

LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

Minutes of Special Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the other Standing Committees held in the Council Chamber, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Monday 12th December 2016 at 4.00 pm

PRESENT:

Councillor O Gawith (Chairman)

The Right Worshipful The Mayor
Councillor B Bloomfield MBE

Aldermen A G Ewart, T Jeffers and W A Leathem

Councillors S Carson, J Craig and B Mallon

Leisure & Community Development Committee

Chairman - Councillor T Morrow

Environmental Services Committee

Chairman - Councillor J Baird

Vice-Chairman - Alderman J Tinsley

Development Committee

Chairman - Councillor U Mackin

Vice-Chairman – Councillor J Gallen

Governance and Audit Committee

Chairman - Councillor T Mitchell

Vice-Chairman - Alderman M Henderson MBE

Planning Committee

Chairman - Councillor A Redpath

OTHER MEMBERS:

Councillor P Catney

IN ATTENDANCE:

Chief Executive

Director of Corporate Services

Director of Leisure & Community Services

Director of Environmental Services

Lead Head of Economic Development

Lead Head of Planning and Building Control

Head of Finance and IT

Management Accountants (D Craig/J Hewitt)

Committee Secretary

The Chairman asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting alert him accordingly so that the Committee Secretary might accurately reflect arrival and departure times in the minutes.

1. Apologies

Apologies for non-attendance at the meeting were accepted and recorded on behalf of Alderman S Martin, Deputy Mayor, Councillor N Anderson, Councillor R T Beckett, Councillor B Hanvey and Councillor A Grehan.

2. Declarations of Interest

The Chairman invited 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 Declaration of Interest forms in this regard which had been provided at the meeting. No declarations were made.

3. Purpose of Meeting

The Special Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee, along with the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committees, had been summoned to consider the Council's draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018.

4. Confidential Report of Director of Corporate Services

It was proposed by Alderman A G Ewart, seconded by Alderman J Tinsley and agreed that the confidential report of the Director of Corporate Services be discussed "in Committee".

It was agreed that the confidential report and recommendations of the Director of Corporate Services be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

4.1 Draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2017/2018

The report of the Director was confidential due to information which revealed that the Council proposed to make an order or direction under any statutory provision.

4.1.1 Discussion & Presentation

During the Director's PowerPoint presentation, Councillors P Catney (4.20 pm) and J Gallen (4.25 pm) entered the meeting.

The Director of Corporate Services advised Members that the Special Meeting had been convened to give consideration to the third draft of the Council's Estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2017/2018.

4.1 Draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2017/2018 (Continued)

4.1.1 Discussion & Presentation (Continued)

The Director stressed that the work on the Estimates was very much work in progress and that Officers were working hard to identify further savings.

The Director emphasised that the various Standing Committees of the Council had not yet had an opportunity to consider any documentation in relation to the draft Estimates. The Director advised that complete detailed budget print-outs of the draft Estimates, in respect of each Department, would be reported to the meetings of the relevant Standing Committees in January 2017.

Copy of an explanatory report and the summary draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for the financial year 2017/2018 had been made available prior to the Meeting. In addition to his written report on the Draft Estimates, the Director made a PowerPoint presentation.

During discussion, the Director and other Officers clarified questions raised and took note of comments made by Members.

Aldermen J Tinsley, M Henderson, W A Leathem and Councillor U Mackin wished to convey their thanks to all Officers, particularly the Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Finance & I.T., the Accountants and the entire Finance team, for their work on the Draft Estimates.

The Director, on completion of answering Members' questions, expressed his thanks to the Chief Executive, Directors and Heads of Service for the considerable amount of detailed work involved, over the past four months, in preparing the Estimates, and also his thanks to Mrs Leah Scott, Head of Finance and IT, and her staff, particularly the two Accountants, Mr David Craig and Mrs Joanne Hewitt, who were present at the meeting, for their professional input in overseeing and administering the process.

The Chairman concluded that Members should bear in mind that, although the Council has a duty to constituents to set the lowest rate, this should be commensurate with the delivery of the best services possible.

4.1.2 Decision

It was agreed to recommend that:-

- the report of the Director of Corporate Services be noted and that Officers make every effort to achieve a further reduction in respect of the proposed Rates;
- the proposal to transfer from Reserves the sum of £600,000 be noted;

4.1 Draft Estimates of Income & Expenditure for 2017/2018 (Continued)

4.1.1 Discussion & Presentation (Continued)

- a complete detailed budget print-out of the draft Estimates, in respect of each Department, would be reported to the meetings of the relevant Standing Committees in January 2017 for consideration;
- the Director's PowerPoint presentation be placed on the SharePoint document-sharing system.

It was agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

5. Any Other Business

There was no other Business.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 4.40 pm.

MAYOR/CHAIRMAN