

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025

No	Item	Summary of Key Recommendations	Estimated Timescale for completion
1.	Apologies	Alderman Callan and Coyle, Councillor Peacock and Schenning	n/a
2.	Declarations of Interest	None	n/a
3.	Minutes of Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 23 rd January 2025	Confirmed as a correct record	n/a
4.	Management Accounts Period 9	Noted	-
5.	APP Forecast	Noted	-
6.	Prompt Payments	Noted	-
7.	Finance Business Plan 2024/25 Update	Noted	-
8.	Management Accounts Period 10	To recommend that Council approve the creation of a Strategic Events Reserve and authorise the Chief Finance Officer to transfer £350,000 out of the current year surplus into that reserve to be utilised in the support of the Open Championship in 2025/26	June 2025

9.	Scheme of Allowances 2025/26	To recommend that Council approve the scheme of allowances for 2025/26 as tabled and authorises the Chief Finance Officer to implement any further amendments as and when announced by the Department for Communities for the same period	-
10.	Scheme of Allowances 2024/25	Noted	
11.	Budget Process and Timetable	To recommend that Council approve the revised Rates Setting Process and timetable for the 2026/2027 budget process as set out	-
10	Coleraine BID Service Level	To recommend that	
12.	Agreement	To recommend that Council approves the Service Level Agreement as previously circulated	-
13.	Correspondence		
13.1	Supplementary Consultation on Domestic Rating Measure – Consultation Paper	To recommend that Council:- resubmit the previous	
13.2	SUB-0025-2025 Letter to SOLACE – Advance Copy of Domestic Rating Consultation	response to departmental consultation on the two areas specified.	
13.3	Supplementary Consultation on Domestic Rating Measures Document (D5.27.01.25)		
14.	Matters for Reporting to Partnership Panel	None	n/a
	In Committee (Item 15)		
15.	Debt Management	Noted	-

16.	Any Other Relevant Business	None	n/a
	(notified in accordance with		
	Standing Order 12 (0))		

MINUTES OF THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBER, AND VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE, ON THURSDAY 13 MARCH 2025 AT 7.00PM

 In the Chair: Councillor Huggins (C)
Members Present: Alderman Knight-McQuillan (C), Scott (R) Councillors Holmes (R/C), Kane (C), Kyle (R), McGurk (R), Mairs (C), McQuillan (R), Nicholl (R), Wilson (R), Wisener (C)
Officers Present: D Wright, Chief Finance Officer (C) J Culkin, Management Accountant (C) L Clyde, Financial Accountant (C) I Owens, Committee & Member Services Officer (C) A Lennox, ICT Officer (C)

In attendance: Press 2 no. (R)

Key: (R) Attended Remotely (C) Attended in the Chamber

Substitutions: Councillor MA McKillop substituted for Councillor Schenning

The Chief Finance Officer undertook a roll call.

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

1. APOLOGIES

Apologies were recorded for Alderman Callan and Coyle, Councillor Peacock and Schenning.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no Declarations of Interest.

3. MINUTES OF FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING HELD THURSDAY 23rd JANUARY 2025

Copy previously circulated.

AGREED –the Minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held Thursday 23rd January 2025 were confirmed as a correct record.

4. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS PERIOD 9

Report, previously circulated presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the current management accounts to Council for information and analysis.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CC&GBC) consists of 4 legacy councils that merged on 1 April 2015 into 1 council. The council is currently made up of 3 directorates (Leisure and Development, Environmental Services, Corporate Policy and Resources) and includes a Planning, Finance and Legal department, that are reported separately in this report. The Annual Budgeted Spend for 2024/25 controlled by the Directorates is £82.410m (excludes depreciation, actuarial adjustments, provisions, accumulated absences, and it is these figures that change the figures in the Audited Accounts). Gross Income is budgeted at £81.978m the difference being a budgeted applied balance of £0.432m for the year.

Financial Overview by Directorate

The table, previously circulated, details a summary of the financial position at period 9 (up to and including 31 December 2024):

The report provided analysis under the following paragraphs:

Leisure And Development Directorate Environmental Services Directorate Corporate Services Chief Executive Finance, Investment Income, Interest and Rates Capital Expenditure Cashflow

The Chief Finance Officer advised that Management Accounts for Period 9 should be considered as read due to no Finance Committee being held in February and given that Period 10 accounting figures were scheduled later in the Committee for consideration.

Finance Committee NOTED the report.

5. ACTUAL PENNY PRODUCT FORECAST

For information report, previously circulated presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the latest Actual Penny Product (APP) forecast supplied by Land and Property Services (LPS).

Background

LPS has issued to Councils the latest informal monthly forecast as at 31 January 2025. The forecast for Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council has been based on in year assumptions for both formal and interim forecasts as detailed below:

Monthly Analysis

Month	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan
Forecast	£558	£625	£647	£718	£780	£710	£744	£823

All figures £'000

Additional analysis

The figures indicate a significant projected finalisation in terms of rates income for Council however whilst there still remains a level of uncertainty on these figures as we approach year end there can be an increased confidence that it will require something of major significance to materially impact them. It is however an excellent position to be in at this point in the year and does give optimism that there is some growth in the rates base giving Council somewhat of a buffer should negative market forces arise.

APP analysis

The tables, previously circulated, set out the analysis of the APP forecast for the current financial year in terms of both domestic and non-domestic properties.

Revaluations

There are still a number of outstanding revaluation challenge cases and whilst they could impact on our APP for 2024/25 most of the significant challenges have by now been dealt with.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council note the report.

The Chief Finance Officer provided narrative and advised that only circumstances of fairly significant magnitude would materially adversely affect the good position which demonstrates growth and further enhances the in year position.

Finance Committee NOTED the report.

6. **PROMPT PAYMENTS**

For information report, previously circulated presented by the Financial Accountant

Background

Department for communities (DfC) requires Council to record and publish statistics regarding the payment of supplier invoices with specific reference to two distinct measures namely invoices paid within 10 working days and invoices paid within 30 calendar days.

Detail

These figures are published on a quarterly basis by DfC with Councils required to do likewise. The purpose of the statistics is to encourage Councils to support businesses especially those local and/or small businesses for whom cash flow is of vital importance to their continued survival. In addition, as part of Council's performance improvement plan for this year the payment of our suppliers has been identified as one of the performance improvement objectives with a target of 90% of suppliers being paid within 30 calendar days. The tables below detail Council's performance since April 2022 the latest data being for quarter 4 of 24/25 year, up to and including end of February 2025.

Analysis

The statistics will be continually monitored to ensure the performance levels are maintained and where possible improved. Council's self-imposed target remains at 90%

of invoices being paid within 30 days. During February 90.51% (January 86.48%) of invoices were paid within 30 days, the slight dip in performance for January possibly being as a result of the seasonal holidays, for the entirety of the current year thus far we are showing 91.27%. This does represent a marked improvement in performance from 2023/24 which was 87.32% for the entire year but we can't let performance slip in the remaining months if we are to maintain this level.

Prompt Payment Statistics 2022/2023										
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Tota	al
Total No of Invoices		6461		6090		6825		6265		25642
Total amount paid	£	17,214,458	£	17,078,164	£	12,851,511	£	35,804,964	£	82,949,097
Number of invoices paid within 10 days		4446		3487	_	4806	_	4628	_	1736
% of invoices paid within 10 days		68.81%		57.26%		70.42%		73.87%		67.73%
Number of invoices paid within 30 days		5872		5267		6252		5829		2322
% of invoices paid within 30 days		90.88%		86.49%		91.60%		93.04%		90.56%
Number of invoices paid outside 30 days		589		823		573		436		242
% of invoices paid outside 30 days	-	9.12%		13.51%		8.40%		6.96%		9.44%
No. of Disputed Invoices		33		35		61		20		149
% of disputed invoices		0.51%		0.57%		0.89%		0.32%		0.58%
Average Payment Days		16.24		18.55		15.92		14.28		16.22
Prompt Payment Statistics 2023/2024										
	Q1		Q2		Q3		Q4		Tota	
Total No of Invoices		6512	Q2	7263	Q3	6847	Q4	7031	1012	27653
Total amount paid	£	23,864,802	£	17,139,245	£	13,837,183	£	13,491,210	£	68,332,440
Number of invoices paid within 10 days		3675	-	5233	-	5444	-	5774	-	20120
% of invoices paid within 10 days		56.43%		72.05%		79.51%		82.12%		72.78%
Number of invoices paid within 10 days	_	5398		6232		6215		6301		24146
% of invoices paid within 30 days	_	82.89%		85.80%		90.77%		89.62%		87.32%
Number of invoices paid within 30 days	_	1114		1031		632		730		3507
% of invoices paid outside 30 days	_	17.11%		14.20%		9.23%		10.38%		12.68%
No. of Disputed Invoices	_	33		14.20%		35		10.38%		399
% of disputed invoices	-	0.51%				0.51%		2.40%		
Average Payment Days		18.71		2.23%		11.36		13.58		1.44%
		10.71		15.55		11.50		13.36		14.0-
Prompt Payment Statistics 2024/2025										
	01		02		02		04*		Tata	<u></u>
Total No of Invoices	Q1	6890	Q2	7030	Q3	7234	Q4*	4270	Tota	25424
Total amount paid	£	15,645,094	£	14,616,411	£	13,040,366	£	7,017,113	£	50,318,984
Number of invoices paid within 10 days		15,645,094	<u> </u>	5316	1	13,040,366	L .	3097		1953
% of invoices paid within 10 days									-	76.84%
Number of invoices paid within 30 days		76.98% 6274		75.62%		80.45% 6813		72.53%		2320
	-							88.57%		
% of invoices paid within 30 days	+	91.06%	-	90.13%	-	94.18%				91.27%
Number of invoices paid outside 30 days	+	616		694		421 E 929/		488	-	2219
% of invoices paid outside 30 days	_	8.94%		9.87%		5.82%		11.43%		8.73%
No. of Disputed Invoices	_	37		54		40		27		158
% of disputed invoices	_	0.54%		0.77%		0.55%		0.63%		0.62%
Average Payment Days		11.86		11.64		9.84		13.07		11.43
*Incomplete period										

Finance Committee NOTED the report.

7. FINANCE BUSINESS PLAN 2024/25

For information report, previously circulated presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Council an update on the Finance department's Business Plan for 2024/25.

Background

Each Council section is required annually to provide Council with a Business Plan for approval and a subsequent 6 month update on progress.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Finance Committee note the progress of the Finance Department Business Plan as detailed in the appendix, previously circulated.

The Chief Finance Officer pointed to the updated information showing progress on the Finance Business Plan since this time last year explaining that one Priority 1 recommendation was outstanding with the ultimate goal being no Priority 1 recommendations outstanding.

Finance Committee NOTED the report.

* Councillor Holmes arrived in The Chamber at 7.08 pm, having previously attended remotely.

8. MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTS PERIOD 10

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Management Accountant.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present the current management accounts to Council for information and analysis.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council (CC&GBC) consists of 4 legacy councils that merged on 1 April 2015 into 1 council. The council is currently made up of 3 directorates (Leisure and Development, Environmental Services, Corporate Policy and Resources) and includes a Planning, Finance and Legal department, that are reported separately in this report. The Annual Budgeted Spend for 2024/25 controlled by the Directorates is £82.410m (excludes depreciation, actuarial adjustments, provisions,

accumulated absences, and it is these figures that change the figures in the Audited Accounts). Gross Income is budgeted at £81.978m the difference being a budgeted applied balance of £0.432m for the year.

Financial Overview by Directorate

The table, previously circulated, details a summary of the financial position at period 9 (up to and including 31 December 2024):

The report, previously circulated, provided analysis under the following paragraphs:

Leisure And Development Directorate Environmental Services Directorate Corporate Services Chief Executive Finance, Investment Income, Interest and Rates Capital Expenditure Cashflow

Summary Year-end Considerations

At the recent rates setting process some consideration was given to the inclusion of a budget to cover the cost of supporting the hosting of the Open Championship at Royal Portrush 2025. No budgetary inclusion was made within the rates estimates but rather this cost could be met from the excellent current year position. This could be done by creating a reserve for this purposes and moving funds into that reserve, the budget requiring being £350,000.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the creation of a Strategic Events Reserve and authorise the Chief Executive Officer to transfer £350,000 out of the current year surplus into that reserve to be utilised in the support of the Open Championship in 2025/26.

The Chief Finance Officer provided further narrative in relation to year end projections and provided estimated figures for best, worst and likely case scenario and reminded the Committee that the strong position would not be repeatable in the next financial year due to the uniqueness of the income generation source for this financial year.

The Chief Finance Officer invited the Committee to consider the recommendation within the report in relation to support of The Open Championship in 2025/26 which had not been budgeted in rates.

The Chair agreed that this recommendation made total sense.

Councillor Kane concurred with the Chair and suggested that this be considered in the long term for other high profile events associated with Council and ask the Chief Finance Officer to explore options.

The Chief Finance Officer agreed this was a valid point and could be utilized at members discretion for further events and agreed to bring back a report by June 2025.

Alderman Knight McQuillan referred to Armed Forces Day as an example of possible use for this type of reserve fund.

* Councillor Nicholl joined the meeting remotely at 7.15 pm.

Proposed by Councillor Kane Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve the creation of a Strategic Events Reserve and authorise the Chief Finance Officer to transfer £350,000 out of the current year surplus into that reserve to be utilised in the support of The Open Championship in 2025/26.

Finance Committee NOTED the report.

9. SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES 2025/26

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

This reports provides an information to members regarding the Scheme of Allowances for 2025/2026 in light of updated Department Guidance, LG15/24 issued in December 2024.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council must establish a scheme of allowances payable to Members annually. The scheme provides for the payment of allowances to Councillors on the basis that:

- 1 The maximum level of basic allowance as determined by the Department for Communities (DfC) is paid
- 2 The maximum level of carers allowances as determined by the DfC are paid
- 3 The maximum level of mileage rates as determined by the DfC are paid
- 4 Councillors' payments are made on the third last banking day of each month

Detail

The scheme of allowances for 2025/26, a copy of which has been included with this report, considers a number of factors:

1 – basic allowance – remains at 2024/25 level – an increase has been budgeted for in the 2025/26 estimates pending Departmental review of basic allowance

2 - mileage rates

3 – increases in rates for dependant carer's allowance in line with the National Living Wage

4 – Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)

The four items are in keeping with the normal periodic update of the scheme of allowances.

Amendments

Circular LG 15/24 (attached as an appendix) from DfC dated December 2024 sets out the revised consolidated Councillor's Allowances guidance, as our scheme is predicated on the inclusion of the maximum rates allowable under departmental guidance any updates to rates of basic allowance will be automatically applied should Council approve this report. The Basic allowance remains at £17,456 per annum, it should be noted that an increase had been allowed for in the rates estimates for 2025/26. Other changes include the hourly and maximum monthly rates payable in respect of dependent carer's allowance.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the scheme of allowances for 2025/26 as tabled and authorises the Chief Finance Officer to implement any further amendments as and when announced by the Department for Communities for the same period.

Proposed by Councillor Wisener Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED - to recommend that Council approve the scheme of allowances for 2025/26 as tabled and authorises the Chief Finance Officer to implement any further amendments as and when announced by the Department for Communities for the same period.

10. SCHEME OF ALLOWANCES 2024/25 UPDATE

For information report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

This reports provides an update to members regarding changes to the Scheme of Allowances in light of updated Department Guidance, LG15/24 issued in December 2024.

Background

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council must establish a scheme of allowances payable to Members annually. The scheme provides for the payment of allowances to Councillors on the basis that:

- 1 The maximum level of basic allowance as determined by the Department for Communities (DfC) is paid
- 2 The maximum level of carers allowances as determined by the DfC are paid
- 3 The maximum level of mileage rates as determined by the DfC are paid
- 4 Councillors' payments are made on the third last banking day of each month

Detail

The scheme of allowances for 2024/25 v2, a copy of which has been included with this report, considers a number of factors:

1 – basic allowance – increases to \pounds 17,456 – increase has been budgeted for in the 2024/25 estimates

- 2 mileage rates
- 3 rates for dependant carer's allowance
- 4 Special Responsibility Allowance (SRA)

The four items are in keeping with the normal periodic update of the scheme of allowances.

Amendments

Circular LG 15/24 (attached as an appendix) from DfC dated December 2024 sets out the revised consolidated Councillor's Allowances guidance, as our scheme is predicated on the inclusion of the maximum rates allowable under departmental guidance any updates to rates of basic allowance will be automatically applied Council having agreed this following the March 2024 Finance Committee. The update will be back dated to 1 April 2024 and will be included with March payments.

Finance Committee NOTED the correspondence.

11. RATES SETTING PROCESS AND TIMETABLE

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to present to Council an updated Rates Setting process and timetable for 2026/27.

Background

District councils are obliged under legislation, Section 3 of the Local Government Finance Act (Northern Ireland) 2011, as part of the annual budget procedures to submit estimates of income and expenditure of the council for the next financial year. Regulation 3 of the Local Government (Capital Finance and Accounting) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2011 states the prescribed date for the annual budget for a financial year beginning on or after 1st April 2012 shall be 15th February. This report recommends a process and timetable for the annual Council budget setting.

2025/2026 Rates setting cycle saw the implementation of a new process and timetable.

One minor recommendation has arisen from that process which is a procedural one that had not been anticipated in advance of implementation. This concerns the reporting line of the Finance Committee.

Management have determined that to avoid a repeat of that procedural issue that in January of each year there will be two Finance Committee meetings, one dealing with regular monthly business reporting to the regular Council meeting and a second rates estimates Finance Committee reporting to the Rates Strike meeting. Both meeting can take place on the same evening, the rates estimates Finance Committee meeting occurring immediately after the regular monthly meeting. A revised rates setting process and timetable has been attached as Appendix 1 to this report, previously circulated.

Recommendation

It is recommended that Council approve the revised Rates Setting Process and timetable for the 2026/2027 budget process as set out in Appendix 1, previously circulated.

The Chief Finance Officer reflected on the simplified process for Rates Setting this year and advised that to further assist a smoother process next financial year there would be two Finance Committee meetings in January 2026 held on the same evening; One regular Finance Committee will report to the February Council Meeting and a second will be tabled in correlation with the Rates Setting meeting in February.

Councillor Holmes pointed to a much smoother rates setting process this financial year than in past years when the process was elongated and thanked the Finance team. Councillor Kane concurred with Councillor Holmes and expressed thanks to Committee Chair, Finance team and Chief Finance Officer.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes Seconded by Councillor Kane and **AGREED** – to recommend that Council approve the revised Rates Setting Process and timetable for the 2026/2027 budget process as set out in Appendix 1, previously circulated.

12 COLERAINE BID INVOICE ADMINISTRATION

Report, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to inform members of the implications of the renewed Coleraine Business Improvement District (BID) for another 5-year cycle.

Background

In 2018 the Coleraine BID was formed following a successful ballot of business with the BID area.

In September 2025 a ballot of the relevant businesses was taken with a view to extending the work of the BID Company for a further 5 years, that ballot was successful.

Under the enabling legislation regarding BIDS the local Council is designated as the billing and collection authority for the BID levy which will fund the programme. This involves raising an invoice to each business and the collection of the levy as set out in the invoice including, if necessary, any debt collection actions against defaulters. The collection process will be handled in line with Council's current Debt Management Policy.

A service level agreement (SLA) between Council and the BID Company sets out the administration, roles and responsibilities for each party within this process.

A copy of the SLA for the new BID period is attached as an appendix to this report, the SLA has been reviewed by Council and any amendments have been agreed with the BID company.

Under the new BID the number of invoices requiring processing by Council has reduced and therefore the fee being charged by Council is reduced to £3,000 per annum.

Recommendation

It recommended that Council approves the Service Level Agreement previously circulated.

Proposed by Councillor Wisener Seconded by Councillor Mairs and

AGREED – to recommend that Council approves the Service Level Agreement as previously circulated in the appendix to this report.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

13.1 Supplementary Consultation on Domestic Rating Measure – Consultation Paper

13.2 Sub-0025-2025 Letter to SOLACE – Advance Copy of Domestic Rating Consultation

13.3 Supplementary Consultation on Domestic Rating Measures Document (D5.27.01.25)

The Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the correspondence at Items 13.1 and 13.3 above were the same document and were placed on the Agenda to show the timeline of receipt and that the purpose was to seek views on measures previously consulted on. The Chief Finance Officer said that with the permission of the Committee he would submit a response in line with previous consultation response.

At the request of Councillor Holmes the Chief Finance Officer confirmed that the previous consultation submission from Council was in support of increasing the maximum capital value cap and against the reduction in the early payment discount.

Councillor Holmes said it was important to reiterate the importance of maximising the capital value cap bearing in mind the issue of the value of second homes in the area resulting in reduced income to Council.

Proposed by Councillor Holmes Seconded by Alderman Knight-McQuillan and

AGREED – to recommend that Council:resubmit their previous response to previous consultation on the two items specified in the correspondence.

14. MATTERS FOR REPORTING TO PARTNERSHIP PANEL

There were no matters for reporting to Partnership Panel.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN COMMITTEE'

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan Seconded by Councillor Wisener and

AGREED - to recommend that Finance Committee move 'In Committee'.

* Press left the meeting at 7.25 pm.

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 reminded Committee of the audio recordings procedure.

15. DEBT MANAGEMENT

Confidential report by virtue of paragraph (s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6 of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014, previously circulated, was presented by the Chief Finance Officer.

Purpose of Report

This report informs members of the current position surrounding debt owed to the Council by its customers.

Background

Council implemented a revised Debt Management Policy in July 2023.

The tables below set out the total debt position as at 28 February 2025 and compares this to the position at 28 February 2024.

Detail – Aged Debt Analysis

As at 28 February 2024 and 2025 were previously circulated.

Movement and comparison between last year and this year (28 February 2025 and 28 February 2024)

Over 90 Days analysis

The table, previously circulated, details the status of any debt which was over 90 days in excess of £10 currently (excluding third party invoices and direct debit accounts):

The table, previously circulated, sets out such debts that have been cleared since the last report in January:

Options

Debt write-off under £1,000

In accordance with our debt management policy I am required to report to Council any debts under £1,000 which the Chief Finance Officer has the authority to write-off. There is one such debt this month as detailed below (circulated).

Debt Write-off over £1,000

In accordance with our debt management policy, Council approval is sought in order to write off any debts in excess of £1,000. There are no such debts this month.

At the request of Councillor Kane the Chief Finance Officer and the Financial Accountant provided clarity on debts detailed within the report, previously circulated.

The Chief Finance Officer said that he had raised at the Finance Working Group the issue of late payments from Central Government and that despite statistics from them stating 100% payment of debts by 10 days these type of debts appear in the 90 day debt column for local Councils. The Chief Finance Officer encouraged Elected Members to lobby in this regard.

13. ANY OTHER RELEVANT BUSINESS (NOTIFIED IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER 12 (O))

There were no items of Any Other Relevant Business.

MOTION TO PROCEED 'IN PUBLIC'

Proposed by Alderman Knight-McQuillan Seconded by Councillor Kane and

AGREED - to recommend that Finance Committee move 'In Public'.

This being all the business, the Chair thanked Elected Members for their attendance and the meeting closed at 7.35pm.

Chair