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor Rodway
Community and Recreation	Ulster Unionist Party Councillor Stoker	Sinn Fein Councillor O'Neill
Development	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor McCausland	Sinn Fein Councillor P. Maskey
Health and Environmental Services	Social Democratic and Labour Party Councillor O'Reilly	Ulster Unionist Party Councillor Adamson
Town Planning	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor Patterson (Deputy Lord Mayor)	Social Democratic and Labour Party Councillor Mullaghan
Finance, Administration and Information Systems	Alliance Councillor Jones	Sinn Fein Councillor Cunningham
Members'	Sinn Fein Councillor Lavery	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor Patterson (Deputy Lord Mayor)
Personnel	Ulster Unionist Party Councillor Cobain	Sinn Fein Councillor Moore
Policy and Performance Review	Social Democratic and Labour Party Councillor Attwood	Social Democratic and Labour Party Councillor Mullaghan

	Chairmanships	Deputy Chairmanships
	Party	Party
Belfast Waterfront and Ulster Halls Board	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor Stalford	Social Democratic and Labour Party Councillor Convery
Community and Leisure Services	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor Newton	Sinn Fein Councillor McCann
Parks and Cemeteries Services	Ulster Unionist Party Councillor Rodgers	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor W. Browne
Arts	Social Democratic and Labour Party Councillor Kelly	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor Kirkpatrick
Economic Development	Sinn Fein Councillor M. Browne	Ulster Unionist Party Councillor Stoker
Tourism and Promotion of Belfast	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor D. Dodds	Sinn Fein Councillor Hartley
Housing Liaison Committee	Sinn Fein Councillor Cush	Democratic Unionist Party Councillor Campbell

Change of Membership on Outside Bodies

The Council was advised that the Democratic Unionist Party Grouping had indicated that it wished Councillor Rodway to replace Councillor McKenzie on the membership of the Belfast Education and Library Board. In addition, notification had been received from the Social Democratic and Labour Party Grouping advising that it wished Councillor Mullaghan to replace Councillor McCarthy on the Belfast Education and Library Board, Councillor Attwood to replace Councillor McCarthy on the membership of Investment Belfast Limited and Councillor Maginness to replace Councillor McCarthy on the Board of the Harbour Commissioners.

The Council approved the foregoing amendments for the period to end on the date of the next Local Government Elections.

Policy and Resources Committee

Moved by Councillor A. Maskey,
Seconded by Councillor Hartley,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Policy and Resources Committee of 5th and 19th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Amendment

Good Relations Funding Applications

Moved by Councillor McCausland,
Seconded by Councillor M. Browne and

Resolved – That the decision of the Policy and Resources Committee of 19th May under the heading “Good Relations and Equality Issues – Funding Applications”, agreeing to defer consideration of all of the applications listed in the minute in order to enable further information and clarification in respect of certain of the applications to be obtained, be amended to provide that, in light of the advice given at the meeting by the Chief Executive that the criteria for the award of Good Relations funding was being reviewed currently and would address all of the concerns raised by the Members and in order not to delay or otherwise adversely affect the applications already received, assessed and recommended for acceptance against existing criteria, the recommendations of the Good Relations Panel to award the grant-aid as set out in the minute be adopted on the understanding that the review of the criteria would be completed and submitted to the Policy and Resources Committee for approval within a period of three months.

Adoption of Minutes

Subject to the foregoing amendment, the original proposal relevant to the minutes of the Policy and Resources Committee was thereupon put to the meeting and passed.

Community and Recreation Committee

Moved by Councillor Stoker,
Seconded by Councillor McCann,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Community and Recreation Committee of 16th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Amendment

Bonfire Management

Moved by Councillor Jones,
Seconded by Councillor Long,

That the decision of the Community and Recreation Committee under the heading “Bonfire Management” be amended to provide that the report which had been submitted to the Committee was inaccurate in that it referred to the inclusion of Pitt Park in the pilot project and accordingly that any reference to Pitt Park be removed from the minute.

On a vote by show of hands four Members voted for the amendment and twenty-two against and it was accordingly declared lost.

Adoption of Minutes

The original proposal relevant to the minutes of the meeting of the Community and Recreation Committee was thereupon put to the meeting and passed.

Development Committee

Moved by Councillor McCausland,
Seconded by Councillor D. Dodds,

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 17th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

**Request for Matter to be Taken
Back for Further Consideration**

**Northern Ireland Tourist Board – Culture
and Heritage Tourism Action Plan**

The Chairman (Councillor McCausland), at the request of Councillor D. Dodds and with the consent of the Council, agreed that the minute of the Development Committee under the heading “Northern Ireland Tourist Board – Culture and Heritage Tourism Action Plan” be referred back to the Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub-Committee for further consideration.

Adoption of Minutes

The original proposal relevant to the minutes of the Development Committee was thereupon put to the meeting and passed in the following form:

That the minutes of the proceedings of the Development Committee of 17th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted, subject to the omission of the minute of the Development Committee under the heading “Northern Ireland Tourist Board – Culture and Heritage Tourism Action Plan” which, at the request of Councillor D. Dodds, is referred back to the Tourism and Promotion of Belfast Sub-Committee for further consideration.

Health and Environmental Services Committee

Moved by Councillor O'Reilly,
Seconded by Councillor McCann and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Health and Environmental Services Committee of 8th May be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Town Planning Committee

Moved by Councillor Smyth,
Seconded by Councillor Stalford and

Resolved – That the minutes of the proceedings of the Town Planning Committee of 4th and 18th May, omitting matters in respect of which the Council had delegated its powers to the Committee, be and they are hereby approved and adopted.

Notice of Motion

Review of 50% Remission for Sex Offenders

In accordance with Notice on the Agenda, Councillor N. Dodds proposed:

“This Council notes the fact that an act of murder was carried out in the Province on an innocent victim by a dangerous sex offender released from custody under the current system of remission. In the interests of the citizens of Belfast, the Council calls for an immediate review of the processes applied to such offenders with the aim of removing the concession of granting to offenders 50% remission and calls also for an investigation into the adequacy or otherwise of the monitoring of sex offenders after they have been released from prison.”

The proposal was seconded by Councillor Newton.

Amendment

Moved by Councillor M. Browne,
Seconded by Councillor Ní Chuilín,

That the Notice of Motion standing in the name of Councillor N. Dodds be amended by the addition of the following paragraphs:

“We further call for measures to ensure a free flow of information between the necessary statutory bodies throughout the islands of Ireland and Britain to ensure a comprehensive post imprisonment monitoring scheme.

We call for the development of a process exploring the area of preventive measures and for the introduction of a sentencing policy that reflects the seriousness of sex-related crime.”

On a vote by show of hands twenty-three Members voted for the amendment and fifteen against and it was accordingly declared carried.

The Motion, as amended, was thereupon put to the meeting as the substantive Motion and was passed without dissent.