

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of the Remote Special Meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee held on Thursday, 19 November, 2020 at 6:02 pm

PRESENT IN CHAMBER:

Councillor G McCleave (Chairman)

The Right Worshipful the Mayor
Councillor N Trimble

Aldermen J Baird and J Tinsley

Councillor A Swan

PRESENT IN REMOTE LOCATION:

Aldermen S Martin and S P Porter

Councillors S Carson, J Gallen, A Gowan, J Lavery BEM, S Lee, R McLernon and John Palmer

INDEPENDENT MEMBER:

Mr E Jardine (present remotely)

OTHER MEMBERS:

In Remote Location

Councillors A Givan, J McCarthy, U Mackin and S Skillen

IN ATTENDANCE:

In Chamber:

Interim Head of Audit, Risk & Performance
PCSP/Member Services Manager
IT Officer
Technician

In Remote Location

Chief Executive
Acting Director of Finance and Corporate Services
Acting Head of Finance
Member Services Officer

Northern Ireland Audit Office

Mr P O'Sullivan (present remotely)

Commencement of the Meeting

At the commencement of the meeting, the Chairman, Councillor G McCleave welcomed those present to the remote special meeting of the Governance and Audit Committee, which was being live streamed to enable members of the public to hear and see the proceedings. In particular, he welcomed Mr Gerard Byrne, Interim Head of Audit, Risk & Performance.

At this point, the PCSP/Member Services Manager read out the names of those in attendance at the meeting.

The Chairman, Councillor G McCleave, stated that, whilst the meeting was being live streamed, unauthorised recording was not permitted, as per the Council's Standing Orders. He proceeded to outline 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 the Deputy Mayor, Councillor Jenny Palmer, Councillors S Eastwood and S Lowry and Mrs C Kane, Northern Ireland Audit Office.

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Confidential Business

The matters 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 Tinsley, seconded by Councillor A Swan and agreed that the following matters be considered "in committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

3.1 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Approval of Statement of Accounts For Year Ended 31 March, 2020

Alderman S Martin joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.07 pm).

Members had been provided with a copy of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March, 2020. The Acting Head of Finance answered a number of queries raised on its content and agreed to provide The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, with full details in respect of what constituted the reduction in the general Fund reserve.

It was proposed by Alderman J Baird, seconded by The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor N Trimble, and agreed to recommend that the Statement of Accounts for the Year Ended 31 March, 2020 be accepted and signed by the Chairman and the Chief Executive.

3.2 Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Report to Those Charged with Governance 2019-20

Councillor S Skillen joined the meeting during consideration of this item of business (6.18 pm).

The Chairman, Councillor G McCleave, welcomed Mr P O'Sullivan, Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO), to the meeting.

Members had been provided with a copy of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Report to Those Charged with Governance 2019-20. Mr O'Sullivan made a verbal presentation, highlighting the key points in the report, and stated that, whilst the audit was not quite complete, it was fully anticipated that it would receive an unqualified audit opinion from the NIAO. Mr O'Sullivan thanked Council Officers for their assistance to the NIAO throughout the audit and responded to several queries raised by Members.

Members commended the Report To Those Charged With Governance and congratulated Council Officers for their efforts in bringing about this successful report. The Interim Head of Audit, Risk & Performance was asked to convey these sentiments to relevant staff.

It was agreed to recommend that the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Report to Those Charged with Governance 2019-20 be noted.

Resumption of Normal Business

It was proposed by Councillor S Swan, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed to come out of committee and normal business was resumed.

There being no further business, the meeting was terminated at 6.25 pm.

Mayor/Chairman