

SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022

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No.	Item	Decision
1.	Apologies	<i>Alderman Fielding, S McKillop; Councillors Hunter, McCorkell, McGurk and Schenning</i>
2.	Declarations of Interest	<i>Nil</i>
3.	Annual Accounts 2021/22	<i>That Council approve of the adoption of the annual statement of accounts as presented</i>

**MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF
COUNCIL HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER AND VIA VIDEO
CONFERENCE ON
MONDAY 26 SEPTEMBER 2022 AT 7:01PM**

In the Chair : The Mayor, Councillor Wallace (C)

Present : Alderman Baird (R), Boyle (R), Duddy (C), Hillis (C),
McQuillan (C)

Councillors Anderson (C), Bateson (R), Beattie (R),
Callaghan (C), Callan (R), Holmes (R), McAuley (R),
McCandless (C), McCaw (R), MA McKillop (R),
C McQuillan (R), C McShane (R), Nicholl (R), Peacock
(R), Scott (R), Storey (R), Watton (C)

Officers Present : D Jackson, Chief Executive (C)
D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (C)
S Duggan, Civic Support & Committee & Member Services Officer (C)
I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (R)

Officers In Attendance : A Lennox, ICT Mobile Operations (C)
C Thompson, ICT Officer (C)

Key – C = Attended in the Chamber
R = Attended Remotely

The Chief Executive undertook a roll call.

The Mayor advised Council of its obligations and protocol whilst the meeting was being audio recorded; and with the remote meetings protocol.

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Fielding, S McKillop; Councillors Hunter, McCorkell, McGurk and Schenning.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

3. ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2021/22

Report, previously circulated presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

The purpose of this report is to present the annual accounts for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council for the financial year ended 31 March 2022 for approval.

Background

Councils and other public bodies are required to prepare and submit to the Department for Communities (DfC) by 30 June each year their annual accounts for the previous financial period, I can confirm Council complied with this requirement. Under current regulation the approval of the accounts now occurs after completion of the audit meaning Council are approving what will eventually be published. Northern Ireland Audit Office (NIAO) are in the process of completing their work in this regard and the accounts are presented in conjunction with the reports from NIAO.

Detail

Attached as an appendix (circulated) is a draft copy of the Annual Statement of Accounts for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. At the time of writing this report NIAO are still completing aspects of the audit therefore the accounts being approved may contain a few amendments when compared to the accounts appended, any such changes will be advised verbally at the Council meeting, these are not expected to be significant.

Income and Expenditure that was controlled by Budget Holders is £7,302k (page 85) surplus to budget. The surplus was supported by Central Government subventions that totaled £1,031k (incl furlough), rates finalisation of £1,129k and additional Rates Support Grant amounting to £810k. The Financial Recovery Reserve (previously COVID Recovery Reserve) was increased by £4,400k leaving a balance at 31 March 2022 of £8,888k.

The Comprehensive Income and Expenditure Statement (CIES) recorded within the Annual Accounts includes expenses outside the control of Budget Holders. It includes property, provisions and pension revaluations and accumulated absences. Some of these adjustments are accounting entries or future long-term liabilities that are based on pension assumptions and will only materialize on retirements.

The main figure members will be interested in can be found in being the Movement in Reserves statement which details an in-year movement in the General Fund Summary of a decrease of £26k giving a carrying total of £4,505k. Under regulation we are recommended to carry a minimum fund balance in the range of 5% to 7.5% of our Net Operating Expenditure (£57,064k) which translates into a recommended balance between £2,853k and £4,280k. Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council is compliant with these recommendations.

Whilst the result is slightly adverse it should be noted that in addition Council has increased other useable reserves by £5,391k to a total of £17,485k. The major contribution to this increase was the transfer into the Financial recovery reserve,

the purpose of which is to mitigate any future losses which arise because of the post pandemic or inflationary pressures.

The breakdown of these reserves is shown in the table below:

The Financial Recovery Reserve of £8,888K relates to:

- Opening balance of £4,488k
- Central government subvention (incl. furlough) of £1,031k
- Rates finalisation of £1,129k
- Additional Rates Support Grant of £810k
- Transfers in year of £1,430k.

The Financial Performance Outturn was detailed in the table circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Council approves of the adoption of the annual statement of accounts as presented and where applicable any amendments notified during the meeting.

*** Councillor Callan joined the meeting at 7.09pm.**

The Chief Finance Officer updated Council, the Accounts were tabled for information at the last Audit Committee meeting along with the Audit Office Report, had been submitted by 30 June and due to certify in advance of 30 September. The Chief Finance Officer detailed narrative and formatting changes and no material changes to affect the preparation of the Accounts.

The Chief Finance Officer drew Members' attention to General Fund decrease of £26,000, which was still within the relevant limits of 5%-7.5% of net operating expenditure and other useable Reserves had increased by £5.391M - £17.485M.

The Chief Finance Officer invited questions.

No questions were put.

Proposed by Councillor McCandless
Seconded by Councillor Watton and

RESOLVED - that Council approve of the adoption of the annual statement of accounts as presented.

This being all the business, The Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance and the meeting concluded at 7.11pm.

Mayor