



MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE CHAMBER, MOSSLEY MILL ON MONDAY 9 FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.30 PM

- In the Chair** : Mayor (Councillor L Kirkpatrick)
- Members Present** : Aldermen – L Clarke, J McGrath, M Magill,
Councillors – J Archibald-Brown, A Bennington,
: M Brady, M Cooper, P Dunlop, J Gilmour,
N Kelly, H Magill, B Mallon, A O’Lone, M Stewart,
S Ward, B Webb and S Wilson
- Members Present (Remotely)** : Aldermen – L Boyle, M Cosgrove, S Ross
: Councillors – J Burbank, S Cosgrove, H Cushinan,
S Flanagan, R Foster, M Goodman, R Kinnear,
A McAuley, T McGrann, E McLaughlin, V McWilliam,
L O’Hagan
- Officers Present** : Chief Executive - R Baker
Director of Finance and Governance – S Cole
Deputy Director of Finance – J Balmer
Head of Finance – R Murray
Director of Community and Culture – U Fay
Head of Arts, Culture, Tourism and Events – S Goldrick
Head of Marketing Communications and PR –
J McIntyre
ICT Project Officer – C Bell
ICT Support Assistant – D Graham
Member Services Officer – S Fisher

MAYOR’S REMARKS

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the Special Council Meeting and reminded all present of the audio-recording protocol.

1 APOLOGIES

Aldermen – P Bradley, T Campbell
Councillors – R Lynch, M Ni Chonghaile

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

NONE

3. F1/FIN/11 DRAFT RATES ESTIMATES 2026/27

1. Purpose

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

- The Council's Revenue Budget / Estimates for the year 2026/27 and the expenditure and forecast income included therein authorised
- The District Rates for the year commencing 1 April 2026 be fixed at 29.7391p and 0.4425p 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 thinks fit;
- Shall approve the estimates;
- Shall authorise the expenditure included in the estimates; and
- Shall fix for the next financial year the amount estimated to be required to be raised by means of rates made by the Council.

3. 2026/27 Revenue Budget/Estimates

A summary of the Council's Revenue Budget/Estimates for the 2026/27 financial year and the Draft Rates calculation 2026/27 were circulated to Members.

The rates proposed would result in a 2.99% increase for domestic ratepayers over the rates struck for the 2025/26 financial year.

Councillor Ward advised he was unable to support the proposal.

Moved by Alderman Magill
Seconded by Councillor McLaughlin and

RESOLVED – that the estimates for the year 2026/27 be approved and the expenditure included therein authorised and that the District Rates for the year commencing 1 April 2026 be fixed at 29.7391p and 0.4425p 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 6.49pm.

MAYOR

Council Minutes have been redacted in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Data Protection Act 2018, the General Data Protection Regulation, and legal advice.