

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Council Chamber and in remote locations on Thursday, 22 September, 2022 at 6:04 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Alderman D Drysdale (Chairman)
Councillor Jenny Palmer (Vice-Chairperson)
Aldermen J Baird, O Gawith and J Tinsley
Councillors D J Craig, C McCready, John Palmer and A Swan

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Aldermen S Martin and S P Porter
Councillors J Gallen, S Lowry, G McCleave

INDEPENDENT MEMBER:

Mr E Jardine (present remotely)

OTHER MEMBERS:

Councillors A Givan and J Laverty (present remotely)

IN ATTENDANCE:

Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive
Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Head of Finance
Internal Audit Manager (present remotely)
Member Services Officers

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Mr P O'Sullivan (present remotely)

Commencement of Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, Chairman, Alderman D Drysdale, welcomed those present to the special meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee which had been convened in order to consider the Annual Statement of Accounts and Report to Those Charged with Governance, both of which had only been able to be finalised this week. In line with Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (NI) 2020, the meeting was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. The Chairman pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under confidential business, this meeting would be broadcast live online and members of the public should be aware that they were likely to be captured on the livestream. Data captured on the livestream was processed in the exercise of official authority which covered public functions and powers which were set out in law and to perform a specific task in the public interest.

At this point, the Member Services Officer read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman, Alderman D Drysdale, stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting. The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Councillor M Guy, Councillor J McCarthy and Independent Member, Mr E Jardine.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Confidential Business

The matters contained 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 D J Craig, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed that the following matters be considered "in Committee" in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The live-stream was paused at this stage in proceedings (6.08 pm).

3.1 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Approval of Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31 March, 2022

Members had been provided with a copy of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March, 2022. The Head of Finance answered a number of Members' queries and agreed to respond directly to Alderman S P Porter on a matter he raised.

It was proposed by Councillor S Lowry, seconded by Councillor A Swan and agreed to recommend that the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March, 2022 be accepted and be signed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

The Chairman and Members commended Council Officers for the work involved in the preparation of the Statement of Accounts.

3.2 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Report to Those Charged with Governance 2021-2022

The Chairman, Alderman D Drysdale, welcomed Mr P O'Sullivan from the Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) to the meeting.

Members had been provided with a copy of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Report to Those Charged with Governance 2021-2022. Mr O'Sullivan made a verbal presentation, highlighting the key points in the report, thanked Council Officers for their assistance to the NIAO throughout the Audit and responded to several queries raised by Members.

The Chairman and Members commended the Report to Those Charged with Governance and paid tribute to Council Officers for their efforts in bringing about this successful report.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to recommend that the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Report to Those Charged with Governance 2021-2022 be noted.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor Jenny Palmer and agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.35 pm.

Mayor/Chairman