



**CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING  
TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026**

<b>No</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Summary of Key Recommendations</b>	<b>Estimated Timescale for completion</b>
1.	Apologies	<b>Councillor Nicholl</b>	<b>n/a</b>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<b>None</b>	<b>n/a</b>
3.	Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee Meeting held Tuesday 24 February 2026	<b>Confirmed as a correct record</b>	<b>-</b>
4.	Notes of Women’s Working Group meeting held on 24 February 2026	<b>Noted</b>	<b>-</b>
5.	Minutes of the Commemoration and Celebration Sub Committee Meeting held Wednesday 4 March 2026	<b>Confirmed as a correct record</b>	<b>-</b>
6.	Corporate Services Management Accounts P10	<b>To recommend to Council that Management Accounts for Period 10 - Corporate Services and Planning - and the associated narrative contained within the report are accepted</b>	N/A – Monthly update
7.	Update on Progress –	<b>Noted</b>	<b>-</b>

	Causeway Coast and Glens Community Plan		
8.	Final Draft Council Plan	<b>Withdrawn</b>	-
9.	Performance Improvement Policy Review	<b>Noted</b>	<b>March 2026</b>
10.	Consultations	<b>None</b>	-
11.	Conferences	<b>Information</b>	-
12.	Correspondence	<b>None</b>	-
13.	Matters for Reporting to the Partnership Panel	<b>None</b>	-
	<b>'In Committee' (Item 14-16 inclusive)</b>		
14.	Minutes of the Land and Property Sub-Committee Meeting held on Wednesday 4 March 2026	<b>Adopted and recommendations therein approved.</b>	-
15.	Minutes of the Organisation Review Sub-Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 February 2026	<b>Approved and recommendations therein approved.</b>	-
16.	Tender for Supply of Temporary Workers	<b>To recommend that Council approve the appointment of Staffline for a contractual period of 2 years with 2 further extensions</b>	-
17.	Any Other Relevant Business (notified in accordance with		

	Standing Order 12(o))		
<b>17.1</b>	<i>Council staff who serve in the Emergency Services</i> (Councillor Wilson)	<b>Information</b>	-
<b>17.2</b>	<i>Public accessibility of Council Meetings Online</i> (Councillor Wilson)	<b>Information</b>	-

UNCONFIRMED

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE MEETING OF THE  
CORPORATE POLICY & RESOURCES COMMITTEE  
HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE  
ON TUESDAY 24 MARCH 2026  
AT 7.00 PM**

**In the Chair:** Councillor McShane (C)

**Present:** Coyle (C), Fielding (C), Knight-McQuillan (C), McKillop (C)  
Councillors C Archibald (C), McAuley (R), McCully (C),  
McGlinchey (R), Mairs (C), Storey (C), Watson (R),  
Watton (C), Wilson (C), Wisener (C)

Councillor Mairs substituted for Alderman Boyle  
Councillor McGlinchey substituted for Councillor Peacock

**Officers Present:** M Quinn, Director of Corporate Services (C)  
A Hamilton, Democratic and Central Services Manager  
(R)  
J McCarron, Performance Manager (C)  
I Owens, Committee and Member Services Officer (C)

A Lennox, ICT Operations Manager (C)  
L Boyd, ICT Operations Officer (C)

Press 3 no. (R)

**Key:** (C) Attended in The Chamber  
(R) Attended Remotely

The Chair advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded.

The Director of Corporate Services undertook a roll call of Committee Members present.

**1. APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received for Councillor Nicholl.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. MINUTES OF THE CORPORATE POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026**

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair.

**AGREED** – that the Minutes of the Corporate Policy and Resources Committee meeting held on Tuesday 24 February 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

**4. NOTES OF WOMEN'S WORKING GROUP MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 24 FEBRUARY 2026**

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair.

Councillor Mairs advised that the meeting notes did not reflect Alderman Boyle's attendance.

Committee NOTED the notes.

**5. MINUTES OF THE COMMEMORATION AND CELEBRATION SUB COMMITTEE MEETING HELD WEDNESDAY 04 MARCH 2026**

Copy, previously circulated, presented as read by the Chair.

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan  
Seconded by Alderman Fielding and

**AGREED** – that the Minutes of the Commemoration and Celebration Sub Committee meeting held Wednesday 04 March 2026 are confirmed as a correct record.

**6. CORPORATE SERVICES MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS P10**

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

**Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide Members with information on the current financial position of Corporate Services Directorate at the end of Period 10.

## **Background**

Council has approved the annual budget for Corporate Services and delegated authority to officers to utilise this budget in the provision of services to the rate payers. Corporate Services budget for 2025/26 is **£7,167,859** and the Planning Budget is **£1,956,420**.

## **Detailed Analysis**

The Corporate Services position at Month 10 shows a **£737,542** positive variance, as a result of **£714k** under budget in expenditure and **£23k** over budget in income.

Table 1 Analysis of Expenditure – Corporate Services Months 1 – 10 was previously circulated.

## **Democratic Services (DS)**

£424k favourable due to various elements of expenditure being less than budget in Period 10 including the following: Members allowances £183k, PR Salaries £38k, PR Printing £25k, Corporate & Democratic salary Costs £73k, and Registration services £42k.

## **Land and Property**

£42k favourable at Period 10, £32k favourable on salary costs, £6k favourable on Valuation costs and £3k adverse on Legal Costs.

## **Human Resources**

£116k favourable in Period 10.

£9k favourable in salary costs, £45k favourable on staff training, £14k favourable on employee relations and £9k favourable on Occupational Health.

## **ICT**

£43k adverse overall in Period 10 due to adverse variances in Telephones £123k, Security £36k, Photocopying Leases £23k and offset by favourable variances in Computer Licences £35k and Consultancy £15k.

## **Contributions to other bodies**

£21k favourable at period 10, as budget has been released in period 10 and there have been no further costs to date.

## **Internal Audit**

£105k favourable as at Period 10, £70k favourable on salary Costs, £28k favourable on Internal Audit services, £10k favourable on other Professional; costs and £5k adverse on Legal Costs.

### **Centrally Managed**

Overall, £58K favourable position at the end of Period 10, due to underspends in Telephones £26k and £17k on other costs.

### **Policy & Community Planning**

Overall, £14k favourable variance at the end of Period 10, due to overspend on salary costs of £9k, and other Professional Costs £7k and underspends in Programme Management Costs of £34k.

### **Planning**

£443k favourable at end of Period 10, largely due to improvement in income from planning applications and property certificates, £345k favourable and maintaining staff costs and wages within budget, £8k favourable. Other favourable variances include Programme Management Costs £23k, Development Plan £22k, Other professional costs £12k and advertising £12k.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that the Management Accounts for Period 10 - Corporate Services and Planning - and the associated narrative contained within the report are accepted.

The Director of Corporate Services referred to the overall positive variance on Table 1, previously circulated, and said that following the Financial Management Team meeting held earlier today it was hoped the trend would continue into Period 11.

The Director of Corporate Services explained that the underspend was due to vacant posts currently in the process of being filled as well as a training and development underspend.

Proposed by Councillor Wisener  
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

**AGREED** – To recommend to Council that Management Accounts for Period 10 - Corporate Services and Planning - and the associated narrative contained within the report are accepted.

## **7. UPDATE ON PROGRESS – CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS COMMUNITY PLAN**

For information report, previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

## **Introduction**

The Community Plan is a long-term plan (from 2017 to 2030) based on sound, robust evidence with a focus on improving social, economic and environmental well-being and contributing to sustainable development.

The Community Plan is a strategic planning tool for the Causeway Coast and Glens area, and it is the key over-arching framework for partnerships and initiatives in the Council area. It is not seen as an additional or parallel process to structures already in place.

Phase 1 of the community planning process was the development of a Strategic Framework for the Community Plan. This document was finalised in April 2017 and officially launched in June 2017. It outlines the high-level outcomes identified for the Causeway Coast and Glens area based on an extensive public consultation process and a statistical analysis of the area.

Phase 2 of the community planning process was the development of a comprehensive Delivery Plan in 2018 which put in place 44 practical actions and activities to achieve the outcomes identified in the Strategic Framework. This Delivery Plan was reviewed in 2022 and now contains 34 actions covering four thematic areas:

- 1) Health and Wellbeing
- 2) Community/Community Safety
- 3) Infrastructure/Environment
- 4) Economy/Education/Tourism.

Phase 3 of the community planning process put in place mechanisms to monitor and report on performance against the Community Plan objectives/outcomes. An Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA) process has been utilised to monitor and report on performance with Action Leads using report cards to provide information on progress.

## **Review of the Delivery Plan**

A collaboration workshop for community planning partners took place in Portballintrae in May 2025 with input from the Department for Communities on the people and places review and the collaboration test and learn programme. A facilitated discussion then took place on the challenges and barriers to further collaboration in Causeway Coast and Glens as well as the potential opportunities and actions.

At the Community Planning Partnership Meeting in July 2025, members took a detailed look at the feedback report on the workshop and, during a facilitated discussion, developed their thoughts on how to progress collaborative planning in Causeway Coast and Glens.

It was agreed that this process should involve a full review of the Delivery Plan and, to progress this, consultation sessions with key stakeholders were organised along with the issue of a public consultation survey.

At the Partnership meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> November 2025, the Community Planning Partners were given a presentation outlining key feedback from the survey and the consultation sessions. It was noted that, as a result, it was proposed to reduce the number of “actions” in the Delivery Plan from 31 to 16 with a focus now on moving from “actions” to “strategic priority areas”, ensuring these had a problem solving and collaborative focus.

At the Partnership meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026 the Community Planning Partnership endorsed the following strategic priority areas of work for inclusion in the revised Delivery Plan. More detailed information on the proposed content of the revised Delivery Plan is attached as Appendix 1, previously circulated.

### **Health and Wellbeing**

Encouraging Healthy Active Lifestyles  
Supporting and Championing Older People  
Tackling Poverty  
Investing Early: Improving Outcomes for Children and Families, and Communities  
Promoting Positive Mental Health with a specific focus on addressing loneliness

### **Community and Community Safety**

Addressing Vulnerability: Supporting vulnerable people, including older people, multi- agency support hub and cyber safety, ending violence against women and girls and drugs and alcohol.  
Young Voices – Continuation of Youth Voice and scope the potential development of Youth Council  
Positive Relationships and Spaces  
Strengthening Community & Voluntary Sector Collaboration and Support

### **Infrastructure and Environment**

Explore/Develop/Maintain Public Spaces (Including Natural & Built Heritage & Pride in the environment)  
Meet Local Housing Needs (including Interagency Cooperation Homelessness)  
Local Transport (developing a transport policy statement for the CCG area)  
Climate Change Strategy for the CCG area

## **Economic/Education /Tourism**

Harness Economic and Skills Potential (Incorporating the Growth Deal, Labour Market Partnership (LMP) & Local Economic Partnership (LEP) Tourism & Recreation support in partnership with Tourism Ni & Tourism Ireland Delivery of new £20m Coleraine Town Fund.

The next steps in the process will be to finalise the revised Delivery Plan and this final version will be presented to the Community Planning Partnership at its May 2026 meeting.

## **Other Business**

### **Presentations**

At its February meeting, the Community Planning Partnership received presentations on PeacePlus and on the establishment of the new Local Economic Partnership.

### **Anti-Poverty Network**

The Partnership noted that the Causeway Coast and Glens Anti-Poverty Group had held a networking and information sharing event on 23<sup>rd</sup> October during which a wide range of organisations had examined what policy or structural changes the Anti-Poverty Group should be advocating and lobbying for. Please find below a list of the priorities identified during this event:

- **Transport** to be able to access services, such as social supermarket – need to find local solutions
- Community transport needs widened (only for appointments or certain times)
- Rural transport to access services
- Transport also an issue in towns e.g. accessing supermarkets
- **Housing** – availability and affordability
- Homelessness more apparent recently – people sleeping rough on sand dunes in Portrush
- For example, people in work but living in their cars – can't access emergency accommodation as they could be moved anywhere and need to be able to get to their place of employment
- Lack of emergency accommodation
- Families having to move in with older parents in houses that aren't suitable
- **Childcare** a massive barrier to getting back into employment – both affordability and availability of childcare, especially in rural areas
- Need more funded childcare places
- Fear of moving off benefits- need education about options available
- **Low paid jobs** – should pay less tax

- Zero-hour employment contracts a big issue, particularly affecting young people
- Many people in work cannot afford the essentials, e.g. 69% of users of Ballymoney foodbank are in employment
- Child benefit – should remove the 2-child cap
- Bring in a child payment similar to the Scotland model
- Removing the stigma of accessing help
- Fuel version of social supermarket would be good
- Cost of **heating**
- Parents only having heating on when children are in the house
- More funding for Keep Warm packs
- Emergency repair grant for people whose heating has broken and they can't afford to repair – similar to former Boiler Replacement Scheme.
- Affordable Warmth Scheme takes too long
- More funding for programmes such as Transform your Trolley
- Lending and debts - Credit Union safe lending
- Hoarding a big issue – people comfort buying.

The Director of Corporate Services referred to the colour-coded information provided in the report and advised that further information is available on the Council website.

Committee NOTED the report.

## **8. FINAL DRAFT COUNCIL PLAN**

The Director of Corporate Services advised that this report was deferred to the April Corporate Policy and Resources Committee to facilitate inclusion of positive feedback from Officers following a consultation, subject to SMT approval.

## **9. PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT POLICY REVIEW**

For information report, previously circulated, was presented by the Performance Manager.

### **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to update Elected Members on the annual review of the Council's Performance Improvement Policy.

### **Background**

The Department for Communities and Local Government Auditor has recommended that all Councils in Northern Ireland have in place a

Performance Improvement Policy to underpin the Performance Duty within the Local Government Act (NI) 2014. As such, Causeway Coast and Glens agreed its first Performance Improvement Policy in March 2018 and followed this with an amendment in August 2019.

As the Council's arrangements for meeting its responsibilities under the Performance Duty have matured it has been deemed necessary to continually update the Performance Improvement Policy. Accordingly, since March 2023 Council has committed to an annual review of this Policy and an updated Policy for 2026 has been developed for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and is attached as Appendix 1, previously circulated.

### **Updates**

Following a review, and on the back of a very positive S95 Annual Improvement Audit and Assessment Report from the NI Audit Office, it has been deemed that there are no significant changes required to the Policy for 2026. This position will remain under review.

Section 9 of the Policy provides updates on dates for key milestones during 2026.

### **Recommendation**

It is recommended that Elected Members note the Performance Improvement Policy (Version 6, March 2026), as detailed within Appendix 1, previously circulated.

The Performance Manager spoke of the duty to annually review the Performance Improvement Policy and of the responsibility to bring audit recommendations through to fruition. The Performance Manager referred Elected Members to the Table, previously circulated, highlighting some of the Key Performance Improvement related milestones that Council is committed to delivering.

Councillor Storey welcomed the work undertaken and referred to some of the negativity around Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and spoke of the cost associated with extensive auditing and the additional resources and processes which resulted.

Councillor Storey thanked staff involved in bringing recommendations to fruition.

The Chair said that hopefully Causeway Coast and Glens could be seen as exemplary in Local Government.

Committee NOTED the report.

- \* **Councillor Watson joined the meeting remotely at 7.10 pm.**

## 10. CONSULTATIONS

No consultations were listed.

## 11. CONFERENCE

### **Purpose of report**

The purpose of the report is to inform Elected Members of conferences and courses they may wish to attend.

The following is listed

### **APSE Armed Forces and Veterans Network**

**Date:** Friday 27 March 2026 - 10:00am - 12pm

**Location:** MS Teams

**Cost:** Free to attend for all APSE Members

### **Extract**

#### **Speakers include:**

*Armed Forces Covenant and Employer Recognition Scheme - Laura Williams, Service Director Customer, Democracy and Neighbourhoods, Sandwell Council  
Careers Transition Partnership - Matthew Mahoney, Key account manager and Vanya Leslie, Integration Manager CTP, Reed in Partnership  
Armed Forces Champion in North Norfolk: initiatives and partnership working - Cllr John Toye, North Norfolk District Council*

*The network meeting is free for Causeway Coast & Glens Borough Council as an APSE member and open to all elected members and officers. The meeting will be held online (via Microsoft Teams) and joining instructions will be sent the day before. Any PowerPoint slides and link to research will be made available to participants after the event.*

*We also now have a web page dedicated to this group, please [click here](#) to access this. Please forward this link to your colleagues so that they can register for this group and receive future information and notifications from APSE for this network.*

Elected Members are advised to contact Democratic Services to register interest.

**Recommendation**

**It is recommended** that the Committee notes the report.

Committee NOTED the report.

**12. CORRESPONDENCE**

No correspondence was received.

**13. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO THE PARTNERSHIP PANEL**

There were no matters for reporting to the Partnership Panel.

\* **Councillor McGlinchey joined the meeting remotely at 7.15 pm**

**MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'**

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan  
Seconded by Alderman McKillop and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Committee move 'In Committee'.

\* **Public and Press were disconnected from the meeting at 7.15pm**

***The information contained in the following items is restricted in accordance with Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.***

The Chair advised Committee of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded.

**14. MINUTES OF THE LAND AND PROPERTY AND STRATEGIC ASSETS SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 04 MARCH 2026**

Copy, previously circulated, was presented by the Chair as read.

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan  
Seconded by Councillor Archibald and

**AGREED** – To recommend that the Minutes of the Land and Property and Strategic Assets Sub Committee meeting held Wednesday 04 March 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

**15. MINUTES OF THE ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 19 FEBRUARY 2026**

Copy, previously circulated, was presented by the Chair as read.

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan  
Seconded by Councillor McCully and

**AGREED** – To recommend that the Minutes of the Organisational Review Sub-Committee Meeting held on Thursday 19 February 2026 are adopted and recommendations therein approved.

\* **Councillor Storey left the Chamber at 7.20 pm**

**16. TENDER FOR SUPPLY OF TEMPORARY WORKERS**

Confidential report, by virtue of paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland), previously circulated, was presented by the Director of Corporate Services.

**Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to inform Members of the result of the recent tender exercise for the temporary worker contract.

**Background**

Council currently has in place a contract with Staffline to provide temporary workers to council for a wide range of roles. This contract expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026, CP&R previously passed a small extension of 2 months to allow time for transition to a new supplier.

**Detail**

An invitation to tender was advertised on both Find a Tender Service (FTS) and the Online European Journal (OJEU) from 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec 2025 to 27<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

18 companies in total accessed the tender with three compliant submissions from Staffline, Riada Resourcing and Just Dynamic Recruitment.

Scoring took place on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026, Staffline submitted the most advantageous tender and was ranked first.

## **Financials**

The current contract had two different supply costs, dependent on the role, some roles were 45p cost per hour and more technical roles were £1.25 per hour, the current tender significantly reduces the cost per hour of staff, the winning tender submitted a cost of 35p per hour.

## **Recommendation**

**It is recommended that** Council approve the appointment of Staffline for a contractual period of 2 years with 2 further extensions.

Councillor Watton said he wished to raise some matters in relation to the current provider due to issues raised by Agency staff regarding lines of communication.

The Director of Corporate Services agreed to meet with Councillor Watton regarding issues raised and said that such matters around performance could be addressed at monthly meetings which take place with the tender provider.

Proposed by Councillor Wisener  
Seconded by Councillor Archibald and

**AGREED** – To recommend that Council approve the appointment of Staffline for a contractual period of 2 years with 2 further extensions.

## **17. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS (NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 12(O))**

### **17.1 Council staff who serve in the Emergency Services (Councillor Wilson)**

*Clarification is sought from officers on the Council's current policy regarding members of staff who also serve or volunteer with the emergency services. In particular, could officers outline:*

- *What provisions currently exist for Council employees who are also members of the emergency services to leave Council duties when responding to an emergency call;*
- *How such circumstances are treated in terms of pay and leave;*
- *Whether staff are permitted to make up any time lost from Council duties due to responding to an emergency.*

- *Where a member of staff is driving a Council vehicle at the time of being called to an emergency, whether they may utilise that vehicle to travel directly to their relevant emergency service depot.*

*This information would assist Members in understanding the Council's approach to supporting staff who provide vital service to the community through their involvement in the emergency services. In raising this matter, I would also like to place on record our appreciation for all those who volunteer or serve within our emergency services. Their dedication and commitment play a crucial role in protecting our communities and keeping people safe. As a Council, we should do all within our power to ensure that no unnecessary barriers are placed in the way of staff who carry out what is often life-saving work.*

The Chair invited Councillor Wilson to address the Committee.

Councillor Wilson said that following queries raised by staff concerned, there remained some matters still to resolve including permissions to leave place of work, completion of paperwork and hours involved.

The Director of Corporate Services said that the Special Leave policy had been ratified following Trade Union agreement in April/May 2025 and said she would be happy to re-visit the policy. The Director of Corporate Services also spoke of the operational needs of Council services and implementation of the policy by Management and spoke of the minimum numbers of staff to which this applied.

### **MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'**

Proposed by Councillor Archibald  
Seconded by Alderman Coyle and

**AGREED** – to recommend that Committee move 'In Committee'.

Press were re-admitted to the meeting at 7.30 pm

### **17.2 Public accessibility of Council Meetings Online** (Councillor Wilson)

*I wish to seek clarification from officers regarding the current arrangements for members of the public to view Council meetings online.*

*While Council meetings are available to view remotely, the current system requires members of the public to submit a request in advance in order to access the meeting. I believe this requirement creates an unnecessary barrier to public engagement and limits the transparency that residents should reasonably expect from their Council.*

*Openness and transparency are fundamental principles of good governance and are vital to the health of local democracy. Council meetings should be readily accessible to all members of the public without the need to apply or seek permission in advance. Providing unrestricted online access would allow residents who are unable to attend in person — due to work commitments, caring responsibilities, mobility issues, or other personal circumstances — to observe the decision-making process in real time.*

*Removing the requirement to request access would represent a simple but meaningful step toward improving transparency, strengthening accountability, and encouraging greater public engagement with the work of the Council.*

*In light of this, I ask:*

*Why is it currently necessary for members of the public to submit a request in advance in order to view Council meetings online?;*

*What barriers, if any, exist to making Council meetings openly accessible online without prior application?;*

*Will officers bring forward proposals to remove this requirement and ensure that all Council meetings can be accessed online by the public without restriction?;*

*Can a timeframe be provided for when unrestricted online access to Council meetings will be implemented?*

*It is important that we remove unnecessary obstacles to public participation and ensure that our residents can easily observe the democratic processes that affect their communities.*

The Chair invited Councillor Wilson to address the Committee.

Councillor Wilson said this matter had been raised a number of times over the years and referred to discussion in May 2022 when consideration was given to evolving the current process with a view to updating.

Councillor Wilson spoke of the requirement for transparency and openness and said that currently people can walk in or apply to watch online and felt the mechanics of the process could be improved as there is no guidance on the website on how to apply to watch online. Councillor Wilson also referred to the deadline of 9 am on the day preceding the meeting to request permissions to watch online.

The Director of Corporate Services said that this guidance was included in the news page and agreed as a short-to medium-term plan to consider a tile on the front page of the website for ease of access and to extend the deadline for requesting a link to 5 pm on the day prior to the meeting. The Chair welcomed the Director's comments and queried the time being extended to 5 pm on the

day preceding the meeting as often it is not to nearer the start time of the meeting when there is an interest generated and spoke of the need to be as transparent as possible.

The Director of Corporate Services referred to a current project plan in respect of facilities for live streaming which required staff and trade union consultation, consideration of technical issues and DPIA and GDPR compliance. The Director of Corporate Services said that due to essential repairs to the roof of the Council Chamber in Civic Headquarters the Council Chamber would be out of action for July and August 2026 and agreed to bring a report to the April Corporate Policy and Resources Committee covering the live streaming and contingency plans during essential repairs and hoped that following the repairs livestreaming could be initiated.

Councillor Wilson questioned the requirement for trade union consultation and the Chair said that it would depend on the terms and conditions which staff signed up to on appointment. The Director of Corporate Services spoke of staff concerns around AI and data recognition.

The Chair said she wished the Director of Corporate Services a speedy following her recent injury.

There being no further business, the Chair thanked everyone for their participation and attendance.

The meeting concluded at 7.40pm.

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Chair