

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 Thursday 22nd January 2026 at 6.00 pm.

PRESENT IN COUNCIL CHAMBER:

Councillor B Higginson (Chair)

Councillor J Bamford (Vice-Chair)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Alderman A Grehan

Aldermen A Ewart MBE and M Gregg

Councillors T Beckett, A Ewing, R McLernon and
The Hon N Trimble

PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION (COMMITTEE):

Alderman P Porter

Councillors R Carlin, K Dickson, J Harpur and N Parker

OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT IN CHAMBER

Aldermen O Gawith and J Tinsley

Councillors P Catney, G Hynds, C Kemp and U Mackin

OTHER MEMBERS OF COUNCIL PRESENT IN A REMOTE LOCATION:

Alderman A McIntyre

Councillors J Craig, S Lowry, B Magee and M McKeever

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive
Head of Finance
Head of Governance & Communications
Member Services Officers (RN & BS)

Commencement of Meeting

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

The Chief Executive proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency. Finally, the Chair 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

Apologies for non-attendance at the Special Meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of the Deputy Mayor, Alderman H Legge; Councillors J Laverty BEM and G McCleave. Apologies from Councillors A Gowan and G Thompson (non-Members of the Committee) were also accepted and recorded.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no Declarations of Interest.

Councillor U Mackin entered the Chamber. (6.03 pm)

3. Confidential Report from Chief Executive

Alderman P Porter joined the meeting on a remote basis at 6.04 pm during the Chair's announcement about the reason for confidentiality.

The reason for confidentiality was as set out in the agenda, ie:-

3.1 Estimates Process 2026/2027

(Confidential for reason of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).)

Report will never become available. (Final estimates will be released.)

In Committee

It was proposed by Councillor A Ewing, seconded by Alderman A Ewart and agreed that the Confidential Report of the Chief Executive be considered "in Committee". (Recording was paused at this stage in proceedings and neither members of the public nor the press had been present.) (6.05 pm)

3.1 Estimates Process 2026/2027

3.1.1 Discussion

Presented by Head of Finance.

A copy of the draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for the Financial Year 2026/2027, together with an explanatory report by the Head of Finance, had been provided in advance of the meeting.

3.1.2 Decision

It was proposed by Alderman A Ewart, seconded by Alderman M Gregg and agreed that the budgets for the financial year 2026/2027 and the proposed District Rate variance for both Domestic and Non-Domestic (Item 1.15 of the Head of Finance's report refers) be agreed and be presented to the Special Meeting of Council being held on the 5th February 2026.

3.1.3 Thanks from Chair, Councillor B Higginson

The Chair, Councillor B Higginson, extended his thanks to the Chief Executive, Directors, Head of Finance and her team for their commendable work in regard to the Estimates within the current economic climate. The Chair also thanked the Vice-Chair and Members of the Corporate Services Committee, and the Chairs, Vice-Chairs and Members of the other Committees for their work in this regard.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Alderman M Gregg, seconded by Councillor N Trimble and agreed to come "out of Committee". Normal business and the recording were resumed. (6.09 pm)

There being no further business, the Special Meeting concluded at 6.09 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIR