LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held in the Council Chamber and Remote Locations on Thursday, 25 June, 2026 at 6:00 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:	Councillor M McKeever (Chair) Mr E Jardine (Independent Member and Vice-Chair) Aldermen O Gawith and J Tinsley Councillors J Bamford, D J Craig, A P Ewing and A Martin
PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:	Alderman S P Porter Councillors D Bassett, S Burns and D Lynch
OTHER MEMBERS PRESENT IN CHAMBER:	Councillor G Hynds
IN ATTENDANCE:	Chief Executive Director of Organisation Development and Innovation Director of Finance and Corporate Services Head of Finance Internal Audit Manager (remotely) Member Services Officers (FA and EW) IT Officer Northern Ireland Audit Office: Mr R McCance (remotely) RBCA Ms C Igbojekwe (remotely)

Commencement of the Meeting

The Chair, Councillor M McKeever, having welcomed those present to the special meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee, 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 Chair asked that mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting following which the Director of Organisation Development & 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 Alderman A Grehan and Councillor B Magee.

2. Declarations of Interest

Alderman J Tinsley and Councillor A P Ewing arrived at the meeting during this item (6.02 pm).

There were no declarations of interest.

At this point, the Chair, Councillor M McKeever, extended a welcome to Mr R McCance, Northern Ireland Audit Office, and Ms C Igbojekwe, 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 D J Craig, 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 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council – Approval of Draft Statement of Accounts for Year Ended 31 March, 2026
(Report would never become available but Final Certified Accounts would be published)

Councillor D Lynch joined the meeting remotely during this item (6.15 pm).

The Head of Finance presented the report and highlighted the key elements to Members. Officers responded to a number of Members’ queries following which it was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Alderman O Gawith and agreed that the Draft Statement of Accounts be approved and submitted to the Northern Ireland Audit Office by 30 June, 2026.

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

3.2 Verbal Update on Audit Matter

The Chief Executive provided Members with a verbal update on an audit matter. Officers responded to questions from Members and Members noted the update.

Resumption of Normal Business

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

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.47 pm.

Mayor/Chairman