

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Special Meeting of the Council held in the Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn, on Thursday 25 February 2021 at 6.02 pm**

**PRESENT IN CHAMBER:**

The Right Worshipful the Mayor  
Councillor N Trimble

Alderman S P Porter

Councillor U Mackin

**PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Deputy Mayor  
Councillor Jenny Palmer

Aldermen J Baird, W J Dillon MBE, D Drysdale,  
A G Ewart MBE, A Grehan, M Henderson MBE,  
S Martin and J Tinsley

Councillors N Anderson, R T Beckett, R Carlin, S Carson,  
J Craig, S Eastwood, A P Ewing, J Gallen, A Givan,  
A Gowan, M Gregg, M Guy, D Honeyford, S Hughes,  
J Lavery BEM, S Lee, S Lowry, J McCarthy, G McCleave,  
R McLernon, T Mitchell, John Palmer and S Skillen

**IN ATTENDANCE IN CHAMBER:**

Chief Executive  
Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager  
Member Services Officer  
Technician  
IT Officer

**IN ATTENDANCE IN REMOTE LOCATION:**

Director of Environmental Services  
Director of Service Transformation  
Acting Head of Finance and Corporate Services  
Acting Head of Leisure and Community Wellbeing  
Head of Finance

**Commencement of the Meeting**

At the commencement of the meeting, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, welcomed those present to the special remote meeting of Council, which was being live-streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. He requested that all mobile phones be put on silent or switched off for the duration of the meeting and pointed out that, in accordance with the Council's Standing Orders, whilst the meeting was being live-streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted.

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

1. Apologies

It was agreed that apologies for non-attendance at the meeting be accepted and recorded on behalf of Alderman O Gawith and Councillors C McCreedy and A Swan.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Report by the Chief Executive

3.1 Draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2021/2022

Councillor D J Craig joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.06 pm).

Members had been provided with a copy of the Draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2021/2022 for the various departments of the Council.

The Chairman of the Corporate Services Committee, Alderman S P Porter, made a verbal report in respect of the Draft Estimates. He made particular reference to the effects of Covid-19 during this past year and how the Council had been on the frontline delivering essential services and support at a time when residents and businesses needed help the most. Communities had also risen to the challenges brought about by the pandemic, with community and volunteer groups, in partnership with the Council, having provided support. Alderman Porter personally thanked all Council staff for their commitment, as well as community, sporting and cultural groups and individuals who had made a real difference to the lives of many people during these difficult times. He stated that the Council intended to focus on recovery in communities, revitalising the economy and reinvigorating the Council area in the year ahead and outlined plans for investment in communities and supporting businesses during the next 12-18 months.

Alderman Porter expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive, Directors and all Officers who had participated in the estimates process, as well as Elected Members, for their support.

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Alderman S Martin and unanimously agreed that:

- (a) approval be given to the strategies and related policies contained within the estimates document, namely the Treasury Management Strategy, Minimum Revenue Provision Policy, Prudential Indicators and the Capital Strategy; and
- (b) there would be no increase in the District Rate for the financial year 2021/2022. It was noted that this was the first rates freeze in the history of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council.

4.1 Draft Estimates of Income and Expenditure for 2021/2022 (Contd)

In seconding the above Proposal, Alderman S Martin stated that he was proud that the Council was in a position to be able to support its ratepayers. He commended Members and Officers, particularly those who had had to realign budgets while dealing with daily pressures throughout the pandemic.

A number of Members proceeded to put on record their thanks to the Chief Executive, Directors and Officers, as well as Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Council's Committees, particularly the Corporate Services Committee, for their hard work and involvement in the estimates process. Those Members were The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Alderman M Henderson, Councillors S Carson and U Mackin.

5. Verbal Confidential Matter

At this stage, The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, advised that a verbal report was to be received in respect of a confidential item.

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Alderman S P Porter, seconded by Councillor N Anderson and agreed that the following item be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present. The live stream of the meeting was terminated at this stage.

The following Officers left the meeting at this point – Director of Environmental Services, Director of Service Transformation, Acting Director of Finance and Corporate Services, Acting Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing, Head of Finance, Acting PCSP/Member Services Manager, Member Services Officer, Technician, IT Officer.

5.1 Recruitment Process

Alderman J Tinsley advised Council that, following completion of a selection and appointment process, a conditional offer of employment had been made for the post of Director of Leisure and Community Wellbeing. Members noted this outcome and that the matter would remain in confidence until employment checks were completed and the appointment confirmed.

The Acting PCSP Member Services Manager, Member Services Officer and Technician returned to the meeting.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor U Mackin, seconded by Alderman S P Porter and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the Special Meeting concluded at 6.29 pm.

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Mayor