

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on Thursday, 24 June, 2021 at 6:00 pm**

**PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

Councillor John Palmer (Chairman)

Alderman J Baird (Vice-Chairman)

Aldermen S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors S Eastwood, J Lavery BEM, C McCready and A Swan

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor

Alderman S Martin

Alderman O Gawith

Councillors S Carson, S Lee, S Lowry, G McCleave and R McLernon

**IN ATTENDANCE:**

**In Chamber:**

Chief Executive

Director of Finance and Corporate Services

IT Officer

Technician

Member Services Officers

Administrative Assistant

**In Remote Location:**

Head of Finance

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor John Palmer welcomed those present to the special meeting, which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings.

At this point, the Administrative Assistant read out the names of the Elected Members and Officers in attendance at the meeting.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Alderman S Martin, joined the meeting (6.02 pm).

The Chairman, Councillor John Palmer, 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 Committee was reminded that, whilst all Members could participate in discussion, only those present in the Council Chamber could make or second proposals or participate in any votes.

The Chief Executive outlined the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

1. Apologies

There were no apologies.

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 J Baird, seconded by Councillor J Lavery and agreed that the following matter be considered “in committee”, in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The livestream was paused at this point.

3.1 Draft Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March, 2021

Councillors S Carson and S Lee joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.04 pm and 6.06 pm respectively).

Members were provided with a copy of the Draft Statement of Accounts for the Year Ending 31 March, 2021, which included the Governance Statement.

The Head of Finance drew Members’ attention to a letter that had been received earlier in the day from the Department for Communities regarding an accounting treatment that would impact on the final accounts. The Northern Ireland Audit Office had confirmed that the draft accounts could be submitted as they currently stood and amendments could be addressed during the audit process.

It being noted that the Committee had been granted delegated authority to deal with this matter, it proposed by Councillor A Swan, seconded by Councillor J Lavery and agreed that the Draft Statement of Accounts be approved and submitted to the Northern Ireland Audit Office by the deadline of 30 June, 2021.

The Chairman, Councillor John Palmer, referred to challenges during the past year brought about by the pandemic and thanked Officers across all Departments for their hard work and due diligence in bringing the Council through that difficult period with such success.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by Councillor C McCready and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.09 pm.

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Mayor/Chairman