

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held remotely and in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Wednesday 25th January 2023 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER:

Councillor S Hughes (Chairman)
Councillor U Mackin (Vice-Chairman)
Aldermen A Ewart MBE, O Gawith, S Martin and J Tinsley
Councillors A Ewing, S Lowry, J McCarthy and The Hon N Trimble

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE):

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor S Carson
Deputy Mayor
Councillor M Guy
Aldermen M Henderson MBE and P Porter
Councillors R Carlin, J Lavery BEM and T Mitchell

OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT IN THE CHAMBER

Aldermen W J Dillon MBE and A Grehan
Councillor A Swan

OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

Councillors F Cole, A Givan, A Gowan, M Gregg, S Lee, C McCready, A McIntyre, Jenny Palmer, John Palmer and S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Director of Leisure & Community Wellbeing
Director of Service Transformation
Head of Corporate Communications & Administration (Remote)
Head of Finance
Communications Manager
Member Services Officers (BF & RN)

Commencement of Meeting

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting and advised that it would be audio recorded unless the item on the agenda was to be considered under confidential business.

The names of those Elected Members who were in attendance at the meeting, both in person and on a remote basis, were read out by the Member Services Officer.

The Chairman stated that unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per 8.5 of the Council's Standing Orders. The Chairman also reminded everyone to ensure that mobile phones were turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

The Director of Finance & Corporate Services proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency. Finally the Chairman asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert the Member Services Officer accordingly so that this might be accurately reflected in the minutes.

1. Apologies (00:02:25)

There were no apologies.

2. Declarations of Interest (00:02:32)

The Chairman invited Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided with the papers for the meeting and which were also available in the Chamber.

No declarations of interest were made.

3. Confidential Report from Director of Finance & Corporate Services (00:02:55)

The reasons for confidentiality were as set out in the agenda, ie:-

3.1 Estimates Process 2023/2024

(Confidential for reason of (i) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and (ii) information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees of, or office holders under, the Council.)

Final estimates will be released.

In Committee

It was proposed by Alderman A Ewart, seconded by Councillor S Lowry and agreed that the Confidential Report of the Director be considered “in Committee”. (The audio recording was paused at this stage in proceedings.)

3.1 Estimates Process 2023/2024

A copy of the explanatory report and draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for the Financial Year 2023/2024 had been made available prior to the meeting. The Director of Finance & Corporate Services presented the report. Several Members offered comment on the matter of an Applied Balance.

The Committee considered the report provided and - following a discussion - in line with budgetary requirements, it was agreed on a Proposal made by Councillor U Mackin and seconded by Alderman A Ewart that a balance be applied.

This decision would be presented to the Special Meeting of Council being held on the 9th February 2023 to consider the Striking of a District Rate.

During discussion and prior to any decision, Councillors A Givan, C McCreedy and S Skillen, joined the meeting remotely.

During the course of proceedings, a number of Members expressed their thanks to the Chief Executive, Directors, Head of Finance and Finance Team for their work on the Draft Estimates. The Chairman of the Committee, Councillor S Hughes, endorsed this appreciation and also expressed his thanks to the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members of the other Committees.

Resumption of Normal Business (00:03:35)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman A Ewart and agreed to come “out of Committee”. Normal business and the audio recording were resumed.

There being no further business, the Special Meeting concluded at 6.24 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIRMAN