



30 April, 2021

**TO: The Right Worshipful the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors  
of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council**

A **Special Meeting of Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council** will be held on **Thursday, 6th May 2021** at **5:00 pm** in the Council Chamber and remote locations for the transaction of the business on the undernoted agenda.

I would encourage Members to connect to the meeting via Zoom, supporting the NI Executive message to work from home where possible.

For those Members accessing this meeting remotely, the **Zoom details** are included in the Outlook invitation that has been issued.

You are requested to attend.

**DAVID BURNS**  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE**  
**LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL**

# Agenda

## 1.0 APOLOGIES

## 2.0 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 27.1 – SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDER 27.2 FOR THE DURATION OF THE MEETING

## 3.0 DECLARATIONS OF MEMBERS' INTERESTS

(i) Conflict of Interest on any matter before the meeting (Members to confirm the specific item)

(ii) Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interest (Members to complete the Disclosure of Interest Form)

📎 *Disclosure of Interests form.pdf*

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## 4.0 REPORT FROM CHIEF EXECUTIVE

### 4.1 Remote Meetings - Amendment to Standing Orders

📎 *Report for Sp Council - Remote Meetings Final.pdf*

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# LISBURN & CASTLEREAGH CITY COUNCIL

## MEMBERS DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

The Northern Ireland Local Government Code of Conduct for Councillors under Section 6 requires you to declare at the relevant meeting any pecuniary interest that you may have in any matter coming before any meeting of your Council. This information will be recorded in a Statutory Register. On such matters you must not speak or vote. Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, if such a matter is to be discussed by your Council, you must withdraw from the meeting whilst that matter is being discussed

In addition you must also declare any significant private or personal non-pecuniary interest in a matter arising at a Council meeting (please see also Sections 5.2 and 5.6 and 5.8 of the Code). Subject to the provisions of Sections 6.5 to 6.11 of the Code, you must declare this interest as soon as it becomes apparent and you must withdraw from any Council (including committee or sub committee meeting) when this matter is being discussed.

In respect of each of these, please can you complete the form below as necessary.

### 1. Pecuniary Interest

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

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Date of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

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Nature of Pecuniary Interest:


2. Private or Personal non Pecuniary interest

Meeting (Council or Committee - please specify and name):

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Meeting: \_\_\_\_\_

Item(s) in which you must declare an interest (please specify item number from report):

\_\_\_\_\_

Nature of Private or Personal non Pecuniary Interest:


Name:
Address:

Signed:	Date:

*If you have any queries please contact David Burns, Chief Executive, Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council*



## Special Meeting of Council

6 May 2021

### Report from:

Chief Executive

### Item for Decision

**TITLE:** Remote Meetings Post 6 May 2021 – Amendment to Standing Orders

#### Background and Key Issues:

Further to the report on remote meetings agreed at the Full Council Meeting held on 27 April 2021 further legal advice has been obtained following the High Court decision issued on Wednesday 28 April 2021 to reject the bid by Hertfordshire County Council to continue with remote meetings beyond 6 May 2021.

This ruling stipulates that primary legislation would be required to allow the extended use of online meetings. This alters the legal advice that a physical presence of all Committee/Council Members is not required at Committee/Council Meetings.

The Department for Communities has indicated their desire to extend the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 (the **Regulations 2020**) however, it is clear that this will not be done before 7 May 2021.

The expiration of the Regulations 2020 affects the validity of the adopted Standing Orders of Council May 2020 as explicit reference is made to the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020. It is now necessary to amend the Standing Orders under Order 27.2 for the purpose of removing the explicit references to the Regulations 2020.

#### Planning and Committee Meetings Post 6 May 2021

All members of committees are required to attend meetings in person in Lagan Valley Island, however non Committee members can still access the meeting via zoom. The Planning

Committee and other standing committee meetings will be held in the Council Chamber with a limited number of officers in attendance. The live stream of committee meetings will continue to enable the Council to fulfil its statutory obligation to make its meetings open to the public. Heads of Service and other Officers will continue to attend committee meetings remotely. In respect of the Planning Committee deputations by agents/speakers will be by remote attendance.

If a Member of a committee decides to attend the meeting remotely they will have speaking rights but will not be able to put forward a proposal, second a proposal or participate in a vote.

### **Full Council Meeting and Annual Meeting of Council Post 6 May 2021**

The Full Meeting of Council and the Annual Meeting will be held in the Island Hall which can accommodate all 40 Members and a limited number of Officers. Directors will attend by remote means.

If a Member decides to attend the Council Meeting or Annual Meeting by remote means they will have speaking rights but will not be able to put forward a proposal, second a proposal or participate in a vote.

The balcony area in the Island Hall can accommodate 15 members of the public and by doing so eliminates the need for Council to live stream the meeting. Members of the public will be asked to register their attendance prior to the Council Meeting in order for this to be managed. An audio recording of the meeting will be made and uploaded to the Council's website.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Standing Orders of Council are amended under Order 27.2 for the purpose of removing the explicit references to the Local Government (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of District Council Meetings) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2020 including Order 2.1(a) to be removed in its entirety.

### **Finance and Resource Implications:**

Within existing budget

#### **Screening:**

Equality and  
Good  
Relations

No

Environmental  
Impact  
Assessment

No

Rural Impact  
Assessment

No

**SUBJECT TO PLANNING APPROVAL:**

No

If Yes, "This is a decision of this Committee only. Members of the Planning Committee are not bound by the decision of this Committee. Members of the Planning Committee shall consider any related planning application in accordance with the applicable legislation and with an open mind, taking into account all relevant matters and leaving out irrelevant consideration".

**APPENDICES:**

Appendix 1 Standing Orders (May 2020)

**HAS IT BEEN SUBJECT TO CALL IN TO DATE?**

No

If Yes, please insert date: