

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber and in Remote Locations on Thursday 8th February 2024 at 6.45 pm

Privileged and Confidential

Created for the purpose of obtaining legal advice/in contemplation of litigation

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor A Gowan

Deputy Mayor, Councillor G McCleave

Aldermen J Baird, A G Ewart MBE, O Gawith, M Gregg,
A Grehan, M Guy, S P Porter and J Tinsley

Councillors D Bassett, R T Beckett, S Burns, R Carlin,
D J Craig, K Dickson, N Eaton, A P Ewing, A Givan,
B Higginson, G Hynds, C Kemp, P Kennedy, S Lowry,
U Mackin, A Martin, C McCready, A McIntyre,
M McKeever, R McLernon, N Parker, G Thompson and The
Hon N Trimble

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Councillors P Burke, J Gallen, J Lavery BEM and T Mitchell

IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:

Director of Finance & Corporate Services
Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development
Legal Adviser from Arthur Cox LLP

Commencement of Meeting

At the outset of proceedings, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor A Gowan, welcomed everyone to the Special Meeting which had been convened to consider a confidential matter.

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

The Director of Finance and Corporate Services proceeded to outline the evacuation procedures in the case of an emergency.

The Right Worshipful the Mayor stated that, although the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per 8.5 of the Council's Standing Orders. The Chairman also reminded everyone to ensure that mobile phones were turned off or on silent mode for the duration of the meeting.

1. Apologies (00:02:20)

An apology for non-attendance at the meeting was accepted and recorded on behalf of Alderman S Skillen and Councillor P Catney.

2. Declarations of Interests (00:02:44)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor reminded Members to declare any interests they might have in relation to the business of the meeting and reminded them of the requirement that they complete a Declaration of Interest form.

There were no Members' declarations of interest declared at the meeting.

3. Suspension of Standing Order – Section 27.1 to Agree suspension of Standing Order no. 4 - Five days at least before a meeting of the Council, a Committee or Sub Committee, section (1) notice of the time and place of the intended meeting shall be published at the offices of the Council and on the Council's website (00:03:33)

It was proposed by Alderman J Tinsley, seconded by Councillor N Trimble, and agreed that, as permitted under Standing Order 27.1, standing order no. 4 be suspended in order to consider a confidential matter at short notice.

4. Confidential Report by the Director of Finance & Corporate Services (00:04:08)

(Confidential for reason of information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Council or a Government Department and employees, or office holders under, the Council.)

“In Committee”

It was proposed by Councillor D J Craig, seconded by Alderman J Baird, and agreed that the confidential business be considered “in Committee.” (The live-stream was paused at this stage in proceedings.)

The Member Services Officers and the technician left the meeting at this point (6.50 pm).

The Director of Finance & Corporate Services provided a verbal briefing to Members on the background and key issues relating to a confidential matter.

During the meeting a member of the Council's legal team also joined the briefing.

Members raised a number of questions which were responded to during the briefing.

It was agreed that the Director's briefing, including the next steps, be noted.

Conclusion of the Meeting

There being no further business, the Special Meeting concluded at 8.35 pm.

Mayor