

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Special Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Council Chamber and Remote Locations on Thursday, 26 June, 2025 at 6:01 pm**

**PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor D Bassett (Acting Chair)  
Mr E Jardine (Independent Member and Vice-Chair)  
Alderman O Gawith  
Councillors J Bamford, D J Craig, A Martin and M McKeever

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Aldermen S P Porter and J Tinsley  
Councillors S Burns, S Lowry and B Magee

**OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillors P Catney and G Hynds

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

Chief Executive  
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation  
Head of Finance  
Internal Audit Manager (remotely)  
IT Officer  
Member Services Officers (CR and EW)

**Northern Ireland Audit Office:**

Mr R Ross (remotely)

**RBCA**

Mr B Stewart (remotely)

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, the Director of Organisation Development and Innovation advised that the Chair, Councillor D Lynch, was unable to be present. As the Vice-Chair, Mr E Jardine, was an Independent Member, he was not permitted to chair the meeting and, in line with protocol, this responsibility fell to another Member of Councillor Lynch's Party, Sinn Féin. The Director advised that Councillor D Bassett would be chairing the meeting in Councillor Lynch's absence.

The Acting Chair, Councillor D Bassett, welcomed those present. He pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under confidential business, this meeting would be audio recorded. In accordance with the Protocol for Remote Meetings, the Chair asked that those attending via zoom ensure that the meeting could not be seen or heard by any other person at their remote location when confidential business was being considered.

The Acting Chair, Councillor D Bassett asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting. The Director of Organisation Development and Innovation outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of the Chair, Councillor D Lynch, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman A Grehan, and Councillors A P Ewing and J Gallen.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

At this point, the Acting Chair, Councillor D Bassett, extended a welcome to Mr R Ross, Northern Ireland Audit Office, and Mr B Stewart, RBCA.

3. Confidential Business

The item of business in the confidential report would be dealt with “in Committee” due to containing information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor A Martin, seconded by Councillor D J Craig, and agreed that the following matter be considered “in Committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

3.1 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council – Approval of Statement of Accounts for Year ended 31 March, 2025

(Report would never become available but Final Certified Accounts would be published)

Councillor J Bamford arrived to the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.07 pm).

A number of Members’ queries having been responded to by Officers, it was proposed by Councillor M McKeever, seconded by Councillor D J Craig and agreed that the Draft Statement of Accounts be approved and submitted to the Northern Ireland Audit Office by the 30 June, 2025.

Members commended Officers for their work in preparing the Draft Statement of Accounts.

Councillor P Catney left the meeting at 6.25 pm.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor A Martin and agreed to come “out of Committee” and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.26 pm.

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Mayor/Chairman