

**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

**Minutes of Meeting of the Corporate Services Committee held in the Cherry Room, Island Civic Centre, The Island, Lisburn on Tuesday 13<sup>TH</sup> December 2016 at 7.00 pm.**

**PRESENT:** Councillor O Gawith (Chairman)  
  
Aldermen W J Dillon MBE, A G Ewart and W A Leathem  
  
Councillors R T Beckett, S Carson, J Craig, A P Ewing, B Harvey, V Kamble, A McIntyre and B Mallon

**OTHER MEMBERS:** Councillors A Girvin, U Mackin and J Palmer

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council

Chief Executive  
Director of Corporate Services  
Head of Central Support Services  
Head of Finance & IT  
Head of Marketing & Communications – Miss A Goddard  
Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development  
Lead Head of Planning & Building Control  
IT Manager  
Member Services Officer

Department for Communities  
(Communications & Engagement Unit)

Mr John McKervill, Director of Pensions, Disability & Corporate Services  
Ms Geraldine Brereton, Assistant Director of Age Services

**Commencement of Meeting**

The Chairman, Councillor O Gawith, welcomed Members to the meeting, in particular those Members who were not members of the Corporate Services Committee but who were in attendance for the presentation on Welfare Reform.

The Chairman asked that any Member entering or leaving the meeting to 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 The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor B Bloomfield,

1. Apologies (Cont'd)

Deputy Mayor, Alderman S Martin, Aldermen D Drysdale and T Jeffers, and Councillor A Grehan.

Councillor J Gray, whilst not a member of the Corporate Services Committee, had submitted an apology for the meeting.

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.

During the course of the Meeting Councillor J Craig declared an interest in item 8.1.4 **Education Authority - Consultation Document – “Providing Pathways – Draft Strategic Plan for School Provision 2017-2020” Information Sessions** in view of his membership of the Education Authority Board. A Declaration of Interest form was duly completed by Councillor J Craig.

3. Minutes of Meeting

It was proposed by Councillor S Carson, seconded by Councillor B Mallon, and agreed that the minutes of the meeting of Committee held on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 as adopted by the Council at its meeting held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 be confirmed and signed.

4. Department for Communities (Communications & Engagement Unit) Presentation on Welfare Reform

To be dealt with later in the meeting.

5. Report of Director of Corporate Services

To be dealt with later in the meeting.

Councillors U Mackin and J Palmer entered the meeting at 7.02 pm.

6. Confidential Reports of Director of Corporate Services

It was agreed to bring forward the confidential reports of the Director of Corporate Services as the Chief Executive was in attendance for items of

6. Confidential Reports of Director of Corporate Services (Cont'd)

business in the report of the Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development.

The Chairman advised that:-

- The report of the Head of Central Support Services was confidential for reason of information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings.
- The report of the Head of Finance & IT was confidential for reason of (i) information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information) and (ii) information which was likely to reveal the identity of individuals.
- The report of the Head of MCU was confidential for reason of information relating to individuals.
- The HR reports were confidential for reason of information that (i) related to individuals, (ii) was likely to reveal the identity of individuals and (iii) relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the Council holding that information).

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor R T Beckett, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed that the items in the confidential reports of the Director of Corporate Services be considered "in Committee", in the absence of members of the press and public being present.

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

6.1 Reports of Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development

Presented by Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development.

It was agreed that the confidential reports and recommendations of the Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

6.1.1 Efficiency Review 2017 – Report

The Director of Corporate Services and the Member Services Officer left the meeting for the duration of consideration of the above item of business. (7.03 pm).

Members had been furnished with two additional confidential reports on the subject of the Efficiency Review 2017 which outlined the proposals in relation to the scope, governance arrangements and facilitation of the Efficiency Review.

6.1.1 Efficiency Review 2017 – Report (Cont'd)

It was noted that this paper had been presented to the Governance & Audit Committee in March 2016.

It was proposed by Councillor S Carson, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre, and agreed to recommend that:

- the recommendations outlined in the report by the Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development be approved and that the recommendations be progressed through the Elected Member Steering Group
- Consultations commence with the current Directors in relation to the proposed new structure
- any additional queries in respect of the report be raised with a Member of the Efficiency Review Steering Group or the Chief Executive prior to the Council Meeting on 20 December 2016.

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor J Craig, and agreed to recommend that the Corporate Services Committee be granted delegated authority to approve and implement the recommendations of the Steering Group in respect of the delivery of Phase 1 of the Efficiency Review.

The Director of Corporate Services and the Member Services Officer returned to the meeting (7.35 pm).

The following Officers, who had not been in attendance at the commencement of the meeting, entered the meeting at 7.35 pm: Head of Central Support Services, Head of Finance & IT, Head of Marketing & Communications Unit, Lead Head of Planning & Building Control and IT Manager.

6.1.2 Dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission and Hosting of the Local Government Training Group

The Acting Head of Service referred to the meeting of Committee held in April 2016 at which the dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission (LGSC) and the potential costs associated with this had been notified. The Committee had noted the indication from the LGSC whereby a request for funding might be issued during 2016/2017 to meet costs associated with the dissolution of the Staff Commission, but that dissolution costs might not arise if ongoing discussions regarding HR and Training Streams of Work could be carried on within another organisation.

It was proposed by Councillor B Mallon, seconded by Councillor S Carson, and agreed to recommend that:-

6.1.2 Dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission and Hosting of the Local Government Training Group (Cont'd)

- the recommended responses to the recommendations as set out in Table 1 of the report arising from the Collaborative HR Review about the dissolution of the Local Government Staff Commission be agreed;
- the Committee agree in principle to Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council becoming the new host for the Local Government Training Group (LGTG) with further reports being presented as the matter progressed.

6.1.3 Payment of Overtime in Holiday Pay

Further to the meeting of Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, it was recommended that the proposal in relation to the payment of overtime in holiday pay be approved and that the proposal be raised with the Trade Unions for agreement prior to implementation.

Alderman W A Leathem indicated that he did not support the proposal in relation to the payment of overtime in holiday pay.

The Chief Executive and the Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development responded to concerns on this matter raised by Alderman W A Leathem, Alderman A G Ewart and Councillor J Palmer.

Councillor B Hanvey indicated that whilst he had reservations with the Officer's proposal he would support the recommendation that, based on case law, overtime be included in holiday pay. Councillor A McIntyre indicated that he would second Councillor Hanvey's proposal to support, with reservations, the Officer's recommendation.

A counter proposal was made by Alderman W A Leathem, and seconded by Alderman W J Dillon, that:

- the Committee reviews this matter in six months' time and that meanwhile a review on levels of overtime be undertaken by each Directorate, and
- a report from each Directorate be prepared on each Department's plans to reduce overtime both in the short term and in the long term.

The Counter proposal was put to the meeting with nine votes in favour and 1 vote against. One Member abstained from voting.

The Counter proposal, having become the Substantive Motion, was put to the meeting and declared "carried," there being nine votes in favour and two votes against. No Member of the Committee abstained from voting.

6.1.4 Staffing Arrangements in Chief Executive's Office

It was agreed to recommend on a proposal by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Alderman W A Leathem, that the extension of the post of Community Planning Manager to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 and that of the post of Policy Officer to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017 be approved, and that these posts be reviewed in accordance with the Efficiency Review during this period.

6.1.5 Request to Undertake Development Programme  
Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning

It was agreed to recommend that the nominated Elected Members be granted approval to undertake the Advanced Diploma in Civic Leadership and Community Planning at the Ulster University commencing March 2017, the cost per person being £2,250 with the Local Government Training Group meeting 50% of the costs thereof.

6.1.6 HR & OD Workforce Data

It was agreed to recommend that reports in respect of the following be noted, such reports being in accordance with the Council's Strategic Workforce Plan 2015-2017:-

- Workforce Profile – Headcount, Contract (permanent/fixed term/full-time/part-time) and Agency Workers
- Absence – Days lost per employee and percentage across the Council (includes "Total absence days per month")
- Long Term Absence – Employees absent due to long term sickness (over 12 weeks)
- Recruitment – Internal trawls and open competition.

The Director of Corporate Services and the Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development responded to concerns from Members in regard to the current 'headcount' and the number of vacant posts within the Council.

It was agreed that the Committee's concerns in regard to workforce profile be put on record.

6.1.7 Single Status Update: Appeals

It was agreed to recommend that the progress report in respect of the number of job evaluation appeals outstanding from the former Councils' Single Status process and the percentages of appeals both successful and unsuccessful be noted.

Additional Reports

6.1.8 Efficiency Review

Dealt with under Item 6.1.1.

The Chief Executive and the Acting Head of Human Resources and Organisation Development left the meeting (8.13 pm).

It was agreed that due to the lateness that the remaining items in the Director's Confidential Report be considered later in the meeting and that the deputation from the Department for Communities be received at that point in the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor A P Ewing, seconded by Councillor A McIntyre, and agreed to come out of Committee and normal business was resumed.

Alderman W A Leathem and Councillor U Mackin left the meeting at 8.15 pm.

Resumption of Normal Business

7. Department for Communities (Communication & Engagement Unit)  
Presentation - Welfare Reform

The Committee was furnished with a copy of a guidance booklet on the subject of Welfare Reform that had been published specifically for Elected Members.

The officials entered the meeting at 8.15 pm.

The Chairman, Councillor O Gawith, extended a welcome to the undernoted officials of the Department for Communities (Communication & Engagement Unit) who were in attendance to present on the subject of Welfare Reform:-

- Mr John McKervill, Director of Pensions, Disability and Corporate Services
- Ms Geraldine Brereton, Assistant Director of Age Services

Mr McKervill thanked the Committee for the opportunity to address the meeting and, with the aid of PowerPoint, made a presentation in regard to Welfare Reform.

Councillor U Mackin returned to the Meeting (8.22 pm).

During the presentation Ms Brereton and Mr McKervill elaborated on the following:

- the Welfare Reform timeline
- Social Sector Size Criteria
- Universal Credit
- Welfare Supplementary Payments

7. Department for Communities (Communication & Engagement Unit)  
Presentation - Welfare Reform (Cont'd)

In response to comments from a Member of the Committee, Mr McKervill agreed to give consideration to the provision of a dedicated contact telephone number for Elected Members.

After the officials had answered Members' questions, the Chairman thanked them for their attendance and informative presentation and they left the meeting (8.42 pm).

Councillor A McIntyre left the meeting at 8.42 pm.

8. Confidential Reports of Director of Corporate Services (Continued)

"In Committee"

It was proposed by Councillor B Mallon, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed that the remaining reports contained within the Director of Corporate Services' Confidential Report be considered "in Committee" in the absence of press or members of the public.

8.1 Report of Head of Central Support Services

Presented by Head of Central Support Services.

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

Councillor A McIntyre returned to the meeting at this point.

8.1.1 Council Lands at Fernbank/Beech Park Open Space, Lisburn

It was agreed to recommend that the actions, both noted and proposed, in the report of the Head of Central Support services be agreed.

Tabled Confidential Report by Head of Central Support Services

It was noted that the Tabled Report was confidential due to information relating to the financial or business affairs of the organisations concerned.

8.1.2 Legal Services Contract

It was agreed to recommend that the draft business case in respect of the Legal Services Contract be approved, it being noted that the preferred option contained within the aforementioned draft business case was to procure the provision of legal services externally through procurement.

8.2 Report of Head of Finance & IT

Presented by Head of Finance & IT.

It was agreed that the confidential report and recommendations of the Head of Finance & IT be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

8.2.1 Procurement of Insurance\Health & Safety Software

It was agreed to recommend that a report on the procurement exercise for the provision of Insurance/Health & Safety software be noted and that the outcome thereof be reported to the relevant suppliers.

8.2.2 Procurement of Insurance Brokerage Services

It was agreed to recommend that a report on the procurement exercise for the provision of Insurance Brokerage Services be noted and that the outcome thereof be reported to the relevant suppliers.

8.2.3 Insurance Claims

It was agreed to recommend that the report on Insurance Claims up to the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2016 be noted.

8.3 Report of Head of Marketing & Communications

Presented by Head of Marketing & Communications.

It was agreed that the confidential report and recommendation of the Head of Marketing & Communications be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

8.3.1 Freedom of Information

It was agreed to recommend that the summary of Freedom of Information requests received in October and November 2016 be noted.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor A P Ewing, and agreed to come "out of Committee" and normal business was resumed.

Resumption of Normal Business

9. Reports of Director of Corporate Services

Presented by Director of Corporate Services.

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

It was agreed that the Director's Additional Report be considered at this point in the meeting.

Additional Report by the Director of Corporate Services

9.1 Section 76 Agreements & Developer Contribution Scheme  
Employment of Consultants and Establishment of a Community Fund

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of the proposed Supplementary Guidance for Section 76 Agreements and Developer Contribution Scheme.

The Director and the Lead Head of Planning and Building Control responded to questions from Members regarding Section 76 Agreements and Developer Contribution Schemes.

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig, seconded by Councillor S Carson, and agreed to recommend that the appointment of consultants to advise on the application of Section 76 Planning Agreements and the establishment of a Council Community Fund be approved.

The Lead Head of Planning & Building Control left the meeting at 8.55 pm.

Item for Noting

9.2 Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation  
Committee – Employers' Contribution Rates for 2017/2018  
2018/2019, and 2019/2020

The Committee had been furnished with, and noted the content of, a copy of a letter dated 7 December 2016 from the Northern Ireland Local Government Officers' Superannuation Committee (NILGOSC) regarding employers' contribution rates for each of the next three years commencing 1 April 2017.

The Director responded to a query from Councillor B Hanvey in connection with the Elected Members' Pension Scheme, and undertook to look into this query and respond directly to Councillor Hanvey.

9.3 Department for Communities (Communications & Engagement Unit)  
Presentation - Welfare Reform

Dealt with at Item 7.

9.4 Report of Head of Central Support Services

Presented by Head of Central Support Services.

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

9.4.1 Health Working Group

(a) Minutes of Meeting – 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016

It was agreed to recommend that the minutes of the meeting of the Health Working Group held on the 9<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be noted.

(b) Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 - Decisions

Members were advised that a meeting of the Health Working Group had taken place on the 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016. The Head of Service sought permission to take the necessary action in respect of the undernoted decisions and this was agreed.

- (i) Department of Health consultation document  
“Health & Social Care Transformation – Criteria for Reconfiguring  
Health & Social Care Services”  
(Closing Date: 20<sup>th</sup> January 2017)

The Health Working Group agreed that:-

- details of the above consultation and the attendant public meetings be furnished to all Members of Council;
- the attendance of any Member at any of the consultation meetings be approved;
- the Head of Central Support Services prepare a draft response and circulate it to members of the Health Working Group for comment;
- the draft response duly amended by any comments made thereon by the Health Working Group be reported to the meeting of the Corporate Services Committee on the 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017 for final decision, it being noted that any Member who might have attended any of the public consultation meetings would have an opportunity at that time to put forward comments for submission to the Department.

- (ii) Mental Health Charter

The Health Working Group agreed that the Head of Central Support Services would consult with Human Resources as to the existence of a Mental Health Charter within the Council.

9.4.1 Health Working Group (Cont'd)

(b) Meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – Decisions (Cont'd)

(iii) Catering for inpatients at Ulster Hospital Dundonald

The Health Working Group agreed to convey their concerns to the SE Trust in respect of the non-availability of food to inpatients at the Ulster Hospital outside of “normal” working hours, in particular for those patients who may be in recovery wards.

9.4.2 Information & Records Management Society  
Corporate Membership

It was agreed to recommend that the Council take out corporate membership of the Information & Records Management Society at a cost of £350.00 per annum, such membership being considered beneficial and invaluable in the delivery of an Electronic Records and Document Management System which the Council was progressing.

9.4.3 Protocol for the Opening of Books of Condolence

It was agreed to recommend that the draft Protocol for the Opening of Books of Condolence be approved.

9.4.4 Education Authority  
Consultation Document – “Providing Pathways – Draft  
Strategic Plan for School Provision 2017-2020”  
Information Sessions

Members had been provided with a schedule of information sessions in relation to the above consultation which had been held at various locations in Northern Ireland during the month of November 2016. All members had been notified of these information sessions on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016 and Councillor J Craig had indicated that he hoped to attend the information session in Antrim on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Expenses incurred by Members at any of the sessions would have been those in relation to mileage.

It was noted that the consultation document in this regard was being progressed by the Director of Leisure Services and the Principal Planner.

It was agreed to recommend that:-

- the attendance of Councillor J Craig at the information session in Antrim on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 in relation to the above consultation document be approved retrospectively, together with the payment of approved expenses in this regard;

9.4.4 Education Authority  
Consultation Document – “Providing Pathways – Draft  
Strategic Plan for School Provision 2017-2020”  
Information Sessions (Cont’d)

- the attendance of any Member of Council at any of the information sessions in relation to the above consultation document be retrospectively approved, together with the payment of approved expenses in this regard.

9.4.5 Northern Ireland Wedding Awards  
Shortlisting of Lagan Valley Island

The Committee noted that Perfect Bliss had been shortlisted as a finalist in the “Local Wedding Exhibition of the Year” category of the Northern Ireland Wedding Awards with the “Perfect Bliss Wedding Events at Lagan Valley Island Wedding Fayre” being one of their fairs.

The awards ceremony was scheduled for the 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in the Europa Hotel, Belfast.

9.4.6 Lisburn & Castlereagh Policing & Community Safety  
Partnership - Schedule of Meetings

It was agreed to recommend that the schedule of forthcoming meetings of the Lisburn & Castlereagh PCSP be noted.

The Head of Central Support Services left the meeting (9.00 pm).

9.5 Report of Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation  
Development

Presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

It was agreed that the report and recommendation of the Acting Head of Human Resources & Organisation Development be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

9.5.1 Workplan for Implementation of Filling Posts  
in New Council Structures

It was agreed to recommend that the progress report on the Work Plan for the implementation of the filling of posts in the new Council structures be noted.

9.5.2 Investors in People Accreditation - Update

Further to the meeting of Committee held on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2016, it was noted that the Council had been confirmed as meeting the requirements of the Investors in People Core Standard and that accreditation at Bronze Level had

9.5.2 Investors in People Accreditation – Update (Cont'd)

been awarded. In recognition of this achievement, and in appreciation of the hard work and commitment by staff during the year, the Council had agreed that employees be granted an additional day's leave on Friday 23 December 2016.

For information purposes, the Committee noted:-

- the Executive Summary of the IIP Assessment Report
- A copy of the Bronze Level certificate.

9.5.3 Elected Member Development Steering Group

Further to the meeting of Committee held on the 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016, it was noted that the confirmed membership of the Elected Member Development Steering Group was as follows with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman as indicated:-

- Councillor N Anderson, DUP (Chairman)
- Councillor A Girvin, TUV (Vice-Chairman)
- Councillor H Legge, UUP
- Alderman S Martin, APNI
- Councillor J Gallen, SDLP

The minutes of a meeting of the Steering Group held on the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 together with the terms of reference of the group and action plan, had been provided with the Acting Head of Service's report and their content noted. The next meeting of the Group was scheduled for January 2017.

9.6 Report of Head of Marketing & Communications

Presented by the Head of Marketing & Communications.

It was agreed that the report and recommendation of the Head of Marketing & Communications be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

9.6.1 Signage

The Head of Marketing and Communications reminded the Committee that following vesting day re-branding had included the Council's Headquarters, Lagan Valley Island. The Council's fleet of vehicles had been re-branded.

It was advised that the Unit, in consultation with departments had identified main areas requiring re-branding.

The Committee was provided with artwork that had been agreed through the Leisure and Community Development Committee for parks and play parks signage.

9.6.1 Signage (Cont'd)

The Head of Service indicated it was considered achievable to complete the re-branding of Wallace Park, 48 play parks, Moat Park, 3 Multi-use Games areas and Council-owned car parks within the current financial year and within current budgets, procurement permitting. Consideration for 2017/2018 and beyond was requested to include Village and Boundary signs, Leisure/Activity Centres, Community Centres, Moira Demesne and Tourism signs.

Councillor S Carson welcomed the progress to date by the Marketing & Communications Unit in relation to the re-branding of the new Council.

It was proposed by Councillor S Carson, seconded by Councillor J Craig, and agreed to recommend that the replacement of outdated signage be approved, in principle, with the budget being incorporated into any future estimate setting process, and management considering the implementation over a number of years.

9.6.2 Browsealoud Renewal

The Committee was advised that the licence for Browsealoud was due for renewal.

It was proposed by Councillor A McIntyre, seconded by Councillor S Carson, and agreed to recommend that the Browsealoud product be renewed on all council websites in line with the cost and terms provided, ie £3,995, for two years with provision for the product to be added to all council websites during this renewal period.

9.6.3 Media Coverage

It was agreed to recommend that the media coverage report for October and November 2016 be noted.

The Head of Marketing & Communications left the meeting (9.04 pm).

9.7 Report of Head of Finance & IT

Presented by the Head of Finance & IT.

It was agreed that the report and recommendations of the Head of Finance & IT be adopted, subject to any decisions recorded below and other items noted:-

9.7.1 Financial Appraisal – Back Up

Members had been provided with a copy of an appraisal to consider the solution for the back-up and disaster recovery for the new Council.

#### 9.7.1 Financial Appraisal – Back Up (Cont'd)

The Head of Finance & IT responded to questions from the Committee in regard to the preferred option as outlined in the above-mentioned appraisal.

It was proposed by Councillor J Craig, seconded by Councillor B Hanvey, agreed to recommend that the preferred option for back-up and disaster recovery as recommended by the appraisal be approved, namely;

- Option 4a - offsite backup from the 'cloud' which was available as up as a Service (BaaS), and
- Option 4b - a preferred add-on to 'Back up as a Service' of Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS)

It was noted that the total cost of implementing 'Back up as a Service (BaaS) and Disaster Recovery as a Service (DRaaS) was estimated to be £114,900 for 2016/2017, 2017/2018 and 2018/2019.

Councillor V Kamble left the meeting during consideration of this item (9.09 pm).

#### Items for Noting

##### 9.7.2 Financial Statement Period ended the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016

It was noted that the net profiled expenditure for the period ended the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016 was 7.00% below the approved estimates for the financial year 2016/2017.

##### 9.7.3 Statement to the NI Assembly "A Rates Rethink: Spurring Economic Growth"

The Committee noted that a statement entitled ""A Rates Rethink: Spurring Economic Growth" had been made by the Minister for Finance to the NI Assembly on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 was available at <https://www.finance-ni.gov.uk/news/statement-assembly-rates-rethink-spurring-economic-growth>.

##### 9.7.4 Treasury Management Performance

It was agreed to recommend that a report on Treasury Management Performance for the period ending the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 be noted, such a report being prepared in accordance with the Treasury Management Strategy.

The Head of Finance & IT left the meeting (9.10 pm).

9.8 “Friends of the Somme” – Annual Subscription 2016

It was agreed to recommend that the Council’s annual subscription as a “Friend of the Somme” in the sum of £650.00 plus VAT be paid.

9.8.1 Consumer Council  
Report - “Empowering Consumers: Beginning a Conversation on Consumer Priorities for the Northern Ireland Electricity Network”

The Director referred to the presentation by the Consumer Council officials to the previous meeting of the Committee in respect of the Consumer Council’s report entitled “Empowering Consumers – Beginning a Conversation on Consumer Priorities for the Northern Ireland Electricity Network”.

Members now noted copy of an e-mail dated the 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016 from the Head of Energy at the Consumer Council, referring to difficulties which consumers were having in connecting to the electricity grid and advising that the Utility Regulator had initiated a review of this matter and had issued a call for evidence. The Consumer Council would be sitting on a working group on this matter and would be happy to pass on evidence that Members might have in relation to connection difficulties to the electricity grid.

It was agreed to recommend that any evidence that Members may have in relation to connection difficulties to the electricity grid be furnished to the Consumer Council for onward submission to the Utility Regulator who was undertaking a review of this matter.

9.8.2 Department for Communities – Consultations

9.8.2.1 “The Advice Requirement and Overseas Pension Transfers: A call for evidence on members with safeguarded pension benefits transferring outside the UK” (Closing date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016)

The above consultation documentation was available at <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations>.

It was agreed to recommend that the above consultation be noted and that any comments that Members may wish to make on the above consultation be submitted to the Department by the stipulated closing date.

9.8.2.2 “Independent Review of the State Pension Age: Interim Report”  
(Closing date: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016)

The above consultation was available at <https://www.communities-ni.gov.uk/consultations>.

9.8.2.2 “Independent Review of the State Pension Age: Interim Report”  
(Closing date: 31<sup>st</sup> December 2016) (Cont'd)

It was agreed to recommend that the above consultation be noted and that any comments that Members may wish to make on the above consultation be submitted to the Department by the stipulated closing date.

9.9 Department of the Economy  
Apprenticeship Levy – Employer Engagement Consultation Paper (Closing Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2016)

The above consultation was available at <https://www.economy-ni.gov.uk/consultations/apprenticeship-levy>.

Members were provided with copy of a response to the consultation document as prepared by the Northern Ireland Local Government Association (NILGA).

It was agreed to recommend that the response of NILGA to the Apprenticeship Levy consultation of the Department of the Economy be accepted as the Council's response thereto and that NILGA be advised accordingly.

Comments were noted from Councillor J Palmer in regard to the possibility of the Council employing apprenticeships for gardening services whereby the apprentice could work towards an apprenticeship in Horticulture.

Items for Noting

9.10 Collaborative Working Arrangements

It was agreed to recommend that the report in respect of the collaborative working arrangements undertaken by the Corporate Services Department be noted, it being noted that the collaborative projects fell within five distinct areas, ie Community Safety, Procurement, Communications, Human Resources, and Civic.

9.11 Performance Improvement Audit

Members noted the receipt of the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Improvement Audit and Assessment which detailed the findings of the NI Audit Office work to date. It was noted that this information had been reported to the meeting of the Governance & Audit Committee on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

It was also noted that work had taken place to agree the detail of the report with the final report being presented to the Governance & Audit Committee in due course.

9.12 Prohibition or Restriction of Use of Public Roads: Special Events Commencement Date - 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017

The Committee had been furnished with, and noted the content of, a copy of an e-mail dated the 16<sup>th</sup> November 2016 from the Department for Infrastructure in relation to new legislation that related to the prohibition or restriction of use of public roads: special events. It was noted that the Department intended that the legislation would be effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017 and that from that date, the Council would assume responsibility for dealing with requests for special events on all public roads in the Council area, apart from special roads for which the Department assumed responsibility.

The Committee noted that consideration of this matter would be led by the Environmental Services Committee and that this information was presented to the Corporate Services Committee for noting.

9.13 Department of Finance  
“Rates Liability for Domestic Rental Properties”

The Director advised the Committee that the report by the Department of Finance in respect of its consultation entitled “Rates Liability for Domestic Rental Properties” was available via the following link:

[Rates Liability for Domestic Rental Properties Consultation Report.](#)

The Director reminded the Committee that at the meeting of Council held on the 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016 the Council had accepted a recommendation from its Corporate Services Committee to note the content of the consultation.

It was agreed to recommend that the availability of the report by the Department of Finance in respect of its consultation entitled “Rates Liability for Domestic Rental Properties” be noted.

9.14 Organised Crime Procurement Pilots – Final Report

The Committee had been furnished with and noted the content of a copy of Annex A to the Final Report of the Organised Crime Procurement Pilot. The annex was a checklist in relation to local authority procurement which could be at risk from serious and organised crime and where organised crime groups could be benefiting from public sector contracts.

9.15 14-18 Now - Expression of Interest to host the “Wave & Weeping Window” Poppy Sculptures In 2018

The Committee had been furnished with a copy of an e-mail from 14-18 NOW inviting expressions of interest from across the United Kingdom to host the iconic ceramic poppy sculptures “Wave and Weeping Window” in 2018 which was the last year of the First World War centenary.

9.15 14-18 Now - Expression of Interest to host the "Wave & Weeping Window" Poppy Sculptures In 2018

The Director reported that the request had been referred to the Leisure & Community Development Committee for appropriate action.

It was agreed that the content of the e-mail from 14-18 NOW inviting expressions of interest from across the United Kingdom to host the iconic ceramic poppy sculptures "Wave and Weeping Window" in 2018 be noted as having been referred to the Leisure & Community Development Committee for action.

10. Confidential Reports of Director of Corporate Services

Dealt with under Items 6 and 8 above.

11. Any Other Business

There was no other business for consideration.

There being no further business, the meeting terminated at 9.13 pm.

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MAYOR/CHAIRMAN