



**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE
CHAMBER, MOSSLEY MILL ON WEDNESDAY 10 FEBRUARY 2025 AT 6.30 PM**

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor N Kelly)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – L Clarke, M Magill, P Michael, S Ross and J Smyth
- : Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington, M Brady, J Burbank, M Cooper, S Cosgrove, P Dunlop, J Gilmour, H Magill, T McGrann, E McLaughlin, V McWilliam, M Ní Chonghaile, A O'Lone, M Stewart, S Ward and S Wilson
- Members Present (Remotely)** : Aldermen – L Boyle, P Bradley, T Campbell and M Cosgrove
- : Councillors - S Flanagan, R Foster, R Kinnear, A McAuley, L O'Hagan and B Webb
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - R Baker
 Director of Economic Development and Planning – M McAlister
 Director of Community Development – U Fay
 Director of Sustainability, Operations – M Lavery
 Director of Parks and Leisure, Operations – M McDowell
 Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
 Director of Organisation Development (Interim) – H Hall
 Deputy Director of Finance – J Balmer
 Head of Finance – R Murray
 Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events – S Goldrick
 Head of Community Development – R McKenna
 Funding Hub Manager – A Boyle
 ICT Helpdesk Officer – A Cole
 Member Services Manager – A Duffy
 Member Services Officer – Edith Skillen

MAYOR'S REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Special Council Meeting and reminded all present of the audio-recording protocol. He advised Members that following the recent very sad passing of the former Mayor and Councillor Jim Montgomery a tribute opportunity would be afforded to Members at the upcoming Full Council Meeting.

1 APOLOGIES

Alderman – J McGrath
Councillors – M Goodman, R Lynch and L Smyth

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE

3. F1/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATES 2025/26

1. Purpose

The Purpose of this report was to seek members' approval for

- The Council's Revenue Budget / Estimates for the year 2025/26 and the expenditure and forecast income included therein authorised
- The District Rates for the year commencing 1 April 2025 be fixed at 28.8790p and 0.4297p in the pound for Non-Domestic and Domestic properties respectively.

2. Introduction and Background

Members were reminded that under the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, the Council:

- Shall consider the estimates for the next financial year;
- May revise the estimates in such manner as the Council sees fit;
- Shall approve the estimates;
- Shall authorise the expenditure included in the estimates; and
- Shall fix for the financial year the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates made by the Council.

3. 25/26 Revenue Budget / Estimates

A summary of the Council's Revenue Budget / Estimates for the 25/26 financial period and the Draft Rates Calculation 2025/26 were circulated to Members.

The rates proposed would result in a 4.96% increase for domestic ratepayers over the rates struck for the 2024/25 financial year.

Moved by Councillor Gilmour
Seconded by Councillor McWilliam and

RESOLVED – that the estimates for the year 2025/26 be approved and the expenditure included therein authorised and that the District Rates for the year commencing 1 April 2025 be fixed at 28.8790p and 0.4297p in the pound for non-domestic and domestic property respectively.

ACTION BY: Richard Murray, Head of Finance

The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and there being no further business on the agenda the meeting concluded at 6.40pm.

MAYOR