

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on Thursday, 29 June, 2023 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Councillor R McLernon (Chairman)

Alderman O Gawith

Councillors D Bassett, S Burns, D J Craig, A P Ewing, C Kemp, P Kennedy, A Martin and M McKeever

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Mr E Jardine (Independent Member and Vice-Chairman)

Alderman S P Porter

Councillors P Burke and A Givan

OTHER MEMBERS:

Councillor G Hynds (present in Council Chamber)

IN ATTENDANCE:

In Chamber:

Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Director of Organisation Development and Innovation
Head of Finance
IT Officer
Member Services Officers

In Remote Location:

Internal Audit Manager
Mr P Barr, Northern Ireland Audit Office

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, welcomed those present. He pointed out that, unless the item on the agenda was considered under confidential business, this meeting would be audio recorded.

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

The Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, 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.

Alderman S P Porter joined the meeting at this stage (6.02 pm).

1. Apologies

It was agreed to accept apologies for non-attendance at the meeting on behalf of The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, and Councillors J Gallen and S Lowry.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Confidential Business

The matter 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 Alderman O Gawith, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing and agreed that the following matter be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

3.1 Draft Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March, 2023
(Final Certified Accounts will be published)

Councillor P Burke joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.10 pm).

Members were provided with a copy of the Draft Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March, 2023, which included the Governance Statement.

A number of queries were addressed by Officers and, for the benefit of Members recently appointed to the Committee, the Head of Finance provided a brief overview of the penny product and the de-rating grant. She also agreed to provide information to Alderman S P Porter in relation to the average yearly underspend since the formation of the new Council in 2015.

It being noted that delegated authority had been granted to the Committee in this regard, it was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed that the Draft Statement of Accounts be approved and submitted to the Northern Ireland Audit Office.

On behalf of the Committee, the Chairman, Councillor R McLernon, thanked Officers for their work in preparing the Draft Statement of Accounts.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor C Kemp, seconded by Councillor M McKeever and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.30 pm.

Mayor/Chairman